



PEDIGREE DYNAMICS

Aloe, Aloe, Aloe – I'm back!

It's amazing how a good family will resurface over time. Those who believe that "what doesn't appear on the catalogue page is irrelevant" would do well to have a look at the number of times that certain taproot families are responsible for our top level racehorses and sires.

These families include ALMAHMOUD (1947 - Danehill, Halo, El Moxie, Orpen, Way of Light etc), TORPENHOW (1910 - Spinning World, Xaar, Redoute's Choice, Umatilla, Hurricane Sky, Masterclass, etc) and LADY JOSEPHINE (1912 – Octagonal, Commands, Danewin, Kaapstad, Dangerous, Viscount, Nediym, Golden Snake, Centre Stalls, etc etc!).

Another line which is experiencing a flourish at the moment after being only lightly represented for many years in Australia is the ALOE family.

This year sees the introduction of three new and definitely up-market additions from this line. Johannesburg, the winner of four Group One races, and Tale of the Cat, who has already made a significant impact at stud overseas, both grace Coolmore's 2003 roster. Closely related, they both trace to Monarchy, a full sister to Round Table. The Acomb Stakes winner Hemingway, a close relation on Marju and Second Empire, will stand at Chatswood Stud.

The ALOE (1926) family has been represented in Australia by stallions such as **Knight Commander** (1947), **Prince Bright** (1965), **Eucalyptus** (1967), **Red Tony** (1972), **Lord of the Dance** (1972), **Charmande** (1977) and **Voodoo Rhythm** (1977).

Apart from four year's company in the eighties from Charmande, Voodoo Rhythm carried the banner for the family alone here through the eighties and nineties.

In the U.K., this family was earlier known for its prominent 1950's members Round Table, Parthia and Alcide.

From there success-wise, the family branched out to America. In the sixties, the ALOE family was kindled there by the imported English mare Mixed Marriage, whose son Atan had one impressive win at Aqueduct before being injured and retiring to stud in Ireland and then Japan. He is now best known as the sire of Sharpen Up. Atan's half sister Tamerett proved a great broodmare, being the dam of two top racehorses in the seventies, Known Fact and Tentam. Her daughter Secrettame produced the top racehorses Gone West and Lion Cavern in the eighties. US Champion Turf Horse, Northern Spur is another ALOPE family member, but from the Welsh Flame branch of the line.

After a lull in the UK, the Welsh Flame branch picked up the bit and churned out top class racehorses such as Flame of Tara and her sons Salsabil and Marju as well as many more black type performers. Another branch, headed by the fabulous racemare Highclere, produced Height of Fashion, dam of Nashwan, Unfuwain, Mukddaam and four other stakes performers.

Why there were no stallions from the ALOE family commencing stud duties in Australia between 1982 (Voodoo Rhythm and Charmande) and 1994 (Mukddaam) is a mystery. **Mukddaam** stood here for six years and is the sire of the Group One winner Mon Mekki.

Since then they've been slowly trickling in. Song of Tara, Flash Tycoon, Ihtiram, and more recently Medal Of Honor, Gundane and Wiley Trader. In the more commercial bracket we've had Marju, Lion Cavern (both not standing here this year) and Second Empire.

Along with the new boys Johannesburg, Tale of the Cat and Hemingway, how can we create linebreeding to this fabulous family in matings with these sires with the bloodlines we have in Australia?

We can obviously make use of mares carrying the ALOE line sires which have stood here over the past fifty years (marked in bold earlier in this article) and by the use of mares that have ALOE family members present in other sectors of their pedigrees. Round Table is best known in Australasia as the damsire of **Sir Tristram**. He's also prominent in the pedigrees of popular sires such as **Don't Say Halo, Haulpak, Alquoz** and

Bletchley Park. Alcide was the sire of **Atilla** and **Sea Anchor** (who both stood in Australia) and of **Oncidium**, a top sire in New Zealand. Parthia was damsire of **Riverton**, who stood in both New Zealand and Western Australia. Aureole had an influence here as sire of **Buoy** and damsire of **Nassipour** in Australia and as sire of **Hermes** and damsire of **Wolverton** in New Zealand.

Tell, another family member, is the sire of **Pompeii Court** who also stood successfully in New Zealand. Being by Round Table, Tell is wonderfully inbred to Knight's Daughter, a granddaughter of ALOE.

Family member Gone West has also had representatives here which will make very interesting matings with the new boys. **Supremo**, **West Quest**, **Mr. Greeley** (who made a one season appearance here), **Royal Abjar** and **Victory Drive** all have broodmare daughters in Australia.

The beautifully bred and performed stallion **Xaar**, who is a grandson of Gone West, has been visiting our shores since 2000 and while his daughters aren't old enough yet, they will make interesting mates for Tale of the Cat, Johannesburg and co. in the next couple of years.