"THE MOSTEST HOSS THERE EVER WAS"

MAN O'WAR 100th ANNIVERSARY

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

While at the Kentucky Horse Park we visited the Man o'War Memorial, a very majestic and moving memorial garden featuring a larger than life statue of **"Big Red"**. The International Museum of the Horse in honour of the **100th Anniversary of Man o'War** is holding a special exhibition detailing this famous racehorse, his story and the story of the people around him.

Of the many horses who live on in the hearts of Americans, one horse is most remembered. Following the First World War this big chestnut boy came up through the racing crucible at a time when Americans needed a hope, a dream, a winner. Foaled in 1917 this is his 100th Anniversary.

In 1919 after winning his first race by six lengths, crossing the finish line at a simple canter, a spectator asked, "Who's he by?". Well, the reply was, *"He's by hisself, and there ain't nobody gonna get near him."* When he was sent off to his first race at Belmont Park, **a retired bay hunter named Major Treat accompanied him and would continue to travel with Man o'War throughout his racing career.**

The crowning event of Man o'War's career came in a match race against **the celebrated Canadian horse Sir Barton, the first winner of the Triple Crown.** On October 12, 1920, he and Man o'War met in Windsor, Ontario. Man o'War won by seven lengths! In his career "Big Red" won 20 of 21 races.

Under the close care of his devoted groom, Will Harbut, "Big Red" was a national landmark, and thousands visited him each year at Riddle's Faraway Farm. In 1947, Will Harbut died of a heart attack, and barely a month after he was followed by **"da mostest horse,"** also victim of a heart attack at the age of 30.

For more information please contact International Museum of the Horse at www.imh.org .

MAN O' WAR

Photo Credit: James Shambhu