

Potala Palace

Singspiel – Alignment by Alzao

Fish where the fish are.

The female family of Potala Palace brims with highly Timeform-rated black type performers.

An unusually large proportion of these were hooked by Rainbow Quest and his son Spectrum. It is essential to get to the bottom of this – is it mere coincidence, or could there be an explanation?

Let's take the bait.

Deep in the dark waters of the female line lurks the mare Simon's Shoes. Three-part sister to Epsom Derby third Charles O'Malley, but absolutely useless on the track, unable to even run a place. At stud it was different. She bred eight winners, among them two notable fillies, born when their dam was at the end of her stud career. Persistence pays! Those fillies were Carpet Slipper and Dalmary, who both established highly successful branches of the family.

Dalmary will be remembered foremost as the dam of Rough Shod, without whom the modern world would not be the same. Through her daughter Thong, Rough Shod is grandam of full siblings Thatch and Special, the latter dam of Nureyev and grandam of Sadler's Wells. Thong has three full siblings who all made their mark at stud (Lt Stevens, Ridan and Moccasin), together with their half sister Gambetta. Another daughter of Dalmary is Rough Shod's half sister Jennydang, female line ancestor of Thatching and Golden Thatch, both sired by Rough Shod's son Thatch (and thus inbred to the female line).

Carpet Slipper is the dam of Windsor Slipper (Irish Guineas, Derby & St Leger), Blaith na Greine (3rd dam of sires St Jovite, Salem Drive & Lac Ouimet), Her Slipper (grandam of 3-times French champion sire Val de Loir and 3rd dam of sires Volcanic, One Cool Cat and Aragorn), Silken Slipper (ancestress of sire Dutch Art), and Coventry Belle.

Coventry Belle is the 3rd dam of Reform (Champion European miler and sire) and his full sister Knighton House, and of modest winner Queen's Castle whose daughter Edinburgh is our lure.

Rated 117 by Timeform during her racing career in France, **Edinburgh** is dam of French Gr1 stayer Sought Out (119), dam in turn of Epsom Derby winner North Light (126). Sought Out is a daughter of Rainbow Quest.

Another daughter of Edinburgh, French stakes winner Greektown, is dam of French Gr1 winner and sire Gamut (124), and of English Gr2 winner Multicoloured (116). The latter is by Rainbow Quest, while Gamut is by that one's son Spectrum.

A third daughter of Edinburgh, Scots Lass is grandam of Gr1 winning Epsom Derby runner-up and sire Golan (126), of Epsom Derby runner-up Tartan Bearer (127), of French stakes placed Gift Range (106), and of Italian Gr3 placed Allegoria (104) – all sired by Spectrum.

Back to base.

Remember our definition of kin-breeding: it is inbreeding to female ancestors whose pedigrees make them close kin to each other.

The female line build-up of Potala Palace is remarkable in terms of close bottom female line kin-breeding. Taking it in sequence:

Simon's Shoes (by Simon Square) 2x2 Sweet Marjorie x Sandal

Carpet Slipper (Phalaris) 2x1 Bromus x Simon's Shoes

Coventry Belle (Hyperion) 2x1 Selene x Carpet Slipper

Miss Coventry (Mieuxce) 2x1 l'Olivete x Coventry Belle

Country House (Vieux Manoir) 3x3 Vieille Canaille x Carpet Slipper

Queen's Castle (Sovereign Path) 2x3 Mountain Path x Coventry Belle

Edinburgh (Charlottown) 2x4 Meld x Coventry Belle, 3x5 Daily Double x Carpet Slipper

Scot's Lass (Shirley Heights) 4x3x5 Blue Cross x Meld x Coventry Belle

The significant female line ancestor is Coventry Belle (together with her dam Carpet Slipper).

Let's see how this connects to Rainbow Quest and son Spectrum, both highly successful with this family. Here's the kin-breeding:

Rainbow Quest (Blushing Groom) 4x4 Emali x Duke's Delight

Spectrum (Rainbow Quest) 5x5x5 Emali x Duke's Delight x Sunny Gulf

Taking two of their highly rated sons from the Coventry Belle female line:

Gr1 Sought Out (Rainbow Quest) 5x5x5 Emali x Duke's Delight x Coventry Belle

Gr1 Golan (Spectrum) 4x3 Sunny Valley x Edinburgh, 6x6x6x6x7 Emali x Duke's Delight x Sunny Gulf x Blue Cross x Coventry Belle

The cross with Spectrum has added value, through the close 4x3 kin-link of Sunny Valley and Edinburgh, which can be explained:

Sunny Valley's sire Val de Loir is very close kin to Edinburgh's grandam Country House, both by Vieux Manoir and both with Carpet Slipper as their 3rd dam.

Sunny Valley's dam Sunland is very close kin to Edinburgh's sire Charlottown, as both are by Charlottesville out of mares who have full siblings close up.

Added to this can be Gr1 winner and Gr1 sire Dutch Art whose dam is Spectrum mare Halland Park Lass, kinbred 4x4 Sunny Valley x Silken Glider (the latter a daughter of Carpet Slipper).

The Spectrum connection adds more, noted in the kin-breeding of Golan (above).

Spectrum is a grandson of Blushing Groom, whose third dam Emali is full sister to Red Ray, the third dam of Mill Reef, who appears in the female line as sire of Shirley Heights.

Mill Reef (Never Bend) is kinbred 3x3 Be Faithful x Red Ray.

Shirley Heights (Mill Reef) is kinbred 4x3x3 Red Ray x Harvest Maid x Blue Cross.

Hence the interest in Golan's kin-breeding: 6x6x6x6x7 Emali x Duke's Delight x Sunny Gulf x Blue Cross x Coventry Belle.

Since Coventry Belle is much the same as her half sister Dalmary (female line ancestor of Sadler's Wells) and gives the same kin-links, this goes some way to explain the conventional wisdom which finds an affinity of Sadler's Wells with mares by Mill Reef/Shirley Heights.

RAINBOW QUEST – Gr1 winning sire and broodmare sire of Gr1 winners, by Blushing Groom. Together with his Gr1 winning son Spectrum, Rainbow Quest is responsible for seven Graded stakes winners from the immediate family of Potala Palace, including 3 Gr1 winners and 2 Epsom Derby runners-up.



BLUSHING GROOM - champion racehorse, champion sire & broodmare sire, in a picture taken in his later years at stud (he died at Gainesway when 18 years old).

Through sons and grandsons, Blushing Groom seems to have had extraordinary influence through the female line of Potala Palace.

Returning lines of Blushing Groom to Potala Palace could be an interesting road to travel.

It is noteworthy that Singspiel (sire of Potala Palace) is half brother to successful sire Rahy, a son of Blushing Groom.

Apart from Spectrum and his sire, the family has progeny by Sadler's Wells, notably Sadler's Rock (TFR 125) and the dams of US G1 winner Tannery and Gr2 winner Excellent Result. Sadler's Wells, explained earlier, is from the female line of Carpet Slipper's half sister Dalmary.

Sadler's Wells also appears in the male half of the pedigree of Potala Palace. His sire Singspiel is by In The Wings, who is by Sadler's Wells out of Shirley Heights mare High Hawk. Shirley Heights also is the sire of Potala Palace's grandam Scot's Lass, who turns out to be close kin to High Hawk.

The Sadler's Wells connection can be spun out in a variety of ways.

Fort Wood is by Sadler's Wells out of Fall Aspen, whose dam Change Water is by Swaps. Potala Palace's sire Singspiel has as his 3rd dam Miss Swapsco, whose dam Soaring is by Swaps. Change Water is close kin to both Miss Swapsco and Soaring. This brings Fort Wood firmly into the picture, together with close relatives (such as Kabool) and sons (such as Dynasty, Horse Chestnut).

Another interesting one is **Braashee, who is by Sadler's Wells**, and kinbred through his grandam, 3x2 Special x Fighting. That female line also links through Potala Palace's female line to Coventry Belle.

Singspiel is a half brother to sires Rahy (by Blushing Groom) and **Rakeen** (sire of Jet Master). This is also the female line of Parade Leader, whose grandam Far Beyond is close kin to Miss Swapsco. All of these could be of interest, especially if there are additional bottom female line kin-links.

Rahy is damsire of Giant's Causeway, for future reference noted as sire of Await The Dawn whose grandam Shirley Valentine is by Shirley Heights from the female line of Rainbow Quest. Also for future another son of Giant's Causeway, Eightfold Path, whose grandam Myth To Reality is by Sadler's Wells out of a full sister to Shirley Heights.

Giant's Causeway also leads to Excellent Result (TFR 112), whose dam Line Ahead is a half sister (by Sadler's Wells) to Potala Palace. The sire of Excellent Result is Shamardal (Giant's Causeway), whose bottom female line is also the one of Spectrum, tracing to Sunny Gulf.

Fish where the fish are, indeed.

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PICK OF THE BUNCH

*Suitable mares for
Potala Palace could include*

- 1. Lines which have been successful with his female line**, including Spectrum and his sire Rainbow Quest (Saumarez, Baroon), Sadler's Wells (widespread, but notably Fort Wood & sons (Dynasty, Horse Chestnut) and others from Fort Wood's female line (Kabool, Hobb Alwahtan, Hinton Wells, Martinelli, Medaaly, etc), Braashee, Casey Tibbs);
- 2. Carpet Slipper female line descendants**, including Reform and full sister Knighton House (Tara's Halls, Antonius Pius, Tamburlaine);
- 3. Dalmary female line descendants**, including Sadler's Wells (widespread), Fairy King (Tara's Halls, Almushtarak), Nureyev (widespread), Thatch (Golden Thatch, Thatching (Restructure, Badger's Drift, the latter's dam by Thatching out of 3-part sister to Blushing Groom));
- 4. Singspiel's female line descendants**, including Rakeen (Jet Master), Rahy (Giant's Causeway), Parade Leader;
- 5. Mill Reef and son Shirley Heights** (including Casey Tibbs, Antonius Pius, Almushtarak); Etc.

Where from Here

Spectrum mares ought to have a bite at this cherry, as should those with Spectrum's sire Rainbow Quest, or other of the latter's sons, like Saumarez and Baroon.

The female line descendants of Carpet Slipper can be found in Reform, who is second damsire of Tara's Halls (by Sadler's Wells' full brother Fairy King). Then there's Antonius Pius, whose grandam Catawba is by Mill Reef out of Reform mare Catalpa. Reform's full sister Knighton House is grandam of Tamburlaine, and dam of Hauser.

Female line descendants of Carpet Slipper's half sister Dalmary come to light through Sadler's Wells, Fairy King, Nureyev, Golden Thatch (and others).