



# The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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## Historic Coaching Event Benefits NSL

The scene was straight from the 19th century – thirty gleaming four-in-hand coaches, beautiful carriage horses clip-clopping in shining harness, grooms in full livery, men in top hats, and ladies in gloves, hats and long dresses.

October 22-24, the National Sporting Library Drive celebrated the pageantry of coaching and the 50th anniversary of the Library. Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom Jr., The Plains, Va., a member of the NSL Board of Directors, co-chaired the meet with George "Frolic" Weymouth, Chadds Ford, Pa. She said, "We planned this to be the largest gathering of road coaches and park drags ever in the U.S. to celebrate coaching and the 50th anniversary of the National Sporting Library."

Indeed, it was the largest gathering in the last two centuries in either Europe or the U.S., and the largest ever for the U.S.

Both Ohrstrom and Weymouth are active drivers, known as "whips" in the sport. The NSL event involved months of planning for stabling and related events including a benefit gala at Chairman's Council members Mr. and Mrs. Hector Alcalde's Takaro Farm.

"The routes had to be carefully planned for safety of the horses, coaches and passengers," said Ohrstrom. "We had over 65 volunteers helping us with this event and all of us on the organizing committees thank them all, and thank all of the landowners for their generosity."

Various routes were planned for each day for a distance of eight to ten miles. Saturday, October 23, the coaches stopped at Llangolen Farm, owned by Roy Ash, for lunch. Sunday, the coaches enjoyed a tour



*The Tantivy rolls in line on a back road in the NSL Drive. Owned by Louis Piancone, it was built in London, 1885.*

of the late Paul Mellon's Rokeby Farm, courtesy of Mrs. Mellon. Through the generosity of property owners Shelby and Carol Bonnie, owners of Salem Farm, and Robert H. Smith, owner of Heronwood Farm, the horses were stabled at the Upperville show grounds where the presentation of coaches was held.

Coaches and teams were shipped from as far as Florida and Colorado to participate in this historic event. Passengers arrived from nearby and as far away as Canada, England and Germany for the unique opportunity to dress up and take a ride through Virginia's autumn Piedmont countryside. NSL Vice Chair Jacqueline B. Mars rode on Weymouth's coach; Acting Director Rebecca Tomlinson and NSL Board member Patricia Manigault rode Dr. Gary Montsdeoca's park drag shipped from Florida, Fla.

These authentic and historic

coaches were driven by whips, accompanied by grooms dressed in proper livery, and gentlemen and ladies properly turned-out in period attire. These 19th and early 20th century coaches have been carefully restored and maintained, with sporting names such as the "Nimrod" owned by co-organizer Dick Sandford, Chadds Ford, Pa., and "Tantivy" owned by Louis Piancone, Gladstone, N.J. The road coaches were commercial vehicles either for mail or passenger service. The park drags were private vehicles for pleasure driving.

The "Outlaw" formerly belonged to the late equestrian Liz Whitney Tippet who once owned Llangolen Farm. Phyllis Mills Wyeth, Wilmington, Del., now owns the coach and participated in the drive.

Coaching originated to fulfill the emerging need for public transportation and parcel delivery starting in the 1650s. The drastic improvement of roads from muddy, single-lane ruts to maintained surfaces enabled the growth of transportation by wheeled vehicles. But in the 1830s, steam-driven trains on iron rails rapidly replaced the slower coaches.

Coaching, along with the art of handling a team of four horses, went into decline until the coaching

*Continued on page 2*

Drawings by  
Thomas Rowlandson  
(1756-1827) in the Paul  
Mellon Collection of the  
Yale Center for British Art  
are coming to the NSL  
in April.

## Coaching Event Benefits NSL

Continued from page 1



Strat Valakis.

Park drag owned and driven by Dr. Gary Montsdeoca pulled by Hackney/Clydesdale crosses. Passengers include Patricia Manigault in front and Rebecca Tomlinson, center rear.

revival of the 1880s. Wealthy gentlemen and officers returning from various campaigns around the British Empire took up coaching as a sport. American captains of industry and banking joined in.

The coaching revival continued well past 1900. Many found it, and still do, a challenge to drive a team of four fine horses, pulling a beautifully appointed coach. In the late 19th century into the 20th, coaching meets and clubs were formed to enjoy the pleasure of the sport. Traditionally, coaching days were held in city parks such as Hyde Park in London with a destination to meet for social activities.

The park drag was built for the use of the gentleman whip to enjoy driving four-in-hand with his

guests. It is usually painted in dark colors and made of lighter construction. The interior is quite plush being trimmed in morocco or cloth. The boot has a door that drops down and is fitted with mahogany boxes with crystal for food and drink to be served to the guests at picnics and sporting events. The upper rear seat has room for two grooms who wear the livery of the owner.

Road coaches were commercial vehicles that were bought and restored by driving enthusiasts. These more colorful road coaches are emblazoned with the names of towns and routes they served. They were built sturdier and heavier to accommodate heavy daily use on rough roads. The utilitarian interior

is of hard wood for four passengers, and other passengers rode the more hazardous position on the roof. The door opens to the side to carry luggage.

The upper rear seat is wide and accommodates the guard and three passengers. The guard, who protected the mail from highwaymen, is dressed in the guards red coat, a custom that came from the days of the Royal Mail Coaches. He carried a clock and was responsible for maintaining the coach schedule.

HRH Prince Phillip writes in Tom Ryder's book *The History of the Coaching Club* (1999): "The road coach and park drag were the very last - and most technically advanced - of the long line of animal-powered transport vehicles. They would have disappeared from the face of the earth but for the enthusiasm of a number of amateur drivers who enjoyed the challenge of driving these beautiful vehicles."

NSL Drive participant Douglas Kemmerer contributed to this article.

The National Sporting Library would like to thank Elizabeth D. Clark, Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom, and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Thomas for the loan of their coaching art for exhibition in the Founders' Room and the Paul Mellon Foyer this fall.

## Australian Author Comes to NSL To Research New Book

Jennifer Churchill, of Richmond, Australia, visited the NSL in October to use the newly acquired Woolums collection to research her new book *Great Thoroughbred Sires of the World*, which is to be published mid-2005.

"This book is a compilation of all the major sires in all the major racing countries of the world," said Churchill. Each entry will have the sire's stud record, principle racing record and broodmare sire record.

Churchill has been a Thoroughbred racing journalist for

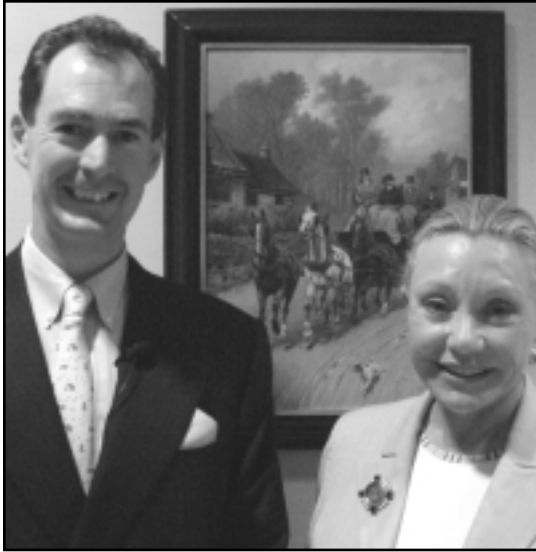


42 years and is the founding editor of the *Australian Bloodhorse Review*.

Five years in the making, her book will top 900 pages of valuable

international sire information. Over 252 guest turf writers are contributing biographical sketches of most sires with a description of the horse and his character which adds human interest. Churchill is compiling and verifying the achievements of 200 Thoroughbred sires whose careers broadly spanned the 20th century in a stallion register format. Churchill used the international studbooks in the NSL's Woolums collection to round out her missing statistical information on many sires.

# Outstanding Fall Lectures



James Houston and Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom with her coaching painting by George Wright (1860-1942).

This fall, the NSL hosted four exceptional lectures in the Founders' Room on a variety of topics which included coaching, animal-rights activism, horsemanship and Thoroughbred racing.

On September 9, James Houston, of Middleburg, Va., presented an enlightening overview of the history of coaching as a prelude to the NSL Drive in

October. Houston began driving four-in-hand coaches 30 years ago in his native England and continues the sport in Virginia. Using images scanned from a number of books in the NSL's collection, Houston projected pictures from his computer onto the big screen of different types of coaches to illustrate his narrative.

On September 23, Lt. Col. Dennis Foster, ex.-MFH, gave an educational lecture on the controversial methods, politics and activities of animal-rights activists. With foxhunting threatened with extinction in England, Foster's presentation served as a timely heads-up to what we in American may face in the future. Foster, Executive Director of the Masters of Foxhounds Association, has been an active force in protecting hunting rights of citizens in North America and has testified before state legislatures on foxhunting issues.

On November 4, the NSL celebrated with Chairman's Council member Paul D. Cronin the publication of his new book *Schooling and Riding the Sport Horse*. Cronin, Director Emeritus of Riding at Sweet Briar College, was more than 40 years a clinician teaching amateurs, teachers and professional riders throughout the U.S. Many friends and former students turned out for the book signing and lecture.

Arthur Hancock III concluded the fall series with one of the best and most heavily-attended evenings ever at the NSL. Using the technique of an interview, NSL President Ken Tomlinson guided the renowned Hancock through colorful reminiscences of his career as a fourth-generation Thoroughbred breeder and owner. Hancock founded Stone Farm, Paris, Ky., which has produced three Kentucky Derby winners, two Preakness winners, one Belmont Stakes winner, two Breeders' Cup Classic winners, and four Eclipse Champions. Among those to achieve immortal fame are Derby winners Gato Del Sol, Sunday Silence and Fusaichi Pegasus.

For those who missed these outstanding evenings, lectures were recorded on audiocassette tapes.



Arthur Hancock III



Cronin Paul



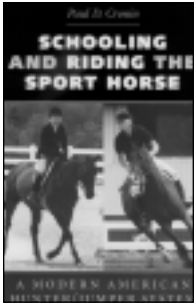
Dennis Foster



## Current Exhibit in Forrest E. Mars Sr. Exhibit Hall

"This is the National Sporting Library" celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the NSL. The Steeplechase case is one of seven cases representing different sporting subjects in the Library's collection. The Exhibit is open to the public during normal Library hours, Mon 1-4pm, Tues – Fri 10am to 4pm.

# Book Reviews



**Paul D. Cronin. *Schooling and Riding the Sport Horse: A Modern American Hunter/Jumper System.* University of Virginia Press, P.O. Box 400318, Charlottesville, Va. 22904. Index. Illus. Appendix. \$29.95.**

Paul Cronin spent his career successfully schooling horses and training riders to school horses to be athletic and willing partners in the field or arena. With his new book, *Schooling and Riding the Sport Horse*, he shares what has worked so well for him and his protégés.

Cronin, Director Emeritus of Riding at Sweet Briar College, was more than 40 years a clinician teaching amateurs, teachers and professional riders throughout the U.S.

The reader will find that he explains his method in an articulate manner thanks to a lifetime of teaching. It's not theory but a system in practice that has worked consistently with students and horses from the college riding program at Sweet Briar to Olympic-level equestrians. Amateur and professional riders alike will gain a clear picture of the development of the untrained horse to an outstanding equine partner in hunters, jumpers, eventing, foxhunting, as well as college riding programs and Pony Club.

*Schooling and Riding* opens with the history and evolution of horsemanship. He writes: "Schooling in forward riding seeks to develop a natural equine athlete under the weight of the rider, and it produces a 'connected' athlete that moves forward in long, low, ground-covering, efficient strides with a result known as *forward balance*." This brings to mind the difference seen in horses in the cross-country phase of eventing. Horses galloping between fences under outstanding riders such as David or Karen O'Connor wear plain snaffles and are not pulling. So many other competitors' horses are in gadget-type bits and pull like freight trains. It is the same with hunters or jumpers under effective riders such as Olympian Joe Fargis, a featured rider in Cronin's book – the horses are moving forward freely, but are in snaffles and performing at the top tiers of the sport.

Cronin clearly distinguishes the riding goals of forward riding versus dressage. This is important because in recent decades some teachers have tried to combine the two resulting in confusion for some horses and riders. Clear understanding of these principles enables the horse to do his assignment better. With this issue clarified, the reader readily moves on to grasping and applying the concept of forward riding to daily training.

The book is divided into three sections: Part I, Position and Controls, Part II, The Schooling Component, and Part III, A Progressive Schooling System of Seven Periods. This last and longest section guides the rider from first backing the horse and its first

weeks under saddle, to advanced work on the flat and over fences.

Cronin's book is one of the best to address proper and effective schooling. His program works *with* the horse, taking into consideration the development of both its mental and physical capabilities. It ranks among the all-time well-written training classics by the best American trainers such as Gordon Wright, Vladimir Littauer and George Morris.



**Charles Emil Ruckstuhl. *Andy as I Knew Him.* Charles Ruckstuhl Co., P.O. Box 678, Groton, MA 01450. 2004. Illus. \$17.95.**

**T**roublemaker comes out of the memory box first while unpacking the memories of a childhood that delighted in reading every book about horses written and illustrated by C.W. Anderson (1891-1970). In *Twenty Gallant Horses: Illustrated Stories of the Great Turf Champions* (1939), Troublemaker's gallant finish in the 1934 Maryland Hunt Cup is a story that no eight-year-old lover of horses could forget. Then in *Black, Bay and Chestnut* (1939), Anderson tells the story of Dark Secret in The Belmont, crossing the finish line with his shattered leg. Their stories were my introduction, and that of hundreds of young readers, to these great horses. Then up come memories of the portfolios, collections of horse portraits suitable for framing; those Anderson portfolios are collectors' items today.

How this writer and artist enriched the lives of millions of young horse lovers! But that wasn't all there was to C.W. Anderson. Here is a soft-cover book of recollections written by Anderson's stepson which reveal the many facets of this talented artist who drew comic drawings for *The New Yorker*, *Ballyhoo* and other publications, and covers for the *Saturday Evening Post*. He painted murals in a speakeasy, Tony, Peters and Martin's, to pay for his meals, which was later turned into the bar area of an upscale New York restaurant.

Anderson lived in Greenwich Village in the 1920s and 30s so the background of much of his memoir is of those "anything goes" days. The dry *New Yorker* style of humor of the period perfectly suited Anderson's personality and natural acerbic wit. A chapter for what the author describes as "semi-sophisticated, adult reading" contains previously unpublished doggerels and art. "Comic drawings" were morphing into "cartoons" in the late 1930s but these drawings are pure Art Deco, sophisticated and delightful examples of the trenchant humor observing the excesses displayed by some during the depression.

Another facet of Anderson's persona is revealed in the chapter of pen and ink drawings and poems by Anderson to his dying wife, Madeleine. During the last 41 days of her life, the devoted husband left one each day on the breakfast tray he prepared for her. Ruckstuhl



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# Reorganization at National Sporting Library

Former Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Manuel H. Johnson has been elected Chairman of the Board of the National Sporting Library.

Johnson's selection follows the designation of George L. Ohrstrom Jr. as Chairman Emeritus. Ohrstrom, the guiding force behind the Library for 49 years, was honored at a celebration of the NSL's 50th anniversary on October 21.

Jacqueline B. Mars was elected Vice Chairman of the Board. Edward P. Evans was selected Chairman of the Board's Executive Committee.

NSL Acting Director Rebecca Tomlinson recently set in motion a search for a new executive head when she announced that she will conclude her duties when a new executive is selected.

Johnson is co-chairman and senior partner in the investment and consulting firm Johnson Smick International which provides information services on economic and political policy changes in countries that impact global financial institutions.

Librarian Robert Weber resigned in November to accept a position as Senior Librarian at the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Va.

## Rare Angling Books to be Exhibited At Annual Fishing Show

The Rapidan Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be holding their 17th Annual Fishing Show at the Middleburg Community Center on Sunday, February 13.

The NSL has been invited to return with an exhibit of rare angling books, including the first and other early editions of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* featured in the 2004 show.

Hours of the show are 10 am to 5 pm.

Paintings from the  
collection of Elizabeth D.  
Clark, of Middleburg,  
will be on view in the  
Founders' Room January  
through March



This 50th Anniversary exhibition poster is available for purchase. Please call the NSL at 540-687-6542 to place an order.

### Book Reviews *continued from page 4*

provides anecdotes throughout the book of his mother's and stepfather's long, devoted relationship, and there are frequent examples of her gay, inspirational contributions to their life together. They had also collaborated in the 1930s as author and illustrator with a series of children's books.

Ruckstuhl himself has lived, and continues to live, a full-bodied life worthy itself of a memoir. Prodigiously talented, with a broad cultural background, from living in a monastery in the south of France with his teacher's family in 1924 to 20 years in South America with the Bendix Corporation to a stint with Radio Free Europe in Germany, he has also composed music for 50 years. It is exciting to learn he will soon be publishing his autobiography.

— Deborah Pritchard

## Sporting Donations Welcome

The National Sporting Library was founded in 1954 as a repository to preserve the culture and history of horse and field sports. The vast majority of books, art, film and archival material in the collection arrived through the generosity of individual donors or their families.

This fall, Nicole H. Perry donated 57 scrapbooks and photo albums which are a biographer's dream. These volumes, from 1954 to 2000, document the racing career of her late husband, William H. Perry. They contain news clippings of races and sales, win photos, pictures of horses working out, foals with their dams, and the people who helped over the years from key players like Kentucky Derby winner Swale and trainer Woody Stevens to the staff at the home, even the barn cats.

The headquarters of *The Blood-Horse* moved into a new building this fall and the NSL benefited from their donation of *The Thoroughbred Record* 1895-1943, crucial years that the Library lacked. Deborah Pritchard, an NSL volunteer who helps with research requests, has already put those volumes to use researching Thoroughbred racing history for the years 1910-1912 for a scholar in Kentucky. The NSL also received volumes of *Turf, Field and Farm* 1865-1901.

The heirs of Sandra Payson donated her collection of books and past issues of *The Blood-Horse* and *The Thoroughbred Record*. While some are duplicates, the periodicals fill out important gaps in the NSL's runs. And this past summer, the Library received the Margaret (Sissy) Woolums bequest of over 3,000 Thoroughbred books and stud books (see Fall 2004 issue of the *Newsletter*).

The NSL welcomes contributions of books, works of art, scrapbooks, photo albums, published and unpublished manuscripts from members and non-members alike. For details and information on donating material, please contact Rebecca Tomlinson, acting director, or Lisa Campbell, publications director, at 540-687-6542. If you



William H. Perry greets Silty, a 2-year-old half-brother to Grade 1 stakes winners Costal and Slew O' Gold.



The 1910 Kentucky Derby winner Donau on the May 14, 1910 cover of *The Thoroughbred Times* from *The Blood-Horse*.

wish to have your collection appraised, the staff can recommend appraisers in your area.

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### Make a Bequest to the NSL

The Library welcomes contributions of book collections and/or monetary gifts through bequests. The most useful bequest is an unrestricted one for general purposes of the Library. This permits the NSL to use your gift wherever it is needed at the time. An outright bequest is not subject to federal or state estate or inheritance taxes and is deductible in calculating your taxable estate. There is no limit on that deduction.

# F. Ambrose Clark Archive Collection

By Michele Tourney

The NSL's archive collection contains a wealth of unpublished information waiting to be tapped by authors and researchers. Material ranges from photos and scrapbooks to diaries and correspondence. One such collection recently processed for easy access by library users is the F. Ambrose Clark Collection.

Frederick Ambrose "Brose" Clark (1881-1964) was born into a wealthy New York family. His grandfather, Edward Clark, was an attorney who had helped Isaac Singer to sell his new sewing machines in the 1850s; this partnership provided Clark with a sizeable fortune, one which allowed his grandson, F. Ambrose Clark, and his brothers to enjoy a life of leisure.

Clark began his sporting career by riding to hounds and being an amateur jockey; he later would become more famous as a successful owner. He enjoyed fame in steeplechasing; his stables were victorious at the American Grand National, Belmont Park and the National Hunt Cup. An avid foxhunter, Clark served as MFH of the Meadow Brook Hounds of Long Island in the 1920s, and rode to hounds at his various estates in New York, Aiken, South Carolina and Melton Mowbray in England. Clark was a member of the Jockey Club since 1919 and twice president of the United States Racing Association. His estate at Broad Hollow was the home of the Meadow Brook Cup from 1926 to 1941. A serious fall from a horse in the mid-1950s ended his riding days, but did not dampen his love of the sport. He then took up coaching.

In 1902, Clark married Florence L. Stokes, a daughter of the president of the Manhattan Life Insurance Company. Miss Stokes was also a racing enthusiast, and she would often be at Clark's side at sporting events. However, she maintained her own racing stable, and often proved to be a strong rival to Clark. When the Irish Kellsboro Jack won the English Grand National in 1933, it was Mrs.

American Thomas Hitchcock Jr. (in white) blocks British player Maj. F. W. Barrett (in black) for the International Polo Cup, Hurlingham, 1921.



King George V and Queen Mary arrive at the Hurlingham Polo Club, 1921.

Clark's victory and not her husband's, although he led Jack into the winner's circle at her request. A year earlier, Clark had purchased Jack and had begun his training; however, everything appeared to be going wrong, so in order to break the streak of bad luck, Clark sold the horse to his wife for a pound. After Florence's death in 1950, Clark purchased several horses from the dispersal of her stable.

In 1952, Clark married Constance Davis Millar, an English widow; it was she who was by his side when F. Ambrose Clark died in his sleep on February 26, 1964 at the age of 83. Having no children from either marriage, Clark had devoted his time and affection to his nephews. The younger Clarks were avid polo players, participating in matches at Meadow Brook. The polo fields at Meadow Brook, frequently traversed by F. Ambrose Clark, had hosted international polo matches between the American Polo Association and the Hurlingham Polo Club of England. The Hurlingham Club, which today is one of the oldest polo clubs in England, had been established in 1873, and in 1886 had played its first international match against the Newport Polo Association of Newport, Rhode Island. Play was



F. Ambrose Clark driving his coach-and-four to a Meadow Brook Hunt Cup meet.

suspended during World War I, but the international match returned to England in 1921; Clark was one of the many fans in attendance. The American team, which won both games that year, featured the son of one of the original members of the 1886 Newport team.

The F. Ambrose Clark collection consists of a photograph album and a scrapbook of newspaper and magazine clippings. The photograph album contains photographs of the international polo match between the Hurlingham Polo Club of Hurlingham, England and the American Polo Association in June 1921. The images are identified including those of King George V and Queen Mary. The scrapbook chronicles the victory of Mrs. Clark's horse Kellsboro Jack at the 1933 British Grand National through articles in American and British newspapers and magazines from mostly March and April 1933.

*Editor's note: The NSL's rare book room is named for F. Ambrose Clark. Since Clark never had children, he was close to his nieces Jane Forbes Clark and her sister Susan. When the new facility to house the Library was built, Jane, a Chairman's Council member and former NSL Board member, made a generous donation to the NSL and thus, the rare book room was named for her favorite uncle.*

# The Chairman's Council

These friends of the National Sporting Library have taken a leadership role in their support of the Library by joining the Chairman's Council:

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