

Finnish associations with Hungary in horse names

Marja KALSKE

University of Lapland, Rovaniemi
marja.kalske@ulapland.fi

1. Background and the research questions

Hungary and Finland have long and warm-hearted connections. Because the languages belong to the same Finno-Ugric group of languages, many researchers, artists and ordinary people as well, have been interested in the other country and its culture.

The names of the domestic animals are given by the owner, and in a way or another they tell something the name-giver thinks about his or her animal. Many Finnish horse names refer to Hungary – even if the animal has nothing to do with that country. This shows, once again, that Hungary has a special place in Finnish people's minds.

In Finland, onomastics have traditionally concentrated on place names. They have been used especially in historical research (Kiviniemi 1977: 4–6, 34). The research of personal names is common, and even the research of other groups of names has a long tradition. For instance, in 1912, Heikki Ojansuu published a study *Kotieläintemme suomenkielinen nimistö (The name system of our domestic animals)*.

There has been even wider interest in animal names. According to Claude Lévi-Strauss, the names of the French labour horses refer to the animals themselves, but racehorse names have been borrowed from all kinds of connections (Lévi-Strauss 1966: 191–193, 204–207). German Edeltraud Dobning-Jülch has analysed the names of German domestic animals, especially the naming of horses, during different times (Dobning-Jülch 1977; 1996).

Over recent decades, the research of these „other names” has widened in the Northern countries: articles, post-graduate works and dissertations have been published on the names of cows, horses, cats, dogs, ships, trains, music pieces and many other subjects of everyday life (Davidsson 1994; Ehn 1994;

Kruken 1994; Leibring 2000; Partanen 2000). Research on the names of domestic animals can be compared to the widening of micro history in the 1980s and 1990s (Heikkinen 1993).

In Finland, horse names are usually borrowed from sources that the name-giver regards as positive. There are only a few special ‘horse names’. That is why it is interesting to see what kind of Hungary-connected names the Finns have given to their horses at different times. This reveals what the Finns know about Hungary. Which Hungarian people have four-legged namesakes? It is worth studying which themes have not borrowed and when the Hungary-connected names have been popular, when not.

2. Material

This article is based on my dissertation (Kalske 2005), for which I gathered and analysed the names of 6000 Finnish-born horses, including traditional home-breed horse names, Finnish studbook names and other registered horse names. I also analyse the names of warm-blooded riding horses from the end of the 19th century, warm-blooded trotter names from the 1950s and pony names from the 1970s. I gathered newer material from the web sites of The Finnish Trotting and Breeding Association (www.hippos.fi) and the horse enthusiasts (www.sukuposti.fi). Both Finnish and other European registered horses are found there.

3. Naming finnish horses

Concerning place names, it is common practice that a smaller population would use the name of a meadow, field, lake, etc., the nearer that another place with the same name can be found. The name of a small object can also be changed more easily than that of a larger one (Kiviniemi 1977: 6–7, 33–34; 1990: 35–43, 206). The law demands that humans give their children first and last names. These names are widely and officially used; therefore, society defines the proper use of them.

The names of domestic animals are given by the owners. Pets’ names used at home are not restricted by law but by public opinion.

In contrast, since 1971, all Finnish horses have had to be registered and once a foal has been given a name it cannot be changed afterwards. The horse name is restricted by several rules: it must be monolingual; it must not be pornographic or religious; it must not be either a commercial name nor borrowed from a famous sportsman; its maximum length is 15 letters (Nimisääntö 2003). There were no restrictions of that kind prior to 1971.

The names of home-breed peasant horses were of two kinds in the 18th and 19th centuries: they either referred to the animal as *Rusko* 'Brownie', *Valko* 'White', *Tähti* 'Star', *Tamma* 'Mare', *Ruuna* 'Gelding', or they had special horse names, like the gelding names *Poku* and *Polle* and the mare name *Piiju* (Kalske 2005: 85–89).

At the start of the 20th century, home-breed horses were given human first names belonging to the sex of the animal. The most common were the female names of Liisa and Vappu and the male names of Pekka and Jaakko. The peasant horse was anthropomorphized, which is easy to understand when the political development of that time is noted: the cotters and homeless people in the countryside now had the chance to buy their living places. This change brought a large number of independent, forward-striving small farms to Finland. Usually, they only owned one horse who was almost a family member (Kalske 2005: 159; 1999: 155–158.)

After the Second World War, when the studbook system became popular and the horse race activities became widespread, the home-breed horses were named increasingly according to the hopes of the owners: *Uljas* 'Handsome', *Lento* 'Flight', *Virkkku* 'Bright'. The principle was that a horse of the Finnish race got a Finnish name. A Swedish name meant that the horse was of the Finnish race, but the mother tongue of the owner was Swedish (Kalske 2005: 53).

The names of the warm-blood horses (riding horses, trotters and ponies) were mainly in a foreign language. At the beginning of the 20th century, the riding horses were given English, German and French names. The owners were upper-class members of society and officers, or internationally orientated people.

Our first warm-blooded trotters were imported from the Soviet Union, and in Finland their foals received Russian or Russian-like names, like *Katja*, *Marusja*, *Lanjek* (father *Namjek*). Later, English became the most popular language for names because most people in Finland could speak it to some degree. Another popular language was Spanish – because of tourism. The language of a name did not tell anything about the origin of the horse. A foreign language showed that the animal was of strange origin.

The internationalization of Finland over recent decades has been shown in the horse names, too. Some horses of the Finnish race have foreign names (*Amora*, *Elektron*, *Manjaana*). On the other hand, some warm-blooded horses always have some Finnish or Swedish names (*Hilkka*, *Wappu*, *Ilkka*, *Filur*, *Kasakka*, *Musketör*) (Kalske 2005: 194–202, 258–259, 315).

Compulsory registration and the studbook system meant that every horse had to get a unique name. Traditional names were not enough. Now the ima-

gination and the humour of the name-givers broke out. New names were constructed by building names of two or three parts, when one part was the 'real' name, the other referred to the father or mother of the horse. Later, the other part of the name could also refer to the name of the breeder or the owner (*Einolan Luonnonvoima* 'Einola's Natural Power', *Jarru N* 'Drag N')

4. Hungary as a source of horse names: what do the Finns know about Hungary?

More horse names are needed all the time. Where the Finns borrow the names from tells what they know about the world and what they are interested in. That is why it is good to see how Hungary – a country of excellent horsemanship – is revealed in Finnish horse names.

The names found in my material are presented according to these themes: 1) geographical names; 2) music; 3) food and drink; 4) well-known Hungarian people; and 5) Hungarian first names. These themes are based on the material. They can be criticized, because some names could belong to more than one category.

The birth year of a horse is mentioned together with the name. After the year 1971 it also tells the time when the name has been given. Prior to 1971, a horse could have been given its name as a grown up, or the name could have been changed for some reason. One can ask, is this list complete or are some unexpected names missing? There are hardly any bigger faults. This article is based on my doctoral thesis and all its material was analysed for this reason (See the chapter 2).

The race (as noted below) and the year of the birth are mentioned after the name:

fh = Finnish race

wb = warm-blooded (usually a trotter)

kb = cold-blooded (not of Finnish race)

rh = riding horse, half- or full-blooded

pony = ponies and small horses (including Islandic horses)

sh = statistic horse: other horses that do not belong to any special race

bu = background unknown: the father and/or mother is/are unknown

a) Geographical names

Country: *Unkari* (fh 1954, Mother: *Unikko*), *Magyar* (wb 2008), *Magyar Remeny* (wb 2006), *Ungar* (bu 1990). In addition, there have been four

horses bought from Hungary: *Hungary Jutalom* (wb 1981), *Hungary Neutron* (wb 1985), *Hungary Parfüm* (wb 1985), *Hungary Donna* (wb 1982).

Remény 'hope', is not unexpected as a part of a horse's name. Hungarian *remény* is a common part of the names of the trotters and studbook horses of the Finnish race.

The Danube between Hungary and Austria. Several Finnish horse names refer to cultural Central Europe. If the name of a foal refers to Hungary, the names of its parents can refer not only to Austria, but also to Italian, German or English world: *Tonava* 'Danube' (bu 1990), *Tonava* (sh 1995, Father: *Mozart*, mother: *Toscana*), *Duna* 'Danube' *Prunella* (wb 2008), *Donau* (bu 1980), *Donau Express* (wb 1987), *Donau Prinzessin* (sh 2007, Father: *Donaukaiser*). There are some curiosities in the material: *Donau Sandels* (wb 1975), *Rania van Donau* (rh 2007).

The features connecting these names are culture and – from Finland's point of view – exotism. *Tonava* and *Duna* are associated with Hungary and Austria, *Toscana* with an Italian county. The German names, *Prinzessin* and *Donaukaiser*, are connected to the history of the German-speaking area. These areas and topics in Finland are known from tourism and the operettas, not from political history. The name *Rania van Donau* sounds like a Dutch personal name, even if the surname, *Donau*, would be quite unusual.

All of this tells us that, to the name giver, the distant, beautiful, cultural world is one of unity from which one can freely pick elements for the names. 'Express' is a frequent part of horse names, but it can easily be associated with journeys: trains (Orient Express) or buses (Expressbus).

Donau Sandels is a curiosity. Johan August Sandels was one of the heroes of Finland's War (1808–1809). The poem, 'Vänrikki Stoolin tarinat' by J. L. Runeberg, for instance, tells about Colonel Sandels' fight at the Koljonvirta River. Therefore, it is possible to connect the name Sandels with another large river, The Danube. For Finns, this name is humorous because Sandels is also a brand of beer.

Pusta: *Pusta* (fh 1967), *Pusta* (fh 1972), *Ruskealan Pusta Rosé* (rh 1984). It is common that a horse name includes the name of the owner or the breeder. *Ruskeala* is the name of a farm and a trade mark telling about the origin of the horse. *Pusta Rosé* has been borrowed from a low price Hungarian rosé wine. For several decades, it was very common in Finland.

b) Music

The world of operettas and gipsy music: *Primas* (fh 1983), *Primas* (rh 1990), *Lehar* (fh 2000), *Lehar* (rh 2007), *Zardas* (rh 1978), *Zardas Tune* (rh 2002), *Sardas* (fh 1973, Mother: *Sanna*), *Maritsa* (fh 1962), *Maritsa* (fh 1976), *Maritsa* (pony 1995), *Maritsa L* (fh 1985), *Mariza* (wb 1970), *Mariza* (pony 1984), *Mariza Delano* (Father: *Delano Hanover*), *Mariza Rubin* (wb 1992), *Miss Mariza* (wb 1992), *Pajari's Mariza* (wb 1990), *Rock Mariza* (wb 1982, Father: *Rocky*).

A modern classic: *Bela Bartok* (wb 1990). This list shows that operettas and gipsy music are close to the Finns. They are known, they are liked and they are associated with Hungary. Very often, the names are intentionally written 'wrongly' and this causes laughter. It maintains that the Finns can't pronounce foreign words correctly, or that it is snobby to give such names to Finnish horses.

The hussars: *Costa Husar* (wb 1991, Father: *Costa Lobell*. *Lobell* is a hereditary part of trotter names, like a surname), *Husar* (fh 1998), *Star Husar* (wb 1983).

The word 'hussar' refers to people; therefore, these names could be presented together with other names referring to human beings. This word, and this concept, are familiar to the Finns in the world of operettas: let us mention the Operetta *Victoria and her Hussar* by Paul Abraham. The term *hussar* refers to the Hungarian light cavalry; therefore, it is easily connected with horses.

As for the cultural concepts, the name-givers are very vague: none of the horses named *Hussar* are riding horses. These names were presented together with the names referring to music because the rich operetta-motivated amount of names gives us reason to think that the hussars are known in Finland as operetta heroes, not real soldiers.

c) Food and drink

H. P. Paprika (fh 2000), *Paprika* (fh 1978), *Paprika* (rh 1993), *Paprika* (wb 1974), *Paprika Nuoli* (*nuoli*: 'arrow') (fh 2002), *Kulassi* (< *gulyás* 'a famous Hungarian soup') (fh 1991), *Palinka* (< *pálinka* 'Hungarian spirits, like vodka') (wb 1992), *SG Unicum* (*Unicum* is the name of a Hungarian liqueur) (rh 1996).

Horse names referring to flora and fauna are common in Finland. Spices and ornamental or wild plants (almond, oregano, water lily, cloudberry) and

wild animals (deer, swan, lark, hawk) are most common. The names refer to something beautiful, free and delightful, not to the basic things of everyday life (Kalske 2005: 192–194).

Kulassi is an exception. Strong food does not sound like a horse name, especially because the phrase *pistetään makkaraksi* ‘is made into a sausage’ means the slaughter of a horse. The contradiction between the name and the referent is mild because the goulash is somehow exotic in Finland. Sometimes there is hard humour in the names.

d) Famous Hungarian people

Zsa Zsa Horn (rf 1988). In Europe, there are 19 registered riding horses or trotters by the name of *Zsa Zsa*. Some of them have another element in their name, like this Finnish horse with a ‘wrong’ surname. In the European registers, there are 46 horses by the name of *Zaza*. These names can, naturally, have some other sources than the famous Hungarian actress, *Zsa Zsa Gabor*. Horses by the name of *Gabor* have not been found in Finland, but elsewhere in Europe there are at least 15 warm-blooded horses with that name.

Soros (wb 1988, Father: *Cadillac*). This name has been borrowed from the famous Hungarian businessman George Soros. A connection in the semantic features of the foal’s and its father’s names can be seen. They both refer to luxury or riches.

Alder Rubik (wb 2008). The ‘surname’ of the horse has been borrowed either from the famous Hungarian Ernő Rubik or – more likely – from the Rubik’s cube. Features of children’s lives are a common source for horse names (*Heija* ‘cradle’, *Leikki* ‘play’, *Molla* ‘doll’, *Paija* ‘toy’, *Nalle* ‘Teddy bear’).

The cultures meet: *Ilo*, *Ilona* and *Cicciolina*. The name *Ilo* ‘joy’ belongs to the traditional home-breed horse name system. The Hungarian female first name, *Ilona*, is also common in Finland and it has often been borrowed to name horses: between 1960 and 2009, there were 53 horses registered with the name *Ilona*. *Cicciolina*, on the other hand, is the pet name of Hungary-born Ilona Staller. – *Cicciolina* (wb 1988), *Cicciolina* (rh 1994), *Cicciolina Hoss* (wb 1988), *Jetset Cicciolina* (wb 1989), *Lady Cicciolina* (wb 1992).

Hoss in the name *Cicciolina Hoss* is frequently used as part of horse name in Finland. One source of these associations can be the Wild West TV series, *Bonanza*, and one of its main figures, Eric ‘Hoss’ Cartwright (Kalske 2005: 351).

e) Hungarian first names

In addition to the female name, *Ilona*, there are several Hungarian male first names given to horses: *Bela* (wb 1969), *Miklos* (fh 1972), *Sandor* (rh 2005), *Sandor Kähö* (wb 2008; *Kähö* is a heritable horse's 'surname'), *Sandor fra Vannäs* (pony 1989).

Sandor fra Vannäs is an Icelandic horse, which can be seen in the name. According to the breeders' international agreement, the names of the Icelandic horses consist of three elements: the animal's real name, the preposition *fra* ('from') and the name of the home farm. Usually the 'own' part of the name is Icelandic; a Hungarian element is exceptional.

To an outsider, it is impossible to see why an animal has been given the name it has. In the background, there may be someone familiar to the name giver; it may be a name borrowed from literature; or it may be a name generally associated with Hungary. On the other hand, the Finnish mentality expects that the name of a familiar person is not given to an animal. It would be an insult.

Horses have been given international female names (*Rita*, *Angelina*, *Daniela*), but their origin cannot be defined. Many other reasons, except the nationality, influence the name giving. In Finnish stables, various names have been found; for instance, *Silvia*, *Sonja*, *Elisabeth* and *Jacqueline*, which can refer to the queens of Sweden, Norway and England, and to the wife of President John F. Kennedy.

5. Summary

At the beginning of the 20th century, riding horses did not get Hungary-connected names in Finland because the owners were orientated westwards. The Hungarian-type names became popular in the 1980s. This could be because a better standard of living encouraged tourism. One reason, connected to this, could be the new political situation in Middle Europe. Whatever the reasons, the turning points of Hungarian history did not influence the horse names. This is the same in general, because international politics is not seen in the horses' names. Finns are not toying with serious or dangerous matters. As a temporary nickname, *Perkele* 'Devil' and *Stalin* or *Hitler* could have been used.

And on the contrary? What do the Finns know about Hungary, based on horse names? We see the name of the country in several languages, and The Danube and The Pusta. The Finns know the concepts from their schoolbooks,

but from the tourist advertisement and the most popular destinations of the packet tours.

Of the names referring to music, Béla Bartók clearly refers to classic music which is unexpected. On the other hand, many famous artists (*Leonardo da Vinci*) or opera characters (*Leonardo*, *Leporello*) have sometimes loaned their names to horses (Kalske 2005).

Primas and *Zardas* or *Sardas*, refer to Hungarian gipsy music, which is well known by tourists (Olszanska – Olszanski 2002).

Lehar and *Mariza* or *Maritsa*, belong to the world of operettas. Lehar was a Hungarian composer, and the operetta, *Countess Mariza*, was composed by another Hungarian, Imre Kálmán.

Through tourism the Finns have come into contact with paprika, pálinka and Unicum. The last name is, in fact, a product name, which is an unexpected horse name. In the 1990s, the name rules were not as strict as now. On the other hand, from the Finnish point of view, Unicum can be compared to the appellative pálinka. It is a matter of exotism, not advertising.

What has tourism taught the Finns about Hungary? A tourist guide analyses the traveller's Hungary like this: 'The whip-waving shepherds of the Pusta, the violin playing black-eyed gypsies and traditionally dressed dancing girls'. This is the Hungary of tourists. The authors summarize this in three words: *csárdás*, *gulyás*, *paprikás* (*csárdás* 'a Hungarian dance', *gulyás* 'goulash', *paprika* 'a Hungarian spice') (Huotari – Väyrynen 1994: 36). This vision is verified by the horse-name system.

Who are the Hungarian people who have found their way so deep to the Finnish world that they have loaned their names to horses? In this group, we see, besides Béla Bartók the composer Lehar, the cube-creator Rubik, the billionaire Soros, and the entertainer and Italian parliament member Cicciolina or Ilona Staller. The political leaders are missing, as well as the scientists, which is not surprising. The world of horses is the world of free time, entertainment and money-making competition. Depressing or hard things are associated to it.

It is not sure whether the Finnish horse owners know about the Hungarian background of Cicciolina, Rubik and Soros. It is possible that they just like to give their horses the names of world famous people. These names are associated with luxury, excitement and fame. The quality of that fame does not necessarily please everybody (Cicciolina). As a comparison, in 2001 there Nordic skiing world cup was held in Finland. It was a catastrophe. Several Finnish skiers were caught doping. Soon after that, several Finnish foals were given names like Hemohes or Hepohes: the former is the name of

a doping substance, the latter a modification of it. This does not mean that Finns would have accepted doping. The name was given after the sensation at the time the foal was born. It was easy to deal with the difficult question by laughing at it. If *Hemohe* or *Cicciolina* is a smart horse whose work is to trot along in a circle, it cannot be very dangerous.

Literature

- Davidsson, Jan 1994: Sjömannspråk. In: Jóhannesson et al. 247–254.
- Dobning-Jülch, Edeltraud 1977: Pragmatik und Eigennahmen: Untersuchungen zur Theorie und Praxis der Kommunikation mit Eigennahmen, besonders von Zuchttieren. Niemeyer, Tübingen.
- Dobning-Jülch, Edeltraud 1996: Haustiernamen. In: Eichler, Ernst – Hilty, Gerald – Löffler, Heinrich – Steger, Hugo – Zgusta, Ladislav (red.), Namenforschung. Name Studies. Les noms propres. Ein internationalis Handbuch zur Onomastik. An International Handbook of onomastics. Manuel international d'onomastique. 2. Teilband. Berlin – New York. 1583–1589.
- Ehn, Wolter 1994: Herrgårdens konamn. In: Jóhannesson et al. 191–196.
- Huotari, Juhani – Väyrynen, Kaisa 1994: Unkari. Tonava kaunoinen. Tampere.
- Jóhannesson, Kristinn – Karlsson, Hugo – Ralph, Bo (red.) 1994: Övriga namn. Handlingar från NORNA:s nittonde symposium i Göteborg 4–6 December 1991. Uppsala.
- Kalske, Marja 1999: Lempäälä ajan virassa. Ihmisiä yhteisöissä, pitäjä maailmassa. Lempäälä.
- Kalske, Marja 2005: Suomessa syntyneiden hevosten nimistö. Väitöskirja. Turun yliopisto, Turku.
- Kiviniemi, Eero 1977: Väärät vedet. Tutkimus mallien osuudesta nimenmuodostuksessa. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, Helsinki.
- Kiviniemi, Eero 1990: Perustietoa paikannimistä. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, Helsinki.
- Kruken, Kristoffer 1994: Russland, Dagros og Fia – et översyn över moderne norske kunamn med ein skisse av utviklinga i indre Sørtrøndelag etter ca 1900. In: Jóhannesson et al. 1181–1189.
- Leibring, Katharina 2000: Sommargås och Stjärnberg. Studier i svenska nötkreatursnamn. Acta Academiae Regiae Gustavi Adolphi LXIX. Uppsala.
- Levi-Strauss, Claude 1966: The Savage Mind. In: Pitt-Rivers, Julian – Gellner, Ernst (eds), The Nature of human society series. Chicago.
- Nimisääntö 2003: The name rules of Suomen Hippos ry. Espoo.

Olszanska, Barbara – Olszanski, Tadeusz 2002: Kaupunkikirjat: Budapest. Helsinki. Valokuvaajat: Gábor Barka et al.; kuv.: Barbara Olszanska. Helsinki.

Partanen, Katriina 2000: Kultapoju ja Saunapalvi – hevosten lempinimet ja nimeämistavat. Pro gradu. Suomen kielen laitos, Helsingin yliopisto, Helsinki.

www.sukuposti.com

www.hippos.fi

*

Magyar lónevek finn asszociációi

Jelen tanulmány azt vizsgálja, hogy milyen magyar eredetű neveket adnak a finn lótulajdonosok állataiknak. A háziállat neve a tulajdonos magánügye, azt a nevet adja az állatnak, amelyiket akarja. A nemzeti nyilvántartások segítségével ismerhetjük meg a névanyag minőségét. A lónevek árulkodnak arról, hogy a finnek mit tudnak Magyarországról. Tanulmányom alapja a szombathelyi Nyugat-Magyarországi Egyetemen megrendezett finnugor konferencián 2011-ben elhangzott előadásom volt.

A finnek Magyarországról alkotott képe néhány földrajzi névből (*Duna* és *puszta*), a magyar zenei hagyományokból (*Lehár*, *csárdás*), az étel- és ital-kultúrából (*Unicum*, *gulyás*), valamint a nemzetközileg ismert magyar hírességek neveiből (*Cicciolina*, *Soros*, *Rubik*) áll. Politikai asszociációt nem találtam. A magyar nevekkel való kapcsolat az utóbbi évtizedekben vált népszerűbbé, az idegenforgalom növekedése miatt.

MARJA KALSKE

