EUROPEAN SIRES *of* SIGNIFICANCE

Graf Guido vom Franckenhorst (1985 to 1995)

Part 3 - The Progeny of Hertog Alpha v. Le Dobry

by Alison Kollenberg, Germany

Bundessieger and Ch. ***Graf Guido v. Franckenhorst*** *(Hertog Alpha v. Le Dobry x Vivre Vivien v. Franckenhorst) as a young dog.*

Next to **Graaf Quirinus**, the black dog **Graf Guido v. Franckenhorst** would easily be the most prominent of the Alpha sons and one of the most prolific concerning the number of offspring he has produced. Unlike Quirinus though, this large number of progeny has yet to guarantee his place in breed history or an enduring role in its future development. Whereas his half brother Quirinus was a true breeding animal, one producing a group of equally as prepotent sons to follow him, Guido has yet to produce an equally outstanding son to follow in his footsteps and from the large range of offspring present, his ability to reproduce as uniformly has been less impressive than that of half brother Quirinus when we take into account the large number of progeny worldwide. (His owner reported approximately 1,600 in all. *Ref: "Dobermann" No2 (9)1996 issue.)*

Born on the 4th of October 1985 at Dordrecht, Holland, Guido was one of an all black litter of 5 bitches and 5 males. Three of the litter, Golda, Guido and Gringo, went on and became Sieger dogs, with Guido being by far the most successful and influential of the siblings. He was also dominant black, which together with his host of show titles and his owner's cooperative, service-minded management, further encouraged breeders to repeat matings. I believe Guido must have the distinction of being the most titled Dobermann in the history of the breed, although for the life of me I can't separate whether this honor belongs as much to the dog as to the owner. She had made it a mission in life to pursue as many titles as she could humanly manage - even to the point of flying all the way to Israel to attend the World Sieger show.

Therefore I dedicate the story of Guido's success as much to his owner, **Hassi Assenmacher**, as to the dog itself. Without her determination and energy, his record listing of titles would not have been nearly as impressive and as a consequence I'd recommend Mrs. Assenmacher to any breeder looking for a home to place a really promising puppy!

Mrs. Hassi Assenmacher-Feyel, a DV and Group judge, is now living in South Africa. Her warm and courteous ring personality is much appreciated by the travel weary, ever paying competitors (the people so often taken for granted by those judges who seem to think the show is for them, rather than to serve the competitors interests). This pleasant exterior hides a determined mind when in pursuit of a goal - namely in this instance, to make Guido the most titled Dobermann in breed history! A task which had given her great enjoyment in the past also, having achieved a similar success with a Basset-Hound once before.

To this aim Mrs. Assenmacher approached the DV President **Hans Wiblishauser** to recommend where to find a promising dog, and he introduced her to Holland's most successful breeders, **Sonja** and **Hugo Franquemont**. It's sad to say Sonja Franquemont passed away last year, but I'm sure the breed will continue to be influenced by dogs of her breeding for many generations.

My own first meeting with Guido when he was seven months old was a memorable event. The particular day was memorable as **Amida v. Flandrischen Löwen**/1984 (Ali v. Langenhorst X Alexa v. Heiderhof) had just whelped our "L" litter the evening before. On this day I had the honor of demonstrating how to cut his nails. Like many dogs, Guido was apprehensive about the whole process. But he submitted with a quiet resignation, like the gentleman he was. I remember remarking to Hugo Franquemont later that day what a promising looking youngster Guido was, making special mention of his beautiful head.

Ch. and DV Siegerin ***Vivre Vivien v. Frankenhorst*** *(Nimrod-Hilo v. Franckenhorst x Medina Dei Piani Praglia). She was Franckenhorst Kennel's premier brood bitch and Guido's mother.*

Guido's mother was the French Champion and DV Siegerin **Vivre Vivien v. Franckenhorst**/1980 (Nimrod-Hilo v. Franckenhorst x Medina Dei Piani Praglia), one of the famous "V" litter v. Franckenhorst. This is a litter we can appreciate for their reproductive powers (specifically Vitesse, Vincent, Vivien etc), and Vivien was a jewel in the Franckenhorst crown. Her legacy didn't disappoint them. She made Schutzhund 3, not all that common in a brood bitch, and became a key to the Franckenhorst success during the Eighties.

Vivien was a compact, dry and noble bitch with a well shaped head, dark eye and good expression. She could be faulted for her short, straight upper arm, but her proportions generally were balanced, full and harmonious. She died from a heart attack at seven years of age, leaving behind her many

noteworthy offspring of the likes of **Amos, Dea Delores, Dexter, Golda, Gringo** and **Guido v. Franckenhorst.**

Vivien's sire was the feisty **Nimrod-Hilo v. Franckenhorst**/1976 (Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm x Olive of Bamby's Pride). A tall dog with the strong bones common to many Franckenhorst dogs, but apart from his good head and rich tan, he was not a particularly well conformed dog. Nimrod-Hilo was no beauty, but he was a serious Schutzhund 3. His best feature was his enormous fighting spirit, also the hallmark of his sire, the 1977 Bundessieger, **Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm**/1972 (Bryan v. Forell x Güntersforst Burga). Hilo was one of the important ancestors that contributed directly to Guido's conformation later on, sharing family traits common like the maximum height, high withers, clean, rich colors and a noble outline.

Vivien's fiesty sire, ***Nimrod-Hilo v. Franckenhorst*** *(Guys Hilo v. Norden Stamm x Olive of Bamby's Pride). Nimmy pictured showing the right stuff. 14 months of age in Altmarkt, November, 1978.*

Nimrod-Hilos mother was the Japanese-bred **Olive of Bamby's Pride**/1970 (Odin v. Forell x Rita v. Forell), imported into Holland. Unfortunately my notes concerning her are buried amongst my papers in Australia, but we know she produced excellent offspring in combination with **Bryan v. Forell**, which made Nimrod-Hilo a brother to the 1975 DV Sieger **Don Dayan v. Franckenhorst**/1973 (Bryan x Olive).

Vivien's mother was the Italian-bred **Medina dei Piani di Praglia** (Ingo v. Forell x Della v. Franckenhorst.) Bred by the Italian breeder/judge **Dr. Mauricio Marchetti**, her strong pedigree also explained the daughter's ability to produce so well. *NB: worth noting is that Dr. Marchetti is also the breeder of* ***Droll dei Piani di Praglia****/1972 (Earl v. Forell x Anuska dei Piani di Praglia).* Droll proved to be as equally an influential dog in the development of Italian Dobermanns as Medina was in Holland and the breed in general. He is bred predominantly from vom Forell dogs and his place in breed history is assured as the grandsire of **Cito** and **Caienna di Villa Castelli**/1977 (Aldo v. Ferrolheim x Rada del Veriano). Caienna was a wonderful show bitch and an even better brood bitch, proving to be one of the most influential bitches in Italian history. Bred to her full brother she produced the modern sire of significance the **Bundessieger Elisir di Campolvalano** /1979 (Cito x Caienna), who was the grandsire of the Bundessieger **Quinn dei Nobili Nati**/1984 (Runo dei Nobili Nati x Tairy di Campovalano). Quinn in turn was the sire of the Sieger producer, Champion and multi Bis winner **Prinz v. Norden Stamm**/1988 (x Kastra v. Norden Stamm). Prinz sired the two Bundessiegers **Alfa Adelante** and **Arielle d'Amour del Citrone** /1994 (Tequila Mali del Citrone) and the recent IDC Sieger Baron **Nike Renewal** /1995 (Borana Karmen Sawages). A truly impressive blue ribbon sire line.

Friends for life. ***Hassi Assenmacher-Feyel and Guido.***

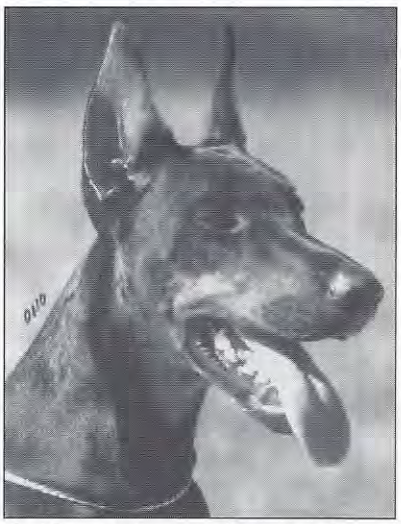
Medina's mother was a full sister to Don Dayan, making daughter Vivien a linebreeding on Bryan v. Forell. Medina's sire, **Ingo**, was most likely the dog on whose doorstep we can lay the blame for the high incidence of short, straight upper arms found in this line. This feature is also an international problem and of all the conformation faults, the one most seriously corrupting correct Dobermann type today.

Through her sire **Ingo v. Forell**/1973 (Chico v. Forell x Gräfin v. Hagenstern) we see in Vivien yet another successful crossing of the blood of Chico v. Forell to that of Bryan and his full brother, **Bonnie v. Forell**. Further proof that the late, great **Ernst Wilking**, of the von Forell kennel, has not only been DV's most influential and progressive President but also one of Germany's all time most successful breeders. He was an exemplary administrator, and a hands-on breed authority and it was Wilking that set the stage for the high standards that resulted in a Golden Age for the German Dobermann during the late Sixties, Seventies and into the Eighties. Inheriting the kennel from his father, Ernst Wilking left us a legacy that still invigorates the breed today.

Graf Guido had a blue blood pedigree. That fact, in combination with his extensive usage at stud, should have assured his success as a propagator. In fact Guido has produced very good progeny out of a wide variety of bitches. The large number of progeny worldwide is also a testimony to his popularity and assured his having a good representative group of offspring present at the major shows. In 1992 he won the Sires Progeny Group at the DV Sieger show with eight of the top placegetters coming from six different mothers. He followed this up with winning the Sires Progeny Group the same year at the Bundessieger show, with 12 top placegetters coming out of seven different mothers. In 1994 Guido won a Sire's Progeny Group again, this time at the Europasieger show, with 16 of his children, nephews and nieces presented for top placings. He repeated this effort the

In maturity Guido's beautiful, masculine head type is a most noticeable asset.

same year at the Bundessieger show, with eight of his children, nephews and nieces being presented. By 1995, the year of his death, at least 35 of his children had won 75 different Champion titles between them.



Like father, like daughter. Family typical similarities are to be seen when comparing the head types of ***Guido*** *and his champion daughter* ***Ono Royal Bell.***

Guido began his show career (and I think we can all safely describe it as such) at 16 months of age and by four and a half years of age he had tallied up a remarkable 20 Championship titles in 13 different lands, with certificates and awards from every land lying within 10 degrees west longitude to 35 degrees east longitude and from 30 degrees to 70 degrees north latitude! He was also the first western-bred Dobermann to cross the Iron Curtain and breed a bitch in Moscow and I am informed is also the dog that can boast the most flight kilometers! His show titles included 1987 World Champion, 1988 Beauty Champion of Luxembourg, 1988 FCI Champion d'Europe, 1988 Club Vitaz, 1988 Club Winner CSFR, 1989 Sampion CSFR, 1989 Bundessieger, VDH Champion, German Champion, Dutch Champion, Italian Champion, Belgium Champion, Israeli Champion, Swiss Champion, Hungarian Champion, Yugoslavian Champion, Finnish Champion, Austrian Champion, Portuguese Champion and seven times Best In Show Winner.

He started his career by winning best Junior at the 1986 DV Sieger show, although, in a twist of fate similar to that of his half brother Quirinus, it often happened during his career that when the Sieger titles were being handed out, Guido got overlooked in favor of a more sparkling show animal on the day. His first big Sieger title was a relatively uncontested event, namely the 1987 World Sieger show. The show was held in Israel that year and only a handful of Dobermanns attended. A more laudable step up the ladder came by winning the Europasieger in 1988 and then following it up with the Bundessieger title in 1989. Although strong, masculine and well-proportioned dog he was not a naturally vivacious show animal. (Frankly I'd always got the impression that Guido didn't much share his owner's enthusiasm for attending shows.)

In Austria. Austrian Specialty Winner Ch. ***Ono Royal Bell*** *(Guido x Esmir Royal Bell).*

Conformation wise Guido was a tall, noble, dry, strong-boned dog with rich, clean markings and a truly beautiful, masculine head. The latter was clean and well chiseled with powerful, yet slightly short underjaw, correct parallels and a very dark eye which could have been more almond-shaped. It was his crowning feature. His shoulder was sufficiently laid back but the upper arm was too short and straight. The rear was well let down in the muscling and well angulated, but he was slightly weak over the loin area and through the hocks. This was another, albeit this time less fortuitous legacy from his great grandfather Guys Hilo. His chest was deep and well formed with a long underchest, but he could have had a better tuck up. The forechest was sufficiently pronounced, considering the upright lay of the upper arm. His elegant neck to topline flow presented a noble outline. The arch in the neck could have been more pronounced. The clean neck line flowed into what were beautifully defined withers, which only added to his noble lines, despite a pronounced dip behind the withers. The back, although firm enough standing, could have been firmer when moving. His reach and drive were not his best points, with the hocks tending to trail out behind him in the listless manner of many Alpha descendants. The croup was slightly short, but well laid with a good tailset.

Character wise Guido was an unintrusive and "gentlemanly" animal. Reportedly playful at home I had never seen him anything but socially well-mannered when in company, whether with dogs or people. He passed his Schutzhund 1 at the Boxer Club, where the judge graded his fighting spirit with "a". That said, and despite his many commendable attributes he had on offer, Guido unfortunately was not a dog with the capacity to improve the working drives. And in common with far too many Dobermanns today, there was room for more courage and hardness. This was also a frequent observation of trainers about his offspring. The former DV **Körmeister Ottmar Vogel** also sternly criticized the effects on the breed resulting from Guido's character failings.

In Yugoslavia. Champion Vanya Sawages (Guido x Heidy Royal Bell).

Author's correction: Refer to page 55 of the Graf Quirinus v. Neerlands Stam article. Elina Jävinnen reports that Gamon di Campolovalo has a brown son in Finland.

Editor's note: Due to space restraints in this issue of FOCUS, it was necessary to split Alison Kollenberg's article into two parts. Look for Part Two of ***Graf Guido vom Franckenhorst*** *in the next issue - First Quarter 1999.*

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Part II of Part 3 - The Progeny of Hertog Alpha v. Le Dobry

by Alison Kollenberg, Germany

Continued from Fourth Quarter 1998 Focus

These sort of all-too-common character failings oft accumulate in a phenomenon described as *"Dobermann Syndrome"*. A familiar scenario where the high temperament of the Dobermann brings them to hit the arm at high speed, but then the commitment to close its mouth firmly is lacking and the dog falls off. On the rebite the dog may well sit firm, but not until after testing the water first and finding it safe. Mediocre helper work is a contributing factor but it also reflects an entrenched genetic weakness. One connected to a lack of courage and hardness. Not just a mere point deduction on trial day, but an Achilles Heel in the genetic makeup of the whole breed.

The Germans better describe the problem as a lack of *"belastbarkeit"* – the ability to take and recover from stress. A recognition of an inherent softness that undermines the ability of the working drives to function effectively, and, in my opinion, the single most common failing found throughout ALL the working dog breeds today. Sadly, it's a sign of the times – of changed priorities.

Guido passed his German ZTP (Fit For Breeding test) with V1B. The V meaning a first grading for his conformation and the 1B meaning a second grading for character. His siblings also only graded V1B.

(I don't think anyone knowledgeable would disagree today about the inherent character weaknesses in the "G" litter.)

In these modern times with its focus on show results, we find more and more people willing to overlook a weak character if the dog looks good and wins a Sieger title. This relaxation of breed standards is a far cry from Ernst Wilking's heyday, when he unequivocally stated *"the most beautiful Dobermann in the world with a poor character is a poor Dobermann."*

There appears to be an ever-widening lack of respect for the relevance of the relationship between breed type and its practical function. A brutish ignorance prevails, starting right at the top and pervading at all levels of breed infrastructures. More and more, breed programs are relegated to pure circus, and as such do less for the professed purpose of their existence than the individuals managing them. They are frequently turned into arenas for the riotous exaltation of personages and a brand of politics most oppressing and damaging to the breed. It should be a matter of real concern and it is the author's opinion that any breeders or judges not actively involved in the hands-on training, testing and trialing of working animals have no business evaluating their qualities for reproductive purposes. People simply don't miss what they never use.

In Hungary: Champion ***Royal Rambo v. Franckenhorst*** *(Guido x Marienburg's Irana)*

In France: Champion ***Ellinger des San Marin*** *(Guido x Carita des San Marin)*

In Belgium: Champion ***Eckeen Edha v. Rauberstolz*** *(Guido x Axel Aachen Vilja des Landrys)*

Thus in the spirit of these modern times Guido's own character weaknesses were never much alluded to. What counted was his enormous show successes and his ability to throw only black puppies. European breeders were beating a path to his door and he was fortunate to be able to cover top bitches out of a variety of bloodlines. The latter a task his owner assured us was his favorite occupation! Nor was his influence ever restricted by distances. On a number of occasions he would be flown to a bitch if she could not come to him.

From these matings he produced a group of beautiful, successful progeny. Probably some of the best known are coming from the Croatian kennel **Royal Bell**, of **Stjepan Belko**. A five star litter, they were amongst the early winners to emerge by Guido. Starting with **Lobo Royal Bell**/1991(World Sieger 1994), one of the most successful Guido children **Larson** (multi Champion, DV Sieger 1993, Bundessieger 1995), the Finnish Specialty Winner **Lord** (dual Champion), **Lana** (IDC Siegerin 1992) and **Lara Royal Bell** (dual Champion).

Of course having a good mother helps and the "L" litter Royal Bell had one of the best, namely **Esmir Royal Bell**/1988 (Hargos v.t. Wantij x Kamel Kesia v. Diaspora). Esmir was a Champion bitch and top producer in her own right. She won the Junior DV and Junior World Sieger titles before establishing she was a brood bitch to be reckoned with, producing the 1992 Bundessiegerin **Jamaha Royal Bell** and her brother, the dual Champion **Jago Royal Bell**/1990 (both by Ninjo v. Norden Stamm) from her very first litter. Esmir was also a tall animal, in fact difficult to mate due to her size.

In Finland. Champion and Best Opposite at the Europasieger, ***Vernalis Vendetto*** *(Guido x Norna v. Hasselhof)*

The siblings of the "L" litter have since produced Champion and Sieger progeny of their own, like the 1995 Junior World and DV Siegerin **Bea** (by Larson), the Champion bitch **Reina Royal Bell** (x Lana) and the Champion dog **Dufas John Jaguar** (by Lobo). In Finland is **Vernalis Venetto**/1988 (x Norna v. Hasselhof), the Best Opposite at the 1991 Europasieger show.

There was a repeat breeding of the Guido/Esmir combination the following year and this produced the dual Champions **Onyx** and **Ono Royal Bell**/1992. Onyx

In Yugoslavia. Champion and IDC Siegerin ***Lana Royal Bell*** *(Guido x Esmir Royal Bell)*

was Reserve Europasieger in 1997 and the elegant, father-typical Ono was BOB at the Austrian Dobermann Championship Show. With **Hargos v't Wantij**/1986 (Hertog Alpha v. Le Dobry x Esmir v. Hermansjomaik) being Esmir Royal Bell's sire, this made her "L" and "O" Royal Bell litters linebred on Hertog Alpha v. Le Dobry, and many of the progeny are noticeably Alpha typical. Good conformation points Guido consistently threw were his own lovely prominent withers and good head. To criticize, many of the offspring also inherited their sire's straight upper arm too. Esmir's daughter, **Jamaha Royal Bell**, was also mated to Guido and produced a dual Champion **Paco Royal Bell**/1992 and her brother **Jagor** produced the Hungarian Champion **Gold Drachen Dirty Dancing**/1993 (x Aany-Sarkany Regi).

In Germany are the Champion Guido progeny **Nelson v. Frankenland** and **Emiro v. Heiderhauser Forst**. In Italy

In Germany. Guido's most look-alike son Champion ***Jack o'Bryan de Ferignis*** *(Guido x Alina von't gröne Land)*

is the 1994 IDC Sieger **Rey di Coldicania**/1991 (x Obruk di Coldicania) and in Hungary is the Champion and IDC Junior Sieger **Doriental Zeus** and the Champions **Tahi-Reme Nursa** and **Nikki**. In France and Belgium are the dual Champions **Ertog Erphon** and **Eckeen Edha v. Rauberstolz**/1989 (Axel Aachen Vilja des Landrys). Bred in Holland and exported to Yugoslavia was the Yugoslavian specialty winner **Graaf Festus v. Neerlands Stam**/1991 (x Gravin Unita v. Neerlands Stam). He seems one of Guido's better producing sons. Although a fairly plain dog, he transmits his more positive points well; namely his masculinity and big chest proportions. Worth noting is that Festus is a grandfather to the IDC Siegerin and BOB at the Hungarian Specialty, **Come As Your Are Alabama**/1997 (Baron Nike Renewal x Galaxy Gwendy, by Festus) and the sire of the 1998 Hungarian Specialty winner, **Energo Fortobella**/1994 (x Gravin Barbel v.d. Ramelermark) and his sister **Elektra Fortobella**.

Also in Yugoslavia is a junior specialty winner **Graaf Sandor v. Neerlands Stamm**, the Hungarian Champion **Royal Rambo v. Franckenhorst**/1989 (x Marienburg's Irana) and his sibling the Italian Champion **Resa v. Franckenhorst**. Bred in Yugoslavia are **Vanya** and **Vento Sawages**/1993 (x Heidy Royal Bell), more attractive Guido children out of a top producing bitch, **Heidy Royal Bell**. (Heidy is also the grandmother of the 1998 IDC Sieger Baron Nike Renewal/1995 (Prinz v. Norden Stamm x Borana Karmen Sawages).

Bred in France and exported to Germany i the tall Champion **Jack O'Bryan d Ferignis**/1994 (x Alina von't gröne Land). Out o a blue ribbon bitch line, makes Jack a hal brother to another worthy Alpha grandson **Hertog de Ferignis**/1992 (Eick v.d. Rappenau x Alina von't gröne Land).

In France is the Champion **Ellinger des San Marin**/1989 (Carita des San Marin), his short almost undersquare body typically representative of his inbreeding on Alpha. A successful Guido daughter found in Russia is the Dutch bred **Brenda Belina v. Arentsberg**/1993 (x Pure Diamonds Black Beauty).

At nine years of age Guido was still leading his Progeny Group into the ring and remained fully active right up until his death in 1995, reportedly of heart attack. Perhaps a legacy from his mother and if so, an unfortunate one, as he reportedly has passed it on with some regularity.

Only posterity will reveal how far Graf Guido's influence will withstand the test of time, but throughout the Nineties his name became an icon in the European Dobermann world. For his owner, Hassi Assenmacher, he was not only a successful show dog, but a friend and family member and although she claims Guido was strictly her dog, there were practical exceptions. Like whenever her husband stood up to go to the fridge, he always found Guido following faithfully by his side. It always paid off!

In Yugoslavia. A Guido granddaughter by one of his better producing sons. Champion ***Elektra Fortobella*** *(Graaf Festus v. Neerlands Stam x Gravin Barbel v.d. Ramelermark)*

In the next issue I will review in short the lives of a successful group of the lesser influential Alpha sons and daughters.