

INTERPRETING A CATALOG PAGE

BY GAYLE VAN LEER

Learning to decipher what is on, or more importantly, what is not on a catalog page is something you should familiarize yourself with before you venture off to make that first purchase at public auction.

A catalog page is a version of a horse's pedigree that has been edited down to fit on the limited space of a sales catalog. It is essentially an advertisement for that particular horse - thus the positives in the pedigree have been emphasized and the negatives edited out. The following page will help you decode a catalog page's contents.

Catalog Page Focuses on Female Side of Family

Because a lot of information is available on stallions through stallion registers such as those published by *The Blood Horse*, *The Thoroughbred Times* and data services, catalog pages only describe in-depth the female side of the family. You should do additional research on stallions you are not familiar with prior to the sale. The data service companies and other private research companies offer numerous reports on stallions (see side bar for contact information). Bloodstock Research offers an excellent report free of charge through their new Internet service. Make sure you also research the stallions on the female side of the family. Some stallions are much better broodmare sires* than others.

1st & 2nd Dams of Primary Importance

The most important parts of the pedigree are the 1st and 2nd dams. By the time you get down to the 3rd and 4th dams, their relationship to the horse on the catalog page is very diluted. Of course the closer any graded stakes-winning ancestors are to the 1st and 2nd dams, the more costly the horse will be.

The number of foals each mare has produced is especially important to note under the 1st and 2nd dams. A mare listed as having "9 foals, 3 to race, two winners" is not a very positive sign. In our example, Silver Clover has had 7 foals but only shows 3 offspring as being winners. One is a graded stakes-winner which



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proves she can produce quality. The 2-year-old can be given some grace due to its young age, but three foals are still unaccounted for.

Sometimes the mare is listed as only having one or two foals, making her appear weak. A closer look may show that she died at a young age, and thus was only able to produce a few foals.

Often times the subject horse may

ABOUT STAKES RACES

Of all the runners in North America each year, only about 3% are stakes races which offer the highest purses. Winning those stakes races is the dream of every owner because that is frankly, where the money and notoriety is found. In order to distinguish the quality of the different stakes from each other so that you can compare "apples to apples", a system was devised to grade the races across the country by the quality of horses that compete in them each year. The grades of each race are reviewed annually and can be raised or lowered from year to year depending on the quality of horses that have recently competed. The "G" stands for "Graded" in North America and "Group" elsewhere. This system of grading races was only begun in 1974, so older horses that appear in the 3rd dam or further in a pedigree may have won some very important races of their day, but no grading symbols appear. Another recent addition was adding the track code and purse paid to the horse after the name of the stake.

- [G1] The top races run each year throughout the world.
- [G2] The next tier of graded/group races.
- [G3] The lowest tier of graded/group races.
- [L] A "Listed" race has a purse of at least \$50,000, may be reviewed for possible [G3] status in the future or has been downgraded from [G3]. This code will not be used after 1997.
- [R] A stakes race that was restricted in a way other than sex such races that are limited to horses that have not won a race where the winners share was over a certain amount. These races have purse values high enough to qualify for "black type", but can never be graded.
- [S] Races restricted to state bred horses.
- [O] Used from 1985-1990 to indicate races with purse values under \$50,000.
- [N] A stakes race that does not qualify for "black type" because the purse level is too low. The present cut off is \$25,000. There are still many horses that show up as "black type" horses on catalog pages that won or placed in minor events prior to the implementation of a cut off value.

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The reputation of the owner/breeder/consignor and their reasons for selling is important to investigate.

The barn number where the horse will be located. Not all sales print the barn numbers in the catalog so you will have to stop by the stable office to pick up a consignor location sheet.

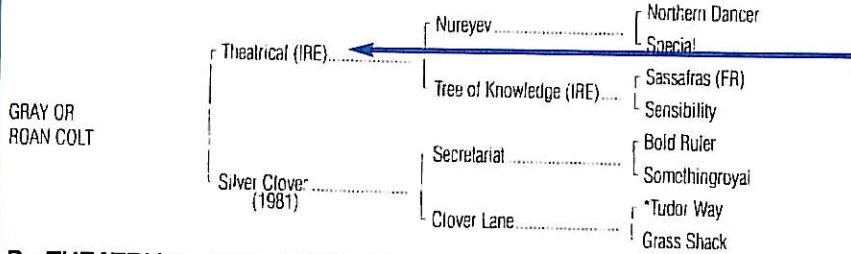
Brief summary about the covering stallion. If you are not familiar with the stallion a more in depth study should be undertaken.

All capital letters and bold type indicates horse won a stake. Bold print in lower case indicates a horse is stakes-placed. Also referred to as "Black Type".

Double lines indicate 1st generation under that dam. Single lines indicate the second generation.

Indicates any stakes or breeders funds to which the horse has been nominated. Additional payments due to maintain eligibility after date of purchase are the responsibility of the new owner.

Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent for
BryLynn Farm, Inc.
GRAY OR ROAN COLT Hip No. 63
Foaled March 4, 1996



By **THEATRICAL (IRE)** (1982). Champion grass horse, stakes winner of \$2,840,500, in N.A., Breeders' Cup Turf S. [G1], etc. Sire of 7 crops of racing age, 350 foals, 222 starters, 32 stakes winners, 158 winners of 454 races and earning \$9,266,585 in N.A., including champion Hishi Amazon (The Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup, etc.), and of Zagreb (hwt. in Ireland, Budweiser Irish Derby [G1]), Geri (\$902,980, Oaklawn H. [G1], etc.), Duda (\$657,969, Matriarch S. [G1], etc.).

1st dam
SILVER CLOVER, by Secretariat. 3 wins at 4, \$26,620. Dam of 7 other registered foals, 7 of racing age, including a 2-year-old of 1997, 4 to race, 4 winners, including--

LOVE OF SILVER (f. by Arctic Tern). 2 wins at 2 in England, Butlins Southcoast World Prestige S. [G3]; placed in 1 start at 2 in France, 3rd Prix Marcel Boussac Criterium des Pouliches [G1]. Predetermined (g. by Known Fact). 3 wins at 3 and 4 in 1997, \$80,855. Jackie Ramos (f. by Afleet). Winner at 3, \$42,748.

2nd dam
CLOVER LANE, by *Tudor Way. 7 wins, 2 to 4, \$127,405, Arlington-Washington Lassie S., Mademoiselle S., Lassie Trial S., etc. Dam of--
CRICKET CLUB (f. by Dr. Fager). 3 wins at 2 and 3, \$21,460, Pinafore S. Dam of 13 foals, 12 to race, 10 winners, including--

FORLADIESONLY (f. by Sovereign Dancer). 11 wins, 2 to 6, \$431,323, Grassland H. [L] (CRC, \$51,525), Powder Break H. [L] (CRC, \$32,490), Atlantic City Budweiser Breeders' Cup H. [L] (ATL, \$94,680), New Castle H. [L] (DEL, \$32,910), etc.

DR. BOBBY A. (c. by Dr. Carter). 5 wins, 2 to 4, \$217,753, Cherry Hill Mile S. [G3], 2nd Saratoga Special S. [G2], Tremont S. [G3], etc.

WORLDLY POSSESSION (f. by Valid Appeal). 5 wins at 3 and 5, \$167,945, West Long Branch S. (MTH, \$21,000), etc. Set ncr.

BOYO (g. by Explodent). 10 wins, 3 to 6, \$131,405, Derby Trial S.-R (FPX, \$27,500), 2nd Pomona Derby [L] (FPX, \$17,000). Victorious Meg. Winner at 3, \$19,630. Dam of **NOME** (g. by Double Sonic, \$363,626, Queens County H. [G3], 3rd Stymie H. [G3]).

Action Lane. Winner at 2 and 3, \$17,251. Dam of 2 winners, including--
SPACE MOUNTAIN (c. by Night Invader). 10 wins, 2 to 7, \$283,550, Paumonok H.-L, 2nd Massachusetts H.-G2, 3rd [Q]. Sire.

One Clover Lane. Unplaced in 2 starts. Dam of 6 winners, including--
Moms Birthday (f. by Malinowski). 6 wins, \$125,225, 2nd Summer Guest S. (PIM, \$7,865), Revidere S. (MTH, \$7,080), etc. Producer.

Engagements: Breeders' Cup.
Foaled in Florida.

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If this was a broodmare, her race record followed by her foals would be listed under her pedigree.
This of course cuts down on the amount of the actual pedigree shown on the page.

Note foaling date when judging individuals. Early foals have a racing advantage. Late foaling dates can effect price.

Denotes horse bred in Ireland and imported to the U.S. Horses with a * prior to their name were imported to this country before the implementation of the letter code system indicating country of origin.

Earnings in other countries are generally quite lower than the U.S. so amounts are not always shown since they give a false indication of the true quality of the horse. What is important is if the races the horse competed in were graded/group races.

Year listed after the age the horse won races indicates horse was still in training in that year.

Same track codes used in Daily Racing Form and amount of the purse that the horse earned.

In 1985 non-restricted allowance or handicap races that had a purse of \$30,000 or more were given "Black Type". These races were indicated by a "Q". The ruling was later rescinded but the "Q" races that were run under those rules remain.

A D D I T I O N A L R E S O U R C E S

Bloodstock Research-Data Service (800) 354-9206 http://www.bloodstock.com	Werk Horse-Pedigree Nicks (510) 490-1111 http://www.werhorse.com	The Thoroughbred Times-Publication (606) 260-9800 http://www.thoroughbredtimes.com
Equine Line-Data Service (800) 333-1778 http://www.equineonline.com	The Blood-Horse-Publication (606) 278-2361 http://www.bloodhorse.com	

Its Our Money

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Legislation

1997 was a bad year for horseracing in Sacramento. Virtually no important legislation was passed (the Cal-Bred Stakes bill was an exception).

No license fee relief was obtained, due in large measure to the intransigent opposition of the parimutuel clerks who were pressing the tracks hard for contract improvements: they successfully blocked license fee relief and the expansion of simulcasting. This logjam blunted the progress we obtained in 1996 and the near-term possibility of new jobs as the industry tries to open new markets.

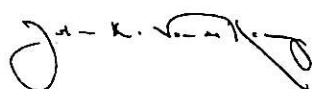
The bottom line: Thank God for SB 2000 license fee relief obtained in 1996! It has made it possible for us to maintain our purse revenues in the face of, at best, static attendance and handle (on and off track and California) and, at worst, continued single digit declines. (The only bright spot is interstate simulcasting: Del Mar's out-of-state handle was *up* 14.9%, while its total California on and off track handle was *off* 2.2%)

TOC's Survey

Around the time you receive this publication you'll receive a request to respond to a written survey TOC is conducting of its members. Please take 5 or 10 minutes to respond to the questionnaire and return it. It's your chance to talk to the TOC Board with your ideas, views and interests, and will be taken into account as TOC's very active Board develops policy.

On to Cal-Cup Day and Breeders' Cup! 🐾

Sincerely,



John Van de Kamp
President

Catalog Page

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be the first or second foal of a young mare, preventing you from seeing what her foals have done at the track. You will have to rely more on what the rest of the family has accomplished, or if the mare herself was a decent racehorse when determining her value. On the other side of the scale, some people have a bias against buying foals from older mares, even though their earlier foals were runners. They believe in the theory that mares do not produce as strong of a foal later in life. Another item people have strong feelings for one way or the other is whether the mare raced herself. If she was unraced, see if you can find out why. Was she injured or did she just not show much ability? Don't hesitate to ask the consignor these questions.

What's Not Shown on Page Important to Find Out

A very telling item that is never shown on catalog pages is how many starts each horse made. The number of starts is a good indicator of soundness and ability. A horse described as having "14 wins 2 to 7, \$115,320" and a horse that had "3 wins at 2 and 3, \$115,320" indicates one horse that competed at a very low level, but was probably pretty sound and another that was of much

higher quality, but not around very long. Another item usually edited out are the unraced foals or the foals that started and were not winners. Once again, the companies listed in the additional resources can provide you with unedited pedigrees and other information covering every horse in the catalog. You can also purchase these reports by the individual horse.

Examples of additional information provided include; sale prices of other members of the family, whether the subject horse has ever sold at public auction, breeding nicks, etc. This additional information can help you determine the actual quality of the family.

As you can see there is much to learn about pedigrees - I have only scratched the surface here to get you off to a good start. Ask your bloodstock consultant or trainer to help you with more in-depth information on pedigrees and an actual inspection of the individual for correct conformation, which is the next step in purchasing your horse.

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*A good broodmare sire is one whose daughters have produced a large number of quality runners.

Therapeutic Drugs

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micrograms per milliliter of plasma. A violation occurs if this level is exceeded, with the following penalty:

Within a 12-month period, the first high test results in the trainer receiving a warning. The second high test results in a \$300 fine. Subsequent violations bring increasing fines. This policy is standard for all breeds and all race meets in California.

We are pleased to report that the CHRB, TOC, and other industry representatives are cooperatively working together to address our state's medication rules and alleviate a "testing dilemma."

Progressive medication rules that benefit racehorses, while protecting the betting public, should result.

* See "No Harm, No Foul" in the April, 1997 issue of Owners' Circle.



Laura Grubb serves as TOC's Deputy Director for Southern California.

Dr. Dennis Meagher, Interim Equine Medical Director for the CHRB, contributed considerably to this article. We thank

him for his technical assistance. 🐾