



The Storied Life of Miller's Admiral

By Helen Herold, *Director, National Museum of the Morgan Horse*



Henri Cartier-Bresson,
Vogue Magazine, June 1964

Vogue Magazine, June 1964. A beautiful Black Morgan stallion photographed in the Spanish hills above Barcelona, Spain. Unusual, to say the least. A single, stray piece of paper caught my eye while in the Archives a few weeks ago. Upon reading the article, I discovered the horse was Miller's Admiral (b. 1949, Upwey Ben Don x Gertie G) and he was owned by Woodland (Woody) and Olga Kahler from Littleton, New Hampshire, who also happened to be the Marquis and Marquise de St. Innocent. So, why was he in Barcelona?

Erwin Miller, Miller's Stock Farm, in Morrisville, Vermont, used the "Miller's" prefix. Thirty-two horses are registered with this prefix. Miller's Admiral was a full brother to Miller's Adele (b. 1950) who was the dam of Waseeka's In Command. Admiral had a successful show career in New England, which included three victory passes at the National Morgan Horse Show in Northampton. This is where Olga first saw him and knew she had to have him.

The Kahlers had homes in New Hampshire and France and owned a tea plantation in India. Olga was Russian. Woody was an author of best selling novels in the United States and France and made literary contributions to vegetarian literature worldwide. He

also served as president of the International Vegetarian Union and he and Olga traveled extensively while he was serving in that position. During the 1950's, Mr. and Mrs. Kahler were legally adopted by an elderly French aristocrat who was heir to the title of "Marquis De St. Innocent" in France. They were next to inherit the title. After traveling in Spain, they decided to purchase an old castle named Le Chateau La Budallera near Barcelona where they eventually spent much of their time and where Miller's Admiral became a resident.

Admiral flew from New York to Paris, where he was believed to be the first Morgan in France. He apparently was so greatly admired that at the time of this *Vogue* article, the Marquise had commissioned a sculpture of him that was to be mounted in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. His lifestyle sounded luxurious, with an "apartment" in Spain connected to the chateau by a tunnel with a lake view, daily tooth brushing, and rubies in his bridle. Olga claimed that Admiral understood words and commands in four languages and was learning Spanish.

Olga died in 1972. Her husband wrote "Olga: The Memoirs of Olga La Marquise de St. Innocent" which was published in 1974. ■