



## Uncovering a Relic

*Man o' War's grandson Relic was the first of his kind to cross the Atlantic and create a remarkable influence on the European thoroughbred which soon spread globally to include a profound effect on Australasia.*

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by Rommy Faversham

England's highly controversial Jersey Act of 1913 was enacted in response to the marked influx of American horses into Great Britain after anti-betting legislation threatened to cripple the U.S. racing and breeding industry. Many of the American horses at the time carried the blood of sixteen-time leading sire Lexington (USA) whose maternal pedigree included elements that were considered untraceable to ancestors in the General Stud Book. As such, they were stigmatized as "half-bred" and barred from any sort of a breeding career. In reality, it was an action largely taken to protect the British racehorse market. The harsh regulation was enforced all the way to June of 1949 when the accumulation of racing success by ineligible runners combined with the growing desire among British and Irish breeders to have access to the "impure" blood of French thoroughbreds led to its repeal.

In retrospect, the American sire line that appears to have been most hindered by the Jersey Act was that of Man o'War (USA; 1917) whose great grandsire, Spendthrift (USA), was out of a Lexington mare. Other than this tail-male ancestor, Man o'War's pedigree was entirely English in origin, only adding to the notion that some of his better sons figured to cross well with the appropriate choice of broodmares in England and Ireland. And, of course, turf racing was unavailable in America during this time period.

Under the circumstances, the only son of Man o'War to be exported for any sort of a stud career was Tsukitoma (Jpn; 1932), a foundation stallion in Japan who sired six classic winners (on turf) while ranking among the top five Japanese sires every year between 1946 and 1953 and a champion broodmare sire four times. Another rare instance of grass form was Man o'War's son, Battlefield

(USA) who crossed the Atlantic in 1938 to capture the world's premier steeplechase event, the Grand National at Aintree.

As such, Man o'War's paternal grandson Relic (USA) was the first representative of the Man o' War sire line to stand in Europe following the Jersey Act's repeal.

Taking it a major step further, no American-bred stallion standing in Europe over the next two decades (1950s and 60s) enjoyed as much of an impact on breeding. Relic, in fact, could easily be considered one of the most underrated thoroughbred influences of the 20th century.

Bred by Col. Edward R. Bradley at his famed Idle Hour Stock Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, Relic was foaled in 1945. He was a black colt measuring 16.1 hands upon maturity. His sire, War Relic (USA) was a very good three-year old whose best



RELIC, Black colt, 1945

WAR RELIC Ch 1938	Man o' War	1 Fair Play	Hastings	Spendthrift	A3
			Fairy Gold	Cinderella	21a
		Mahubah	Rock Sand	Bend Or	1k
				Dame Masham	9e
				Sainfoin	2g
	Friar's Carse	1 Friar Rock	Rock Sand	Roquebrune	4n
				Merry Hampton	22c
				Mizpah	4c
		Problem	Rock Sand	Sainfoin	2g
			Fairy Gold	Roquebrune	4n
BRIDAL COLORS B 1931	Black Toney	Peter Pan	Commando	Bend Or	1k
				Dame Masham	9e
		Belgravia	Commando	Commando	12a
				Anomaly	11c
				Voter	1g
	Vaila	Fariman	Query	Quesal	1o
		Padilla	Domino	Emma C	23b
			Cinderella	Hermit	5d
			Ben Brush	Mazurka	2o



Man o'War

race was the Narragansett Special when beating 1941 Triple Crown winner Whirlaway (USA). War Relic had a demonic disposition which included the killing of his groom. Fortunately, there is no recorded evidence this fearsome trait was passed to our subject.

Relic was out of the unrated mare Bridal Colors (USA), a three-quarter sister to Blue Larkspur (USA) an American Racing Hall of Famer as well a breed shaping sire and broodmare sire.

Relic was sold to Charles W. Moore of Circle M Farm from the syndicate who acquired all of Bradley's thoroughbred related holdings following his death in 1946.

It did not take very long for Relic to show himself to be a brilliant two-year old. His victories included the six and one-half furlong Hopeful Stakes, Saratoga Race Course's marquis event for juvenile colts. By the end of the year, he ranked second on the Experimental Free Handicap, three pounds less than Citation (USA). The latter, of course, went on to capture the 1948 Triple Crown and is considered by most turf historians as one of the top three American racehorses of the twentieth century, along with Secretariat (USA) and Relic's grandsire, the immortal Man o'War (USA).

At age three, Relic started the year winning the six furlong Hibiscus Stakes and the seven furlong Bahamas Handicap, at Florida's Hialeah Park. Soon

thereafter, the colt wrenched his back, an injury much more serious than first thought. Not only did it bring Relic's sophomore season to an abrupt end, all attempts at a comeback at age four proved unsuccessful. The colt had to be retired without ever starting again. In all, his career lasted just seven starts with five wins and two seconds.

Relic's true black coat color has always been exceptionally rare in thoroughbred populations. It is a Mendelian recessive trait that usually skips several generations before reappearing. In Relic's case, his black coat traces back to Trumpator (1782; GB), the grandson and tail-male heir to the great foundation stallion Matchem (GB). Relic is, therefore, a twelfth generation tail-male descendant of Trumpator from whom he inherited his striking and uncommon coat color.

Relic entered stud at his owner's farm located in Galloway, Ohio in 1950 with a stud fee of \$1,000. In retrospect, it is a bit of a surprise that his first and only American crop was as small as it was mediocre. The Circle M Farm property would ultimately become part of legendary Darby Dan Farm, future home to Ribot, Sea-Bird II, Roberto and other highly influential sires.

After just a year, Relic was purchased by Francois Dupre and transferred to his Haras d'Quilly in the Normandy region of France. There he enjoyed a remarkable stint of six seasons (1951-1956) getting winners and later producers of the highest class. His most important descendants, listed by generation, are shown in Table One. Between 1956 and 1960, Relic was ranked among the top five leading French sires four times. In 1957, he ranked second. Between 1961 and 1966, Relic was ranked among the top six leading French broodmare sires every year. In 1965, he was France's champion broodmare sire.

Relic's final fourteen years (1957-1970) were spent in England at Longholes Stud near Newmarket. There, while not quite as consistent as his French years, he continued to sire superior individuals both as runners as well as producers. Relic's most important descendants during this period are listed in Table Two. His best year came in 1966 when he was ranked third among the leading English sires. He died at the age of twenty-five in December of 1970.

From a total of 380 foals over twenty-one crops, the American transplant sired 34 (9%) stakes winners. Relic (whose own sire, War Relic was closely inbred) seemed to do best with inbred broodmares particularly those who were inbred to influential mares.

In his book, "Typology of the Racehorse" famed breeding analyst Franco Varola classified Relic to be a member of his 'Floating Series' of chefs-de-race, claiming the stallion to be one of the closest to attaining full status - that of a Pure Brilliant chef-de-race.

In a remarkable expression of extreme speed, Relic and his offspring were paramount in the production of France's best winners at the shortest of distances during his primary period of domestic influence. The results are as follows:

1) Between 1957 and 1965, Relic and his progeny produced the winners of seven of the nine winners of the Prix De l'Abbaye de Longchamp (for 2 YOs & up; now G1) run at 1,000 meters at Longchamp.

2) Between 1955 to 1965, Relic and his sons sired eight of the ten winners of the Prix Du Petit Couvert (for 3 YOs & up; now G2) run at 1,000 meters at Longchamp. ➡

TABLE ONE: THE RELIC SIRE LINE WHILE STANDING IN FRANCE (1951-1956)

Relance (1952, dam of Relko, Match II & Reliance > BMS of Kris, Diesis and Surumu)
Tactic (1952, Prix de la Salamandre, Prix La Rochette, Pr. Jean Prat, Zukunfts-Rennen)
Nordic (1952; 6 SWs)
Orrato (1966, Grande Premio Major Suckow (Brz.))
Doc Holiday (1973, Brazilian 2,000 Guineas-G1)
Blockhaus (1953, Prix d'Ispahan, Prix Henri Foy, Prix Perth, Prix Edmond Blanc; 6 SWs)
Manderley (1960, Prix d'Ispahan, Prix de Fontainebleau)
Agy (1962, Prix Messidor, Prix du Muguet)
Blocus (1972, Prix de Conde-G3)
Buisson Ardent (1953, French 2,000 Gs., Pr Jacques le Marois, Middle Park S; 16 SWs)
L'epinay (1958, Prix de l'Abbaye, Prix d' Arenberg, Prix Du Gros-Chene twice)
Ninabella (1958, filly, Italian 1,000 Guineas)
Biarritz (1958, Brighton Mile, 2 SWs)
Biarritz Star (1964, AJC Challenge Stakes)
Burning Thoughts (1959, July Stakes)
Roan Rocket (1961, Sussex S., St. James's Palace S., Hungerford S; 16 SWs)
Catherine Wheel (1968, filly, Nassau Stakes-G2, Musidora Stakes-G3)
Reap The Wind (1972, filly, Curragh National S.-G2)
State Occasion, (1973, Horris Hill Stakes-G3)
Rory's Rocket (1973, Q. Mary S, dam of Rory's Jester (ch. Aus 2YO/ sire)
Gairloch (1974, Royal Lodge Stakes-G2, Prix Gontaut-Biron-G3 ; 9 SWs)
South Gale (1980, Prix Kergorlay-G2)
Fleur Du Manoir (1986, filly, Prix de Flore-G3)
Sky Ship (1974, July Stakes-G3)
Brassia (1962, filly, Queen Mary Stakes)
Ardent Dancer (1962, filly, Irish 1,000 Guineas Stakes)
Silver Shark (1963, Prix l'Abbaye, Prix d'Ispahan, French Chmp. Miller; 15 SWs)
Karayar (1968, Prix des Dahlias; New Zealand sire 7 SWs)
Karaman (1975, AJC & QTC Sires' Produce Stakes, 2 SWs)
Silver Bounty (1977, VATC Caulfield Cup-G1, George Adams-G1)
Simead (1968)
Own Opinion (1975, Champion Indian 2YO, Bangalore Derby-G1)
Mayapan (1977, Indian St. Leger-G1)
Kirmiz (1969, filly, Prix d'Astarte-G3)
Hadrianus (1969, Prix du Palais Royal-G3)
Arosa (1969, filly, Prix Messidor-G3)
Silver Zara, 1970, filly, Prix Perth-G3)
Sharp Edge (1970, Irish 2,000 Guineas, Prix Jean Prat; Aus. sire 7 SWs)
Shapina (1975, filly, Fred Darling Stakes-G2)
Sharp Walk (1978, filly, VRC Ottawa Stakes)
Rom's Stiletto (1979, filly, VRC 1,000 Guineas-G1, VRC Oaks-G1)
Perfect Bliss (1980, filly, VATC 1,000 Guineas-G1)
Touch of Genius (1982, MVRC Manikato S.-G2, VATC Barton Hcp.)
Afayoon (1971, Prix Edmond Blanc-G3)
Lovely Toshō (1975, 2 YO champion Japanese filly)
Sea Bird Park (1976, filly, Keio Hai Spring H., Daily Hai Queen Cup)
Speed Of Sound (1964, AJC Epsom Handicap)
Atherstone Wood (1964, Irish 2,000 Guineas, Gallinule Stakes, Japan sire)
El Relicario (1953, Prix Quincey, 2nd Fr. 2,000 Gs. beaten by Buisson Ardent; 7 SWs)
Relifordie (1961, dam of Vigors; Hollywood Invitational Hcp., Santa Anita Hcp.)
Bord A Bord (1962, Prix Des Chenes, Prix Des Reservoirs)
Pasquin (1962, Prix du Conseil Municipale, Prix du Prince d'Orange, 2 SWs)
Garzon (1971, Clásico José Antonio Páez Ven-G1)
O'Grady (1953, 3 SWs)
Behistoun (1966, Washington D.C. International, Prix Ganay, Prix Lupin), 7 SWs)
Valdaj (1976, Czech Derby)
Raut (1976, 3 SWs)
Semra (1981, filly, Russian 1,000 Guineas-G1)
Art (1984 Russian Derby-G1, Russian champion at 3 & 4, 4 SWs)
Akvatoriva (1991, filly, Russian Oaks-G1)
Almira (1996, filly, Russian Oaks-G1)

Polic (1953, Prix d'Arenberg, Prix Saint-Georges, 3 SWs)
Polyfoto (1962, Nunthorpe Stakes, Prix d'Arenberg, King George S., 8 SWs)
Bay Express (1971, Champion Sprinter, King's Stand Stakes-G1, 6 SWs)
All Systems Go (1980, Seaton Delaval Stakes-G3)
Shoot Clear (1981, filly, Waterford Candelabra Stakes-G3)
Poets Cove I(1988, Molecomb Stakes-G3)
Dacani (1973, filly, Prix du Bois-G3)
Clear Picture (1975, filly, Prix d'Astarte-G3)
Negresco (1976, Champion Venezuelan 3 YO / Champion 4 YO, 5 SWs)
Valeriga (1976, Palace House Stakes-G3, King George Stakes-G3)
Satira (1984, Champion Venezuelan filly at ages 3 & 4 [G1])
Escalfon (1985, Clásico Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría Ven.-G1)
Calshot (1964, Prix du Bois)
Ranavalō (1954, dam of Fortino II, Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp > sire of Caro)
Mystic II (1954, Prix de Seine-et-Oise, Fall Highweight Hcp., Westchester S., 5 SWs)
Soothsayer II (1967, U.S. Steeplechase Champion 1972)
Life's Illusion (1971, U.S. Steeplechase Champion 1975)
Texana (1955 filly, Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp, Pr. d'Arenberg, dam of Tonnera-G1)
Reluisante (1955, filly, Prix De La Grotte, 2nd Poule D'Essai Des Pouliches)
Edellic (1955, Prix de l'Abbaye, Prix d'Arenberg, Prix Du Petit Couvert [2X], 2 SWs)
Cover Girl (1962, filly, Prix Chloe, Prix D'Astarte, dam of New Model [G1])
Dark Wave (1962, filly, Prix de Malleret, 2nd Prix Vermeille)
Gric (1956, Prix Daru, 2 SWs)
Breloque, (1957, filly, Prix D'Astarte)
Mincio (1957, French 2,000 Guineas, Prix de la Foret, Prix Saint-Roman, 12 SWs)
Somosierra (1963, filly, Prix Yacowlef)
Assouan (1968, Prix Du Palais-Royal-G3)
Citheron (1969, Prix Eugene Adam-G2)
Yushio (1970, Tokyo Shimbun Hai, Hokkaido Sansai Stakes)
Miho Ranzan (1971, Asahi Hai Sansai Stakes)
Five One (1972, Sekiya Kinen)
Riki Taiko (1974, Swan Stakes, CBC Sho (2X), Chunichi Shimbun Hai)
Venture VII (1957, Middle Park Stakes, St. James Palace Stakes., Sussex S., 16 SWs)
White Star (1962, Prix Daphnis, 2nd Prix Jacques Le Marois, Pr. Jean Prat)
Embellie (1962, filly, Prix Du Rond-Point)
War Paint (1963, Prix Saint Roman)
Locris (1964, Pr Jean Prat, Pr Ardan[2X], La Coupe de Maisons Laffitte, 30 SWs)
Tonka (1973, GP Presidente da República Brz.-G1, 3 SWs)
Cambrinus (1980, GP Presidente da República Brz.-G1)
Emerald Hill (1974, Champion Brz 3 YO filly, GP Diana-Brazilian Oaks-G1)
Boticao De Ouro (1978, GP Linneo De Paula Machado Brz.-G1)
Remember (1978 filly, GP Henrique Possolo [Brazilian 1000 Guineas-G1])
Lagoon Nebula (1978, [G2], dam of Fantastic Dancer [G1/sire])
Caesars Palace (1982, GP João A. De Almeida Prado SP-G1, 4 SWs)
Court Lady (1982, GP Organização SDF Ao Puro Sangue De Corrida-G1)
Emperor Julian (1984, GP Jockey Club De São Paulo-G1)
Four Leaf Clover (1985, filly, GP Diana-Brazilian Oaks-G1)
Aslam (1965, Prix Omnium, 5 SWs)
Dameria (1974, champion Chilean 3 YO filly)
Veruschka (1967, dam of Soviet Star: Fr. 2000 Gs, 43 SWs & The Very One-G1)
Maroun (1968, Prix Jean Prat-G2, Prix Daphnis-G3)
Itto (1971, champion Japanese 2 YO filly & 4 YO mare; dam of two champions)
Takaeno Kaori (1971, Oka Sho [Japanese 1,000 Guineas])
Climb Kaiser (1973, Tokyo Yushun [Japanese Derby], Keisei Hai)
Jannic (1957, Prix de Saint-Georges)
Victorian Order (1958, Prix d'Arenberg)

3) Between 1958 and 1964, Relic and his progeny produced five of the seven winners of the Prix Du Gros-Chene (for 3 YOs & up; now G2) run at 1,000 meters at Chantilly.

4) Between 1957 and 1965, Relic and his progeny produced six of the nine winners of the Prix Saint-Georges (for 3YOs & up; now G3) run at 1,000 meters at Longchamp.

5) Between 1954 and 1964, Relic and his progeny produced seven of the eleven winners of the Prix d'Arenberg (for 2 YOs & up; now G3) run at 1,100 meters at Longchamp or Chantilly

In other words, from the mid-1950s to the mid-60s, Relic's offspring as well as those of his sons and daughters completely dominated the majority of major French fixtures at five furlongs, particularly those run at Longchamp

and Chantilly, two of France's premier racetracks. It is certainly unusual for a newly introduced sire line to show such dominance at a specific distance within a major domestic center of racing for an entire generation of time.

Relic was also known for his ability to get top quality milers. This is reflected by the average winning distance among his progeny of 8.66 furlongs. The best of his milers included Buisson Ardent and Mincio whose victories at eight furlongs included the Poule d'essai Des Poulains (French Two Thousand Guineas). Venture VII was a winner of the Sussex and St. James Palace Stakes, two of England's biggest mile venues. His best son, Olden Times captured the Metropolitan Handicap which at the time was America's premier event at a mile.

As such, Relic is thought of as a superior sire of sprinters and milers. And yet, he was also capable of getting runners of the highest order at some of the longest of thoroughbred distances. The highly versatile, Olden Times captured the San Juan Capistrano Handicap at Santa Anita Park, America's longest grass race in America at a mile and three-quarters. In France, Blockhaus won the Prix Henri Foy (a major prep for the Prix De l'Arc De Triomphe) at 2,300 meters (a mile and seven-sixteenths).

The Relic sire line became exceedingly far-reaching in its global spread over a relatively small number of generations. Table Three demonstrates its international scope of influence. Relic's primary conduits to contemporary pedigrees include:

TABLE TWO: THE RELIC SIRE LINE WHILE STANDING IN ENGLAND (1957-1970)

Olden Times (1958, Metropolitan Hcp., San Juan Capistrano Hcp., Malibu S., 63 SWs) Belle Noire (1967, filly, Alcibiades Stakes, Bewitch Stakes) Hagley (1967, Great American Stakes, Withers Stakes, 30 SWs) Pepi Wiley (1977, filly, Post-Deb Stakes-G3) Hagley's Nest (1978, Sheridan Stakes-G2) Hagley's Reward (1980, Roseben Handicap-G3) Shortley (1980, filly, First Flight Handicap-G3) Committed (1980, Chmpn Euro. female sprinter [2X], Pr de L'Abbaye [2X]) Psyched (1983, filly, Barbara Fritchie Handicap-G3) Twin Time (1968, Atlantic City Handicap-G3) Full Pocket (1969, Firecracker Handicap-G3, Display Handicap, etc.) Pocketful In Vail (1977, Volante Handicap-G3, 3 SWs) Pocket Zipper (1978, American Derby-G1) Fighting Fit (1979, Mervyn Leroy Hcp.-G2, Paterson Hcp.-G2, 10 SWs) Fighting Fantasy (1987, Alysheba Stakes-G3, 3 SWs) Lady Sonata (1989, filly, Virginia Handicap-G3) Full Choke (1980, Haggin S., Leading New Mexico sire, 20 SWs) B.G.'s Drone (1989, 2nd Phoenix Gold Cup Stakes-G3, 3 SWs) B.G.'s Last Coin (2008, last of Relic male line foaled) Full Day (1980, Juvenile champion in Puerto Rico, 4 SWs) Carva Jal (1989, Derby Puertorriqueno-G1, Luis Munoz Rivera-G1) El Sonador (1994, Juvenile champion in Puerto Rico [G1]) Super Day (1989, Juvenile champion in Puerto Rico [G1]) Snatch And Run (1980, Premio Melton lty-G2) Dowery (1981, filly, Cotillion Stakes-G3, 2nd Maskette S.-G1) Spring Beauty (1983, filly, Barbara Fritchie Hcp.-G3), Interborough H.-G3) Pok Ta Pok (1985, Bold Ruler Stakes-G2, Roseben Handicap-G3) Natural Sound (1970, filly, Arlington-Washington Lassie Stakes) Blue Times (1971, Eddie Read Handicap, Massachusetts Hcp.-G2, 3 SWs) Bolt From The Blue (1980, filly, La Prevoyante Handicap-G3) Queen City Lad (1971, Nassau County Handicap-G3, 3 SWs) Take Lady Anne (1989, 3rd Spinaway-G1, dam of Salt Lake [G1/60 SWs]) Sweet Old Girl (1972, filly, Anoakia Stakes-G3, 2nd Mother Goose Stakes-G1) Winter Memory (1972, dam of Half Iced, Ujn Cup-G1, Secretariat S-G2 / 7SWs]) Cast The Die (1973, filly, First Lady Hcp., Regret H., dam of Devils Orchid [G1]) Old Goat (1973, filly, Golden Rod S.-G3, dam of Highland Park [G2] / 9 SWs) Dainty Dotsie (1974, filly, Vagrancy Handicap-G3, Egret Handicap [2X]) Faraway Times (1974, Prix Du Muguet-G3, Prix De La Porte Maillot-G3, 3 SWs) Piero Gardino (1985, Premio Melton-Mem. Tudini-G2, Premio Umbria-G3) Tilt Up (1975, Toboggan Handicap, Juvenile Stakes, 14 SWs) Tiltalating (1982, filly, Spinaway Stakes-G1, Sorority Stakes-G2) Rayonnante (1983, filly, Prix du Calvados-G3) Jaguey (1985, Ven. champion sprinter, Clásico Burlesco-G3, 3 SWs) Arleen (1998, Venezuelan champion distaffer) Old Crony (1975, W.L. McKnight Invitational Handicap-G2, Aus. sire 2 SWs) Mitey Lively (1977, Rare Perfume Stakes, 2nd Kentucky Oaks, Acorn Stakes-G1) Ancient Regime (1978, French champion 2 YO filly, Prix Morny-G1) Timely Counsel (1978, Woodlawn Stakes-G3) Vittorioso (1979, Carter Handicap-G2) Bye Union Avenue (1986, W.L. McKnight Invitational Handicap-G2) Drums of Time (1979, New Zealand sire, 2 SWs) Noble Times, 1984, Matamata Breeders S.-G2, dam of Duda, [G1]) True Dreams, 1984 MVRC Waterford Crystal Mile-G3) Roving Boy (1980, U.S. 2 YO colt champion, Del Mar Futurity-G1, Norfolk S.-G1) Floating Reserve (1982, La Jolla Mile Handicap-G3, Santa Catalina Stakes-G3) Cricket Ball (1983, Prix Maurice De Gheest-G2, Pr De Meautry-G3 [4X], 5 SWs) Lady Cricket (1994, Rising Stars Novices' Chase-G2, dam of Manzor [G2]) Coogee (1959, dam of Bletchingly, [G1] / three-time champion Australian sire) Antiquarian (1961, Great Jubilee Handicap [2X], Polish sire, 3 SWs) Dipol (1969, Nagroda Rulera, Derby & St. Leger - Polish Triple Crown)	Texanita (1961, filly, Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp [2X], Prix d'Arenberg) King Log (1962, Gordon Stakes, 2nd Dewhurst Stakes, 2 SWs) King Frog (1970, Gran Premio De Madrid-G1) Knight Templar (1970, Prix Gladiateur-G3) Pieces Of Eight (1963, Eclipse Stakes, Champion Stakes, 3 SWs) Stateff (1974, Italian Jockey Club Gold Cup-G1, Pr. Federico Tesio-G2, 2 SWs) Ostat (1985, Premio Virginio Curti lty-G3) Eight Carat (1975, foundation matriarch in New Zealand, see TABLE THREE)) Pioneer (1971, Alagi Dij-G2, Hungarian sire) Maganyos (1983, Swiss Derby, Gran Prix De Nantes, dam of Elbio [G1]) Hecuba (1966, filly, Prix De La Nonette, 2nd French 1,000 Guineas) Rockcross (1966, Prix Daniel Wildenstein-G2, Prix Du Gros-Chene, Australian sire) Bismark II (1967, Foxhall Stakes, Brighton Festival Handicap, Aus. / N.Z. sire, 11 SWs) Vice Regal (1973, Ellerslie Sires' Produce S., New Zealand 2000 Gs., 32 SWs) Eva Grace (1980, filly, Avondale Cup-G1, Waikato Noble Heights S.-G3) Prolific (1980, AJC Derby -G1, STC Tulloch S.-G2, VRC Craiglee S.-G2) Regal Advice (1980, QTC Castlemaine Stakes-G2) Richebourg (1980, Tranquil Star S.-G3, dam of Grand Echezeaux [G1]) Vite Cheval (1980, Aus. champion miler, AJC Doncaster H.-G1, 7 SWs) Cheval Cavalier (1986, SAJC Schweppes Lemonade Stakes-G3) Mamzelle Perdu (1986, filly, Gosford Cup-G3) Lets Hurry (1987, filly, AJC Surround S-G2, AJC Expressway S-G2) More Action (1993, SAJC Alcohol Go Easy Cup-G3) Princess Dram (1981, filly, Levin Bayer Turf Classic-G2, Lowland S.-G3) Quiet Little Drink (1981, filly, AJC San Domenico Stakes-G3) All Glory (1982, ARC Radio Pacific Sires' Produce Stakes-G1, 6 SWs) The Guida (1987, QTC Sires Produce Stakes-G1) Sir James (1988, ARC Auckland Challenge Stakes -G3) Regal Chief (1989, Avondale Gold Cup-G1, Queen Elizabeth H-G2) Gatcombe's Pride (1982, Field House Stud S.-G3, Cornwall Hcp.-G3 [2X]) Enchanteur (1982, VRC St. Leger-G2, SAJC St. Leger-G3) Colonial Chief (1984, SAJC Adelaide Guineas-G3, Hong Kong Inv. Cup) Royal Pardon (1985, AJC Frank Packer Plate-G2, Australian sire) Syrian Sea (1985, filly, WRC Wellington Stakes-G3) Fill The Bill (1986, STC Tulloch Stakes-G2) Reganza (1986, AJC Sires Produce S-G1, dam of KensingtonPalace [G1]) Helene Star (1988, Hong Kong 4 YO Champion, Hong Kong Derby-G1) Sapio (1990, BTC Doomben Cup-G1, CJC New Zealand Cup-G2) Brutal Force (1995, Turffontein Skeaping Trophy SAF-G2) Guns Away (1974, MVRC Moonee Valley Stakes-G2, Australian sire) Valencia (1976, filly, ARC Railway Handicap-G1) Yir Tiz (1977, N.Z. 2 YO filly champion, ARC Ellerslie Sires' Produce Stakes-G1)
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TABLE THREE: THE RELIC SIRE LINE INTERNATIONAL SCOPE OF INFLUENCE

The Nordic branch - Brazil The Buisson Ardent branch - France, England & Australia The O'Grady branch - Russia The Polic branch - France, England & Venezuela The Mystic II branch - United States (steeplechase) The Mincio branch - France & Japan The Venture VII branch - France, Brazil & Japan The Olden Times branch - United States The Bismark II branch - Australia & New Zealand	Relic's descendants also sired superior individuals in Ireland / Germany / Italy / Spain . Poland / Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Switzerland / South Africa / India / Hong Kong / Chile.
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- 1) His daughter Relance (Fr.) who foaled the full brothers Reliance (Fr.) and Match II (Fr.) as well as their three-quarter brother Relko (GB), all major winners in England and / or France. Relko occasionally appears in contemporary pedigrees but it is Reliance II who is, by far, the most common conduit of this trio serving as broodmare sire to the influential sires Kris (GB), Diesis (GB). Reliance II is also the broodmare sire of Surumu (Ger.), a six-time champion sire in Germany.
- 2) His son Buisson Ardent (Fr.), grandsire to Rory's Rocket (GB) who foaled Rory's Jester, an Australian juvenile champion and a successful local sire who appears in the pedigrees of numerous contemporary Australasian sires and dams.
- 3) His daughter Ranavalo (Fr.) was the dam of top French sprinter Fortino II (Fr.) who sired

- chef-de-race Caro (Ire.) a French classic winner and champion sire. Caro's tail-male line connects the important American sires In Excess (Ire.), Indian Charlie (USA) and Uncle Mo (USA). He is also broodmare sire to a number of noteworthy stallions including sire-of-sires Unbridled's Song (USA).
- 4) His son Olden Times was the sire of Square Generation (USA), the third dam of American Hall of Famer and sire-of-sires Awesome Again (USA).
- 5) His daughter Coogee (GB) was the dam of Group One winner Bletchingly, a three-time Australian champion sire who continues to appear regularly in a wide array of pedigrees Down Under.
- 6) His son Pieces of Eight (GB) was the sire of foundation matriarch Eight Carat (GB), a Broodmare of the Year in New Zealand for three

consecutive years (1995-97). Unplaced in five career starts while never earning a penny, Eight Carat produced a record five Group winners. Table Four demonstrates the sixteen stallions descending from the Eight Carat family who sired at least one Group stakes winner. They combined to sire a total of 39 Grade 1 stakes winners. The list includes 1995-96 Australian Horse of the Year Octagonal (NZ, by Zabeel)) who became the only Horse of the Year to sire a Horse of the Year, his son, Lonhro, a champion miler who also was champion Australian sire in 2003-04. It also includes Commands, by Danehill, sire of thirteen Group One winners and leading sire by winners for three consecutive seasons.

7) His son Bismark II (GB), sire of the New Zealand foundation sire Vice Regal whose superior male line descendants are listed in Table Two. ➡➡



MR TIZ, Bay gelding, 1984

BLETCHINGLY Br 1970	Biscay	Star Kingdom (IRE)	Stardust	Hyperion	6e
			Sister Stella		16
			Impromptu	Concerto	7
		Magic Symbol	Makarpura (GB)	Thoughtless	1g
			Magic Wonder	Big Game	6e
	Coogee (GB)	Relic	War Relic	Cap d'Or	22c
			Bridal Colors	Newtown Wonder (GB)	11g
			Man o' War	Conveyor (GB)	2o
		Last Judgement	Fair Trial	Man o' War	4c
			Faustina	Friar's Carse	1o
YIR TIZ B 1977	Bismark II (GB)	Relic	War Relic	Black Toney	10c
			Bridal Colors	Vaila	8f
			Wilwyn	Pink Flower	1p
		Gun Play	Agin the Law	Saracen	7b
			Grey Sovereign	Portlaw	8c
	Dreamy Jeannie	Gold Sovereign (GB)	Swift Gold	Revolte	13c
			Marco Polo II (FR)	Nasrullah	9c
		Cameroon	Amusing	Kong	6f
				William of Valence	21a
				Gold Race	14b
				Le Pacha	16
				Perfume	1w
				Whirlwind (GB)	1i
				Diversion	13a

Relic's widespread influence on the Australasian thoroughbred

Relic's contemporary impact on the pedigrees of Australasian thoroughbreds exceeded even those of Europe where he spent the large majority of his time at stud. As demonstrated in the previous section, three of his seven primary conduits exert their influence in Australia and / or New Zealand.

Australia's champion sires who transmit Relic blood include Bletchingly (1979-80, 1980-81 & 1981-82), Redoute's Choice (2005-06, 2009-10 & 2013-14), Lonhro (2010-11) and Snitzel (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20).

An examination of Blueblood's 2020 stallion directory shows that of the 145 listed sires, 97 of them convey Relic somewhere in their pedigree, a remarkable 67% clip.

As noted above, Relic's influence was well proportioned between his sons and daughters. This tends to facilitate patterns of inbreeding that demonstrate sex balancing. Between 1977 and 2006, there were a total of sixteen Australasian Group 1 winners inbred 5X5 or closer to Relic. The best known of these was Mr. Tiz. This gelded son of Bletchingly and a member of the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame was inbred, 3X3, to Relic. His seven career Group One victories included New Zealand's premier sprint event, the 1,200 meter ARC Railway Handicap (three times), the 1,200 meter WRC Telegraph Handicap (NZ; twice), the 1,100 meter ATC The Galaxy Handicap (NZ) and the 1,400 meter Waikato Sprint (NZ). This was a body of work certainly consistent with an individual closely inbred to our ancestral subject.

End of the line

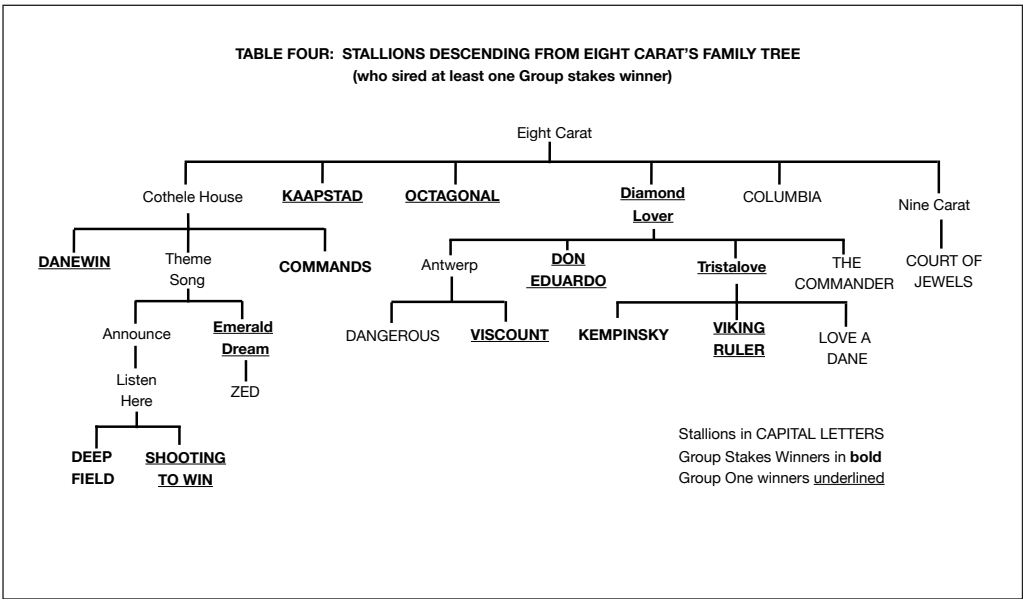
Despite Relic's evergreen influence within the interior of contemporary pedigrees, his own tail-male line that enjoyed global prominence from the early 1960s into the mid-90s now stands on the brink of extinction. What was, by far, the strongest branch of the Man o'War line now finds itself on the verge of complete termination.

Much of this has been caused by the same tsunami that has washed away so many of thoroughbred history's greatest stirps: what Franco Varola referred to as "the Phalaris revolution". The megaline of Phalaris now comprises roughly 95% of all sire lines.

The last male line descendant of Relic derives from the American branch of Olden Times. The latter's son Full Pocket (USA) gave rise to leading New Mexico sire Full Choke (USA) who, in turn got the sprinter and moderate producer B.G.'s Drone (USA). That one's final colt was ironically named B.G.'s Last Coin (USA), foaled in 2008.

When B.G.'s Last Coin, who is currently twelve years of age and without any known progeny, takes his last breath the Relic sire line will have come to its official end.

The expiration of a once great source of class and speed. **BB**



Shooting To Win (by Northern Meteor) is one of Eight Carat's descendant's carrying the RELIC blood into the next generation)