

Federico Federici
subtitles for *Pseudocavallo* (2009)
a film by Alessandro and Valentino Ronchi

I

The name got isolated and from the lack of the typical “r” is not seemingly Latin.

According to the Ernout-Meillet it would derive from sumerian *ansu*. *Equus asinus* suggests some kind of beast in the *genus Equus*, like horse, zebra, quagga.

II

Compared to a horse it is short of stature.

It is strong headed, when running it shows a mechanical going like on stilts.

III

From Africa it was carried to Europe.

Homer mentions about it once in the eleventh chapter of Iliad.

IV

Rough food is enough for it, but it values the limpidness of water.

It never walks roadway, but the farthest edge of it.

It is regarded as little clever, stubborn, being often tainted-natured.

Low and shrill tones are in its voice, uttering long, unpleasant cries.

V

Its strong bite is that of a mastiff,
sudden act from seemingly no reason.

I can perfectly remember the missionary on his return from Africa,
having showed the marks on his hands for years.

It happened on a trip.

“and what about the donkey?” I asked.

“it is dead now,” he said.