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HISTORICAL PREREQUISITES TO THE NAMES OF TRADITIONAL PRIZES FOR TROTTER HORSES IN HONOR OF THE DIBRIVKA STUD FARM

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The article examines the historical aspect and prerequisites for the naming of traditional prizes for trotter horses, associated with the history of the Dibrivka stud farm.

The Dibrivka stud farm No. 62 was founded in 1888 by Prince D. Romanov and is one of the oldest stud farms in Ukraine. From the very beginning of its foundation, it specialized in raising horses of various breeds, including the Orlov trotter horse, work with which continues successfully up to this day. Currently, out of 58 traditional prizes, 13 (22%) are connected with names associated with the Dibrivka stud farm, which indicates a high culture of horse breeding, the level of selection and breeding work, technologies of keeping, care and upbringing, training systems in this farm, which rightfully confirms the status of one of the leading farms in Ukraine for breeding trotter horses.

During the research, it was determined that 11 out of 13 traditional prizes are named after the nicknames of outstanding trotters, the one is in honor of one of the most famous riders - M. Stasenko and the other is in honor of the Dibrivka stud farm itself. The oldest pupil of the farm, in whose honor one of the traditional prizes is drawn – Hildiiets, which was foaled in 1919, had an agility of 2 min. 11 s. for a distance of 1600 m, is the ancestor of his own line. The youngest – Hrafik, which was foaled in 2001, has an agility of 1.57,6 at the same distance, today is used as a breeder at the Dibrivka stud farm. That is, over the past 82 years, there has been a significant progress in agility, in this case - by 13.4 seconds.

In terms of breeds, among the 11 outstanding racetrack rivals, 5 belong to the Orlov trotter, 6 to the Russian trotter, which has been registered as a Ukrainian trotter since 2024. Today, the Dibrivka stud farm is carrying out successful selection and breeding work with both trotters and the Novoolexandrian Draught breed. The farm is the only producer of koumiss in Ukraine, which is sold within the Poltava oblast.

Keywords: trotter horses, traditional prizes, Dibrivka stud farm, drivers, hippodrome, agility

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ІСТОРИЧНІ ПЕРЕДУМОВИ НАЗВ ТРАДИЦІЙНИХ ПРИЗІВ ДЛЯ РИСИСТИХ КОНЕЙ НА ЧЕСТЬ ДІБРІВСЬКОГО КІННОГО ЗАВОДУ

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В статті розглянуто історичний аспект та передумови найменування традиційних призів для коней рисистих порід, пов`язані з історією Дібрівського кінного заводу.

Дібрівський кінний завод № 62 заснований у 1888 році князем Д. Романовим і є одним з найстаріших кінних заводів України. З самого початку свого заснування він спеціалізувався на розведенні коней різних порід, у тому числі орловської рисистої, робота з якою успішно триває по сьогоднішній день. На даний час з 58 традиційних призів – 13 (22%), пов'язані з іменами, причетними до Дібрівського кінного заводу, що свідчить про високу культуру ведення галузі конярства, рівень селекційно-племінної роботи, технології утримання, догляду та виховання, систем тренінгу в цьому господарстві, яке по праву підтверджує статус одного з провідних господарств України з розведення коней рисистих порід.

В ході досліджень виявлено, що 11 з 13 традиційних призів мають назву кличок видатних рисаків, один - на честь одного з найвідоміших наїзників - М.Д. Стасенка та один на честь безпосередньо Дібрівського кінного заводу. Найстаріший вихованець господарства, на честь якого розігрується один з традиційних призів - Гильдієць - народжений у 1919 році, мав жвавість 2 хв. 11 с. на дистанцію 1600 м, є родоначальником власної лінії. Наймолодший - Графік - народжений у 2001 році, має жвавість 1.57,6 на ту ж дистанцію, сьогодні продукує в якості плідника в Дібрівському кінному заводі. Тобто, за останні 82 роки спостерігається значний прогрес жвавості, в даному випадку - на 13,4 секунди.

В розрізі порід серед 11 видатних іподромних бійців 5 належить до орловської рисистої, 6 - до російської рисистої, яка з 2024 року зареєстрована як українська рисиста. Сьогодні Дібрівський кінний завод веде успішну селекційно-племінну роботу як з обома рисистими, так і з новоолександрівською ваговозною породою. Господарство є єдиним в Україні виробником кумису, який реалізується в межах Полтавської області.

Ключові слова: рисисті коні, традиційні призи, Дібрівський кінний завод, бігові випробування, іподром, жвавість

Introduction. Traditional prizes are those for riding and trotter horses, the drawing of which takes place every year at the same time according to the calendar schedule under constantly valid rules. They were established in England for thoroughbred riding horses, and later spread to racecourses in other countries, as well as to horses of different breeds.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Dibrivka stud farm No. 62 is located in a picturesque corner of Poltava region in the Myrhorod Region, the village of Dibrivka. It is one of the oldest stud farms in Ukraine: its construction started in 1888 and took place on the initiative of Prince D. Romanov. From the very beginning, the farm specialized in breeding horses of the Orlov-Rostopchin, Orlov Trotter and Draught breeds, and is still one of the leading farms for the improvement of the Orlov and Ukrainian Trotter breeds, as well as the Novoolexandrian Draught breed.

In 1917, trying to protect the stud farm from destruction, D. Romanov managed to change the form of management: the enterprise received state-owned status. However, this did not save the farm not only from plundering, but also from a significant reduction in the livestock, because during the civil war the cavalry units were constantly in need of repair. Nevertheless, after the end of the civil war, a significant part of the farm breeding stock was restored piece by piece by enthusiastic cavalrymen. Those were the times when "living legends" began to appear. In their honor today 12 of the 58 traditional prizes, drawn annually at the hippodromes of Ukraine, are named.

Research objective. The objective of the research was to investigate the historical aspect and prerequisites for the naming of traditional prizes for trotter horses, related to the history of the Dibrivka stud farm.

Presentation of the main research material. One of the first, and perhaps the most famous riders of the Dibrivka stud farm is M. Stasenko. This outstanding talented rider was born in 1870 in the village of Yarmaki, Myrhorod raion, Poltava oblast, in a peasant family. He began his career at the Dibrivka stud farm as a “horse boy,” who lit kerosene lamps in the stables, studied the work of grooms and the art of horsemanship, to be appointed later a field patrolman and finally started working in the stable, first as a stableman, then as a stable foreman, and later as an assistant rider. He was the one who made the Dibrivka stud farm famous throughout the world, successfully performing at the racecourses of the USA, France, and England while learning from the best experience in horse training.

Fig. 1. **M. Stasenko (1870-1958) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

M. Stasenko was many times offered to stay abroad, but he always returned to his native stud farm, where, after being awarded the title of riding trainer, he conducted practical classes at the riding school during 15-year period. He possessed 1 world, 2 European and 30 All-Union records, five Derby victories, 6 thousand prizes, 1,339,200 km on racetracks, and 60 years of work experience.

The M. Stasenko Memorial Prize is drawn at Ukrainian hippodromes for 4-year-old trotter horses for a distance of 2400 m.

One of the first pupils of the Dibrivka stud farm, who gained world fame, was the bay stallion Hildiiets 2 min.11 s.; (Gay Bingen - Pobeda) (Fig. 2). He was foaled in 1919 at the Nataliivka stud farm, Kharkiv oblast, owned by the Ukrainian philanthropist, sugar producer,

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entrepreneur and industrialist I. Kharitonenko. Hildiiets appeared at the Dibrivka stud farm at the age of two (he was exchanged for two carts of straw) and looked like a living skeleton. But after 2 years under the control of M. Stasenko, he won the most prestigious Derby prize.

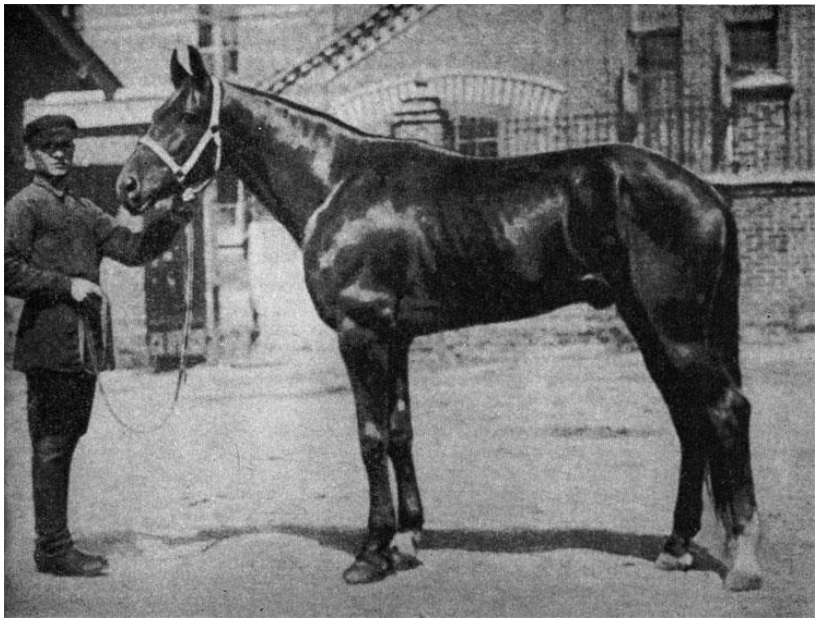

Fig. 2. **Stallion HILDIIETS, 2.11,0; foaled in 1919 (Gay Bingen - Pobeda) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

After the end of his racing career, Hildiiets became the founder of his own line, the development of which took place exactly at the Dibrivka stud farm. From 1925 to 1941, Hildiiets's line took first place in terms of specific weight in the breed, had a huge impact on the breeding stock of the farm and left a significant mark on the breed. Among Hildiiets's children, 37 heads with an agility of 2 min. 15 s. and faster were found - the largest number among the stud stallions of that time, of which 13 heads were in the class of 2 min. 10 s. and faster, including 4 heads in the class of 2.05 and faster.

Six of his descendants are Derby prize winners, namely: Hilda 2.05 by Zorka (Hambler - Zabotlivaia); Baiaderka 2.04,6 by Borovynka (Bor - Virzhyniia); Horta 2.03,1 by Halka (Hambler - Mis Mamas); Dzhylda 2.08 by Vilna Dumka (Voin - Dal); Zghidnyi 2.06,6 by Zorka (Hambler - Zabotlivaia); Hahach 2.06,4 by Hakivnytsia (Hazavat - Polevitsa Lu). 17 sons of Hildiiets and 20 grandchildren were used as stud stallions in horse breeding.

Hildiiets comes from Gay Bingen and Pobeda – the daughter of Pas Roz. Genealogically, he is the product of a cross of Gay Bingen - Pas Roz lines against the background of Orlov nicknames on the maternal side of the pedigree: Taina from Atlasnyi through Svetlaia Radost, the mother of Pobieda, as well as Udaloi from Malyutin stud farm.

The Hildiiets Prize is drawn in summer, on the day of the Derby prize drawing for 4-year-old trotter horses for a distance of 1600 m in 2 reruns.

The Viter Prize is drawn on the day of the Bars Prize draw, in summer, for two-year-old Orlov trotter horses, for a distance of 1600 m. The prize is named after the outstanding stud stallion Viter 2.10,7 (Bubenchyk-Vitrohonka), foaled in 1939 in Dibrivka, the best son and continuer of the Bubenchyk line. His pedigree is built on the classic "golden" Dibrivka cross Bubenchyk - Voin with inbreeding to Liel in V-IV and Bychok in VI-IV lines of ancestors. Viter turned out to be the best and the most valuable

son of Bubenchyk. He was quite thoroughbred and dry, well-built, had well-developed muscles and clearly expressed harness forms (Fig. 3). The Dibrivka stud farm obtained 28 mares for factory purposes from Viter, two of which were exported to Bulgaria and one was transferred to the Zaporizhzhia stud farm, and 25 of his daughters were added to the Dibrivka stud farm stock.

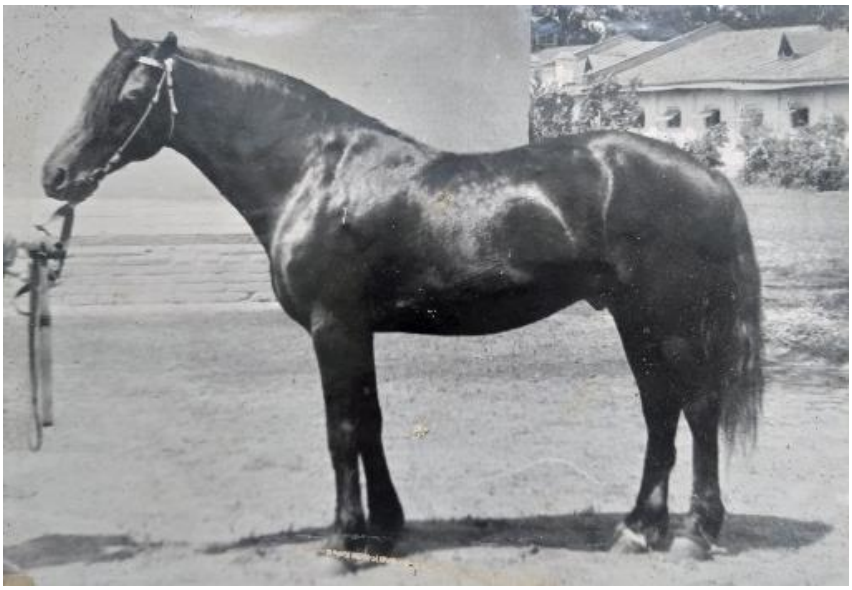

Fig. 3. **Stallion VITER, 2.10,7; foaled in 1939 (Bubenchyk - Vitrohonka) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

On May 19, 1963, at the anniversary session of the Council for Breeding Work with Trotter Breeds, dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Dibrivka stud farm, a new line of Viter in the Orlov Trotter breed was approved.

The Vals Prize is drawn for three-year-old Orlov trotter horses for a distance of 1600 m in 2 reruns. The prize is named after the outstanding stallion Vals 2.05,4 (Bubenchyk - Vylazka), foaled in 1939 in Dibrivka, winner of the Bars Prize in 1939, who is also a product of the "golden" Dibrivka cross Bubenchyk - Voin (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4. **Stallion VALS, 2.05,4; foaled in 1935 (Bubenchyk-Vylazka) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

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Driver by O. Bondarevsky at the Odesa Hippodrome, Vals set a number of records for 2,3 and 4-year-old trotter horses, including the All-Union and European records for three-year-old horses of the Orlov and Russian trotter breeds - 2.05,6 for a distance of 1600 m and 3.17,6 for a distance of 2400 m.

The Rumba Prize is drawn in winter for mares of the four-year-old Orlov trotter breed for a distance of 1600 m.

Rumba 2.07,6 (Bubenchyk - Vodiana Rusalka) (Fig. 5), was foaled in 1935 at the Dibrivka stud farm. Her pedigree is an example of the classic cross Bubenchyk - Voin with distant complex inbreeding to Bychok V-IV and Liel V-IV. After the end of her racing career, Rumba was included in the farm stock of the Dibrivka stud farm, but during the German occupation, most of the breeding stock was transferred to Germany. Fortunately, after the war, the most valuable broodmares, including Rumba, were returned. Later, she became the progenitor of her own family and the grandmother of the outstanding record holder and breeder Pion.

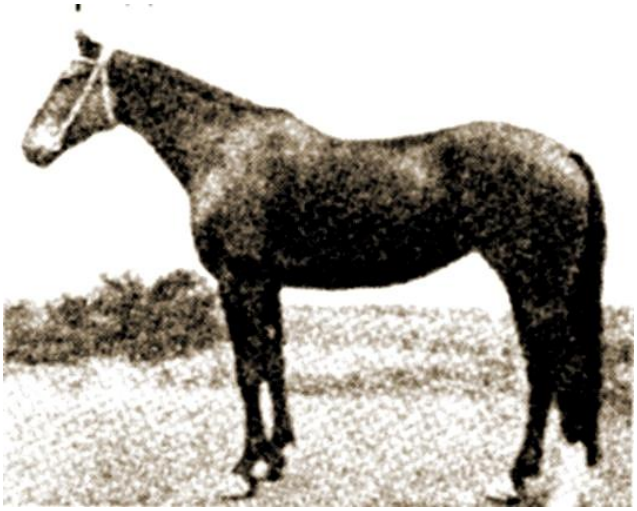

Figure 5. Mare RUMBA - 2.07,6; foaled in 1935 (Bubenchyk – Vodiana Rusalka) (photo from the archive of the Kharkiv Hippodrome)

The Hovorukha Prize is drawn for 2-year-old trotter horses in summer for a distance of 1600 m. It is named after the outstanding mare Hovorukha 2.09,1; 4.30; 9.40 (Khameleon - Harmonichna), foaled in 1943 at the Dibrivka stud farm (Fig. 6). Hovorukha is the winner of the USSR Prize for a distance of 6400 m. in 1948, the breed champion among trotter mares in 1963 at the USSR Exhibition of National Economy, and also the mother of one of the best breeders in the Russian trotter breed - the stallion Granit 2.06; 4.17,2. In its turn, Hranit is the winner of the USSR Prize and international prizes and the father of the all-Union record holder, the derby horse Huhenotka 2.03,7.

The Dibrivka stud farm currently produces mares from the Hovorukha family, in particular Hulianka (Kamin - Heroika), who produced the derby champion Hramotiei 2.00 and Hermania 2.02,9.

Fig. 6. **Mare GOVORUKHA, 2.09,1; 4.30; 9.40; foaled in 1943 (Khameleon - Harmonichna) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

The Ideal Prize is drawn in summer, on the day of the Derby Prize drawing. 2-year-old trotter horses take part in it for a distance of 1600 m. Ideal (Ideoloh) 1.58,8 (Lou Hanover - Izmenchivaia) was foaled in 1969 at the Dibrivka stud farm (Fig. 7). Driven by A. Polzunova, he won the international Peace Prize three times (1975-77) and had his own record of 2.02,1 for a distance of 1600 m. Separately, for the certificate of agility (running with reins) he showed agility of 1.58,8, entering the class of agility 2.00 and faster.

Fig. 7. **Stallion IDEAL, 1.58,8; foaled in 1969 (Lou Hanover - Izmenchivaia) and A. Polzunova (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

Another outstanding pupil of the master rider A. Polzunova was the mare Huhenotka 2.03,7 (Hranit - Hloriia), foaled in 1968 at the Dibrivka stud farm (Fig. 8). Huhenotka set 7 All-Union records, won 6 traditional prizes, including the Derby with a record for this prize agility of 2.04,7. At the age of 5, she improved her own record to 2.03,7. Her origin is the result of targeted selection work and a successful combination of Talantlyvyi - Hoshta, supplemented by the outstanding maternal family Zorka - Hovorukha when inbreeding with Hildiiets 3-4, Nalym 4-4, Trepet 4-5,5. After the end of her racing career, Huhenotka became one of the best factory queens in the breed, from which 4 trotter horses of class 2.05 and faster were obtained. These are Hrand 2.04,8; Halifaks 2.02,5; Hrand Lou 2.02; Huriia 2.01,3; Heohraf 2.01,7; Hurman 2.03,5; Haiduk 2.03,4. No other trotter mare of Ukrainian breeding had such a class of offspring in its entire history.

The Huhenotka Prize is drawn in winter for 4-year-old trotter mares for a distance of 1600 m.

One of the traditional prizes is also named in honor of one of the outstanding sons of Hovorukha - Halifaks. Halifaks 2.02,5 (Lou Hanover - Huhenotka) was foaled in 1979 at the Dibrivka stud farm. The winner of the Derby prize and the record holder of the Kyiv Hippodrome for a distance of 3200 m - 4.14,8.

The stallion Halifaks (Fig. 9) has proven to be a very successful breeder and exactly in the first stake at the Limarivka stud farm he produced outstanding young stock: derby horses Prohul 2.01,3, Kompas 2.04,4, twice derby horse Otmel 2.06,5 (Odesa and Kharkiv), prize winners Sanhina 2.05, Sevriuha 2.06,4 and many others. Halifaks was used in Limarivka for 12 breeding seasons, from which 132 foals were obtained.

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Figure 8. Mare HUHENOTKA, 2.03,7; foaled 1968 (Hranit - Hloriia) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)

The Halifaks Prize completes the running season at Ukrainian hippodromes and is drawn in the fall for 4-year-old trotter horses and older for a distance of 2400 m.

Fig. 9. **Stallion HALIFAKS – 2.02.5; 4.14.8; foaled 1979 (Lou Hanover - Huhenotka) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

The Pion Prize is drawn in summer, on the day of the drawing of the main prizes for horses of the Orlov trotter breed, for older horses at a distance of 1600 m in 2 reruns. The prize is named after the outstanding hippodrome rival and breeder Pion 2.00,1; 4.13,5, (Otklik - Prydannytsia), folaed in 1966 at the Dibrivka stud farm (Fig. 10). Pion, driven by the rider V. Smirnov, became the winner of the main traditional prizes for Orlov trotters of two and three years of age at the Kharkiv hippodrome, the main traditional prizes, including the Bars and Derby prize in Kharkiv (1970), the Bars prize (1970) and twice the Peace prize at the Moscow hippodrome. Pion successfully performed at the racetracks of Finland, Hungary, and Germany (1971-1972), setting two all-Union records – 2.00.1 (1600 m.) and 4.13.5 (3200 m.) (Odesa, 1974). Over the 8 years of his racing career, he won 61 out of 81 starts, and was also twice the champion of the breed.

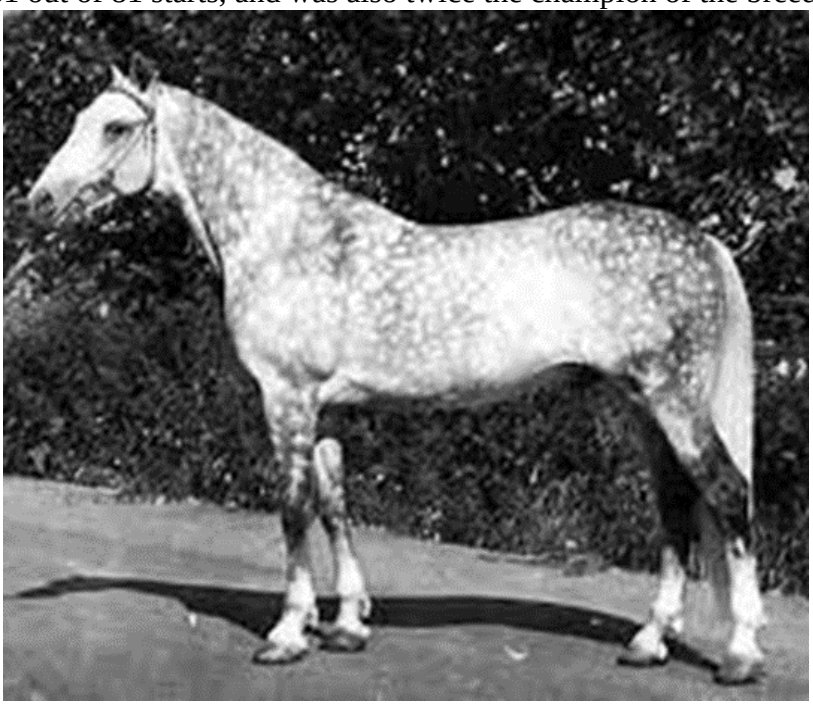

Fig. 10. **Stallion PION, 2.00.1; 4.13.5; foaled 1966 (Otklik - Prydannytsia) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

As a breeder, Pion also demonstrated phenomenal qualities: an incredible number of the most agile trotters in the breed were obtained from him. Pion became the founder of the most powerful line, which dominates the modern Orlov breed, and which increases in size every year due to the outstanding racecourse and factory successes of his sons, grandsons and great-grandsons. To date, more than 500 foals have been obtained by him, the best of which are: Batozhok 2.05, Kapitan 2.03,6, Pompei 2.02,4, Baffina 2.03,7, Kapot 2.04, Prospekt 2.01,6, Blokpost 2.03,4, Kapral 2.05, Synap 2.02,5, Hviana 2.03,2, Kapron 2.05, Fahot 2.02,3, Zaplot 2.04,7, Klapan 2.03,9, Fant 2.00,9, Kanitel 2.02,2, Krap 2.04,7, Flop 2.03,9.

The Orel trotter stallion Polius 2.08 (Otklik-Povilika), foaled in 1959 at the Dibrivka stud farm, winner of the Bars prize in 1963 at the Moscow Hippodrome and many traditional prizes for horses of the Orel trotter breed (Fig. 11), had a related origin to Pion. Polius was driven by S. Labunets, a student of M. Stasenko. In 1964, he set a new all-Union record for Orel trotters of older age for a distance of 3200 m with 4.21,5. The previous record of 4.25,7 belonged to the Orel stallion Krepysh and lasted 54 years.

After completing his career, Polius was used as a breeder for a short period of time at the Zaporizhzhia stud farm, giving a valuable stock.

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The Polius Prize is drawn in the fall, at the end of the racing season, for Orlov 4-year-old trotter horses and older for a distance of 2400 m.

Fig. 11. **Stallion POLIUS, 2.08, foaled 1959 (Otklik - Povilika) (photo provided by the Dibrivka stud museum)**

The Hrafik Prize will be drawn for the first time under this name in the winter of 2026. Until 2026, this prize was named after V. Witt. It is drawn for 4-year-old trotter horses for a distance of 1600 m in 2 reruns.

The dark-bay stallion Hrafik 1.57.6 (Kamin - Horianka) (Fig. 12), foaled in 2001 at the Dibrivka stud farm, is the winner of all the most significant prizes, including the Great Three-Year, Derby and Elite Prizes, as well as the Ukrainian record holder for a distance of 3200 m with 4.1,8.

Fig. 12. **Stallion HRAPHIC - 1.57.6; 4.11.8; foaled in 2001 (Kamin - Horianka) (photo from the website https://ippodrom.top/threads/dubrovskij-konnyj-zavod.2/)**

Hrafik regularly competed at the racetracks of the Czech Republic and Germany and earned a reputation as a permanent favorite. At the Prague hippodrome for a distance of 1670 m at the age of eight, Hrafik, driven by of Mykola Wolf, displayed agility in terms of 1600 m 1.57,6, which is the best result in the entire history of Ukrainian horse breeding.

The Dibrivka stud farm Prize is drawn in the fall, at the end of the running season, for horses of the Orlov trotters breed among 4-years-old and older for a distance of 3200 m in 2 reruns. It was named after the leading farm in Ukraine for breeding trotter horses, which was founded in 1888 by Prince Dmitro Romanov, who at that time commanded the Life Guards Horse-Grenadier Regiment, and later became the chief manager of the State stud farm. An exemplary approach to the matter, love and wisely applied knowledge contributed to the fact that the pupils of the Dibrivka stud farm, from the very beginning, took an honorable place on the racetracks, and the popularity of the farm grew so much that it became a leading stud farm enterprise for breeding high-class trotter horses and holds this status up to the present day.

Discussion. An analysis of historical records shows that the development of the traditional prize system occurred in parallel with the advancement of breeding programs at the Dibrivskiy Stud (Kornienko, 2012; Kosenko & Romanenko, 2017; Gopka et al., 2018; Ohorodnichuk, 2022; Stryzhak et al., 2014; Frolova, 2023; Nagorny et al., 2024). It was here that valuable lines of trotting breeds were established and refined, which later became the foundation of the modern herd. Such outstanding sires as Gildiets, Viter, Pion, Ideal, Halifax (Lukanova, 2016; Tkachova & Frolova, 2020; Tkachova et al., 2024), as well as the mares Rumba, Govorukha, and Gughenotka (Tkachova et al., 2022) not only demonstrated high performance at the racetracks but also left a significant mark on the breed thanks to their high genetic potential. Particular attention should be paid to the fact that most of the horses after whom the prizes are named were the result of targeted breeding efforts using well-planned crossbreeding and inbreeding with outstanding representatives of the breed.

It is worth noting that most of the horses after whom the prizes are named were bred through a targeted breeding program that utilized carefully planned crossbreeding and inbreeding with outstanding representatives of the breed. This attests to the high level of breeding expertise at the farm and a scientifically sound approach to breeding trotters. It has also been established that specialists working at the plant had a significant impact on the development of the industry. The work of outstanding riders and trainers, particularly M. D. Stasenko and his followers, facilitated the introduction of the latest training methods borrowed from leading European and American racetracks, which helped improve the level of training for trotters and ensure their competitiveness on the international stage. That is why immortalizing their names in traditional prizes is only natural and reflects the historical role of the human factor in the development of horse breeding.

An important indicator of the Dibrivskiy Horse Farm's significance is that more than one-fifth of all traditional prizes awarded at racetracks across Ukraine are associated with this farm. This figure attests to the stability of the breeding program, the high level of organization in the reproduction and rearing of young stock, as well as an effective training system that has enabled the production of top-class horses for many decades (Yusyuk-Omelnytska & Burenko, 2022; Tkachova et al., 2022).

As European practice shows, in most cases the names of traditional races are derived from geographical locations, historical events, or prominent figures, or are intended to highlight the prestige of a particular racetrack or country (Verdegaal et al., 2021; Hennes et al., 2024). At the same time, a distinctive feature in Ukraine is the

significant number of prizes named after specific horses that have made a significant contribution to the development of trotting horse breeding.

Conclusion. Thus, out of 58 traditional prizes, 13 (22%) are connected with names associated with the Dibrivka stud farm, which indicates a high culture of horse breeding, the level of selection and breeding work, technologies of keeping, care, upbringing and training systems in this enterprize, which rightfully confirms the status of one of the leading farms in Ukraine for breeding trotter horses.

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