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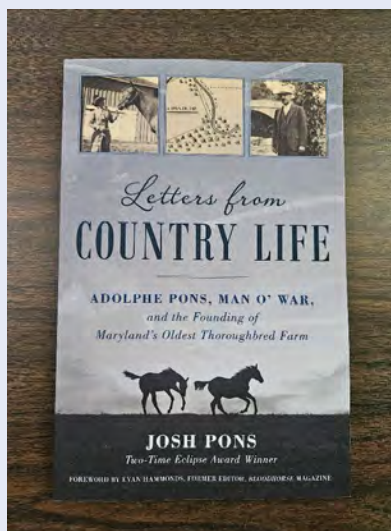
July 2024

Hot off the press:

LETTERS FROM COUNTRY LIFE

***Adolphe Pons, Man O' War and the Founding of Maryland's
Oldest Thoroughbred Farm***

by Josh Pons



[Letters from Country Life: Adolphe Pons, Man o' War, and the Founding of Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm](#)

Just released this week by publishers Rowman and Littlefield, 222-pages of summer reading for horse and history lovers. The link to *Letters from Country Life* (above) takes you not only to the Order Form for the book, but it takes you back to the Golden Age of Horse Racing in America: the years immediately

before and after Man o' War.

Two-time Eclipse Award-winning author Josh Pons' third book --- after *Country Life Diary* (1992) and *Merryland Diary* (2007) --- *Letters from Country Life* tells the story of August Belmont's sale of Man o' War at Saratoga in 1918, and of Pons' grandfather Adolphe's role as Belmont's personal secretary and manager of Belmont's vast Thoroughbred operation, the Nursery Stud. It also brings to date the challenges facing the sport of racing, and the exciting initiatives in the pipeline for the breeding and racing industry.

"*Letters*" has been six years in the making, starting in 2018 when Josh discovered century-old files of his grandfather's correspondence, preserved intact in an out-of-the-way basement storage room.

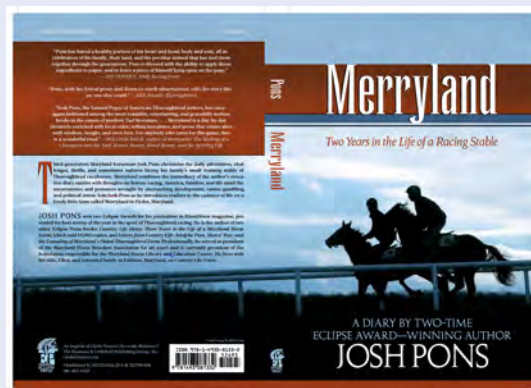
In those boxes were undiscovered treasures, letters between his grandfather and August Belmont, letters to John Madden and Averell Harriman and Bing Crosby, every letter a time-capsule of the horse business.

Distilled into a historical narrative, Josh's discoveries first appeared in 38 installments in serial form in *Bloodhorse* magazine from 2018 into 2021 under the title "Letters from Rockland Farm." Entirely rewritten for publication in book form, rearranged into historic chronologic order, with previously unpublished material, *Letters from Country Life* takes 100-year-old material and freshens it to apply to today's Thoroughbred world.

The book is available at the link above, or request a signed copy at the first of Josh's book signings this summer:

- [Saturday, August 17, at The National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga, New York, from 9-to-11 a.m. \(free admission\)](#)
- [Thursday, August 29, at The Keeneland Library Lecture Series at 6:30 pm \(purchase tickets \[here\]\(#\)\) on the grounds of Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Kentucky.](#)

In a rare publishing "two-fer" for Josh's books, Eclipse Press is also issuing a second printing of *Merryland, Two Years in the Life of a Racing Stable*, which sold out upon release. Order by clicking on the book picture below:



MHBA Yearling Show on Sunday, July 21



This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association annual Yearling Show. Held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds showing in Timonium, this year's show will feature 50-some of the best of the Maryland-bred yearling crop. The show starts at 9:00 am on Sunday, July 21.

Country Life is taking nine yearlings this year: three by our home sire Divining Rod and six by Kentucky stallions. They've been getting groomed and hand-walked daily for the past few weeks in preparation for the show.

By participating, each yearling will become eligible for a \$40,000 Yearling Show Premium Award when they race: \$20,000 will be divided among the exhibitors of the four contestants who earn the most money as 2-year-olds in 2025 and another \$20,000 divided among the four highest-earning 3-year-olds the following year.

Admission is free and there is an Amateur Judging Contest, so come on out to see the future Maryland-bred stars and join us in trying to pick the winners of each class.

Colonial Downs Meet Begins on a High Note



The 2024 season at Colonial Downs started in style for Country Life connections when 3-year-old FULMINEO, bred by Country Life and our partners in the Starr of Quality LLC, captured his second consecutive stakes victory in the \$125,000 Boston Stakes on Saturday, July 13 (click photo above for race replay). FULMINEO was coming off a win in the \$100,000 James W. Murphy Stakes at Pimlico on Preakness Day.

Trainer Arnaud Delacour is pointing the son of Bolt d'Oro for the \$500,000, Grade 2 Secretariat Stakes on August 10 for owners Mark Grier and Starlight Racing. The Secretariat Stakes is part of the Colonial Downs Festival of Racing weekend, packed with attractive stakes.

Meanwhile, three Country Life Racing Partnership runners are entered for later this week at the New Kent, Virginia, oval:

1. LADY ENSIGN runs in \$87,500 Allowance on Thursday, July 18;
2. INCISIVE KITTEN faces the boys in a \$75,000 MSW on Friday, July 19; and
3. GALILEI, last summer's Brookmeade Stakes winner, tries to defend her title in the \$125,000 Brookmeade Stakes on Saturday, July 20.

Country Life Bred or Sired Winners

DIVINING ROD

DIVINE SPIRIT: 6/6 at CT, Maiden (breeder Country Life Farm; owner Athol Morgan and Chuckie, Inc; trainer Valrie Smith)

DIVINE ROMANCE: 6/9 at LRL, Claiming (breeder Country Life Farm & Imagistic Broodmare II LLC; owner Jagger Inc. and Longball Stables LLC; trainer Jamie Ness)



MOSLER

SAFE TRUST: 6/1 at LRL, Maiden 2 yo (breeder/owner Barak Farm; trainer Jose Corrales)

BAY STREET: 6/16 at LRL, Allowance (breeder/owner Greycross Stable LLC; trainer Katherine Voss)

BANDITS WARRIOR: 6/23 at LRL, Starter (breeder/owner No Guts No Glory Farm; trainer John Robb)

PUT A ROCK ON IT: 6/27 at PEN, Maiden (breeder Country Life Farm & Rock Sapphire LLC; owner Joseph V. Procopio; trainer Kelly Deiter)



FRIESAN FIRE

PRINS FIRE: 6/1 at MTH, Claiming (breeder/owner Edwin & Janice Jenkins; trainer Mario Serey, Jr.)

SHKHARA FIRE: 6/7 at LRL, Maiden 2yo (breeder/owner Barak Farm and Dino's Thoroughbreds, LLC; trainer Jose Corrales)

EMBERLY: 6/13 at CT, Claiming (breeder Nancy Camp; owner/trainer Miguel Ramos Agosto)

LEGENDARY THUNDER: 6/16 at MTH, Maiden (breeder Law Legacy Stables; owner Richard Malouf; trainer Rory Huston)

SKIMBLE SHANKS: 6/19 at PEN, Claiming (breeder Warrior's Reward LLC; owner Bush Racing Stable; trainer Timothy Kreiser)

RETURN FIRE: 6/20 at DEL, Maiden (breeder Richard Bosshard, Jr.; owner Designated Hitters Racing LLC; trainer Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon)

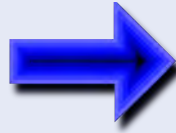
FREEZE THE FIRE: 6/21 at LRL, Allowance (breeder Carl Lanier; owner Pepe Stable and JLM Jacona Stable; trainer Jose Magana)



Shkhara Fire, by Friesan Fire

Jim McCue photo

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stallion videos,
training videos and more!**



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