

"I select on movement"

Excerpts of an interview with Gelderlander breeder Piet Selten "In De Strengen"
(May 13, 2004)

Irene I is at the base of a remarkable line of horses. Daughter of Cehadee (by Wachtmeester) out of the Preferent Gelderlander Star mare Eborra (Oregon x Romburg) she received the predicate "Prestatie" (performance) based on her offspring. It is also very special that her daughter Swaasel and granddaughter ZsaZsa received the "Prestatie" predicate.

Three generations of "Prestatie", this can not be a matter of chance any more.

Irene I:

The Keur Prestatie mare Irene I was born April 20, 1967 at the Van der Ven's family farm in Bakel, the Netherlands. As a foal she went to Lenie Selten, at the time Lenie Swaanen, who got the foal as a present from her parents. Once the mare was of age Lenie competed her in L dressage (1st level) . Furthermore` Irene I was bred to Wahtamin xx.

The result was a beautiful filly who became a wedding present for Lenie and Piet Selten. This filly received the name Swaasel, a creative combination of the last names of Swaanen and Selten. Irene I stayed with Lenie's parents and Swaasel moved to the hog operation in Gemert. Swaasel was a fertile mare and had a foal almost every year. Sandrigo and Virtual Village Double Dutch are the most renown. The Farn son Sandrigo was born in Gemert, with the name Windekind. As a foal he got seriously injured. The veterinarians were very pessimistic about the recovery of this stud colt. Piet Selten sold Windekind and he expected never to hear anything more from this colt. Often the self healing power in a foal is underestimated and such was also the case with Windekind. He recovered from his lameness and this young stallion ended up in the stable of Egbert Schep. This born horseman recognized the qualities of this young stallion immediately and presented Windekind in 1980 as a three year old at the KWPN Stallion Inspection. Standing at only 1.60 m Windekind was a bit small and this was one of the reasons he was not accepted. Due to his qualities as a jumper the dark bay stallion ended up in the barn of Jan Tops. He sold Windekind to Switzerland where he became quickly the favorite mount of Aloïs Fuchs who started him in many Grand Prix competitions. Windekind's name got changed into Sandrigo and in 1992 he was approved by the Swiss Warmblood Studbook.

A Fertile Change:

In Gemert Irene I replaced Swaasel as broodmare. As a 14 year old mare she obtained her certification as "Agricultural Horse" with scores of 8.0 and 8.5 . At the age of 23 she gave birth to a filly by Purioso. At the time of birth the name alphabet was that year back at the letter I and hence the filly was named Irene II. Despite her riding type bloodline, by means of Purioso, Irene II is the prototype of a modern Gelderlander mare. She is registered in the Gelderlander book with the predicates "Keur", "Preferent" and "Elite" . Irene II has never competed, but she passed the IBOP test with good scores. She is extremely fertile and has produced a few exceptional horses amongst which Landlord (by Goodwill), who as a four year old was leader in the group 4 - 7 years old geldings and stallions at the CK in Veghel and he finished also fourth in the Pavo classes in Veghel. Besides these results Irene II is also the dam of the multiple National Champion Gelderlander Horses, Norene (by Zichem).

Norene:

Norene was received in the Gelderlander Division of the Studbook with a score of 85 for type and 82 for movement. In the past Willemijn Selten has competed the remarkable Norene with good scores in the ZZ dressage (4th level).

They were also invited by the KWPN to the CHIO in Aachen, Germany. At that show the three different divisions within the KWPN studbook were presented and Norene represented with brilliance the modern Gelderlander horse. After a serious injury Mr. Selten decided to change Norene's career into that of a broodmare and in the meantime she has already had a filly by Krack C.

Mr. Selten: " I do feel sometimes guilty toward the Gelderlander Division. At the different inspections Norene obtained many titles and prizes, but I have not used a Gelderlander stallion on her. Within the present group of Gelderlander stallions I can not make a choice; in my opinion they are not a good match for Norene. Willemijn had planned to compete Royal Irene in order to obtain for Norene the

predicate "Prestatie" too. Royal Irene, by Kennedy, out of Irene II, placed sixth during the KWPN competition in the group three year old riding horses. Unfortunately events do take sometimes a different turn and while going from the outdoor arena to the stable Royal Irene lost her footing and got such serious injuries that her career as a sporthorse was finished.

The Selten Horses:

Tip Top Irene is not easy, but that is not a hallmark of the Selten horses. This breeder from the Noord Brabant province formulates this as follows: "They are honest horses, full of temperament, they want to go on their own. The Gelderlander blood of the stallions Cehadee and Oregon gives our horses, besides a good carriage and an active hind leg that steps well under, also a lot of temperament. With patience and the right training you can transform temperament in a good attitude towards work." When selecting stallions for his mares an "easy character" has never been a criterion.

"Horses that ask for a lot of work are of course difficult for people who have not grown up with horses, but it is often a testimony to the quality of a horse. A horse that can not go is seldom difficult, because he has enough to worry about himself. A horse that is supple and elastic, yes such a horse can go anywhere he wants to."

What else is important in Selten's choice? "The looseness in the way the horse moves; I find that very important I do not necessarily want the most beautiful foals, but the front and the action that is what I am looking for. I do not select the stallions on their pretty picture, but on their movement. I love to see a stallion in a relaxed carriage, in walk and trot on the hard surface; in a relaxed atmosphere you can observe so much."

The Stallion Cehadee:

Cehadee, abbreviation of the name of his well known breeder Cees Hoogendoorn, is in the opinion of Piet Selten a stallion that has been underestimated. Cehadee passed on a good attitude towards the sport. In Cehadee you will find the blood of Caesar and Baronet and through that last stallion the famous Wittenstein line. According to Selten, Cehadee passed also an iron constitution on to his offspring. Irene II died at the age of 29 and Swaasel at the age of 24. They never had anything serious.

Offspring:

Out of Irene I (by Cehadee):

1976 Swaasel (by Wahtamin xx) Prestatie Mare
1977 Ubora (by Wahtamin xx) International jumper
1984 Cesar (by Ivanhoe) 3rd Level dressage as a 5 year old, sold to England
1990 Irene II Keur, Preferent, Elite

Out of Swaasel (by Wahtamin xx)

1980 Windekind (by Farn)
As Sandrigo, International jumper and approved stallion by Swiss Warmblood Association

1981 ZsaZsa (by Gondelier) IBOP A, Keur, Prestatie mare Jumping Z (1.30 m) / M2 dressage (3rd Level)

1990 Iris (by Purioso)
International jumper Virtual Village Double Dutch

Out of ZsaZsa (by Gondelier):

1989 Heraut (by Zandigo)
Z2 dressage with 22 win points

1990 Imposant (by Purioso)
Star gelding; leader at CK Veghel Jumping Z (1.30 m)

1991 Kazsazsa (by Belmondo)
Star mare Z dressage (3rd level)

Out of Irene II (by Purioso):

1993 Landlord (by Goodwill)
Star gelding ZZ light dressage (4th level)

1995 Norene (by Zichem)
Keur and Sport mare
Three times National Champion Gelderlander
Z-2 Dressage (4th level)

1998 Royal Irene (by Kennedy)
Keur mare (pending)

2000 Tip Top Irene (by Krack C)
Keur mare (pending)

Courtesy KWPN.
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