

How Sire lines often survive

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Some of the more fascinating pursuits involve searching for the origins of things as well as the forces through which they evolved.

Anthropologists, for example, are currently embroiled in the issue of whether Neanderthal Man's gene pool ever mixed with that of his successor, Cro-Magnon Man or simply became an evolutionary "dead end".

For the student of thoroughbred pedigree analysis, a litany of stud books as well as stallion and family tables serve as ongoing documents that tell of male and female lines that carried on, but much more commonly, did not.

What, then, are the genetic patterns that often lead to perpetuation of the line? To our mind, the most auspicious to be identified is female family inbreeding, particularly when the individual demonstrates two or more distinct strains of a matriarch within five generations (what we have come to call the 'Rasmussen Factor').

One of the best examples of this is the viable pathway taken by the male line of the Godolphin Arabian. Together with the Darley Arabian and the Byerly Turk, they formed a triumvirate through which all thoroughbreds would eventually descend in tail-male line. While mainly overshadowed through the centuries by the lines of the Darley Arabian (through Eclipse) and the Byerly Turk (through Herod), the Godolphin Arabian line (through Matchem) has reached the twenty-first century albeit through a relatively tenuous branch. It is this author's view that the breed would, indeed, be diminished if the line of Matchem or the equally attenuated line of Herod were ever to become completely extinguished.

The following chart demonstrates the continuous weave of female family inbreeding patterns along the surviving male line of the Godolphin Arabian. Individuals inbred to female ancestors within five generations (within *Rasmussen Factor* criteria) are noted in bold. Inbreeding to the families of sires appearing along the male line are capitalized.

FEMALE FAMILY INBREEDING ALONG THE VIABLE MALE LINE OF THE GODOLPHIN ARABIAN

THE GODOLPHIN ARABIAN

CADE	Inbreeding Pattern:	Inbreeding to the Family of:
*		
MATCHEM	Spanker Mare 5X4	CADE
*		
CONDUCTOR	Sister to Mixbury 4X5X5	Partner
*		
TRUMPATOR	Brown Farewell 4X5	MATCHEM
*		
SORCERER	Brown Farewell 5X6X5	MATCHEM
HUMPHREY CLINKER	Diomed & Fancy 4X5	Diomed
*		
MELBOURNE	Termagant 4X4	HUMPHREY CLINKER
*		
WEST AUSTRALIAN	Evelina 4X6 & Termagant 5X5X7	HUMPHREY
*		
AUSTRALIAN	Evelina 5X7X5	HUMPHREY CLINKER
*		
SPENDTHRIFT	Whalebone, Whisker & Web 6X5X6X4X5	Whalebone
*		
HASTINGS	no additional female family inbreeding	
*		
FAIR PLAY	Pocahontas 5X5	Stockwell
*		
MAN O' WAR	Pocahontas 6X6X7X7X7X7X8X7	Stockwell
*		
WAR RELIC	Fairy Gold 3X3	FAIR PLAY
*		
INTENT	no additional female family inbreeding	
*		
INTENTIONALLY	Fairy Gold 5X5X5	FAIR PLAY
*		
IN REALITY	Fairy Gold 6X6X6X6X6	FAIR PLAY

•The **Godolphin Arabian** (1724) was imported to England in the early 1730's. His pedigree remains unknown. All of his offspring including his direct male heir, **Cade** (1734) were, therefore, outcrosses.

•The Godolphin Arabian's torch carrier was his grandson **Matchem** who was inbred 5X4 to the Spanker Mare, the fourth dam of his sire, Cade.

- Matchem's son, **Conductor** was inbred 4X5X5 to the Sister to Mixbury, the dam of Partner (of the Byerly Turk sireline).
- Conductor's son, **Trumpator** was inbred 4X5 to Brown Farewell, Matchem's grand- dam.
- The dam of Trumpator's male heir, **Sorcerer** contributed another strain of Matchem, extending the pattern of inbreeding to his family.
- Trumpator's son, **Humphrey Clinker** did not demonstrate any inbreedings to families along his male line. He did, however show the cross of Diomed (of the Byerly Turk sireline) and his full sister, Fancy 4X5.
- Melbourne** was inbred 4X4 to Termagant, Humphrey Clinker's third dam.
- Melbourne's torch carrying son, **West Australian** was inbred to Termagant's daughter, Evelina 4X6, as well as Termagant 5X5X7. Additionally, West Australian's dam, Mowerina was closely inbred 3X2 to Whalebone and his full brother, Whisker.
- Australian** continued the inbreeding to the family of Humphrey Clinker when his dam contributed a complementary strain of Evelina in the fifth generation. Additionally, Australian's dam, Emilia was inbred 4X3 to Web and her full brother, Whisker. Australian, therefore, demonstrated four strains of the full siblings, Whalebone, Whisker and Web.
- Spendthrift**'s dam, Aerolite did not further any inbreeding patterns along the male line but did contribute an additional complementary strain of Web. Spendthrift was therefore inbred to the siblings, Whalebone, Whisker and Web 6X5X6X4X5
- Spendthrift's son, **Hastings** was an outcross. His dam Cinderella, however, was inbred 4X4 to her fourth dam, Lollypop.
- Fair Play** was inbred 5X5 to Pocahontas.
- Fair Play's heir, **Man O' War** demonstrated further inbreeding to Pocahontas as his dam contributed six additional strains to her.
- War Relic** was inbred 3X3 to Fairy Gold, the dam of Fair Play.
- Intent** was an outcross.
- The dam of Intent's male heir, **Intentionally** contributed another strain of Fair Play, extending the pattern of inbreeding to his family.
- Finally, **In Reality**'s dam brought in another strain of War Relic creating a total of five strains of Fairy Gold (through her sons, Fair Play and Friar Rock) in the sixth generation of In Reality's pedigree.

In summary, the lone pathway of the surviving male line of the Godolphin Arabian has been distinguished by sequential inbreedings to the families of its tail-male ancestors. In particular, it has featured:

- 1) Inbreeding to the Family of Cade
- 2) Inbreeding to the Family of Matchem
- 3) Inbreeding to the Family of Humphrey Clinker
- 4) Inbreeding to the Family of Fair Play

Additionally, the line has also been supported by inbreeding patterns to other influential families including those of Partner (the grandsire of Herod), Diomed, Whalebone (and his siblings) and Stockwell (and other descendants of Pocahontas).

Where is the future of the male line of the Godolphin Arabian and Matchem?

A most plausible stallion to have continued on this line was 1982 U.S. Juvenile Champion, **Roving Boy** (Olden Times-Black Eyed Lucy by Prince Royal II). His paternal great grand-sire, War Relic was a full brother to his third dam, War Kilt. We refer to this

pattern of inbreeding to brother and sister along respective tail-male and tail-female lines as the *Delta Pattern*.

Tragically, Roving Boy was destroyed after suffering injuries as a three year old. He remains the best example of inbreeding to the family of War Relic to have appeared. Breeding strategies that include crossing the contemporary representatives of this sireline with War Relic's full sisters (War Kilt, Speed Boat, etc.) would be an endeavor to recreate this auspicious inbreeding pattern.

Inbreeding to My Dear Girl, the dam of In Reality would be another current means of inbreeding to a family along the tail-male line.

Continuation of the Matchem line has also been supported by the creation of inbreeding patterns to other successful contemporary families not linked to the tail-male line. This process, as has been demonstrated, has also been instrumental in the perpetuation of the Godolphin Arabian's sireline.

Given all of this, it could certainly follow that Coolmore's, **Honour and Glory**, just beginning his stud career, represents one of the best opportunities to carry on his legendary male line.

Honour and Glory, a son of Relaunch (by In Reality) is inbred 5X5 to La Troienne's daughter, Big Event. She appears as the grand-dam of The Axe II, Relaunch's broodmare sire, as well as the grand-dam of Francis S., the sire of Honour and Glory's second dam. He is, therefore, inbred to a key branch of what is regarded as the most prestigious family of 20th century American matriarchy, that of La Troienne.

Honour and Glory's track record does nothing to dissuade this projection. A U.S. graded stakes winner at two, he was the best sprinter/miler of his generation at age three. His most impressive victory was in the Grade 1 Metropolitan Handicap when beating his elders in stakes record time. In this writer's opinion, he was, also, the *toughest* of his generation. Retired with earnings in excess of US\$1.2 million, Honour and Glory shuttles between Ashford Stud in Kentucky and Coolmore Farm in Australia.

Honour and Glory descends from the same family as sire-of-sires, Fappiano. Crossing the blood of these two would create inbreeding to their common matriarch, Grand Splendor. Inbreeding to Grand Splendor's dam, Cequillo has already produced the Fappiano stallion, Quiet American, a Grade 1 winner and sire of Grade 1 winners.

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While female family inbreeding (within five, or even six generations) is observed in only a variable minority of currently bred thoroughbreds, it continues to shape the evolving racehorse more than any other identifiable breeding mechanism.

The future is always uncertain. But it never hurts to look for tips from the past. Ω