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Osnabruecker Land;

A Commitment to Horses: One of Germany's leading and most delightful horse regions is the **Osnabruecker Land**; situated in the State of Lower Saxony which carries a horse on its coat of arms; horses have been at the historic heart of the region & its people...

By Ina El Kobbia, Germany

Remembering my mother, who came from a notable family of this region and was a passionate rider herself, she used to tell me: 'When you grow up here you might find yourself on the back of a horse before taking your very first steps'. Somehow this holds true until today; people at this wonderful place from the very old down to the very young have an inherent passion and sense for horses. It is said that the Osnabruecker Land holds the highest number of horses, riders and horse associations throughout Germany. In the Osnabruecker Land horses are simply an indispensable part of life!

When Egypt's Horse Times Magazine was first introduced to the region in May 2004, it was received with immediately with great appreciation. Today, Horse Times has reached numerous renowned personalities and institutions in the Osnabruecker Land from within as well as outside the equestrian community. For a full year, one of Europe's most acknowledged partners in the international riding scene, Ullrich Kasselmann from Hagen in the Osnabruecker Land and Paul Schockemoehle have sponsored this magazine. Furthermore the chief executive of the Osnabruecker Land Mr. Manfred Hugo jointly with Mr. Ullrich Kasselmann dedicated this edition's title page.

Horse Times has also been the first and only Egyptian magazine ever registered at the European Dressage Championships and is the first to receive accreditation to the World Equestrian Games 2006 in Aachen. However Horse Times has achieved much more than that; it has carried to us the news about the successes, developments and wishes of, in particular, the Egyptian Equestrian World and it has made us taste the oriental atmosphere and, foremost, understand that although living in different parts of the world, there is much we share and gladly join. As an Egyptian born it gave me special pleasure to very humbly participate in bridging the variety between the two cultures and nations that are most dear to me.

Ties between Egypt and the Osnabruecker Land have existed for quite a while and in many different ways. A wonderful coincidence is to be found in the very fact that the city of Osnabrueck is known as the city of peace in Germany, which is related to the historic event of 1648, when the peace treaty of Westphalia was signed



'A view of the city of Osnabrueck, known as the city of peace'



'Hof Hasemann, domicile of my family's foundation for historic & environmental protection in the Osnabruecker Land; the foundation received special honours from the State of Lower Saxony'

in the City ending 30 years of war between Catholics and Protestants in the heart of Europe. Being the city of peace it has committed itself with the support of the University of Osnabrueck to several peace initiatives; one of the most famous is the so called 'Osnabrueck Peace Talks'. The Middle East holds a very particular priority in this initiative with frequent prominent guests from the Middle East and from as far as the United States; one of the most prominent being former U.S. Secretary of State and German-born Henry Kissinger. On another note, it was only in July last year that the region's chamber of commerce participated in organising a business trip for entrepreneurs to Egypt with a very successful outcome for business activities in both directions. Several companies from the

Osnabruecker Land have already operated in the Egyptian Market. On a far smaller, but certainly not less appreciable level, Jutta Wiesner, cousin of Germany's rising show jumping star Heinrich-Hermann Engemann, at that time manager of the Osnabrueck riding club, participated in the CSI international equestrian competition held by the Egyptian Equestrian Federation at the Moevenpick Hotel two years ago. She obtained the best position among the German participating riders, taking fourth place with her team. Jutta, who like her cousin was educated by renowned personalities of the international riding sport like Soenke Soenksen and Willi Schultheiss, also gave her first riding clinic in Egypt. Moreover, Dutchman Arno Neessen, who holds a long standing record in the Egyptian riding scene, met with Kasselmann in Cairo on the occasion of the Moevenpick riding competition 2004; thereby Arno resumed his older ties to the Osnabruecker Land, practicing now as an international trainer under the flag of Performance Sales International run by Kasselmann & Schockemoehle, making the Osnabruecker Land his home away from home. Last but not least, three years ago Marion Wichmann left her place in Osnabrueck to successfully train and educate the very young riders in Egypt the basics of horseback riding.

Surely the Osnabruecker Land with the city of Osnabrueck at its heart is just one of many wonderful regions in Germany, one of many that hold international ties more so to Egypt and one of many places for outstanding horses, regarding the fact that Germany is still considered the world's leading horse nation. In spite of that, when it comes to horses and the beautiful scenery, what this region offers a horse lover, always captures your heart's desire.

Travelling through the north of the Osnabruecker Land you'll find in the midst of the green fields all around, numerous beautiful traditional farm houses most of which have been committed for centuries to the Hanoverian Horse breeding. One of the nicest and most renowned sceneries is the 'Artland' with Germany's biggest number of historic farm houses. The Artland was declared the region's cultural heritage and was nominated for the UNESCO's world heritage. Moreover Germany's largest Breeding Association with some 350 members is located in the Artland. Surrounded by smaller sized, yet very devoted horse breeders, you will also find in the north the impressive premises of 'Ramsbrock Stables' that encompasses some 900 horses and 300 hectares of land.

Additionally the world famous State Stud of Celle runs two of its breeding stations in the Osnabruecker Land, one of which is in the north in the parish of 'Ankum', the other is located in the south at 'Natbergen'. Another highlight of the region is the premises of Brazilian Olympic rider Luciana Diniz. Luciana who is one of the top ten international show jumping riders. She is a member of Latin America's famous Diniz Family. Her father and both her brothers are famous Polo players and her mother stands in the Guinness Book of World Records for a record of eight consecutive wins of the



'Hof Brake', a traditional farm house in the landscape called the 'Artland'. Hof Brake hosts the region's horse museum'



'Ullrich Kasselmann, the renowned international horseman from the Osnabruecker Land'



'Bianca Kasselmann, a most elegant professional dressage rider'

National Dressage Championships. For many years now Luciana has lived and runs her stable in the Osnabruecker Land. The region's kingpin is another show jumping star Heinrich-Hermann Engemann. He is a self-made man who hits record by record with his mare 'Candela'. Known to be one of Germany's fastest riders, he won several international competitions in 2005, the last being the world cup in Helsinki, on his famous horse 'Aboyaseur W'. Engemann currently ranks number 26 on the F.E.I. ranking list and is surely on his way up.

Travelling from the north of the region further south you will be guided first to another historic place that dates back to very early Roman times. The region takes particular pride in that it had been the Germanic tribes that defeated the occupying Roman army at a battle known as the 'Varus Battle' or the battle of the 'Teutoburger Forest' which is today all part of the Osnabruecker Land. The little parish of Hagen that lies next to the Teutoburger Forest in the very south of the region is home to a true jewel that is the Kasselmann Estate. Kasselmann Stables run by the international horseman Ullrich Kasselmann is a must for any horse lover. Ullrich Kasselmann is to me and many more a most impressive sympathetic personality and a great visionary of the international horse sport. He turns the Osnabruecker Land into the 'who's' of the international riding sport. Each year the International Riders' Festival Horses & Dreams at Kasselmann Stables is the season's highlight. When we all thought that this fantastic event could not be topped, Kasselmann surprised not only the region but the equestrian world by organising one of the nicest European Dressage Championships in 2005 in no more than two weeks! Kasselmann received special honours from the German Equestrian Federation for this outstanding achievement. Once more Kasselmann Stables hit the headlines by presenting at this year's Horses & Dreams Festival from April 27th till May 1st 2006, the first endurance racing ever held in the Osnabruecker Land with most distinguished participants and guests from the Arab World in preparation of the World Equestrian Games in Aachen.. For more than 25 years Ullrich Kasselmann and Paul Schockemoehle have been most successful and reliable partners in the international riding scene, one of their most outstanding achievements is the world famous PSI-Auction for elite horses that takes place each year in December in the little parish of Ankum in the Osnabruecker Land. However there is much more to Kasselmann than these outstanding achievements in the international horse world; Kasselmann also devotes himself to the development of the riding sport for those with lesser financial and social capabilities. He might often make a gift of a horse and he regularly invites school classes to his home to provide the very young with a better sense for horses. The region is surely lucky to have him here!

Ending my report from the Osnabruecker Land, I would like to let you know, that the city of Osnabrueck and the Osnabruecker Land is worth a visit for its beauty, for its outstanding horses and for its wonderful people...! ■



'Earlier years: Paul Schockemoehle and H.R.H. Princess Haya of Jordan at P.S.I. Auction 1998'



'A strong couple; Paul & Bettina Schockemoehle at Horses & Dreams 2005'



'Record holder: Heinrich-Hermann Engemann & Candela'



www.osnabruecker-land.de



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