

Subject: *'Prince'*

Medium: Acrylic

Size Original: Approximate 'A4' 297 mm x 210 mm (11.69" x 8.27")

Working Time: Approximate 23 hours excluding research and design stages

Completed:

Comments: A fundamental criterion here is that this is not so much an image of a horse but rather a portrait and as such must reflect that for this once loved animal. The conundrum being how best to reflect this when the horse itself has died, thereby giving no opportunity to study him. The course of action was to marry old photographs supplied by the client (*Elaine*) with photographs taken at a local riding stable (*Rockingham House Farm Riding Centre*) to create the initial design in pencil.

The background wash would combine *Cobalt Blue* with *Titanium White* softening further towards the centre. The head itself comprised layered washes of a mixture of browns with *Burnt Sienna* prominent for warmth. As is usual for me, work started rather tentatively until I completing the eye, whereupon the spirit of the horse came through. From this datum point body and texture was built up using a stipple like technique employing a brush called a '*Rigger*' An area of concern was the fringe and main of the horse, as on the original donor photograph this was missing and it also was felt important not to hide the heart shaped pattern on the forehead: Because of this a short fringe was depicted on a base of *Burnt Umber / Payne's Grey* with *Naples Yellow / Titanium White* highlights.

Notes: Horse's name: *'Prince'*
Type / Breed: *'Skewbald'*, black / brown / white, crossed with a Welsh mountain cob
Height: 15 - 1" high

Biographical Summary:

Purchased in May 1972 as a three year old *Prince* loved long rides, joining '*The Pony club*' was less successful, however, although he did enjoy the *cross - country* events.

As he became older *Prince* excelled in the hunt, happily competing with the best horses, jumping fences for the fun of it.

Naturally fireworks frightened *Prince* so consequently *Bonfire night* would be spent in the stables with the radio played very loud.

Prince, although not a children's pony would stand immobile when a child came to stroke him

Prince died on the 10th May 1996, aged Twenty - Seven years.



Illustration
Stephen P Smith