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Two-thirds of the new stands at Tokyo Racecourse have been renovated and since April have opened. The new stands enable fans to watch the 150m stretch from the final turn to the finish line, giving them a close view of the battle on the final stretch. Also, the paddock can be seen from the balcony up to the 6th floor of the new stands.

Japan Breeding Update

By Keiji Matsuo,
JBBA Manager

Statistical Overview of Racehorse Breeding in 2004

This article will provide an update on the situation surrounding Japan's thoroughbred breeding, using material supplied by *2004 Bloodhorse Statistics*, published in February 2005.

These statistics are jointly compiled each year by the Japan Race Horse Registry and the Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association.



JBBA's Hokkaido Sale auction, October 2004

●Breeding Numbers

In 2003, 11,303 mares were covered in Japan, resulting in 8,146 horses being bred in 2004, or 8,241 thoroughbreds (including thoroughbred lines) if one includes the number of mares covered overseas but giving birth in Japan. By sex, this was broken down to 4,068 colts and 4,078 fillies. The remaining 95 (48 colts and 47 fillies) were covered overseas and produced in Japan.

The number of horses bred in Japan has hovered around 8,000 since 1997, but for the last three years has lagged behind the previous year.

There were 107 Arab line horses produced, a drastic decline, one-half of the previous year's 219. Arab races are currently only held by local racing authorities, and as racing continues to be cancelled or stopped in recent years, breeding has been restrained.

Looking at thoroughbred breeding numbers by region, the area around

Hokkaido's Hidaka produced the largest number, at 6,719, accounting for 81.5 percent of the overall figure. The next largest areas were Hokkaido's Iburi, with 1,028, followed by 237 in Aomori Prefecture. By prefecture, Hokkaido is the unquestioned leader, with 7,811, comprising 94.8 percent of the nationwide total.

●Thoroughbred Foal Crop

There were 11,016 mares covered by sires standing in Japan in 2004. This was a bit of a decline compared to the 11,303 in 2003, 287 fewer, or 2.5 percent less.

Reviewing the number of broodmares covered by region, Hidaka, Hokkaido accounts for 81.1 percent, with 8,910.

On the other hand, there were 328 thoroughbred sires standing stud in 2004, or 31 fewer than the previous year. Of these, 171 were bred in Japan, 12 fewer than the year before. The 157 imported stallions were 12 fewer than the year before.

As a peculiarity of home-bred sires, 53, or 31 percent, were sired by Sunday Silence (USA), accounting for 16.2 percent of the overall total.

Stud stallions covered an average of 36.4 mares overall, while the total was 41 for imported horses and 32.2 for home-bred sires.

Shadai Stallion Station's Symboli Kris S had the highest number of covering, 217. Shadai's Manhattan Cafe was the most-covered home-bred sire, with 206.

●Foal Registration

Of the thoroughbreds bred in 2003, 7,913 foals were registered by the time they were yearlings in 2004. This was a slight decline compared to the year before. The numbers have tended to fall since they peaked in 1995 with 8,711.

●Breeding Registration

There were 47 thoroughbred stallions registered, 16 less than the previous year. However, the number of broodmares increased by 47 over the year before, to 1,300. There were 203 imported horses, of which 143 were directly-imported broodmares, an increase of 60 over the year before.

●Total Imports

Imports have continued to trend downwards since their peak of 635 (eight stallions, 174 broodmares, and 453 racehorses) in 1997. Of the 378 horses imported in 2004, 264 were racehorses. This exceeded the previous year for the first time in seven years.

●Auction Results

There were 1,187 thoroughbreds sold at auction in 2004. This was 139 more than the previous year's 1,048, a substantial 13.3 percent increase. Seen by age at the time of sale, 350 were foals (291 in 2003), 699 were yearlings (655 in 2003), and 138 were 2-year-olds (102 in 2003).

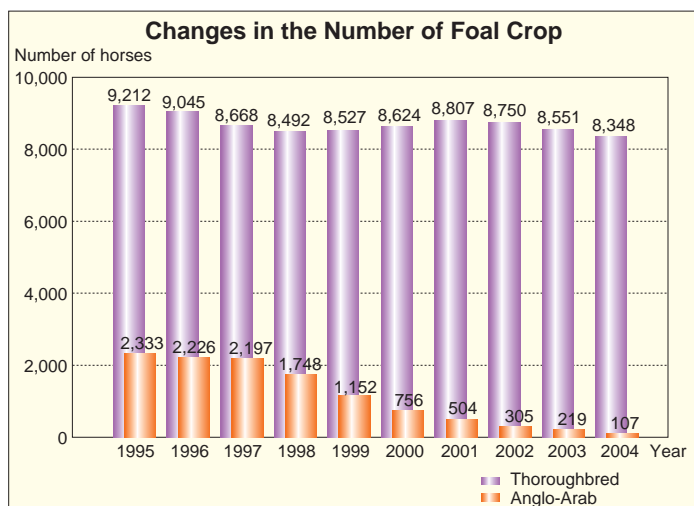
The Japan Racing Horse Association Select Sale produced ¥8,066,100,000 in



JBBA Manager,
Keiji Matsuo



Silver Charm (1994 USA, by Silver Buck), 11 years old. Imported by JRA in 2005 and donated to JBBA. Double crown victor of the U.S. 1997 Kentucky Derby (GI) and Preakness Stakes (GI), and won the Dubai World Cup (GI).



sales, breaking the record for the second consecutive year.

2005 Auctions

Leading off with the Kyushu Training Sale (for 2-year-olds) held at JRA's Miyazaki Yearling Training Farm on May 9, 12 auctions will be held throughout Japan in 2005. Training sales for 2-year-olds are held in May in Miyazaki Prefecture (JRA Miyazaki Yearling Training Farm), Chiba Prefecture (Funabashi Racecourse), Hokkaido (JBBA, Shizunaicho and JRA Sapporo Racecourse).

Foal sales are held at Northern Horse

is scheduled to be held at Monbetsu Racecourse in Hidaka, Hokkaido.

New 2005 Sires

The principal sires who will be starting their first season in Japan in 2005 are listed below.

Imported horses include Shizunai JBBA's Silver Charm (USA, 1994, by Silver Buck), Hidaka Bloodhorse Breeders' Association's Kicken Kris (USA, 2000, by

Park (Select Sale) and Shizunaicho (JBBA Hokkaido Sale) both in Hokkaido in July. Yearling sales are held in Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture (Aomori Breeders' Association) and at Shizunaicho's JBBA Hokkaido Sale in August. Shizunaicho also holds an auction in September.

The November racehorse auction

Kris S), and Toyosato Stallion Station's Ciro (USA, 1997, by Woodman).

Home-bred horses include Shizunai JBBA's Sunningdale, GI Takamatsunomiya Kinen winner (1999, by Warning, GB), Hidaka Stallion Station's Nobo Jack (1997, by French Deputy, USA) who also won the GI JCB Sprint, Shadai Stallion Station's King Kamehameha, GI Japanese Derby and GI NHK Mile Cup victor (2001, by Kingmambo, USA) and Neo Universe (2000, by Sunday Silence, USA) winner of the GI Satsuki Sho and GI Japanese Derby, along with Yushun Stallion Station's No Reason, GI Satsuki Sho victor (1999, by Brian's Time, USA) and Arrow Stud's Tsurumaru Boy (1998, by Dance in the Dark), winner of the GI Yasuda Kinen.



Manhattan Cafe (by Sunday Silence) covered 206 mares in 2004.

2005 Auction Schedule

Date	Auction Name	Kind	Age	Venue
May 9 (Mon.)	Kyushu Training Sale	Thoroughbred	2-y-o	JRA Miyazaki Yearling Training Farm
May 12 (Thu.)	Chiba Thoroughbred Sale	Thoroughbred	yearling, 2-y-o	Funabashi Racecourse
May 23 (Mon.)	Training Sale (Hokkaido Sale)	Thoroughbred	2-y-o	Hidaka Racehorse Cooperative Rearing Center Auction: Hokkaido Sale
May 24 (Tue.)	Hidaka Training Sale	Thoroughbred	2-y-o	JRA Hidaka Yearling Training Farm
May 30 (Mon.)	Premier 2-y-o Training Sale	Thoroughbred	2-y-o	JRA Sapporo Racecourse
June 13 (Mon.)	Kyushu Yearling Sale	Thoroughbred/ Anglo-Arab	yearling	JBBA Kyushu Stallion Station
July 11 (Mon.), 12 (Tue.)	Select Sale	Thoroughbred	foal	Northern Horse Park
July 18 (Mon.)	Selection Sale (Hokkaido Sale)	Thoroughbred	foal	Hokkaido Sale
July 19 (Tue.)			yearling	
August 9 (Tue.)	Hachinohe Sale	Thoroughbred	foal, yearling	Hachinohe Sale
August 10 (Wed.)			yearling	
August 22 (Mon.) to 26 (Fri.)	Summer Sale (Hokkaido Sale)	Thoroughbred	yearling	Hokkaido Sale
August 26 (Fri.)		Anglo-Arab		
October 10 (Mon.)	Autumn Sale (Hokkaido Sale)	Thoroughbred	foal	Hokkaido Sale
October 11 (Tue.) to 14 (Fri.)		Thoroughbred	yearling	
October 14 (Fri.)		Anglo-Arab	yearling	
to be determined	Hokkaido Trading Race & Sale	Thoroughbred	2-y-o	

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Evolution of Strategies Used to Stop Illegal Internet Gambling

By Kenji Kominami D.V.M.
Executive Councillor for Foreign Affairs,
Japan Racing Association

Current Situation Regarding “3U” Gambling

Since 2000, the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) have noted the serious threat posed by illegal Internet gambling. Notably, Henry S.K. Chan, the Hong Kong Jockey Club’s executive director for betting, referred to unlawful online wagering as “3U” gambling (unlimited, unregulated, and uncontrolled) at the Business Session on Wagering during the 2001 Asian Racing Conference in Bangkok. He went on to note that, “3U gambling presents a negative scenario with far-reaching social, ethical, political and financial implications,” requiring the racing fraternity’s united efforts to overcome this threat. Could it be that the bluntly-expressed business rule he envisioned — “what’s mine is mine, what’s yours is mine, too” — now predominates? I do not think so. Countries around the world, including Japan, have been able to make headway in fighting illegal Internet wagering. Recently the Dutch supreme court and the World Trade Organization (WTO) handed down decisions regarding the illegality of cross-border betting. I also believe that the “Good Neighbor Policy (GNP)” has allowed us to dodge Mr. Chan’s main concern regarding, “A crisis of disension just when the racing world needs to be the most united due to the advent of an age of new technology and intensifying gambling competition.”

A Major Success at 2004 Paris Conference: Adoption of the Good Neighbor Policy

Everyone who has puzzled over how to deal with illegal Internet wagering has been keenly aware that countries cannot devise fundamental solutions on their own. That is, international efforts are needed. Previously, the IFHA’s International Wagering Subcommittee

has carried out energetic discussions. Nonetheless, there were great differences, not only in different gambling laws in each country, but also in values and national sentiments. Attaining a consensus was an extremely difficult task. As everyone is aware, the Good Neighbor Policy warship hoisted its sails in the midst of this threatening storm in December 2002 and, crewed by the Hong Kong Jockey Club and JRA, left port to do battle with illicit Internet betting on the seven seas. Then, as it took on new crew members when dropping anchor at ARF member countries, the warship built up steam and arrived at its final port of call, Paris, on October 4, 2004. The IFHA’s General Assembly and Conference then stipulated the GNP as Article 28 of the International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering. I am very proud that ARC’s advocacy resulted in the establishment of the first international framework for control.

While you may already be tired of hearing about it, nations and regions have agreed under the GNP to mutually respect each other’s markets and legislative systems and exercise self-restraint regarding the “what’s yours is also mine” business precept. This has differed greatly from the report Dewey Ballantine LLP prepared for the IFHA in October 2000, *The Horse Racing Industry in the Age of the Internet: Issues and Opportunities*, in which commercial aspects featured prominently. That is, the GNP first places priority on devising frameworks for regulating rampant acts of piracy. Moreover, the GNP’s concept is to promote global gambling through systematic contracts and other means.

Japan’s Task Force Achievements

Now I would like to discuss the measures Japan has taken against illegal Internet gambling. I led the JRA-estab-

lished task force from March 2002 to May 2003, and it gave me the opportunity to comprehensively study strategies that could be used



to stop illegal Internet betting. First, I need to explain Japan’s gambling-related legal framework. Japan’s criminal law prohibits all kinds of gambling. However, the Horse Racing Law allows for an exception under which only organizations that are strongly public in nature, such as the Japan Racing Association and local governments, can conduct horse races, and these organizations are permitted to sell bets on the races they hold themselves. As such, any offshore betting operators that have Japanese citizens as customers are in violation of Japan’s criminal laws. Previous legal precedents clearly proves its illegality. Nonetheless, the reality is that even now dozens of illegal betting sites in Japanese exist, including three illegal sites (one in the U.K. and two on islands in the Caribbean) that offer bets on JRA races and two illicit sites for betting on overseas horse races. Estimates are that this would have drastically harmed JRA’s annual turnover of around ¥30 billion. Because two of the three sites mentioned above offer JRA bets at a 10 percent discount and pay out at the same rate as JRA, it is possible that Japan’s horse racing industry could lose its financial foundation if nothing were done about this. This led to discussions with the Japanese government. However, since internet crimes are difficult to investigate, the government’s response was other than satisfactory. After presenting our case numerous times and stressing our concerns that this situation threatens the national interest, we were finally able to obtain assurances of wholesale cooperation after explaining the GNP.

Freezing Remittances to Operators for Bets Placed Using Credit Cards

First, we negotiated tenaciously with the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Economy, Trade and Industry; the National Police Agency; and representatives of the credit card industry regarding freezing remittances to offshore operators when a bet was made using a credit card. This resulted in domestic credit card companies halting bet remittances to unlawful betting operators from November 2002. This did not involve canceling an individual's credit cards, just stopping illegal payments. Incidentally, there are five lines of credit cards in Japan that have international settlement functions, of which two prohibit gambling and betting operators are not allowed to become affiliates. As such, credit card bet remittances are theoretically not possible through these two lines. If these credit card companies happen to discover betting operators among their affiliates, they unilaterally cancel the contracts. The computers at the remaining three credit card firms detect and stop remittances when payments made by customers using cards issued in Japan are destined for betting shops. It appears that these measures have become increasingly effective in restraining illicit bet remittances by Japanese horse racing fans. Even so, it is a prerequisite that betting operators note that their merchant category is "betting" when registering with all credit card companies. The offshore betting operators we consider the worst of the lot are the ones who, even though sanctioned many times by credit card companies, continue to register in merchant categories other than betting, which means they continue to register fraudulently. Currently we are discussing with card companies and the Japanese government how to prevent improperly registering one's business in the merchant category, but dealing with overseas problems is difficult and international supervision is required.

Legal Revisions and Educational Efforts

On the other hand, JRA asked the Japanese government to consider legal measures to combat illicit Internet wagering, drawing upon legal counter-

measures adopted by many other countries. As a result, in January 2005, the Horse Racing Law was amended for the first time in 13 years, enabling JRA employees to pose as customers to collect information to single out illegal Internet betting shops. The information they gather should help police investigations. Additionally, it goes without saying that the government, JRA, the credit card industry, and provider associations have obtained results with incremental educational efforts. Incidentally, at one time there were seven offshore sites in Japanese dedicated to betting on horse races in Japan and elsewhere, but these have now declined to five, while the Japanese-language betting exchange sites disappeared in 2003.

WTO Panel Makes Unacceptable Ruling in Favor of Antigua and Barbuda

As is now widely known, Antigua and Barbuda brought a WTO suit against the U.S. in March 2003, claiming that the wholesale ban based on domestic laws against cross-border gambling of Antigua and Barbuda infringed on General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) provisions. We derided Antigua's complaint. Nonetheless, the ruling handed down by the WTO panel on November 10, 2004 ruled in favor of Antigua's complaint. Because GATS is still new, the truth is that ambiguities remain in the treaty and its schedule. According to reports, this dispute appeared to originate in a divergence of opinion over whether gambling was included in "10.D Other recreational services — except sporting" under the GATS schedules. The panel devoted its attention solely to the question of adherence to liberalization and did not adjudicate properly by applying Article 14, which stipulates that the "overriding premise is that services that harm public morals and public order can be exempted from trade liberalization." Racing authorities around the world greeted this news with dismay and astonishment because they were surprised that free trade had been given a higher priority than an individual nation's unique morality and public good, as represented by national authority over wagering. This WTO ruling nullifies Article 28 of the IFHA International Agreement (regarding GNP), which states,

"Wagering opportunities shall only be offered in another country with the express consent of that country's relevant governmental authorities, if required, and in compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements of that country." It also bequeaths an extremely serious element of unease with regard to the global racing industry's financial foundations and the national revenues of countries that host racing. From our experience, it has been clear from the beginning that we will not be able to stop illicit Internet wagering without cooperating internationally, and an unfavorable ruling in one of IFHA's member nations is a challenge for the entire world of horse racing.

In objection to the panel's ruling, the U.S. appealed to the WTO Appellate Body on January 7, 2005, and the IFHA immediately declared its support. In particular, IFHA wanted the Japanese government, which had from the outset participated on the WTO panel as a third party in this matter, to support the U.S. JRA was of the same mind. At that point, to firmly maintain national sovereignty and the horse racing industry's foundations regarding gambling, JRA lobbied the Japanese government to the extent possible, requesting they participate as a third party whose stance supported the U.S. in the WTO appeal. As a result, the WTO Appellate Body handed down a ruling in favor of the U.S. on April 7, 2005. The Appellate Body reappraised the panel's decision and ended up handing down a truly appropriate decision, namely, "It is possible to restrict cross-border online gambling to protect public morals and public order." I see this judgment as a reflection of the united efforts that racing authorities have expended, including the adopting of the GNP, and have also been hearing a great sigh of relief at the decision. It does appear that from here on, racing authorities will need to appeal to their respective governments to improve the vagueness of the GATS provisions and schedules, that is, the lack of a precise description of gambling. This should include the adoption of an authoritative interpretation of Article 14 of GATS that protects the rights of individual IFHA members to restrict cross-border gambling services as necessary to protect public morals and public order. IFHA has already begun efforts toward this end. In any case, we need to cooper-

ate to continue winning the battle against illegal Internet betting.

Dark Future for Horse Racing?

Try picturing the kind of racing fans who, in unison, cheer on the horses they have bet on with the cry “Lose! Lose!,” and also greet the victorious horse, still breathing heavily in the winner’s circle, not with laudatory applause, but with

boos. This might be the pitiful shape of future horse racing if taken over by betting exchanges. I strongly fear that betting exchanges will interfere with the sporting nature of horse racing and result in the decline of racing over the long run. Since betting exchanges first appeared, it has been noted that the people who use them will be tempted by scams and, in fact, suspicious examples of these have been increasing. Racing authorities deserve praise for their

efforts to increase transparency, but do the racing fans who are the customers actually understand this? Surely, we have a responsibility to devise a permanent plan to ensure horse racing’s sound growth. I believe that it is imperative for horse racing, as the leader in sports betting, to carefully and impartially study all aspects of the implementation of betting exchanges before making any major decisions on the impact they will give our industry.

Jockey Yukio Okabe Retires

by Ryoma Hara, *Racing Journalist*



Jockey Yukio Okabe

Ten days after jockey Yukio Okabe’s electrifying retirement announcement, a grand retirement ceremony, blessed by fine weather, was held at Nakayama Racecourse on March 20. Around 20,000 more people than usual — upwards of 63,000 fans — visited the track, and the infield was as crowded and buzzing with excitement as on a GI race day.

With jockey license in hand, Okabe

debuted as a pro jockey when he was 18 years old, and his long jockey career lasted 38 years until this spring when he turned 56. One of Japan’s greatest jockeys, Okabe always rode in top form, bathed by the bright footlights, adding excitement to Japanese racing for many years and greatly contributing to its development. It was the fans, so familiar with his great achievement, who thronged the stands in huge numbers on March 20.

JRA also lauded his brilliant career by staging an Okabe Yukio retirement memorial race. His many fans agreed with this considerate JRA decision. At the post-race retirement ceremony, which was moved to the paddock, fans who were saddened by Okabe’s retirement surrounded the paddock. In the stands up to the sixth level more than 20,000 people could be seen waving. It was an emotional, exciting, strange paddock spectacle, one that this writer had never witnessed in a long career as a journalist.

Over the years, numerous star jockeys have quietly laid down their whips and departed from the turf. I was one journalist who saw them off with smiles and sometimes tears. But Okabe’s flashy retirement ceremony, attended not only by fans and the press, but many in racing circles, was a first. Could it be only a new trend? No, it was undoubtedly a

retirement event held precisely because it was Okabe.

retirement event held precisely because it was Okabe.

If you look at the world’s developed racing nations, there are many jockeys, such as Willie Shoemaker or Lester Piggott, who have raced until their later years just as Okabe did. Those jockeys amassed an amazing 5,000 or 8,000 victories. However, compared to the rest of the world Japan has a limited amount of race days and annual races. Moreover, when Okabe debuted Japanese racing was in a period of transition during which, unlike today, the number of race entrants was extremely small. Even popular or veteran jockeys only had at most 500 opportunities to ride each year, and 60 wins a year allowed one to gain the leading jockey spot. Under such conditions, Okabe recorded 2,948 career wins, a grand achievement that merits special mention.

The awards he acquired include the Triple Crown atop Symboli Rudolf, seven GI victories, twice he was awarded the leading nationwide jockey prize, the JRA grand prix jockey award, and in 1987 and 1991, he received a jockey’s highest honor, the triple crown for the highest winning percentage, most victories and most money earned. He also often toured overseas, amassing wins in eight countries between 1985 when he won the Mayor of Berlin prize at West Germany’s Hamburg Racecourse and 1998 when he grabbed his first overseas GI victory at the French GI Prix Jacques le Marois with Taiki Shuttle (USA, by Devil’s Bag).

With such a brilliant record as a souvenir, Okabe ends his active career and departs the turf. I knew him personally and, of course, as a journalist had contact with him for many years. But the many fans who came to the tracks to enjoy racing over the many years and were charmed by Okabe's professionalism and fairness in the way he rode, along with his magnificent handling of the reins, no doubt felt especially sad knowing they would not be able to see his heroic form again and thinking that an era had come to a close with the curtain descending on the Showa horse racing history.

Some fans were calling out, "You can still ride." However, it was surely perfectionist Okabe's style to draw the line this way, deciding to retire during the mid-February races when he said, "I was not able to race the way I wanted to. I'll quit if my body fails to work like this tomorrow when I ride."

Okabe was not only a jockey during a race, as president of The JRA Jockeys Association for nine years, he also worked to raise the status of jockeys.



Mr. Yukio Okabe making a farewell speech in front of a large crowd of fans at the Nakayama Racecourse paddock at his retirement ceremony on March 20.

Jockey Yutaka Take said, "My goal was to overtake and then pass Okabe-san by, and that's what I've worked hard on." Cordial Okabe was exceedingly respected within his circle as a model for junior

and younger jockeys. Although he may not say as much, his parting words to his juniors as he ends his 38-year career are no doubt: "work hard everyone, and break my record quickly."

Book Review: *Un siècle de galop, 1900-2000*

By *Yoshiro Tajima*,
Racing Journalist

The Japanese translation of *Un siècle de galop, 1900-2000* written by Mr. Guy Thibault is now available. Until last year, I wrote retrospective pieces on 20th century horse racing for the *Keiba Book Weekly*, and the articles inevitably interwove topics about the U.K. and the U.S.; occasionally about Australia. However, because I can not read French, I was not able to comment on horse racing in France. France has been a mainstay in horse racing, both historically and now, and I understood that it was an extremely important country. But there was hardly any Japanese literature that contained information on French racing. That is why I am quite pleased that Mr. Thibault's work has been translated into Japanese by Mr. Masahiko Sanada, Counselor of the Japan Association for International Horse Racing and published by the Japan Association for International Horse Racing.

And I am not the only one who is

pleased. Many Japanese are interested in overseas racing and France has long been a puzzle to us. Only the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe's name is well-known and many fans visit Longchamp every year to watch the race, with Japanese media thronging en masse if a Japanese horse happens to be entered, but one could safely say that there was not an iota of information about anything else. From now, however, all you have to do is read *Furansu Keiba Hyakunenshi* (100 Years of French Horse Racing), which contains a wide assortment of photos of the gallant figures of historically famous horses, and learn from the scrupulous prose what kind of races were won using what method. One might venture that this is a triumph.

Although unrecognized up to now, French and Japanese racing have had a strong relationship. Both started with English racing as their model, later to

follow their own paths. The turning point in France's case was the legalization of pari-mutuel on-track betting in 1891 and in Japan's case the enactment in 1923 of a horse racing law that permitted betting similar to France's. Horse racing in both countries continued to flourish thanks to these common betting systems. This is in favorable contrast to the U.S., where it required an enormous amount of time and effort to eradicate bookmakers, and the U.K., which has inevitably had to coexist with bookmakers. One could confidently describe Japanese racing as being along the lines of France's little brother in the Far East.

Furansu Keiba Hyakunenshi is an unprecedented textbook for learning about this elder brother's history. Moreover, it is an interesting read. Many things that existed in older times seem to make no sense today and why these things existed at all is difficult to understand from prose alone. But this

book happily includes an abundance of photographs, which thoroughly convey the environment surrounding racing when our grandfathers and great grandfathers were alive. From the first pages, female customers decked out in skirts that hid the ankles and groups of horse-drawn carriages hurrying homeward catch the eye. Shift your glance to the text and it says one franc's admission was required for the pelouse, but 1/20th of that was needed for the pesage. One realizes that this book covers the history of horse racing when such price disparities existed.

Major events are listed for each year since 1900, and the book has vivid photos of famous horses I had only previously read about, but now they dazzle the eye. The famous filly La Carmargo, looking a bit tired immediately after winning the Prix Vermeille. Surprisingly, Longchamp had no inner rail at the time. Ropes extended from pole to pole and the fans crowded right up there. Horses speeding by 30 centimeters from people's eyes. This book is worth acquiring just for this photograph.

I thought that I knew a bit about things following the establishment of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. However, this book has taught me quite a bit. Which brings to mind the photo of the first starting gates used at Chantilly in 1926. The fallen jockey in the foreground and jockeys who appear about to tumble. The horse with the starting tape hanging splendidly from his neck and the jockey who has landed on the ground in the background. Word has it that 166,635 spectators crowded into Longchamp that year for the Grand Prix de Paris. It was the good old days of horse racing. And if I remember correctly, Hemingway, who loved racing, was also around at that time.

As might be expected, numerous horses we know well appeared after the Second World War. The description of Ribot winning the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe by six lengths the second time



is incredible. It looks as though there was an infinite expanse between him and the second place horse. Something is lacking in the Arc de Triomphe victory of Sea-Bird, whom many call the strongest horse in history, compared to this. Naturally, the splendor of the horses entered was a notch above. There is also the spectacle of the shocking loss by Nijinsky, advertised as the invincible Triple Crown winner, from around the time I became acquainted with racing. Images of Junzo Kashiyama, whose Hard to Beat won the French Derby two years later, and Queen Elizabeth, along with Patrick-Louis Biancone and Andre Fabre, are also featured.

Many horses have been imported to Japan from France in the last 30 years and it is a familiar period of time. Scenes that I witnessed are also mentioned and Chantilly's large stables that form the backdrop to the French Derby remind me of the depth of French racing whenever I see them. Racing in a country with people who built stables such as these could hardly not be splendid. Pau's cross-country race. Even allowing that Japanese racing has developed considerably, Japan's fans are unable to witness this kind of race. Triptych walking along the beach. French horses are happy to be able to unwind not just in Chantilly's forest grove, but in this kind of vast seaside environment.

In addition to the articles about major happenings each year and the photos, the columns about French horse racing throughout are a special feature of this book. Along with information about jockeys and trainers, the coverage of

racehorses includes a number of great steeplechase horses, and detailed explanations of things not widely known up to now, including the creation of the PMU (Pari Mutuel Urbain), night racing at Longchamp (imagine that they achieved this in the 1930s!), sponsor transitions, the founding of France Galop, and the formation of the Pegasus System. I would like to see journalists who will be covering French racing from now go there after acquiring this sort of basic knowledge from this book. If you know the background, you can understand the surface appearances.

This is a history book, but the last chapter on the challenge of a new century cannot be overlooked. "Racetrack admission is declining and there is a complete disassociation between the numerous fans who enjoy the multiplicity of betting methods and the extremely tiny number of fans that enjoy racing as a sport. Society also appears to waver over recognizing horse racing as a sport." Someone who just wants to praise the current situation would hardly write such lines. It is also as if, four years after the publication of the original manuscript, these points describe Japan today. However, it is hopeful that, while sounding an alarm about the present situation, the author is not at all pessimistic about the future. We also have to seek the road that leads to a bright future for Japanese racing.

In any event, this book is well-written. I recommend that racing journalists read it. In all likelihood, nobody but author Guy Thibault — who has released a number of works about racing in recent years following many years of being involved in the practical affairs of racing at an auction company after working at newspapers and magazines — could have filled 400 pages with this much content. It is good news that Mr. Masahiko Sanada, conversant in both French and horse racing, has enabled publication of *Furansu Keiba Hyakunenshi* in Japanese. I am greatly satisfied.