

Archives and Manuscript Collections
National Sporting Library
Middleburg, VA

**Leon Rasmussen Collection
1950-2003**

Name: **Rasmussen, Leon (1915-2003)** MC0069
Materials: Collection
Dates: 1950-2003 (bulk dates 1960-1980)
Volume: 1.5 cubic feet (3 Document boxes)
Donation: Gift of family in memory of Leon Rasmussen, 2007
Usage: Unless otherwise noted by NSL staff, this collection is open for research without restrictions.

Biographical Note

Leon Rasmussen, a native of Seattle, Washington, was a Thoroughbred breeding theorist and journalist, who made many contributions to the sport of horse racing. Before starting his career as a journalist for the Daily Racing Form, Rasmussen served as a navigator for an air transport service which supplied troops in Europe during World War II. After the war, he joined the staff of the Daily Racing Form, where he was employed for 50 years and retired from in 1987. Rasmussen began writing his popular column "Bloodlines" in 1950 and served as the Daily Racing Form's bloodstock editor for 37 years.

Rasmussen is best known for popularizing the Dosage Index, which is a mathematical formula, used by breeders of Thoroughbred race horses to gauge a thoroughbred's speed and stamina through a study of the animal's bloodlines. According to the formula, if the number is too high, a horse cannot win the Kentucky Derby. Along with popularizing the Dosage Index, Rasmussen also co-developed an inbreeding theory that became known as the Rasmussen Factor with his friend and colleague, Dr. Rommy Faversham. They found that the source of a prize-winning steed's speed and endurance is a superior female ancestor rather than a superior male ancestor.

Rasmussen is the author of *Inbreeding to Superior Females* (1999), the product of his work with Dr. Rommy Faversham on the Rasmussen Factor. He is also the co-compiler of the book *The Treasures of the British Bloodstock Review* (1942), as well as the author of the relevant chapter on *Hyperion* by Clive Graham, which is a reprinted work that examined the stallion's career and worldwide influence.

Collection Description

The Leon Rasmussen Collection consist of correspondence, original copies of written columns for different publications, such as The Thoroughbred Record, his column entitled "Bloodlines," photographs, different types of research materials, collections of original writings and notes, documents on theories such as genetics, line breeding, Phalaris vs. non-Phalaris, and heredity. Also included, are documents from Rasmussen's own theories on the Rasmussen Factor and the Dosage Index. The collection has been arranged into the following

twenty series based on type of document and/or subject. The majority of the collection is made up of typed documents from Rasmussen himself, letters, and articles by or about Rasmussen and his interests and theories.

Series and Subseries

- I. **Manuscripts** **4 binders**
 - a. Chapter 3 and 4 of *Inbreeding to Superior Females* by Rommy Faversham and Leon Rasmussen
 - b. *Racing Blood: The story of Round Table* by E. Burnett
 - c. *Round Table* by Ellen Parker
 - d. Unpublished manuscript of *Breeding to Win* by William H. Oldknow

- II. **Research** **5 folders, 1 binder**

Consists of research for different subjects: Ralph Wilson, Joseph Allen, Breeding, Genetics, and Heredity. Also included is an analysis of European sires from 1974-1990. Materials have been arranged based on subject matter.

- III. **Phalaris/Non-Phalaris** **1 folder, 1 binder**

Consists of articles and research materials of Rommy Faversham's theory of Phalaris vs Non-Phalaris, in regards to Thoroughbred horses. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.

- IV. **Dam of the Week** **1 folder**

Consists of typed drafts of Dam of the week profiles. Articles are written about specific thoroughbreds and are maintained in no specific order.

- V. **Rasmussen Factor documents** **1 folder**

Consists of research and documents of Leon Rasmussen's theory called the Rasmussen Factor, along with any documents directly related to the subject. There is no specific order by which the charts have been maintained.

- VI. **Invoices** **1 folder**

Contains receipts, invoices of materials, etc.

- VII. **Pedigree Profiles** **3 folders**

Consists of original copies of profiles on pedigrees of Thoroughbred racing horses.

- VIII. **Pedigree Thumbnails** **2 folders**

Consists of brief biographical information on Thoroughbred horses and their pedigrees. Pedigree thumbnails lend a brief biographical look at the pedigree charts and profiles of Thoroughbred horses. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.

- IX. Pedigree Charts** **6 folders**
Consists of handwritten charts and information on pedigrees of Thoroughbred racing horses. There is no specific order by which the charts have been maintained.
- X. Dosage Index documents** **2 folders**
Consists of documents on the Dosage Index, a mathematical figure used by breeders of Thoroughbred horses to calculate a horse's abilities to negotiate various distances in a race. The first folder of dosage index documents is in chronological order, consisting of documents from 1993. The second folder has no specific order by which it is maintained.
- XI. Nicking patterns** **1 folder**
Consists of research and documents on nicking patterns in Thoroughbred horses. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.
- XII. Thoroughbred Racing** **2 folders**
a. Owners and Trainers
b. Records
- XIII. Writing for other publications** **33 folders**
Contains drafts of columns for "Bloodlines," The Thoroughbred Record, Daily Racing Form, Owner-Breeder, Stud & Stable, Turf Classic, The Blood-Horse, and Recollections. Materials have been arranged by publication and in chronological order.
- XIV. Original works** **9 folders**
Consists of handwritten notes and edits for writings, original copies of columns and other writings, and original copies of speeches. Materials have been arranged based on type of documents.
- XV. Photographs** **4 folders**
Contains various photographs ranging from Thoroughbred horses, friends and family of Leon Rasmussen, and winners of various horse races. There is no specific order by which the photographs have been maintained.
- XVI. Correspondence** **7 folders**
Consists of various letters, notes, cards, and any other correspondence between Leon Rasmussen and others throughout his career. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.
- XVII. Equine Line Product documents** **1 folder**
Consists of documents on Equine Line products. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.

- XVIII. Horse documents** **3 folders**
a. Foal birth certificates
b. Location of horses
c. Horse resume
- XIX. Chef-de-race** **1 folder**
Consists of documents directly related to or about Chef-de-race. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.
- XX. News articles** **1 folder**
Contains various newspaper articles that have either been written by Rasmussen or articles that he may have found interesting or useful for research. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.
- XXI. Highflyer Journal** **1 folder**
Contains documents of the Highflyer Journal. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.
- XXII. Crop Analysis** **1 folder**
Consists of documents on crop analysis in regards to horse racing. There is no specific order by which the documents have been maintained.

Container List
MC0069

I. Manuscripts

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0069 01	Unpublished <i>Breeding to Win</i> Manuscript	undated
MC0069 03	<i>Racing Blood: The story of Round Table</i>	1975

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	29	Chapter 3 of <i>Inbreeding to Superior Female</i>	undated
J51	30	Chapter 4 of <i>Inbreeding to Superior Female</i>	undated
J51	31	<i>Round Table</i> Manuscript	undated

II. Research

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0069 04	European Sire Analysis	1974-1990

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	01	Ralph Wilson research	1988
J50	02	Joseph Allen research	1979-1994
J50	03	Breeding Research	1961-1969
J50	04	Genetics Research	undated
J50	05	Hereditry Research	undated

III. Phalaris/Non-Phalaris

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
MC0069 02	The Phalaris/Non-Phalaris Theory	1991

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	06	Phalaris/Non-Phalaris Research	undated

IV. Dam of the Week

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	07	Dam of the Week profiles	undated

V. Rasmussen Factor

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	08	Rasmussen Factor charts and research	undated

VI. Invoices

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	09	Collection of Invoices, receipts	undated

VII. Pedigree Profiles

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	10	Pedigree profile documents	undated
J50	11	Pedigree profile documents	undated
J50	12	Pedigree profile documents	undated

VIII. Pedigree Thumbnails

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	13	Pedigree thumbnail documents	undated
J50	14	Pedigree thumbnail documents	undated

IX. Pedigree Charts

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	15	Handwritten Pedigree charts	undated
J50	16	Handwritten Pedigree charts	undated
J50	17	Handwritten Pedigree charts	undated
J50	18	Handwritten Pedigree charts	undated
J50	19	Handwritten Pedigree charts	undated
J50	20	Handwritten Pedigree charts	undated

X. Dosage Index

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	21	Dosage Index documents	1993
J50	22	Dosage Index documents	undated

XI. Nicking Patterns

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	23	Nicking Patterns research	undated

XII. Thoroughbred Racing

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	24	List of owners and trainers	undated
J50	25	Thoroughbred Racing records	undated

XIII. Writing for Publications

a. Bloodlines

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	26	Bloodlines Columns drafts	undated
J50	27	Bloodlines Columns drafts	undated
J50	28	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1960
J50	29	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1961
J50	30	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1962
J50	31	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1963
J50	32	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1964
J50	33	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1965
J50	34	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1966
J50	35	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1966
J50	36	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1968
J50	37	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1969
J50	38	Bloodlines Columns draft	1970-1979
J50	39	Bloodlines Columns drafts	1980-1989

b. The Thoroughbred Record

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	40	Thoroughbred Record drafts	undated
J50	41	Thoroughbred Record - CA Racing drafts	undated
J50	42	Thoroughbred Record - Oak Tree drafts	undated
J50	43	Thoroughbred Record - Hollywood Park drafts	undated
J50	44	Thoroughbred Record - Del Mar drafts	undated
J50	45	Thoroughbred Record - Hollywood Racing drafts	undated
J50	46	Thoroughbred Record drafts	1961-1969
J50	47	Thoroughbred Record drafts	1971
J50	48	Thoroughbred Record drafts	1972
J50	49	Thoroughbred Record drafts	1973
J50	50	Thoroughbred Record drafts	1974
J50	51	Thoroughbred Record drafts	1974
J50	52	Thoroughbred Record drafts	1976-1979

c. Daily Racing Form

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	53	Daily Racing Form column drafts	undated

d. Stud and Stable

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	54	Stud and Stable column drafts	undated

e. Owner-Breeder

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	55	Owner-Breeder column drafts	undated

f. Turf Classic

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	56	Turf Classic column drafts	undated

g. Recollections

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	57	Recollections column drafts	undated

h. The Blood-Horse

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	58	The Blood-Horse column drafts	undated

XIV. Original work

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J50	59	Original notes	undated
J50	60	Original notes	undated
J51	01	Original notes	undated
J51	02	Original notes	undated
J51	03	Original writings - no title	undated
J51	04	Original writings - A-M (title/subject)	undated
J51	05	Original writings - A-M (title/subject)	undated
J51	06	Original writings - N-Z (title/subject)	undated

J51 07 Original Speeches undated

XV. Photographs

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	08	Photographs	undated
J51	09	Photographs	undated
J51	10	Photographs	undated
J51	11	Photographs	undated

XVI. Correspondence

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	12	Correspondence	undated
J51	13	Correspondence	undated
J51	14	Correspondence	undated
J51	15	Correspondence	undated
J51	16	Correspondence	undated
J51	17	Correspondence	undated
J51	18	Correspondence	undated

XVII. Equine Line Product

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	19	Equine Line Product Documents	undated

XVIII. Horse Documents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	20	Foal Birth Certificates	undated
J51	21	Horse Resume/Information	undated
J51	22	Location of Horses	undated
J51	23	Line Breeding	undated

XIX. Chef-de-Race

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	24	Chef-de-Race documents	undated

XX. News Articles

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	25	Newspaper articles	undated
J51	26	Newspaper articles	undated

XXI. Highflyer Journal

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	27	Highflyer Journal articles	undated

XXII. Crop Analysis

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
J51	28	Crop Analysis documents	undated