

THE GOLDEN AGE OF SHOWJUMPING

CAROLINE BRADLEY AND MILTON

By Frank Waters



HERE IS A WONDERFUL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GREAT CAROLINE BRADLEY RIDING MILTON. SHE BROUGHT THIS HORSE OUT AS A NOVICE BEFORE SHE TRAGICALLY DIED. GONE TOO SOON, CAROLINE, YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN, NOT AS LONG AS I AM AROUND. I WAS SO LUCKY TO HAVE KNOWN YOU AND CALLED YOU A FRIEND.

Caroline rode a great stallion called **Marius** which was the sire of Milton. She knew when he was a baby that Milton would be one of the greatest of all time, and he was, becoming the first show jumper to win a **million pounds** with John Whitaker. Foaled in 1977, Milton was by Dutch Warmblood Marius, out of Irish Draught Aston Answers. His lines included successful sports horses in both paternal and maternal lines, his sire being an international level and his dam a Grade A national level jumper.

When Milton was young, Caroline Bradley told her parents he would be her Olympic mount. She trained him until her death in **1983**, after which many offers were made to her parents to buy the gelding, which had already proven his talent, they kept the horse.

Stephen Hadley, known later as a FEI TV show jumping commentator, rode Milton for a short time, before he became a mount of the world-renowned international rider **John Whitaker**. Milton entered international competition in 1985. During his competitive career, Milton achieved many international victories, and became the first horse outside the racing world to win more than £1 million in prize money.

Throughout his career, Milton rarely touched a rail or refused a fence. The gelding was a favorite with the crowd, many times ending a successful round with a leap into the air. Even after his retirement at the **1994 Olympia Horse Show**, he was adored by all. Milton died on 4 July 1999. He was buried on the **Whitaker's farm** in Yorkshire, a farm I used to visit often to spend time with the Whitaker's in the 70's. 🐾