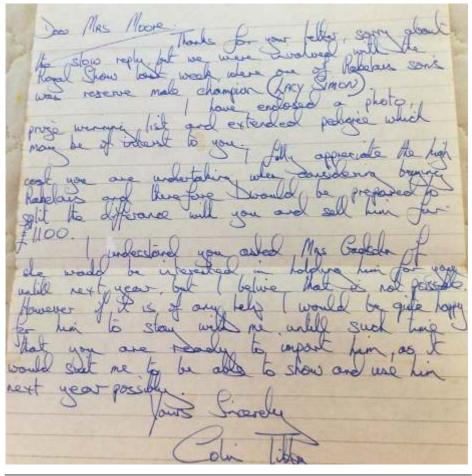
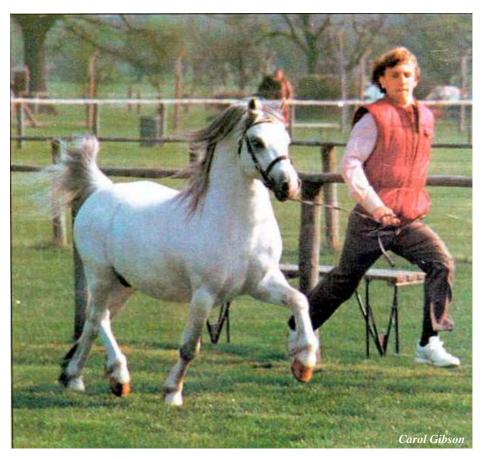
GREDINGTON RABELAIS

Gredington Rabelais 18426, bred by the Rt Hon Lord Kenyon, was by Gredington Simwnt (grandson of Coed Coch Seryddwr) out of Gredington Awyr and was foaled in 1977. He sired 7 Lacy and 2 Bengad foals.

As reported on page 67 in the 2009 Journal, in 1984 Pat Moore visited Wales and was asked to look around for a good stallion for a consortium of breeders in South Africa. She came back with pictures and photos of a few stallions. The one that stood out was Gredington Rabelais and a decision was made to import him. A delay was inevitable and the Export Certificate was only issued on 20 August, 1985. This delay led to the letter below from the seller, Colin Tibbey of the Lacy Stud in North Wales.





Seen at the 1985 West Midlands Championships shown by Colin Tibbey. He was the Top Stallion and the Welsh Section A Reserve Champion

Poena van Niekerk wrote in 2009 'In the midsummer of 1985 Rabelais arrived in South Africa. We were impressed and his movement was what was wanted.' However, his first encounter with South African mares was not good; they kicked out one of his eyes. The upside was that shortly after he left Wales, the new stallion ratings was published and Rabelais was the number one stallion in Wales. His first title on SA soil was the Supreme Champion at the Free State Championships. In 1986, our last show, was a big highlight. Rabelais was crowned Supreme Champion Section A. The down side of Rabelais was that his fertility was very bad. Only four offspring were registered to him'.



Rabelais being unloaded at the docks. His nose is barely visible



At the Quarantine Station with the van Niekerks in 1985

In the 2007 Journal on p51 Pat Moore wrote 'Rabelais was a charming pony and won the Section A National Championship. But he did not have a lot of luck in South Africa. His foals though were lovely and were successful as show ponies and breeding stock. Hydown Folksong won championships and his first 14 foals at Lyn King's stud were all Fillies. This was all in spite of having been savaged as a tiny foal by a TB colt, and hand reared for a week or two until he was able to stand again'



Supreme Champion Welsh Mountain Pony as the 1986 Nationals

The four foals which Rabelais sired were:

Foresyte Roland part-bred colt out of the Studvet P Petra of Onderstepoort in 1988

Hydown Folksong Section A colt out of Hydown Popsong in 1989 Hydown Beaujolais Section A colt out of Knighton Belinda in 1989 Hydown Pollen Section A filly out of Hydown Petal.

Eventually he had to be put to sleep as he developed a large lump which was inoperable.



In June 1985 immediately before being exported to South Africa



Hydown Folksong as a 9-y-o at the 1998 Nationals