

Gitano Hernando^(GB)

Hernando – Gino's Spirit by Perugino'

It is common practice among pedigree analysts to dissect major winners with the help of computers. Main object of focus is the performance of sires in terms of stakes performers, especially when related to specific broodmare sires, and with scant regard for the female family. Interesting, then, to reflect that when buyers select yearlings, and breeders buy mares, the information provided is entirely female line oriented – sale catalogues never carry information on the breeding of stakes winners by listed sires, or the performance of sire x broodmare sire combinations.

The theory of female-line kin-breeding aligns itself with the catalogue approach, rather than the computer-assisted thinking of analysts. Female-line kin-breeding is the interaction between female line ancestors whose pedigrees carry much of the same background line mix. Female lines often have a remote significant ancestor whose kin-breeding influence stretches for generations. When such ancestors connect, results can be explosive.

There are two steps in analysing a female line. Firstly the build-up of the bottom-line of the family of a horse to be investigated, and secondly the make-up of the best performers from the female line.

A good starting point is provided by the sixth dam of the bottom-line, then coming forward to see how the build-up is constructed.

Gitano Hernando's sixth dam Star Of India, full sister to Gr1 winner and sire High Treason, was Timeform's highest rated 2yo filly ever in 1977. Star Of India is kinbred through the bottom-lines of her sire and dam, 3x2 Picture (grandam of Court Martial) x China Maiden.

In this pedigree, Star Of India is dam of Blue Sash, a fair winner at 2. Blue Sash is kinbred 4x5 Czarina x Becti. Next Blue Sash' daughter Hanina, also a fair 2yo winner. Hanina is kinbred 2x2 Sugar Bun x Star Of India, and 2x4 Sugar Bun x China Maiden.

Research on the consequences of female-line kin-breeding indicates that a closely kin-bred (4x4 or closer) dam, with equally closely kinbred female ancestors, is most often present in great horses. Hanina (kinbred 2x2 and 2x4) falls in that category. Her daughter Mrs McArdy won the English 1000 Guineas, and rated 123 with Timeform ('accounted for an ordinary One Thousand Guineas field with an authority seldom seen in a classic'). Mrs McArdy is kinbred 3x5 Lake Tangajika x China Maiden and 4x5 Blue Girl x China Maiden.

In the pedigree of Gitano Hernando, Mrs McArdy was mated to Cure The Blues, a stallion from the female line of Secretariat and Sir Gaylord. Their significant female line ancestors linked to those from the mare, 5x6 Cinquepace x China Maiden and 6x6 Assignment x China Maiden. The resulting filly Rising Spirits was a fair 2-time winner.

Then came the mating of Rising Spirits to Perugino, half brother to Sadler's Wells, from the Dalmary female line. This gave a virtual Pandora's box of kin-links: 4x5 Thong x Star of

India, 4x6 Thong x Eastern Grandeur, 5x6 Rough Shod x Eastern Grandeur, 6x7 Dalmary x China Maiden, 6x8 Dalmary x Bibi Sahiba, and 6x9 Dalmary x Becti 90%. The result of this union was Gino's Spirits, a Gr2 placed Gr3 winner, who was among the best offspring of her moderate sire.

Gino's Spirits' pedigree was set up for glory. She didn't let the side down, producing Gr1 winning son Gitano Hernando. The latter is kinbred through his sire Hernando's fifth dam Mumtaz, who is kin to Sugar Bun and also to

China Maiden (the same kin-breeding as found in Mrs Mc Ardy's dam Hanina).

The female line build-up thus far suggests China Maiden to be the significant female line ancestor for Gitano Hernando.

A look at other major winners from the female line.

Mrs McArdy's one-time winning half sister Lady McArdy is by Derby winner Morston, and kinbred 6x5 Fancy Free x China Maiden. Lady McArdy produced multiple Gr1 placed Gr2 winner Thatch Attack from a mating to Golden Thatch. The latter's sire and dam are both Dalmary female line, and Thatch Attack was kinbred 3x2 Darrica x Hanina, and 5x6x6 Dalmary x Dalmary x China Maiden.

Also in the family is Gr1 placed Gr1 winner Sweet Secret (descending from a half sister to Hanina). She's by Peacetime, and is kinbred 5x6 Sun Helmet x China Maiden.

Mrs McArdy became dam of Citidancer (Timeform 120), a son of Lomond, who is half brother to Seattle Slew and Argosy, and kinbred (remotely) Ondulee x China Maiden.

Mrs McArdy also is dam of Admire McArdy, a filly by Northern Taste, and the dam of Japanese champion 2yo Admire Cozzene, by Cozzene. Northern Taste (who is by a son of Nearctic out of a half sister to Nearctic) gives kin-breeding 4x6 Sister Sarah x China Maiden in Admire McArdy. Cozzene, who is kinbred 5x3 Herodiade x Blue Canoe, rounds this off by linking the lot together, giving 6x4x5x7 Herodiade x Blue Canoe x Sister Sarah x China Maiden.

Where From Here

There's a wealth of apparently suitable links to be extracted from the above.

The stand-out appears to be the Dalmary female line. This is found in Sadler's Wells, Fairy King, Nureyev, Golden Thatch, Lorenzaccio. Several mares from the female line are at stud in South Africa.

Descendants from successful females in the family can also be found in South Africa. They include offspring from Sweet Secret, Candy Kisses, Lady McArdy.

Descendants from the female lines of kin-linking sires of successful offspring should count. There are many, including Dominion, Thatching, Peacetime, Ambiopoise, Cozzene (whose significant female line ancestor Portage also is in the female line of Fort Wood, a son of Sadler's Wells). Then there's Citidancer's sire Lomond, half brother to Argosy and Seattle Slew, from a family with La Troienne affinities.

Then the female lines of the sires in the kin-links in descendants from China Maiden. The sequence includes Gold Bridge (Rough Shod!), Court Martial (leading to Abernant, Mixed Marriage), Darling Boy (there are many descendants from his female line in SA), Tribal Chief (female line of Quo Banco, Ranjit, Fearless Lad, Kalamaika, Roland Gardens, Oasis Dream), Cure The Blues (Sir Gaylord, Secretariat).

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable lines for Gitano Hernando could include

1. Dalmary female line descendants Sadler's Wells (Fort Wood), Nureyev, Golden Thatch, Waterville Lake. Lorenzaccio (Ahonoora), Actinella, etc
2. Court Martial clan lines, incl Mixed Marriage (Gone West), Abernant, Petition and other Fair Trial
3. Sir Gaylord, Secretariat
4. China Maiden female line descendants, incl descendants of Sweet Secret, Candy Kisses, Zooming Zellie, etc
5. La Troienne line descendants (widespread – most often through Buckpasser, notably Al Mufti, National Assembly, Northern Guest) and her kin-lines (widespread – but in this context Argosy, Seattle Slew)
6. Kin-linking female lines of sires Gold Bridge, Darling Boy, Tribal Chief (incl Quo Banco, Ranjit, Fearless Lad, Kalamaika, Roland Gardens, Oasis Dream); Dominion, Peacetime, Ambiopoise, Cozzene