

**SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE GROWTH OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT
AND LEISURE HORSE RIDING
IN WARMIA AND MAZURY**

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Abstract

After World War Two, the breeding of horses for reproduction in the Province of Olsztyn grew on what had remained from the East Prussian infrastructure. The first State Stallion Stud was opened (on the initiative of the State Horse Rearing Stations) in Ketrzyn as late as in 1947, and the delay was due to the extensive war damage and the slow process of building of the Polish administration. The catchment area served by that stud covered nearly half of the province. Four years later, in response to the progressing post-war reconstruction, intensive growth of state-owned farms and farmers' cooperatives, another stallion stud was created in Braniewo. The formation of both studs was greatly aided by the State Stallion Stud in Kwidzyn. Horses from the two studs in the Province of Olsztyn were used for work in farming, for transport as well as for recreation and sports horse riding. Some of the horses could also be seen in historical films. However, the technological progress in farming gradually depreciated the role of horses, which led to a decline in horse breeding. After a few decades, it caused the collapse of the State Stallion Studs in Warmia and Mazury.

**SPOŁECZNO-EKONOMICZNE UWARUNKOWANIA ROZWOJU SPORTU
JEŹDZIECKIEGO I JEŹDZIECTWA REKREACYJNEGO NA WARMII I MAZURACH**

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Słowa kluczowe: stacje ogierów, stada, hodowla, sport jeździecki, jeździectwo rekreacyjne.

Abstrakt

Hodowla koni zarodowych po drugiej wojnie światowej w województwie olsztyńskim osadzała się na pozostałościach infrastruktury pruskiej. Pierwszą państwową stacją ogierów, z uwagi na duże zniszczenia i proces organizacji polskiej administracji, uruchomiono w Kętrzynie z inicjatywy Państwowych Zakładów Chowu Koni dopiero w 1947 r. Obsługiwała ona niemal połowę ówczesnego województwa olsztyńskiego.

Z uwagi na postępujący proces odbudowy, intensywny rozwój państwowych gospodarstw rolnych i spółdzielni produkcyjnych cztery lata później utworzono identyczne przedsiębiorstwo w Braniewie. Wielce pomocna w procesie tworzenia obu zakładów była Państwowa Stacja Ogierów w Kwidzynie. Wierzchowce z olsztyńskich ośrodków hodowlanych oprócz pracy w rolnictwie i transporcie użytkowane były także w rekreacji konnej i sporcie jeździeckim. Twórcy kultury wykorzystywali je także w znanych powszechnie filmach o tematyce historycznej. Jednakże postęp techniczny w rolnictwie sukcesywnie pomniejszał rolę konia, powodując ograniczenia w dalszej hodowli. Proces ten na Warmii i Mazurach po kilkudziesięciu latach zakończył się upadkiem państwowych stad ogierów.

Introduction

On 14th March 1945, the Polish Council of Ministers passed an act approving the provisional division of so-called Regained Territories. What followed was the creation of four administrative districts: Opole Silesia, Lower Silesia, West Pomerania and East Prussia, later called the Masuria Administrative District (WOJNOWSKI 1970). Soon afterwards, on 30th March that year, the Government Envoy Jakub Prawin arrived in the heavily ruined and depopulated town of Olsztyn, thus marking the return of the Polish administration to this region, many years after the Partitions of the Polish Kingdom. The formation of administrative structures and councils created the base for the constitution of the Province of Olsztyn, which was proclaimed by the government of the People's Republic of Poland on 20th May 1945 (Journal of Law 1946, No 28, Item 177).

At that time, there were several horse breeding studs in central Poland. For the new Polish province set up in former East Prussia, the turning point was the year 1947, when the State Stallion Stud (PSO) in Kętrzyn was opened (JOSSÉ 1959). The roots of the Kętrzyn Stud can be traced back to East Prussia, formally dissolved in 1947 by Act no 47 of the Allied Council Control Germany (KLAFKOWSKI 1967).

Material and Methods

The principal aim of the article is to present horse breeding traditions, to discuss the circumstances in which State Stallion Studs were created in Warmia and Mazury after World War Two, and to identify the relations between horse breeding and both equestrian sport and leisure horse riding.

The general hypothesis is that these processes were merging with each other. Thus, the following questions were posed:

1. What criteria/conditions justified the decision to create State Stallion Studs in the region?

2. What influence did the breeding of horses for reproduction have on pleasure and sports horse riding?

In order to achieve the following tasks listed above, methods from social sciences (talks, interviews and surveys), historic sciences (indirect, direct and comparative methods) and pedagogy (monographic method, analysis of documents) were employed.

Development of the State Stallion Stud in Kętrzyn

After the stables and other facilities had been raised from the war damage, horse breeding in Kętrzyn was resumed in April 1947, when nine stallions were brought from the stud in Kwidzyn, which had reopened earlier. The animals were almost instantly transferred to four service stations. In the following year, the stud grew to 57 horses which stood in 23 service points. They had been purchased or transferred from other horse stations. Since the early 1950s, the State Stallion Stud (PSO) in Kętrzyn served nearly half of the administrative districts within the Province of Olsztyn. The Ministry of State Agricultural Farms (PGR) appointed the District Board of the State Agricultural Farms in Giżycko to act as a supervising body for this and two other horse breeding stations in the District of Kętrzyn (AAN, no. 436/351). In 1951, the area covered by the Kętrzyn PSO was enlarged by incorporating the Province of Białystok. Moreover, the State Stallion Stud in Kętrzyn was subordinated to another supervising body, such as the Central Board of Horse Breeding (CZHK), which had been distinguished in the administration structure of the State Farms. Out of the districts in the Province of Olsztyn which used to be served by the Kętrzyn PSO, Kętrzyn, Mragowo, Pisz, Giżycko and Węgorzewo remained in the station's catchment area, while the rest of the province was submitted to an analogous stud created in Braniewo.

The stud in Kętrzyn was composed of thoroughbred Trakehnen/Masuren horses as well as a large number of heavy studs, i.e. the Swedish Dole and the Polish Sokolski breed. The role of the reopened stallion stud in Kętrzyn cannot be neglected. In 1945, there were just 77 horses in all state studs in Poland, compared to as many as 1480 ones in 1938 (STANISZEWSKI 1958). Kętrzyn enjoyed long horse breeding tradition, dating back to former East Prussia, which helped immensely to re-establish the barn. The man who initiated the idea and became the first manager of the post-war stud was Stanisław

Zdanowicz, lieutenant of the 10th Cavalry Regiment in Grajewo (AMK, no D-1408). The staff was recruited among Poles who had been settling in Mazury but, like many other companies and institutions, the PSO in Kętrzyn struggled with the shortage of experts.

The Kętrzyn stud was expected to 'produce' a fast draft type of horse; later, the stud farm also provided a purebred (Masuren) horse for leisure and sports horse riding. Although horse riding had avid lovers among the first horse breeders in post-war Kętrzyn, who associated it with the interwar Republic of Poland, its development was hindered by many obstacles, both in the region of Warmia and Mazury and all over Poland. Horse riding was first taught inasmuch as it was needed for everyday work at the stud farm. Stanisław Zdanowicz, who organized and headed the Kętrzyn PSO, set a good example for the staff, with his manners of a cavalry officer and an outstanding personality. Under his management, it was possible to set up the People's Sports Club (LZS), which was one of the first sports organizations started in the Province of Olsztyn (WÓJCIK 2010). Soon afterwards, the PSO in Kętrzyn was appointed a new manager, but the horsemanship skills of the staff continued to flourish. The stallions Pregor and Wolbórz were particularly appreciated. However, it took too long before the management realized that leisure and sports horse riding could promote the outcome of the breeding efforts. Table 1 contains a list of horses used in the early development of equestrian sport and leisure horse riding.

Table 1
Horses used for equestrian sport and leisure horse riding in the early years of the PSO in Kętrzyn

Name	Foaled	Parents		Breeder
		sire	mare	
Baszybzuk	1948	Fiolek	Kohorta	PSK* Racot
Barkas	1948	Lehar	Wajdelotka	PSK Liski
Chryzostom	1949	Coriolan	Nawarka	PSK Pępowo
Czaprak	1949	Hunnenkonig	Dunkierka	PSK Pępowo
Drapichrust	1950	Pyrrhus	Drapich	PSK Liski
Paryż	1950	Pyrrhus	Paryżanka	PSK Liski
Wareg	1950	Jamajka	Wełtawa	PSK Liski
Hermest	1951	Marzhase	Himera	PSK Płękity
Pregor	1951	Polarstern	Peseta	PSK Liski
Wolbórz	1951	Marzhase	Wolborka	PSK Liski

* State Horse Station

Source: the authors, based on the Registers of stallions and brood mares in the State Horse Breeding Plants in Poland, published by the Ministry of Agriculture and comprising years 1946–1951 and 1955.

In 1949, following the state-imposed division of Poland into catchment areas, the region of Warmia and Mazury became a mixed catchment area. This is why the horses were mixed breeds, i.e. the Döle horses with the dominant Masuren and other related breeds. Consequently, sires from the Kętrzyn Stud which stood in the service stations, important for the regional horse breeding, belonged to different breeds and types. Soon afterwards, the post-war history of the Kętrzyn Stallion Stud recorded a significant event. On 14th October 1951, members of the LZS Sports Club at the Kętrzyn Stallion Stud Station participated in a friendly horse riding contest between horse breeding farms, organized by horse riders from the State Horse Stable in Liski and held in Bartoszyce (WÓJCIK 2012a). At that time, the State Stallion Stud in Kętrzyn held 141 horses of different breeds and types, including 56 Masuren and related breeds, 1 Thoroughbred and 22 half-bred Anglo-Arabian horses, 39 Döle and related breeds, 19 Belgian, Ardennes and Bretons, as well as 4 Polish Konik ponies (JOSSÉ 1959). In general, the number of stallions which stood in roster in the Kętrzyn farm and at the outside service stations complied with the statutory requirements (Polish Monitor no 93 of 16 August 1955, item 1198) and regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture on the division of catchment areas for the breeding of horses of particular breeds and types. The above regulation imposed the division into catchment areas for particular horse breeds and types, where the Province of Olsztyn was assigned a bidirectional status. In practice, this meant parallel breeding of hot-blooded (suitable for leisure horse riding) and warm-blooded horses. A somewhat worse solution, from the point of sports horse riding, was yet to come. In that time, the Kętrzyn Stallion Stud Station and its staff enjoyed good reputation, which reached far beyond the nearest surroundings. On 27th–28th September 1952, horse riders from Kętrzyn took part in the Polish Horse Riding Competition in Wrocław. In the following year, W. Nosarzewski, an animal husbandry specialist from Kętrzyn, became one of the first licensed horse riding instructors in the region. The knowledge and new qualifications obtained during a horsemanship course in Poznań enabled the most talented breeders and horse riders to qualify for the Polish Horse Riding Championships. Meanwhile, the Central Board of Horse Breeding (CZHK) transformed all horse farms into State Stud Stations. The successful growth of the Kętrzyn PSO attracted the attention of Polish film makers. The first was the film director Alexander Ford, who ‘employed’ horses from Kętrzyn for his highly successful historic drama *The Teutonic Knights*, made in the late 1950s.

In 1960, the aforementioned regulations were amended, increasing the share of the Polish territories where cold-blooded horses should be bred from 11 to 37.5%. In the bidirectional areas, like Warmia and Mazury, the percentage of the catchment where hot-blooded horses could be reared was decreased

from 38 to 4.3%. This had very negative consequences for the composition of the stud in Kętrzyn and retarded the advance of pleasure and sports horse riding. As a result, warm-blooded stallions grew in number and became much more often selected to join the roster at service stations. The number of saddle horses was distinctly smaller, which had an adverse impact on equestrian sport and leisure horse riding. A memorable moment in the history of the Kętrzyn Stud and the whole region occurred in 1964, when, for the first time – under the auspices of the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) – the International Official Horse Riding Championships were held in the capital city of Warmia and Mazury (WÓJCIK 2010). Soon afterwards, preparations started for a parade commemorating the millennium of the Polish State (in 1966), one in a series of propaganda events organized by the government and the communist party. The new management of the State Stallion Stud in Kętrzyn delegated the grooms, who had just returned with stallions from service stations, to travel to Warsaw and join in the parade rehearsals held in Okęcie. Several dozens of horse groom and breeders from Kętrzyn took part in the actual parade of the Polish cavalry in Warsaw. For many, it was a special honor to be there. The parade attracted attention to the horses from the Kętrzyn stud. For example, the film director Jerzy Hoffman invited horse breeders from Kętrzyn, with their best saddle horses, to take part in the making of his film based on the third part of the Trilogy by Henryk Sienkiewicz, titled *Pan Wołodyjowski*. For the horse breeders from Kętrzyn, it was another mark of honor to see horses from the Kętrzyn Stallion Stud in that extremely popular Polish film. It also contributed to the prestige they had already earned.

At that time, the whole region of Warmia and Mazury and its capital city Olsztyn were renowned for thriving equestrian sports, whose highlight was the annual International Official Horse Championships, held at the hippodrome in Olsztyn-Kortowo. A few years before the first competition, students had started summer camps called ‘Holiday in a saddle’, which enjoyed much popularity. Every summer, groups of twenty people joined in a horse-riding holiday at any time (WÓJCIK 2012b). However, the late 1960s witnessed a sudden downfall in the equestrian sport development. Equestrian competitions in Kętrzyn were held only sporadically, for example to celebrate state holidays. They were then organized by members of the People’s Sports Club (LZS) in Liski, which the Provincial Committee for Physical Culture considered to be the leading club in the region. The LZS in Liski was helped by the authorities of the District of Kętrzyn in the organization of horse-riding contests and shows. Many were international events, with participants from the Baltic republics of the Soviet Union and even from West Berlin (ASKL 1973). In 1981, the International Official International Jumping Show Competition was transferred from Olsztyn to Sopot. In the same year, a new director

of the PSO in Kętrzyn was appointed. The post was taken by Andrzej Różycki, an animal husbandry specialist, who had been involved in horse breeding for a long time. During his management, in the mid-1980s, an attempt was made to revive the sporting traditions, but it proved impossible to attain an equally high level as in the previous years. With Mr Różycki as the manager, the PSO in Kętrzyn survived through the turbulent years of the state transformation of Poland. But eventually, in 2003, the Stallion Stud in Kętrzyn was incorporated in the Stud Station in Łąck.

Setting up and development of the State Stallion Stud in Braniewo

The horse breeding traditions in Braniewo (the Trakehnen horse) also date back to the times of East Prussia (JASZCZUR-NOWICKI 1998, KAMZAŁOW 2002). Horses were bred in Braniewo until the outbreak of World War Two, but the stud of breeding horses in Braniewo had ceased to exist before the war was brought to end. The revival of economic life in and around Braniewo struggled with severe problems. Two reasons were responsible: the peripheral location of the town and a much larger extent of war damage than elsewhere. As a result, settlers arrived in deserted villages at a very slow rate, which matched an equally slow economic growth of this part of Warmia (ŁUSZCZEWSKA 1973). These circumstances largely explain why the first attempt to resume horse breeding in Braniewo was not made until January 1947. In that time, the PZChK (the State Horse Rearing Farms) assumed the possession of what had remained from the former German horse farm in Braniewo (PERZYNA 1966). In fact, quite many buildings and facilities of the pre-war farm had survived, but they were in bad repair, having been destroyed or damaged during and after the war. Compared to the stables in Kętrzyn, the horse farm in Braniewo had suffered much higher loss due to the war damage and post-war plunder. Nevertheless, some of the stables in Braniewo were used for several months by the PZChK to temporarily keep horses imported from Finland. At that time, it was impossible to reopen the horse farm because of the laborious and time-consuming process of reconstruction. For this reason, the PZChK accepted the suggestion put forth by the municipal authorities and leased the former horse farm buildings and amenities to the District Board of Communal Cooperatives, which managed the property for nearly four years. Meanwhile, the repairs continued and the facilities were gradually refurbished. At the same time, the new stud was being formed. This enabled the State Farms to regain the possession of the whole property. The act had been preceded by an evaluation performed by a specially appointed commission, which had visited the buildings and checked the entire infrastructure less than six months before the official opening of the stables. The commission had agreed that „the opening of

the State Stallion Stud Station (PSO) in Braniewo is necessary for the horse breeding run by the State Farms and by farmers' cooperatives" (APO, no 2471/489). The commission's approval meant that in early 1951, after a twelve-year interval caused by the war followed by post-war reconstruction, the horse breeding practice in Braniewo was resumed (PERZYNA 1966). Before that, the authorities had accepted the transfer of several stallions owned by the Kwidzyn Stud and kept at a service point located at the state farm in Elżbiecin to the PSO in Braniewo. The Braniewo Stallion Stud Station did not neglect the local community. In the summer of 1951, children of some of the employees were trained and sent to Warsaw to participate in the First Polish Youth Sports Contest. In October the same year, in collaboration with the District Physical Culture Committee, the Braniewo PSO held an official horse riding contest, the first of such events in the Province of Olsztyn (APO, no 444/22). For obvious reasons, the horsemanship was on a very low level, but this is how the Polish tradition of sports horse riding in Warmia and Mazury was born. The hippodrome at the Stallion Stud Station in Braniewo was turned into a venue for a number of horse shows as well as recreational and sports events in the years to come. In 1952 horse riders from Braniewo joined representatives of the Kętrzyn Station in the Polish Horse Riding Competition in Wrocław. But the greatest sports achievement for the Braniewo staff in the 1950s was becoming qualified for the first post-war Polish Horse Riding Championship, which took place in 1953, on the State Horse Racing Track in Sopot. At that time, the best horses kept in Braniewo were Baronet and Monopol.

Table 2
Horses used for equestrian sport and leisure horse riding in the early years of the PSO in Braniewo

Name	Foaled	Parents		Breeder
		sire	mare	
Narwik	1941	Łebwleb	Cudna	Potocki/Łańcut
Klejnot	1941	Hyazintu	Konigsdalme	PSK* Racot
Wrzos	1946	NN**	NN	NN
Baronet	1948	Celsius	Królewianka	PSK Liski
Balador	1948	Midas	Irma	PSK Pępowo
Monopol	1949	Dukat	Madzia	Józef Ruchlik
Grab	1950	Tamerlan	Grań	PSK Liski
Gratjano	1951	Polverturm	Gapa	PSK Płękity
Fach	1952	Lehar	Harosza	PSK Kropiewo
Cejlon	NN	NN	NN	NN

* State Horse Station

** Not known

Source: the authors, based on the Registers of stallions and brood mares in the State Horse Breeding Plants in Poland, published by the Ministry of Agriculture and comprising years 1946–1951 and 1955.

It should be underlined that the main task of the Braniewo PSO was to supply horse stables in Mazury with sires. Another goal was to affect, via service stations located across Warmia and Mazury, the horse breeding carried out in field by the State Farms, cooperatives and private farmers. Equestrian sport and leisure horse riding was therefore seen as a way to promote the breeding stud. Having little land to grow crops, the station bought fields from other farms. Oat was rationed and obtained from the State Cereal Crops Consortium, while straw and hay were purchased from the Communal Farmers' Cooperatives. Once the PSO in Braniewo had been organized and started, it quickly expanded its economic power and impact on the field horse breeding. In 1953, another wing of the second stable (destroyed during the war) was re-built, providing 23 more stalls. At the beginning of each year, so-called service sires supervised by grooms were located at service stations. The Braniewo PSO served a catchment area taken over from the PSO Kwidzyn and composed of the districts of Olsztyn, Ostróda, Morąg, Nidzica and Susz, as well as six districts which used to be served by the PSO in Kętrzyn, such as Bartoszyce, Lidzbark, Biskupiec, Szczytno, Działdowo and Nowe Miasto Lubawskie) (PERZYNA 1966). In total, 103 stallions joined in the roster, including 19 elite stallions kept in the farms in Liski, Rzecznica, Płękity and Kroplewo. The stallions included 54 purebred Masuren horses. In the early 1950s, the director of the Braniewo PSO delegated Mr Niedbalski, an animal husbandry specialist, to the first post-war course for horse-riding instructors. In the years to come, the new qualifications obtained by the staff contributed to the promotion of equestrian sport and leisure horse riding in the region. However, the inspections carried out by the CZHK officers showed severe shortages of the horse breeding staff (AAN, no 436/351). That did not prevent the Braniewo PSO from growing. The most severe problems during the early post-war years were an inadequate number of expert horse breeders and shortage of complete uniforms for the staff. Despite that, the Braniewo PSO had notable achievements in the region. The horse breeding practice was thriving. The station held 139 horses, composed of the following stallions: 74 Masurian breed and related, 4 Thoroughbred and 8 half-bred Anglo-Arabian, 27 Döle and related, 24 Fjords and 2 Konik Polski ponies (JOSSÉ 1959). The presence of hot- and cold-blooded stallions corresponded to the statutory requirements. Warmia and Mazury belonged to the regions with a bi-directional horse-breeding strategy, which met the expectations of farmers and agreed with the planned national economy growth. However, the steadily increasing number of warm-blooded stallions limited the development of equestrian sport and leisure horse riding. It was increasingly more difficult to provide visiting horse riders with a suitable number of saddle horses (WÓJCIK 2012b). Apart from reproduction, the cold-blooded stallions from Braniewo,

like the ones from Kętrzyn, were also used in film making and participated in the aforementioned millennium parade in 1969. These two aspects proved especially memorable in the history of Braniewo. In 1960, as mentioned before, the Ministry for Agriculture amended the regulation on horse breeding catchment areas. As a result, the districts of Działdowo, Nidzica and Nowe Miasto Lubawskie were assigned to the group of regions with the unidirectional breeding of the hot-blooded horse, while the districts of Braniewo, Pasłęk, Lidzbark and Biskupiec were superimposed a unidirectional breeding strategy for the warm-blooded horse. The remaining districts were to continue, for a transient period of five years, the bidirectional horse breeding (PERZYNA 1966). The PSO in Braniewo was obliged to adjust to the regulations and withdrew noble sires from the service points in these parts of its catchment area where they were no longer permitted. The diminished area served by hot-blooded horses caused a proportional decrease in their number in the stud. This in turn had dramatic consequences for the development of horsemanship. Despite these difficulties, the Braniewo PSO was an outstanding horse riding center in Poland, although the Polish Horse Riding Association expressed some disillusionment with the lack of sporting achievements. In 1969, a horse riding show was held on the Press Day in the football pitch in Orneta. It was one of the last in a series of such events. Because of his age, the former representative of the Polish national team, Mr Perzyna, participated only as an organizer and a judge. The State Stallion Stud in Braniewo was represented by just two riders. In later years, the Barniewo PSO staff only sporadically joined horse riding events. This aroused widespread dissatisfaction and the quarterly *Koń Polski* commented: „We have built several beautiful centres, while there are such horse breeding stations as the State Stallion Studs in Braniewo, Kętrzyn and Klikowa, or the Horse Farm in Walewice and many others were literally nothing is done to promote horse riding” (WÓJCIK 2010). Horse riding as a sport could not be revived in Braniewo, but stallions from this stud were often distinguished and given awards at auctions and shows in Poland. In the 1970s, the Braniewo PSO was a leader in horse breeding in Poland, winning the first place among Polish stallion studs five times. The Braniewo staff was honored for their achievements, being granted the permanent possession of the Challenge Cup founded by the Minister for Agriculture. However, the technological progress meant that horses were steadily replaced by machines and horse breeding was in less demand. The draft horse was less needed. From the economic point of view, it was becoming unjustifiable to maintain two studs in the province. The Braniewo stud and its staff were going through difficult times. To make things worse, the experienced manager of the Braniewo PSO and a great horse lover, E. Perzyna, became seriously ill. A new manager, Wojciech Ganowicz, was appointed in March 1992, but it was

impossible to revert the unfavourable situation. On the last day of May 1997, the PSO in Braniewo was dissolved. Despite having very rich traditions, well-furnished amenities and a shorter history than the twin PSO in Kętrzyn, it was the first one to be closed down.

Summary

The high level of horse breeding in East Prussia had a strong influence on the decision to resume the breeding process when World War Two was over. The setting up of two stallion studs was easier owing to the remaining German infrastructure and a few Trakehnen horses left in former East Prussia (e.g. Hunnenkönig, Königsdaume, Märzhase). When the State Stallion Studs had been created, each year sires from these studs were sent to service stations, which enabled the breeders to maintain the continuity of breeding lines. The growing horse breeding output supplied the Polish agriculture with working horses. It also produced horses for leisure horse riding (friendly competitions, 'holidays in a saddle') and then equestrian sport. The horses from Warmia and Mazury were also used by the film industry. Being able to choose good riding horses (e.g. Pregor, Wolbórz) was a condition to achieve a good level in horse riding. The progress in this area was also stimulated by the International Official Horse Riding Championships, known in the inter-war Poland and resumed in Olsztyn in 1964. For several years afterwards, the championships were held under the auspices of the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI). However, the further growth of pleasure horse riding and equestrian sports was hindered by the imposed division into catchment areas, which resulted in a diminished population of hot-blooded horses and a growing number of cold-blooded (heavy) horses, suitable for agriculture and transport. It was therefore difficult to develop horse riding for pleasure and almost impossible to maintain a high level of equestrian sports. In the later years, working horses from the studs in Warmia and Mazury were gradually replaced by machines, as a result of which both stud stations were closed down.

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