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MARCHIGIANA, CHIANINA, ROMAGNOLA,
MAREMMANA AND PODOLICA CATTLE**



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Auctions

JUNE AUCTIONS AT THE GENETIC CENTRE

by Antonio Vagniluca
- Genetic Centres Office-

After the spring auctions, the summer ones, also, were concentrated into a single event for the Marchigiana, Chianina, and Romagnola breeds. It was held on 24th June and featured 32 lots broken down into 12 for the Marchigiana, 11 for the Chianina, and 9 for the Romagnola. For the **Marchigiana**, the 11 animals included 8 bull calves qualified for AI and 3 suitable for NS, coming from farms in the provinces of Ancona, Ascoli, Benevento, Macerata, and Vicenza. The two from Vicenza, Vanni and Vaio, were presented by Silvio Dall'Armellina, who has by now become a "regular" at the Genetic Centre's auctions. The 10 fathers of the lots on the block

were Pergolo, Tiro, Quebec, Ponzio, Erode, Shiloh, Birbo, Daino, Damasco, and Laio. The highest BSI (118.1) belonged to Vento, Nazzarena Priori's Pergolo, while 5 bulls had test ADGs higher than 1,700 grams. As for the type, 6 animals had an evaluation equal to or higher than 85 points, and among these the above-mentioned Vento and Vigore owned by Paola Caponi scored 87 points. Among the mothers, there were many prominent cows, for example Soia, Baleani's Damasco with VG-88 points, who has been featured a number of times in shows and is the mother of Velino, suitable for AI.

With regard to the **Chianina**, the 11 lots included 7 bull calves suitable for AI and the remaining 4 qualified for NS, coming from 10 farms in the provinces of Florence, Livorno, Perugia, Terni, Siena, Ravenna, and Padua. Their 11 fathers included Priamo, Siro, Ditolo, Serafino, Rocco, Sansonello, Quinto, Otello, Romeo, Pascià, and Iero. Two of them

boasted ADGs of more than 2 kg: Giampiero Marcatili's Varano from Livorno, and Vispo from Siena, presented by Agrichiana Farming. Silvia Baroncelli's Vubaldo, from Florence, had the highest BSI (119.3), while the best morphological evaluation, totalling 86 points, belonged to Valoroso, Fosco Mecherini's Siro. The pedigrees of the bull calves included numerous quality cows, such as Quendy, Silvia Baroncelli's Leonardo, evaluated Excellent with 90 points and the mother of Vubaldo, the first lot of the auction. The same score was also boasted by Rosetta, Fabbretti's Fabio and mother of Veliero. Particularly noteworthy was the average score of the 11 mothers of the bull calves being auctioned, equal to 87 points.



Vanto, top price of the Chianina breed, Luchetti Basilio e Claudio farm (PG)

The **Romagnola** appeared in a smaller group, made up of 9 bull calves coming from 7 farms in the provinces of Forlì and Ravenna, with 6 qualified for AI and 3 suitable for NS. Their fathers were LV Severino, Piro, VU Sethi, VU Eolo, Azzurro, VU Solimano, and Boy. The highest ADG, slightly lower than 1,800 grams, was registered by La Viola Vito, a son of Gian Michele Graziani's Severino,

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who also had the best BSI (120) and 86 points for morphology.

The 87 points assigned to Valzer delle Querce, the Verlicchi brothers' Azzurro, marked, on the other hand, the highest score among the lots on the auction block. Also worthy of note were the female lines, with numerous interesting cows, such as Pamela delle Querce, the Verlicchi brothers' Ivan, the mother of Valzer evaluated Excellent with 90 points; but major notes for morphology also characterized the NS animals, as in the case of Virgilio from the Mezza Cà farm, which presented three excellent cows in the first two pedigree generations.

These were the bases for an event full of expectations, which featured the welcome



*Vanni, top price of the Marchigiana breed,
Dall'Armellina Silvio farm (VI)*

presence of the Agriculture Commissioner of the Region of Umbria Fernanda Cecchini, who, during her words of greeting opening the auction, stressed her commitment and that of her organization in support of the Umbrian agricultural-livestock farming district, which is proving to be better equipped than other sectors in dealing with the economic crisis, and which produces such excellent products as the Chianina, one of the most authentic and qualifying resources for the enhancement of the territory. Ms. Cecchini, received by ANABIC President Fausto Luchetti and Director Roberta Guarcini, visited the

ANABIC Genetic Centre structures and said she was favourably impressed by the activity carried on by the Association.

President Luchetti then mentioned how the relations between the ANABIC and the Regional agency are deeply rooted so much so that the ANABIC stands on land donated by the Region of Umbria itself, which has contributed significantly to the operational development in the centre for drawing seminal material, which is starting to produce the first results, registering a growing interest of breeders in young AI bulls with available semen. Afterwards, Luchetti spoke of the latest novelties, starting from the new truck purchased for transporting the incoming calves, parked alongside the auction ring, and which will guarantee, beginning in July, a better health prophylaxis, optimizing the logistics of the entrances and reducing their costs. Filming the event was a RAI television crew, and the report on the auction was aired on the Rai 3 regional news program that very evening. Next to "speak" was the auctioneer's gavel, with ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini and Gaia Martuscelli taking turns at wielding it. Making its debut in the ring was the **Chianina** which, thanks to the high general quality of the lots and the liveliness of the purchasers, was the protagonist of a lively auction in which 5 animals, all suitable for AI, passed the 4,000 euro mark. The top price was brilliantly achieved by Vanto, Basilio Luchetti's Rocco, won for 6,600 euro by the Cooperativa S. Patrignano of Rimini. This animal boasted an ADG of just under 2 kg, with a BSI of 111.2 and a morphology score of 85 points, characterized by striking breed typicity and excellent muscle development and dimensions. In his pedigree, in addition to Rocco and Moriero, multi-award-winning champions of our national shows, were his mother Rugiada, a Giotto evaluated

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with 88 points and 2nd generation VG in the maternal line. The second-best price was achieved by Valoroso Melograni from Livorno, a Siro out of Lio presented by Fosco Mecherini and purchased by the Bartalini farm of Grosseto for 4,600 euro. Just slightly lower was the performance of Varano, another animal from Livorno presented by Giampiero Marcatili and son of Serafino, won for 4,450 euro by the Catocci farm of Grosseto. Prices over 4,000 euro were also fetched by Il Colle Vubaldo, Silvia Baroncelli's Priamo, opening the auction and purchased by the Sauro Guasticchi farm in Gubbio, and by Vesco dei Colli, Francesco Fedeli's Quinto, won by the Tosti farm in Pietralunga (province of Perugia). The **Marchigiana** followed the Chianina in rapid succession, with uniform lots, among which it was Silvio Dall'Armellina's Vanni from Vicenza who took top price. This muscular animal, son of Quebec out of Lotar and with grandmother Cavour, suitable for AI, had an ADG of 1,743 grams, a BSI of 112.7, and a score of 86 points for type. He was won for 4,750 euro by Marco Caporaso of Benevento, a province present at the auction with numerous breeders. It is thus not by chance that another animal suitable for AI, Visto from Macerato, a son of Tiro out of Birbo reared by the Socionovo Giovacchini farm, left Perugia for Benevento, having been purchased for 4,000 euro by the D'Oto Michele farm. This animal also, typical and muscular, with wide transverse diameters, had an ADG of over 1,700 grams, a BSI of 116.4, and a score of 86 points for the morphological evaluation. Just slightly lower was the price commanded by Vento, a Pergolo x Lotar belonging to Nazzarena Priori, who opened the

auction with a BSI of 118.2 and was purchased for 3,850 euro by Gilberto Micci from Corinaldo (Ancona). Concluding the series of auctions was the **Romagnola**, which finally showed signs of recovery with a good participation of buying breeders. Fetching the top price of 3,850 euro was Valzer delle Querce from Ravenna, the son of Azzurro owned by the Verlicchi brothers. This vigorous animal, suitable for AI, had a BSI of 106.6 and a morphology score of 87 points. He was won by Piero Tassinari of S. Zeno (Forlì-Cesena). 3,550 euro was the winning bid for Varen on V.U. Eolo, muscular and of an impressive size, presented by Simone Pozzi and purchased by the Tabarrini Maria farm of S. Marino. Varen, also, was suitable for AI with a BSI of 115.4 and an ADG of 1,624 grams. The same price was knocked down for Vilippo del Prato, a VU Sethi out of Lusso from the family of Fusa, reared by Piero Tassinari and purchased by CTA of Premilcuore (Forlì-Cesena). This animal, a standout for his typicity, muscle development, and structural correctness, had registered close to 1,700 grams of testing ADG and was judged suitable for AI with a BSI of 115.5. Just 50 euro lower was the final price for by La Viola Vito, a Severino out of Mambo owned by Gian Michele Graziani, who opened the auction among the animals suitable for AI with a BSI of 120.1, an ADG of 1,792 grams, and a morphology score of 86 points. He was won by Fabrizio Benedetti, President of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Forlì-Cesena and Rimini. Prices of over 3,000 euro also characterized the sales of the bulls qualified for NS, bearing witness to a newfound vigour in the area of this breed.



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Auctions

LIVELY AUTUMN AUCTIONS AT THE GENETIC CENTRE

by Antonio Vagniluca
-Genetic Centres Office-

The September 2010 auctions, the third appointment of the four scheduled each year for the bulls tested on leaving the Genetic Centre, were held on two separate dates that featured as protagonists the Marchigiana, in the auction ring on 21st September, and the Chianina and Romagnola breeds, protagonists a few days later, on the 24th. The **Marchigiana** appeared at the auction with 11 extremely high-level and uniform lots, with 6 animals suitable for AI and 5 qualified for NS, coming from 10 farms in Ascoli Piceno, Campobasso, Frosinone, Pesaro, Pescara, and Vicenza. The fathers of the bull calves were Socrate, Rodeo V., Tinco, Sole, Birbo, Pergolo, Sirio, Romolo, Daino. Three of the lots suitable for AI (Virtus, Vulcano, and Veroso) boasted a testing ADG of more than 2 kg, while another two, among the NS animals (Vittorio and Vajrapani), showed ADGs of 1,864 and 1,923 grams, respectively. The best BSI, totalling 114.4, belonged to Simonetti's Virtus. On the other hand, the best morphology score, 88 points, was shown by Vulcano from Molise, a son starting to produce results, giving a boost to the end-of-testing auctions. In spite of a difficult economic context, the Marchigiana is giving encouraging signs of liveliness and is the subject of particular attention from the ANABIC.

Proof of this can be seen in the organization of a conference, scheduled for 28th September, in collaboration with the Marches Region, held in the conference hall of the Abbey of Fiastra (Macerata) and focussed on the reproduction efficiency of the Marchigiana breed; the breeders were invited to take part. Afterwards the auctions went into full swing, and capturing the top price of 5,050 euro was Vichingo di Fio di

of Rodeo presented by Paride Di Memmo, while 2 other animals (Simonetti's Virtus and Giovanni Grilli's Vajrapani) scored 86 points. The mothers of the bull calves also showed both a good concentration of breed matrons in the pedigrees (for example Lesina, Isotta, Festosa) and a good morphology (3 cows with scores equal to or higher than 88 points). Lastly, with regard to the pedigrees, there were also totally outcross animals as well as the offspring of such young bull fathers as Sirio, Tinco, Rodeo Valdolmo, and Socrate Valdolmo, bearing witness to the growing attention of breeders to the most recent genetics. Opening the auction, ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini thanked the many breeders who had come from the provinces of Isernia, L'Aquila, Pescara, Campobasso, Benevento, and Latina, as well as those coming from the provinces of the Marches, who flocked to the auction grounds. The grants for purchases, disbursed by a growing number of Regions in accordance with the "de minimis" system, Roberta noted, are

Fiobbo from Ascoli, a Birbo out of Orco evaluated VG with 86 points, reared by Mauro Fontana and purchased by the Fratelli Mei Carni farm in Macerata. A vigorous animal, standing out for his muscle development and size Vichingo proved suitable for AI with a BSI of 109.4, a testing ADG of 1,633 grams, and a morphological score of 84. A slightly lower price was achieved by Vulcano, a Rodeo Valdolmo out of Gomero suitable for AI and presented by Paride di Memmo from Campobasso. This spectacular animal – typical, muscular, long, and correct – showed a BSI of 112.2, a testing ADG of 2,071 grams, and 88 points for morphological type. Winning him

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for 4,500 euro was the Ferraresi farm in Ascoli Piceno. Another animal suitable for AI and of considerable interest for the originality of his pedigree, as well as for his great weight gains in testing, was Vito from Pesaro, a son of Sole of the Caucaso line out of an outcross mother, presented by Mauro Mattei. The bull was withdrawn from the auction by his breeder and will work for the Bull Centre of Macerata. Lastly, one of the positive notes of this September auction was the destination of numerous lots to provinces such as Benevento and Isernia, which are participating more and more in our auctions. The **Chianina** and the **Romagnola** then entered the ring before a large crowd of breeders. Opening the auction, ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini greeted those present, introducing the auction programme and presenting Dr. Davide Barchi, head of the Animal Husbandry Service of the Region of Emilia Romagna and a guest of the event, mentioning how even the Emilia Romagna Region, always close to breeders, has recently agreed upon the grant for the purchase of sires under the “de minimis” system, a measure useful for injecting life into the Romagnola auctions which, after a long period of liveliness, were recently showing less brilliant trends. The Regional Agency, continued Roberta, is also backing the research on genetic diseases and, with regard to this Prof. Arcangelo Gentile, a professor of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bologna, recently informed us that the genetic test for detecting carriers of the gene responsible for the “Paunch Calf Syndrome”, which causes perinatal mortality in the Romagnola breed, is about to be developed. Afterwards, ANABIC President Fausto Luchetti welcomed the breeders, thanking them for their support in the auctions and thanking, in particular, Dr. Barchi for being present at this important event. Fausto Luchetti confirmed the “historic” sensitivity of the Emilia Romagna Region, which has

worked extensively with numerous important measures supporting the Romagnola breed, enabling it to maintain its genetic variability, and stressed the valuable support of the Regional Agency also for making sure that the resources envisaged by Article 68 are allocated more to the cow-calf line. Dr. Barchi then thanked the ANABIC for the warm reception, paying his compliments for the selection activity carried out for the five breeds and their breeders. The Emilia Romagna Region, continued Barchi, has recently agreed on the disbursement of the grant for purchasing sires, amounting to 40% or 50% (depending on the type of purchasing farm), up to a maximum of 1,750 euro and with a ceiling of 7,500 euro per farm). In fact, the Emilia Romagna Region has always believed in the validity of the Romagnola breed as a production instrument, especially in marginal areas, in which it contributes to safeguarding the territory. The breeding activity, Barchi concluded, is undoubtedly a valuable asset of whose scope the highest institutions of our country do not seem to realize, often underestimating it completely. The Regional Agency is thus working hard to achieve the recognition of the role this primary sector deserves.

At the end of this well received talk, Roberta Guarcini again thanked the distinguished guest, presenting him with a gift from the ANABIC and the breeders, a drawing by Matteo Ridolfi of Fardini Quieta, Senior Grand Champion of the 2010 National Romagnola Show of Morciano. Before picking up the auction gavel, Roberta had some words of condolence and affection for the Vanni family, of whom Ottorino and nephew Riccardo were present who recently suffered the early passing of Lorenzo, remembered by those present with a round of warm applause. After this, the auction got under way, with the entrance of the **Chianina** bull calves into the ring. The breed entered the ring

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with a group of 10 animals, of which 6 were suitable for AI and the other 4 qualified for NS. The animals came from just as many



Vikingo di Fiobbo, top price of Marchigiana breed, Fontana Mauro farm (AP)

farms in the provinces of Viterbo, Rovigo, Ravenna, Perugia, Livorno, Siena, Arezzo, and Florence. Standing out for their morphology, with 87 points, were, Ventura, Cecchetti's Rino, and Valerio della Favorita, Danilo Migni's Lio, both suitable for AI. On the other hand, among those qualified for NS, the standout was Vitruvio, Grigioni's Pascià, with a score of 86 points. For the Chianina, also, 3 bulls passed the 2 kg mark in testing ADG. These were Cecchetti's Ventura, who also had the highest BSI, Violo from the La Viola farm in Ravenna, and Vincenzo di Polledraia, Edilio Giannellini' Pascià. Three other animals had ADGs higher than 1,800 grams, bearing witness to the great growth potential of the breed. The 10 animals in the auction were from 7 fathers, first and foremost Pascià della Favorita with 3 sons and Rino di Polledraia with 2. Among the mothers, a standout for morphology was that of Vitruvio, Grigioni's Pascià. This cow, named Rina, an Orione out of Fondo from the family of Lovia, has a score of 90 points and is the 2nd generation Excellent in the maternal line. Scores of 88 points were also achieved by Rondine del Chiostro, the Leonardo mother of Vesuvio owned by the Fabbrini brothers, and Nubia, the mother of

Vento, presented by Coop. Agricola Il Forteto. Taking the top price of 5,250 euro was Valerio della Favorita, the standard-bearer of the small but prestigious farm of Danilo Migni. Valerio, a Lio out of Fanfullo, full brother of Urlo, appeared at the auction suitable for AI with a BSI of 113.1, a testing ADG of around 1,700 grams, and 87 points for morphology. The farm that won him was the Poggiovalle in Terni. The 2nd best price, 5,050 euro, was brought by Vincenzo di Polledraia from Livorno, a Pascià son of Savana, the Dazzo most presented in shows by the Giannellini farm. This animal, distinct and muscular, suitable for AI with an ADG of 2,036 grams and a BSI of 106.4, was purchased by the Bianchi farm of Perugia. 4,600 euro was the price for Ventura, the muscular son of Rino with outcross mother presented by the Cecchetti Bonaventura farm in Viterbo, which was making its auction debut.

Ventura was suitable for AI with a noteworthy BSI of 127.4, a testing ADG of 2,028 grams, and a score of 87 for type. His winner was the Crucianelli farm in Viterbo.



Valerio della Favorita, Top Price of Chianina breed, Migni Danilo farm (PG)

Ventura's brilliant performance was celebrated by his owner with a cake offered to the breeders present at the end of the auction. Among the animals qualified for NS, worthy of note is the price brought by Vitruvio from Arezzo, a distinguished son of Pascià with an ADG of more than 1,800

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grams and a morphological score of 86 points. Presented at the auction by Juanito Grigioni, Vitruvio was purchased for 4,850 euro by Alessandra Casini of Arezzo.

Immediately afterwards, it was the **Romagnola's** turn to enter the scene, finally giving way to a lively auction, as proved by the three animals that went for prices of over 4,000 euro each.

Of the 7 animals on the auction block, 6 were suitable for AI, and just one was qualified for NS. They all came from five farms in Forlì and Ravenna and were the offspring of Regno d.R., VU Navaho, Boy, Rabal d.Q, Thomas, LV Liuto, and VU Solimano. Their ADGs were impressive, and for two of them (Vulcano di Stoppa and Vreo della Viola) they were over 1,900 grams.

The best BSI, 126.3, belonged to Vanni della Radice, Renato Stoppa's Regno, the first to enter the auction ring. Among the mothers of the bull calves, the highest score was that of Romea, Franco Batani's V.U. Neff, with 87 points and the mother of Vichingo. Scores of 86 points were also achieved by Ruga della Radice, Renato Stoppa's Imbattibile, mother of Vulcano, and La Fattoria Sbarazzina, Emilio Donati's Piro, mother of Varenne. The top price went to the vigorous Vulcano della Radice, a son of V.U. Navaho out of V.U. Imbattibile reared by Renato Stoppa and suitable for AI with a BSI of 120.2 to which his ADG of 1,985 grams and morphology score of 85 points also contributed, with evaluations of Excellent for muscle development and dimensions. The bull was purchased for 4,850 euro by Astro Turrini of Sassoleone, Bologna. Roberta Guarcini's gavel set the price of 4,400 euro for La Fattoria Varenne,

a Boy out of Piro from the family of Pastora, qualified for AI with a BSI of 119.8, a testing ADG of 1,677 grams, a morphological score of 86 points and, in this case also, evaluations of Excellent for muscle development and dimensions. Varenne was purchased by Soc. Agr. Cenni in Riolo Terme, Ravenna. Another animal suitable for AI, Franco Batani's Vichingo from Ravenna, was sold for 4,250 euro to the Rossi farm of Verghereto (Forlì-Cesena). A muscular animal, with wide transverse diameters, he was a son of Thomas out of a Neff of the family of Romana, and had reached a testing ADG of around 1,800



Vulcano della Radice, Top price of Romagnola breed; Stoppa Renato farm (FC)

grams.

All that remains, therefore, is to stress the overall positive trend of the autumn auctions for all three breeds, with particular reference to the Romagnola which, also thanks to the support of the Emilia Romagna Region, seems to have finally reversed its trend, with increasingly hefty hammer prices and a higher morale among its breeders.



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Shows

CHIANINA, A BIG SHOW AT BASTIA!

by Matteo Ridolfi

- Morphological Evaluations office-

The breed returned to the Agriumbria ring, showing all its charm with a splendid show and confirming its role among the excellent breeds of national animal husbandry.

Among the 29 breeders who, with their 148 animals, brought to life the 2010 edition of the Chianina National of Bastia Umbra, mostly from Umbria and

participation in the Chianina National, because in reality he is a breeder who has been supporting the selection scheme for years, passing the best animals to the genetic centre and possessing an important résumé of shows of the Romagnola breed, for example the recent National of Morciano. Newcomers apart, it is also necessary to stress the excellent representation of the exhibitors coming



Tuscany, there were several from less “domestic” provinces that are relatively new for the breed, as in the case of Gian Michele Graziani from Ravenna. While not the only newcomer among the exhibitors, his origin is a sign of the progressive expansion the Chianina’s area has undergone in recent years. Furthermore, the term “newcomer” only refers to the first

from the provinces making up the traditional breeding area, such as Arezzo, Siena, Florence, Livorno, Pisa, and Perugia. They were received by the structures of Umbriafiore, a place which, in spite of the restructuring work under way, has kept its “sacredness” intact, representing a point of reference against which the most breeders can measure themselves. As usual,

Shows

alongside the Chianina there were cattle of numerous breeds and species of interest for animal husbandry, represented by their respective national breeders' associations within the framework of the Italian Breeders' Association-ItaliAlleva organization.

In fact, in this context three other white beef breeds were presented on the Bastia stage: the Marchigiana, the Romagnola, and the Podolica. The Romagnola featured the same team that had already been presented at Verona, with regard to which much space is devoted in another section of the magazine. For the Marchigiana there were three animals presented by the "La Bigotta" farm of the Nuti brothers of Pesaro and a heifer presented by the University of Perugia, while for the Podolica there were 3 animals from the Canio Perrone farm in Potenza. Also well represented were the Limousine and Charolais, Red Dappled, and Italian Holstein breeds; the latter also

to the public at the fair through guided tastings held at the Oro Bianco" Restaurant. The CCBI Italian Beef Consortium, another historic point of reference for Italian breed meats, was also present at Bastia with a stand of its own, set up together with the ANABIC's and visited by numerous operators. Lastly, there were also a number of initiatives targeting schools, such as that titled "Students and the Chianina", which involved the students of both agricultural and hotel schools of the region of Umbria. As usual, on Friday morning the Judging Competition for agricultural school ("ITAS") students was held, with the lively participation of 20 teams representing 6 schools, whom we thank for their decades-long support of the initiative. The competition was fierce and the final ranking awarded 1st place to the team from the ITAS Ciuffelli of Todi, followed by the ITAS Vegni of Cortona and the ITAS of Florence. Everything seemed to indicate it was going to be a "tough" National show, and that's exactly what happened, with the shelters whitened by animals that kept the competition level high from start to finish, making the work in the ring demanding and stimulating. Acting as judge was Matteo Ridolfi, aided by Romano Palazzo, ring steward of the ANABIC shows on numerous occasions. The Bastia arena has all the charm of its important tradition, which has featured a procession of the best Chianina breeders before a numerous, competent audience for decades.

The considerable morphological level of the cattle produced an exciting competition in all categories, fought out on several occasions well beyond the top positions. This was also seen in the beauty of the four finals for the proclamation of the Grand Champions, each enhanced by the line-up of the reserves, an element that gave a full perception of the spectacle offered by the Chianina at Agriumbria.



*Uggiata, Junior Female Grand Champion,
Luchetti Basilio & Claudio Farm (PG)*

organized its own Interregional Show for Central Italy at Bastia. This year Agriumbria considered the enhancement of the territory's productions of excellence one of the event's most important themes, with Chianina IGP (PGI) beef at the centre of an important event organized by the Consortium for the Protection of the Central Apennine White Bullock and focusing on the enhancement of the less noble cuts, prepared by well-known chefs and offered

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Junior Females Final

Among the 1st category heifer calves, Viola and Vana, both presented by the Luchetti farm and daughters of, respectively, Moriero and Rocco, placed 1st and 2nd, with Viola beating her rival with the greater strength of her forequarters, her more open rump, and a more evident muscle development. Sharing a particular distinction, these two young females relegated Virginia, a Lio owned by Emilio Massi, to 3rd place.

In the 2nd category it was Emilio Massi's



Vanda Di Moglie, Junior Female Reserve Champion, Marcucci Giancarlo Farm, Perugia

turn to win with Valentina, a Dazzo who, with her superior strength, muscle development, and trunk length, beat Veronique, a Rocco belonging to Luchetti whose greater development enabled her to beat Vanesia, Grigioni's powerful Fabio.

Vanda di Moglie, a promising lero owned by Giancarlo Marcucci, led the 3rd category, topping Valencia, a distinguished Rocco dalla Penny owned by Luchetti, due to her general balance and superior muscle Expression. 3rd place went to Valentina, a vigorous Diro owned by Enzo Pagoni.

A crowded 4th category saw a prestigious trio of heifers presented by the Luchetti farm win the top spots. Uggiata, daughter of Sultano, won thanks to her superior

strength and trunk length, beating Usa, a Moriero whose more evident femininity, distinction, and bone structure quality enabled her to beat Unna, another daughter of Sultano. The superior expressiveness and clean hind legs of Umbra, the Lucchettis' Romeo, brought her to win 1st place in the 5th category over Ubala di Moglie, a powerful Lio owned by Giancarlo Marcucci who, thanks to her more evident strength and trunk length, beat Ustica, a Mandrillo belonging to Pagoni.

The more adult heifers of the 6th category featured a spectacular three-way competition, with Basilio Luchetti's Talia and Tatiana, daughters, respectively, of Rocco and Lio, competing in a razor's edge final to beat Unica, the Lio owned by Rossano Sbarbati of Livorno. Talia's extraordinary breed expressiveness ended up winning out over the structural correctness of Tatiana, who beat Unica thanks to her greater typicity and dimensions and better rump.

A sparkling final and a group of spectacular heifers rendered even more significant the success of Uggiata, Luchetti's Sultano, whose superior elegance and trunk length highlighted her possibility as a serious candidate for the title already within the category. Her deserving runner-up was Vanda di Moglie, Marcucci's lero, characterized by an optimal distribution of volumes along her trunk and a particular limb strength.

Senior Females Final

After the heifers, it was the cows that took over the ring, bringing to life a final full of individuals of exceptional charisma among both the winners and the reserves.

Among the 6th category first-calvers, the winner was Tiria di Moglie, the Giotto owned by Giancarlo Marcucci who, with her more evident distinction, refined handsomeness, and trunk length, beat

Shows

Tania del Palombaro, a Mandrillo presented by Ilio Lombardi.

It isn't an exaggeration to call the 7th cow category one of the most interesting seen in recent years. Among the many protagonists of this spirited category, worthy of mention are Ramona, Sasha, Sulla, Seriosa,



Melinda di Moglie, Senior Female Grand Champion and winner of the "Lucio Migni" trophy, Marcucci Giancarlo farm, Perugia.

Rumba, just to mention a few. They are cows well known to aficionados, who boast important show careers in spite of their still young age. The extraordinary size and superior maturity of Ramona, Marcucci's Lio, was as impressive as the style of the younger Sasha owned by Luchetti, Sulla owned by Grigioni, and Seriosa owned by Ilio Lombardi. It was not the best day for Ramona, who won the category's blue ribbon, opening the way for Sasha, who won first place ahead of Grigioni's just-as-distinguished Sulla, thanks to the superior breadth of her transverse diameters and greater strength of her hind legs.

Among the 8th category cows, Quota di Pergo, Juanito Grigioni's Mandrillo, won for her superior femininity, muscle development, breadth of diameters, and the optimal state of pregnancy, preceding Luchetti's Pinca and Bosi's Qualora delle Logge. Fourth place and blue ribbon went to Fedeli's Quaca dei Colli, another protagonist of recent show years. The veterans of the 9th category included such important cows as Giancarlo Marcucci's Melinda and Silvia Baroncelli's Miss Jenny.

In spite of her 10 years Melinda, blue ribbon in the category, arrived at the appointment in form, showing, in addition to her style and exceptional dimensions, an excellent mobility relegating to reserve status the Florentine Miss Jenny, who in turn beat Nidita owned by Graziani of Ravenna for the superior breadth of her diameters, greater limb strength, and better tone.

As for the cows with calf at heel, the great quality of Seriosa della Favorita, the lanto presented by Ilio Lombardi together with her heifer calf, daughter of Fabio, brought her to beat Silvia Baroncelli's Miss Jenny and Fedeli's Quaca dei Colli.

The cows final was equal in intensity to that of the heifers, with numerous stars in the ring.

A prologue to the final was the presentation of the trophy named after Lucio Migni to the cow with the best career. The presence of his family added substance to the touching words with which Roberta Guarcini remembered Lucio.

Awaiting the judge's pat were Marcucci's Melinda and Ramona di Moglie and Fedeli's Quaca dei Colli, blue ribbons for the best careers in their respective classes. The winner was Melinda and the trophy was presented to Nicola Marcucci by Leonardo



Sasha, Senior Female Reserve Champion Basilio & Claudio Luchetti farm, Perugia

Migni, Lucio's nephew. In the next Senior final, Melinda reprised the title already won

Shows

in 2006, winning the top prize, with which she closes a long, brilliant show career. Her worthy reserve was the younger Sasha owned by Luchetti, another great cow of extraordinary style and important prospects, both on the breeding farm and in the show ring.

Junior Males Final

After the two exciting female finals, the time came for the males, who took over the ring with the Junior final, full of particularly interesting animals.

In the 1st category Volvo dei Colli, a Quinto of the well-known Nabira owned by Francesco Fedeli, won for his superior



*Vittorio, Junior Male Grand Champion
Basilio & Claudio Luchetti farm, Perugia*

vigour, striking muscle development, and greater strength of his limbs over Victor, a Sultano owned by Luchetti; Victor was followed by Giancarlo Marcucci's Vivo di Moglie. Thanks to his superior vigour and particular correctness, Vajon del Palombaro, Ilio Lombardi's Romeo, was the clear winner in the 2nd category, beating Vito di Moglie, a Pascià owned by Marcucci who beat Alessandro Ceccobao's Vito.

Among the 3rd category yearlings Vittorio di Pergo, presented by Luchetti, won with his superior typicity, elegance, bone structure quality, and limb correctness over Valvo, a promising Sansonello owned by Alessandro Ceccobao, of a very similar form.

In the 4th and last category of the Junior males Universo, the Ronaldo presented by

Diego Stiaccini from Pisa, a newcomer to the national ring, won for his superior balance and overall strength over Ulisse, a Poldo owned by the Vanni brothers of Arezzo. Diego Stiaccini was also awarded the trophy for the Best Newcomer, named after Romano Rotini, president of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Terni, of the S. Nicolò Meat Cooperative of Terni, and former ANABIC director. Stiaccini received the trophy from the widow during the concluding awards ceremony. In the Junior Males final, the judge repeated his verdict for the 3rd category, with Luchetti's Vittorio di Pergo winning over Alessandro Ceccobao's Valvo.

Senior Males Final

The bulls final is always the last one on the bill, impressing the audience with the size of its participants. Once again the Chianina returned to the ring with animals worthy of its noblest traditions.



*Valvo, Junior Male Reserve Champion
Alessandro Ceccobao Farm, Siena*

Umbro and Uranio, both sons of Rocco presented by the Luchetti farm, placed 1st and 2nd in an interesting 5th category, with the former winning over the latter for his longer and more muscular trunk, more arched ribs, and better movement in the ring. For the reserve, worthy of note are a considerable typicity and bone structure quality, elements that enabled him to beat La Viola Ugo, a son of Otello owned by Graziani. Unas dei Colli, Fedeli's Quinto

Shows

who is the outgoing champion of the Braccagni National, found Ulisse, Luchetti's Moriero, awaiting him in the 6th category ring. These two animals brought nobility to the competition, with Unas winning out over Ulisse mainly thanks to a better gait and strength of his hind legs. Unas dei Colli, Fedeli's Quinto who is the outgoing champion of the Braccagni National, found Ulisse, Luchetti's Moriero awaiting him in the 6th category ring. These two animals brought nobility to the competition, with Unas winning out over Ulisse mainly thanks to a better gait and strength of his hind legs.



*Titano, Senior Male Reserve Champion,
Sbarbati Rossano farm, Livorno*

Among the adult bulls of the 7th category, Rossano Sbarbati's Titano from Livorno gave his rivals no quarter, forcefully placing first ahead of Lamberto Lombardi's Sirio di S. Anna for his superior distinction, size,



*Unas Dei Colli, Senior Male Reserve Champion,
Fedeli Francesco & Andrea Farm, Perugia*

muscle covering, and trunk length, throwing down the gauntlet for the final. And in the

final, the gigantic Titano fulfilled the forecast, winning top prize ahead of Fedeli's Unas by virtue of his superior typicity and style, as well as his greater size. Francesco Fedeli, working in the ring handling Unas in spite of health issues, was met with affectionate well-wishing applause from the audience for a speedy recovery.

The Special Competitions

At the end of the finals, the trophy named in memory of **Augusto Chiacchierini**, owner of the Bull Centre of the same name and an important figure in the breed's panorama, was presented. Competing in this 16th edition of the trophy were the progeny of the following 10 sires working at the Perugia bull centre: Mandrillo, Priamo, Diro, Limone, Iero, Romeo, Icarus, Fabio, Nurso, and Grido, commented on one by one by judge Matteo Ridolfi. The winner was Quota di Pergo, Juanito Grigioni's Mandrillo, who added another wonderful success to his already important collection.

The next competition, for the **Breeding**



*Quota Di Pergo, winner of
"Augusto Chiacchierini" trophy, Grigioni
Juanito farm, Arezzo*

Farm Groups, featured the threesomes from 8 farms, among which the winners were – for their superior typicity, correctness, and uniformity – the group from the Basilio & Claudio Luchetti farm, ahead of the group from Giancarlo Marcucci's "di Moglie" farm, which in turn beat Ilio Lombardi's "del Palombaro" group.

Shows

With the groups lined up, the Luchetti farm was also presented with the trophies for **the Best Breeder and Best Exhibitor of the 2010 National** and special awards were given to Daniele Sossella, a young representative of the Montemercole Cooperative of Arezzo, and Gian Michele Graziani's "La Viola" farm in Ravenna, newcomers to the Chianina National ring. Particular appreciation was expressed by Roberta Guarcini, ANABIC Director, to Agriumbria President Lazzaro Bogliari, always close with his organization to the Chianina world, which this year had an important moment of promotion of its chain



Basilio & Claudio Luchetti farm, Best Breeder and Best Exhibitor of the 2010 National Show

at Agriumbria. Mr. Bogliari was presented with a lithograph of the head of a Chianina cow, which was also awarded to all the exhibiting breeders in recognition of their participation in the 2010 edition of the National Show. Next came the awarding of the best senior handlers, with winners (in order of classification) Lorenzo Ugolini, Andrea Guerrieri, Emilio Mencarelli, Rossano Sbarbati, and Riccardo Vanni. It was precisely they who presented the prizes to the young, and sometimes very young, handlers who took part in the last of the competitions on the event schedule. There were 6 young handlers competing, who all worked to the best of their abilities in handling their animals. These are their rankings in descending order: Alessio Pagoni, 8 years old from Arezzo, Maria Elena Alimenti, 16 years old from Perugia,

Leonardo Migni, 13 years old from Perugia, Iancu Pirlea, 14 years old from Perugia, Samuele Fabbri, 14 years old from Perugia, and Noemi Sbarbati, 4 years old from Livorno.

Lined up in the ring, the handlers formed the backdrop for the presentation of the awards to judge Matteo Ridolfi and his ring assistant Romano Palazzo by ANABIC President Fausto Luchetti. The group photo



Senior Best Handler and Junior best handler

in the ring and a collective toast then brought to a close an event to be remembered for its intensity and contents.

As is the tradition, during the concluding morning the **heifer auction** had also been held, with 9 animals taking turns in the ring before a large crowd. The heifers were presented by the Sienese farms of Emilio Massi and Alessandro Ceccobao and Enzo Pagoni's and Ottorino Vanni's farms in Arezzo. Under Roberta Guarcini's hammer, all the heifers presented found buyers, and the top price was achieved by Urania, a daughter of Tobia (Lio line) presented by Alessandro Ceccobao and purchased for 2,800 euro by Gian Michele Graziani's "La Viola" farm in Ravenna; he also purchased Vanessa, an Icarus ET presented by Enzo Pagoni of Arezzo. The public flocked to the Agriumbria event, and among the numerous visitors there were a great many technicians, breeders, experts, and representatives of the animal husbandry world who visited our stand. Agriumbria was also visited by several foreign delegations interested in the Italian beef

Shows

breeds, first and foremost that of Morocco, who took part with their Minister of Agriculture to consolidate a collaboration project involving the Region of Umbria and the ANABIC. Cristian De Jager, a passionate South African Chianina breeder and habitu  of the main breed events in Italy, was also present, as were Eskil and IngMari Abrahamsson, passionate Swedish Chianina breeders interested in the purchase of semen and embryos. This international touch closes the notes on the 2010 edition of Agriumbria, a true "temple" Agriculture to consolidate a collaboration project involving the Region of Umbria and the ANABIC. Cristian De Jager, a passionate South African Chianina breeder and habitu  of the main breed events in Italy, was also present, as were Eskil and IngMari Abrahamsson, passionate Swedish Chianina breeders interested in the purchase of semen and embryos. This

international touch closes the notes on the 2010 edition of Agriumbria, a true "temple" of the Chianina and promotional vehicle of choice for the breed, which appear lovelier than ever at its first major appointment of the show season.



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Morphological Evaluations

ASSESSMENT OF MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT IN ITALIAN BEEF CATTLE

by Matteo Ridolfi
- Morphological Evaluations office-

Muscle conformation in a beef bovine is the element that determines more than any other the economic value of the carcass, and its linear assessment in vivo aims to estimate the quantity of meat covering the bones by measuring the convexity of the contours of various trunk regions. The muscle development assessment describes the animal's conformation independently of the fattening state, which is evaluated separately.

The measurement in linear classes of the muscle development in vivo has a high inheritability and is positively correlated with the conformation of the carcass, the slaughter yield, and the carcass yield.

The measurement is easy, but its quality and possibility for use for selective purposes depend on the skill of the evaluator in observing the morphological variability of each trait both in the population and within a farm. Various attempts have been made in a number of countries to eliminate the subjectivity in measuring muscle conformation, by measuring, for example, the area of the loin by ultrasound scans carried out both in vivo and on the carcass. In spite of the accuracy of the datum, the EMA (Eye Muscle Area), as it is commonly called, is particularly influenced by the animal's dimensions (a larger animal will have a larger loin area than a smaller one, but this does not mean that the former is more muscular than the latter) and therefore does not give an

absolute indication of the muscle development. In order to be useful, this datum must be combined with the live or carcass weight, considering that if an animal increases in weight, its loin area will increase.

While the linear assessment gives an overall indication of the muscle development, the EMA measurement measures the area of the transverse section of a single muscle and has the contraindication of being more costly and slower than the visual measurement carried out on the farm.

MUSCLE CONFORMATION AND FATTENING STATE

The subcutaneous fatty covering may alter the measurement of the muscle development if the evaluator is not careful, as well as adequately trained. The verification of the fattening state must precede the muscle development assessment and is carried out separately, also on the basis of a five-class linear scale.

The muscle masses are convex and protruding, separate from one another, and form layers of different thicknesses over the surface of the trunk. In an animal with an accentuated muscle development, when seen from behind the contour of the thigh is particularly convex. Connecting the points of maximum convexity of both sides

Morphological Evaluations

(corresponding to the stifle or anatomical knee), it will be observed that this diameter is greater than the width of the rump at the hips. Moreover, the contour of the thigh muscles will block the view of the contour of

convex contour, with accentuated muscles separated by visible furrows.

As mentioned at the beginning of these notes, the measurement of muscle development is one of the key instruments

for determining the genetic value of breeding animals of the Italian beef breeds, and it has a decisive influence on selection. Indeed, the muscle development index accounts for 50% in the determination of the Bull Selection Index and has an influence – different for the various breeds – on the composition of the Morphology Index (50% of the Cow

Selection Index). For males the evaluation “of reference” is that carried out at the Genetic Centre on the bull calves that complete performance tests at the age of 12 months, while for females the evaluation is carried out on heifers at between 14 and 30 months.

The decision to evaluate the heifers in this age range is based on the greater stability of their body condition during the phase of their life before their first calving.

The linear chart currently used by the ANABIC experts envisages the assessment of the muscle conformation on eight traits, each assessed on a 5-class scale in which class 1 represents the minimum convexity, class 3 is the intermediate convexity, and class 5 identifies the most accentuated convexity.

The eight regions subject to assessment are:

- Rump Width;
- Shoulder Convexity;
- Back Width;
- Loins Width;
- Rump Convexity;



the abdomen. On the other hand, an animal that is not very muscular will have a flatter thigh area, with a less convex contour which, seen from behind, does not block the view of the abdomen, and it will be wider at the hips than at the stifle.

Another point for a complete assessment of the muscle development consists of the observation of regions, like the loins, thigh and buttocks, which are subject to a later deposit of subcutaneous fat. In the more muscular animals, the width of the dorsal area of the trunk and the thickness of the loins are more accentuated.

Seen from behind, in the same animals the distance between the limbs is greater than that in animals with a less muscular constitution. Another indication for the measurement of the muscle development can be found in the observation of the forearm, on which no fat is deposited. If this region appears smooth, with a generally straight contour and muscles which are indistinct one from the other, an animal, even in an excellent fattening state, will show less muscle development than another in which the forearm has a more

Morphological Evaluations

- Thigh Thickness;
- Buttocks Convexity;
- Buttocks Length.

Once the assessment is completed, the linear classes attributed to each region are summarized in the qualification referring to Muscle Development, which will contribute for 25% together with Breed, Dimensions, and Structure traits in the determination of the final score. The qualification is obtained in the following manner:

- If 1's dominate among the linear classes attributed to the 8 muscle development traits, the qualification will be **INSUFFICIENT (lower than 75 points)** and the final score of the animal, whether male or female, may be no higher than 81 points.
- If 2's dominate among the classes attributed to the 8 regions, the muscle development qualification will be **SUFFICIENT (75-81 points)**. The muscle covering for each single region will be slightly more convex than in class 1, but in any case less than the average conformation for the breed. A male animal evaluated with this qualification will receive a score lower than 82 and will not be qualified for reproduction.
- When 3's dominate among the muscle development classes, the qualification will be **GOOD (82-84 points)**, indicating a conformation corresponding to the breed average, an indispensable requirement for the qualification of a sire with a score of at least 82 points.
- If 4's dominate among the linear classes attributed, the qualification assigned to the muscle development will be **VERY GOOD (85-89 points)**, indicating a conformation superior to the breed average. To achieve this qualification, animals must show an accentuated muscle development in particular for the regions that produce prime cuts.
- If 5's dominate among the classes attributed, the muscle development will be qualified as **EXCELLENT (90-100 points)**, which defines a conformation at the top of the breed in abundance of muscle covering in the regions assessed, characterized by particular width, thickness, and convexity.

Morphological Evaluations

THE GENETIC LINES OF THE ROMAGNOLA AROUND THE WORLD

by Matteo Ridolfi

- Morphological Evaluations office-

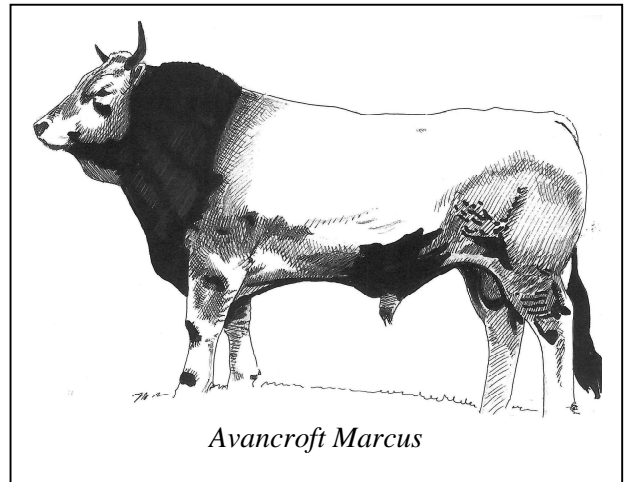
With time, the Romagnola breed has consolidated a solid international reputation, and its genetic lines are now represented in their entirety in various countries throughout the world

The first exports of Romagnola cattle were made back in 1974 to Great Britain and Canada. The group that left Italy for Great Britain was a large one made up of 300 females and around ten bulls, who arrived in Scotland and later spread their descendents to numerous countries such as the United States, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada. The founding bulls were: **Scottish Dritto** and **Scottish Caesar**, sons of Dritto, **Avoncroft Marcus**, son of Maragià, **Avoncroft Telstar**, son of Telamone, and **MMB Binario**, son of Binario of the Dritto line. The starter group exported to Canada was smaller, made up of around 20 animals, including several bulls that later had a significant impact in various countries. Among these, worthy of mention were Orlone, son of Dollaro, Orlando, son of Tito, Josè, son of Dritto, Marco and Canadian Telstar, both of the Telamone line and, lastly, Monello, son of Baleno of the Otello line. The sires of both these shipments were used widely and may be considered the founding fathers of the breed at the international level. Because of its sheer size, the British group had a leading role. On the breed's arrival in Scotland, the British Romagnola Cattle Society was founded, with headquarters in Edinburgh. The first fullblood calf, a female, daughter of

Scottish Dritto, was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, in 1975.

The quality of the Scottish breeding farms that sprang up during those years was, on the average, quite considerable, and sometimes extraordinary, as in the case of John Hornall's Stirling farm, Donald Findlay's Pirnhall farm, George Clwraith's Dunure farm, and Lord Richard Ellesley's Knockdolian farm.

Later on, it was especially from these groups that a great flow of live cattle, semen, and embryo exports took place from Great Britain to North America

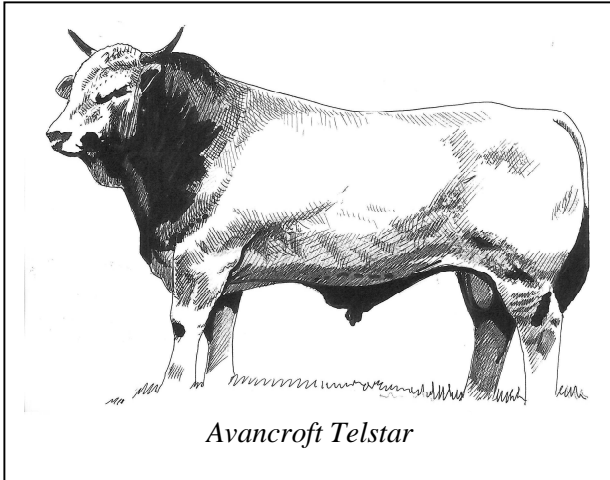


Avoncroft Marcus

Canada and mainly United States) and New Zealand, a country in which Peter Watson's Duchall farm had an important role and where the first fullblood calf born was a son of A. Marcus. In the United States, the genetics that developed with time felt the effects of the British and Canadian lines to an equal extent, with particular reference to the bulls Scottish Dritto, Canadian Telstar, Orlone, and Avoncroft Marcus. In particular, the latter bull had a rather important line of descent

Morphological Evaluations

in the U.S. thanks to one of his sons named Lakeside Fidelio, who also propagated it to Mexico. On the other hand, the American branch of the Dritto line developed mainly thanks to Dunure Rob Roy, who was certainly the best son of Scottish Dritto, while the Telstar line

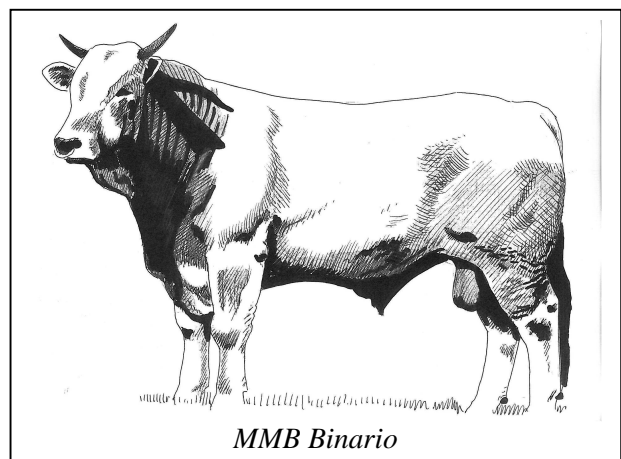


Avancroft Telstar

developed through his son Canadian Telstar. In the meantime, the British Romagnola also arrived in New Zealand, maintaining an excellent representation of the lines which had been originally exported to Scotland. From New Zealand the breed spread rapidly to Australia in the form of live cattle and semen, and later also through embryo imports.

The first calf obtained from inseminations with Romagnola semen was born in Australia in 1976, while the first purebred Romagnolo animal arrived a year later from New Zealand. The genetic lines present in Australia from 1977 through 1980 were all descendants of the above-mentioned Scottish and Canadian progenitors, who were joined, in 1981, by three bulls of the Telamone line: Friarton Ajax and Rashwood Gerald, both sons of Avancroft Telstar, and BRS Vadis, a son of Erminio born in Italy and exported to Scotland. In the meantime the Scottish breeders proceeded, in 1978, to import another 30 heifers and 6 bulls from Italy. This group, also, had an important impact in particular through the bulls, for example Pablo, son of Ramses, Petalo,

son of Marte, Incubo, son of Polifemo, Lotte, son of Tifone, and Prisco, an important son of Sansone. The latter had a numerous line of descent both in the U.S., through his son Swordale Marco (exported to Oregon from Scotland in 1990), and in Ireland, through his son Stirling Molosso. Lotte also had a fairly strong impact on the breed, both in the United Kingdom, through his sons Pirnhall Nicki, Dunure Laddie, and Dunure Kingfisher, and in the U.S., through his son Dunure Hublo. In Northern Ireland, where in the meantime the Romagnola had arrived from Scotland, several important groups sprang up in the 1980s, among which worthy of mention are the Tandragee Castle Estate, in County Armagh, and Uel Kennedy's Hazelwood farm, in County Down. These two groups in Ulster, which had formerly received their cattle from Scotland, made two consecutive imports directly from Italy in the 1980s. Among the 30 animals exported on both occasions there were several bull calves



MMB Binario

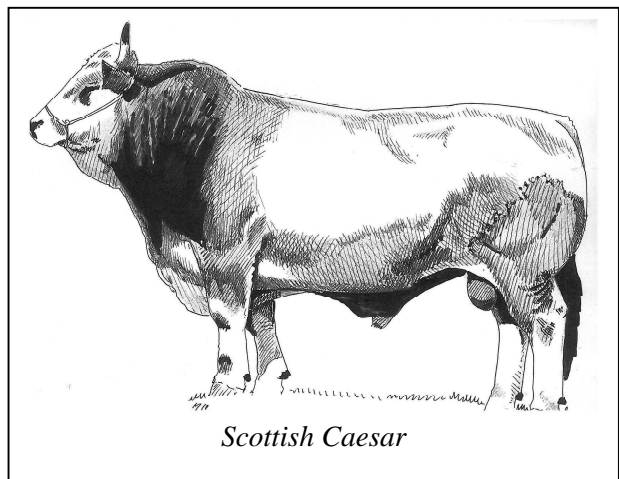
that would have played an important role even outside of Ireland.

In particular, Unno, a son of Naccio, also had progeny in the U.S. and Mexico. The same is true of Zurigo, of the Api line, of Zigano and Zeus, both sons of Tarcisio, and of Lubiano, one of Lubio's first sons, who had a numerous line of descent in the U.S. through his son ICU Charlee.

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Other important animals that were part of the same exports were the bulls Umberto, son of Pandoro of the Marte line, Ubero and Ursus, both sons of Macario, Uranio, son of Gengiskan and, lastly, Tango, a son of Sole, of the Dritto line. Uranio produced a son in Scotland called Royal Downs Untouchable, whose semen was later exported to South Africa and the U.S., like Uranio's semen. In the early 1990s, the Irish Romagnola herd continued to strengthen, reaching levels of absolute splendour. In those years the breed was assiduously shown in the most important shows across the Channel, and Romagnola sires were present in the IA centres throughout the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. Among these, worthy of mention are Knockdolian Maestro, son of Rashwood Gerald, Stirling Condor and Stirling Jimondi, (two sons of Dunure Dividend of the Scottish Caesar line), and Pirnhall Tommy, a son of Stirling Molosso, whose semen was exported to the U.S., Mexico, and New Zealand. At this point the BSE havoc broke out with a notoriously devastating effect for livestock breeding in the United Kingdom, and not only there. Markets collapsed and the herd numbers of numerous continental breeds drastically decreased. Like the other beef breeds, the Romagnola was unable to hold up against the disaster, losing its most prestigious strongholds one after the other. One of the last to cease activity was the Irish Tandragee farm, which closed down in the early 1990s with an auction that definitively scattered its prestigious fullblood group. Among the purchasers of that auction was Joe Garrett, at the time a 16-year-old from County Mayo, in the Republic of Ireland. Joe managed to win two cows (Ciclona and Unica) and a bull (Umberto), all of Italian origin, who had achieved extremely important results in show rings. These animals formed the starting group

of his breeding farm using the "Castlehill" prefix. Later, Joe imported numerous animals directly from Italy, among which worthy of mention were the bulls Calore (son of Azzurro), Falstaff (son of Macario), Puno (son of Ande), and Linus, the latter son of Giasone and only male survivor of the Taccone line in the whole world, whose semen was exported to the U.S. and Australia also. Joe Garrett, an extremely active supporter of the breed, has the merit of having preserved the Romagnola at the most difficult time, creating interest in the breed through the media and bringing together a small group of breeders, who accompanied him a number of times to Italy on the occasion of his numerous visits to shows and conferences, as well as to numerous breeding farms. Joe's efforts culminated, in 2006, with the founding of the Irish Romagnola Cattle Society, which brought together the Irish Romagnola breeders, working for the protection and promotion of the breed. While the disaster caused by BSE impoverished the genetic material of the Romagnola in the United Kingdom, the previous exports to the U.S., Canada,

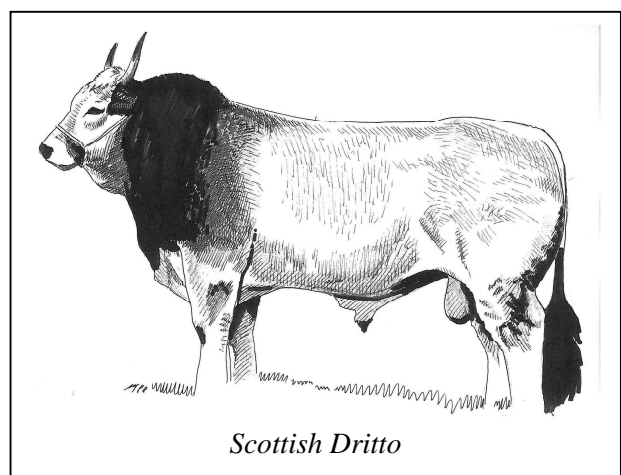


New Zealand, and Australia enabled the breed to preserve all the lines that had originally arrived in Scotland. In Australia, where the breed increased considerably in the meantime, a study was conducted in the early 1990s to find out which male

Morphological Evaluations

lines were the most widespread. From this study it clearly emerged that the majority of the Romagnola herd in Australia could be traced to the Italian progenitors Molosso (Marcus, Telstar, and Vadis lines), Carpinello (Orlone line), Trento (Orlando line), and Dritto (Scottish Dritto and Scottish Caesar lines). Considering the breed's great expansion during those years, the Australian breeders decided to expand and refresh the breed's genetic base by introducing more recent sires. It was thus that John Onley, an important breeder from Queensland, arrived in Italy in 1991 seeking interesting outbred sires, which he then purchased on behalf of Italia Genetics, a company headquartered in Nebo, Central Queensland. The first two exports, which were made with the support of the Ville Unite farm, included the bulls Ande (son of Otto), Bulgaro (son of Baleno), Adige, (son of Ramses) Calore and Dingo (sons of Azzurro), Caronte (son of Usignolo), Cesare (son of Lubio), Dublino (Son of Bartolo), Elisir (son of Boy), and Ergum (son of Metro). These bulls, whose semen was also exported to the U.S. and, for Ande, also to South Africa, made a substantial contribution to the development of the breed in Australia and, among them, Ande and Adige, in particular, stood out as the fathers of numerous award-winning males and females. Particularly worthy of note was Italia Padrone, a son of Adige out of Ivan, who in turn generated numerous champions. Among Ande's offspring, the numerous stand-outs included Italia Romano, Lancefield Alberto, and Aldaree Power Plus, whose semen was exported to the U.S. The Australian genetic base was subsequently supplemented with further semen and embryo imports which have brought it to be particularly up-to-date today. Among the bulls originating from the British and Canadian lines, which

consolidated the genetic base of the Australian Romagnola, worthy of mention are Wemala Mike, son of Vadis, Ottley Ambassador of the Orlone line, and Shannonbourne Brockwell, surely the best son of Rashwood Gerald, of the Telstar line, whose semen has also been exported to South Africa. In fact, in 1995 it was precisely South Africa, a country with important animal husbandry traditions, that came into the international Romagnola limelight. What generated the South African breeders' interest was the International Italian Beef Cattle Contest, organized by the ANABIC and held in Perugia in 1994. On that occasion Armando Balocco, an Italian businessman transplanted to Johannesburg, laid the foundations for the first two exports of live cattle, embryos, and semen to South Africa. Two males, both from the La Viola farm, were also included: Vano, son of Ramses, and Danubio, a son of Usignolo, of the Gengis Khan line, exported at the heel of his mother Lira. The females were daughters of Chicco, Baudo, Vano, Usignolo, and Mincio. The seminal material of the first export came from the



Scottish Dritto

bulls Adamo, Barone, Flavio, Furlo, and Metro. Further exports of semen and embryos were made in the following years, bringing the South African pool up to date with the most recent breed genetics. The only precedent of exporting

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the Romagnola to Africa dated back to 1977, when Gigante, a son of Titano from the Fiorentini farm, was exported by the ANABIC to Kenya for crossbreeding. During the same years the ANABIC also made exports to Brazil, Venezuela, and Argentina. In the latter country, in addition to numerous females, at the end of the 1970s the ANABIC had exported the bulls Stewart, son of Maragià, Odino, son of Ulisse, and Marengo 2nd, of the Sole line, while during the same years Omar, son of Arcione, had arrived in Venezuela. All traces of the lines of descent of these sires have been lost. Recently a Romagnola herd of around 80 head arrived in Romania, on a farm purchased by the 5 Colli company of Bologna. The last country, in chronological order, to have turned to Italy for Romagnola breed genetic supplies was, in 2009, Colombia, where the breed has been present for decades with lines of U.S. origin. From the United States the Romagnola has also spread to Nicaragua, where there are a small number of purebred breeders. Alongside Scotland and New Zealand, the U.S. has played a key role in the dissemination of the breed and is, together with Australia, the breed's main stronghold outside of Italy. This overview of the international dissemination of the Romagnola around the world not only bears witness to its considerable production potentials, its versatility, and its adaptability, but bestows upon it the dignity of a cosmopolitan breed in spite of the fact that the limited numbers in Italy may lead to an underestimation of its real value. The genetic base which, over time, has developed and consolidated in the various countries is also a decisive resource for maintaining the breed's genetic variability, as well as an opportunity for its future development.