

Archives & Manuscript Collections  
National Sporting Library  
Middleburg, VA

**\*Witez II**  
**Pedigree Album**  
**1808-1955**

Name: **\*Witez II (1938-1965)** **MC0036**

Materials: Pedigree Album

Dates: 1808-1955

Volume: 1.5 cubic feet (1 document box)

Donation: Gift of Forrest E. Mars Sr., 1972

Usage: Unless otherwise stated by NSL staff, these records are open for research without restrictions.

**Biographical Note**

\*Witez II was an Arabian foaled at the State Stud in Janow-Podlaski, Poland on April 1, 1938, by Ofir out of Federacja. He was named Witez, which means "prince," because of his regal appearance, said to be a strong resemblance to his grandsire Kuhailan-Haifa. When \*Witez II was a little over a year old, the invasion of Poland by the Nazis forced the horses to be smuggled out of the stud by their handlers; the animals were split into groups, and \*Witez II and his handler fled into Russia. At first \*Witez II was able to be hidden by smearing mud on his coat; however, the horse was turned over to the Germans in order to prevent his starvation. He was taken to Hostau, Czechoslovakia, where the Nazi Army was said to have been gathering quality horses to develop a race of "super horses" to carry its army of "super men." This experiment did not come to fruition, as the Nazi empire slowly crumbled. Again \*Witez II and others were imperiled by an advancing army, this time by the Russians; the scientists and handlers at Hostau were concerned that the animals would be slaughtered to feed the near-starving Russian troops. In order to prevent this tragedy, the Germans agreed to remand the horses to the Americans, but not without a fight; the American troops had to stage a rescue mission to bring back the animals. The mission was successful, and many of the animals rescued that were healthy enough became part of the United States Army Remount Service. \*Witez II was among these.

Upon the disbanding of the Remount Service in 1949, \*Witez II was sold to E. E. Hurlbutt of Saugus, California. He would stand at stud

at Hurlbutt's Calarabia Ranch for the rest of his life, and enjoyed a successful career. In 1953 at the age of 15 he was named Pacific Coast Champion Stallion; at least four of his get also earned that title. By 1964 he had sired 215 foals, and there were more than thirty halter champions among his offspring. Today \*Witez II is considered one of the premier stallions in the pedigree of Arabians in America; he has been the subject of two books, and has even appeared on a Polish postage stamp.

\*Witez II died at Calarabia Ranch on June 9, 1965.

### Collection Description

The \*Witez II Pedigree Album consists of a large leather-bound album containing 109 pages of pedigree charts and photos of horses in the lineage of \*Witez II. Entries include such information as the name, color, foaling date, sex, and registration numbers. Not every entry has a photograph of the horse. The album also contains several loose pedigree charts, as well as pages of entries added at a later date. The earliest entry in the album is that of Polka, foaled in 1808; the latest is that of \*Witez II himself, 1938. The original compiler of the album is unknown, although a letter to Mr. Mars from Milton Thompson indicates that Thompson's wife compiled one of the photostat pedigrees included in the album.

### Container List MC0036

#### I. Pedigree Album

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0036 01	Pedigree album of *Witez II	1808-1955

This collection was processed by George Hottel, July 2004.