

The Assayer

Galileo – Crystal Charm by Danehill

Galileo with Danehill mares. The mind boggles.

Frankel, champion of the world. Teofilo, Gr1 winning sire of Gr1 winners. Plus another seven Gr1 winners: Cima de Triomphe, Romantica, Roderic O'Connor, Golden Lilac, Maybe, Intello and Noble Mission (full brother to Frankel). That's nine Gr1 winners, representing 5% of the about 180 times the cross was tried. Try to put that in perspective, given that even 1% Gr1 winners for any sire from any group of mares is remarkable. All that said, the quality of the female lines represented by these mares must be considered, too.

Romantica is a daughter of champion Banks Hill (TFR 128), Golden Lilac's dam a Gr1 winner (TFR 120), Intello's dam a Gr1 placed Gr2 winner (TFR 114) from Fort Wood's female line, Maybe's dam a stakes winning (TFR 109) 3-part sister to Epsom Oaks winner Dancing Rain, Cima de Triomphe's dam a Gr2 winner, the dam of Frankel and his brother a stakes winner (TFR 112) and also dam of two other Graded performers, by Sadler's Wells and Oasis Dream.

Clearly, quality counts, and not everything should just be laid at the door of the Galileo/Danehill cross.

The Assayer's dam Crystal Charm (TFR 113) has a solid family background. Gr1 winners on the pedigree page include half siblings Timely Writer (Staff Writer) and Timely Assertion (Assert), Dark Mirage (Persian Road), champion Indian Skimmer and close relatives Classy Mirage & sire Bluebird (all by Storm Bird), Missy's Mirage (Stop The Music), sire Java Gold (Key To The Mint) and Australian colt Grand Zulu (Grand Lodge).

More Gr1 winners than you'll find on an average sire pedigree page, and all these Gr1 winners come from a wide variety of sires. There are interesting kin-links with the female line for most of them. These appear to hinge on Crystal Charm's 3rd dam Home By Dark and her dam Sunday Evening, who was the second best juvenile of her year in the USA.

Remarkably, Sunday Evening's legacy comes through three unraced daughters, Home By Dark (Hill Prince), Prayer Bell (Better Self) and Royal Society (Royal Charger).

Prayer Bell is dam of Gr1 winner and sire Silent Screen (by Prince John), and of fillies Ringing Bells (Bold Lad) and Belladora (Stage Door Johnny). The latter has a legacy in South Africa, through daughter Romantic Fantasy – dam of multiple Gr1 winner All Will Be Well.

Ringing Bells, through three granddaughters who are full sisters (all by Irish River), is female line ancestor of Gr1 winners and sires Henryth-enavigator, Saffron Walden and Dolphin Street, of Galileo's 2013 Irish Guineas and Breeders Cup Turf winner Magician, and of Beethoven, the first 2yo Gr1 winner of new SA stallion Oratorio (by Danehill).

Royal Society made her mark through an unraced granddaughter, Society Singer. The latter was mated to Silent Screen, the son of Prayer Bell and thus from the same female line, which gave 3x4 Sunday Evening. The resulting filly Dubbed In is grandam of Gr1 winner and sire Medaglia d'Oro, who is kinbred through his sire El Prado's 3rd dam Ghazni and Royal Society. Medaglia d'Oro's champion daughter Rachel Alexandra is kinbred through Sunday Evening linking to the mare Ro Dear in her female line. Another of Medaglia's Gr1 fillies is Plum Pretty, kinbred through the grandams of her sire (Dubbed In, by Silent Screen) and of her dam (Ciao, by Silent Screen), giving a triple Sunday Evening.

Home By Dark is dam of a Gr1 winner, and 3rd dam of three Gr1 winners, all sired by Storm Bird – Indian Skimmer (TFR 133), Classy Mirage and Bluebird (TFR 125). The latter is the sire of Prayer Bell's Gr1 winning descendant Dolphin Street, who has Home By Dark and Prayer Bell as the 3rd dams of his sire and dam, and Sunday Evening 4x4.

The presence of Storm Bird also seems telling. His dam South Ocean provides kin-links to Sunday Evening, from the female lines of both her sire and dam. Storm Bird's pedigree makes him close kin to Nijinsky, who got Gr2 winner Javamine from a daughter of Home By Dark. That daughter produced Gr1 winner and sire Java Gold, by Key To The Mint, whose dam Key Bridge is very close kin to Home By Dark.

Javamine is full sister to Timely Tammy, the third dam of The Assayer. Timely Tammy's daughter Timely Roman produced two Gr1 winners. Timely Roman is kinbred 3x3 through the grandams of her sire and dam, Anchors Ahead x Sunday Evening (Anchors Ahead is full sister to influential sire War Relic).

PICK OF THE BUNCH

Suitable mares for The Assayer could include

- Elements from his own female line ancestors** Home By Dark and Sunday Evening, or kin-linked to them, incl Bluebird, Lake Coniston, Silvano, War Relic (In Reality, Gold Press), Bold Bidder (Del Sarto, Manshood, Tamburlaine, The Sheik, Argonaut, St Petersburg), Key To The Mint (Gold Press, Plugged Nickle, Fahal), Manshood; Hill Prince (Overlord); Jungle Cove (Bush Telegraph); female descendants of Romantic Fantasy, and Northern Pine
- Storm Bird** (Manshood, Martinelli, Personal Hope, Opera King, Carpocrates, etc), Storm Cat (Mogok, Black Minnaloushe, Windrush, Var, Tiger Ridge, etc.), Nijinsky/The Minstrel (Dancing Champ, Victory Moon, Tamburlaine, Russian Fox, Lavery, Lecture, Parade Leader, Lundy's Liability, Count duBois, Dupont, Woodborough, Spanish Harlem, etc)
- Sadler's Wells** (Fort Wood, Casey Tibbs, Doowaley, Dupont, King Of Kings, etc)

Where From Here

It seems that kin-breeding through Home By Dark (and by extension Sunday Evening) gives above average results.

In the South African context there are the descendants of All Will Be Well's dam Romantic Fantasy. She was at Maine Chance, and has a few active daughters and granddaughters. In the latter category is Romantic Moon (MR 103), a daughter of Nijinsky-line sire Silvano, who could be significant. Silvano's champion German daughter Mi Emma is out of a mare by Lake Coniston – a son of Bluebird, who has Home By Dark as his 3rd dam. Now look at Home By Dark's daughter Gray Mirage (grandam of Indian Skimmer). She is by Bold Bidder, and kinbred 3x1 Stepping Stone x Home By Dark (Stepping Stone is Bold Bidder's grandam). Back to Silvano, whose 3rd dam is by Bold Bidder and whose 4th dam is close kin to Stepping Stone and to Home By Dark.

Gray Mirage is also represented in SA through her granddaughter Northern Pine.

Home By Dark is close kin to Santorin (dam of Jungle Cove), whose sire Greek Song is from the same female line.

Timely Roman (half sister to The Assayer's grandam) was noted above as being kinbred 3x3 Anchors Ahead x Sunday Evening, where Anchors Ahead is full sister to sire War Relic. Now look again at Romantic Fantasy, a daughter of In Reality who is inbred 3x3 to War Relic. In Reality is not widely available in SA, but an interesting one is Gold Press (who stood at Scott's for some years). His dam is by In Reality out of a mare by Key To The Mint. The latter also is sire of Plugged Nickle, who has daughters in SA pedigrees.

Then there's Indian Skimmer, the dam of sire Manshood, who has producing daughters in SA.

Storm Bird and Nijinsky are options, Storm Bird primarily leading to his son Storm Cat, while Nijinsky gives a variety of options, through sons and daughters in mare-pedigrees.

Sadler's Wells appears several times in the female line as sire of black type horses, and could be an option. He's already in the pedigree as sire of Galileo. Also note that Medaglia d'Oro's sire El Prado is by Sadler's Wells.