

## The Mare Family of Kasette

*By Maren Engelhardt*

When I was asked by *THE AMERICAN TRAKEHNER* to write the story of KASSETTE's mare family, I felt honored and thought this was a great project to study the Trakehner breed once more and learn new things about one of the leading Trakehner mare families of all time. Little did I know about the amount of work that finally surfaced. I had to realize that one simply can't pull together the information and start to write, like I was used to. I learned that Kasette's story is actually a never ending one, and I'm still impressed at the level of influence this little gray mare has reached over the past 64 years. Let's start at the beginning.



KASSETTE was foaled in 1937 at Trakehnen. The origin of this beautiful gray daughter of the Arabian stallion Harun Al Raschid ox [Editor's note: In Jürgen von Henniges "*Hauptbeschälerbuch Trakehnen 1732-1945*" {*Chief Sires at Trakehnen 1732-1945*}, the stallion Harun al Raschid is identified as "Arabian" with his sire Hassan marked as an "original Arabian," which is generally identified by "ox," and his dam Nigra Zwscheiplitz again as "Arabian;" von Henniges quotes the journal "*Arabische Pferde*" (*Arabian Horses*), 1952, that it had been determined in 1944 that Harun Al Raschid was not a purebred Arabian and therefore should not be identified as "ox.") out of Kasematte by Flieder - Parsee can be traced back to the major broodmare KLEEBLATT, foaled at Trakehnen in 1780. The huge Kleeblatt family was equally successful in producing breeding and competition horses. Not only the famous Kasette

can be traced back to Kleeblatt, but also the well known foundation mares KOKETTE by Cancara, dam of the tremendously important KOMET and the Main Stud mare CORVETTE by Hirtensang. Kleeblatt can surely be called one of the most important mares in the history of the Trakehner breed.

Kassette survived the trek from Trakehnen all the way to Schleswig-Holstein, where the Trakehner Stud Rantzau was established in 1948. Together with SUSKA by Hellespont, POLARFAHRT by Bussard, KOKETTE by Cancara, and, for a limited time, CORVETTE and BLITZROT by Hirtensang, Kassette was the last reminder of the vanished Trakehnen. Rantzau was especially known as the home of the famous Trakehnen-born stallions TOTILAS by Pythagoras and FAMULUS by Fetysz ox, both extremely successful and necessary for the survival of the breed. Felizitas Tank, the photographer of these old mares, well known for her beautiful books, remembers Kassette, whom she met in person and describes her as the “shining center of all my pictures, she always stood out of the herd at Rantzau.”

Before she became a full-time broodmare, Kassette served as Dr. Fritz Schilke’s driving horse. Felizitas Tank remembers Kassette as a very “proud, harmonious and smart” horse, who always stood outside of the herd but, as soon as the mares began to move, was up front, unmistakably the leader of the group. And what a prestigious group that was!

Kassette produced 13 foals in 22 years, with one daughter and three granddaughters establishing new branches of this major family tree. With the new family system that the German Trakehner Verband initiated a couple of years ago, the family of Kassette as we used to know it, has been divided into its most significant branches, with Kassette being the root mare under the designation T7A.

### **The Family of Kassandra (T7A1):**

In 1947, Kassette had her daughter, the chestnut KASSANDRA 1235 by Sporn. This mare became a foundation mare in Fritz Bähre’s legendary Webelsgrund stud in Springe. Although of minor frame and size, Kassandra produced a total of 12 foals, 10 of them sired by the legendary IMPULS. Among these were the stallions KADETT, KAPITÄN, KANZLER VIII, KARNEOL, KASSIUS and the Olympic horse KASSIM (Immanuel).

Kassandra’s 1956 daughter KANTATE 1954, a chestnut filly by Humboldt, is represented in the North American Trakehner breed through her granddaughter KANDIDA II (by Morgenglanz),

who produced the stallion KÖNIG (by Bartholdy). Kantate's daughter KANTILENE II (by Patron) produced KATHINKA V (by Herbstruf), dam of the ATA approved stallion KHALIF by Consul. Kantilene II is also the dam of the Elite Mare KANCONETTE by Flaneur, and here we find another important branch of the family.

KANESSA by Schwalbenherbst, a daughter of Kanconette, is a very successful broodmare in the barn of the German Krause family, with numerous foals in the auction ring in Neumünster. Kanessa produced Ingrid Klimke's top dressage prospect, the bay FEI dressage winner KIRA K by Banditentraum, one of Germany's hopes for the future. Kanessa is also the dam of KANDRA by Kostolany, herself the dam of the approved stallion KASPAROW by Sixtus, a very successful young dressage horse, and of KARISMA V, the first premium daughter of the CCI\*\*\*eventer Windfall.

KASSIA, Kassandra's 1958 filly by Impuls, produced two approved sons: KASPAR (by Pergamos) and the chestnut stallion KASSIO (by Abglanz), sire of the full brothers GRIMSEL, GRISET, GREGOR and GELRIA, all out of the Elite Mare GRISELDIS by Pindar xx and all bred by Dr. Gertrud Baroness von Lotzbeck. Gelria in particular was very important for the breed. He stood as a state stallion at Hanover's Celle stud, and his Trakehner approved son STEUBEN (out of Sloppy Lady xx by No Argument xx) not only won his 100-day test, but also sired test champions (e.g., the Hanovarian GRAND GALOPIN). Steuben now lives in Italy. Gelria is also the dam's sire of one of today's most successful young dressage horses in Germany: the approved Trakehner stallion FRIEDENSFÜRST (by Rondo), ridden by American Lisa Wilcox.

Grimsel was quite influential as well. Stationed at the famous Birkhausen Stud in the 1970s, he sired FALKE, who in turn sired EGMONT, both stallions with influence in the American Trakehner breed. Grimsel also turned out to be a very good match for mares of the HALENSEE family in Birkhausen. The Premium Mare HARPUNE II, a chestnut daughter of Grimsel, together with Matador, produced a number of outstanding mares, led by HELENA XIV, the dam of the Elite Stallion HOHENSTEIN. Matings with Grimsel and Matador worked in many cases, also in the ATA approved chestnut HORIZON, a Mahon son (out of Harma by Matador).

But Kassio not only matched well with Griseldis. His 1978 son AKTUELL (out of Ankonda by Lattich), is stationed in the U.S. and left the gelding FENDI for Germany, a very successful Grand Prix dressage horse. SCHARNHORST (out of Sally by Pregel), who was imported into

the USA in 1977, was another top dressage horse and WALDZAUBER (out of Waldlicht by Pindar xx), another Kassio son, sired five approved sons, among them Ingrid Klimke's high level dressage horse, open jumper and eventing stallion PINOT and the Danish Grand Prix stallion ARSENAL (out of Arwetta by Habicht), who established a very modern stallion line via CAMELOT - GIPSY KING - MANRICO. Last but not least, Kassio's son LEIBJÄGER (out of Libussa by Pindar xx) sired the ATA approved TONBILD (out of Tanzbild by Preussengeist).

Kassandra's daughter KASSIOPEIA (by Impuls) was born in 1959, a mare that later became one of the foundation mares for Otto Langels' Hämelschenburg Stud. Kassiopeia won the prestigious DLG champion title. In 1966, her son KASTOR (by Pergamos) was approved, and the famous KASSIBER (by Ibikus) was foaled in 1971. Kassiber sired the 1977 Neumünster champion stallion AMADEUS (out of Asiette by Schöner Abend), who lived at the Hörstein Stud for his entire life, where he is remembered fondly. There was great sadness when Amadeus died suddenly in 1995 as a result of an accident, and people there felt like they had lost a close friend. Amadeus turned out to be what is called a "broodmare sire." Although he was frequented rather highly, only one son was approved, MESSALLA (out of Mandel IV by Admiral). However, 54 daughters have been registered in the German Trakehner Verband Stud Book over the years and Amadeus is suddenly back in the spotlight posthumously. The two full brothers FARINELLI and FREUDENFEST, both out of Freude by Amadeus, were the 1996 and 1999 champion stallions, respectively, in Neumünster. But let's go back to Kassiber.

Kassiber was sold to Australia in 1982, where he became one of the country's best three-day event horses, winning the national championships in 1983. A Trakehner stallion in the world of the Australian Thoroughbred — what an achievement! Kassiber also left some very important daughters in our breed, for example the Elite Mare COULEUR (out of Coretta by Auftakt), dam of the open jumper approved stallions COULEUR-FÜRST (by Sir Shostakovich xx) and CAANITZ (by Aron), the mare VALISE (out of Valjoscha by Gunnar), dam of VIVUS by Habicht, and ASTRID (out of Astoria by Totilas), dam of ANTARES by Ith, who lived in Denmark.

One year after Kassiber was born, Kassiopeia gave birth to another outstanding female of the family, the Elite Mare KLEOPATRA II (by Ibikus). This impressive chestnut mare had a total of 17 foals, among them the premium mares KLEEBLATT, KLAVIGA and KLEO'S BESTE as well as the two FEI level dressage horses and approved stallions KLEOSTRO (by Herzbube) and

KADRE NOIR (by Upan la Jarthe (AA)). Her other two approved sons KLAVIGO and KLABAUTERMANN, both by Enrico Caruso, were gelded.

In 1973, Kassiopeia produced the third “hit” in a row, KASTILIO (by Ibikus), an international dressage horse and sire of the stallion KATAPULT, who followed in his sire’s footsteps and was successful up to FEI level dressage himself. His only approved son, HUMANIST (out of Hanka II by Insterruf), was gelded and sold via the elite auction in Medingen. Kastilio was imported to the U.S. in 1986 and continued his very successful dressage career until his death in 1992.

Back to Kassandra, her 1960 colt by Impuls was named KAPITÄN and sired INSELKÖNIG. Besides that, Kapitän gained some influence through his best daughter KORBETHA who in turn produced KORDIA (by Mazagran) and KORDELIA (by Mackensen). The stallions KRONJUWEL II (by Matador) and KIR ROYAL (by Itaxerxes) came out of Kordia, and the full brothers KENNEDY and KENSINGTON (both by Michelangelo) were produced by Kordelia. While Kronjuwel II was an international Grand Prix horse that traveled a lot (born in Germany, sold to the Netherlands, then to Canada, which he represented at the Pan Am games, winning a bronze and silver medal under Ashley Munroe, and then back to Germany) and Kir Royal stood in England and competed as an open jumper, both Kennedy and Kensington were not so lucky. Kennedy, the champion of 1991, died only two years later of a viral infection with Borna’s disease, leaving three approved sons and 33 registered daughters. His full brother Kensington had to be gelded in 2000, only two years after his approval, due to an injury.

In 1962, Kassandra produced the stallion KANZLER VIII (by Impuls) and in 1964 the mare KARAVELLE (by Impuls). This latter mare produced KATANGA IV (by Ostwind), who in turn produced KIEBITZ, one of the four outstanding sons of Otto Langels’ WIE IBIKUS (by Ibikus). Kiebitz sired the impressive 100-day-test winner BANDITENTRAUM (out of Beauty by Mozart). Banditentraum is very popular in the Westphalian and Hanoverian breed, where he has three approved sons, among them the 4-year old Danish champion BERNSTEIN.

Again one year later, in 1965, KAPRICE II by Impuls was born. She produced two unbelievably important daughters, KAPRIZIÖSE and KARBEN. Kapriziöse’s sons were full brothers: KAPUCCINO and KASPAREIT (both by Mozart), the latter being an important stallion in the USA with successful offspring in all disciplines and one of the very few stallions alive that still combines the important bloodlines of Ibikus and Impuls.

Karben, on the other hand, produced the stallion KARIM (by Mozart) and KARON (by Arogno). Without Karon, who died at a young age, today's Trakehner world would be very different. Four of Karon's sons were approved: BEAUJOLAIS II (out of Belinde II by Kontakt), who is now living at Valhalla Farm, the Premium Stallion SCHAMPUS (out of Suleiken IV by Mahagoni), sire of the 1999 approved TIPO, GADSBY (out of Glockenmaid by Consul), and the champion of them all, CAPRIMOND (out of Capri by Mackensen), a stallion of great influence, not only through his most popular son HOHENSTEIN, but also through the large number of registered daughters in the breed (110) so far, among them numerous show champions and the national German family collection winners of all breeds, DONAUMÄRCHEN I and II, both out of DONAUQUELLE VOM KLOSTERHOF by Morgenglanz. But Karon's success story does not end there. He also sired THIRZA, the dam of the 1996 reserve champion TROCADERO (by Enrico Caruso).

Karben also had a very important daughter, KAPSTADT (by Falke), who produced the 1987 champion stallion KOSTOLANY, sire of six approved sons, among them the 1995 champion GRIBALDI (out of the Elite Mare Gondola II by Ibikus), who successfully presented his first sons in Neumünster last fall, including the reserve champion, HOFRAF, and DISTELZAR. Kostolany also sired the Grand Prix dressage winner SHOWMASTER (out of Schwalbenburg by Ibikus), the champion sire TOLSTOI (out of Tugend III by Burnus (AA)), sire of the above mentioned champions Farinelli and Freudenfest. Finally, Karben's daughter KASSUBEN (by Enrico Caruso) produced a young member of this family, the 1998 approved KAPRIOLAN F (by Exclusiv).

Only one year later, Kassandra produced the approved stallion KARNEOL, again a son of Impuls. Karneol was a very popular stallion in Czechoslovakia, where he went as a young stallion. Over the next four years, Kassandra produced no foals, but her last colt, the 1970 KASSIUS (by Impuls), was the sort of final stallion that such an outstanding mare deserved.

Recently, the stallion line founded by Kassius has again become very popular. His impressive gray son SATURATE (out of Susi by Cesar), who is an FEI level open jumper and the only approved Trakehner stallion in the Zangersheide stud book, had the opportunity to promote his sire's genes. Saturate is carrying this important blood on into the next generation with his approved sons BUDWEISER CLASSIC and BALISTO (both out of Bernina by Anduc).

Kassius had two other very successful sons, UNESCO and ULEXIS, both international open jumpers. And what about Kassius' influence in America? He sired the mare REGA, who later produced the Grand Prix stallion RADOM, a son of Mahagoni. Radom's best approved son is without a doubt the Elite Stallion TUAREG, partially owned by Franz and Elke Hollenbach, Puslinch, ON. And Radom is also the sire of HERZMINZE, the dam of HERZZAUBER, another Elite Stallion. Both Tuareg and Herzzauber are very popular in Germany, with Tuareg being the sire of Monica Theodorescu's Grand Prix dressage horse RENAISSANCE FLEUR TSF and Herzzauber being the sire of the 1994 Reserve Champion ADAMELLO (out of Apolonia by Ith) and the 100-day-test winner GUZZI (out of Gräfin by Atlas I), Premium Stallion in 1997.

### **The Family of Allah (T7A2):**

The only member of Kassette's direct mare line in North America was ALLAH (by Gondolier), a 1958 daughter of Kassette's daughter KARIA (by Ernest). Karia was imported by Gerda Friedrichs, the woman to whom the North American Trakehner breed owes so much, Allah produced ARIANNA (by Händel), who in turn produced the mare ARABESKE (by Abdullah). The 1985 ATA approved stallion ADVOCATE (by Graditz) is a son of Arabeske and the only active stallion in the ATA from that particular branch of Kassette's big family. Allah also produced the 1975 stallion KARAT (by Antares), who appears as the sire of ZARENKIND in the pedigree of the ATA approved stallion ZEUS MV (by Nemo).

Together with the legendary Totilas, Kassette produced the mare KASKADE, who in turn produced another foundation mare of the Kassette family, KANZEL (by Wanderfalk xx), who was born in 1959 and whose family carries the designation T7A3. Her 1963 approved son KANDIDAT (by Isländer) was sold to Denmark, and her 1965 daughter KASSI (by Rosenberg) produced KASSIOLA (by Meilenstein). Kassiola later had a colt who became the Neumünster approved KALLUSTER (by Illuster), sire of the exceptional ATA mare KOKETT \*Ps\* (out of Koralle XI by Pasteur xx), who was successful up to CCI\*\*\* and is now a broodmare at the Holekamp's New Spring Farm in Missouri. And finally, in 1977, there was KARMEN II, one of the very few Trakehner daughters of the exceptional Thoroughbred stallion Sacramento Song who is so very important in the Oldenburg breed through his son SANDRO. Karmen II produced KAVALLINA (by Ravel), the dam of KAISERWALZER, the last approved son of Consul.

Last but not least, there is the T7A4 family, founded by KANTILENE (by Traumgeist xx), a daughter of Kasette's daughter KASAVIT (by Aquavit). She was gray and passed that on to all but one of her foals. Kantilene was owned by Dr. Walter Rumpf of the famous, but no longer existing, Biebertal Stud in Germany. Here, this particular branch of Kasette's family was nurtured for a very long and successful time. When the Biebertal Stud was closed in the late 80s, Ulrich and Inge Wöhrle of Brettachtal were able to buy a couple of these famous mares and today are breeding Trakehner horses almost exclusively from this family. In 1968, the mare KARNEVAL was born, a daughter of Kantilene and Frohsinn. She was sold to the U.S. Most people know her as the dam of KARAWANE II (by Flaneur), who produced the approved stallion KANTOR II (by Erzsand). Kantor II died in early 2000. Karawane II won the National Trakehner Broodmare Championship of all ages in 1982, an event that takes place every seven years. And what a surprise was the next National Mare Show in 1989, where another of Biebertal's mares won the title: the bay KALINKA XV by Mahagoni (out of Katinka III by Erzsand), one of the highest marked mares in the breed and today also living in Brettachtal with the Wöhrle family. Kalinka XV is the dam of the Verband Premium Mare KATEJA (by Inschallah (AA)), who just recently had the youngest of all the Kasette line sons approved in Alsfeld 2001: KEY WEST, bred in Brettachtal and sired by the stud's stallion STRADIVARI (by Upan la Jarthe (AA), out of Schwalbenburg by Ibikus). Another example of the very good chemistry between the Ibikus, Impuls and Kasette bloodlines over the years.

A further match of Erzsand and Frohsinn produced KARLA III, the dam of the Elite Mare KANDIDA III, an impressive gray Mahagoni daughter. She just recently had her first approved son, the bay KAISER WILHELM (by Lehdorffs), who was approved in 1999 and sold to Denmark at the Medingen elite auction in 2000 for over DM 200,000 (app. \$100,000).

A full sister to Karawane II was KARAWANE, dam of the elite mare KARAVELLE III (by Donauwind). She is the dam of the international open jumper KEEP SMILING (by Sokrates) and of the Verband Premium Mare KARIOCA (by Vollkorn xx), today a member of the mare herd in Brettachtal.

Another Vollkorn xx son out of this mare family, the approved KARO AS, appears in the pedigrees of two very young stallions: Karo As' daughter FLIEDERBLÜTE produced the approved gray stallion FLIEDERGEIST (by Heraldik xx) and another daughter of Karo As is the

dam of the recently approved CONNERY by Buddenbrock, one of the most outstanding stallions in Neumünster in 2000.

Whoever thinks this story is finished, is very wrong. For over 60 years, Kassette has influenced the Trakehner breed in a way no other mare has. It is almost impossible to name all individual horses that carry her great name in one way or another. If I forgot some individuals I can assure you, it was not intentional. Kassette's offspring are spread all over Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia, and the size and diffusion of the family not only show how successful a single horse can be, but also prove the truth of "Trakehners worldwide!"

*{Editor's note: The ATA Stud Book includes 53 mares that belong to this prolific family. Listing them all here is impossible due to the lack of space.}*