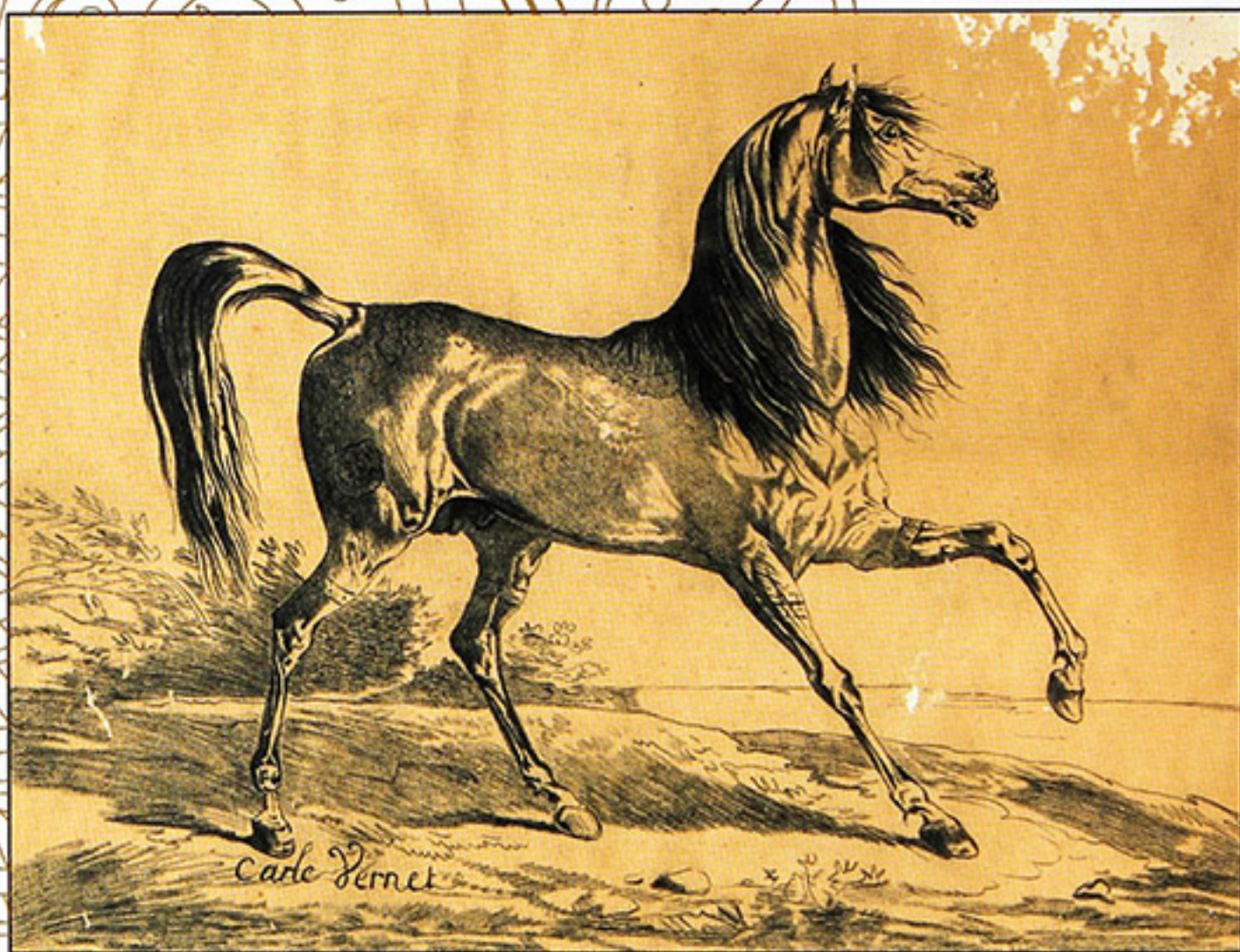


RETURN AND RENAISSANCE
OF THE ARABIAN HORSE TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



HANS JOACHIM NAGEL

GIGI GRASSO



RETURN AND RENAISSANCE
OF THE ARABIAN HORSE
TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

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PREFACE

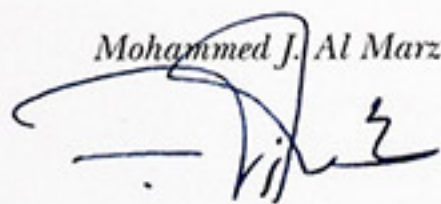
During one of my visits in Kuwait, I had a discussion with one of the breeders, Mr. Mohammed J. Al Marzouk who has a great interest in Arabian horses. During this discussion we arrived at the history of the presently living Arabians under the aspect how much time and generations have passed from their first recording until today and in which countries breeding has continued. Mr. Al Marzouk went a step further, considering the period when these horses left Arabia and which of their offspring returned to the Middle East and also considering the great efforts taken in collecting and breeding these Arabians on the Peninsula, especially in the Gulf countries during the last 10 years.

As the discussion went on, Mr. Al Marzouk suggested that such a subject deserves a book and it should be handled as a documentation. He would be ready to sponsor such a project. With this declaration a new book was born. Dr. Hans Nagel should write the text and Gigi Grasso should be asked for illustration.

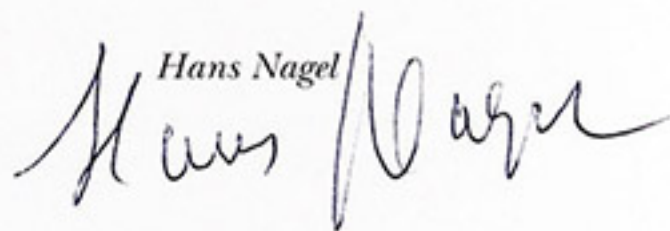
Already two years before, Mr. Al Marzouk sponsored an interesting book, until now written in Arabian language, the only existing comprehensive Arabian horse book in this language. So many breeders world-wide are missing literature originating from Arabia or dealing with its culture and horse breeding by expressing ideas and knowledge of such people whose ancestors once created this horse.

The Arabian horse receives its legitimacy as a breed only through its history and its world-wide reputation through its single features and abilities. Both aspects have their roots in the Orient. This book is meant to increase and to spread the knowledge about this horse as a delight for its reader and as an encouragement to continue to preserve this horse as a unique breed.

Mohammed J. Al Marzouk



Hans Nagel





Published by Gianluigi Grasso

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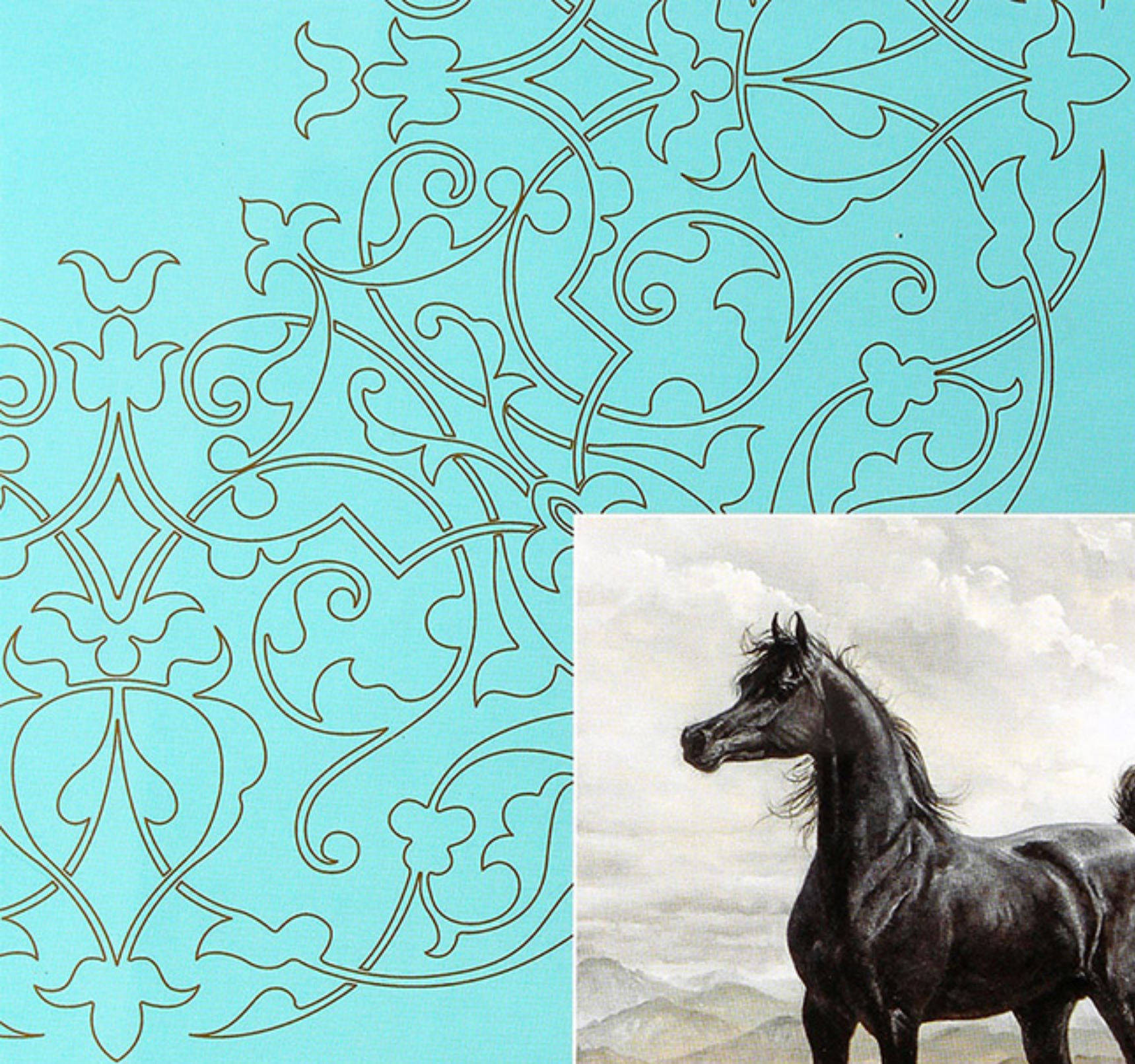
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Cover: Private Collection Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
"Light of the Moon" painting by Marry Haggard

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INTRODUCTION



At present, the Arabian horse is living as a world citizen. This breed is appreciated by many horsemen and horse lovers in all continents. At the end of the 19th century, it conquered or was included in nearly all breeding Studs of the world to an unprecedented extent. Every light horse nowadays carries the blood of Arabians, it became the improver and practically the founder of so many different horse breeds.

Horses are one of the very few domesticated animals which have the seldom, but highly appreciated ability to adapt to all types of climatic conditions. Few other creatures exist which share the same potential: Sheep, cattle and goats are amongst these other most notable ones.

This adaptability is one of the main features which made the worldwide expansion and migration of humans and livestock possible. *Migration*: a fascinating word, expressing adventures, departure, returning and discovery. It was and is still a part of way of life, closely connected to survival, for humans and for creatures of all kind. The phenomena of migration can be noticed on many occasions. Birds migrate, following the seasons of summer and winter from the far north to the south every year. Large herds of wild animals travelling through wide pastures of Africa following the seasonal pressure to find food and rich grassland for their survival. Humans themselves, have a lively history of migrations, from the very beginning of their existence. They expanded from the center of Africa all over the world, and the human history is full of examples where a whole population was travelling from east to west or north to south, like the Mongolians in the Middle Ages, the North Europeans to the Mediterranean in the 3th and 4th century or like the most prominent migration, the settlement of the two Americas by immigrants from the old continent. All these migrations happened in close conjunction with animals. And until lately, the nomads in the Arabian countries were the classical



Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Marry Haggard



Migration became an integral part of life for many creatures on earth. When the migration period approaches, they join together and soon the massive departures take place. Even men were forced to such great movements under the pressure of survival many times in history. They had to leave with all their families, goods and chattles in search for a better future.

example of a migrating population, accompanied by camels, sheep and horses.

The incentive to migrate is normally a forced one. People and also creatures leave their places because of adverse kinds of outside pressure like shortage of food, water and living space and overpopulation. Their return, however, has a completely different motive, based on free choice. It is the wish to go back to the homeland, to the country where they were born and to the place to which they are more adapted than to any other one. Therefore, all the birds flying back in the springtime to their original breeding grounds and similarly most humans who have settled in another country, in a new environment, still keep in contact with their homeland where they are born and where their ancestors were living at one time.

Horses as a domesticated animal have followed these travels since early times; they were the most prominent ones in supporting humans in their aim to migrate and were heavily involved as a means to move forward and to cover

large distances. All great conquerors in the past were riding on horseback to the farthest end of their wishes, followed by a strong cavalry, and so many tracks of fugitives or families were relying and depending on their horse-carriages to reach their final destination.

During the last two centuries, the great migrations of mankind have come to an end. However, in the Middle East migration of nomads still continues to be in existence and ended only lately during the first decades of the 20th century. Always and everywhere horses were their companions in good and bad times.

The change of living conditions in modern times has pushed the horse away from its prominent position as a servant to mankind, a war-horse, a



The migrating Bedouins crossing Arabia for thousands of years were the most prominent and some of the last remaining Nomads of mankind. Camels and horses were their indispensable companions.

horse to ride or to pull carriages. The invention of the engine and the motor-vehicle has moved them from their place in some respects, both entirely and completely. What is left from this great history are the many different horse breeds still living today. Each of them served, in former times, a special purpose. The well illustrated tableaux of the, "horse breeds of the world", show their extremely remarkable diversity. All these different breeds came more or less from the same origin, but each one of them enjoyed its own preferences and was gifted with at least one characteristic which made it superior for the service of mankind than another. All the above confirms the great adaptability of the horse breed which resulted in many varieties. This happened mainly under two aspects:

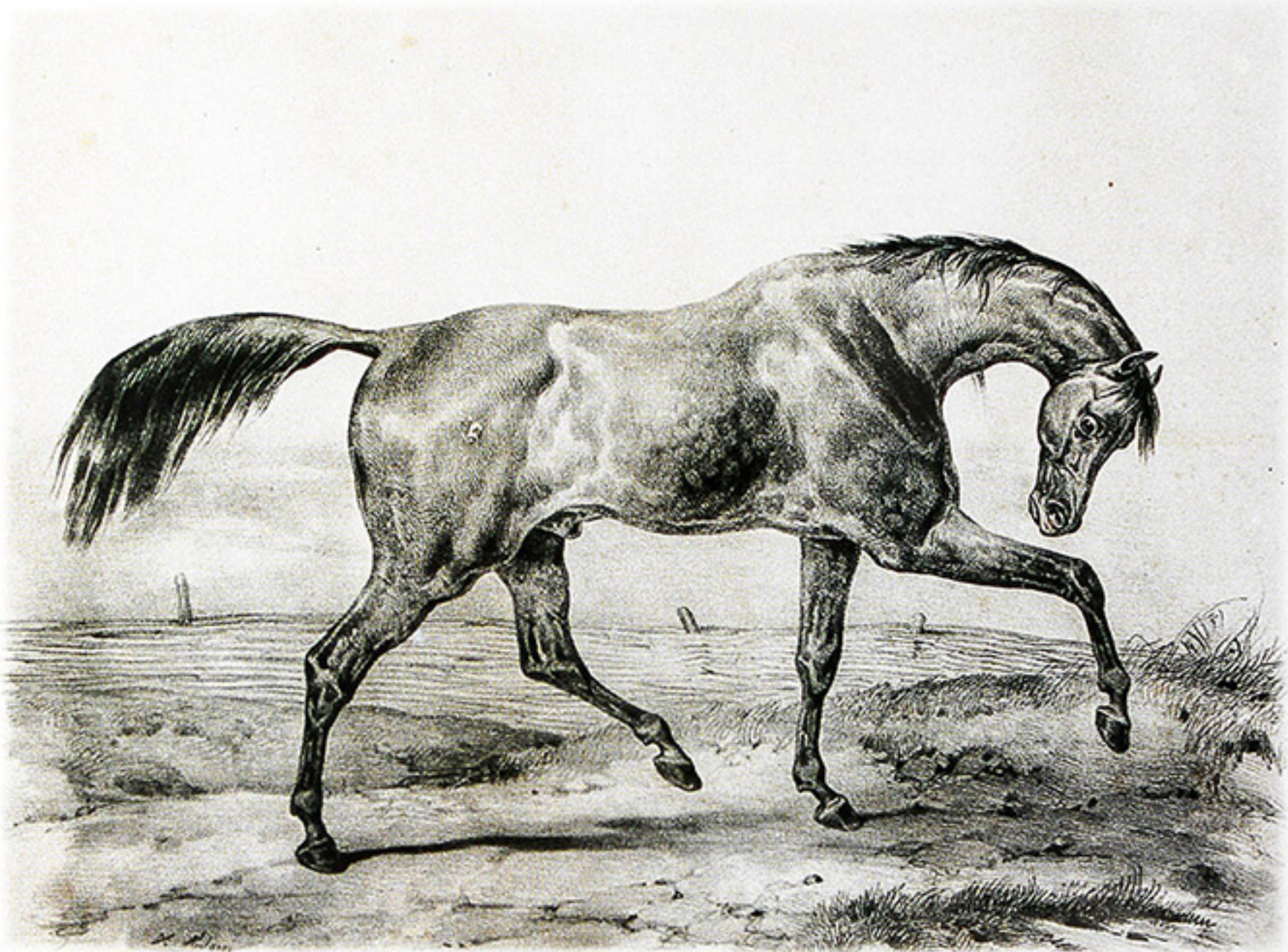
Firstly, horses are able to adapt comparatively quickly to new environmental conditions. People had nothing to do with it. Not all the time people knew how to breed horses into a certain direction. Instead, nature selected for them, and men were choosing from this offer of nature.

Secondly, breeders learned later how to breed horses of their choice. The knowledge of breeders and the influence of men replaced the formation power of nature; and the environmental factor became reduced to a minimum. Most horse breeds of today are still a product of both. At this time, it is up to the human being alone to decide what kind of characteristic will be their aim of breeding: either to preserve a great part of what nature was creating or to put their own stamp on these animals completely.

This is also true for the Arabian horse. It is found worldwide in the hands of so many different breeders and follows the same trend within the breed itself. It became historically under the same two influences; and what is found today is the result of both. In discussing this specific item, the importance and meaning of selection is eminent. In general, such activity is called breeding, but this term has two meanings: one is multiplication, which means increasing a certain number of animals into larger quantities without the intention to alter them; the second deals with choices, changes and improvements. All domesticated animals are handled both ways. But the aim to improve them by breeding through selection, made them with each generation more useful and more valuable. The ancient cow gave just enough milk to grow her own calf, now people are drinking most of its milk production and the most valuable cow is the



Private Archive Prof. Dr. K. Thieme. Majocchi 1840 - *All great conquerors in Oriental history fought their decisive battles on horseback. A swift and superior cavalry carried them to victory.*



Private Archive V. Adam - *The miraculous horse of the migrating Bedouins, raised and bred in liberty under a strong pressure of an unmerciful environment and in the hands of men, became the undisputed improver of light breeds. The fame of these exceptional "Originals" has remained unbroken until today.*

one which gives most milk. The same applies to sheep: the one with the finest wool, the most productive one in this respect, attracts the best buyers.

Horses servicing many different needs of mankind were selected and studied in the same way. In the course of this book it will become obvious that people recognised in the Arabian horse its ability to serve several different purposes. Consequently, people – or better breeders – tried to select them in their most preferred interest. Arabians became famous war horses, they discovered their ability of speed and stamina, again others use them for the

improvement of different breeds, and finally many people loved them for their beauty and tried to concentrate on these unique features. All these selection efforts are going on daily and constantly and are affecting in the long run the whole breed.

No wonder the word, "original", is of immense significance, not only in art work and inventions, but also in breeding and preserving animals which were created by the changes of nature or severely influenced by the selection of men. Arabian horses also carry this stamp of an, "original," in a very prominent way, as it is possibly the oldest historical horse breed dating back to a



"La Course" T. Gericault - 3 Oriental stallions are the great-grandfathers of nearly all the English Thoroughbred Horses living today. They founded this breed. Speed and stamina were their contribution.

period when human knowledge in breeding and selection was practically zero or very minor. Even under these circumstances, it emerged unique in many of its characteristics being considered and held in esteem as an improver for many other horse breeds.

At the end of World War I, Arabia had lost most of its horses. Great migrations from south to north, from the Peninsula to the northern territories of Syria and Iraq, constant wars, political power-games, struggles for influence and the great interest in good horses from buyers outside Arabia had diminished their number to a very low level.

The majority of the Arabian horses found new homes outside of Arabia. The number remaining in the Arabian countries became relatively small, compared to the large population of Arabian horses specifically kept in Europe and in America. Only lately have prominent Arabian horse lovers turned their eyes towards these elsewhere settled "emigrants" which once were totally integrated in their own cultural and social life. The return to their native country started to become a reality. The huge populations of Arabian horses in Europe and America became the source from which these new breeders of Arabia could take. What might be their choice? What would they decide to bring back to Arabia to be a part of their lives? At one time, it was the Europeans who came with great expeditions, army officers from Hungary and France as well as nobles from Russia and Poland to choose their type of horse in Arabia, each one with a certain intention for its later use and for serving a certain purpose in its new homeland. The great collector of Egypt, Abbas Pasha brought the "flowers" of the Arabian breed from Arabia to Cairo. Now the new Arabian breeders are facing the same situation, they have to choose from the large quantity of Arabian horses, bred everywhere in the world. Will their choice reflect old traditions, taking consideration of having shared the same environments for centuries? Or will they choose a product of the breeders in the West, with their perception of an Arabian and be attracted by their ways and interest in these horses?

The return has begun. Impressive Studs, namely on the Arabian Peninsula, have been built to welcome home the once lost native breed. Its departure from Arabia, its life in the occident and its way back to its country of origin will be a unique story.



Photo by E. Escher

Arabian horses conquered a solid place in the European and American horse world. Well organised international horse shows developed to be the most attractive and important events for public presentation.



THE HOMELAND



The question where is the original cradle of the Arabian horse and how old is this breed fosters many answers. If one talks to a Jordanian Arabian horse breeder, he will say that the Arabian horse originates from the Jordanian territories. With much more emphasis, a Syrian will claim his country is the one which bred the Arabian horse. The Iraqi will insist it is from the Mesopotamian valley, and finally in Saudi Arabia or the Arabian Peninsula everybody believes the so-called original "desert Arabian" originates from their region. If one discusses its age, one is confronted with the same complexity. Beautiful equine reliefs are engraved in the walls of the palaces in Luxor/Egypt, dating back 3000 years. Historians speak of Arabian horses which were kept in thousands in the fabulous stables of the Queen of Saba in Yemen. It is even said that the first Arabian horse was ridden by Ismail, the son of Abraham. Historically proven is the fact that the Prophet appreciated the Arabian horse and encouraged men to care for these animals. His high esteem for the horses and the encouragement to breed them might have led to the fact that the Arabian cavalry advanced to a decisive and victorious force, appearing in Spain and finally reaching the Austrian border. In the course of these conquering wars their horses were dispersed all over these areas which were ruled by Islamic law and culture for hundreds of years. The glory of these horses is still mentioned today. The romance and the admiration handed down in tales and narrations from generation to generation reach far back to the dawn of history and remains an important aspect of these horses. However, the history of all Arabians living today has only been verified since the beginning of the 19th century. The oldest records are in existence since that time.

The present day, the Arabian is the native horse of the Bedouin tribes, of a nomadic population, roaming through the Arabian Peninsula and its border-countries in the north for several thousands of years. The phenomena of con-



Private Archive EAO - Egypt
Victor Adam.



stant migration in search of new grazing ground within Arabia and later on some great exodus in history from south to north, due to diminished rainfall over several years forcing many tribes to travel to the fertile regions in the north; these migrations were stirring up the various types of horses, each raised in their original regions and practically affected the whole breed. In the 18th and 19th centuries, specifically such a great exodus took place, and many South Arabian tribes were settling in the northern part of Syria and Iraq. Naturally, with the migrating population, horses moved as well, not only as a riding animal - but mostly for hunting and for matters of war. All these movements of men and horses have blurred the clear picture of origin. As an example, most of the well-known and appreciated specimens of the so-called Hadban-strain were found in the last century in the hands of the Syrian Bedouins. However, the Syrian region was not their original homeland, Syria was much more known for the Hamdani horses or for certain strains of Obayan, Koheilan or Siglawy. The Dahman Shawan and some well-known Siglawy strains are said to be located more in the south and in the center of the Peninsula and later mostly in Bahrain, since its previous rulers were great collectors of this strain. To find a Dahman Shawan horse in Syria was very rare. The Hadban-strain belonged to the Shammar tribes dwelling until several hundred years ago in the Hijaz region around the Holy Cities. About 250 years ago, in order to escape submission to other tribes, they moved in a northerly direction and finally settled close to Mosul and even near Baghdad. Another important section found its new home in Algesiras in the north of Syria around the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. They brought with them the fine Hadban-strain horses to Syria which had not existed there before. One is allowed to speculate that the attractive types of Hadban horses found in Egyptian breeding today and which entered their programme through a Syrian Hadban mare, which is said to be bred by the Shammar tribe, may in fact trace back to the south-west of the Peninsula and to the specific Hadban horses which were once raised in these regions.

All Arabian horse breeders wherever they lived felt committed to a commonly known tradition and to the message they received from the Prophet since the birth of Islam. This message asked for caring and breeding these horses and sharing the high esteem it enjoyed by the Prophet. It is mentioned

The Bedouin horse of the Peninsula was in early Islam a part of social and cultural life. In the Holy Koran one reads as an acclamation "by the steeds that run with snorting and strike parts of fire". Appreciated features of these horses obtained high consideration: Their habit of noisy snorting through their wide open nostrils and the exciting thundering of their hoof beats on the ground.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

in the Koran and also found in the following scripts. The Prophet encouraged horse breeding in saying:

"From steeds shall come only goodness and wealth until day of judgement."

The extent to which horses, as a creature, were a part of cultural life may be taken from the following:

"Steeds are of three kinds; one for the sake of Allah, another for the sake of man and one for the sake of the devil. The first kind is the one used in the struggle for the cause of Allah. Thus, Allah shall indeed reward its owner for feeding it and shall reward him or her for every drop of stool and urine of the horse. The second type is the one used for breeding to earn a living. This type shall prevent its owner from poverty. The third is the one used in bets and gambling."

Without good horses the expansion of Islam was impossible. Only a strong

ANSATA HEJAZI

(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata Sudarra)

Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait

and fast cavalry could overcome the great distances between human settlements and reach all the countries from the Oriental East until the Maghreb in the west. Horses were essential and their breeding and appreciation needed to be encouraged. In Al Imran Sura, Almighty Allah says:

“Fair in the eyes of men is the love of things to covet; women and sons; heaped up hoards of gold and silver: horses branded (for blood and excellence)”

And the role of horse follows from the following wordings (in the Al Anfal Sura):

<p>Mare Grey 1988</p> <p>RAWABI</p> <p>Strain: Keheileh Nawakieh</p>	<p>Dahman A0056</p>	<p>Obayan Seheili Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Hamdani Semri M. Dosho. Jboor</p>	<p>Saglawi Jedrani. Tai Hamdnaieh Semrieh. Jboor</p>	
			<p>Obayah Seheilieh Al Sahlan. Shammar</p>	<p>Al Malkhoukh Obayah Seheilieh. Shammar</p>	
		<p>Dahmaa A0056</p>	<p>Hamdani Ibn Ghorab Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Obayan Seheili. Moslat. Jboor Hamdanieh Ibn Ghorab. Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Dahman Amer. Dari Mahmoud. Shammar Dahmaa Amer. Moslat. Jboor</p>
				<p>Dahmaa Amer Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Obayah Seheilieh Shammar</p>
		<p>Mateerah A0481</p>	<p>Obayan Seheili Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Hamdani Semri Mohamad Dosho. Jboor</p>	<p>Saglawi Jedrani. Tai Hamdanieh Semrieh. Jboor</p>
				<p>Obayah Seheili Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Hamdani Semri. M. Dosho. Jboor Obayah Seheilieh. Shammar</p>
	<p>Keheileh Nawakieh Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>		<p>Keheileh Nawakieh Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Dahman Amer. A. Moslat. Jboor Keheileh Nawakieh. Jboor</p>	
			<p>Keheileh Nawakieh Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	<p>Keheileh Nawakieh Abd Al Azeez Moslat. Jboor</p>	

A typical pedigree in the Official Syrian Studbook as tradition requires. Arabs believe in purity of blood, in family history far back to their earliest ancestors. The mare is only their guarantee. Her family line must be unbroken as long as breeders can remember. Thus the Siglawy mare originates always from a Siglawy mother and each female born by a Siglawy mare will again be a Siglawy horse. The female line determines the strain of the horse and the horse itself, as shown in the above pedigree. Stallions were chosen only from certain strains but their offspring related later only to the motherline. Their fathers' history disappeared.

“Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies, of Allah and your enemies.”

Rich worded poems carefully preserved are recited on many occasions when horses are presented even today. Horse breeding became an obligation for many, and all these incentives from the religious and cultural side centered in a commonly high valued appeal to the extent that it was named the “Horse of the Prophet” and considered to be the “Horse of the Kings”. Returning to the quest and as a conclusion: nothing can be found in all these traditions which really seems to reflect the reality or gives the final answer of origin; only certain conclusions based on various other sources may indicate a direction.

Since no solid records exist, oral transmissions from generation to generation are the only way to remember. The way how the Arabs remember the genealogy of their horses according to so-called strains was simple as well as practical. It was enough as a guarantee for breeding. The motherline was all they cared for. That the male part was correct, was justified by self-protection against any unknown foreign blood or even just by honesty. Still today this system is used and the names of strains, like Siglawy, Hadban, Hamdani or many others are still heard in any discussion about Arabian horses in the Middle East. However, not one of these strains is confined to a certain territory any more, and horses belonging to the same strain differ enormously from each other. However, even when written proofs and witnesses amongst the breeders did not exist and only tales are known, it might be possible to compose a certain scenario based on collected data and reported by early travellers from abroad who crossed these areas. This information altogether might give a possible idea of an earlier time with a greater chance of probability.

Already since the 18th century, travellers from all over Europe were attracted by the Orient more than ever before. It was not too difficult to reach Beirut, Amman, Damascus or Baghdad, but to penetrate further into the south was very dangerous and risky for anyone who did not belong to this society. Strong connections to local authorities were needed to visit these mostly unexplored areas. Some French and Italian travellers were courageous enough to reach the town of Riyadh, Polish/Ukrainian nobles arrived to the same area and even the English Lady Anne Blunt visited the settlement of Hail



in the north of Saudi Arabia. Most of these travellers reported ardently about Bedouins and their horses in the desert, and also about the richness of the Studs with their beautiful exotic Arabians belonging to local Emirs. Anyone who reads their reports with the intention to find out and learn about the original formation of the Arabian breed, could possibly find, among all those written stories, descriptions and adventures, certain indications which might help to discover a piece of reality.

Such studies lead to the conclusion that there were different types of horses due to different geographical regions and their environment. Environment defined as climate, soil condition, flora and fauna was the major force of influence. It dominated the life of humans, influenced their behaviour and culture. The same applies to the horses. Consequently, there seemed to exist a smaller, more refined horse, originating and living mostly in the southern part of Arabia, in the region of Riyadh, the so-called province of Nejd. It was able to survive the adverse excessive summer heat and the cold winter nights; it had adapted to the rough, dry climate in that area and belonged to the Bedouins



Noisy horse markets on the outskirts of several major cities, like Aleppo or Damascus, offered the Bedouins the opportunity to sell their horses, mostly to traders. Many of them went as exports to India and Turkey.

whose life was governed by privation. Most probably their numbers were limited and only richer tribes were in a position to keep and breed such horses. This smaller population lived quite isolated, since all migrations moved in one direction from south to north because the south end was surrounded by sea. The Arabian Peninsula was like a womb which always pushed its production up to the north. Any unadapted animal, entering from outside, from better conditioned areas, had practically no chance of survival under such harsh conditions. This horse was of a finer bone than others and was possibly more an ascetic than an athletic type. The lack of sufficient feed and the excessive heat pushed it close to the edge of extinction. However, they were known to be the most exquisite in type and beauty originating from the Nejd.

The limited number and its isolation resulted in higher incidences of inbreeding. Due to these factors, a type of horse emerged which had strong hereditary assets and was in the best position to be the earliest and perfect improver for all Arabians in the area. Thus, the common source of all Arabian breeds.

By contrast, it was not so difficult to move and to settle in the northern



Arabian countries, like Syria, Jordan and Iraq. The environment was friendlier, the soil was richer and more rainfall allowed successful agriculture. The horses bred by the Bedouin tribes migrating in that area were stronger, more powerful and taller. In addition new horses always arrived because migration from the south to the north had never ceased. The trading of horses and other goods between the Bedouin tribes was part of daily life.

Since the richer population lived in the upper part of Arabia, they continuously bought some of the best Arabians, including the "fabulous" ones com-



Drawing by Carle Vernet - *The legendary Arabians of the Nejd were extremely rare and seldom for sale. Only the noble class of the Oriental society was able to obtain and possess them.*

ing from the Nejd, as documented in some older publications or verbally transmitted in stories and memories which the older generation used to tell.

The reputation of the Nejd horses was well known in Egypt and specifically among their Royal families. They cared for a horse of such fine type. Their interest was not focused on speed, stamina, endurance or horse breeds for the cavalry. Their aim centered around splendour and beauty, delight and entertainment and they attempted to collect the most beautiful ones of these Arabians to keep them in their palaces and gardens. They were in fact the



"Rodania mare" Peter Upton - Horse breeding in the north enjoyed good prosperity. Their stronger Arabians came in high demand, particularly by foreign buyers. The famous Rodania mare of the Blunts originates from this region. Also the French and Hungarians purchased their Arabians in the north.



Photo by H. Nagel

The green land of Algesiras between Euphrat and Tigris in the north of Syria offered abundant grazing grounds for all kinds of livestock.

most ardent collectors of the Arabians from the south and continued to breed and preserve them as a "dry desert type horse".

Whilst on the Peninsula the number of good horses started to decrease, northern Arabia became a haven for Arabian breeding. Exports to Europe and a great demand from India brought good income to these horse breeders and the Ottoman Empire needed horses at all times to maintain a strong army to fortify its power. India needed racehorses, Europe riding horses, and horses for the army were in good demand by all. The stronger and more powerful horses in Syria and Iraq served these purposes perfectly. Wherever one looks today, the finer horses of the south were not to be seen in these activities. Regrettably, even the Arabians coming from Syria and Iraq in the past were later on replaced by a newly strong upcoming breed, the English Thoroughbred, a breed based on European mares and bred for speed, lightness and elegance by Oriental stallions.

All types – from the north to the south - were considered to be purebred Arabians. Travellers and reports confirmed a great variety within this breed, and only occasionally one is able to find statements about the especially smaller, dry and exotic horses, originating from the south or even better from "the Nejd" and about the taller, stronger and better ones for racing and stamina in the north. Perhaps a few hundred years before, this division between south and north was more evident. To trace descendants of these Arabians today is virtually impossible. The following points may be taken into consideration when trying to trace these elusive individuals.

- A) To locate the offspring of these early Arabians either from the north or the south.
- B) To evaluate these early imports according to their structure and appearance, and also for which purpose they were bought at that time; to study carefully which of these animals had a strong influence on the Arabian horse breed over a long period of time; to find out if their offspring still shows similar or typical characteristics, which are in balance with their historical origin.
- C) It is now known which factors are influential on the structure and appearance of a horse.

Growth and thickness of bone can be stimulated by feeding.

Good feed increases bodysize, specifically at a young age.

Skeleton formation can be strongly influenced by human intervention, but it could be also a consequence of abnormal living conditions, like starvation or forced adaptations.

Features such as tail carriage, movement or temperament are a consequence of selection and choice.

Bone structure formations are influenced by management.

Bone density is a consequence of repercussion. Only hard soil fosters dense and strong bones. Sandy or soft soil rather produces the contrary. Horses grown in sandy desert regions have possibly bones of a lower density, and structural defects of the bones might develop as a consequence.

These three points together, as an evaluation and orientation, allow to locate a certain horse type by considering these general conditions.

The Arabian horse, which was bred by a nomadic population, was strongly influenced by environmental conditions. Their owners could only choose from such horses which were born healthy and effectively survived under the severe living conditions. They had no means to influence their lives or what could happen to them. In the case of accidents or diseases, the chance of survival in the south of Arabia was much harder than in the north.

The Bedouins of the south also had their chance to improve their stock to a certain degree by choosing the right males for breeding - but such choices were limited. Long distances between breeders reduced their options and prevented them from visiting selective stallions, and the number of stallions in one region was few. A mare was considered to be productive by giving a foal, which was an appreciated source of income when sold; mares were easier to keep, they were quieter and, therefore, more useful during night raids than a noisy stallion; a stallion was costly, difficult to keep and mostly in the hands of richer people. Natural selection played, at that time, undoubtedly a major role. However, in the northern regions conditions were different. Travellers reported about *herds* of horses – not groups or even single animals. They came in hundreds to these so-called “selling areas”, before the dry, hot season began. The quantity of horses from which to choose was larger, distances were shorter, travelling less dangerous, and to keep several stallions was not



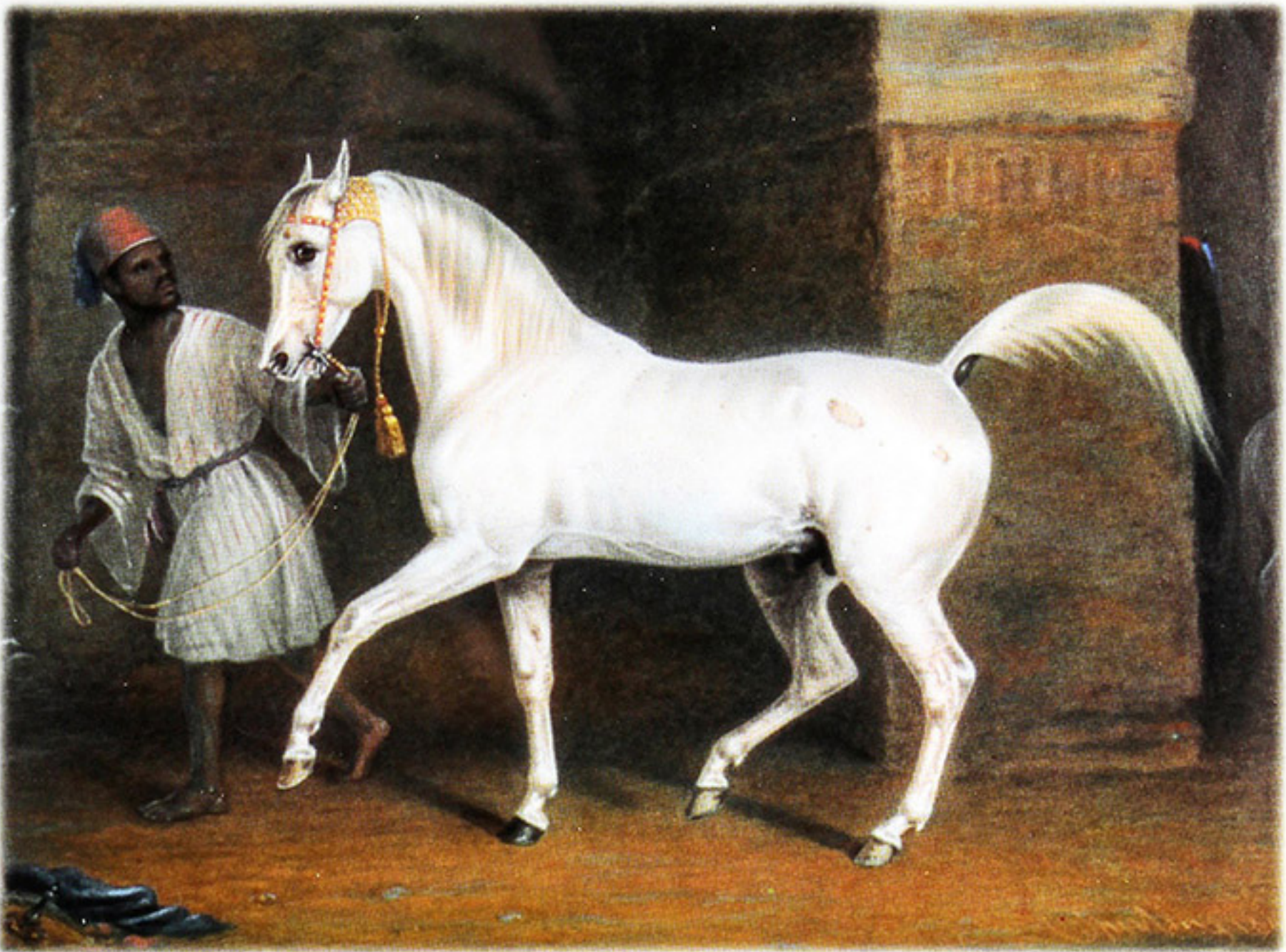
a great expense, for feed was relatively cheap. Breeders had much more liberty to act. All these circumstances must have led to different types of horses, to a wider breeding range and a difference in their qualities of heredity.

The racing and endurance population of the Arabian horse of today has a strong history in the Arabian horse breeding of Syria where most of the Europeans went to buy. In many of their pedigrees one finds the famous Crabbet Park horses, chosen in the northern part of Arabia. Here also the French and Algerian officers bought their preferred stronger animals which were apparently well-coloured, since grey ones were not liked.

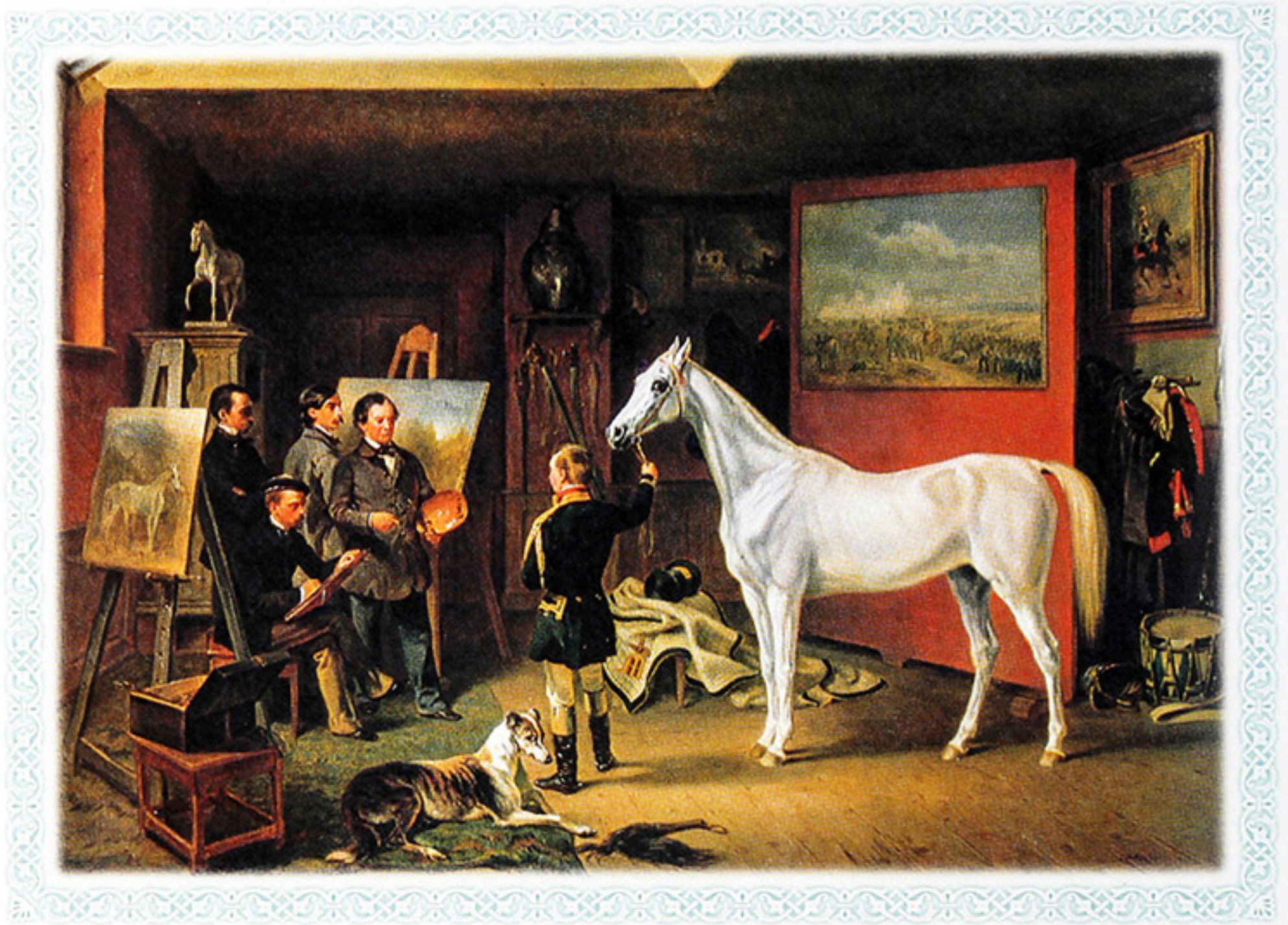
It should be remembered that the horses commonly bred in Europe in the 18th and 19th century were relatively heavy, short-legged types, but still tall with strong and thick bones showing a heavy longer shaped head. Horses brought from Arabia and even the more massive ones were shining in elegance compared to such heavy breeds. The majority of the purchasing expeditions crossing through Palestine and Syria until Baghdad searched therefore for horses of a larger size with longer legs, not too thin in bone, with a wide chest allowing good straight legs and horses with longer legs and smaller short heads appeared also to these officers and armymen as elegant and as a delight. All what was needed to be improved in the old existing European breeds, the Arabian horse of the north was a preferred horse to provide such features. Their offspring surprised even sometimes with a higher body size than both parents due to the known "Hybrid" effect. Horsemen named them therefore as "luxuring bastards". Already before such great imports, many members of the higher class living in East Europe with common borders to the Ottoman Empire used to promenade proudly with such Arabian crossbred horses under saddle or driven in coaches in front of public life. An Arabian too refined, smaller in size and structure did not fit in this context of breeding prospects. They had other admirers.

There is another exciting and fascinating aspect of the Arabian horse which was brought to light by many travellers and most of the Arabian writers: it is the incomparable beauty and the lovely behaviour of an Arabian. No other horse breed worldwide enjoys such delightful reputation. This reputation is as old and as strong as the breed itself. This rare amazing beauty, represented by a docile and truthful creature caught the eye of many horse lovers

in a passionate way. Arabian nobles, such as the rulers of Riyadh, Bahrain and Hail were in search of these brilliant animals. These horses attracted great admiration, and several travellers reported on the great Studs in Arabia, describing the unique type of the horses and the expressing interest their owners had in the specific strains, this is where such beauties could be found. One of the most renowned Studs until today, was the collection of Abbas Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt. The ancient stables in the south of Arabia, where the Queen of Saba kept a wealth of the most famous Arabians at that time was equally known. The beauty of the Arabian horses, paired with its tenderness



Painting by Sperling - *There was no other horse on earth which could compete with an Arabian horse in beauty and elegance. It perfectly suited the luxurious lifestyle of the Oriental aristocracy.*



Painting by Victor Adam - *Many Arabian horses were presented for painting as soon as they arrived to Europe. Great personalities in history liked to be pictured on horseback and many of them were ardent horse lovers. To decorate their homes with portrays of their mounts was common habit.*

and affection, is deeply rooted in the minds of many people, and has created a category of evaluation of its own. Without doubt, the number of such delightful and handsome horses was limited and apparently only the wealthy upper class in Arabia, Egypt and Europe were able to obtain them. All reports of their existence and origin locate them back to the Nejd, in the south of Arabia. Prominent painters were commissioned to portray them on their arrival to Europe, and a glance into the publications of Adam, Vernet, Kossak and many others leave a lasting impression of these noble horses. It must not be omitted that there were also many beautiful poems and reports circulating in the

Arabian world glorifying this near to divine creature.

Since the downfall of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century, this style of life, full of romance and adventure, has ceased to be, the cultural and political situation for the nomadic population had changed rapidly. Migrations became difficult due to newly established borders; the settlements of the Bedouins became a political issue, as it was much easier to control a settled population than an unsettled one. Consequently, the often erupted local wars (Ghazu) between the different tribes or smaller raids between the Bedouin families finally decreased, and the demands for horses in general dropped. These facts deprived the Bedouins of their income and horse breeding became more or less unnecessary or even impossible. The proud breeders and true owners of the Arabian horse had lost their role.

In her very old age, Lady Ann Blunt was very worried about this situation and deplored the very dark future for these Arabian horses in saying:

"It will be soon too late to save the Arabian from extinction. Let us therefore hear the voice of the Nejd before time and civilisation have beaten us and silenced it forever."

This Lady was possibly the most sensitive woman in this field and the only one who travelled deep into the Peninsula at that dangerous time. She therefore could be considered to be the most prominent, knowledgeable and truthful witness of the existence of these exceptional horses, but also of the imminent danger to lose them in that region of origin.

As a conclusion, all the Arabian countries can be seen as a large breeding area for the Arabian horse. The migrating Bedouin tribes had the strongest and most influential position as breeders. They kept, bred and selected them. In addition, the specific environmental conditions weighed heavy on them and fostered different types of horses in the various areas. Finally, these horses came into the focus of the European and American horse breeders. They searched and bought according to their needs and tastes, mostly from the north of Arabia. Some of the best Arabian horses of all types left the Orient and found a new home in the West, where the science of animal selection, modern management in breeding and health control were applied to the breeding improvement of Arabian horses. For these horses, the time of natural selection was over. It belongs to the past.





THE EXODUS AND THE REMAINS



In the past one hundred years, the Arabian horse has lost its prominent position in Arabian culture. Three factors are responsible for this regrettable development:

Firstly, during the 19th century, most of the best horses selected by experienced foreign horsemen from a great range of types, were bought and exported outside of Arabia, mostly to Western countries. Expeditions from France, Italy, Germany, Hungary and Poland were purchasing valuable horses, mostly from the northern countries of Arabia, like Syria and Iraq, to incorporate them into their breeding Studs in West- and East Europe. They were looking for horses with correct conformation, showing strength and power, elegance and refinement, endurance and stamina, ideal characteristics for crossing them with their local breeds at home. In fact, to create a lighter horse for driving, riding and cavalry use at that time was high on the agenda. Some of the most prominent buyers of this type were the State Stud of Hungary and a few Polish magnates; the French government also imported similar horses for their horse breeding centers. The famous Blunt family, Lady Ann und Wilfred, focused more on the racing side of the Arabians. The three Oriental stallions, which are the ancestors of nearly 98 % of all Thoroughbred horses today, encouraged them to search for similar or even better horses with the same ability. However, Lady Blunt finally took another road. She lost her heart to the beauty of the Arabian horse, and this was not a surprise at all, because so many breeders before and after her fell into the same trap of temptation. Later on, she settled in Egypt and lived amongst her horses in her El-Obeid Stud near Cairo until the end of her life.

The second reason was in fact a catastrophe for all Arabians of the Peninsula, it was the consequence of the Wahabit War in the middle of the 19th century within the borders of the present Saudi Arabia. It was the Egyptian King Ali the Great who conquered in this war a great part of the Peninsula. He



Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Marry Haggard

Arabian horses became extremely rare on the Arabian Peninsula. They even risked to disappear completely. The majority of the best specimen were bought by collectors and sent abroad.



Photo by H. Nagel

Traditional horse breeding still continues in Syria and Iraq until today.

collected thousands of horses and sent them to Egypt as a ransom of war. Most of them died during the tiresome voyage from Arabia to Egypt. Abbas Pasha, the Viceroy of Egypt, took over some of those remains that survived. Shortly after he would send his own agents to Arabia to search for more of these spectacular Arabians. At his opulent Stud at the borders of Cairo, was stabled one of the best ever collections of Arabians of finest type, they were jealously hidden from the eyes of other curious breeders. Finally the Arabian Peninsula was left with a very diminished number of its once most famous

horses, an enormous loss from which it has never recovered.

The third and perhaps the most important reason, touching all Arabia from north to south, was the change in culture and civilisation; the settling of the Bedouins on the one side and the introduction of the newly invented technical means, like engines and cars on the other side. This new technology affected all horse breeding worldwide. The horse lost its purpose as a servant and an indispensable companion of men. This change in cultural and social life had the greatest influence on the original homeland of the Arabian horse as a large breeding territory. These three reasons accumulated and were responsible for the fact that the Arabian countries lost entirely their prominent position as breeders and suppliers of Arabian horses.

It is only thirty years ago that a group of experts on behalf of the FAO in Rome made a fact-finding visit through nearly all the Arabian countries to assess and study the situation of the Arabian horses at that time. The result was poor and deplorable. The interest in Arabian horses had sharply declined, and only a few breeders kept their horses as a tradition and in memory of the good old days. It was mentioned that Syria was the only country which had maintained its position as an Arabian horse breeding region in an acceptable style. Some other countries were concentrating solely on horse racing. It was the selection for speed and the pleasure of betting which kept their horse breeding activities alive. Undoubtedly, some fast horses of Western breeding were introduced here and there into the local breeds, as well as horses from the likes of Turkey and Persia. The type of Arabian racehorse found in Arab countries by the experts at that time, apparently looked quite different from those which were illustrated and described by travellers or members of the older generation who saw the Arabian horse during its heyday of breeding. It was the opinion of several of these experts that the majority of all horses they had seen could not contribute anything to the preservation of the original breed.

Without present day, the interest and deep dedication of some breeders worldwide, the typical Arabian horse would have disappeared. Great collectors and many talented breeders have assisted in the preservation of this horse outside of Arabia in large numbers and varieties that specimens of the different types, which were once the treasure of Arabia, are still existing today. Each different type has attracted its own group of admirers.





In the middle of the 19th century, Abbas Pasha, the Viceroy of Egypt, owned the greatest collection of pure-bred Arabians in his stables near Cairo. Some of these horses belonged to the group which Mohammed Ali the Great captured during the Wahabit War in Arabia. He bought others for high prize-money through his agents in Arabia. Expeditions from Europe met his emissaries in Syria and were wondering, which type of horses was in their mind.

The horses left in Arabia were practically forgotten. Between the First and Second World War, horse trading between East and West had ceased, it was after Europe had recovered from the last Great War that a new interest in Arabian horses was revived. Horsemen began to enquire the whereabouts of what was left and what was valuable. There was no information from Saudi

Arabia at all. Some people did know about the Arabians of Bahrain. Nothing was heard from Iraq and only little a news from Syria. The Royal Stud of Jordan was known to some English breeders. It kept some local horses, and had already imported a few from Europe. The race course of Beirut in the Lebanon was visited by foreigners as well as local horsemen of Arabia, but not as a source for purebred Arabians, as purely an attraction in racing.

There was, however, one exception: Egypt and its Arabian Studs at Inshass and at El Zahraa. They had never fallen into oblivion or lost their ties with Europe or the USA. The latter mentioned Stud, the EAO, "The Egyptian Agricultural Organisation", followed the Royal Agricultural Society and took over the Inshass Stud after the kingdom had fallen down. This new organisa-



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The Manial Palace in Cairo; the Town-Palace of Ali Pasha Sherif; he was one of the greatest Arabian horse enthusiasts after Abbas Pasha.

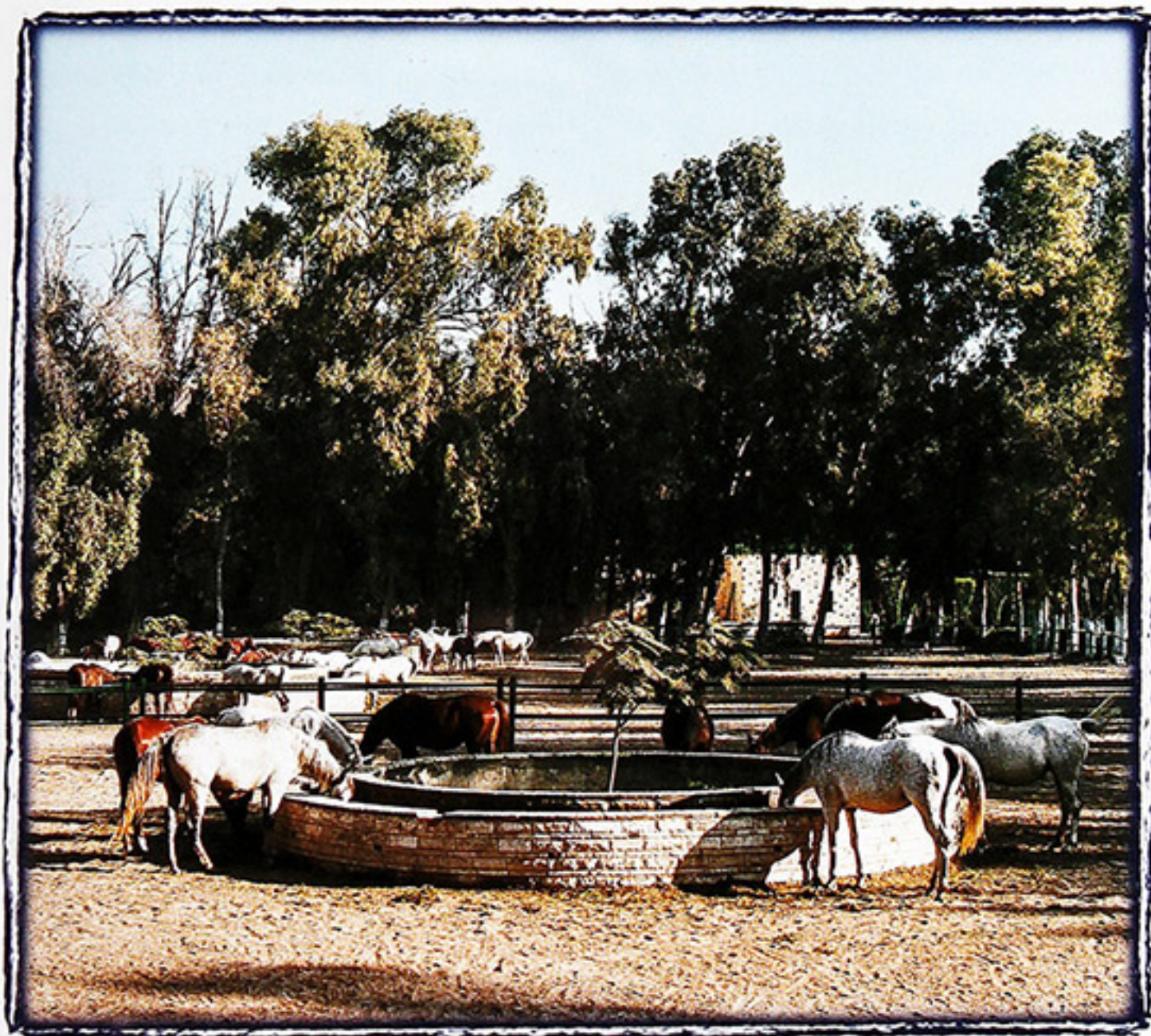



Photo by Gigi Grasso

El Zahraa Stud near Cairo as it looks today. This famous Stud collected all the precious remained Arabians which were left in Egypt by the Kings, the Pashas and by Lady Ann Blunt.



tion continued to keep these links to Europe and the USA alive and a few American horse enthusiasts quite early discovered Egypt as appreciated source. Egypt offered some obvious advantages. The Arabians kept in the El Zahraa of the EAO were considered as "Originals", a major part tracing back to the Abbas Pasha collection. They were also properly recorded in Studbooks. This pleased the clients in the West. Otherwise, with the exception of Jordan, such records did not exist in other Arabian countries; Egypt was easy to reach, a known safe tourist country, open to all kinds of visitors. And Egypt was finally a country where a system of Animal Health Service was already introduced. Reports about horse diseases were issued and the authorities dealt with the import requirements which Western countries were demanding. This was further advanced nothing compared with the rest of Arabia and the Orient at large. The countries of origin of the Arabian horse east of Egypt were, for the general public, hidden under a thick dark cover, unknown for more than half a century.

The World Arabian Horse Organisation (WAHO), came into existence in the 1970's, the wish to incorporate these homelands into the World Arabian Horse Community brought a sudden ray of light into these countries. Teams of experts were sent by WAHO to study what has remained from their history. Jordan and Bahrain established their first reliable Studbooks, containing all Arabian horses in their countries which were considered to be purebred Arabians. Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States followed. Encouraged by such an occasion, each country started to search, scrutinise, collect and to register Arabian horses which they had saved during all those years, in spite of all the turbulence in that area. The smaller newly established Studbooks started with less than one hundred registrations, the larger ones, for example Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, had several hundreds of horses in their first volume.

These now registered Arabians were preserved mainly for two reasons:

The first one was an attachment to their family-owned horses, from generation to generation, they were their heritage. The second reason centered around racing, as it was conducted in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Egypt. The total population of these registered, WAHO-accepted purebred horses from all these sources was at the very beginning of registration less than 1,500 horses in total and of all ages: These were the only remaining descendants in the large territories of Arabia from north to south.

These numbers looked small, but behind it slept a power of interest and a deep-rooted tradition which surfaced, after many decades of silence. In Jordan, the Royal Stud looked more deeply into the heritage of their horses and continued to favour them. The Stud in Bahrain expanded its facilities and asked foreign breeders for advice and consultation. The Dirabh Stud near Riyadh quickly grew up to an impressive horse center. Iraq and Syria started governmental projects to continue to breed their own local Arabians. The local original Arabians collected by these different institutions resembled each other in many respects, but were quite different to what was appreciated in the West. Nevertheless, nothing stopped the responsible authorities continuing their effort for a new beginning. Most of these newcomers looked to Egypt which was, compared to others, in an excellent particular position being world-wide accepted and admired as one of the famous world breeding centers.



Photo by H. Nagel

Most of the local breeders in Iraq and Syria presented their Arabians for registration with WAHO. They recognised the high value of a written recorded pedigree instead of witnessed oral transmissions only.

Preservation finally turned into selection, and it was crowned with success. Some breeders, after studying conditions of the horses in the West, were keen to raise their local horses to a higher level of overall quality without taking recourse to any kind of import. The horses of Bahrain were highly improved in both type and conformation, by careful selection of mares and by choosing the right stallion for each individual. Within ten years, the Nejd Stud near Riyadh, founded on 200 original Saudi Arabians, had changed its appearance completely. Again, mares were selected carefully for breeding and the decision to breed most of them to two major stallions, which they believed in,



Photo by Rik van Lent Jr.

The Royal Stable in Jordan, one of the first Studs which brought Arabians from Europe and successfully bred them with horses of traditional lines obtained from the old Kingdom's heritage.



Photo by H. Nagel

Arabians in a larger Breeding Stud near Damascus.



Photo by H. Nagel

The Royal Stud of Bahrain is only relying on traditional horses, kept for more than hundred years on this island, isolated from any imports. Here one can find certain rare strains, like the Mlolesh or the seldom Shuwaimaan. However, nothing is left from the once famous Dahman Shawan collection.



Horses of the Nejd Stud near Riyadh.

Photo by H. Nagel



Photo by H. Nagel

The senior sire in "Nejd Stud", totally of Saudi Origin. He changed the look of the Stud enormously.

made all the difference. The reward for courage climbed higher every year, as the foals improved in type and conformation with each new season.

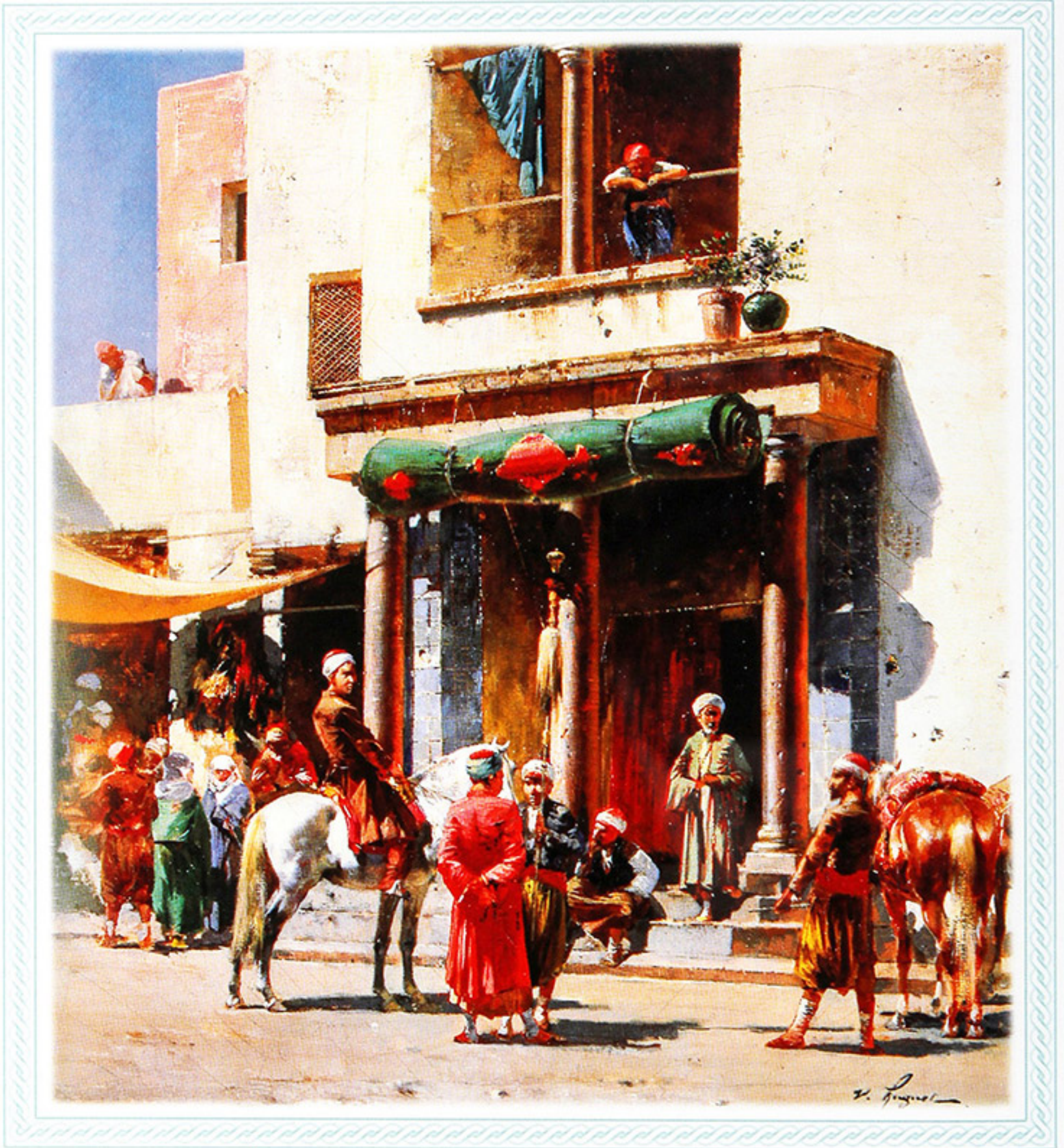
What the commission of the FAO stated thirty years ago when they inspected Syria is still true today. Nowhere in all Arabia do traditions have a higher rank, are more alive and have a broader basis in the population than in

this country. Elsewhere, only few are as informed about the history of this horse; in Syria, however, hundreds of breeders still live in the past with their way of thinking. Eventually it came to their attention that their traditional horses had begun to attract outside interest once again. They were eager for these horses to be a part of this new movement, and the idea they might be left aside and forgotten started to disturb them. Instead of oral transmissions, they now wanted to see their horses properly registered. The new Syrian Studbook, approved by WAHO, reflects this situation. The recording of strains, the composition of names and their sequence back to the past proves again the existence of the reiterated traditional habits. The horses themselves again differed, as a majority, from the type raised in Europe today. It has not been ascertained as to their abilities of speed and stamina. They were never properly put to test, and when they were, it was on a very small scale, and the results were rather poor. However, these horses exist in large numbers, as in the past, and there is ample room for wide selection. Today nobody knows which hidden values might exist in this population, but the time has come for people to ask and to learn. Sooner or later, this large group will also find its own admirers and its own position within the Arabian world.



Photo by H. Nagel

A broodmare group of the Nejd Stud galloping around in large paddocks.



Horses in town. They were completely ousted from the Bedouin breeders community, however, highly related in their heritage to the local Arabians.

It was WAHO that offered the opportunity of a new beginning to all these remaining interests. WAHO created national organisations and offices to record and register in Studbooks the horses which could be traced back to the original stock.

There was also a huge number of other horses in the Arab countries, mostly non-Arabians. They were kept in towns and villages fulfilling agricultural work in the fields or serving all purposes of transportation. The Bedouin people called them, "Cadish Horses", or "common horses". These did not belong to any specific breed or strain. Most of these horses were strongly related to the Arabians, since the horse owners in towns and villages were the usual customers of the Bedouins, who sold such horses into this market. When the rainy season finishes in the early Spring, the Bedouin tribes move down to the cities and look for contact to well-known traders who bought their horses and sold them to the settled population. These horses were never ever again in the programme of any Bedouin breeder. They were completely removed from their community.

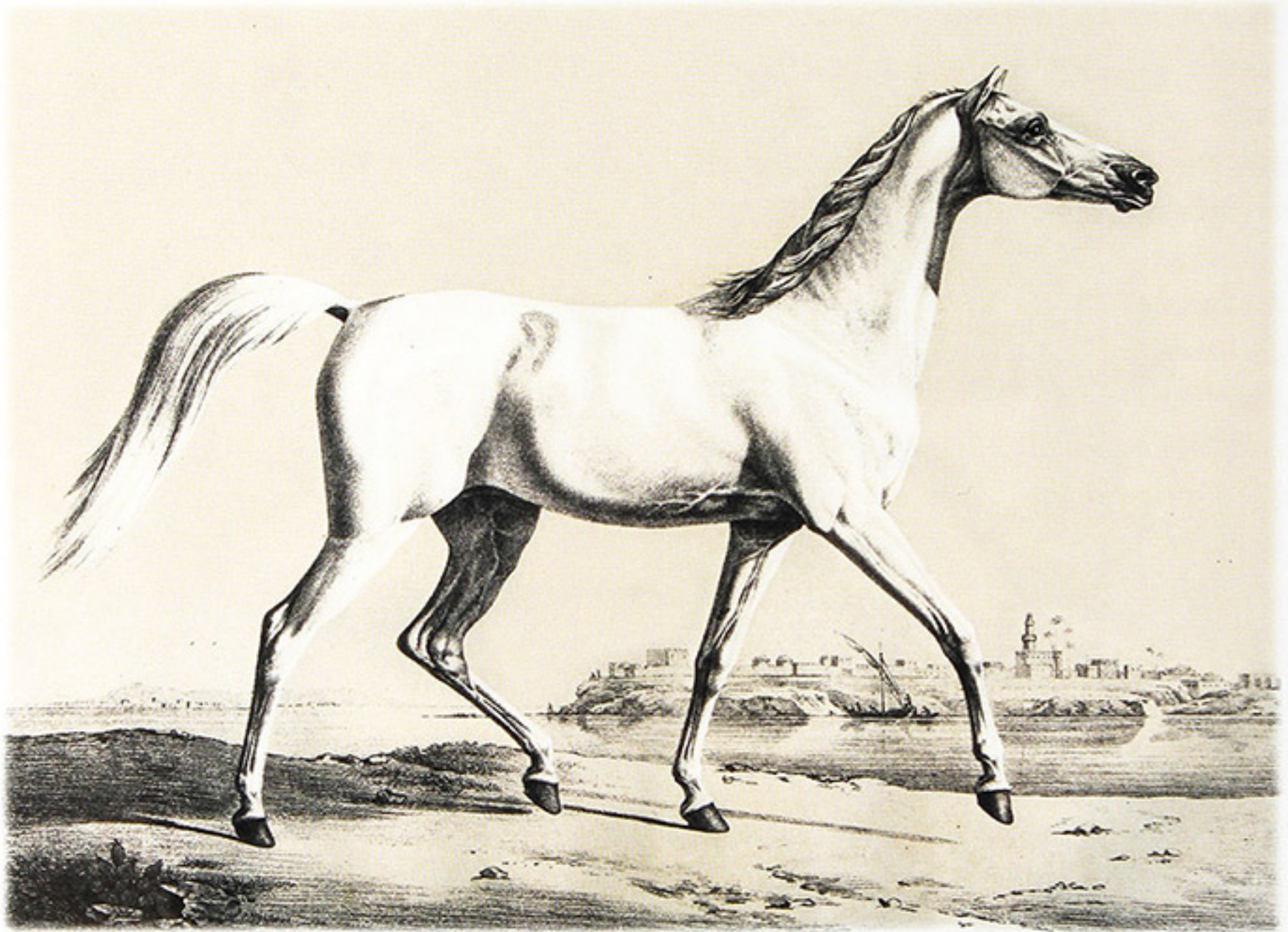
The purebred Arabian was of a different calibre and a class of its own. Perhaps the best had left Arabia, but their fame was not forgotten, nor the traditions of recollection and evaluation never died.

After one-man-generation had passed, there remained only the elders who recalled the history of their Arabian horses; younger people were strongly attracted by something else. This period of indifference has passed and new breeders, old and young, are eager to uncover the past. They know and learn again that their horses were once called Koheilan, Masbut and Asil Arabians. They became aware that only horses, which were known for their strains, were considered to be pure Arabians. Many strains of such horses existed, so many, that it caused confusion to most of the ancient foreign travellers and also to the young Arabian horse owners. The Arabs were thinking in "main strains" and "substrains", and many of them had a certain preference for their own. Why there were such preferences is difficult to determine, and all attempts to find a logical or evident reason for such choices are unlikely successful. However, such preferences did exist, and it is known that many horse breeders were collecting only horses which belonged to a particular strain. It is said that Abbas Pasha liked the Siglawi and the Dahman, the Emir of



Bahrain preferred the Dahman horses, too, others were looking for the Obayan and Crush. The preference for particular strains still exists today.

The other set of appreciated horses was the so-called "famous mares". A mare was known to be famous when she has excelled in specific performances. This would mean she was either very fast, had a good record of speed over a long distance, or she was known to be a very successful broodmare. These mares were of high demand, and sometimes wars broke out between the tribes in order to obtain or to steal such a mare or to take her as a ransom. The offspring of these mares were very highly prized because they had a great



Rudolf Kuntz "Hasfura" - A classical Arabian horse. One of its main attributes is its overall dryness brilliantly exposed by its head, limbs and skin. It excels in refinement.

potential and fulfilled the requirements to become a “foundation mare”. These descendants are still sought after today.


Nowhere can be found a proper description about the feature and conformation of these mares or a typical Arabian horse, and anyone who may search in the Arabian literature for such details, is looking in vain. There are reports about their beauty and power in poems or other scripts, but clear details are nowhere to be found. Certain names of strains have a descriptive meaning indicating certain features which the Bedouins apparently liked and which attracted their attention. However, they were evasive and never described a horse in full. A proper description depicting a typical Arabian (if found), would not satisfy a critical horseman of today, nor would it be comparable to other scripts of science, such as medication, agriculture or astronomy, areas of knowledge in which the Arabs at that time were highly advanced. In rural areas, the oral transmission was the traditional way to hand down knowledge between people or from one generation to another, and these words about the Arabians are still valid today. Arabs have always spoken with great pride about their horses. They saw in them a treasure and were deeply attached to them. The many poems, most of them written between 200 – 300 years ago, are vague, and in reading them one cannot help thinking that the generous acceptance and appreciation of these horses led most of the writers into a more romantic than into a realistic direction. However, it is worthwhile to mention one poet, born 882 A.C., more than one thousand years ago. He writes in his language about the Arabian horse in the following manner:

“Horses are like friends, so rare and noble that one could not recognise them by mere looking at them. They have to be tried in bets and in other ways to know what excellent creatures they are.”

Then he explains: *“Such a horse is so wide in his forehead “jibbah” with a star that glitters as a real star. It has tiny ears, similar to a new born rabbit. Its legs are strong, refined, similar to an ostrich with hoofs, all of them black. Such horse is short in the back, is not leaving much distance between his front and his back legs. It has a small mouth which hardly can accommodate the reins.”*

Then he adds: *“These horses have wide and big nostrils and lean loins which give them the strength of their breathing. It is so wide in the chest that his*





legs are apart and he stands like a proud knight. When its rider lets the reins loose, he starts to gallop and when he withdraws him slightly, the horse trots. In galloping on small but solid hoofs, it is like the sound of lightning and thunder. In standing still, it looks like a hawk with a long refined neck and its head in the sky. This horse so sincere and watchful that he can recognise a friend from an enemy and will make a big ground, when the enemy is approaching the camps. It is so obedient to his master that it will never turn him down, neither in bets or in peace."

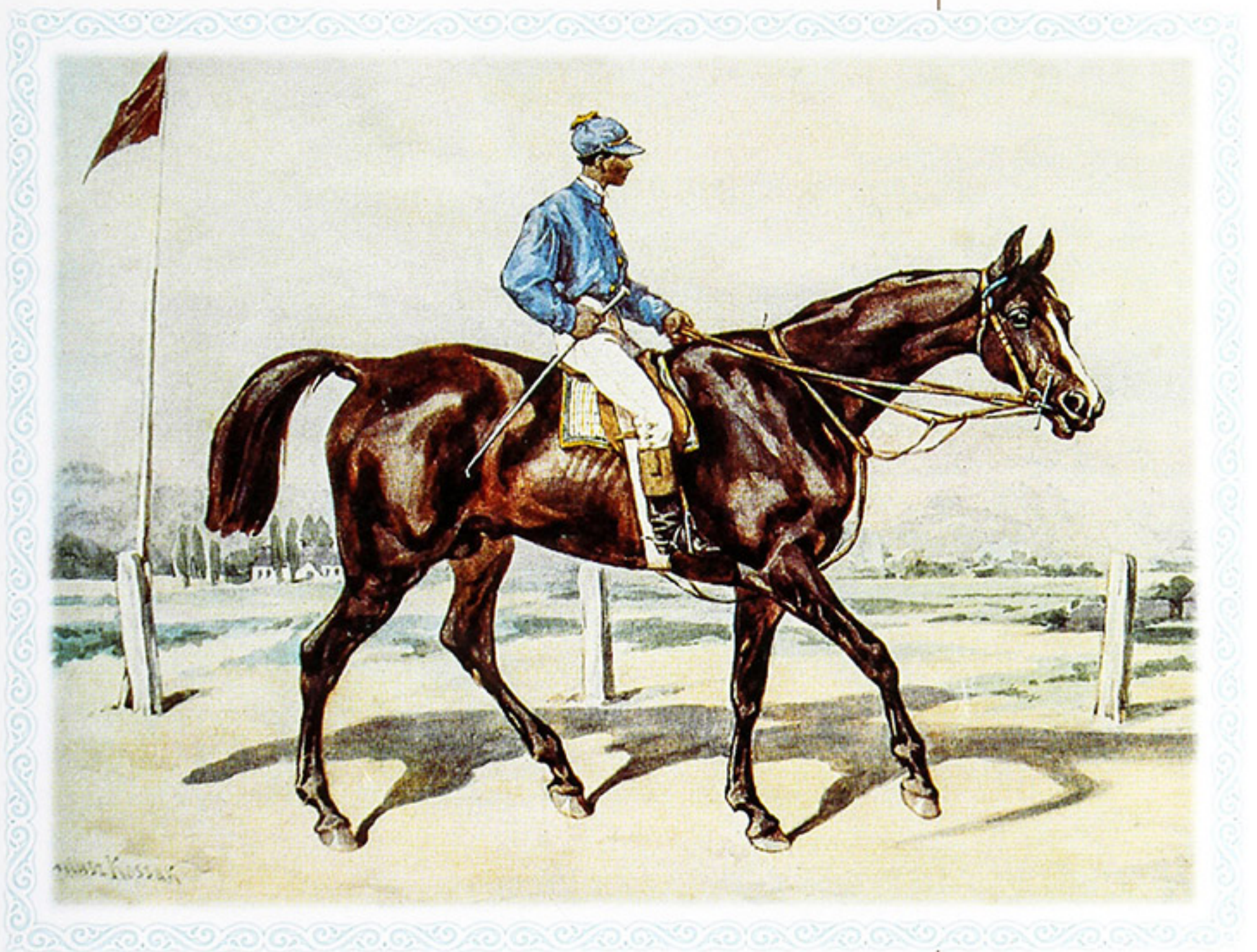
This passionate declaration is an amazing surprise and comes close to what others described 1000 years later.

Foreign travellers who have seen such prominent horses mentioned the longer and well-arched necks in certain types and shorter ones in others. They reported smaller and more exotic horses the further they travelled to the south of the Peninsula. The powerful and bigger horses were mostly located in the north. To establish out of these very thin descriptions a certain phenotype of a complete horse is practically impossible, and to attribute furthermore to each of the strains a certain type, is nothing more than a fantasy. Only fragments are known from their breeders or the Bedouins about the specific features of their horses; one only knows what is suggested from those who visited or dealt with this nomadic population.

Perhaps far back in distant history, when the human and horse population lived side by side for a long period and was confined to a certain area, a relation between type and strain might have been true. But nobody of our time can ever bring the proof.

The desire of European buyers, travellers and students was to recognise an Arabian horse by two criteria, being a member of a certain strain, and also by featuring a certain type; this did not work. It was only the strain that counted, and this was clear. However, this thought does not exclude that type and conformation could not be a factor for selection, keeping in mind that the strain of that horse was well-established, regardless of which it was. If horses of a certain beauty or an outstanding performance could only be found in certain strains is not exactly known. However, if strains are broken down to families as a part of such strain, the probability to discover such an ability is clearly increasing.

For breeders outside of Arabia, like Europe and the US, the situation looked different with time. It was not the strain anymore which counted in the end, it was the type or the performance which superseded the importance of strain. The horses which came from the Peninsula, if purchased by knowledgeable persons, came with a document or with an assurance that they were known by their strains; from then on, regardless of any kind of strain, European rules took over. Strains as a guarantee of origin proved to be just the beginning, the ensuing history is documented in a so-called pedigree which



Racing in Arabia was always a sensation under whatever conditions. Foreign breeds, entering with the Europeans into Arabia, became a threat to the local breed because additional speed could easily be obtained by mixed breeding.



Local painting: Famous Achaltekiner Stallion - *The taller horse breeds north of Arabia were known for speed and hardness. They had easy access to the neighbouring Arab countries, particularly during the Ottoman Empire.*

is a written record of the ancestry of each horse. On the basis of such records selection took place, and, in many cases, it went in two different directions, either to beauty and pleasure or to speed and performance. The old strains remained merely as a memory or as respect to historical habits.

There was a third group of horses besides the local Cadish and the pure bred horses: the foreign ones. They were either imported or introduced through neighbouring countries. North of the Arabian countries, in the northern parts of the Ottoman Kingdom, in Turkmenia or Persia, bigger and stronger horses were common, and they were powerful and fast. After World

War I, British and French citizens brought horses from their home countries, mostly in connection with their army to Arabia. These horses were easy to recognise as a foreign breed, and they were highly valued by many people due to their size, strength and speed in racing. Within the settled population of the north, these horses were welcomed, and they were also used for breeding. They became, in principle, part of the so-called Cadish population. However, these foreign horses were at the same time a threat to the whole Arabian breed, as they were an enormous temptation for breeders involved in racing. These horses showed enormous speed, and everybody was looking for that.

In considering all these developments and facts, it makes no wonder that there are many doubts and different opinions about the few Arabians which survived all these political changes and turbulence in daily life. However, serious and knowledgeable selection efforts by dedicated private breeders or local authorities have helped to recognise, collect and register the remaining valuable stock, and there are encouraging indications that one may find between them some hidden treasures which could well be a welcome addition to enrich the worldwide Arabian horse population.





BREEDING OUTSIDE OF ARABIA



Occident and Orient were both deeply troubled by the political turmoil at the beginning of the Twentieth Century and suffered from the great changes which took place at that time. The four hundred years old Ottoman Empire, after the Romans the mightiest political power in history of that area, collapsed during the First World War. Under the influence of the West, new states and kingdoms were created, but even the most powerful were toppled by revolutions or through putsches led by army officers or radical political groups. Artificial borders split tribes, stopped migrations, and this new order began to encourage a conscience of nations instead of tribal orders. Europe itself was hit even harder by such turbulence. Two World Wars ruined many countries and changed the existing societies. Again, kingdoms were falling apart, and feudalistic systems lost their last strongholds in most countries. Instead of land and agriculture, it was now capital and industries which gave power and political influence.

What happened to the several hundreds of Arabian horses that had come to the European continent since the middle of the 19th century? Mostly members of high society and landlords imported and cared for them, for example the King of Wurttemberg and the Polish/Ukrainian Counts such as Sanguszko and Dzieduszycki and the State Stud Babolna belonging to the Austrian-Hungarian crown. The answer to whoever should earn the merits for creating in new State Studs a prosperous future for Arabians may be left aside, but such Studs were formed in the different countries, which took over the few remaining precious heritages. In Germany, it was the Stud of Marbach which became the new home for the horses of the Weil Stud, belonging to the King of Wurttemberg. The Polish Stud Janow Podlitzky and Michalow incorporated the remains of the above mentioned Ukrainian/Polish Counts and Babolna, the Austrian/Hungarian State Stud, continued under a new regime to breed Arabians as before. Russia collected in its State Studs of Tersk its own



Private Archive EAO Egypt.
Drawing by Victor Adam



The Marbach Stud in Germany became the new home of the oldest herd of pure-bred Arabians in Europe, previously owned by the Weil Stud of the King of Wurttemberg.

Arabians and added valuable breeding stock from France, Hungary, Poland and England. These five governmental European Studs, Marbach, Michalow, Janow Podlatsky, Tersk and Babolna, preserved the Arabian blood with an admirable dedication on the continent. They exchanged stallions from time to time whenever needed, as it happened in the past, and kept their breeding stock on a high and well selected level. Each of them, however, followed its own philosophy of breeding, expressing in horses their understanding and conceptions of an authentic Arabian. Rigorous rules for the selection of stallions were introduced, and only the horses of extreme quality, according to their judgement, had the chance to be a part of their breeding programme.

The Arabians imported to England by the Blunts and to America by Davenport and later by Babson, Dickinson and others took another road.

They remained in private ownership, and even if these private farms survived only for one or two generations, this original stock is still influential today. No governmental rules affected their breedings at all. Among them, the Crabbet Stud reached even at that time a world famous reputation and was at the beginning of the Twentieth Century the most accepted source of purebred Arabians for decades. In all existing breeding Studs, like Poland, Russia or Egypt, horses of Crabbet origin are still present. In addition, America and Australia imported from England many well bred Arabians, and the so-called "All-American Breed" of today is solidly based on a few influential stallions from Crabbet Park breeding. The famous stallion "Skowronek" and his best known offspring, "Raffles" and "Indraff", appear on the bottom of most of the pedigrees of Arabians in the New World.

In the Middle East, it was only Egypt which had chosen a similar way to keep Arabian horse breeding in its country alive. Inspired by the European efforts to improve local breeds, the so-called Royal Agricultural Society was



Photo by Gigi Grasso

In 1789, the Austrian/Hungarian Emperor, Joseph II, gave the order to establish the Babolna Stud. Hungary sent several expeditions to Arabia and they brought back more than hundred pure-bred Arabians. They were looking for a correct and powerful horse, available in the Syrian and Iraqi regions.

founded in 1912. This society should assist the local farms in breeding better animals in general and also to breed horses for the army and the police in its own Stud. It acquired some well selected Arabians from the heritage collection of Abbas Pasha and other Egyptian princes, who were devoted to the Arabian horse breeding, introduced some stallions and mares from Syria and Saudi Arabia and also purchased some offspring of what was left from the El Obeid Stud of Lady Blunt in Egypt. The Egyptian authorities went finally to England and chose a few mares and several stallions from Crabbet Park which would fit, according to their belief, to their breeding herd. These horses together finally formed the basic breeding stock of the Egyptian governmental Stud, known as "El Zahraa" today.

All these governmental efforts in the different countries did not quickly foster spectacular results until the Second World War came to its end. Until then Arabian horses remained a domain of a few enthusiasts only. It should also be noted that the English Thoroughbred replaced comparatively quickly



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The Tersk Stud, one of the most successful institutions for pure-bred breeding since the 1970s. Their breeding concept is one of the most sophisticated and skillful worldwide. For a long time, the Russians could surprise the Arabian breeders community each year with superstallions. No other Stud could compete with them in this respect.

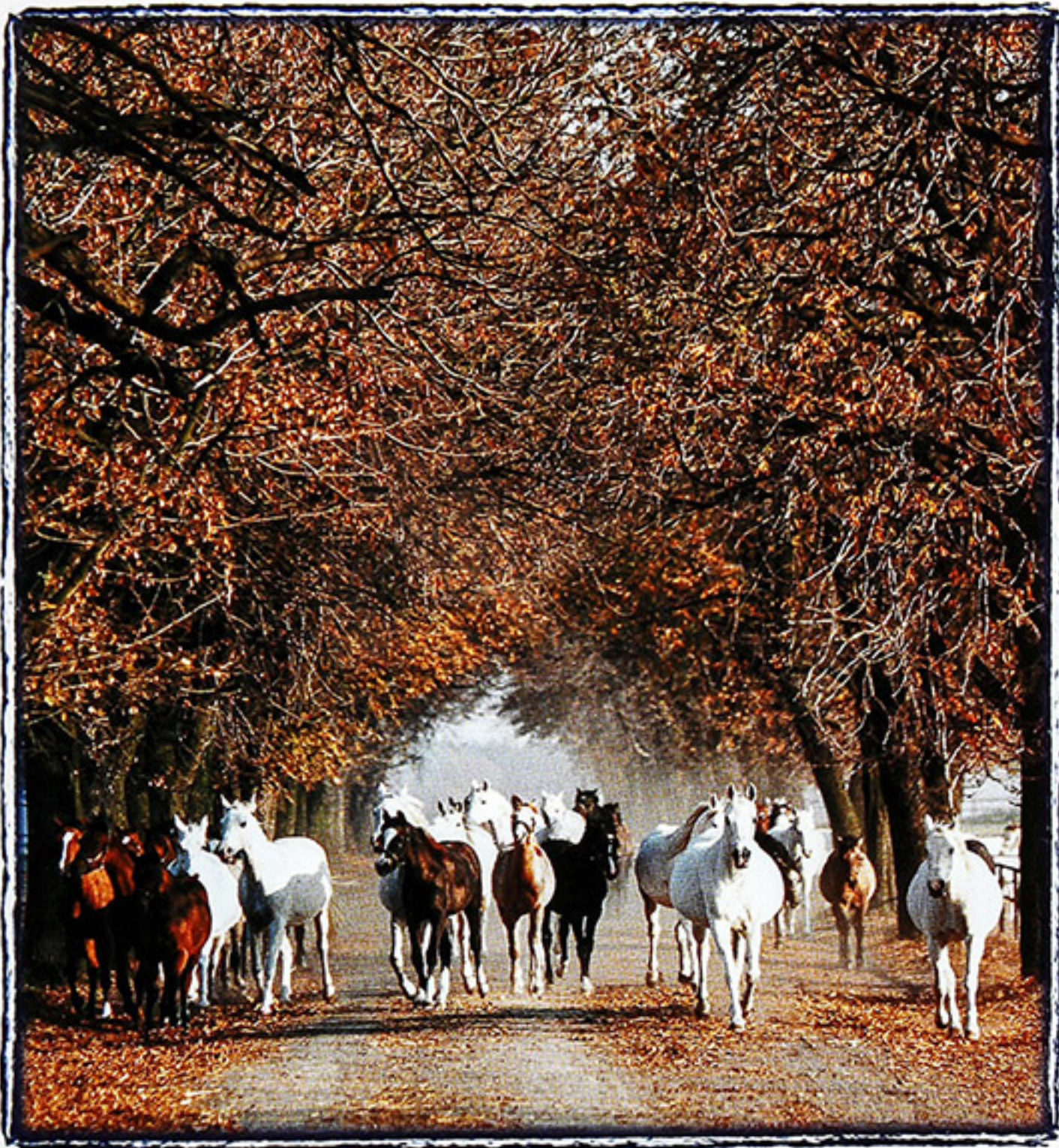


Photo by Gigi Grasso

The Janov Podladsky Stud and the Michailow Stud are deeply rooted in history. The common borders to the Ottoman Kingdom opened an easy road to the Orient. Their female lines are of the finest quality and are firmly established in their hereditary ability. Visitors and experts are stunned by their uniformity and refinement.

and entirely the Arabians as an improver of local breeds, at least in most of the Western countries. Only in Egypt and Poland Arabians were still involved in local horse-breeding activities. International trade and exchanges were rare, and the Arabian horse had more or less a national importance. Only the Crabbet Park horses of England remained, as mentioned before, the great exception and could reach a unique high position of international importance.

Around 1950, a sudden strong interest for the Arabian horse was revived.



No other Stud outside of the Orient than the private Crabbet Park in England can claim the same effort and success in preserving the Arabian horse, thanks to the sincere dedication and courage of its owners Wilfred and Lady Ann Blunt. Horses once bred by Crabbet Park are listed in studbooks world-wide.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

El Zahraa became a reliable source for Arabians of classical type.

On the continent, the Germans were the first to discover this new attraction. The State Stud Marbach purchased in 1953 mares and stallions from Egypt, some private breeders followed the same track, others travelled to Poland and Russia. Janow Podlitzky in Poland and Tersk in Russia developed into a heaven for purchases of Arabian horses. Not much later, buyers from the United States appeared at all these places, and a rush for the best of the Arabians in these Studs began. Prices went up to an unbelievable level. The new demand was enormous, the offer, however, very limited. Encouraging tax laws heated up the situation in the United States, and thousands of new breeders were searching for horses. Again it was the WAHO which prepared the way for further developments and opened new sources. It determined the reliable sources, examining first all European countries and their Studbooks and then adding new organisations all around the world. Thereafter, it was mainly Spain that was discovered as a new source of excellent origin.

To establish a kind of mid-term summary, one comes to the conclusion that Poland, Russia, Hungary and Germany with their State Studs, England and the US with some important private breeders, Egypt also with a State Stud and later on certain Studs in Spain turned out to be the fountain and most frequented source of purebred Arabian horses. They initiated a worldwide acceptance and built up the present importance of the Arabian breed. All these breeders, the old and the new ones, developed lively activities, brought the Arabian horses into the show ring, into the riding arena and finally on the race track. They created proper terms for registration and rules for shows and other disciplines. The Arabians became part of the Western horse industry. What a difference! Once in history a desert horse, often worn out by heat and hunger, obedient, suffering and roaming with the nomadic population, today not knowing about its fate tomorrow and constantly fighting for survival, now a cultured animal, incorporated in a rich, highly saturated society, esteemed for pleasure, for its beauty and charm and all kinds of sports. This miraculous horse went on to satisfy many interests, raised wishes and desire, and could find friends everywhere. Its total number in each country has grown quickly, immensely, and at this time perhaps 20.000 to 25.000 foals are born every year outside of Arabia, each one of them registered and well documented in Studbooks, mutually recognised through the World Arabian Horse Organisation.



In looking deeper into the history of each of the above sources outside of Arabia, one will notice a very interesting aspect. Each of these sources, private or governmental, started with a very limited number of mares and stallions, only a dozen or so and sometimes a little more. These figures are very minor, compared to the great number of imports from Arabia over a period of nearly seventy five to one hundred years. The vast majority just disappeared, no trace remained at all, only a few precious ones survived and formed the base of the now existing breed. And another fact is obvious: Private Studs, wherever they appeared, and even the most important ones, vanished within one or two human generations. Finally the State Studs emerged and have been for a long time the backbone and the most reliable source of the whole breed, at least until today. At present time and for approximately forty years the State Studs of Russia, Poland and Egypt had the most evident influence on the further development of the breed. Each year several excellent stallions appeared on the international scene out of these programmes with a strong power of prepotency. Many of the existing private farms were relying on such horses and developed a preference for one or the other specific type which these Studs



No European country is closer linked to the Oriental culture than Spain. The Spanish/Andalusian horse breed are the remains of this strong influence on the livestock-side. Several important private Studs keep Arabians in a long line of history. But only after WAHO recognised Spain as an accepted source for pure-bred Arabians, it received a fast rising importance as reliable breeder country. Surrounded by several major successful private breeders, the state-owned Jerez de la Frontera became the center and major Stud of modern Spanish breeding.



*Spanish State Stud,
Jerez De La Frontera*

Photo by Gigi Grasso

were favouring, and they decided to breed only animals of such origin. With such Studs in the background new private breeding activity began and many of them bought occasionally new senior stallions from these institutions. Only some French breeders made an exception. They selected an Arabian horse specialised in racing. These horses have lately rocketed the racecourses and obtained such an importance that special racehorse auctions could be organised in order to maximise the income for this type of horse.

The above mentioned State Studs including the government Stud of Spain had a clear advantage over private breeders. Their breeding herds were normally larger and gave room for generous selection, their directors were well trained in animal breeding and were horsemen by profession. They knew the principles of hereditability, were aware of faults and advantages in conformation and experienced in managing and controlling large herds of animals under the aspect of feeding and sanitation. All these advantages allowed them to work out clearer results and to develop and to fix certain criteria which became typical for their breeding programmes. Today one can find characteristics which are typical for a Polish or Russian Arabian. They can be clearly distinguished. The same applies for the most prominent horses which were bred in Spain, and also the Egyptian horses have their own appearance and show until today certain features for which they were selected and chosen since the very beginning of this Stud. Each of these farms is known for paying attention to certain families. They try to maintain their identities and spend time and efforts to search for and to fix these criteria to remain clear and strong in further generations.

There are certainly differences in importance which are given to each of the required characteristics. Some Studs focus on performance, pay greater attention to racing ability or powerful movement. Others may look for type and beauty in the first place, followed by topline, shape of neck and any other features which are required to make a perfect horse. Such a list of features well established and performed will result in a horse which is attractive for the public, appreciated by horse lovers and perhaps successful in one of the great Arabian horse shows.

Intelligent breeders know that the choice and the favouring of certain families are highly linked to such a success. Consequently, a further study of such

a family concept leads to the surprising result that some of them are gifted with very appreciated specific characteristics which seem to be deeply rooted since historical times. Since their import from Arabia, these unmistakable formations and values are present until today. To find out the positive elements in certain families in order to preserve them in the most balanced and appreciated combination, is perhaps the most attractive game in the art of breeding. So many highly appreciated Arabian features which still appear today, have possibly already been in existence a long time before. They may be covered and not yet unfolded, due to unfavourable choice in previous breedings, but they could be favoured by particularly looking for them and by choosing a direction which makes their appearance possible again.

In each of the above mentioned governmental breeding programmes, one could and still can find a group of families which is loaded with such appreciated values. If, however, such values esteemed today, remained the same and are comparable to those ones appreciated in the past, is another question of interest. Some of them are unquestionable. These are certainly characteristics which indisputably belong to an objective category and were always appreciated. Speed is one of them, as well as endurance. These can be measured at any time, as well as features and conformations could be regarded objectively by comparing them to well-established standards. However, type, beauty and spirit fall into a category of a highly subjective nature. Each breeder may have his own ideas and evaluates what he considers to be his favourable choice. And here begins where Orient and Occident, where past and present breeders may differ in judgements and opinions, where education and tradition, culture and environment form a different idea leading to a choice which is not only determined by horsemanship and professional knowledge, but just as much directed by feelings and intuitions.

These above general statements translated into practical application have led, in the larger Stud, to the following breeding concepts: these concepts, especially applied in Poland, Russia and partly in Egypt, are in general completing what Bedouin Arabs were thinking about a mare family idea, expressed in strains. They simply added the male part to a now properly controlled scheme and formed out of both sexes a complete selection programme. Each of these Studs keeps, on the female side, certain mare families,





Balaton bred in Tersk, Russia, is a brilliant example of the quality of the Amurath sire-line. This line originates from the Stud of Weil. Polish breeders highly appreciated and favoured this line. From Poland it came via the stallion Araz to Russia.

Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by S. Vesty

The Polish mare Egzotika, a member of the prominent E-female line, a perfect result of art of selection in combining beauty, conformation and useful riding criteria in one single animal.



A brood mare stable in the Babolna Stud. This system of mare stabling was common in all European State Studs. Even El Zahraa adopted this method.

and, on the male side, they have established, in addition, certain male lines. Each of these families or lines are known for certain characteristics, and a combination of both should lead to a much wanted result. Only large farms are able to apply such a well conceived method by combining different characteristics in order to receive a superior product. A small breeder prefers to have all wanted features already combined in one and the same horse. They are looking for an existing perfection in a stallion or mare, which is nearly an impossible demand. In fact, such a horse does not exist, considering the manifold requirements which the Arabian horse is expected to fulfil.

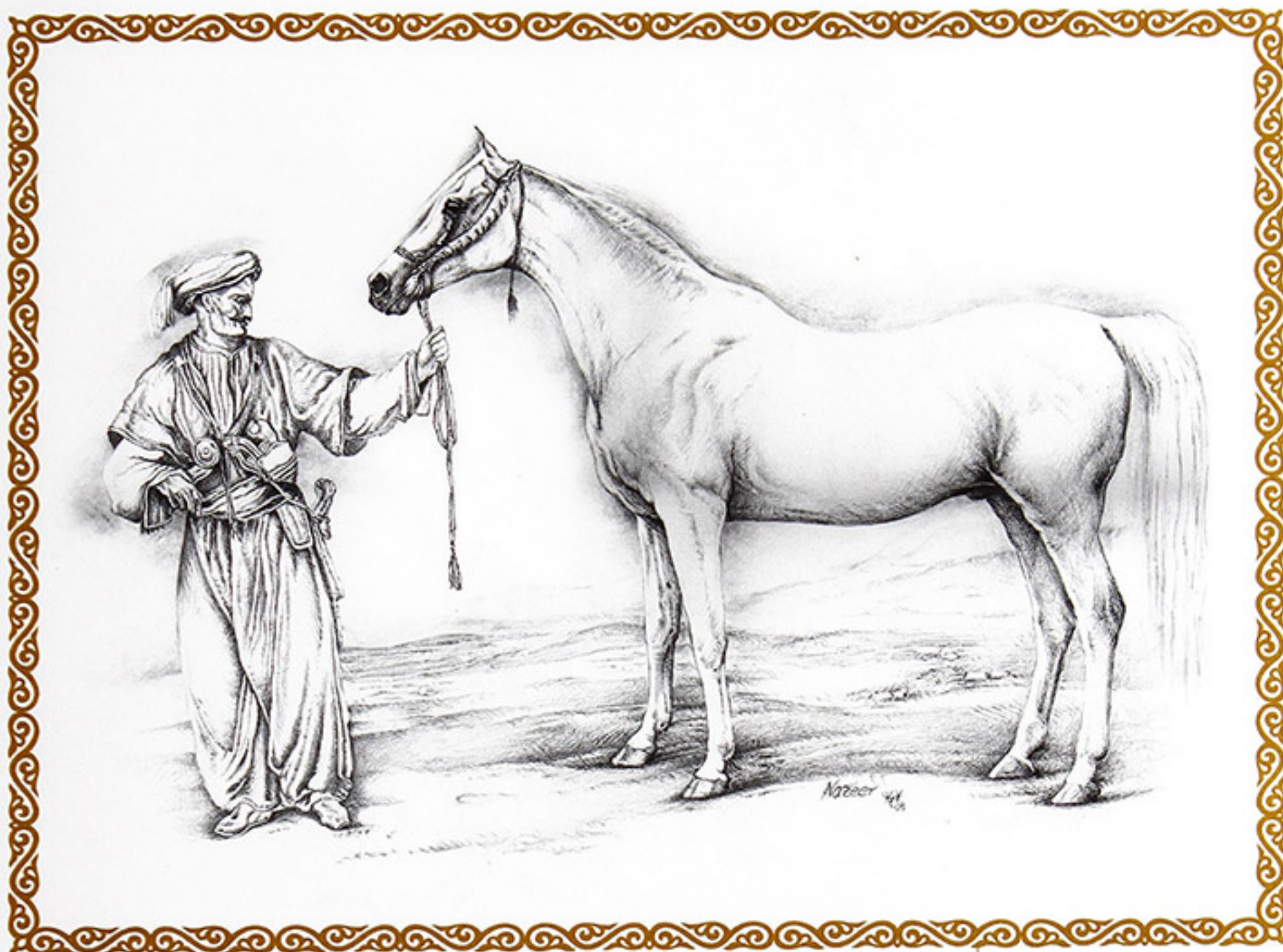
Accordingly, the Russian programme in Tersk is based on several sire lines offering different abilities and features. The sire line of Naseem goes back to the Crabbet Stud and represents the previously mentioned Skowronek line. In this line, beautiful and well balanced horses are to be

found. The same applies to the Mansour line with emphasis on type, originating from Egypt through the imported stallion Aswan. Without any question, the exotic beauty of the Russian stock is due to him. A third sire line of about the same category, is the so-called Amurath line of Polish origin, represented by the stallions Arax, Nabeg and Balaton. Out of these three ones, the Egyptian Aswan was the prettiest one in head and type, but his thick neck, low back and poor front leg conformation were his handicaps. However, in combination with certain mare families, he produced the best and the finest horses which ever came out of the Russian Tersk Arabian programme.

The other group consists of sire lines excelling in performance, like Piolin, Kam, Korey and some other horses of French origin. The latter mentioned were lacking in type and could not be regarded as examples of Arabian beauty at all, but they were fast.

On the female side, families of similar features go parallel. The pretty ones refer to the mares Mammoon or Dziwa, Karta and Taktika. By mating these mares or members of their families to different stallions, a variety of offspring will appear. At this point it shows which mare family fits with several stallions or with one or the other only and produces accordingly. If the ability to bring about several successful combinations is high, that family will develop strongly and grow to an important size. If it only fits with one or two stallions, the family will stay small or not worthy of being kept.

It is very interesting to note that certain abilities and characteristics, which show very strongly and evidently in the Russian programme, appear as well in the Egyptian breeding in so far as both are related to each other. In both programmes exists, for example, a mare family which goes back to the Crabbet's mare, Rodania - the mare Risalla in Egypt and the mare Ridaa at Tersk. At both Studs, it turned out that this family is very limited in its capability to match with different horses and, has therefore, remained unimportant in both programmes as a female line. Also one of the finer and sound sire lines in Russia, tracing back to the Egyptian stallions El Dere / Sid Abouhom, primarily used in order to correct conformation and size, lost its position and became, at least in Russia, unimportant, due to the facts that many horses of this line show a difficult behaviour and an unfriendly, unreliable character. Both are untypical traits for an Arabian horse and are not valued at all. The



Nazeer, the famous sire in modern Arabian breeding. Several of his sons influenced the Arabian breed worldwide. He belongs to the Hadban strain and even not being a perfect horse, he produced sons and daughters of an incomparable quality in type and breeding potential.

Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk.
Drawing by Heidi Franck

same is known to many experienced Egyptian breeders, however, many of them disregard and neglect this fact in spite of its evidence.

In El Zahraa, a similar breeding concept was underway and is still partly applied. Certain stallions, well considered as a senior of a sire line, were favoured. It was the director Petko Szadtner of Hungary who worked out such schemes in El Zahraa, which then appeared much clearer. The Mansour line, represented by the stallions Nazeer and Sheikh Al Arab, dominated the whole programme and influenced Arabian horse breeding later on worldwide. All the other lines chosen in addition remained in the shadow of this important sire

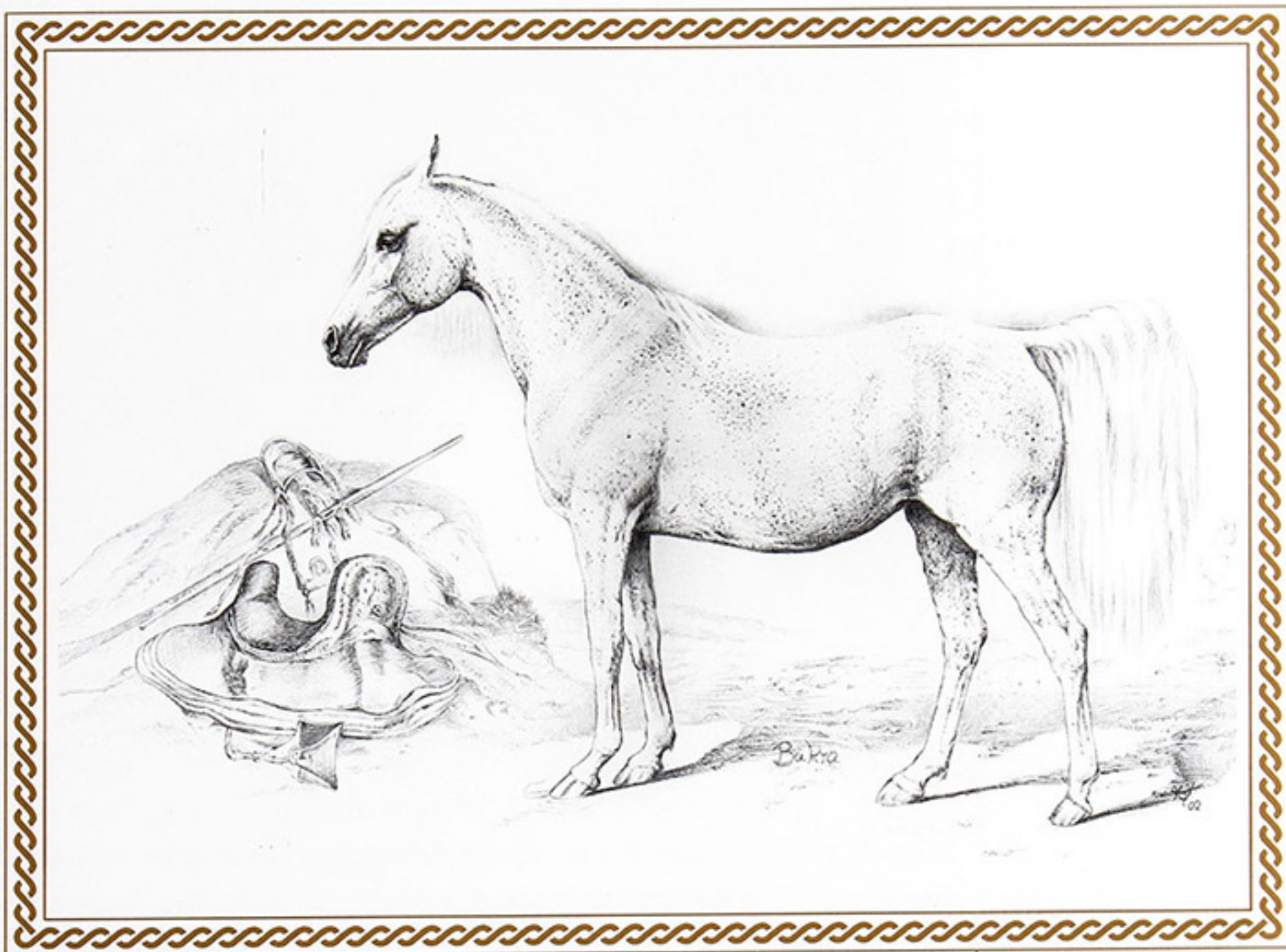


Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Drawing by Heidi Franck

Alaa el Dine, one of the famous Nazeer-sons, bred in Egypt. He was never for sale. His many daughters had the sweetest face and an elegant body, but not one of his sons turned out to be a first-class sire.

line. Anter or Sameh were known for movement and conformation, and from the stallions El Dere, Sid Abuhom, Nasrallah and Amrullah, speed and performance were expected. All of them did more or less their part, but none of them, including their male offspring, could even come close to Nazeer's influence on the breed.

Regrettably, some of the most beautiful female families became unimportant or are nearly extinct in Egypt. Many of their best specimens were sold abroad, and the remaining ones did not always enjoy the needed attention or were bred in inappropriate combinations. Wherever they are now, partly still in Egypt or abroad, the most spectacular female families of Egypt, proven for



Many breeders consider Bukra as the mare of all times in modern Egyptian breeding. She was a Shahloul-daughter and the finest representative of the Dahman-Shawan-strain.

Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Drawing by Heidi Franck

generations, are the ones of Moniet el Nefous, belonging to the Siglawi Jedran strain, the families of the Dahman Shawan strain, like the mares Halima and Bukra, a well known source for stallions and mares. Moreover valuable remained the Kamla and Yosreia families, both members of the Hadban strain and known for type and beauty. The famous stallion, Nazeer by Mansour originates from this line. An Obayan female family, successfully represented overseas, completes the list of the most famous Egyptian mare families. All these families are distinguished and, therefore, highly valued by their own characteristics and features, but several of them are not well enough established in Egypt anymore. It must be said that it is not easy to create clear family traits



Drawing by V. Grainer - *Moniet el Nefous*, Queen of the important Siglawy-Jedran strain in Egypt. World-wide she founded a great and successful family. Very famous stallions belong to her offspring.

in Egyptians compared to the Polish and Russian programme. The inbreeding coefficient within the Egyptian population is relatively high, which makes the recognition of features comparatively difficult in assigning them exactly to one or the other family.

A glance at the work of the Polish State Stud again shows a similar breeding policy and procedure. The Amurath line remained the source of beauty and harmony. The mare Bandola is living proof to this statement. Also, the Crabbet stallion, Skowronek, left his trace in Poland and is represented by the sire line of Negativ. There are certain male lines for racing, again less pretty but powerful. The size and the importance of the Polish female families again depends on its combination ability, as it is mentioned in the Tersk programme. The most important Polish mare families are deeply rooted in history, and the most important ones go back to the three mares Sahara, Ghazalla and Mlecha imported around 1850, and are well known by the portraits of the Polish painter Kossak.

Poland and Russia are clearly following performance aspects in their pro-

grammes by giving great importance to racing tests. Only such stallions who do well on the racecourse have a chance to become a Stud sire. These Studs are the only ones considered by many people to be valuable sources for Arabians with good racing and performance ability. Once Egypt applied this formula, but dropped it during the course of time.

These three programmes, based on similar concepts, but selecting in somewhat different directions, are until now the most influential ones on the whole Arabian breed. Whereas the Egyptians are known for their undisputed type, the Polish and the Russian Studs are looking for the athletic and powerful side, - without neglecting the beautiful feature of an Arabian horse. Nowhere else in the world could any other selection model be found which would be comparable in its concept to those ones. They have been in existence for a long time, many generations went through their selection process, and the results of the past as well as of today have proven their efficiency. Their programmes could be very precise and efficient, since it should be well understood that one or the other aim of breeding could be easily and strongly favoured when breeding beauty to beauty, speed to speed or performance to performance were brought together. All options are at hand.

The German Stud Marbach/Weil and the Hungarian Stud, Babolna focused on preserving the Arabian purebred horse more than on selective breeding. For two hundred years, Marbach had kept one of the oldest female lines from Arabia – the line of Murana, and until now offspring of this historical mare live on in the Stud today. However, Marbach was also breeding its mares mostly to stallions imported from Egypt. In the past, the stallions Yasir, Hadban Enzahi and Gharib were their senior sires. The once famous Amurath line, still cornerstone in the Russian- and Polish breeding programme originated, in fact, from Marbach/Weil had, however, no successor for a long time. Marbach followed the policy to introduce from time to time a well selected stallion into its breeding herd, and this sire was usually chosen from Egypt.

Babolna's position is similar. The pure line stock was also kept as a preservation and as a back-up of its Shagya Arabian breed, a kind of half-bred Arabian with a minimum of foreign blood. Although the Hungarian were among the most important buyers in Arabia, mainly in Syria, they have been unfortunate in setting up a long-term programme for pure bred Arabians.



Most of their imported horses entered their Shagya concept with the aim to breed horses ideal for riding and driving. These horses would still be appealing as Arabians, but stronger in bone, taller in size, with good necks and powerful action; riding points come first. Their horses are well accepted until today, and an enthusiastic group of breeders in Europe and Babolna as a Stud itself are keen to maintain the high reputation of these horses in the sportive community.

Around 1970, Babolna began to think of creating a well defined purebred herd and imported several colts and fillies from El Zahraa, combined with the intention to freshen up the Shagya breed by using these Egyptian sires wherever it was needed to boost the Arabian type. However, political changes in Hungary, which influenced Babolna's management, disturbed a smooth development of such ideas, and the consequent continuation of this once established concept was interrupted. Even when some excellent Arabians are bred in Babolna until today, it is difficult for any outsider to recognise in which direction they have decided to go.

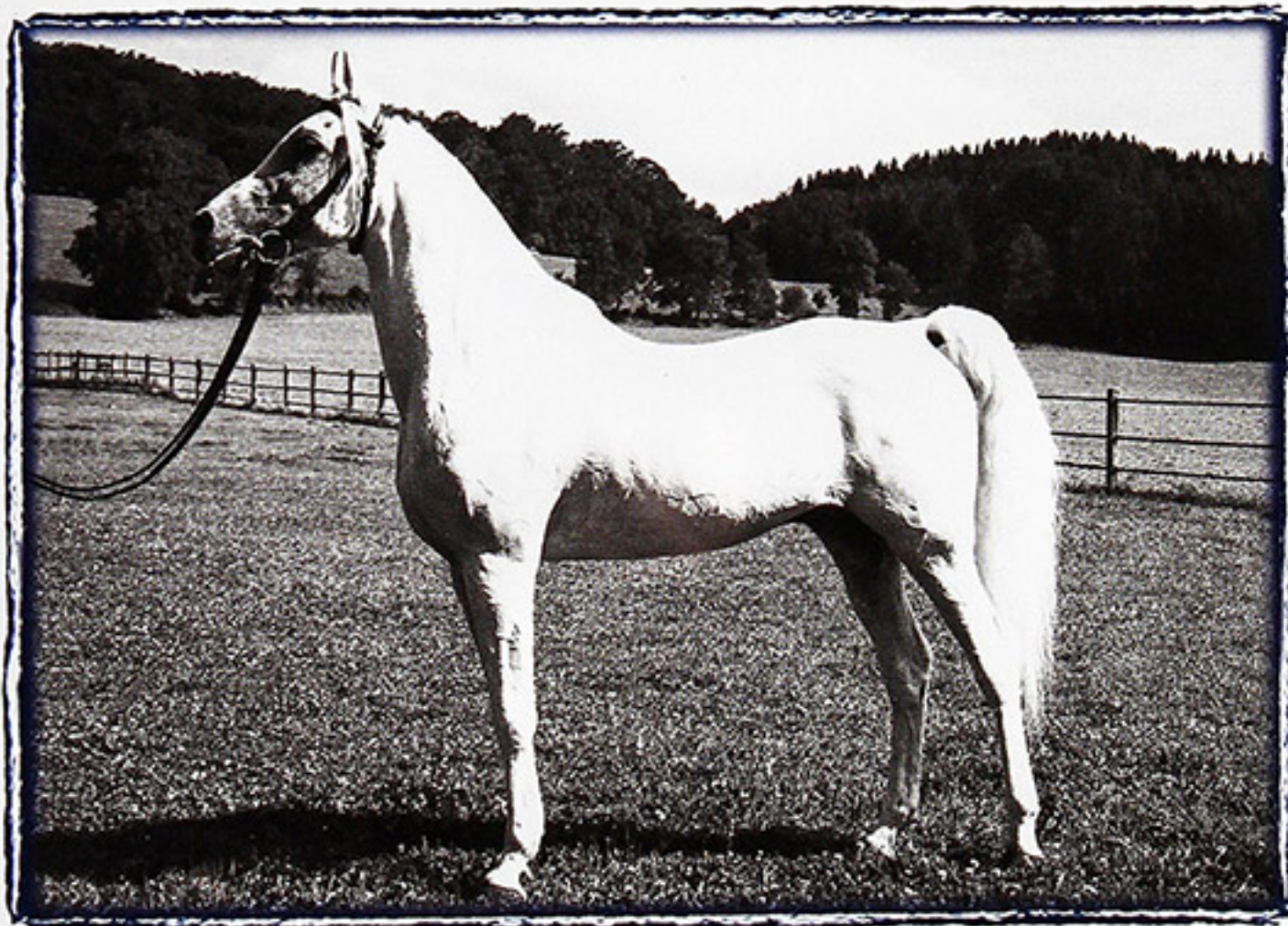
In all, a broad spectrum of views and a wide field of activity is open for anyone interested in Arabian horses and inclined to get involved in breeding and selection. Knowledgeable breeders have already manifested their ideas through their horses, and even more so they have established certain types as trademarks of their own. On the basis of the breeding stock developed by such State Studs, many persons invested their own ideas and interests in breeding and promoting. In considering first the more important private Studs, it turned out that a majority followed one or the other State Stud by working with those bloodlines. Especially in the United States such a specialisation is obvious. These private breeders are a representation of the corresponding State Studs in their own country. Some of them developed into large-sized breeding operations at the time when the Arabian horse business was in full swing. Names like "Lasma Arabia" or "Patterson Arabians" in the US, each one of them keeping hundreds of horses of Polish origin, or "Gleannloch Farms", "Bentwood Farm" or "Ansata Arabians", working with Egyptian bloodlines and keeping similar numbers, enjoyed worldwide reputation for their breeding work, and at the same time they themselves were a reliable clientele to their "mother" State Studs. Most of the best animals which were

bred in Poland, Egypt or Russia were purchased by these farms.

Also in Germany, yet on a much smaller scale, some very well known private breeders are considered to lean strongly upon the Egyptian, Polish, Russian or even Spanish breeding.

The initial breeding efforts of such private breeders – very obvious in the USA – centered mainly around one stallion. Lasma Arabians and the Polish bred sire, Bask, were nearly synonymous. The same applies to Gleannloch Farms with Morafic, to Ansata Arabians with Ibn Halima and Bentwood Farm with Ibn Moniet El Nefous. All these three last stallions were born in El Zahraa. The stallion An Malik became the chief sire of Green Gate Farm in California, and, as of Spanish birth, he had the greatest influence on Spanish breeding in the US.

The tendency to concentrate upon one, “superstallion”, only, was not practised in Germany or elsewhere in Europe. Breeders, large or small, did not follow trends so quickly. They were rather inclined to do their own thing and to



HADBAN ENZAHI
(Nazeer x Kamla)
Stallion EAO 1952

Hadban Enzahi, the senior sire of Marbach Stud for more than 20 years. He is a Hadban-stallion leaving his stamp on all horses born during his career in this Stud. A typical representative of this line in Egypt; shorter backs and longer legs are prevailing.



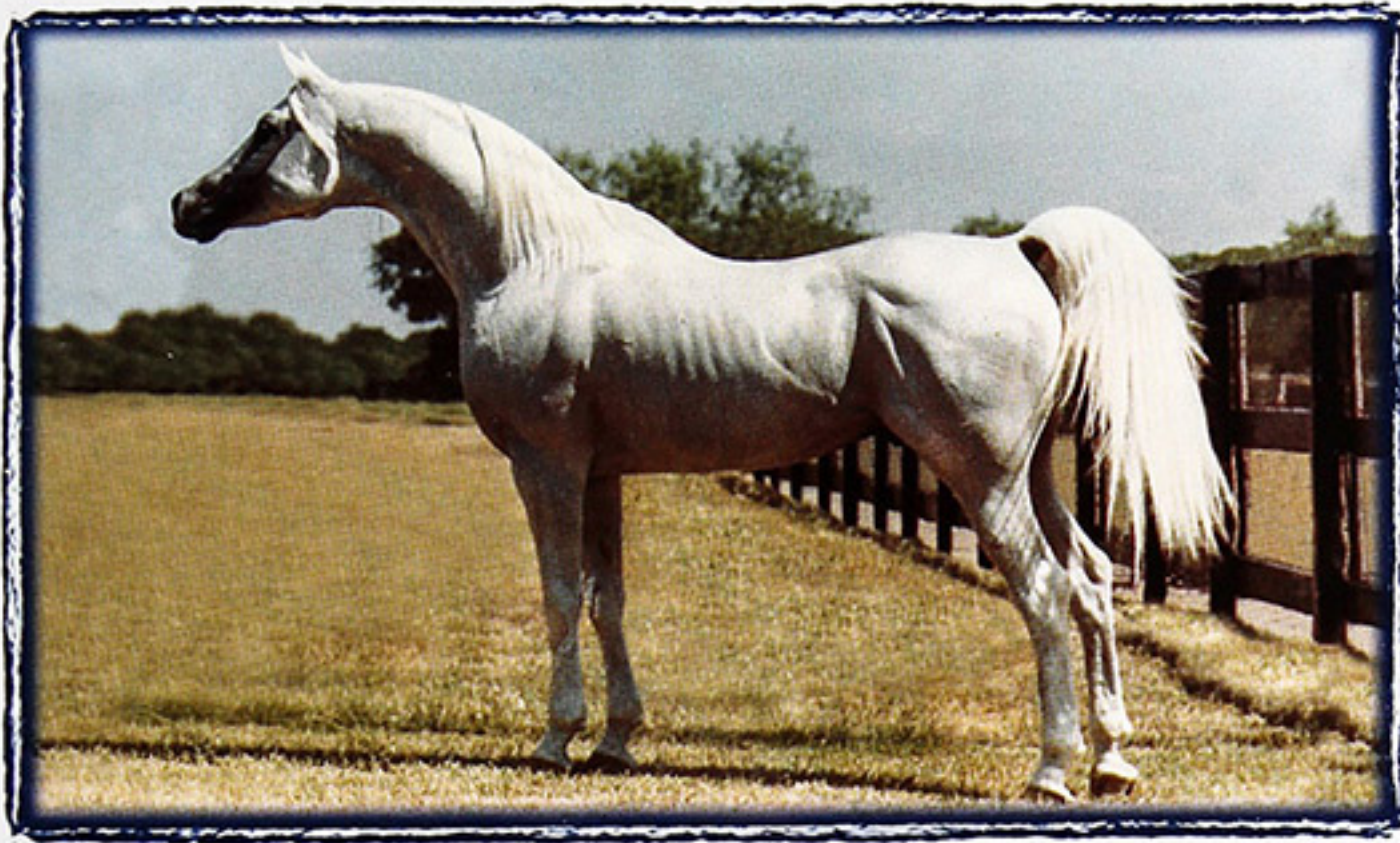
Photo by Sparagouski

The important private Studs in the US built their reputation and fame once on one superstallion – Ansata Arabians on Ansata Ibn Halima.



Photo by Johnny Johnston

Gleannloch Farms on Morafic.



Bentwood Farm on Ibn Moniet El Nefous.

find a large number of mares being bred to a certain stallion, was difficult and seldom. Besides these breeding-wise important groups, thousands of other Arabian horse owners exist who care for good Arabians. But what fascinates them to choose an Arabian is in fact not easy to know. It seems all of them have in common the idea of exotic flair, the tales, history and romance around



Photo by Johnny Johnston

Lasma Arabians on Bask.

this horse. These people represent the vast majority in each country. Some of them may follow Polish, Egyptian or any other bloodline. They like to study pedigrees or they believe the Arabians to be the easiest and nicest horse as a companion for men. Riding horses, show horses and many breeding horses originate from all these different sources, and the vast majority are crossbreeds of several bloodlines. Even when the trend goes into the direction of "pure Polish", "straight Egyptian", Russian or Spanish lines, Arabians of good quality, being nice and docile horses, kept for pleasure and delight, are still holding the first position.

Around the seventies, the majority of the Arabians kept in Europe and the USA were appreciated because they were pedigreed horses, with a history that places their origin back to Arabia. They were expensive and valuable due to their "desert origin". The wordings "Desert Arabians", "Original Arabians", "Asil Arabians" or even "Blue List Arabians" as the so-called purest of all, made their round. Only a few people at that time had a clear idea how a good, typical Arabian should look like. To own a horse of pure origin was quite enough. The upcoming horse shows meant for many breeders and newcomers a big surprise. Their horses were badly placed and not appreciated as a horse, neither in type nor in conformation. Sooner or later people were learning which features are indispensable for a well accepted Arabian horse; the left over ones, however, started to be a problem. An idea to use them in another way was needed and racing appeared to be in the mind of many owners a good solution. In fact, in the beginning races absorbed some of these horses. But soon racing results suggested that this simple idea did not work at all; some horses were fast, but could not hold long, others were slower, but their stamina and endurance was remarkable and regrettably many, too many, remained having never passed a single test. They were not fit, neither for one nor the other. The second group, however, the harder and tougher ones suddenly received wide international attention. Endurance riding events, which perfectly suited the Arabian horse, proved that many of the Arabian horses participating in such competitions could be of a suitable quality.

What had developed as a remedy for problems to find an additional market, began to divide the Arabian breed into groups, into sections of different abilities. Competition in shows forced breeders to select in this direction and

only the better horses could win in their class. Competition in racing quickly separated the slower and faster ones, good racehorses were not second class show horses any more, and racehorses with strong speed abilities genetically well fixed could be chosen from any population. And finally endurance quality was in demand and made, if it could perform, any Arabian valuable. Today all these activities are practised worldwide. Breeders in the Arabian countries of the Peninsula are aware of it and are preparing themselves to play a leading role worldwide in these activities.

In summary, the variety of types and the choices are enormous. Every bloodline has its own admirers and sometimes even ardent defenders. In addition, the variety of activities have developed its own dimensions: Racing, riding, endurance performances or shows are attractive events and offer sportsmanship for many. This multitude of possibilities keeps the discussion within the breeders and around the breed constantly alive and with it the fascination for these horses.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

It took a certain time for breeders to recognise the need to clearly divide between race horse- and show horse breeding in order to be competitive in one or the other discipline.



THE RETURN TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



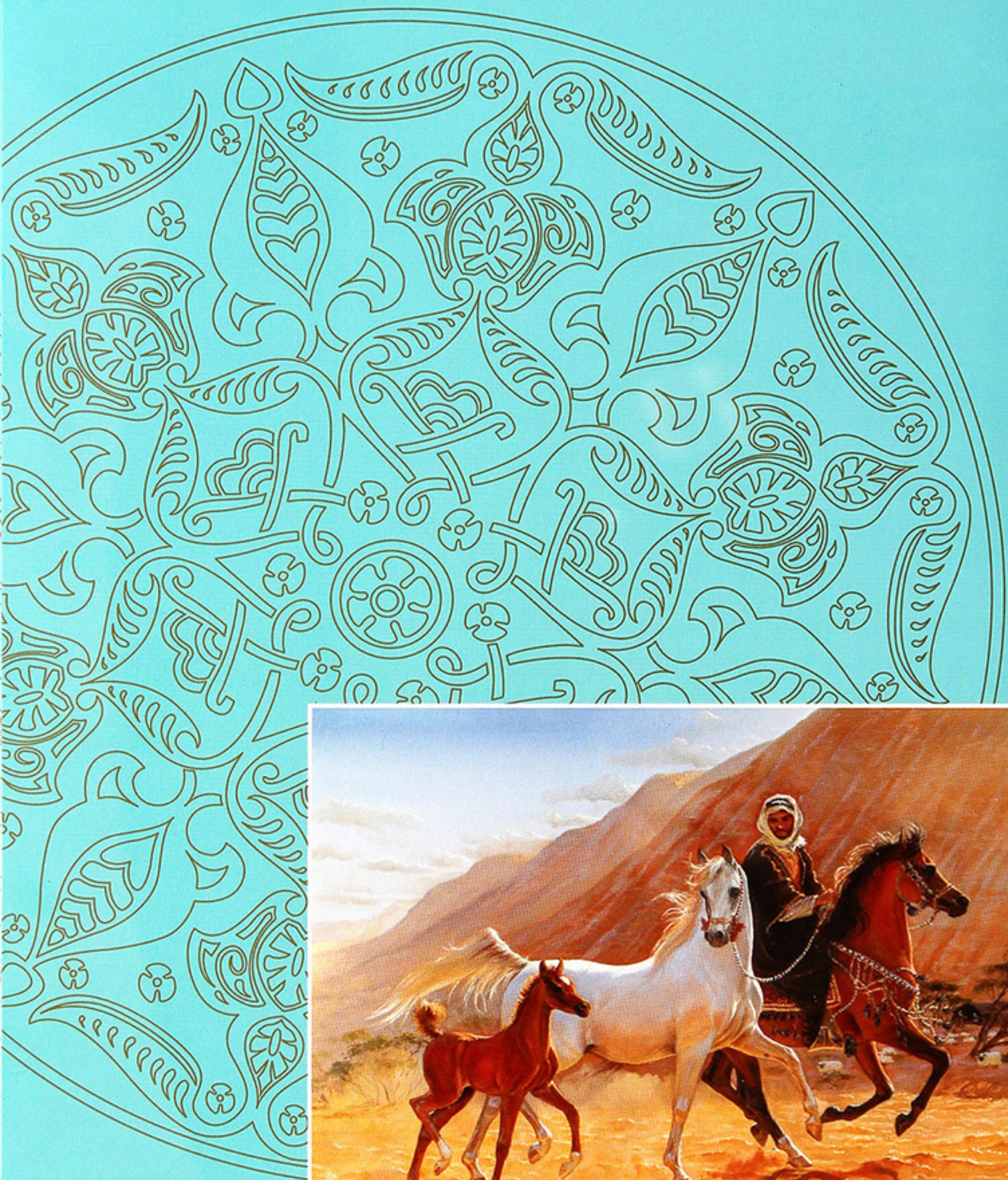
During the last twenty years, every year, a certain number of Arabian horses have been exported from Europe and the United States to the Arab countries. The majority and the first ones came from England. They were sent to Iraq, the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia. The traditional ties of Great Britain to its former protectorates, and the still persisting reputation of the Crabbet Stud made England "the Number One" in the Arabian horse activity throughout Europe for a long time, and definitely had a great influence on these transactions. However, this flow has nearly dried out now. Other well known sources attracted attention which could serve different interests and activities, activities like horse shows as practised in the Western countries or racing upgraded to perfection through all kinds of new technology, but still a continuation of former traditions. In fact, it was racing which led to the first bigger imports to Arabia from the West. Horsemen looked for good fast horses and studied with great attention the Arabian population of those countries, where racing was practised as a part of breeding. However, Arabian horse shows were practically unknown and only some international travellers from Arab countries were familiar with this kind of public presentation.

With the purchase of Arabians, which were believed to perform on the race track, the period of return began. Shortly after, the volume of return rose faster and faster, catching all fields in which these horses had gained a solid and appreciated position in Western horsemanship from showing, riding, breeding to enjoying the pleasure of their companionship.



Pleasure riding between the dunes in the desert became a popular attraction for local riders and tourists in all Middle East countries.

Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Drawing by Carle Vernet



RACE HORSES SHOW HORSES



All humans living in wide, large plains, like the Mongols, Afghans or Turkomans, are born horsemen, they love riding, racing and all related habits. It is a sport, a challenge for the youth, an activity for the ones who are full of spirit and courage, a record for the best breeders and it is a pleasure for the attending public. Nearly all horse breeds raised in these countries are used for races, from the little pony to the high-withered elegant breed.

In Arabia this also applies. Horses, horsemen, desert and plains belong together. To Arabs racing was a passion, even under simple conditions, good enough to get excited over speed, to compete with horses of other breeders and to get carried away by the feeling of being a winner and of harvesting success. Extremely fast horses were known and highly acclaimed within the tribal community. People prized them highly and these were the ones, which were made known to foreign buyers by traders or by rumours among Bedouins. However, they were difficult to obtain. Buyers were keen on purchasing them in order to send them to Europe or India, where racing was a great pleasure for the British residents and also for the local population during colonial times.

When the Middle East came under the protectorate of the French and English, races received a further push and a different look. Instead of the simple competition in the desert or on flat land, new modern racecourses were built and organised under European guidance. Racing started in Beirut, Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad on a high level. Betting was allowed here and there, in spite of the fact, that it is not permitted under Moslem religion. Until today, betting has remained a matter of conflict. On all these racecourses a new and bigger game began, especially when betting was allowed as in Beirut and most of the time in Baghdad. Particular races for Arabians, Anglo-Arabians and English Thoroughbreds were established, each single breed could compete in its own class. The organisers of such races had their own ways and means to put each



Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Marry Haggard

type of horse properly into its class, considering that their origin was known.

The proof required to be permitted into an Arabian race was to know their strain, to show a high tail carriage when galloping and not to surpass a limit in body size, large Arabians were not allowed to participate. Normally, a committee decided on the admission to an Arabian race considering such aspects, but definitely this was open ended and not the final answer to be a true Arabian. It was a rule that attention was given to the strain related to the female side only, it does not consider the sire side in breeding, although it is well known how much the sire's heritability affects the speed; mare owners were quick in their decision to send their female to a stallion which excelled in speed. Everyone enjoyed having offspring of such horses. Finally it took a short time for a great number of offspring from certain stallions to appear in racing, and one horse could influence, when intensively used in breeding within a comparatively short period, a whole population. Racing developed to be public entertainment, a sport for the participant and a great attraction for those who liked to gamble and to bet whenever it was allowed.

The acceptance of the Arab countries as members of the World Arabian Horse Organisation influenced the sport of racing. The Arabian horse population participating in racing was thoroughly and properly studied according to their purity, and from then on Arabians were divided into WAHO Arabians and others. The WAHO horses formed its own class and remained the only ones to be called "pure bred Arabians". Under these terms new race conditions were introduced in Egypt, Amman, Baghdad and especially in the Emirates. All horses participating had to be registered with WAHO. The racing organisations in Qatar and Oman soon followed the same example. Today, the Arabian horse racing population consists of the original historical breeding stock, now properly recorded and enlarged by imports from Europe and the US. These were obtained especially from those foreign breeding sources, where selection for speed had first priority, such as France, where speed and endurance is a well considered selection feature, as in Poland and Russia. This fascination flooded over to Europe. Racehorses from the Gulf participating in races in Europe and generous sponsorship from Arab authorities have given Arabian racing in Europe a new incentive and interest.

Through racing with its still booming tendency, not only imports as





Photo by Gigi Grasso

Endurance riding first practised and popular in the US is now firmly established in the Emirates. Fabulous facilities for caring, training, breeding and performing such events have been built at "Al Wathba".

*Endurance complex
Al Wathba UAE.*



Photo by Gigi Grasso

All necessary facilities for endurance competition are offered to the riders in perfection.

*Endurance starter
Al Wathba UAE.*

*Al Wathba endurance race
course UAE*



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The race tracks are exactly prepared, considering the depth of the ground.

*Al Wathba breeding Stables
UAE*



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Stabling of selected breeding stallions with the expectation to produce offspring of high endurance qualities.

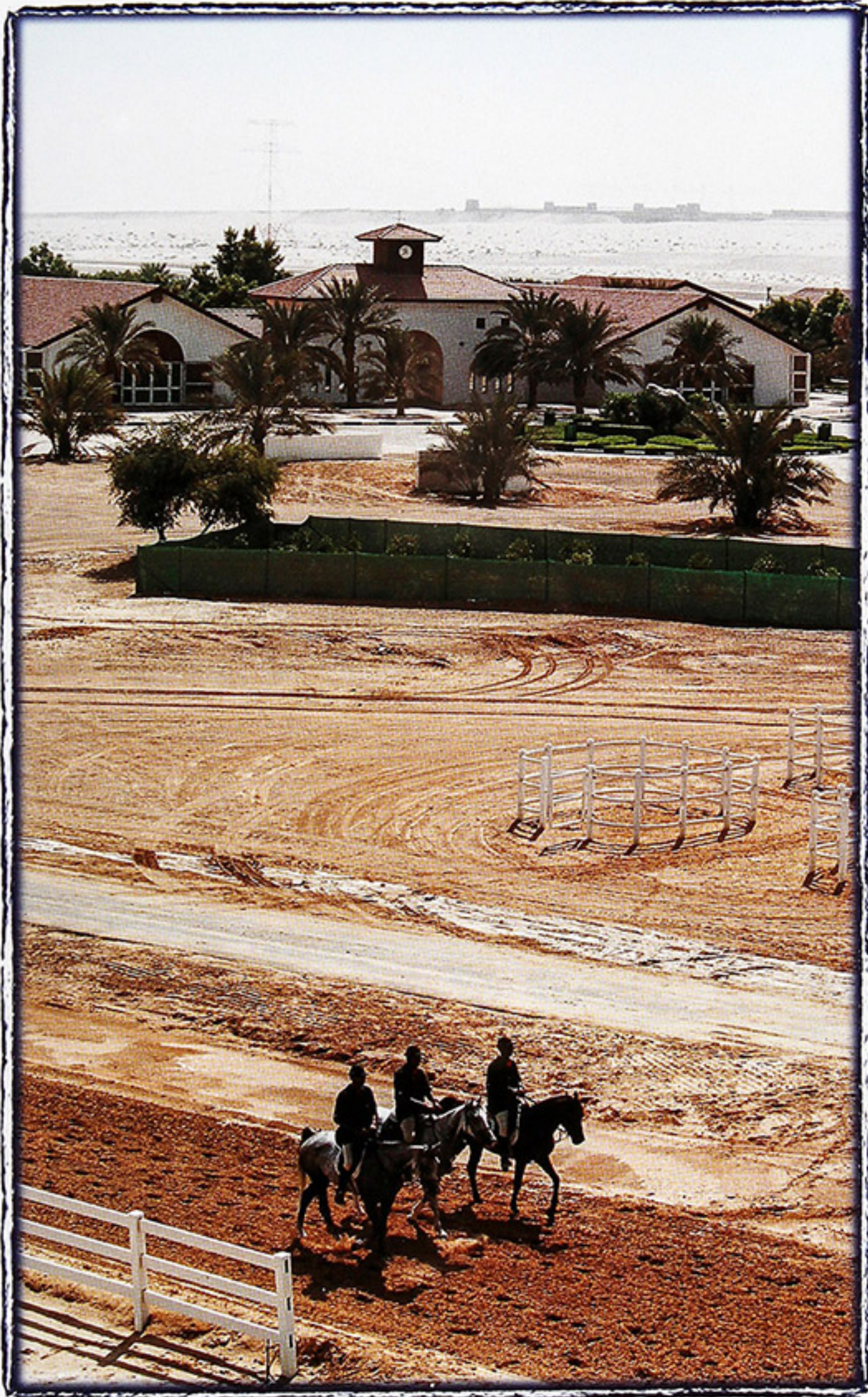


Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Reception and visitors building at the "Gantoot" race track.

proven racehorses as such received a strong incentive. Also racehorses as breeding objects enjoyed a high demand. This race breeding population, composed of WAHO accepted Arabians, is guided by only one goal: to be fast. Consequently, some of the best racehorses or many members of well known racing lines are now found in the stables of the rulers in the Emirates, and in some other racing stables in the neighbouring countries. This racing stock originates partly from Europe, like France, Poland or Russia and also from local horses originating from Iraq, which have been known to be fast horses throughout history. Most of the well bred racing stock in Turkey today has its roots in horses originating from Iraq. The final result of such a breeding procedure is pretty clear: these horses do not need the attractive head, the raised tail, the laid back shoulder or the arched neck. All these features, typical for a classical Arabian and indispensable for its attraction and beauty, are


subordinate. A new type within the Arabian breed, which could be called the Arabian racehorse, begins to shape up, selected and bred according to the same principles like his bigger brother, the English Thoroughbred; their aim is speed. Some French breeders claim to have applied such practices for a long time, one explanation for their success. Now these racehorses belong to the fast race group and there is little left which remains of the Arabian type.

In a similar but more compromising category concerning type and features falls the second fastest growing activity focusing on long distance or endurance riding, a concept first cultured in the USA and later practised in Europe. It seems to fit perfectly to the Arabian horse, since stamina and endurance is deeply rooted in the Arabian horse breed; this breed was known for its hardness at all times. These unique abilities were greatly appreciated



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Total view on the "Gantoot" race track in the Emirates.



by the Bedouins, they needed such horses in their migrations and war affairs. These qualities of the Arabian began to fascinate an enormous number of sportsmen. Special Studs for training and endurance horses were built, and the hardest and toughest ones are brought together in such facilities. Massive imports from France, Australia and the USA are flowing into the Middle East, mainly into the Gulf area. All of them have special endurance qualities. Besides such imports, breeding and selection efforts in the Peninsula underline the importance which is given to this activity. Large genuine breeding Studs have been in operation for a certain time and additional ones, even more sophisticated, are under construction considering all technologies in breeding, veterinary care, sanitation, feeding and physical examinations. No other kind of horse should be better prepared to succeed in this performance than this historical breed. Well trained and experienced horsemen are constantly searching around the world for more of the best endurance horses available. In the Emirates, in Abu Dhabi and Dubai a heaven is waiting for them to perform in such a discipline. An important section of the Arabian horse breed seems to have the chance to return to their origin. The door for a great future is wide open. Only the best ones of them, however, have a chance to remain a part of this community.

All in all, less than one percent of the Arabian horse population worldwide is involved in racing or endurance sport at this present time. 99 % of the horse population are serving other purposes and are apparently giving satisfaction to their owners in different ways. For the Arabian Peninsula different figures apply, especially for the Emirates, where involvement in sports is estimated to be up to 30 %.

Besides racing and endurance riding, Arabian horse shows became a firm establishment among breeders in the Western countries. Everybody involved in Arabian horses knows about them, visits them or follows their results; it is the oldest and most prominent forum to present the breed to the public. Especially in the USA, such shows developed to be a sensation, and, no doubt, America created within 30 years an amazing Arabian horse industry. Their horses are shown in halter classes, different riding classes and even in costumes or beauty classes. Breeders, traders, trainers, show organisers for different disciplines, journalists, advertising companies and even banks, are all



Photo by Gigi Grasso

MONITOR
(Nimroz x Matritsa)
Owned by: Al Janadriyah Farm
Saudi Arabia

Show horses enjoy the same admiration as first-class race winners. Some of the famous international show champions are now owned by members of the Royal Family in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

BJ THEE MUSTAFA
(Thee Desperado x Khalili El Bahar)
Owned by: Al Janadriyah Farm
Saudi Arabia

TALADDIN

(Dwd Tabasco x Winnetka)
Owned by: Al Janadriyah Farm
Saudi Arabia



Photo by Gigi Grasso

KORONEC

(Kubinec x Precious Me)
Owned by: Al Janadriyah Farm
Saudi Arabia



Photo by Gigi Grasso

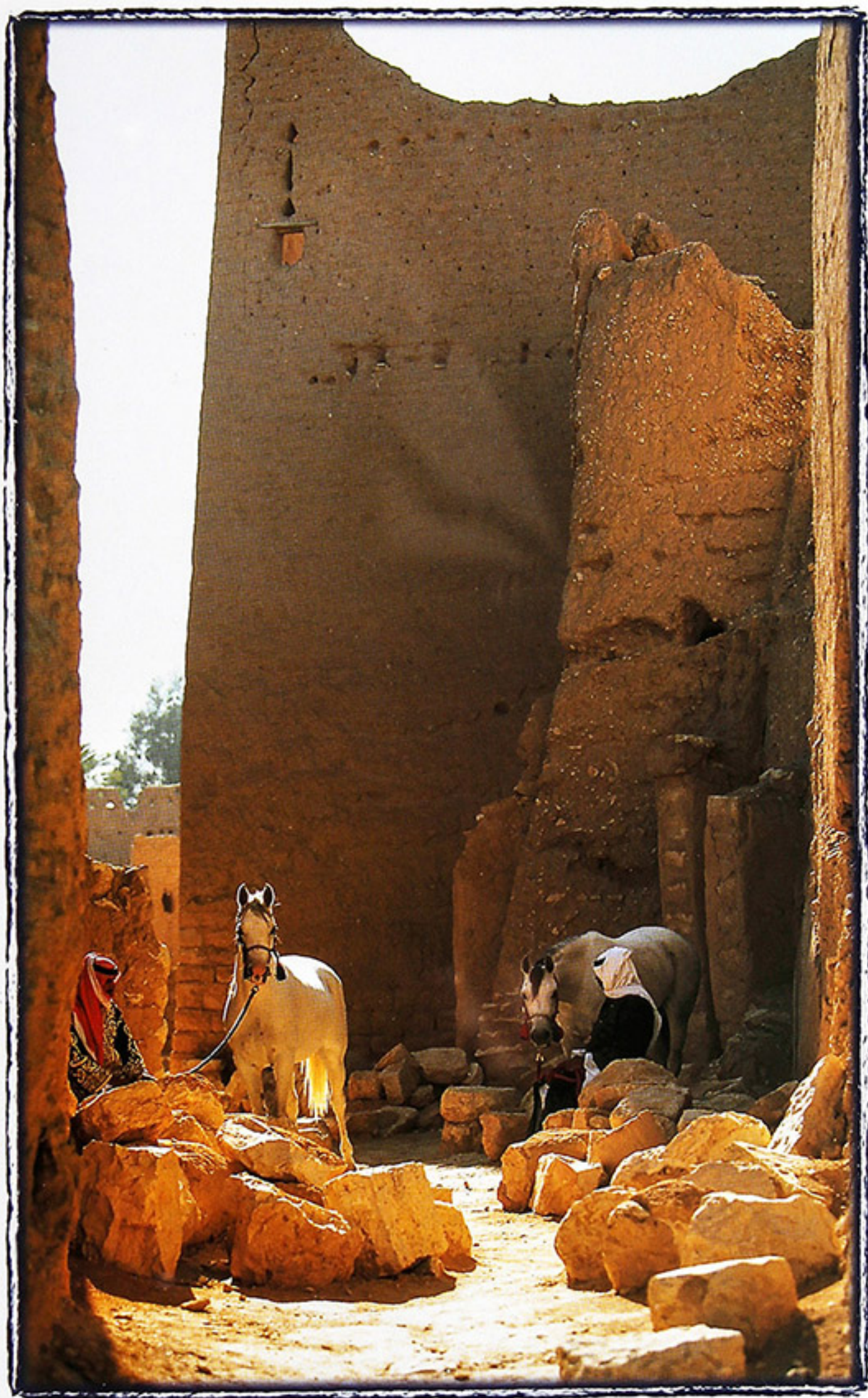


Photo by Gigi Grasso

involved in this system. They are the unveiled face of this extremely busy and important activity surrounding the most important show events. The once rather modest breeding shows in Europe finally turned into similarly spectacular events, and rules and regulations were needed to control all possible excesses concerning showing, riding, judging or even preparing the horses for their expected success in the showring. Finally these horse shows reached the Middle East. Experts from Europe and the USA assisted in organising the first ones and guaranteed perfection in following Western management and skill. They obeyed the procedures as established and applied in Europe, they are, in fact, their true copies.

RS GHAZIYA
(Burkan x Gariah)
Stallion, 2000

Owned by: The Royal Stables UAE



Photo by Gigi Grasso



DRUG
(Prizrak x Karinka)
Stallion, 1985
Owned by: The Royal Stables UAE

Photo by Gigi Grasso

MALEIK EL KHEIL
(El Shaklan x Muneera)
Stallion, 1979
Owned by: The Royal Stables
UAE

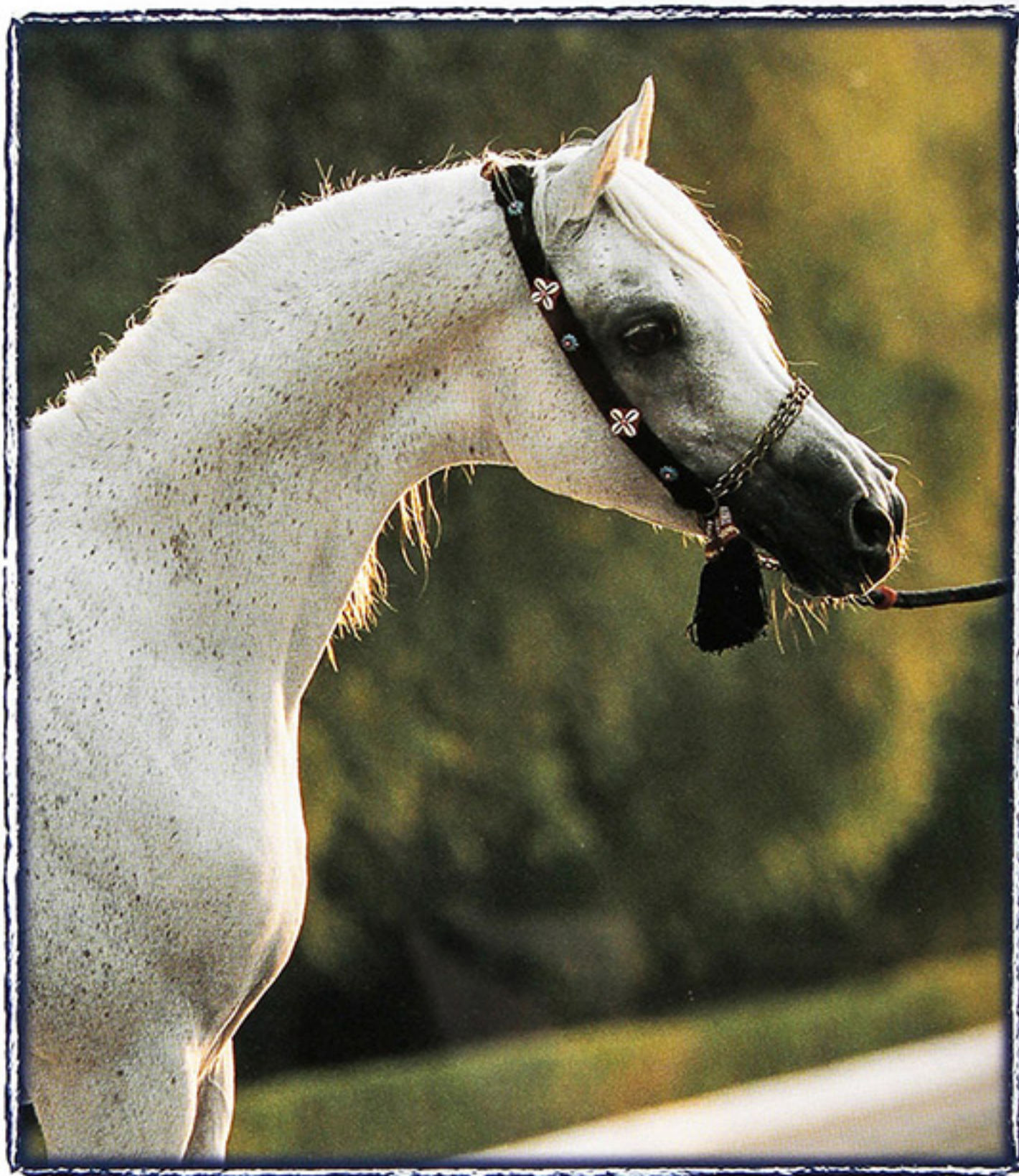


Photo by Gigi Grasso

Successful Arabian show horses, wherever they were bred, are considered by many people to be the top ones of the total breed. They are looked upon to be the ultimate standard, and have without doubt a strong influence on the determination of the direction where an important part of the Arabian breed will go.

Some of these best show horses worldwide found their way to the Orient. They came from Europe, the United States and even from Australia, where they left the show ring as triumphant winners. A precious collection of such famous Arabians are kept in the splendid stables of the Saudi princes and members of the Royal Family, further collections are to be found in the Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

Such show horses, most of them proven champions, are representing a further strong group which was imported to the Middle East and, in particular, to the Arabian Peninsula. They enjoy among their owners the same reputation as the race- or endurance horses of first class.

The position and importance of such show champions within the breed is unquestionable. They have been properly judged and chosen as champions by internationally experienced judges, some of them several times, always confirming their unique position. Even when such champions do not look alike, they obviously differ according to their bloodline and origin, they seemed to be the ideal model of the breed for the public, for many horsemen and their breeders.

At present there are many indications that the development of such shows will proceed again into a further direction. They were simple breeding shows to begin with. They have been, for a certain time, the ideal place to show and present a well-trained Arabian of excellent type and conformation under superlative conditions. Now they seem to have become a market place. "Here you can see the best and here you can buy the highest level of the breed."

Besides all that, shows fulfil another very positive purpose: they are a means of education. People learn about the features of the Arabians by following the judging procedure. The judging system as applied mostly in Europe allows the observer to understand which features and points of the judged horses are satisfying the judges and which ones need correction. Thus the knowledge of evaluating Arabians has increased tremendously during the



last few years and helped to improve the level of quality of the breed in total.

As mentioned above, it is evident that show winners are not copies of each other. Even being all champions they differ from each other, and this fact opens a door to some interesting considerations.

1. Is there a difference in preferences for type or origin?

Apparently there is, and this explains the present variety in the breed as a continuation of the past.

2. Have these preferences changed in the course of time?

Apparently they have changed. They have changed due to needs, as in body size or movement, due to regional customs and due to better knowledge about the Arabian horse as such. These are additional reasons as to why this great variety of type will continue to exist.

It is a fact, and maybe for many people a surprise, that the Arabian horse is possibly the only one which does not fall under a binding standard as a breed. In principle, breeding of all kinds of domesticated animals is first of all directed by the adherence to the breed documented by a pedigree, and secondly, by following a certain standard, which is fixed for all animals carrying such an official pedigree. Other horse breeds, cattle or sheep breeds as nearly all breeds of dogs, must have certain features. Any major deviation from such standard leads to exclusion from the breeding population. The Arabian horse, however, only carries its pedigree; there is no standard as such. It is the so-called, "blood", its quality of parentage which makes him an Arabian. It is assumed that winners of major shows could play the role as a standard and act as a suggestion on how the breed should look, but no one is obliged to follow. Consequently, a collection of show winners, is in principle a collection of preferences documented in such horses, but leaving a lot of room for subjective interpretation. Many, perhaps most of the breeders, are using this space of freedom. So many breeders are following their own intuitions and have their own preferences. They visit shows for whatever reason, but not with the intent to change their preferences and their mind.

It is estimated that 3.5 % - 4.0 % of the European Arabian horses are regularly participating in show events, again a low percentage, however, shows are the window for the whole breed and certainly have an influence on the trend of breeding and even more on the public opinion.



A huge block of Arabian horsemen remains in silence: More than 90 % of all Arabians are in their hands. They care that their mares, foals and stallions are registered properly, and many of them are partial to a nice full pedigree. Far away from spectacular events, from demonstrations of speed and race, from winning or losing, away from all these noises of publicity, the majority of all Arabian horse breeders seem to have decided to live in admirable privacy. Only individualistic people could be happy with such a wide liberty. Each one of them can practise his own preference in breeding or riding, and some of them were lucky enough to reach, even as a simple starter, finally the importance of a known breeder worthwhile to follow or to imitate.

What has begun since historical times, when natural selection was forming types according to ecological and climatic conditions like the Arabians of the south, the Peninsula and the Nejd or the ones of the north in the more fertile valleys and places of Syria, Jordan and Mesopotamia continues to exist until today: a great variety of types. It once gained importance with the appearance of all the different strains. Whenever a breeder tribe developed its own type and fame, he added his name to it, and this new variety showed up. When expeditions from the West were searching for their specific type, there were those who chose their horses for speed and stamina, others for riding and the third group for beauty, prestige and pleasure; new populations and groups emerged as a consequence. All these preferences are multiplied into thousands today.

No official organisation or any group of a large number of breeders will ever convince their members of the need for any kind of limitation in order to equalise the breed and put it under a certain standard. Only the preferences of the breeders and buyers decide what is worthwhile to breed and to maintain. Any Arabian, unappreciated and unsaleable, will have the bitter fate to stand on the lowest rank of the total population.

For all these above activities, racing, endurance, riding, shows or just pleasure, whatever might be their importance and quality of attraction, horses are needed. Without them, nobody can run such spectacular events, the fascination for Arabians in all its colourful appearance would reach its end. As mentioned, breeding had once fallen to a dangerously low level. Arabian horses became rare. Since then, the situation has changed dramatically.





RENAISSANCE IN BREEDING



It happens to be that breeding of Arabians is for a majority of this community the greatest fascination. It must be very attractive to choose and to search for mares or stallions to breed and to wait impatiently for the creature which finally is born. This attitude applies to all: to those ones selecting for racing and speed, to those ones looking for the toughest and hardest and to those who dream to breed a champion for the ring, and it also applies to the great majority who are pleased to own Arabians for enjoyment, and just as a creature for such.

The famous racehorse breeder, Frederico Tesio, has written a magnificent book "Breeding the Racehorse". It could not have done better: a book one wants to read at once, it attracts, it encourages thought and it pleases real horse lovers, as he left in his argumentation enough room for nature and its inborn forces. The question for what to breed in racehorse selection looks relatively simple. It is speed only; it means to choose the fastest horses and to concentrate on them in breeding. Generations of racehorse breeders followed this rule, and fortunes were gained and lost in pursuing this goal, but the ball of luck, even when well guided, seems to roll in its own direction, and what seems to be so simple and clear, turns out to be a massive challenge. It makes the road of manoeuvring extremely narrow and gives no room or place to consider any other traits which lead away from speed. Anyone who leaves this narrow road will lose time and must quickly turn again into the straight direction. It appears that racehorses should show certain features needed to develop speed, which are not compatible or identical to the classical Arabian type. When comparing well known successful racehorses with a classical Arabian, the difference is obvious and both are results of hundreds of years of selection. However, this difference does not conflict with the adherence to the Arabian breed. This adherence to the Arabian breed is based on its historical background, its ancestors and its pedigrees. There is no standard for features.



Breeding of Arabian horses became again a great fashion. To select horses for racing, endurance performance or shows and pleasure triggered a great activity in all these fields.

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Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Marry Haggard

A racehorse must probably show the features optimal for a racehorse, which differs from the classical Arabian ones. But if the history in its pedigree gives proof to be an Arabian, it remains an Arabian. This is the convention between all owners of the breed.

In the course of time it became very clear that within the Arabian horse population certain families and their line-breeding excel in speed. Such lines exist within the Russian, Polish, French and maybe in some of the Egyptian horse breeding populations. It is evident that also American breeders established certain Arabian racing lines which are highly accepted worldwide. Horses of this type and origin govern today the breeding programmes established for racing in the Arabian Peninsula, mainly in the Gulf. In many cases, any upcoming winning prospects quickly found their way into the racing stables, intelligently conceived and built considering the force of the hot Oriental sun.

Racehorse breeding has a long tradition, however, to breed endurance horses is new. Most of these horses emerged from racing or ridden training and turned later into the endurance class. Many sound racehorses being not too fast, but showing hardness and staying power, became successful in this discipline. Especially in the French and Australian breeding exists a good number of these athletes and many of these were discovered on their own merits and by accident, either by riding or during training courses. At present, the Emirates are competing successfully with everybody else in the Middle East specialising in Marathon riding and any other even difficult endurance event. Their horses and riders are participating in nearly all major international events in Europe as well as in the Middle East. They promote and sponsor this sport worldwide. Some of the most important ones are organised several times per year; perfect conditions for riders, horses and all kinds of services are offered especially in the Emirates today, where up to one hundred and fifty riders are participating in the major events. It should be mentioned that other breeds, like Anglo Arabs or English Thoroughbreds, participate with strong representation in these endurance meetings; the Anglo Arabs with increasing success.

However, until now the pure bred Arabians represent 60 % of the better horses in many of these performances in the Middle East. What does an





UAE Endurance Breeding
Stables.

Photo by Gigi Grasso

Suitable facilities have been built in the middle of a wide desert area, populated with mares carefully selected as good producers of performance horses.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

endurance Arabian look like? It could look and might look like any other Arabian type: classical or racing type, Russian, Polish or Egyptian. It does not matter. What it needs is a good heart, very strong and well-functioning; it needs faultless legs as perfectly boned as possible with correct and right set angles, no deviation in bone, a high bone density and apparently a willpower to sustain. Only such horses are worthwhile to be considered for this endurance sport and will return the effort to prepare them for their duty in a two to four years training period. Selection concentrates on those abilities and psychological conditions. Any horse missing these conditions will break down and collapse sooner or later.

For nearly ten years, some new breeding Studs in the Emirates have developed a population of an impressive choice of breeding horses, exposing a perfect set of legs, a good strong croup and a wide chest leaving heart and lungs enough room for optimal functioning. When fully grown, they undergo a well studied training programme and are managed and fed according to the most advanced formulas available, all adapted to hot countries' conditions.

Such a programme and such projects need time and space. Maybe the wide plains and empty regions of Australia and their enthusiastic horsemen traditions as well as these upcoming Gulf regions will offer the best facilities to form and to breed, in future, such athletic horses to perfection.

Who is now looking after the representation and breeding of the classical horse in Arabia? Where are they and what is in their mind? Most of the serious students of the Arabian horse history in the Orient or Occident, the previous ones and the ones of today, came in one point to a perfect harmony: the cradle of the classical Arabians was once the Nejd region in the Arabian Peninsula. Here it grew in the hands of the roaming Bedouin tribes, and thereafter their offspring spread, during a long history by trade and migration all over Arabia, to the northern direction. Anyone who was caught by the fascination of their historical background believes, when he follows literature, travellers' reports or other recollections from older generations, that this type of horse was the "original". When one reads of the classical Arabians, it is meant by this denomination: "original" is equal to "classical". However, it should be said that this fact is not 100 % scientifically proven. Yet there are many indications which lead to the conclusion that such a belief has the greatest chance to



be true. No exact descriptions are given from their breeders, however, as shown before, some surprising historical poetry exists. Some of these famous horses have been seen by travellers, others arrived from this area to Cairo, Constantinopel and even later on to Poland and Germany, and well-known painters were hired to portray these new-arrivals. And all of them have painted or described the same kind of horse: an animal of refinement, elegance and graceful in its total expression with its unique high tail carriage, arched neck and fine, relatively small expressive head. In fact, horses close to such documentary paintings exist today - but there are only a few.

In the search for such originals it is only natural that the new generation of breeders in Arabia may look to their own front door first, as these are all the original countries of origin and not to any other place in Europe or the US. They travel first to Egypt, one of the few locations where the Arabians, mostly originated from the Peninsula, are saved and looked after until present time, under the guidance of a State-owned Stud. The history of this Stud is easy to understand from its very beginning. All what is and could be presented is well proven and at the same time a piece of history which reflects Arabia: as it was said before, horses came from the Peninsula, bought or inherited by Abbas Pasha, the Viceroy of Egypt, and other Egyptian princes, horses from Bahrain and Syria and horses which were added later on, exchanged as gifts between Arabian aristocrats. The only ones which came from outside of Arabia were purchased from the well known Crabbet Park Stud in England, but were direct descendants of the famous Rodania strain in Syria. All this sounds like home, gives an impression of authenticity, and discussions and queries which may arise are governed and answered in an Arabian ambiance, comprising both sides. The beauty of the delightful type of the El Zahraa Arabians will catch their eyes the same way as it has happened to any other buyer, breeder or visitor be he a local or a foreigner.

They also will hear and find out that the extraordinary type of the Egyptian Arabian is accepted worldwide. The Russians of Tersk have given Aswan his well-earned credit; the Stud directors of Weil/Marbach acted the same way and turned to Egypt in choosing their stallions. When Ibn Halima and Morafic arrived in the States, they were also a sensation. It seems they had given the idea of a new look to many existing and future breeders. The majority which





A herd of Arabian mares raised in their native countries breathing their original homeland's air since birth. Owned by Al Janadriyah Farm, Saudi Arabia.

ever visited the Egyptian Stud, left with a long lasting impression that they had seen the precious remains of an old breed, certainly not perfect all over, but breathing the spirit of the Orient, where beauty and poverty live close together in flora, in fauna and even in the ardent and deplorable expressions of mankind. An Arabian visitor will be impressed the same way, he will be touched even deeper, in remembering the thoughts and the fate of his elders passed away generations before.

A typical Arabian feature may look exotic to an Occidental, but will look



Photo by Gigi Grasso

familiar to an Oriental. What a breeder in Germany feels for his Hanoverian horse or an Irishman for his Hunter, the same approach must be valid for an Arab breeder, in looking at his own horse. Each one of them will see his horse as "HIS or OURS", and many old, local Arabian breeders in Syria, Iraq or Egypt have been heard saying exactly the same, when it comes to praise and explanation of their own position.

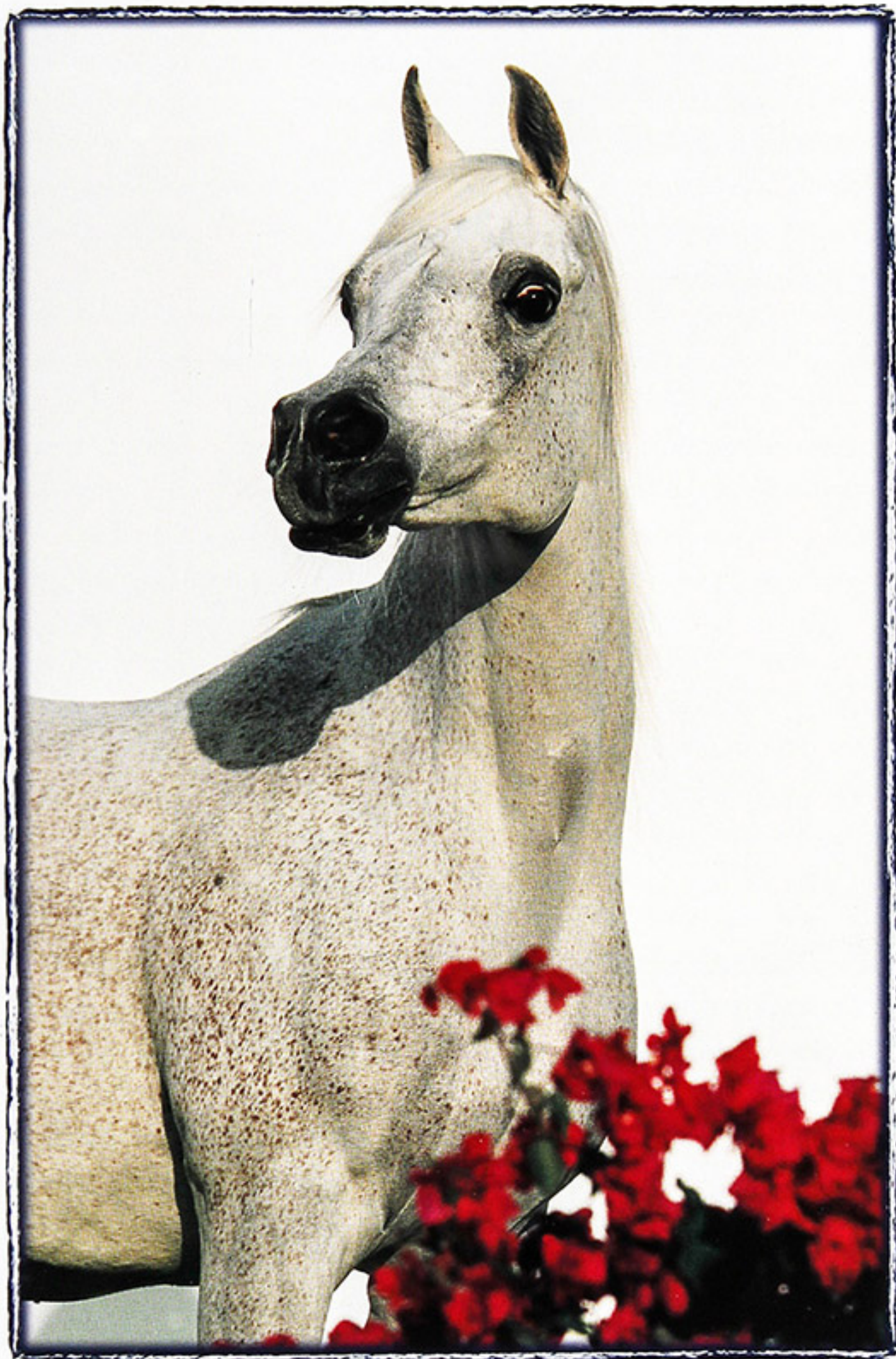
The visitation to shows is another method to get acquainted with the breed and to receive additional orientation. These events are offering the chance to compare between types within the breed and may confirm that the visualised decision was a proper one or the contrary.

Such visits to horse shows or publications about them must have influenced breeding-oriented persons in the Peninsula. Some of the known and famous show-winners today occupy a stallion box in the Royal Stables of Abu Dhabi. Such champions are seen with the Emir of Sharja. They might be of Polish, Russian or Egyptian origin; important for the new owner was their eminent position within the Arabian breed. Around these stallions, pretty mares are found, also of various origins. These collections of attractive Arabians are used for breeding as well, and many of the foals born turn out to be Arabians of excellent type and quality. One could name such an approach more a phenotype breeding, since the genotype part is practically not accountable and combination abilities are mostly unknown. This does not at all decrease the pleasure and attraction of breeding as such. The expectation to be rewarded

AISCHA
(Ansata Halim Shah x Ghazala)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso



ANSATA SELKET
(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata
Sammara)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar

Photo by Gigi Grasso

Aisha and Ansata Selket, Arabian mares of an overpowering desire to anyone who is confronting them. Original type in its highest quality.

by the pretty foal is the same in whatever programme. Most Arabians worldwide are originating from breeding Studs following the same rules.

Nevertheless many of the newly started breeders in Arab countries have taken already a clear decision to choose Egyptian horses for their Stud, and in Egypt many private Studs were established during the last ten years, using only their Egyptians, having recognised that one of the worldwide most famous Studs was located in their own country.

The preference for the Egyptian type among breeders in Arabia is obviously very clear and seems to grow in importance from day to day. The most important reason for this trend is the following fact:

Many of the best specimens of Egyptian Arabians, bred either in Egypt, Europe or the States, are already in the hands of a few breeders in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia . These horses excel in type and elegance and even more so under oriental climatic conditions. This incomparable presentation of the finest horses is calling for repetition and imitation.

As in any other breeding population, the Egyptian breeding stock was divided, as explained, in families for beauty and type, performance and speed. Eligible and outstanding for type and beauty are only a few of the total population. A great number of the foals born or of the older breeding stock does not satisfy the intentions of the breeders who are strictly looking for the classical type. They only look for the last ones, which they would like to have returned to those places where these horses once lived and where they were formed. These are their originals.

This region of their origin had its own unique distinct character, it was anything else but a romantic place; it was rather close to hell, and whoever travelled to this region in the summer heat, began to understand what is meant by environment and its effects, when everything is silent, when life seems to stand still, nothing moves and just seems to wait until time will pass, the sun will set down, and the cooler night will fall in. Then the term "genetic environmental factor" begins to make sense because one feels which important role the environment plays in life and its ways and forms of existence; for sure, this did not stop in front of the Arabian horse. An influence of such an overwhelming force must have quickly touched everything living in such areas. That such conditions formed in a period of more than 1.000 years a different



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The great wide homeland of the Arabian horses in the middle of the Peninsula. Wide plains and sometimes wandering sandy dunes have been given this region its face.

Arabian is a biological fact when evaluating the completely different ecology in the other parts of Arabia and its persistent influence on nature.

In most of the travellers' reports, one can read that the Nejd, situated in the middle of the Arabian Peninsula, was the region of its own and created its own type in many respects. Such an environmental effect on life of whatever kind cannot be partial because all are living under the same conditions. The less the environment factor is influenced by human interference, the more this is true. Today this interference is a problem in many parts of the world,



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The light small gazelles are found in many regions, where a thin vegetation allows their survival.

also in Arabia. Until fifty years before nobody would ever have believed or thought of changing a great part of the land in the Nejd area into a fertile agricultural region as it is today. Until then it had been desert for thousands of years with very little vegetation, increasing and decreasing under seasonal influence and allowed only a very thin nomadic population to live: Bedouins with their sheep, camels, horses, dogs and falcons, and maybe here and there some goats or a few donkeys kept by the poorer tribes. This was all, nothing could be added. Reports mentioned that the Peninsula was populated with a fair number of gazelles of different species, but all of them have of the smaller type. Where gazelles were living, there appeared their hunters as well: the wild cats. And it was the cheetah, which dominated the scene as the most fre-

quent predator in Arabia, due to its style of hunting. It developed the behaviour to catch its prey by running it out since there was no ambush, no place to hide. This wild cat is also the driest and smartest of its kind.

And finally the vegetation: the Arabian palm tree appears so elegant, it moves and turns so gently in the wind, but whenever its leaves are touched, they are frightening, tough and hard and seem to be composed of a bundle of dry strings – as if showing its grim will to survive and to resist all surrounding adversity. The few bushes on the land are of the same nature: stiff, dry and repelling, yet still plucked and carefully eaten by roaming camels. All what is seen around and all what lives, looks dry and light, but tough and solidly composed, not a gram of extra load, no place or room for superfluous formation,

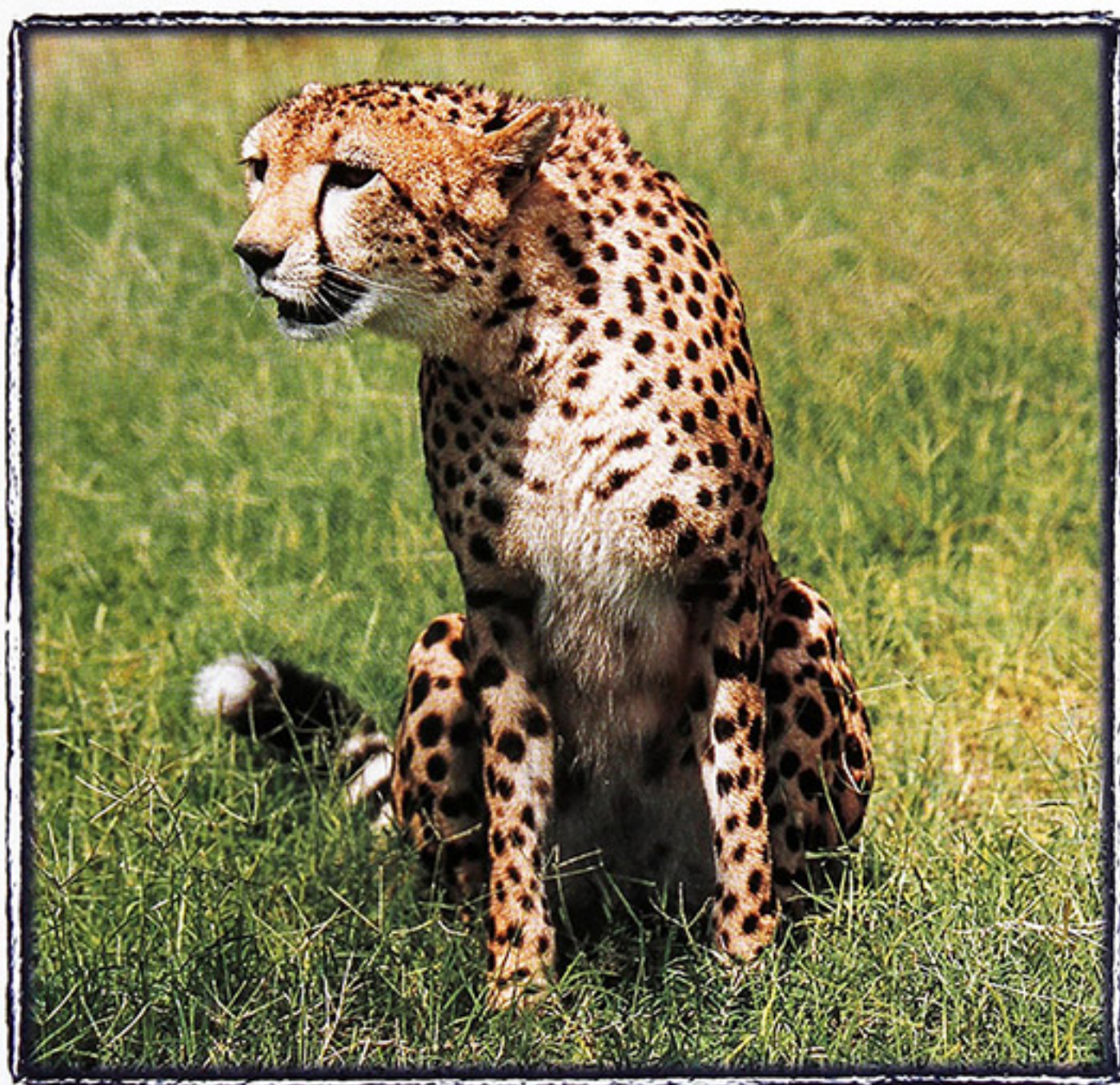


Photo by Gigi Grasso

In the richer green grounds the fast cheetah is waiting for its chance to run out its prey.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

"Adaptation" is one magic world for survival. "Migration" the other. Plants cannot move; they are fixed on their location, nature invented their biological instruments, which let them stay alive during all seasons.




Photo by Gigi Grasso

but able to collect reserves for survival, whenever needed in various forms. One can name them all again: camels and sheep, plants and bushes and added to them the horse of Arabia, the one of the Nejd. They all follow the same law of nature, determined by the environment and dealing with it, each one in its own way. Their breeders live with them under the same conditions. Their knowledge has allowed them to ease their situation, they could assist, but they could influence their luck only to a limited degree. They had only the choice to take and to follow what was offered to them. They settled where the desert was green, and grass and flowers were the only soft and tender items which showed up within a limited period during seasons. As quickly as they appeared, they vanished again, and the short time in between has to be used by all creatures to nurture their young ones to an age and strength allowing them to follow and to survive during the unending migrations to still better regions. And all this life went on every year, one was better, the other instead maybe a disaster, and this for thousands of years, forming and interfering in each single entity. Such poor looking animals could even be seen in our days, in bad years or seasons in Arabia and even in Egypt.

It was in the Sixties when Egypt was poor. A country suffering from an enormous political error, a country in war, little food for people and practically no feed for horses. El Zahraa's Arabians looked miserable, dried out until skin and bone, but they were alive. They became pregnant, they gave birth, and foals were running around. Desert Arabians must have looked the same. Their eyes looked bigger than normal, their skin finer than ever, their head dry and even prettier. Foreign visitors were shocked, but many Arab men thought differently. What type of horse should rest then under the palm trees in Kuwait, Qatar or Dubai, or wherever in the Peninsula, which one should stand under the burning sun at noon, holding its head way down and breathing extremely slowly, not one effort being too much? If someone wants an original, the answer is there; it stands clearly in front of everyone: all that is born into this specific environment is what the desert allows to exist. A conscientious Arab breeder might select his horse by having such thoughts, and on which his choice falls is nearly always predictable: horses with dry bones, fine legs, dense and hard, with a light head and stamped throughout by features which look like allowing survival when it comes to the worst.





It is not a surprise that many Arabian breeders were curious and did not get tired in searching again and again for horses of a similar type in other Arab countries, other than Egypt. Regrettably, until now nearly all have given up and only Egypt remains as the only attractive source to propagate and favour a certain trait or type. As in the Egyptian breeding one can detect horses, much drier than others, much finer and more beautiful than others, and a few among them which are unique. None of the other breeding programmes worldwide have ever fostered such a type of horse. Their beauty is different and an exceptional one. Some of them will never win a show, but they are so special that they do not need to win to be appreciated by all. Also, the Polish Stud once bred the mare Bandola, a unique horse, the Arabian Queen of Poland, Polish in all her lines, a beautiful, fantastic looking brood mare as well; and also worldwide known was Estopa, a Spanish Arabian mare. She was both, a show winner and a famous brood mare, exceptional in Arabian expression. Both had their own type, both were first-class mares and still different from each other; and there was the Egyptian mare Nashua, a class in itself, an Oriental beauty.

Their presence was asking for admiration, and one could feel their real home should be somewhere else. Knowledge about horses is one aspect of appreciation, the attraction of mind a phenomenon of metaphysical dimensions is another.

Many of the Arabian breeders are wrong in thinking that the relatively high number of pretty and beautiful Arabian horses today is a consequence of the horse show industry. They see in these pretty types artificial creatures. In their mind the historical Arabian is a rather rough horse, well-boned, not too tall with a straight or dished head and a good, strong body constitution. This belief is an expression of a lack of information and an only superficial understanding of the breeds. It misses the history of breeding Arabians from former times until today. Perfectly beautiful Arabians were alive and existed, a long time before any horse owner or trainer used electrical hair cutters, ointment powder, plastic hoof adapters, walkers or tread mills to fix up the horses. Already 150 years ago, these horses were pictured as unique types. Could it be accepted that all artists were falling into the same trap and all travellers committed the same errors, like Kossack, Vernet, Adam, Meyer and many



C. Verneer - *Arabian horses, noble and specimen of beauty and elegance are not products of the modern horseshow industries, they have existed for a long time.*

more? How did they know about the same unique features? They saw them nearly alike. Otherwise, they could not have illustrated or pictured them in such a similarity. No one can believe that all of them exaggerated exactly on the same features and all of them followed an imagination or an error of exactly the same kind. And what about the admirable expressive drawing of the most faithful Lady Ann Blunt, visiting Arabia one hundred years before? On the walls in the Egyptian Agricultural Museum photos are exposed picturing some of the very first foundation mares of the RAS and some later bred mares living fifty to seventy-five years ago. At this time shows did not exist, and no magic breeding tricks were invented or applied to overplay the law of nature. Just the opposite is true: careful selection was and is the only means to maintain or improve a breed. All the beautiful Arabians trace back to those



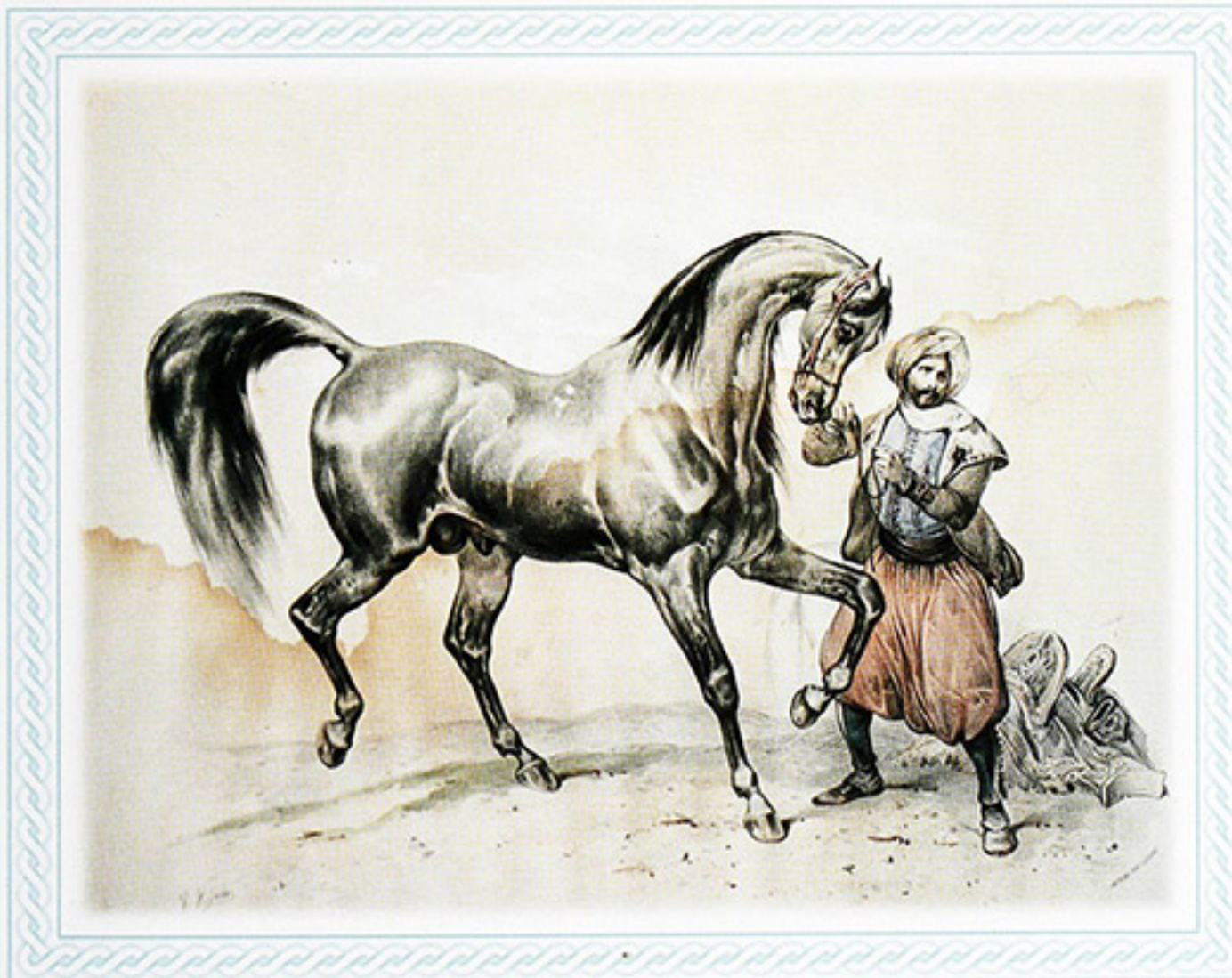
Heinrych Von Mayr "Arab horsemen at play" 1846 - *Famous horse painters in history, which had been confronted with the Arabian breed painted and presented them in the same manner as proud and beautiful creatures. Made all of them exactly the same errors or do all these drawn horses really correspond with their existing originals?*

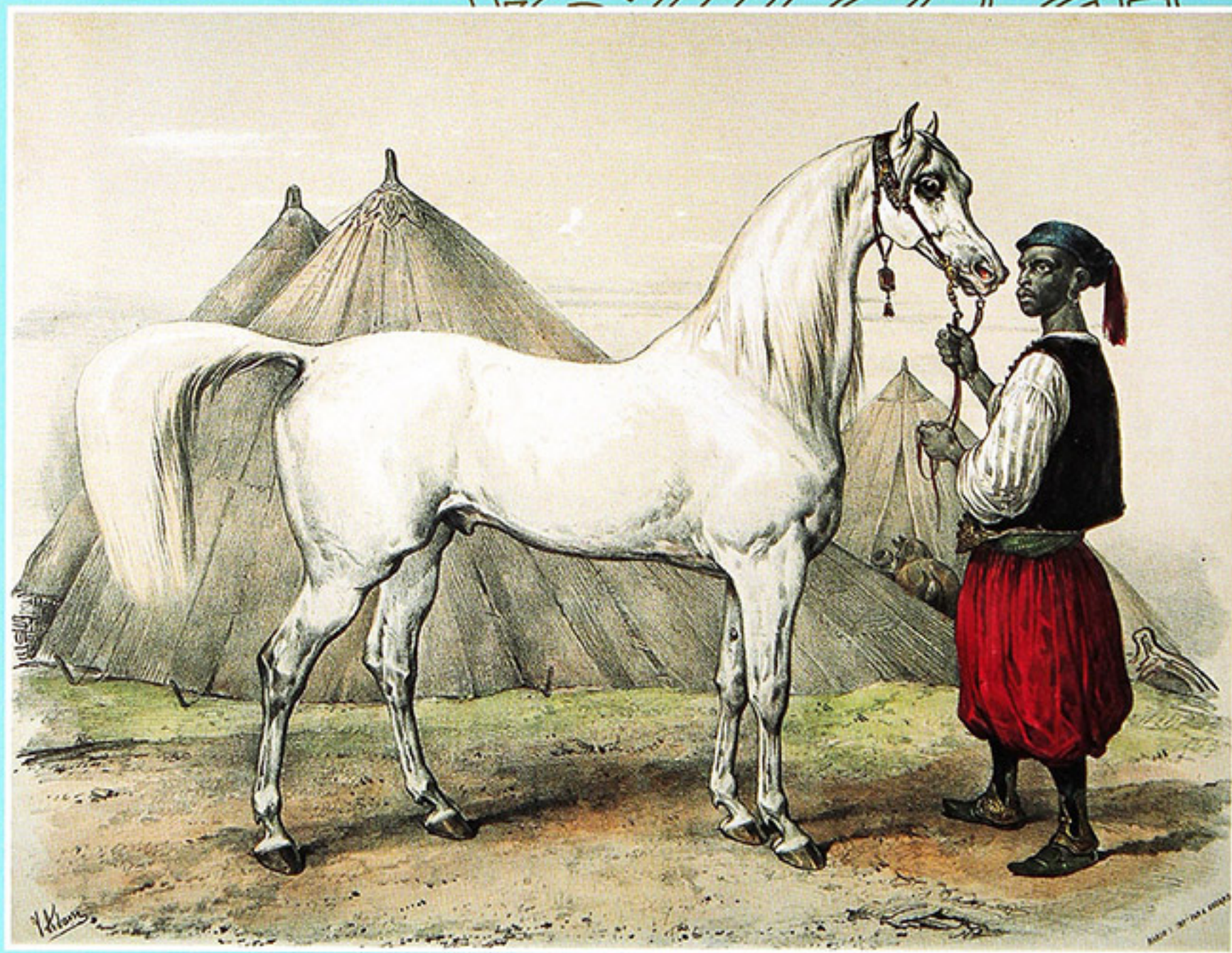
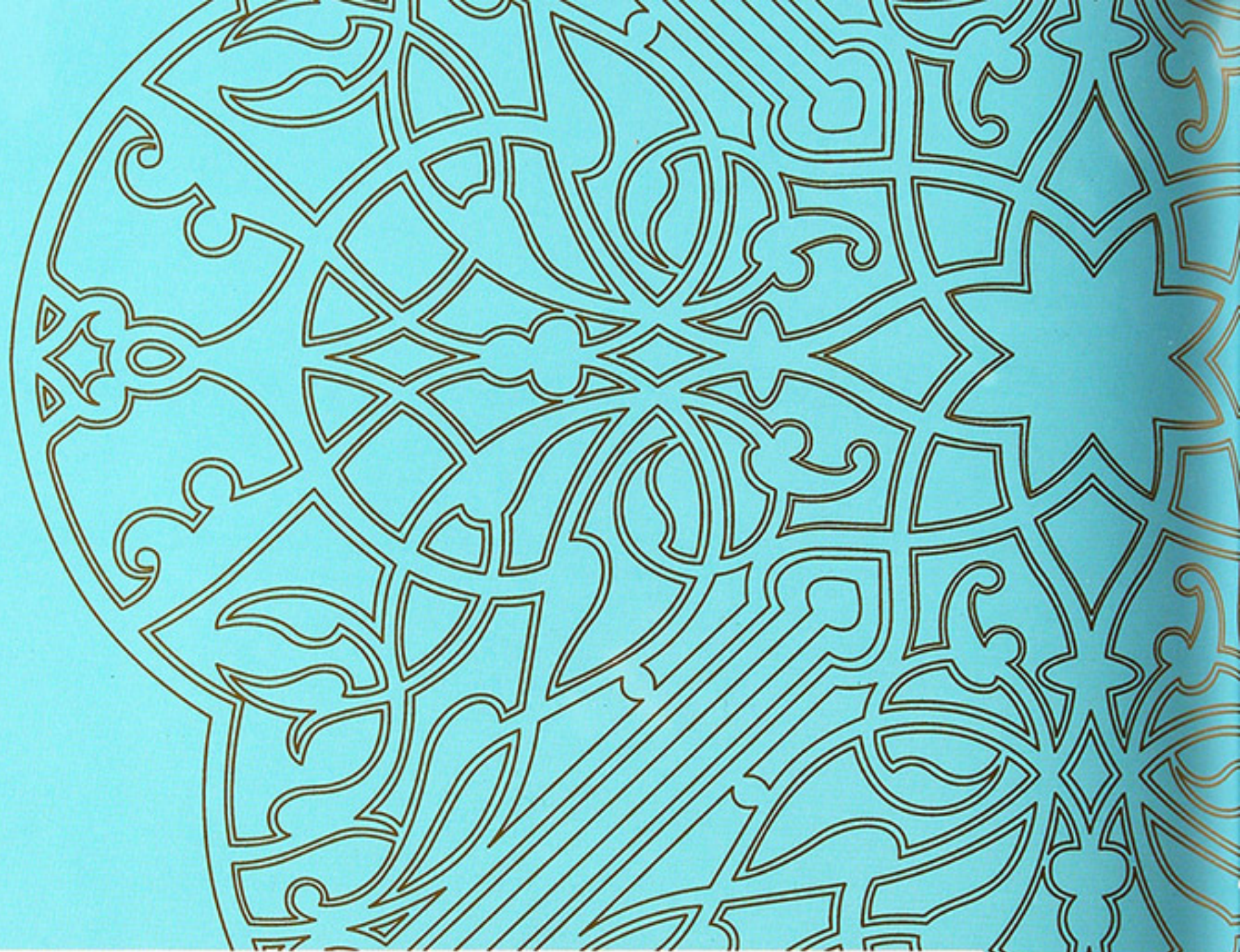
Arabians which were excelling in type and expression at one time. They were responsible for the reputation of the breed worldwide, and they were genetically composed so strongly that their most prominent features remained alive and are visible until today as they have been for twenty and many more generations. There is no doubt that they existed, but they were rare and in percentage only a few.

Drawing by Cossak



Drawing by V. Adam





IDEAS OF BREEDING




By recalling the previous chapters it is well explained what is needed to select an Arabian racehorse. The most important and nearly only criterion was the search for speed. It is known that racehorse breeders distinguish between horses which are very fast over a short distance and others which had more stamina, but are maybe not such fast starters. And others select according to an index which includes speed, placing and earnings, but still speed remains the most important factor. To add any further selection item, not related to speed, would mean a compromise which tough competition does not allow. The other discipline, endurance riding, needs a more complex and long lasting procedure when selecting horses for such abilities. They must excel in several points in order to sustain the exceptionally heavy requirements. Such a horse has to be first sound; sound concerning its heart and also sound and correct in its leg conformation. Any fault will sooner or later result in serious troubles. Endurance ability paired with a strong heart and a correct set of legs are the decisive criteria. To select racehorses means to look only for one important criteria, to select endurance horses, however, means to watch for several abilities and formations in addition.

And what has to be done to select and breed the classical Arabian horse? Many breeders think to select for shapes is enough, which could mean to produce just copies of show horses only. It is much more than that. The classical Arabian horse is known for many different criteria: for overall beauty, being the most important criterion for a typical Arabian, then tail carriage, an expression of dryness through a soft, thin skin which allows blood vessels, muscle formations and bone structure clearly to show, a special formation of its head, big eyes and small ears, a well-pigmented black skin, even four black hoofs, and finally another vital criterion, which is mostly neglected, a docile character and kind behaviour. In addition, it should show all the other features



Everybody who studies the history of the Arabian horse with a strong interest will sooner or later have a certain picture in his mind. It might be idealistic or not, it will not leave him any more and to look for the copy in reality remains a lasting challenge.

Private Archive
Prof Dr. K. Thieme.
Victor Adam



which are needed and which describe a sound, correct and useful horse - the classical Arabian was and should remain a useful animal. Nobody can tell how many of these Arabians are broken for riding, whether broken or not, every good Arabian should expose all the points which qualifies it as a good riding horse: a well-set and long neck, a laid-back shoulder, clear, well shaped withers, a slightly curved back of a proper length, a very slightly curved croup with a strong hindquarter and finally good sound legs. All this criteria should be paired with three proper types of movement: gait, trot and canter. To form an animal just out of hand, gifted with all the above requirements, is definitely an impossibility. However, many of such features are already present. For a very long time they have been guarded through hereditability. The more an Arabian deviates in his characteristics from all these above mentioned requirements, the more difficult or even impossible it is to come close to such a classical type. The multitude of these different selection criteria demonstrates the enormous difficulty to maintain or even to improve such a high number of typical qualities of an Arabian horse.

In a process of maybe 1000 of years or more under the influence of nature and in addition by the selection of men, some of the typical traits have been established. They are present now, because they were there before, as generations passed on from one to the other. They are firmly inherited. Nobody in modern days could create them, unless he relies on this heritage. This package of heritage is the typical and the classical part of an Arabian horse. All this criteria is necessary to select and to construct a good and useful horse.

Nobody should draw the conclusion from the above that these are two groups of characteristics, Arabian heritage and good, useful horse features, are contradictory by excluding each other; not at all. Foreign horsemen looked once to Arabia as countries where famous improvers for their own horse breeds in speed and stamina, elegance and beauty could be found. The Arabian could offer it all, apparently in such brilliant harmony and perfection, like no other horse breed worldwide. Such pearls were a reality but hidden between thousands. What will come forward, what one wants to maintain is finally a matter of preference for all these different criteria, whatever they are. In what order the criteria for selection are ranked in a set programme, is the breeder's decision. Should all the typical Arabian ones come first and all the

others later, should a good sound horse rank so high until such a point that nearly all the Arabian type is lost and a good perfect riding horse remains? Since such a horse has an Arabian pedigree and is properly registered, it remains an Arabian as a member of the breed, but as an Arabian which could hardly be recognised as that. However, if somebody is carried away by too much of certain Arabian features only, he will possibly end up with a type of artifact, unbalanced and unfit for normal life.

It is a fact that in any kind of breed the number of ideal animals exactly corresponding to a standard is small. The vast majority of them are faulty. Studies and experience over more than thirty years have shown that from 1,000 colts born in a large Arabian breeding population, in a country like Germany or France, only ten to twenty of them are considered to become a first-class stal-



Photo by Gigi Grasso

A classical Arabian means the "Original Arabian", but also it means perfection in beauty and overall balance, as a condition to survive in the animal world.

lion. Another thirty to forty might be seen as a good average, all the remaining ones have somewhere one or several major faults which needs severe rectification. The same ratio applies for females as well. A decision on which stallion to choose to rectify whatever faults and to obtain a better offspring than the mare herself, therefore, needs good consideration and knowledge. This

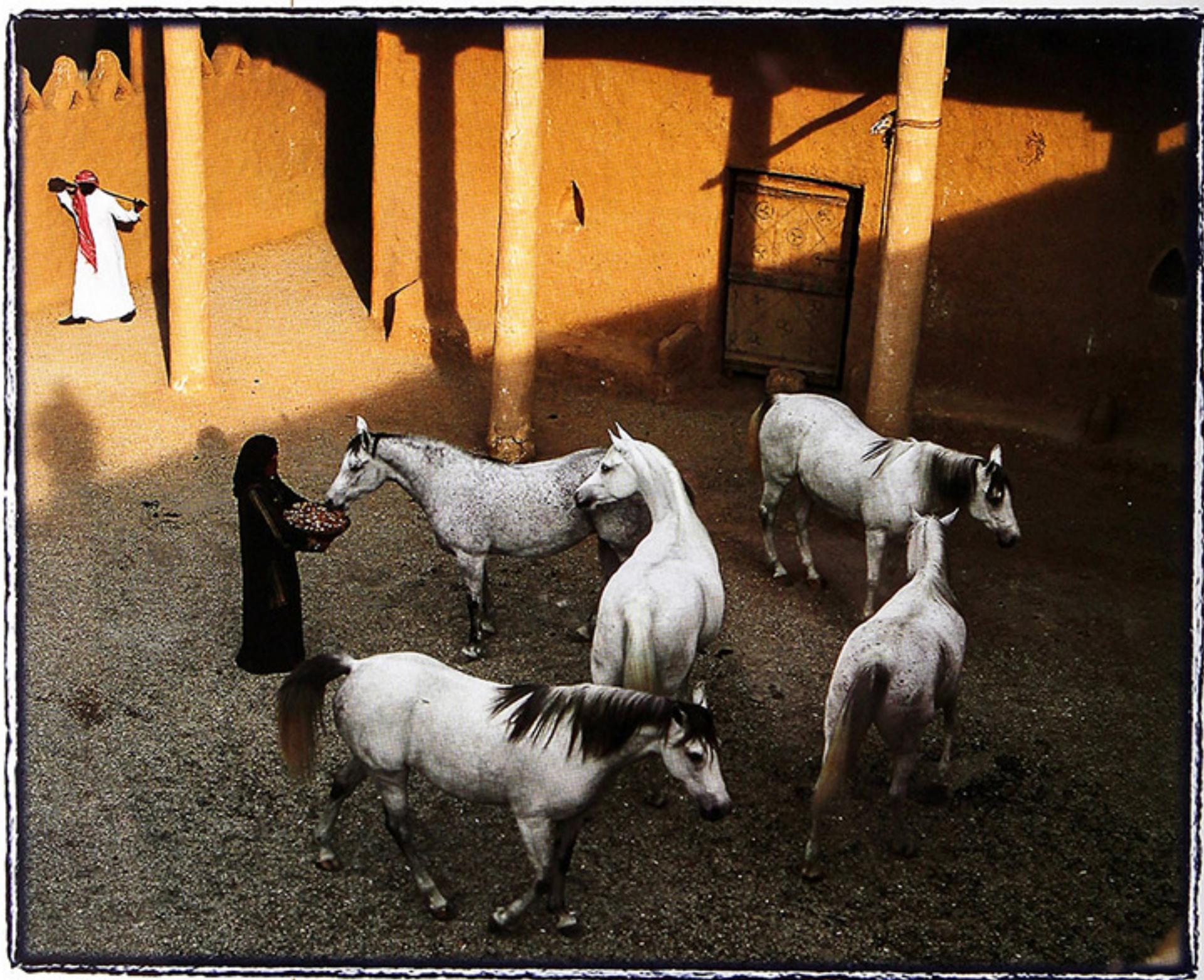


Photo by Gigi Grasso

No other features of an Arabian is more praised than its unique temperament: human-attached, docile, intelligent and brave. Women cared for them in the past and these horses have learned for thousands of years that they can not survive without their masters. They return this care with tenderness and affection, which is inherited just as well as other visible features.

example shows how difficult it is to find top class Arabians and how many are at the same time used for breeding every year, but still being far away from the classical type. This small figure would even change to a lower one, if the mental disposition is considered expressing itself in a docile behaviour, a human-attached character for which an Arabian is known since historical times. Poems and tales about Arabian horses are praising this feature more than anything else. But how and when is it evaluated today, on which occasions or on which events and when would people be aware of such behaviour? This question should be answered that only its owner, its rider or its trainer will possibly know about it, and if he is not content he will probably keep it for himself. This mental disposition is a true and one of the oldest Arabian heritage and breeders should select for it, but there are only a few who follow this traditional request. Their Arabians will be proof for the existence of this trait and a marvellous reward for their efforts.

Breeding of Arabians is apparently a kind of art because so many choices have to be made, and most of them are difficult to measure; every choice is based on an observation which needs a good eye to recognise ideal proportions, curves, lines and actions. Only after such facts have been properly determined, a breeder is in a position to decide what steps are needed to achieve the required corrections. One single step is never enough. A plan is needed, and it takes time to carry it out. It is like being in a good doctor's clinic: a proper diagnosis first and the appropriate medication thereafter.

This subject gets more complicated when heritability is introduced. If a foal is examined, one should find out, where its features came from and who has given them, who is the relative responsible sire or the dam or even the generation before. Nothing works without the knowledge of its parentage. In order to evaluate its parentage and to improve or to correct a horse, the whole genetic structure of a family is on the screen. Breeding is partly an art to deal with proportions, it is also a big game with probabilities. The more one knows about this horse and all its greater family, the more the probability factor will increase and the rate of success will be higher; the more one searches in the dark, the lower this factor will fall.

To breed an Arabian horse nearly to perfection, considering all the aspects including his mental disposition, is a rare chance. But some gifted breeders



come near to it. They all used the same procedure, they first studied the past. If there was no recorded past, and none of the horses of the previous generations, like parents or grandparents, were alive, pictured or described, then good results are just luck, a doubtful luck, because the repetition of success is at risk again.

It is amazing, how thoroughly the majority of the new breeders in Arabia have been researching in the past. They quickly became students by understanding, which procedures to apply. They studied the Egyptian Arabian horse population properly, and in doing so, it cannot be overlooked that certain families are better in one respect and other families in another. It should be remembered that all the mentioned Stud farms started with a very limited number of mares, and Egypt also has had only a few more than ten, and maybe some of them were not the best from the very beginning. All these mares have built up their families as time went on, some more successful, others less. Whether the characteristics of such a tail female are completely lost after some generations or whether they are still influential in further breedings remains an important question. A lot depends on the number and the quality of stallions used in such a population over a certain period. If constantly different stallions in type and with many dominant factors are used, the tail female's heritage is gone. If stallions similar to the mares in type and looks are chosen and even originate from the same population, the chance is greater that traditional traits are present until today. In sorting out the actual Egyptian population, whether in Egypt or abroad, considering such influence, it looks as if many of these students came to similar results, and these results are represented in their farms today.

The vicinity to Egypt, the common heritage and language, which combines all the Arabian world, the origin of the Arabian horses which came to Egypt once and which were chosen as examples of the utmost of Arabian heritage, and finally the limited number of sires which were used in the Egyptian Arabian horse population, at least in the first thirty to forty years of breeding, allowed an easier and clearer study. All this appeals to these new breeders and seems to match with their expectations. At present time, there are several larger breeders in the Arabian Peninsula, at least two breeders in Saudi Arabia, three in Qatar and four - five in Kuwait. They all search for the classi-

cal Arabian. All these breeders are determined to bring the Original back to the Peninsula, the Original, which got lost in the past, but which has been kept alive outside of Arabia. They like to breed them with the idea to revive an Arabian heritage, embodied in a native horse. Paintings, drawings, sculptures – all expressing type and beauty of Arabians – exposed in their homes are manifesting their ideal and the kind of Arabian they would like to raise in their Stud.

The procedure to choose horses for breeding is very different from the purpose to buy them just as beautiful animals with the idea to own them, to enjoy them or to present them in shows. Many of the first-class Arabians are kept in the Royal Stables in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar or the Emirates, as a delight. Some of them participate in shows, and many of them often return to their homes as champions. They were bred all over the world by breeders in Poland, England, Germany, Australia or wherever and are, as a group, priceless and unique, each one in its own merit. They are also a kind of expression of their breeders, what they consider as their goal, and they have received the confirmation for it by the general public and by the fact that good examples of their breedings have been chosen as champions in the most prestigious shows worldwide. One remembers in this context the prestigious traditions of having great collections, as practised by the Emirs in Bahrain, Riyadh or Hail in the 19th century, many of them visited by Lady Blunt and Mr. Palgreve about 150 years ago. Both of them belong to the few foreign witnesses for the existence of such exceptional horses in the Arabian Peninsula at earlier times. To choose for breeding means to have a well defined goal, to select the required horses accordingly and to deal with time.

In Egypt, in the State Stud El Zahraa, about 150 – 200 mares and 20 – 25 stallions are kept. They form the breeding stock which has remained since the Royal Agricultural Society was established at the beginning of the 20th century. In the meantime, about 200 private breeders in Egypt have developed a great interest in breeding Arabians. Their majority keeps about 5 - 10 brood mares in its Studs, they know about the worldwide importance of their State Stud El Zahraa, and they are pleased with it, and they have chosen their horses almost exclusively from the Egyptian Arabian horse population.

However, the vast majority of this population presently lives outside of



Egypt. The greatest number is kept in the USA, followed by Germany. Considering this fact, it is estimated that 75 – 80 % of the total population are kept abroad and are raised, in fact, in nearly all countries where Arabians are bred and registered today.

In the same way as El Zahraa worked out its breeding plans, also most of the other breeders worldwide tried to bring their own ideas together. In Egypt as well as outside of Egypt several Studs began to show their own face and its only human that many of them think and propagate that they have found the key into the right direction. This behaviour also expresses the fact that variations still remain and that they might even progress in different directions.

The American public believes in stronger powerful Arabians, a delicate refined horse has practically no chance to become a winner in a show. This was different before. Some of the finest Egyptian Arabians were once bred by American Studs, like Ansata Arabians, Bentwood Farm, Gleannloch Farms and many others. But lately the trend to more powerful horses has increased and a visit to any important American horse show confirms this fact.

In Europe and mainly in Germany, typey horses seem to be preferred. Small Arabians, however, are not appreciated, but neither are tall ones. It is correct to state that the Germans and most of their Arabian breeders are fond of type. The old Stud of Marbach with its magnificent and uniform brood mare band of the most classical Egyptian Arabians, unique in type, apparently has and had for a long time a strong influence within the German breeders' community and on the Germans' taste. The Arabians of Marbach were already there, when only a few private breeders were interested in Arabians and when any new breeder came to the conclusion he had to learn more about Arabians, he went to Marbach first.

Egypt, the USA and in Europe mainly Germany, these countries became the major place to study, to compare and to investigate deeper in order to find those lines and families which could give satisfaction to the wishes of these new breeders. It had become common knowledge for many that certain families within the Egyptian bloodlines were known to breed more into the direction of type and beauty than others. It would have been remarkable when advertisement, promotion, videos and the Internet had not have picked up such queries and not highlighted such a tendency. But the opposite nearly



The grey Arabian broodmare herd in Marbach Stud was in the past the great symbol for typical Arabians and had a lasting influence on the German breeders' preference. Many people believe until today that the whole Arabian breed is of grey colour. All grey horses are born with a darker colour. Only at an older age and after several years they all become grey.

became true: the mass of opinions and information is overwhelming and nearly darkens the heaven of knowledge from where the enlightenment should come. Any newcomer might get lost and confused by such an abundance of opinions and suggestions. However, it turned out that most of the interest is centering around the following stallions and that the below mentioned mare families, including their offspring are the preferred ones.

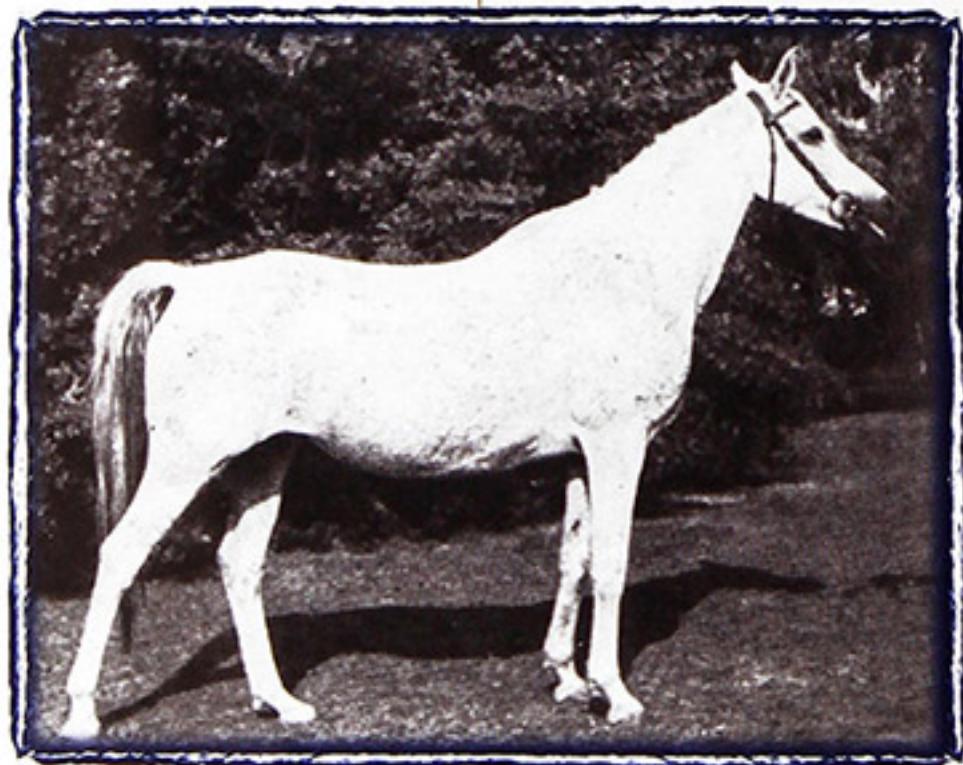
On the stallions' side there are:

Alaa el Din and Galal in Egypt, Hadban Enzahi and Ghazal in Germany, Ansata Ibn Halima, Morafic and Ibn Moniet El Nefous in the US, all of them bred in El Zahraa, but the latter ones were mostly used in the indicated countries. These stallions represent an older generation, but through their sons are still influential until today.

On the female side this kind of ordering is much more complex and should be focused on strains and tail females of major importance again, all of them bred in Egypt. In adding their later more important offspring they had altogether a clear impact on the further developments of such family. Most of the offspring has now been bred outside of Egypt.

1. The Three Dahman Shawan Strain Families

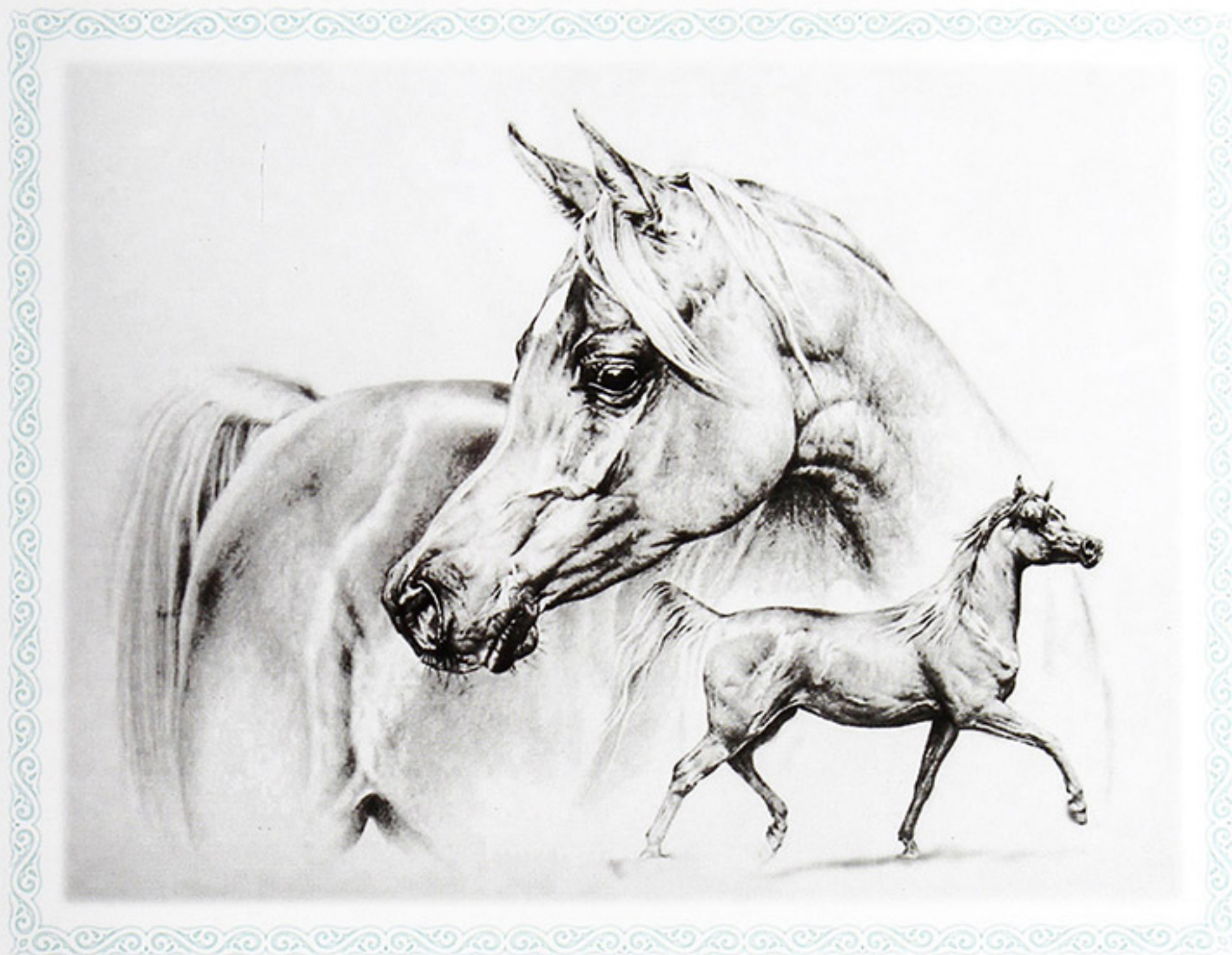
Bukra with her offspring Bint Bukra and Bint Misr, the last two ones imported and owned by the Ansata Stud in the USA. Today these daughters are in fact the "grand dams" of this famous strain. *Halima* and her daughter Moheba, imported by Marbach/Weil in Germany, remained the only ones which could continue this family successfully.



Bukra was one of the finest mares, ever bred by the EAO and, at the same time, extremely strong in her hereditary qualities. Bukra and Moniet El Nefous were the top mares of El Zahraa, as confirmed by most people who have visited El Zahraa and seen them alive.



Moheba, a member of the same Dahman Shawan strain, following the Farida-line, was sold to Marbach by the EAO. Her offspring is highly appreciated in Europe and all of over the Middle East.



Nashua, a Salaa el Dine-daughter, one of the descendants of the Egyptian Hadban-strain. She originated already from a family famous for refinement, but she became exceptional; no other mare before was comparable to her charm and elegance.

Drawing by Heidi Franck

Nefisa is only found further back on the pedigrees, but apparently still influential through her daughters Nadja in Marbach and Bint Nefisaa in the USA.

2. The Hadban Strain Families

Yosreia and Kamla: the first one is strongly represented through the mare Nabeelah in the USA, the second mainly in Germany through her granddaughter Lotfeia and now her daughter Nashua; a smaller family, but of a high quality level.

3. The Obayan Strain Families

Bint Magida and Hanan: both created their own branches in the USA and in Germany.

4. Siglawi Jedran Strain Families

Moniet el Nefous: is the one who dominates a number of large and important families which are still very strong in "El Zahraa". Her famous daughter Bint Moniet el Nefous made history at Bentwood Farm through many of her daughters. Her other daughter Mouna was very influential in the States through Bint Mouna and through Mahiba in Germany; the last one proved to be a strong tail female for a whole family.

The point must be made that all these strains have much more branches through further females like Abla, a beautiful Dahman Shawan mare or the Hadban mares, Shams/Hemmat, a very large family in Egypt today. In addition there are even more strains, such as the Koheilan. However, all of them have remained by time in the shadow and have not progressed; perhaps they did not breed well or were not considered. The Koheilan mare, Ameena, should be remembered by her excellent daughters Enayat and Omnia, horses which should have been strongly favoured.

And finally there are the so-called "Old Egyptians", the Babson root mares Maaroufa, Bint Sabah and Bint Serra. Once a group in itself, now each one of them with a great number of offspring, an integral part of the whole Egyptian Arabian population, a treasure of historical traits as well.

The first four groups are clearly mentioned, because the most important Stud in the Peninsula are searching for mares and stallions which trace back to those families; the Dahman Shawan, the descendants of the mare, Bukra, in the USA and Germany, are their preferred sources. The same applies to the Halima/Moheba lines, very rare and difficult to find in the proper combinations.

The Lotfeia family, once in Babolna, is only preserved in Germany at present time as a typical representation of the Hadban strain. The same applies to the Obayan line of Hanan, the Magida line exists mostly in the US, but is relatively widely dispersed. The Obayan group was always small, even in Egypt





HANAN
(Alaa El Din x Mona)

Photo by H. Nagel

Hanan, besides Bint Magidaa in the US, the most important mare of the Obayan-strain in Egypt. She produced sons and daughters of excellent quality with different stallions and would have been of great value to each larger breeding programme.



Moniet el Nefous and two of her daughters made history in Arabian breeding. Her daughters Mabrouka and Mouna in Egypt were extremely prolific and her daughter Bint Moniet el Nefous sold to Mr. Pritzlaff in New Mexico shows up in many pedigrees of Arabian horses in the US.

ALIDAAR
(Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa)



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Alidaar and Ruminaja Ali, two full brothers made their dam Bint Magidaa to a famous mare; the Obayan-line became known for outstanding stallions.

SALAA EL DINE
(Ansata Halim Shah x Hanan)



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Salaa el Dine, a stallion belonging to the Obayan-line.

because it joined the EAO in the late Fifties, being kept before in the Inshass-stables of King Farouk. The Siglawy-Jedrans are a little easier to find. Even within these family lines, fine differences exist. The Obayans of Hanan are famous for mares and stallions, like Ghazala, Asfoura, Jamil, Salaa el Dine and Asfour; the Bint Magidaa ones mostly through her sons Nabel, Ruminaja Ali and Alidaar, stallions of an international first class. The same applies to the Siglawy Jedrans: leading is Morafic and his sons in the US, then followed in Europe by the stallions El Thay Mansour, Maysoun and Imperial Madheen, all of them traced back to the Mouna-daughter Mahiba. Sooner or later, these latter mentioned stallions will pass away, but nearly each one of them will leave some valuable successors. This fact is already evident today.

However, of a much higher importance and vital for a family is the female side. Without female offspring a family is dead; with offspring of a completely different type and characteristics than their ancestors, the typical heritage is lost and gone as well. A different female type comes up; on paper it looks the same, in practical breeding it should be considered as something else.

To arrive at such precise decisions and evaluations is much easier now than it was fifty years ago. Better documentation and the abundant travel possibilities offer enormous sources of information. However, there is another vital aspect of great importance. The RAS began her breeding activities only eighty years ago. The initial breeding stock was well chosen, but it takes time to recognise the mares and stallions which carry most of the Arabian heritage in their genetic composition. Only since such time had passed, it became evident, in which families certain appreciated characteristics appeared relatively regularly and where they only showed up once and again and that even on a lower level.

Five generations are under discussion when such a subject is on the table. Accordingly, this is a relative time span needed for fixing certain criteria in a breed. This applies to all larger animals such as dogs, sheep and horses. It was between 1940 and 1950, when Stud managers in Egypt properly understood which mares belonged to a category that could be classified as elite. For these ones one could predict the ability to inherit their type and traits with relative accuracy, since it was proven that their precedent generations were all reliable brood mares for such appreciated traits. It should be mentioned that during





Photo by H. Escher

MAYSOUN
(Ansata Halim Shah x Maysouna)

Three Siglawy Jedran stallions tracing back to the Alaa el Din daughter Mahiba. Maysoun is one of the most visited sires in Germany and known as a good show horse as well.



IMPERIAL MADHEEN
(Messaoud x Madinah)

The third Mahiba-descendant, Imperial Madheen, left Germany as a young stallion and advanced to be a senior sire at Imperial Stud in the US. Also this stallion went to Argentina and finally returned to Egypt. He advanced to be one of the most famous Egyptian stallions in the last century because of the lovely shaped heads of his offspring.

that time only a few stallions were used every year and, thus, for many years on. These stallions were apparently of a similar type as the brood mares, which could be considered as a guarantee that a strong stallion influence in a completely different direction did not take place. In addition the most important ones at that time were "home-made"-related stallions of excellent quality originating from the Stud-owned better female lines. This comparatively close programme was later on revised due to three reasons:

Firstly there was the fear of an excessively high inbreeding ratio which could be detrimental, secondly certain persons thought that some new cor-

rective steps were needed to improve the population, and thirdly races became more popular, and stallions with a higher potential for speed were required for the racehorse community in the country; being useful also as racing prospects in their own Stud. A few of these newly introduced stallions apparently lived up to these expectations, were extensively used and became very popular. Some good racehorses emerged and also in many cases the needed corrections in conformation of body and legs were noticed in the following generations.

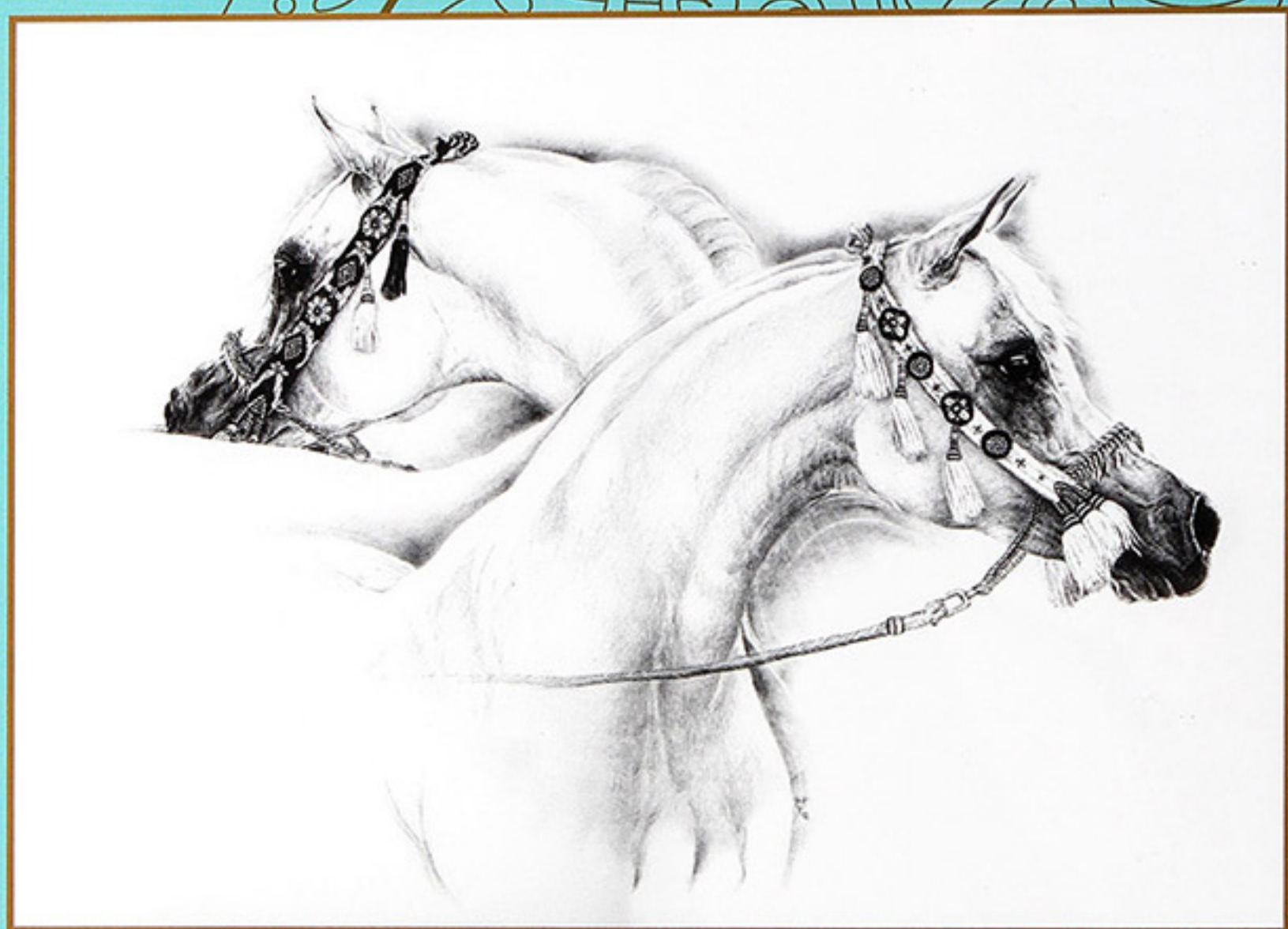
For a long time the total number of brood mares varied between sixty to eighty mares, and six to seven preferred stallions. However, only a few of them were used for breeding more frequently. Others had a lower chance. Some of these horses in the Studs looked extremely Arabian-like, they were full of historical heritage, others were more "horse". It must be reiterated, that all of them, somewhere, had an unmistakable Arabian expression. Consequently, in El Zahraa a certain variation within the population remained always visible, but it could be noted that this variation became wider and more important as generations went by during the last fifty years and up to the present day.



EL THAY MANSOUR
(Ansata Halim Shah x Maheera)

Photo by Rik van Lent jr.

El Thay Mansour of the same family, built up a remarkable reputation in Germany. He was sold to Argentina and found a new home in Jordan later.



BREEDING STUDS ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



One of the first from the Peninsula to look deeper into the history of the breed and the pedigrees of the Arabians in El Zahraa, was Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Khaled Al Thani of Qatar. Like many others before, he travelled to Egypt and searched this Stud in the most efficient manner knowing existing horses and their families combined as a whole; but what he really liked he found outside of the EAO in Germany. Here he found himself standing in front of his, "ideal", which deeply moved and attracted him. All that made him wonder was of El Zahraa-origin, however, it looked different from what he had seen in Egypt. He saw daughters and sons of Ansata Halim Shah. Three mares of the same type, clearly stamped by their sire in expression, type and body conformation, this made him recognise his future breeding aim which he followed from then on until today.

Ansata Halim Shah was much welcomed in Germany, since his female line was very well known. Ghazal once imported from Egypt to Marbach and this young stallion, both belonging to Bukra's female line. Ghazal was the direct son of Bukra, a wonderful flea-bitten grey mare with a most docile expression. This was a tough act to follow, Ghazal did not have a good chance. His low back appeared at an early age and was deeply irritating. When he passed away, due to an accident, he had only bred three Egyptian mares and several Polish/Egyptian and Marbach/Egyptian mares. Only later was it evident, the excellent offspring this stallion could have produced. This high value as a top sire was discovered too late. Ansata Halim Shah instead enjoyed optimal conditions: 33 carefully selected mares were chosen for him: three of them from the Marbach Stud, five from Babolna Stud, three from Switzerland and 22 mares from Germany. These mares were picked on the basis of a guess and intuition as to what might fit this horse. He was just three years old when he arrived in 1982 in Germany from the US, where he had been bred by Ansata



ANSATA HALIM SHAH
(Ansata IBN Halima x Ansata
Rosetta)

Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Drawing by Heidi Franck





*Two beautiful mares from
Al Rayyan Farm.*

Photo by Gigi Grasso

SAFIR
(Salaa El Dine x Aischa)



Photo by Gigi Grasso

ALIDAAR
(Shaikh Al Badi x Bint
Magidaa)



Photo by Gigi Grasso

It is obvious that the Obayan line of El Zahraa became one of the most important stallion-producing families through the mares Bint Magidaa and Hanan. Al Rayyan Stud owns stallions of both, Safir, a grandson of Hanan and Alidaar, a direct son of Bint Magidaa.

*Two younger Dahman
Shawan stallions,
just starting their career
in Qatar.
Ashhal was leased for one
season to Germany and
Selman followed him to
Germany as well.
He will return to Qatar
next season.*

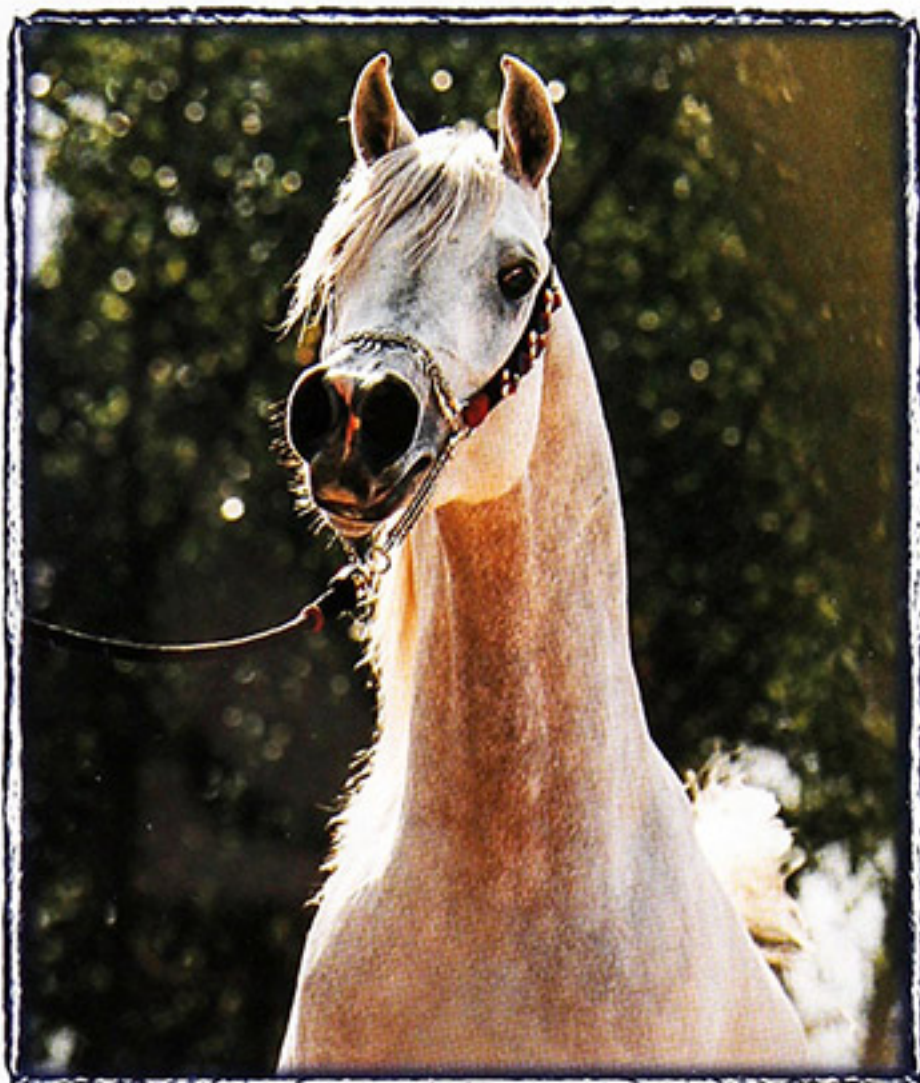


Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA SELMAN
(Ansata Hejazi x G. Shafaria)




Photo by Gigi Grasso

ASHHAL AL RAYYAN
(Safir x Ansata Majesta)

Arabians. Only one mare was in foal to him at home. The choice of these mares was based on the following criteria; at least two of the three first ones should be fulfilled:

1. They should show the stallion Alaa el Din in their pedigree.
2. They should have a relation to a Hadban-mare like Kamla or Yosreia.
3. They should have a relation to the Marbach-mare Moheba.
4. They should not be too big, about 1,49 – 1,52 cm in height.



Some mares could be found which fulfilled even all these above requirements. Regrettably there was only one mare which was a direct daughter of Ghazal in this programme. The result was overwhelming: All foals except a single one which was damaged during the birth process, were of a very particular type as never seen in Germany before. Eleven young colts were born, every single one of them had the quality to be a sire of a higher class. Their later results in breeding confirmed their value. No other horses ever had a more important and lasting influence on the development of the Egyptian stock in Germany than these stallions, as Ansata Halim Shah himself and his sons Salaa el Dine, Maysoun and El Thay Mansour. On the female side, the daughters of Madkour I, a Marbach-bred stallion by Hadban Enzahi out of the Moheba-line, daughters and granddaughters of Alaa el Din and the daughter of Ghazal were overall his best female mates. However, there were another dozen filly foals which were nearly equal in type and expression. Every owner of such a horse was proud to possess it and nobody was ready to part with it. Some breeders, who were very critical of this Ansata Halim Shah project, changed their minds afterwards relatively quickly and turned to the US to search for similar offspring over there.

After two breeding seasons, Ansata Halim Shah returned to Ansata Arabians and continued his career in his home Stud. However, the genetic make-up of the Egyptian Arabians in the US was different from the ones in Germany and only in the Ansata Stud he found mares of a similar background. His stock in Europe remained a unique collection, a similar rate of success by comparing the number of quality offspring with the total number of foals was never reached in Europe before or later again. Still, by considering the high



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Perhaps the most outstanding granddaughter of Ansata Delilah.

ANSATA SHARIFA
(Ansata IBN Shah x Ansata
Samantha)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

G. SHAFARIA
(Prince Fa Moniet x Ansata
Sharifa)
Owned by:
Al Rayyan Farm, Qatar

number of mares he bred in the USA a lot of good Ansata Halim Shah offspring was available and, in particular, his daughters enjoyed a high demand. This Ansata Halim Shah experience and the result of this experiment led to amazing consequences:

His type of the Arabian became very popular, as never before seen to such

One of the most prolific and quality breeding mares in the Ansata programme was Ansata Delilah. All breeders on the Peninsula like her offspring and they are present nearly in each Stud. Males and females of equally high quality belong to this family. These horses are perfect examples of the appreciated strong long croup and a exciting, powerful action in trotting. Their wonderful Arabian type explains their high esteem.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

AL WAJBA AI RAYYAN
(Safir x Ansata Sharifa)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

JALILA AL RAYYAN
(Ansata Hejazi x G. Shafaria)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar

ANSATA SELKET
(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata
Sammara)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

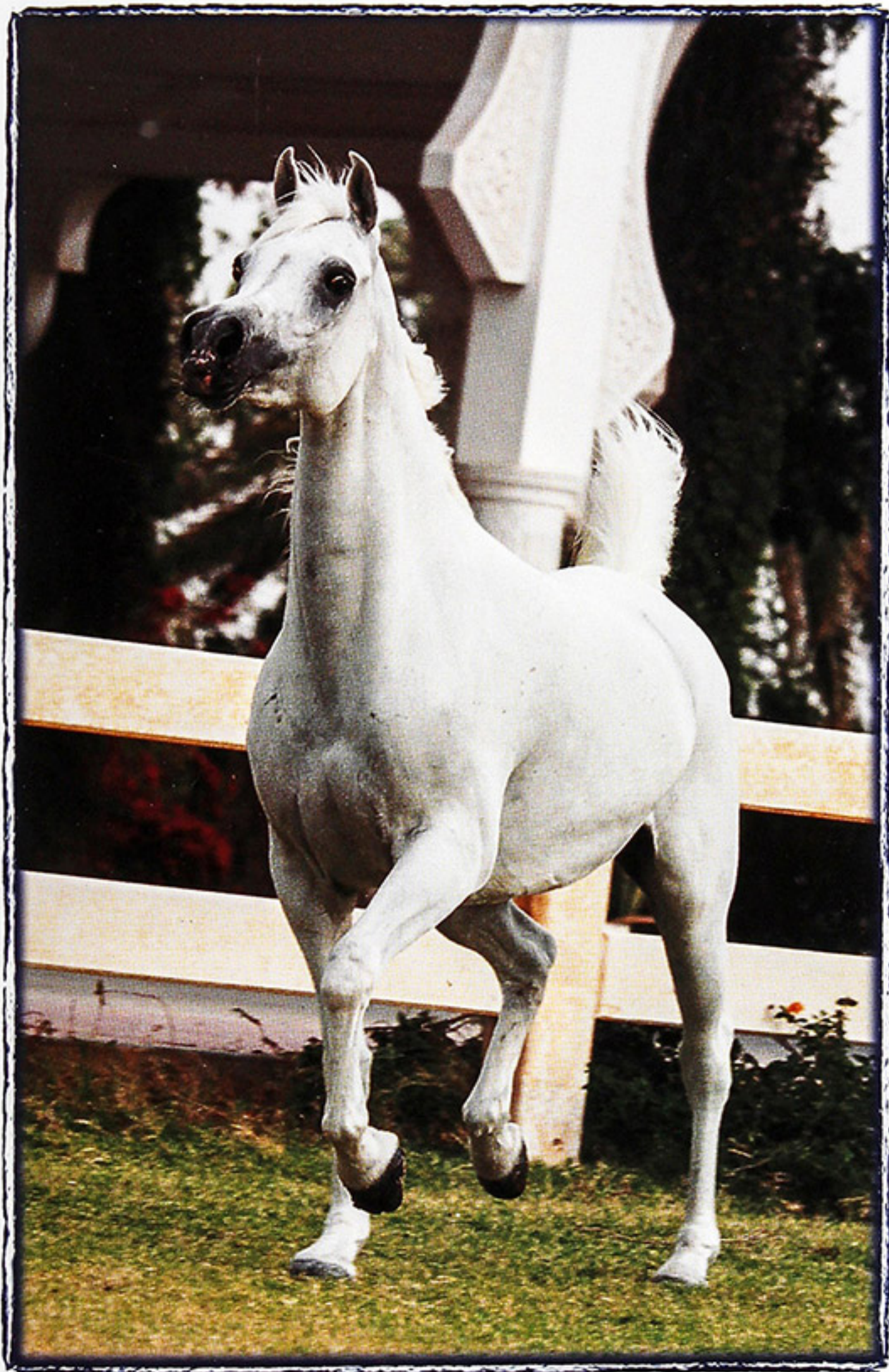


Photo by Gigi Grasso



ANSATA NEFER ISIS
(Prince Fa Moniet x Ansata
Nefertiti)
Owned by:
Al Rayyan Farm, Qatar

Also these fine mares belong to the important and influential Delilah family in the Stud.

RN FARIDA
(Sala El Dine x Noha)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

RN Farida is a jewel in the Stud. Her dam Noha, an Hadban Enzahi-daughter out of Nadia. Nadia came as one of the first horses from El Zahraa to the Marbach Stud. Sheikh Abdul Aziz leased Noha in her very old age. She gave him Farida, her last daughter and the prettiest foal she ever produced in her life.



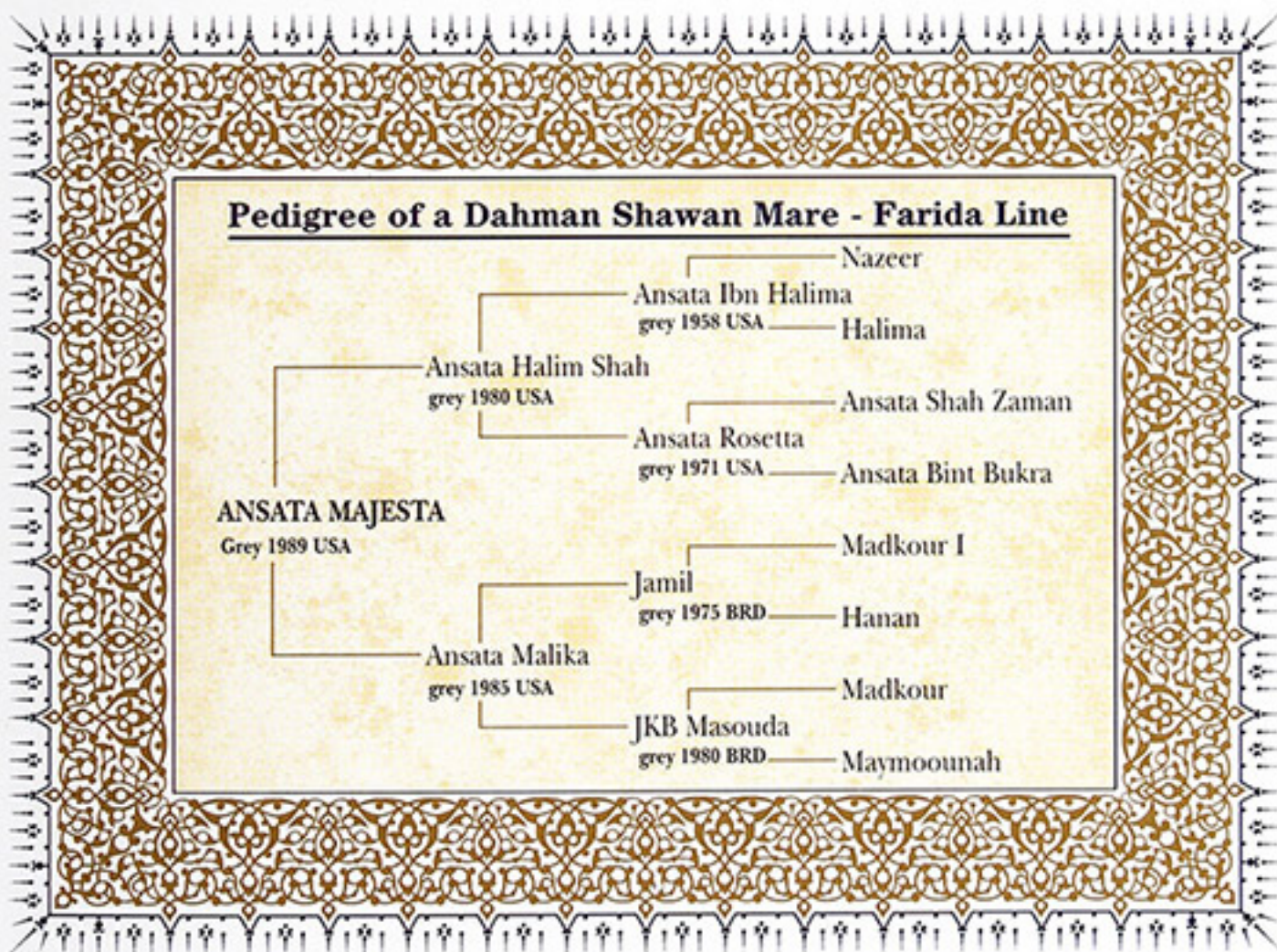
Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA MAJESTA

(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata Malika)

Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm, Qatar

A single mare could form a whole new impressive family. Ansata Malika, a representative of the Farida line which came via Germany into the Ansata broodmare herd. This Jamil-daughter bred to Ansata Halim Shah produced mostly fillies and all of them of highest quality. Al Rayyan is very fortunate to own a whole group of this family.



See Annex I

an extent in any other horse.

Breeders started to think about these successful combinations with the intention to repeat it.

As time went by it seemed not so easy to maintain or even to improve the quality of the first and second generation.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz was finally successful in obtaining two Ansata Halim Shah-daughters from Germany for his Al Rayyan Stud in Qatar. The mares Aischa, Kamar and a Jamil-daughter; all three belonged to the Obayan family of Hanan. His enthusiasm for these horses finally brought him in contact with Ansata Arabians which owned a much larger brood mare herd of similar quality. What happened in the following years was the confirmation of what was mentioned before.

The Dahman Shawan family lines of Bukra and Farida, the Obayan family with the mares Hanan and Magida, became the main sources of his Stud, both on the male and on the female side. He collected nearly all the first-class mares of these combinations in his stables and created a unique population of about fifty horses of the finest Arabians which nobody in our times had ever possessed before.

Two Studs in Qatar followed his initiative and began to look for Arabians of an equal quality - but they were increasingly difficult to find. Al Shaqab Stud, which is skillfully managed by Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Al Thani and belongs to the Emir of Qatar, also included besides his major Egyptian breeding herd Polish and Russian mares in its brood mare stock. The Al Naif Stud of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasr Al Thani remained with Egyptian Arabians only. Both of the senior stallions of this last Stud are closely related to Ansata Halim Shah, one being his son, the other his grandson. The two latter Studs seem to be more show-oriented than the Al Rayyan Stud. Al Shaqab Stud maintained a good number of horses for show purposes and tried to breed in this direction very obviously. Al Rayyan Stud, however, conveys the impression that breeding remains a fascination. To choose and to select, to maintain and to refuse, all these decisions seem to please and to attract Al Rayyan Stud more than winning a championship and awarded by public applause. All the breeding efforts made by Al Shaqab and Al Naif Stud led to respectable results, whereby Egyptian mares and a few stallions, again nearly all related to the



Photo by Gigi Grasso

NAAMA AL RAYYAN
(Safir x Ansata Majesta)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

AL AANGHA AL RAYYAN
(Alidaar x Ansata Majesta)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar

same female lines, played a major role. However, they still work within the first or the second generation only and directly enjoy the quality of the parents they have chosen to buy.

The admiration for Ansata Halim Shah was highlighted in the purchase of this stallion for the Emir's Stud. He exchanged his stallion barn in Ansata

RN AJEEBA
(Ruminaja Ali x Bint Amal)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm.
Qatar

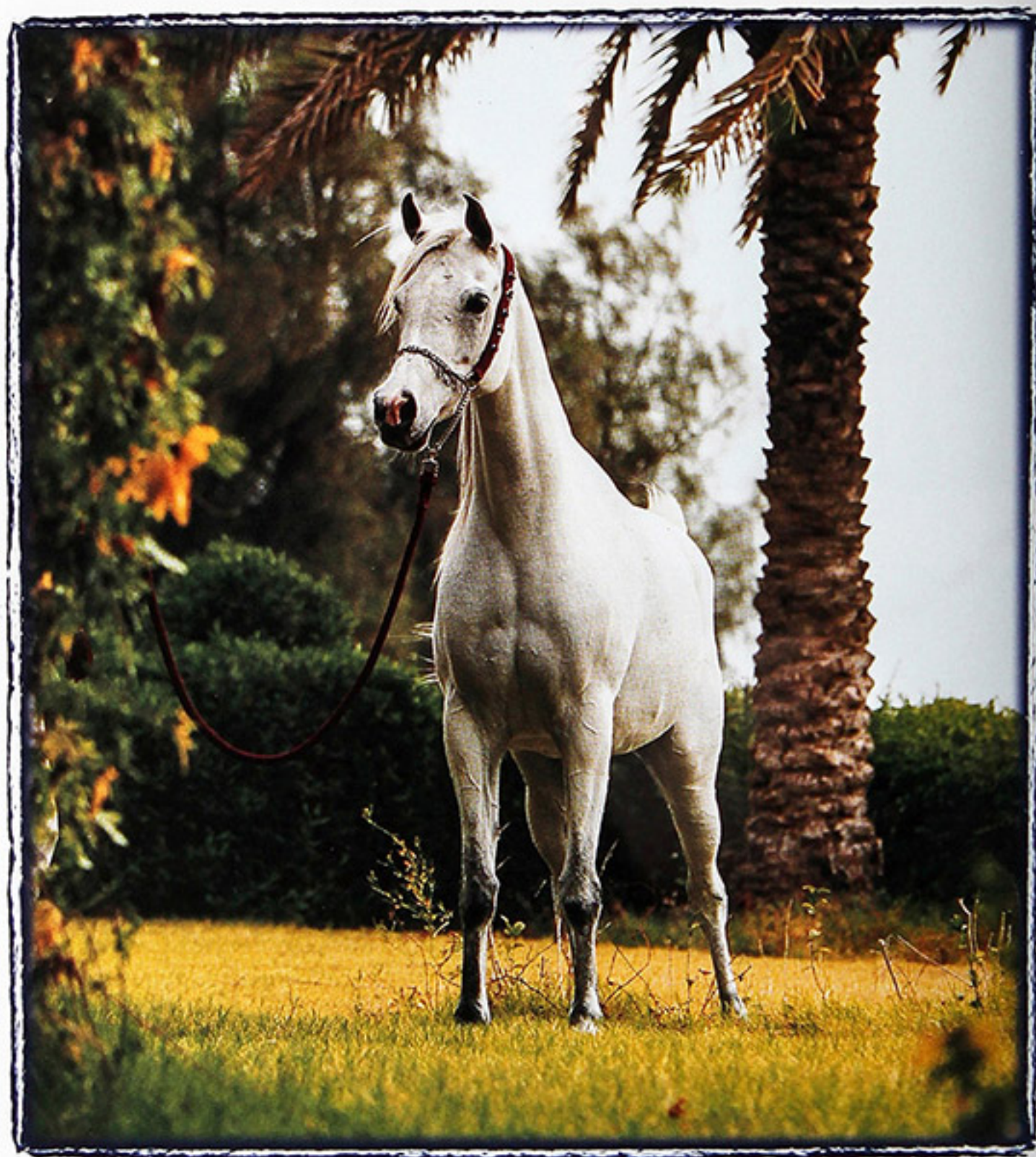


Photo by Gigi Grasso

The third group in the Stud are the Obayan mares. They were less prolific and came as a group in the shadow of the Dahman Shawan mares. All of them traced back to the mare Hanan and most of them have Ansata Halim Shah in their pedigree. These are dry, fine-boned mares with a light, flying movement and easy to recognise by their short broad heads and small ears.



AISCHA
(Ansata Halim Shah x Ghazala)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar

Photo by Gigi Grasso

RN SULTANA
(Ansata Halim Shah x Ameena)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

AL MANSOURA AL RAYYAN
(Alidaar x Bint Amal)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Young mares bred in the Stud. Her dams are members of the Obayan group, which were chosen when Al Rayyan was established.



CLASSIC FARIDA
(Alidaar x Frabillahh)
Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar

Photo by Gigi Grasso

This mare represents the Hadban strain and relates back to the Yosreia family. She entered only recently the Al Rayyan broodmare band.

TURKIYA AL RAYYAN

(Safir x Rababa)

Owned by: Al Rayyan Farm,
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Turkiya, one of the few Siglawy Jedran mares in Qatar. Her dam Rababa was bred in El Zahraa. She is a typical Ekhnaton daughter. This stallion was the only one, who could continue the line of Alaa el Din with good success being his grandson.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Arabians to a splendid stallion box at Al Shaqab stables. After only a short breeding season a tragic accident put an end to his career. He left a few daughters and the outstanding stallion Al Adeed. This horse now has the famous reputation to be the last son of Ansata Halim Shah, his dam being a Ruminaja Ali-daughter from the Yosreia line. He inherited almost nearly perfectly the expression and wonderful look of his famous father and the elegant body lines of his mother's parentage.

Ansata Halim Shah was possibly the most typical embodiment of a sire out of the Bukra line, as is Safir, the main stallion at the Al Rayyan Stud and Alidaar at Al Shaqab Stud the classical representative of the Obayan line. Safir traces back to the Alaa el Din daughter, Hanan, Alidaar to the Alaa el Din daughter, Magida. Both were able to maintain the type and added valuable traits: Safir consolidated the look and added movement and action, Alidaar strengthened body conformation and size.

The high quality of the brood mares in each of the mentioned Studs is undoubtedly equally responsible for their success in maintaining their previous level as is the influence of the stallions. But not only mares with quality in heritability are needed to continue a Stud successfully, also good reproduction ability counts as a further vital factor. Some mares did extremely well in this respect, others less. Still these Studs have to go a long way as four to five generations are needed to consolidate a sound breeding programme in itself, as mentioned before. In Al Rayyan Stud today one finds many first-class mares which guarantee the successful continuation of the Bukra line. Several wonderful specimens of the Obayan line and the outstanding RN Farida, a Salaa el Dine-daughter out of the Marbach-mare Noha, which represents the old Egyptian Dahman Shawan, Farida line, are rare treasures in this Stud. The line of Halima/Moheba is well established through several mares which were bred by Ansata Arabians, by applying a Jamil-daughter and a Ansata Halim Shah sire combination.

In the Eighties, one had the pleasure to meet Sheikh Nawaf Bin Nasr Al Thani of Qatar at several major events revolving around the Arabian horse, at the race course at Baghdad or at shows in England or the US. As an internationally minded businessman, he maintained good relations with many Arabian horsemen. To see at that time a person from Qatar was extremely



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Al Adeed became the "King of Al Shaqab Stud". Sheikh Hamad, director of this Stud, led him to full success in all great shows in Europe, in the Nation Cup in Aachen and the World Championship in Paris. He has the fame to be the last son of Ansata Halim Shah. Al Adeed's dam created a whole family around her, a group of excellent Hadban-mares, the strongest mare group in this Stud and each of them of great refinement. They relate to Malakat al Gamal, a beautiful Hadban-mare which was bought in the seventies in Egypt by the Imperial Stud, where she became a very successful mare.

AL ADEED AL SHAQAB
(Ansata Halim Shah x Sundar Alisayyah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar

KAMASAYYAH
(Imperial Al Kamar x Sundar
Alisayyah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

HADBAN AL SHAQAB
(Ashhal Al Rayyan x Sundar
Alisayyah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Sundar Alisayyah is the mother of this sound family. Her offspring of excellent quality by different stallions could develop this family into a special source for Hadban-bred horses in Qatar.

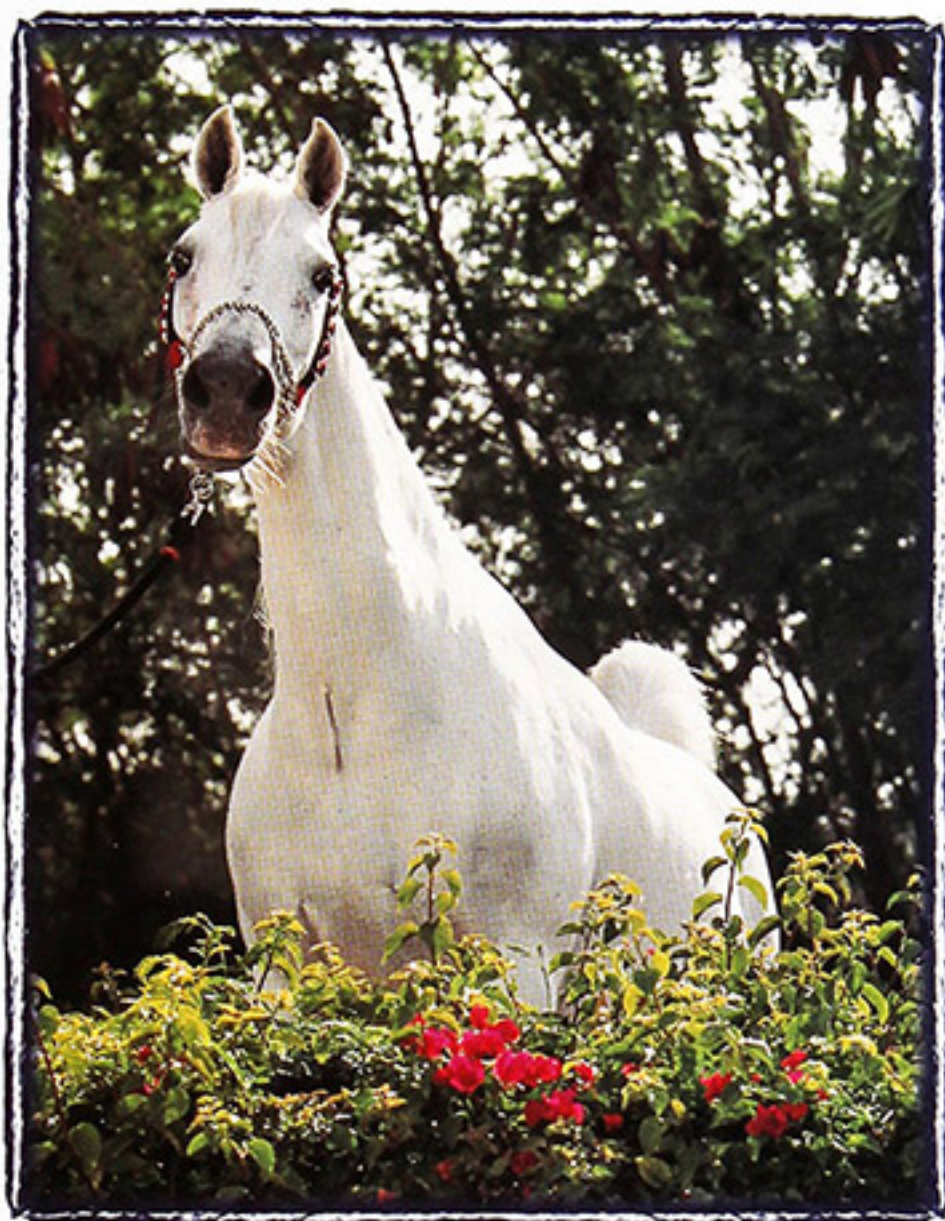


Photo by Gigi Grasso

SUNDAR ALISAYYAH
(Ruminaja Ali x Imperial Sayyah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

WAHAG AL SHAQAB
(Safir x Kamasayyah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar

NAASAH
(Gadallah x Fakhria)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Mother and daughter, two pretty mares of the Hadban strain. Both are typical for this line with longer legs and shorter backs than one can observe in the prevailing Dahman Shawan mares.



FARIDAH AL SHAQAB
(Imperial Pharouk x Naasah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud,
Qatar

Photo by Gigi Grasso

ADNAN AL SHAQAB
(Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Tebrah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

S.E.A. MOBARAKA
(Bilal I x Katr El Nada)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Yosreia, well-known Hadban mare, being the dam of the famous Aswan in Russia, is the common ancestor of these mares.

SEA Mobaraka shows undoubtedly the look of her sire Bilal I, however, Hilaya Al Shaqab seems to be born with a strong Hadban influence.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

All these above shown mares of Al Shaqab represent one or the other branch of the Hadban strain in El Zahraa which came at the end of the 20th century from Syria to Egypt.

HILALYA AL SHAQAB
(Ansata Halim Shah x Wagda)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar

AMIRA AL SHAQAB
(Al Adeed Al Shaqab x
Imperial Phanilah)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Two horses of the unforgettable Imperial Phanilah. With this mare, Al Shaqab bought a jewel in beauty, a show horse and an excellent brood-mare at the same time. She was a granddaughter of Pharraah, bought in Babolna, out of the mare Tamria.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

SHAHEM AL SHAQAB
 (Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Imperial
 Phanilah)
 Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud,
 Qatar

Pedigree of a Dahman Shawan Mare - Farida Line

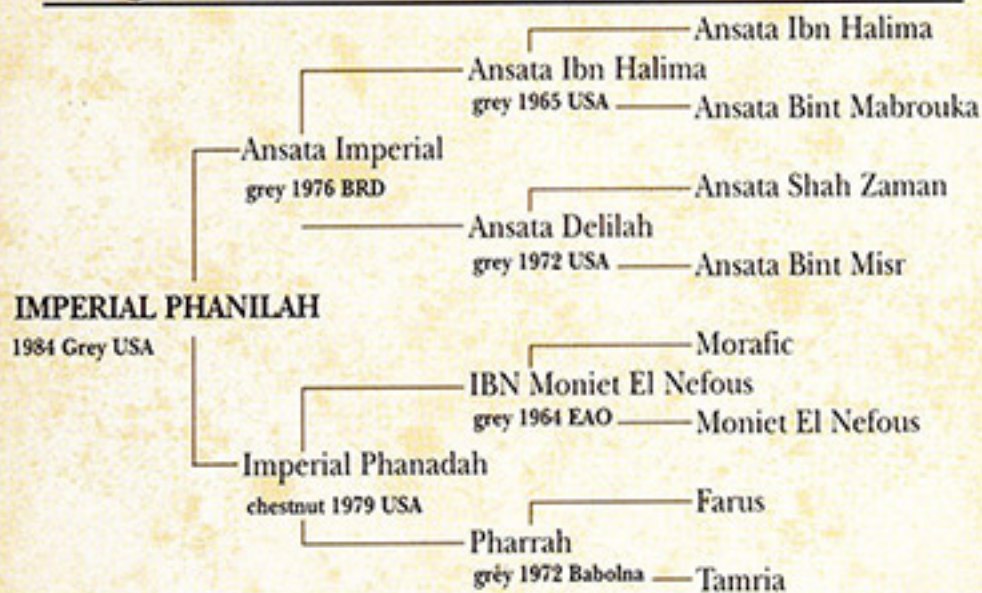




Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA MALAHA
(Ansata Halim Shah x
Ansata Malika)

Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar

Ansata Malaha, daughter of the earlier mentioned Ansata Malika and fullsister to Ansata Majesta in the Al Rayyan stud is of the same outstanding quality like her other sisters.

IMPERIAL JALIISAH
(Royal Jalliel x Glorieta
Maarqesa)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud. Qatar

RABAAB AL SHAQAB
(Ansata Halim Shah x Rahamat)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud. Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Rabaab Al Shaqab, one of the few daughters of Ansata Halim Shah, which he produced during his short stay in Qatar.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Imperial Jaliishah, a horse bred in the US by the well-known Imperial Stud. These horses are strongly built, correct, show a good action and guarded their elegance.

HALIMA AL SHAQAB
(Ansata Manasseh x Ansata
Bint Halima)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Halima Al Shaqab relates to Ansata Delilah and has the typical look of this family.

Two Al Adeed-fillies with a fine well-shaped heads confirm the quality of their sire. Their mothers are of completely different origin. Hazmeia belongs to the Dahman Shawan strain related to Bint el Bahrain, as shown in the annex, a stronger type of horse all the way until today.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

HAZMEIA AL SHAQAB
(Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Dalilat Al Badeia)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

BOTHINA AL SHAQAB
(Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Bint Fonoon)
Owned by: Al Shaqab Stud.
Qatar

The other is Bothina Al Shaqab, one of the seldom mares of the Rodania breeding in the Gulf going back to Crabbet Park Breeding. They represent within the Egyptian population longer-legged, higher horses with fine bones and are valuable in this respect.

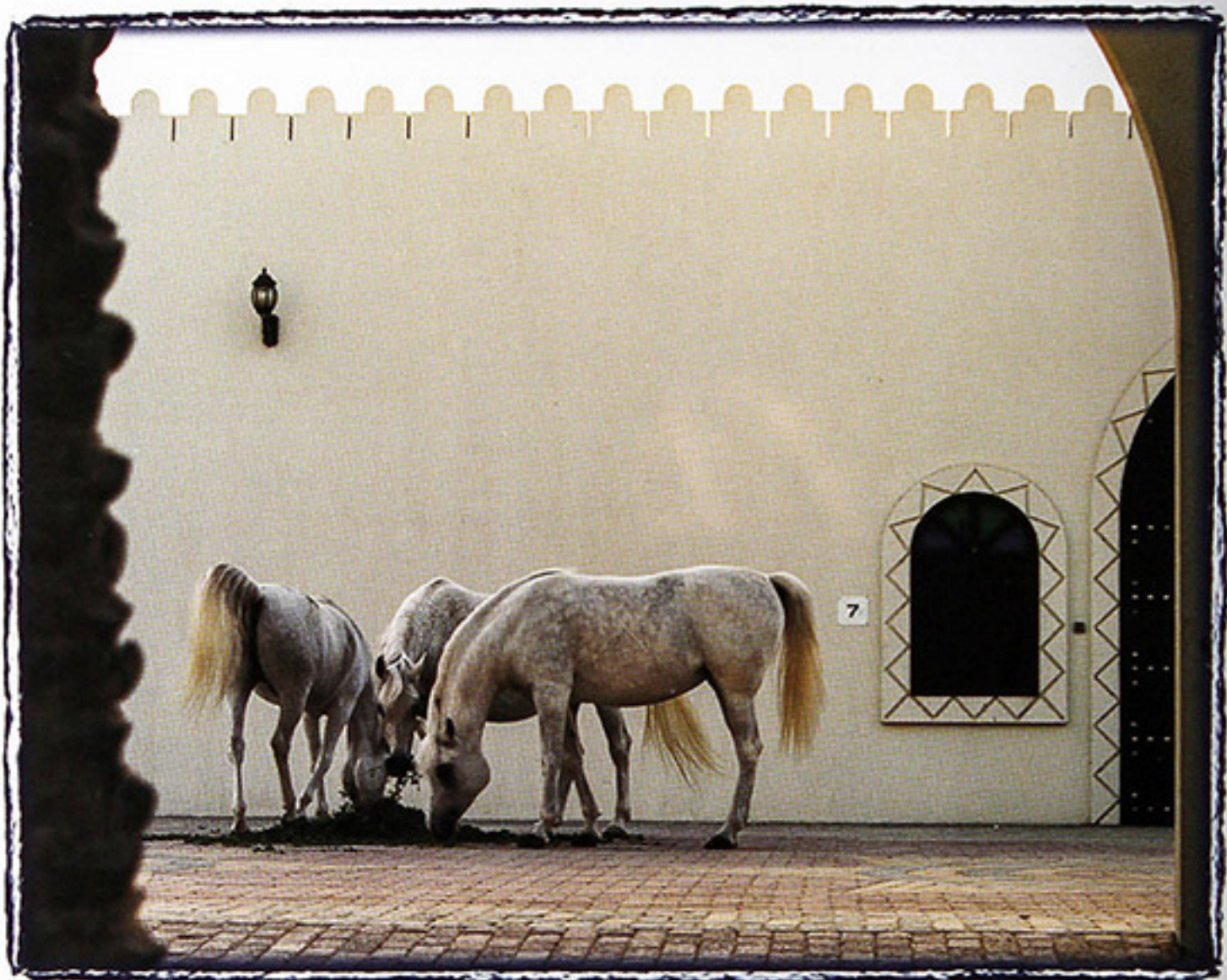


Photo by Gigi Grasso

Most of the horses in the Al Naif Stud are of Ansata breeding and demonstrate in a perfect way their great uniformity.

rare and when it comes to Arabian horses even more so. As Qatar opened its doors more and more for these activities he encouraged and accompanied any step taken forward in this direction.

About a one hour drive outside of Doha in a green spot surrounded by desert land, he established relatively early his Nasser Stud. He imported some horses from the US, some Polish and Spanish mares and among them Imperial Mahzeer, a stallion with an extremely nice shaped head, correct and masculine as well. Later on he enlarged his Stud by horses of Egyptian origin and in the first Qatar horse shows, Al Rayyan, Al Nasser and Al Shaqab Stud, respectively, their owners were arguing and chasing each other for the expected champion honour. Sheikh Nawaf remained with his Stud in a comfortable position and did not take on the attitude of an ambitious breeder, but still here and there a marvellous horse from his Stud appears on the show ground, both national and international, which has emerged from his breeding stock.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

A glance into the inside at Al Naif Stud.

ANSATA MARJANEH

ANSATA PALOMA

ANSATA AIDA

ANSATA PRIMA NILE

ANSATA NILE ECHO
(Ansata Hejazi x Ansata White Nile)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud. Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA NILE ECHO
(Ansata Hejazi x Ansata White Nile)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud. Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

SOBHA 2002
(Ansata Nile Echo x Sobha Al Shaqab)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud. Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Both senior stallions in this Stud are clearly stamped by Ansata Halim Shah. Both belong to the Sabah/Bukra line. Ansata Shalim is a direct descendant again from Ansata Delilah.

ANSATA SHALIM
(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata Nefertari)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud, Qatar

JANDEH AL NAIF
(Ansata Shalim x Ansata Nile
Gypsey)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud. Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

HAWZUN AL NAIF
(Ansata Nile Echo x Ansata Aya
Nadira)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud. Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

These three mares are perfect examples of Ansata-breeding. Their strong long croup and their shape of head are typical and cannot be overlooked. Show horses need such features since good heads and top-lines are highly evaluated.

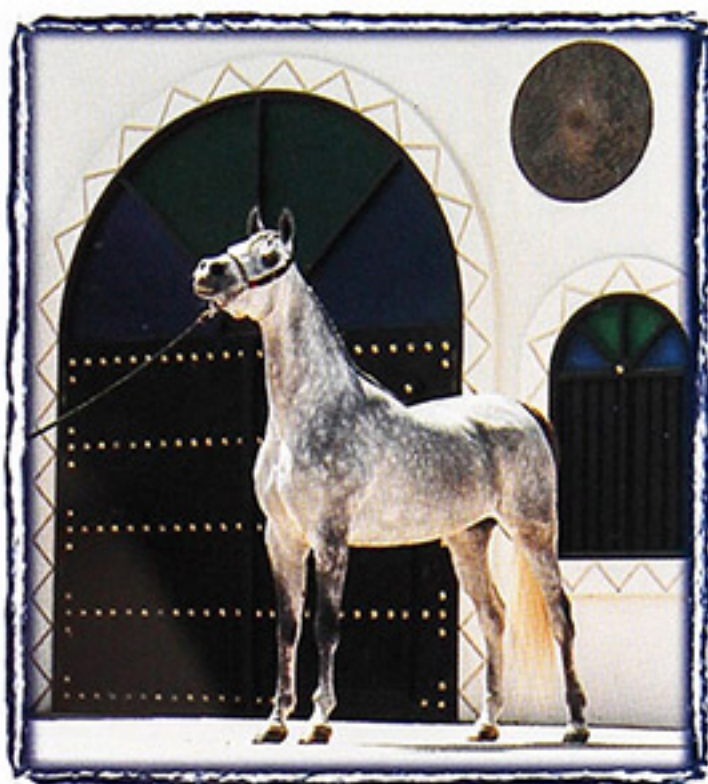


Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA MOUNA
(Farres x Talmona)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud, Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

JOHARA AL NAIF
(Ansata Shalim x Al Johara by
Prince Fa Moniet)
Owned by: Al Naif Stud, Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Johara Al Naif is an extremely elegant young mare, which won many champion merits in Qatar and even in the major shows in Europe in 2002.

The last ten to twelve years has been an intensive and active period in Qatar, building up a marvellous reputation as an Arabian horse country. All the Arabian horse world knows this. An older showground now surrounded by newly built and perfectly aerated stables, was completely reconstructed, enlarged, landscaped with trees and surrounded by luscious show lawns. It offers now an ideal place to present every year in March the "Qatar International Arabian Horse Show" and a further national show in November. The first Qatar show was carried out in cooperation with the German Arab Horse Society and handed over later on to the ECAHO, the European Show Commission. This was the first Arabian horse show ever conducted in the Peninsula and is holding until now the position to be the most prestigious event in that region.

However, in returning to breeding it was Sheikh Abdul Aziz alThani who was the initiator, who brought back to life the classical Arabian horse in his own country, an effort which cannot be appreciated enough and which inspired Arabian horse breeding crossing the borders of Qatar into most of the surrounding countries.

Anybody who receives a stock list of the three important Qatar farms recognises the enormous influence that Ansata Arabians had on these three Studs. This American Ansata Stud, based completely on Egyptian bloodlines, was not only very successful and influential as a breeding Stud, but also in the sense of being a center and a meeting place for most of the Egyptian breeders in that country. Perhaps at one time Gleannloch Farms or Bentwood Farm appeared more spectacular compared to Ansata Arabians, but Ansata Arabians followed a different concept from the very beginning; they did not start with a collection of horses of several Egyptian bloodlines. In 1958, they carefully chose certain mares and stallions after an intensive study of the Arabian bloodlines in El Zahraa and they developed out of them a unique homogenous breeding herd, like nobody else in the USA. Only the Gainey Arabians in the USA were recognised as "Gainey Arabians" at that time. The same applies to Ansata Arabians. Their "Ibn Halima look" became popular and is appreciated as a trademark until today.

Years later a new young breeder from Kuwait had heard about Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Khaled Al Thani and his Al Rayyan Stud. What happened to the



ZENUBIA AL NASSER
(Imperial Mahzeer x Imperial
Sanama)
Owned by: Nasser Stud. Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Al Nasser Stud went its own way in choosing its horses. One of the first acquisitions was the very impressive stallion Imperial Mazheer. He influenced from the beginning the development of this Stud.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

BINT SAIDA AL NASSER
(Imperial Mahzeer x Saida)
Owned by: Nasser Stud, Qatar



Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso

SUNDOS AL NASSER
(Ashhal Al Rayyan x MS Elvira)
Owned by: Nasser Stud, Qatar

Two Ashhal al Rayyan offspring. The first ones born by this stallion and an encouraging sign about his quality as a future sire. These young horses are valuable additions to this Stud.

Sheikh several years before, happened again. The same mares which had once inspired the Sheikh in Germany and were now in Qatar, made such an impression on him – actually the visitor was Mr. Mohammed Zubaid, now owner of the El Adiyat Stud – that the decision to travel to Germany was quickly taken. Later on he returned to Kuwait with two horses. Very soon a new group of breeders, in Kuwait reconsidered their breeding activities, one inspiring the other. Each of them bought several hectares of land in the area of Wafra south-west of Kuwait City, respectively they rearranged their present farms into breeding Studs. Wafra is a large type of oasis, surrounded completely by desert, extending to the east part of Saudi Arabia. The water which can be found there is perfectly well suited for irrigation purposes. In total, an ideal place for farming and a location where fast-growing trees, plants and grass, properly watered and fertilised grow to extraordinary gardens and green pasture land.

Five years have now passed, and two major and three smaller Studs are in full operation in Wafra by now and each of these breeders have made enormous efforts to create the best and most impressive facilities for their Arabians.

One or the other of these breeders in Kuwait have dealt with Arabians before. They had close friends in Egypt, Syria and Europe. They were not just imitators of what was established in Qatar, better to say, they were impressed but at the same time critical observers.

The majority of the breeders in Kuwait followed in principle a similar path. Their countries for orientation were other than Qatar, Germany and the US. All of them finally decided to breed Egyptians. They consider them to be of the most original type, their own Arabian homeland-type. For them they are the ones which carry the utmost of the Bedouin horses heritage. They searched within the same Egyptian mare families which were listed before. However, some of these families have become quite large, several different stallions were used which have left their traces, and certain mares in these groups grew to noticeable importance in creating with a slight difference from others their own families. It is well known that even two full sisters may breed into two quite different directions. This fact increases the possibility of better and additional choices and allows to create a concept of a more individual



Photo by Gigi Grasso

SUHAIL AL NASSER

(Ashhal Al Rayyan x Konouz)
Owned by: Nasser Stud, Qatar

character. It was mentioned before that the American Arabian horse community prefers a stronger and a bigger horse. Ansata Arabians had to follow this trend, however, in a well balanced and moderate way. To be known in the industry show participation is practically a must and this has undoubtedly in the USA had a strong effect on breeding.

In Europe, especially in Germany the Arabians live in a different ambiance concerning promotion and commercialisation. Show horses are liked and admired, but, they are not necessarily a standard. Most of the German breeders are easily and comfortably at home with their Arabians. Some like to form a group and become friends, they visit other breeders and recommend others to go there as well. To win a show is considered to be an extra reward and, maybe, also a kind of self-contentment, but not a must. Accordingly, there is a broader range of personal expressions and to follow a general trend is not a necessity. Maybe a certain number of the breeders may do this due to lack of confidence in their own judgement or they see no other chance to be known than to follow a trend in the hope of profiting from a certain prosperous situation. Today the Internet, journals, show catalogues and advertisement are leading buyers and visitors into the breeding stables. Nearly all breeders in Kuwait have used and still use these sources of information intensively and are amazingly aware about the availability of Egyptian breeding stock worldwide. However, all their search goes ultimately into the direction to find the valuable remains of previously mentioned appreciated female lines.

The two major breeding Studs in Kuwait are the Ajmal Stud and the Ezzain Stud; both located in the Wafra area. The Ajmal Stud, owned by Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouk, is much more than facilities for the stabling of horses with the necessary surroundings. It is in fact an architectural jewel; generous landscaping, houses for living, stables, arena for presentation, ponds and fountains are designed as a well balanced integral whole, all connected to each other and completing each other. There is not a single piece which looks to be lost. All is captured in one concept. Wide green pastures within these facilities allowing space for grazing divided and closed by hundreds of meters of white fencing. Sumptuous plantations and gardens, flowers, bushes and trees taken from the local flora, plants belonging to the dry and hot area of Arabia and also those which grow in the more moderate regions. A perfect example of horti-



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Mares in the Ajmal Stud, Kuwait, walking freely in the wide alleys of the main stables.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA HEJAZI
(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata
Suddara)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud, Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Senior sire at Ajmal Stud, Ansata Delilah's grandson, a powerful correct horse with a great action in trot. He has the rare beautiful large black eyes. He confirms the importance of this family, also on the male side. He repeats in Kuwait the success he already had in the US. His foal shows the typical "Halima-look".



Photo by Gigi Grasso

A group of mares trotting in the presentation paddock.

culture, Arabian style. Which other creature could crown such a striking combination of art and nature better than an Arabian horse? This Stud offers room for about thirty horses, working and breeding of the present Arabians is in full swing. Three major stallions, about fifteen mares and some youngstock find ample space in the generously designed boxes, and look mostly curiously over the doors into the inside patio overshadowed by palm trees. The young ones are the first generation born to this Stud, and the proof of the choice of their parents was the proper one. What is expected is quite clear: fine, noble

AJMAL NOREIAH

(Ansata Sokar x Ansata
Nefertiti)

Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA NEFERTITI

(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata
Suddara)

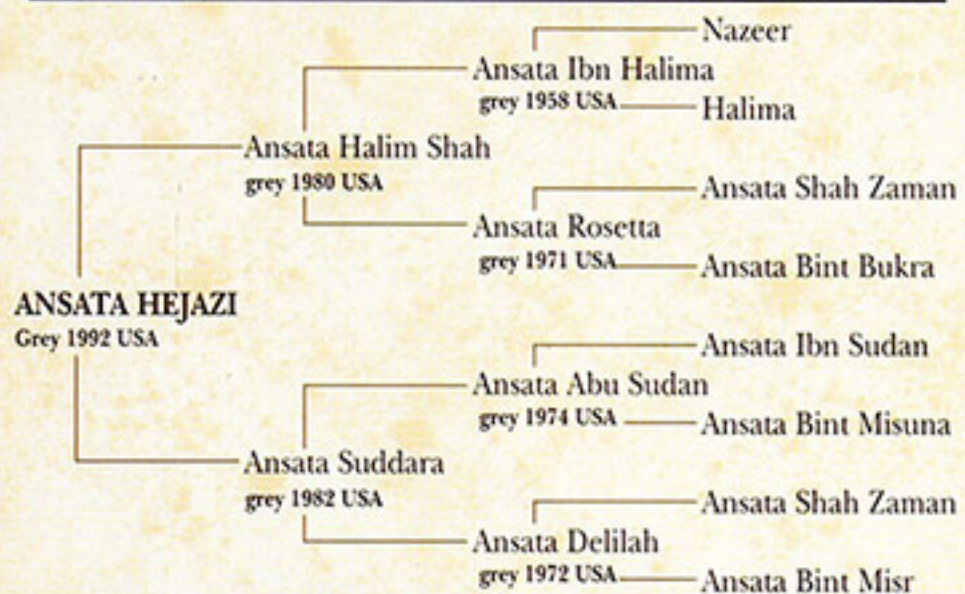
Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

All these mares are chosen due to their well proven capacity as broodmares. They are a guarantee for type and strength in body conformation, typical criteria of the Delilah family. Each of them is known for one or several offspring owned by other Studs. Ansata Nefertiti is the dam of Al Rayyan's prominent Ansata Neferisis.

Pedigree of a Dahman Shawan Mare - Bukra Line



See Annex I

ANSATA SAMARI

(Ansata Hejazi x Ansata Samarra)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

NAJMA AL RAYYAN
(Ansata Iemhotep x Ansata
Selket)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud, Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

*The Dahman Shawan
mares of Bukra / Delilah-
origin dominate in this
Stud and form a very
homogeneous group.*

ALIJAMILA
(Ruminaja Ali x Ansata Justina)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud, Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Arabians breathing Arabian heritage. The present stallions and mares should bring in principle such results and their offspring which is running and playing around are truly nice and pretty foals. They need as usual more time to show very clearly who they finally will be.

The position of the senior stallion in this Stud is held by Ansata Hejazi, an excellent powerful grey stallion. He moves marvellously and likes to show himself, in addition he is a proven stallion as many offspring have already been born to his breeder, Ansata Arabians. It would have been more than a surprise, if this sire's abilities did not give the same satisfaction in this his new home. He is an Ansata Halim Shah son, one of the most successful Egyptian stallions in Europe, as said before; his dam, Ansata Sudarra a famous mare also from the Bukra family. The preference of this Stud for the Dahman Shawan strain is confirmed by the fact that several of his other mares belong to the same family and trace back to the most successful Bukra great-granddaughters, Ansata Delilah out of Ansata Bint Misr. Ansata Delilah's masterpiece was Ansata Samantha, perhaps the most precious mare in Ansata Arabian Stud. In Ajmal Stud one finds five mares of this origin: Ansata Shalimar, Ansata Samari and Najma Al Rayyan as well as Ansata Nefertiti, all

Left side

GLORIETA SAAFRANA

(Ansata Abu Nazeer x Ansata Sabiha)

Owned by: Ajmal Stud, Kuwait

Right side

ANSATA SHALIMAR

(Prince Fa Moniet x Ansata Samantha)

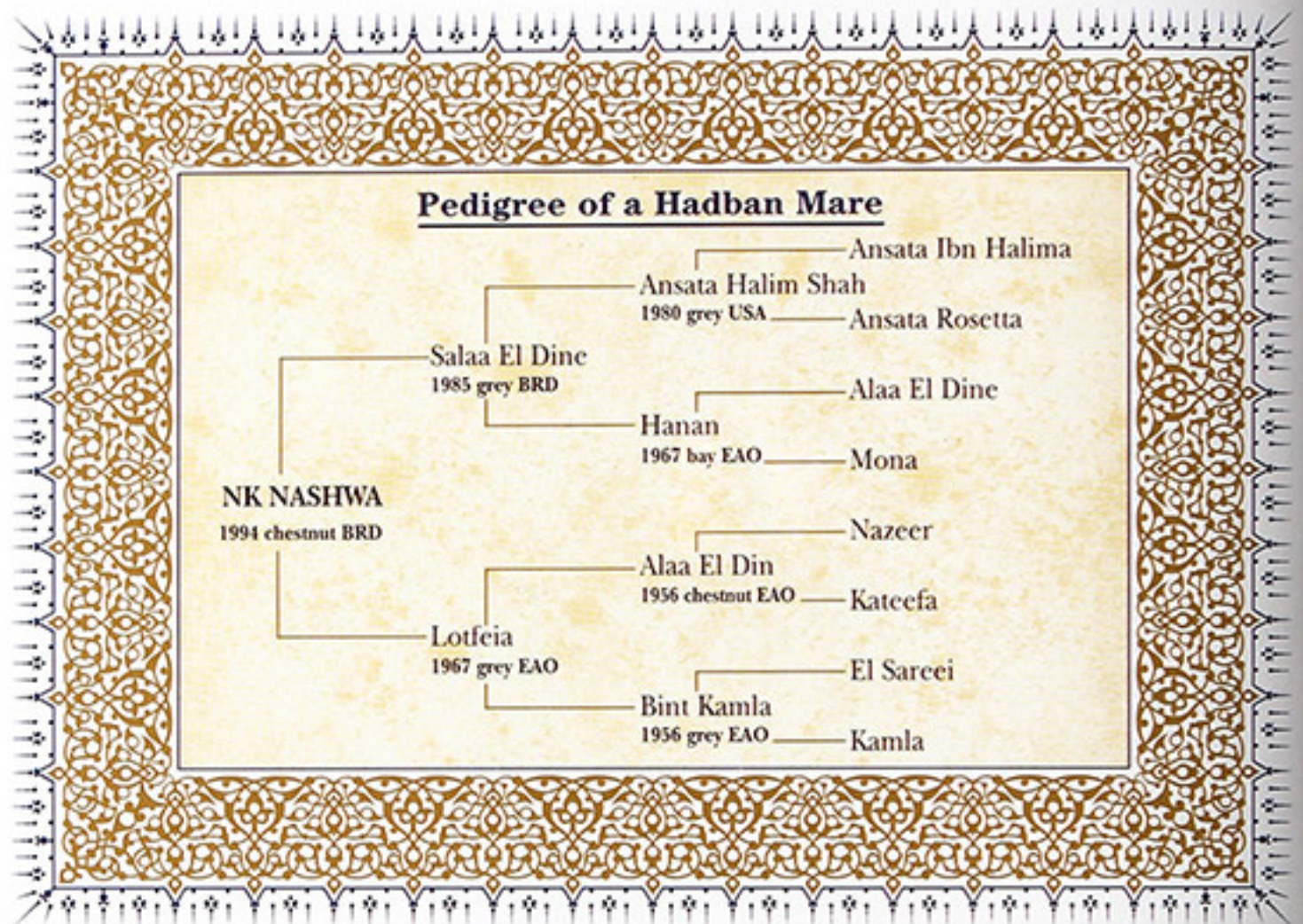
Owned by: Ajmal Stud, Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso



See Annex II

of the same type and showing the unmistakable, "Ibn Halima look". Whether intentionally or by chance, it happened that Mr. Marzouk added to these mares, further ones whose genetic make-up made them already good breeding mates in the Ansata Halim Shah programme in Germany. He chose a mare from the Obayan/Hanan line, the elegant NK Aisha, one from the Hadban/Lotfeia line Nashwa, one mare from the Moheba line of Marbach-JKB Majida and a Siglawy mare from the Maheeba line Mafara Al Qusar. All of them possess an extreme dryness. This dryness has reached a spectacular degree, better than in Europe, because skin and hair has never appeared so soft and silky as under oriental climatic conditions. All these horses move with power, show tail carriage and in looking at their faces, are undoubtedly Arabian beauties.

The two half-brothers, Shaheen and Adnan, both by Salaa el Dine are supporting Ansata Hejazi. These three main foundation sires in this Stud and the mentioned females, besides a few other fine mares complete his programme. In total, a well studied group with a high probability to fortify and even increase in the course of time the heritage of the Arabian land.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

A very refined direct daughter of Lotfeia, one of the mentioned Hadban-mares belonging to the Kamla family. She and her fullsister Nashua expose the brilliant dryness of head and body, typical for this line.

NASHWA
(Sala El Dine x Lotfeia)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait

NK AISHA

(Salaa El Dine x Amarilla)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait



AJMAL OBBEYAH

(Ansata Hejazi x NK Aisha)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The stallion Adnan and NK Aisha are easy recognisable offspring of Salaa el Dine; both are inbred to Hanan, the well-known Obayan-mare in Germany. The fine mouth/nose-formation is a seldom unique feature and highly hereditary.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

ADNAN
(Salaa El Dine x Ghazala)
Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait

Right side:
MAFAHRA AL QUSAR

(Teymur B x El Thay Bint
Maheera)

Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait

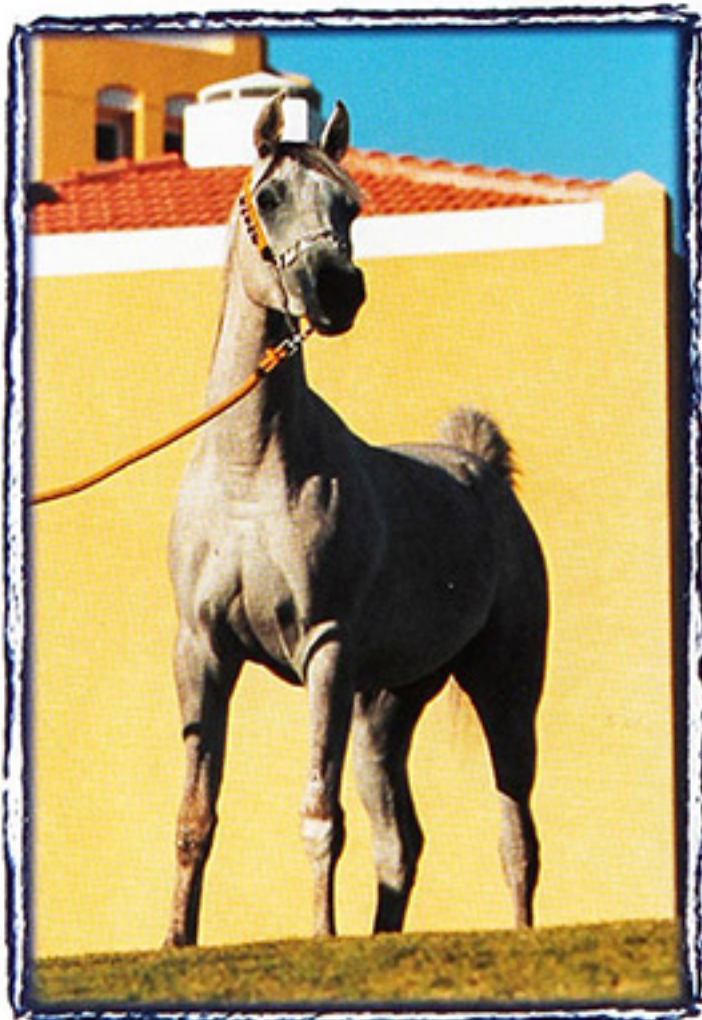


Photo by Gigi Grasso

Left side:
MUNIFA AL RAYYAN

(Ashhal Al Rayyan x Rababa)

Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Ajmal Stud introduced these prominent representatives of the Saqlawi Strain and was fortunate to find horses with an excellent expression. An elegant clean neck and dark black eyes give these youngsters a special touch.

AJMAL SINAN

(Ansata Hejazi x Sanana)

Owned by: Ajmal Stud. Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso



JKB MAJIDA

(Ansata Halim Shah x JKB
Masouda)

Owned by: Ajmal Stud, Kuwait

Photo by Gigi Grasso

A fine representative of the Farida line through the mare Moheba in Marbach/ Germany, following the idea of the Ansata Malika-combinations and their success in the US.



A sunset view of Ezzain Arabians at Wafra, Kuwait.

About 10 km away from Ajmal Stud lies Ezzain Arabian Stud. On entering through the main gates a huge bright-blue shining lake reflects the colour of the wide clear sky - acting as a refreshing welcome, highly appreciated at any time of the year. Kuwait is a hot country and Wafra situated in a region of prevailing desert climate even more so.

Very well aerated stables with wide overlapping roofs giving shade, flank either side of the lake over a generous distance, flowers, cactus and a row of majestic palm trees grow between.

For several years Mr. Usamah Al Kazemi spent time and effort in this 10 hectare sized farm to create an admirable ambiance and a very suitable homeland for his Arabians. His mind and life has been involved with Arabian horses for a longer time. He has been travelling to Egypt for years, and has visited El Zahraa and the few old private breeders on several occasions. He went to



Photo by Gigi Grasso

France, England and Syria and little by little imported a few horses from all these places, some Russians, Syrians, Spanish and English mares, but the majority was always Egyptians.

To bring generally good Arabians from different places and breed them to one well balanced homogenous group is for many horsemen a challenging idea. Many have tried it, but nearly all have given up. A few had luck at one or another time. A similar group of brood mares with a similar origin, or better said, originating from a common genetic pool as a foundation for further breeding seems to be the answer for long-lasting satisfaction. There should be and there will be enough variation, if possible, of such a nature that they complement each other in a positive way to give room for improvement. At this present time, Ezzain Stud's preferred mares are members of the Hadban strain, like his two mares NK Nada and NK Nakeebia, both tracing back to the mare Lotfeia. She once came from Egypt to Babolna and was in her later age

ANSATA ALMURTAJIZ
(Ansata Hejazi x Ansata Samsara)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians.
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The two stallions Ansata Al Murtajiz and Nabaja are the senior stallions in the Stud. Both excellent in type and great in movement. The first goes back in the parent line to Ansata Delilah, the second is a Koheilan Jellaby of German origin.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

NABAJAH EL CHAMSIN
(Nahaman x Fatima)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians,
Kuwait

NK NADA
(Adnan x Nashua)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians,
Kuwait

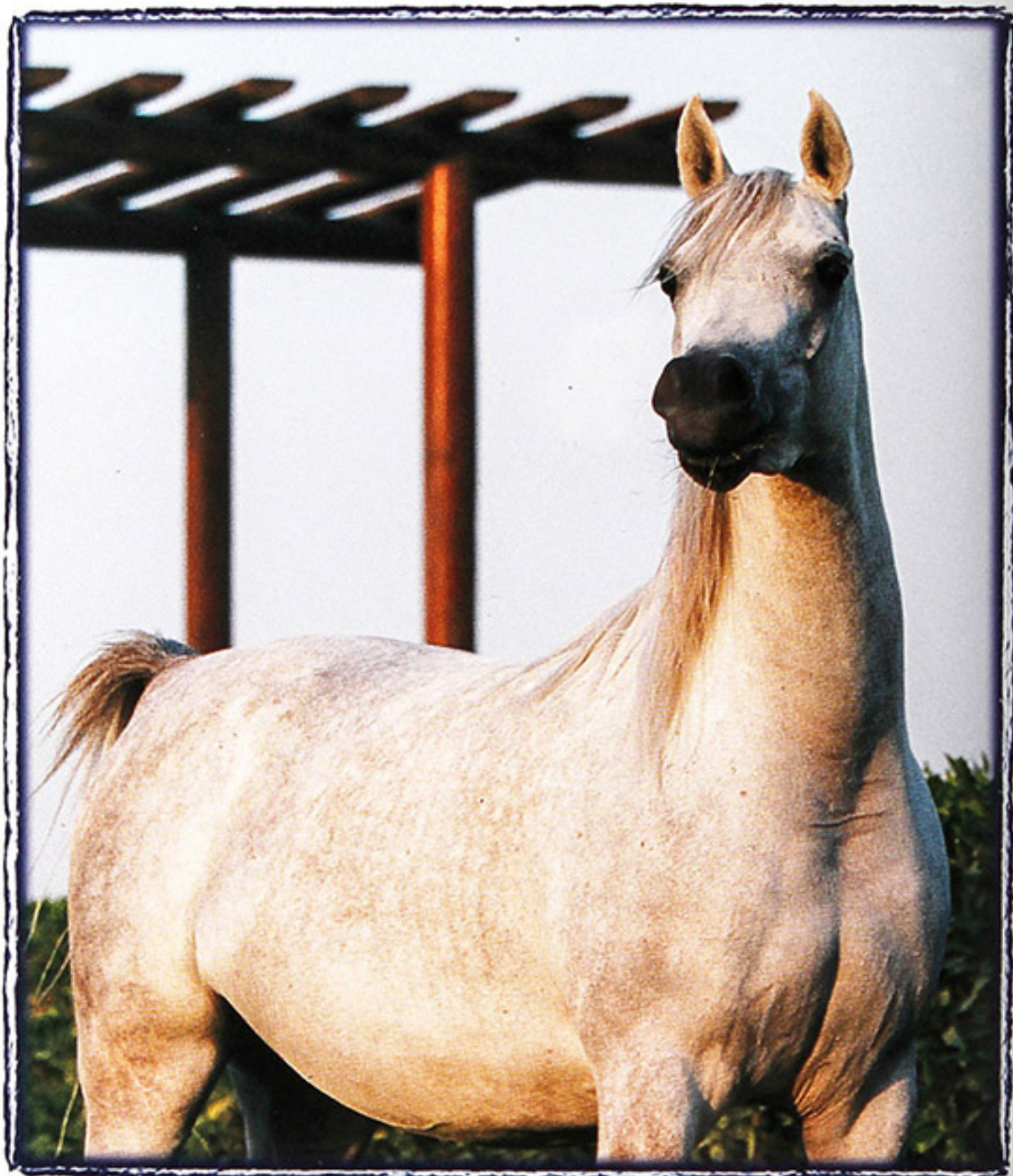


Photo by Gigi Grasso

These two Hadban mares are the pride of their owner: NK Nada, a direct daughter of the legendary Nashua and NK Nakeebia, a granddaughter of this unique mare. This Egyptian Hadban-strain was always in his history full of spectacular surprises. Not always the popular dished face appears, some of them have a rather straight face, like the all time famous Nazeer. However, Nashua never failed to inherit this feature to all her six daughters. An extreme dry expression, a wide forehead, small and mostly in-turned ears at the tip give them a particular quality, which is possibly a source of a maximum refinement in all Egyptian breeding.

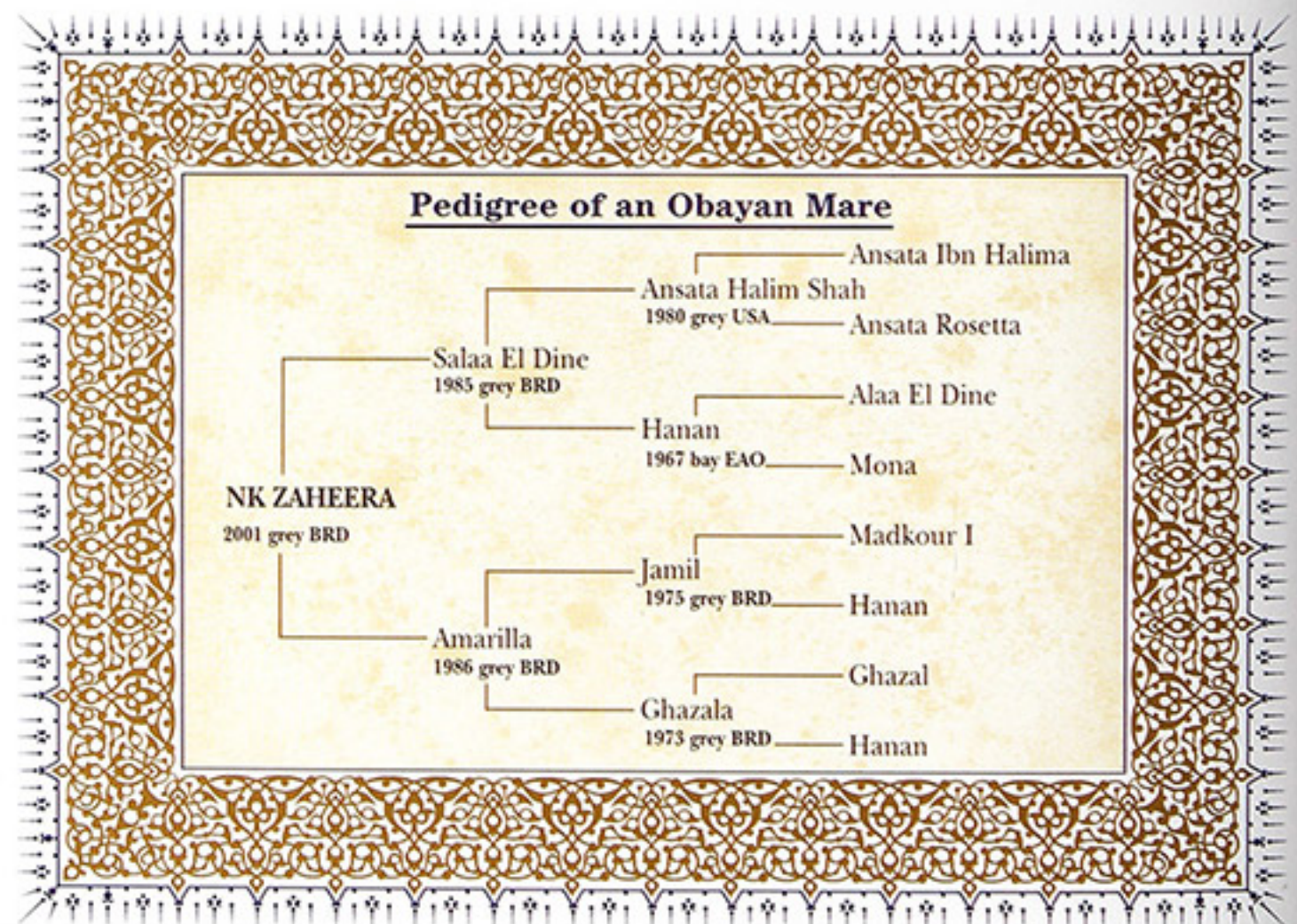
NK NAKEEBYA
(NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nabeelah)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians,
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

stationed in Germany. The same importance is given to his Obayan group of four mares, being daughters of NK Hafid Jamil and Salaa el Dine, all having the mare Hanan as a tail female. There is a representative of the Siglawy Jedran line and the Dahman Shawan horses also have a solid place in his programme. Once again, one is related to the Ansata Samantha/Delilah family, the other to Ansata Bint Bukra through the mare Helala in Germany. The famous Ansata Halim Shah is positioned in this Stud only in the second or third generation, and in this there is a slight difference in his approach compared to the other breeders. One also finds a well chosen group of mares which relate to the Russian programme, all of them clearly stamped by the stallion Padron Psyche; equal in appearance and of classical type.

Both Studs are on their way to verify and to finalise their concept; every foal born will give them an indication on how to proceed and what might still be done. These present day horses in Kuwait are so much clearer and easier to evaluate and look so much more advanced in uniformity than what breeders could obtain fifty years before in Europe or in the USA, at the time when



See Annex III



Photo by Gigi Grasso

NK ZAHERAH

(Salaa El Dine x Amarilla)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians,
Kuwait

*Two pretty yearling fillies
of the Obayan family.*



Photo by Gigi Grasso

NK HEBBATTOLLAH

(IBN Nejdly x NK Hallah)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians,
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

NK JURIE
(NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nariman)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians.
Kuwait

Among these six mares there are two full sisters, both by the young spectacular stallion NK Hafid Jamil, bred in Germany, a lucky combination of Dahman/Hadban-qualities.

NK AL AMIRAH
(NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nariman)
Owned by: Ezzain Arabians,
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

the Arabians began their great victorious move to the Western world. It is now much easier to know where to find pieces of the old heritage. However, even when one believes one could capture them and bring them home, there is no guarantee for repetition as breeding deals with chances and probabilities and remains a non-ending challenge.

These two breeders' and three further dedicated Studs begin to make Kuwait an attractive country for a very impressive collection of Arabian horses.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA KEN RANIA
(Salaa El Dine x Ansata Prima
Rose)
Owned by: Hans Nagel and
El Adiyat Arabians

A 10 years old Dahman Shawan mare and a descendant of the Bint Bukra/Rosetta line. In aging, they show a unique quality. This mare is in fact a classical mare, one of the few Arabians which deserve this nomination. She is a symbol of an "Original Arabian" in expression, behaviour and balance.

El Adiyat Arabians is one of them. It owns two mares and two other mares in partnership. Again, a beautiful mare of the Hadban strain, Bint Nashua from the Lotfeia family and two Obayan mares, one goes back to the Hanan-daughter Ghazala, the other to Ameera. The fourth mare, Ansata Ken Ranya, belongs to the Dahman Shawan strain with Ansata Bint Bukra in the background; all are typical representatives of each of the famous families because



Photo by Gigi Grasso

One of the most elegant Nashua-daughters, imported from Germany. Her dryness is exceptional as well as her refinement in head and limbs. All members of this family have the highest tail-carriage which might exist. Even during walk, they carry their tail like an arrow. Bint Nashua shows it in perfection.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

BINT NASHUA
(Nahaman x Nashua)
Owned by: El Adiyat Arabians

HALLA
(Adnan x Asfoura)
Owned by: Hans Nagel and El
Adiyat Arabians

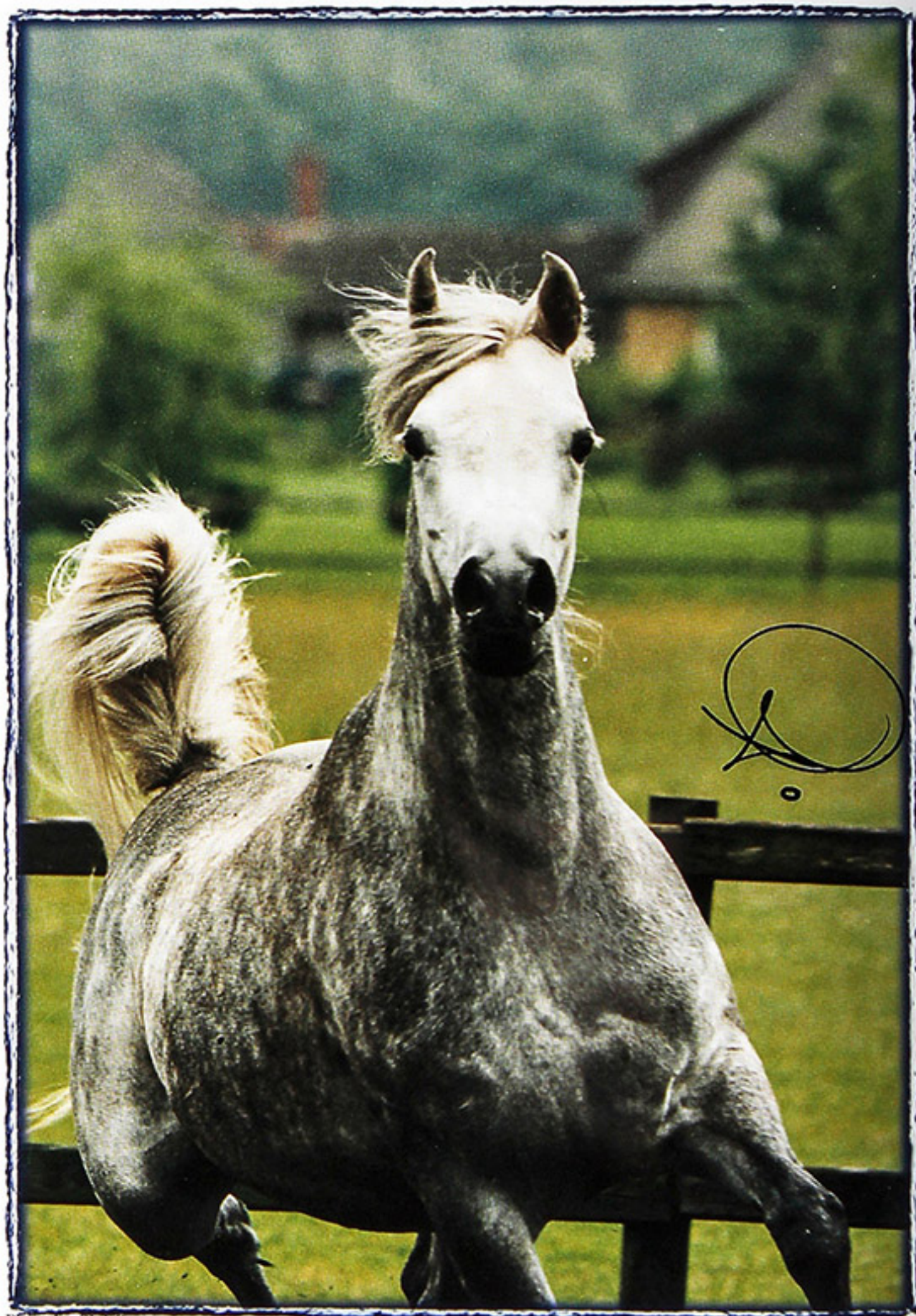


Photo by Gigi Grasso

Two mares of the German Obayan line, wide foreheads and small muzzle, little ears, tipped in, powerful action and a broad breast, characteristics which repeat themselves and make such mares to very reliable broodmares for these exquisite criteria in any breeding programme.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

they show the major traits for which these families are known. In mentioning these names it is obvious that all of his stock is related to horses bred in Germany and which are representatives of such lines bred in this country. He apparently likes those horses which are corresponding more to the taste prevailing in Germany. All his choices reflect this preference. Being professional-wise involved in designing and artwork he developed quickly a very good eye for judgement and evaluation, a welcomed ability, which is used and appreciated by its colleague breeders in discussions and in making decisions concerning acquisitions, selection and breeding. His Stud appears from time to time as a studying place because foals and sometimes mares of other breeders are stabled there with the intention to observe or closely follow up certain matters of detailed nature or common interest.

Mr. Mahmoud Al Zubaid, is a real horseman, he loves riding and caring for his horses. He treats them as the most reliable and docile creatures, they are

NADEEMA
(Salaa El Dine x Amarilla)
Owned by: El Adiyat Arabians

still well spirited and always ready and willing to follow their master's orders - wherever the ride might go. He is breeding these mares for the time being, to the stallions of the Ajmal Stud. To have a stallion of his own remains a further objective.

Another member of the group is Mr. Khaled Ben Shokor. For years, he studied pedigrees and bloodlines wherever the occasion was offered to him. He is in fact one of the first tending to the later applied direction of choice and developed a very clear mind which lines might please him and which he does not like at all. Finally, after having seen many horses abroad and the ones which arrived at Al Rayyan Stud in Qatar, he travelled well prepared in his mind to the USA and returned with a few beautiful mares: one of them Ansata Exotica, a Jamil-daughter, the other a daughter of Ruminaja Ali, called Aliikat, now a very successfully producing mare with already 3 fillies of excellent quality and he bought from Al Rayyan Stud an exotically looking Prince Fa daughter, going back to the Ansata Samantha/Delilah family. With these

ADJBAH AL SAFINAT
(Ansata Iemhotep* x Aliikat)
Owned by: Al Safinat Stud.
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

One of the pretty Aliikat daughters.



RN RAYANA
(Prince Fa Moniet x Ansata
Sharifa)
Owned by: Alsafinat Stud.
Kuwait

Photo by Gigi Grasso

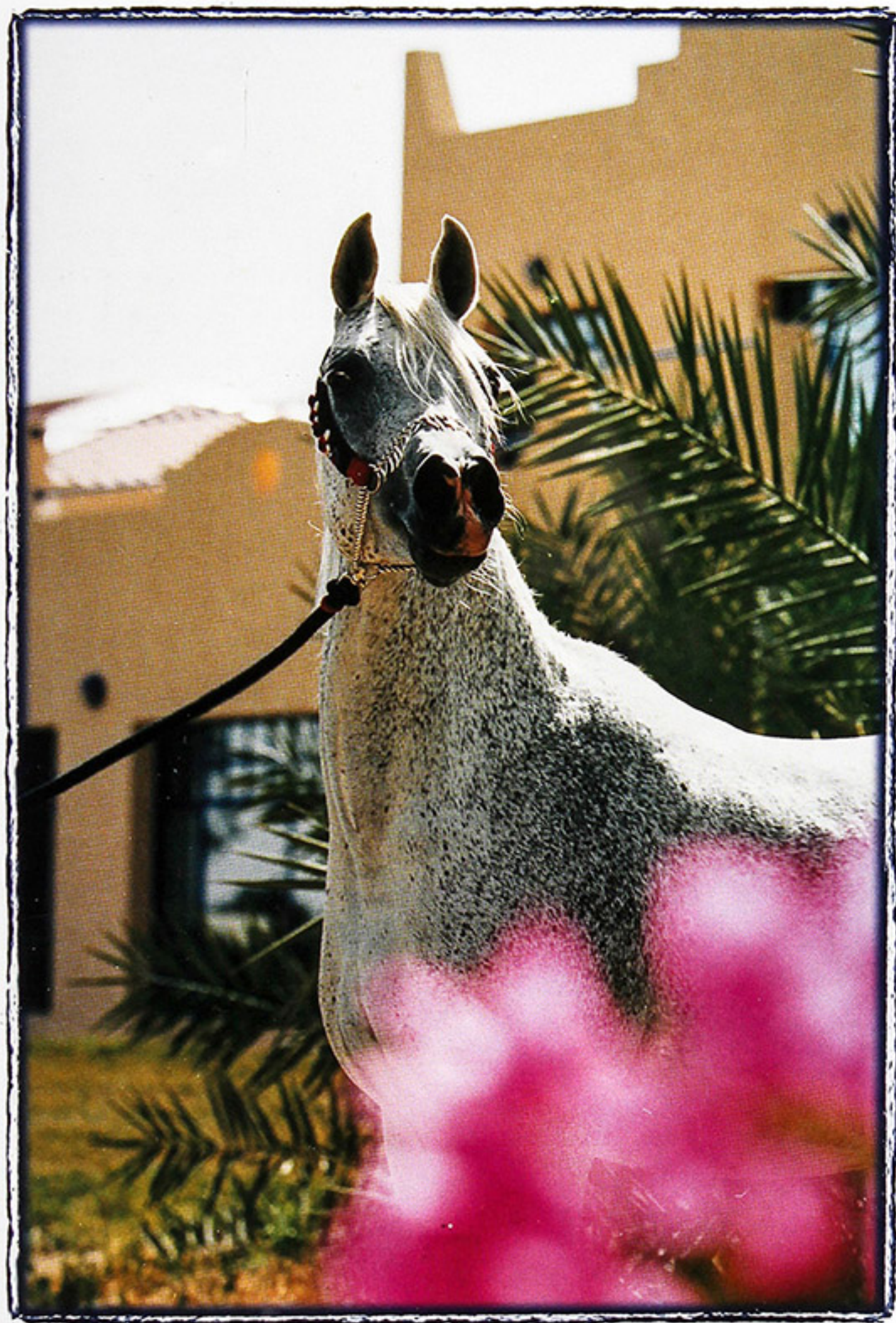
Also in this Stud one finds a representative of the Ansata Delilah family, bought in Qatar, a very impressive mare in expression and body conformation.

ANSATA EXOTICA
(Jamil x Ansata Ghazala)
Owned by: Alsafinat Stud.
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

The third representative of the Ansata Bint Bukra/Rosetta line in Kuwait. Ansata Halim Shah is as well a member of this exceptional line. This mare as a daughter of Jamil resembles her sire enormously in head, body and by her powerful flying movements.



ALIIKAT
(Ruminaja Ali x Katourah)
Owned by: Alsafinat Stud.
Kuwait

Photo by Gigi Grasso

Aliikat, a very dry prolific mare, tracing back to Bint Nefisaa, a Nazeer-daughter imported by Gleannloch Farms from Egypt. All her daughters, even from three different stallions, are of excellent quality and confirming the value of this mare in her breeding potential.

mares he began his breeding work, and he is more than happy with his first generation. All of them relate to the Dahman Shawan strain, partly to the Farida partly to the Bukra family.

A person whose spirit is rising when a subject centers around Arabian horses and a great enthusiast of Arabian heritage is, Mr. Talal Abdullah Al Mehri. He knows it all; all that is going on with Arabian breeding in Kuwait and in Qatar and, in particular, about the horses and the breeding results in Al Rayyan Stud. He looks to all these activities in a positive, encouraging and an apolitical manner. He follows the Al Rayyan experience very closely, and the group of mares which he is relying on confirms that his choice and procedures make a lot of sense. He owns the mare Ansata Selma, again an Ansata

ANSATA SELMA
(Ansata Hejazi x G. Shafaria)
Owned by: Al Jazira Stud.
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

A granddaughter of the brilliant Ansata Sharifa, an exquisite example of this family.



JAMALA AI ZAMET
(Sala El Dine x Abbas Pasha
1 - 12)
Owned by: Al Jazira Stud,
Kuwait

Jamala Al Zamet belongs to the Farida branch and relates to the mare Tamria. She had the most expressive head within the first group of the Hungarian import. The famous Imperial Phanilah at Al Shaqab Stud has the same origin.

GHOWLEH AL RAYYAN
(Safir x Bint Sabah)
Owned by: Al Jazira Stud.
Kuwait

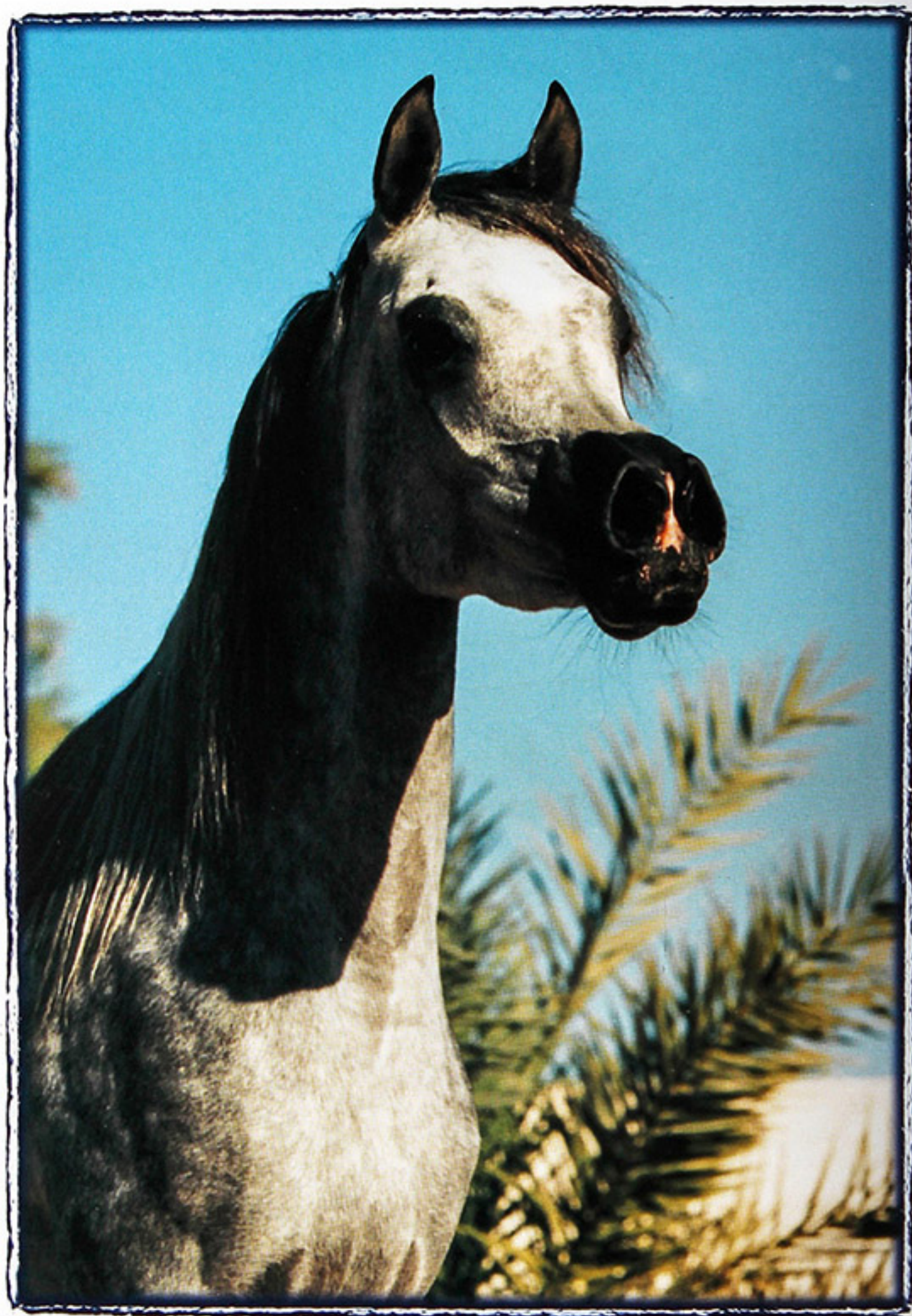


Photo by Gigi Grasso

Ghowleh Al Rayyan goes back to the Mahiba line in Germany. She is lucky to have inherited the beautiful face of her dam Bint Sabah, one of the first mares which Sheikh Abdul Aziz bought in Germany. Her nice face has definitely some connection to her pretty headed grandfather Ibn Nazeema.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

RN Marwa and her daughters, Siglawy mares as well, represent the mare Nagwa, bred in Al Badeia Stables in Egypt. For many people this family is one of the best mare groups in this traditional Egyptian Private Stud.

RN MARWA
(Ansata Halim Shah x Baheyat Albadeia)
Owned by: Al Jazira Stud.
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

All these pictured horses represent an interesting group of siglawy mares.

MAHA ALJAZIRA
(Ansata Hejazi x RN Marwa)
Owned by: Al Jazira Stud.
Kuwait

ALENAH
(Amaal x Adliah)
Owned by: Al Jazira Stud,
Kuwait



Photo by Gigi Grasso

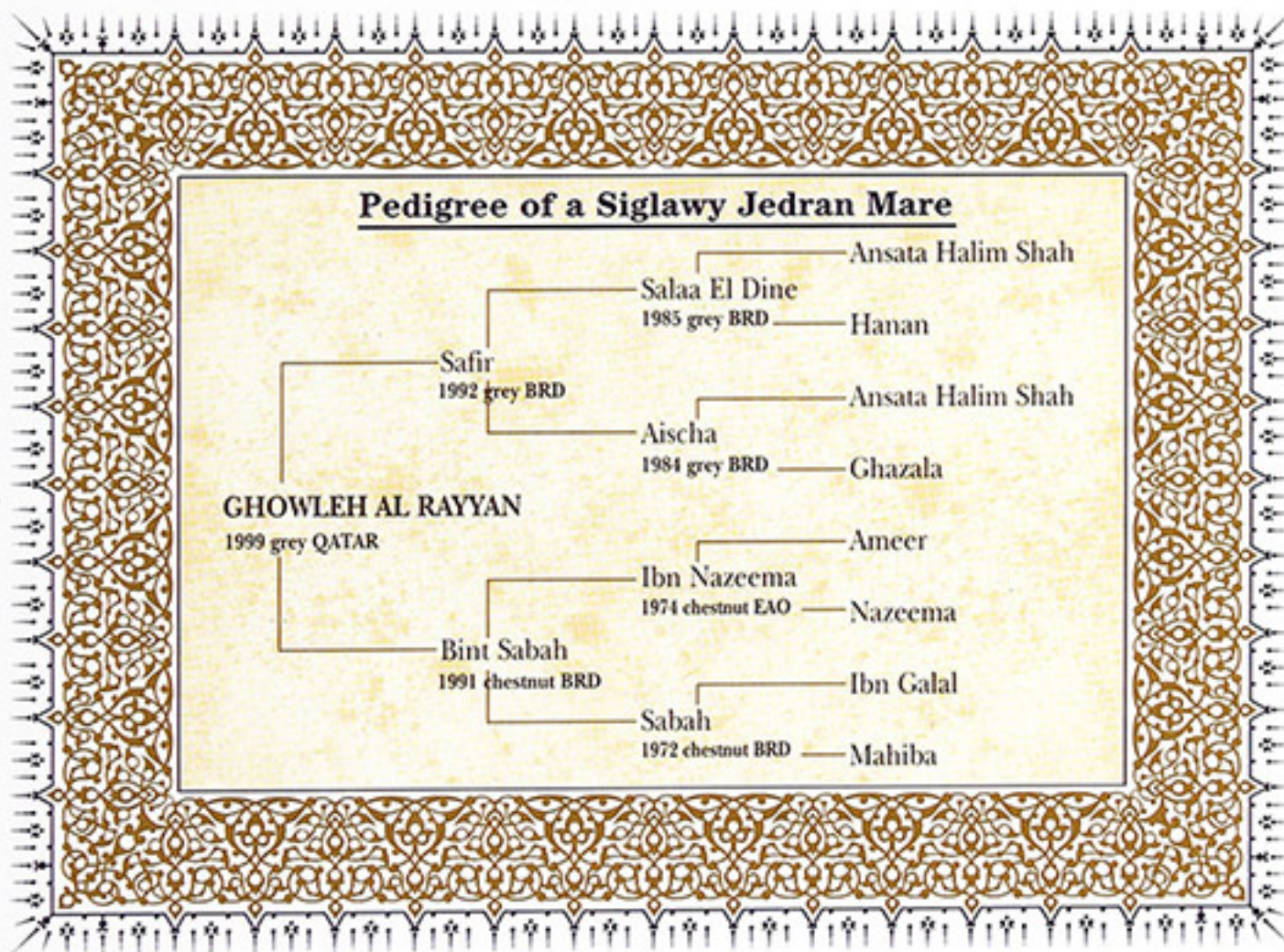
A well-chosen Siglawy mare, bred in the US. She has a perfect body conformation and all qualities as a first-class broodmare.



GHAZALA
 (Orfan Bay x M.B. Taffita)
 Owned by: Al Jazira Stud,
 Kuwait

Photo by Gigi Grasso

Colours in Egyptian horses seem to become rare, at least in those lines which are well established in the Studs in Qatar and Kuwait. An impressive chestnut mare like Ghazala is in so far a welcomed exception. Also rare as a family, the Siglawy line of El Butaa in Egypt which produced several pretty fillies which were exported to the US.



See Annex IV

Samantha/Delilah granddaughter, a beautiful Siglawy mare, tracing back to Mahiba by Safir, the senior stallion in Al Rayyan; a nice Hadban mare called Taiera, with Nabeela/Yosreia in the pedigree and two further mares imported from Egypt. Already a good number of foals from his own mares gives the impression that this Stud will reach soon a good level in breeding horses of excellent quality.

The previous Kuwaiti Arabian horse center, governmentally owned, was fortunate enough to enjoy the benefit brought into the country by the lively activity of this group of private breeders. This center has been established for several decades with the evident purpose to protect and preserve the Arabian horse breed in the area and could be described as an effort as it was conceived by the higher authorities in Bahrain, Jordan or Egypt. Earlier imports of certain selected Arabians from Germany following the emphasis on "Asil Arabians" at that time in vogue among some German breeders, mark the beginning of its activity. However, this project did not develop its own dynamics. This new group of breeders worked with great effort on the revival of this breeding center and liked to see it operate as a successful institution. They acted as a kind of a consulting group and Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouk is in charge of breeding the mare owned by the Center.

An outstanding mare of the previous stock received from Germany is still alive, the mare Latiefafa, a Kasr El Nil granddaughter and among the new imports from the US the two mares Ansata Merita and Ansata White Nile quickly catch the attention of any visitor. Several foals born in the last two years have brought new life into this Stud and give it a new future.

Only the two major Studs, the Ajmal and Ezzain Stud, are presently stallion owners. Nearly every breeder worldwide, also the ones in Kuwait, are constantly searching for additional stallions. Some young ones are born in their own Studs, and a few of them are promising good youngsters. But also here the oldest and most impressive formula in breeding has still to be fulfilled; *"You shall judge them on their fruits."* It will take time until such a test is passed. The Kuwaitis have achieved one fundamental task; they were able to collect a beautiful group of mares which are the safest guarantee for the continuation of any breed and for maintaining the inherited quality.

This lively activity in the country has attracted the attention of many peo-



Photo by Gigi Grasso

This wonderful looking mare originates from the first import from Germany to Kuwait about 12 years ago. She is one of the seldom descendants from the Bukra family which remained in Egypt and another clear confirmation for the strong breeding abilities of this family in type and expression.

LATIEFA
(Hamasa Khazzan x Hamasa
Tarifa)
Owned by:
Arabian Horse Center, Kuwait

ANSATA WHITE NILE
(Prince Fa Moniet x Ansata Nile
Gift)
Owned by:
Arabian Horse Center, Kuwait



The Arabian Horse Center was advised to obtain some well-bred horses from Ansata Arabians. They originate from the same families as they are already represented in the other farms in Kuwait, like the Bint Sabah or the Bint Misr/Delilah line.

WAFAA ELKUWAIT
(Ansata Hejazi x Ansata White
Nile)
Owned by:
Arabian Horse Center, Kuwait

Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso

ANSATA SHERRARA
(Ansata Hejazi x Ansata
Shalimar)
Owned by:
Arabian Horse Center, Kuwait

HAMASA NAFILA
(Maysoun x Hamasa Bint
Nafteta)
Owned by:
Arabian Horse Center, Kuwait

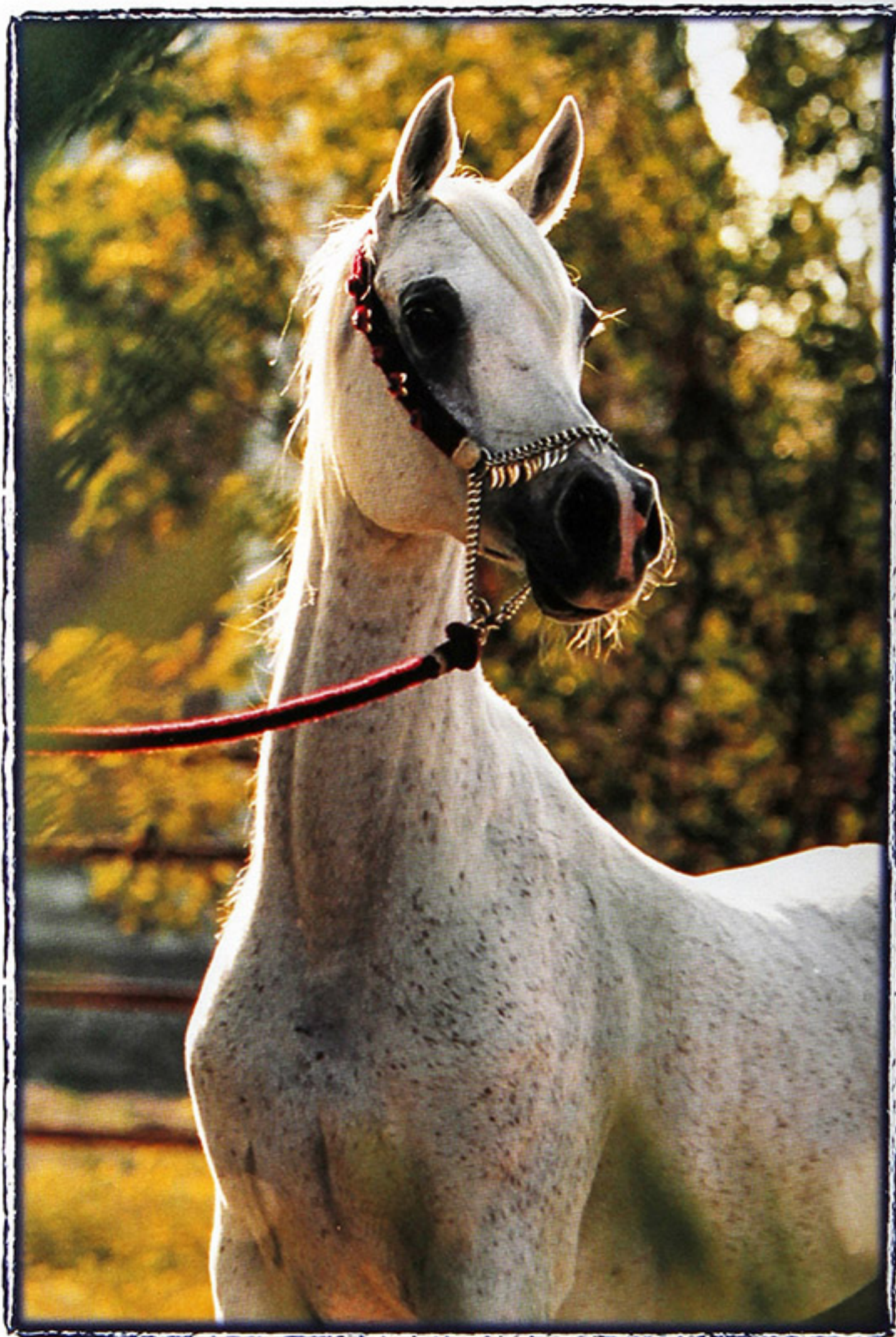


Photo by Gigi Grasso

A second mare which belongs to the original imports. A beautiful Maysoun-daughter, her female line goes back to Muneera, a full sister to the previously mentioned Mahiba.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

This young stallion has the full care of its owner, well handled and perfectly ridden. His dam is the known mare Ansata Selket, now owned by Al Rayyan Stud in Qatar and the embodiment of a classical Arabian mare.

ANSATA OSIRON

(Ansata Iemhotep x Ansata Selket)

Owned by: HRH Sheikha Sarah Al Sabah, Kuwait



Manar El Kuwait, a happy filly by Shaheen.

Photo by Gigi Grasso

MANAR EL KUWAIT

(Shaheen x Ansata Merita)

Owned by: Arabian Horse Center, Kuwait



ple. This group of breeders is growing steadily and nearly all of them rely for their choice of horses on the directions which these five original breeders are giving them. In their expectations in breeding they like to see as much Arabian heritage in their horses as possible, the more type, the better. At present, one can confirm that a proper balance between this heritage and conformation related to body and legs is clearly prevailing. However, if one tries to favour one side more, the Arabian one, then such a selection should be done with great care. In general, most of their breeding stock consists of such a quality that a few generations may pass without any major setback. In the case that such problems do arrive, a relatively high selection rate for unwanted traits has to be accepted. It seems they might be better prepared to do that



Photo by Gigi Grasso

than to sacrifice and hold back in the effort to breed the finest and most typey horses, because these are for the majority the most beautiful Arabians.

The territories in the middle of Saudi Arabia around Riyadh, Al Quasim and Bureida resemble today in many parts a huge agro-industrial region. They were once the great grazing grounds called "the Nejd". Nejd-sheep, Nejd-camels and the Nejd-horses, the original Arabians are said to have had their homeland here. These territories are not huge sandy regions covered by wandering dunes, like in the south-east of the Arabian Peninsula. Nothing could develop in such a dead land, and even humans would find it difficult to live, let alone, survive. The Nejd consists of a summary of vast plains, intermittently interrupted and divided by elevated hills and huge valleys. In cer-

tain places, the ground is so soft that one would get stuck in the sand. Otherwise, it is rather hard and fortified by small shingle. Bedouins dwelling with their livestock in sandy dunes belong to fairy-tales. Desert is not only synonymous with only sand. Desert should be better understood as deserted, unfriendly regions and what they are composed of is another question. Nomads had to pass such sandy regions in their migrations - but it was never their home. When the rainy season started in November/December extending maximum until March, these plains were changed into a green carpet. The more it rained, the more vegetation and feed could grow. This green area could serve beyond March as grazing land if situated in lower valleys, which are mostly old extended riverbeds. No rain at all meant a total catastrophe,



hunger and death for both man and livestock. A “desert Arabian horse” is not an animal spending its life in deep sand; the ground on which it walked and lived was firm in order to hold seeds and to let them grow when it started to rain. It housed and maintained all kinds of grass, roots and herbs preserving them from one season to the other and being a life source.

The Dirrabh Stud near Riyadh lies in a huge valley, today a green spot at all times, due to modern irrigation. The further one moves to the north-west, the huge extended plains form the landscape - the grazing grounds of the Bedouins’ livestock in the past.

One of the major breeding farms for the pure bred Arabians is located near Riyadh; its owner called it, “Nejd Stud”. Another important Stud was built near



Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by H. Nagel

The Egyptian mare herd of Emir Khalid at Nejd Farm near Riyadh. He decided for mares from different families, but all have a great similarity in type. To the group belong mares of the Obayan, Koheilan, Dahman Shawan and Siglawi strain and as well a young Hadban-mare, a granddaughter of Nashua, called NK Omayma.

Jeddah with an extension close to the vicinity of Medinah, under the name "Al Aadeyat Arabians".

The Nejd Stud already mentioned before is primarily known for its important herd of traditional Saudi horses to which its owner, Prince Turkey, gives all his care and attention. He acts as a breeder, because he selects properly to improve type and conformation with patience, and, in thinking on the long term, does not rely on horses imported or taken from outside. This Stud is located in a hilly area about 50 km away from Riyadh. The horses are kept in generous large paddocks on the flat part of the land. The remaining area is surrounded by hills, showing rocks and stones and it presents itself as a rather harsh and dry place. The soil on which the horses live is hard, a mixture of hard sand and gravel, covered only by a thin layer of finer sand and



Photo by H. Nagel

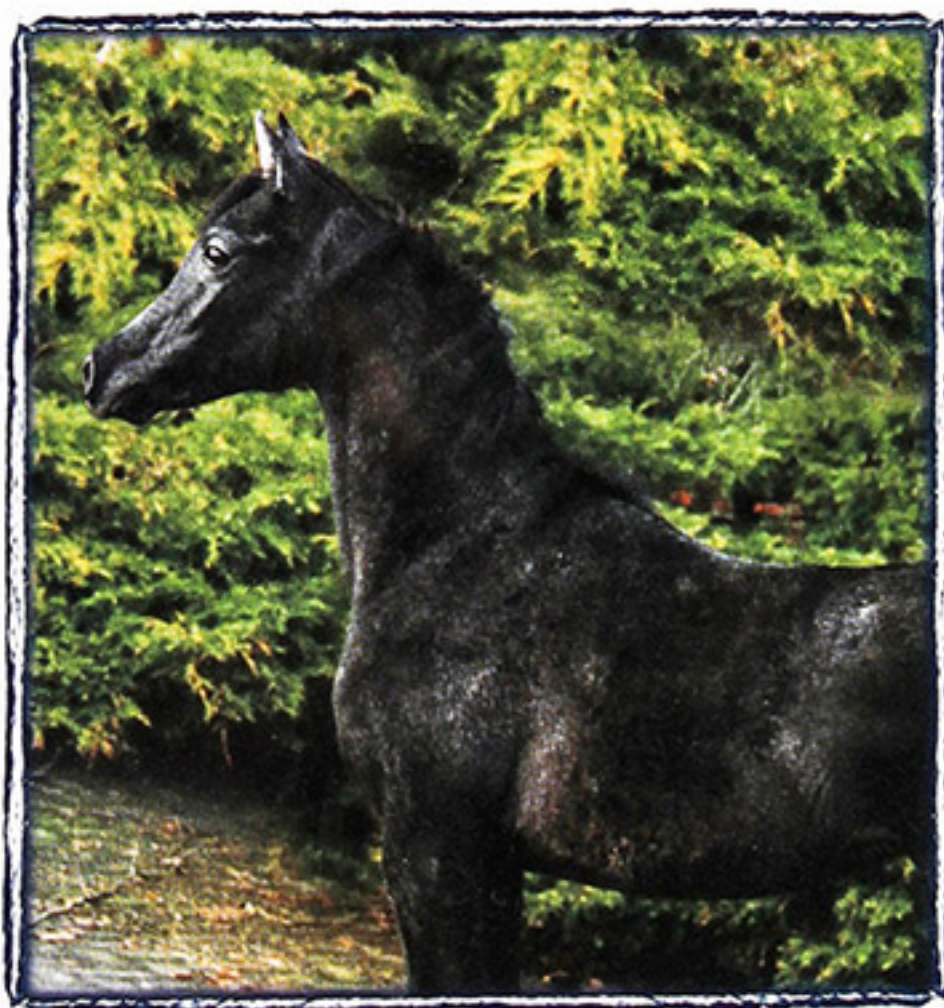


Photo by H. Nagel

NK OMA YMA
(Adnan x NK Nabeela)

ZANDAI ABU ZEIDAN
(IBN El Mareekh x Ansata Dia
Halima)



Photo by H. Nagel

ANSATA AL BASSAM
(Ansata Iemhotep x Ansata
Sekmat)



Photo by H. Nagel

The two senior stallions at Nejd Stud.

dust, which whirls up a yellow cloud when the horses start to gallop. A few kilometers away this kind of land has been irrigated, bringing grass and alfalfa for feeding these animals.

In this Stud also lives a herd of about twenty well selected Egyptian Arabian mares together with a few older and younger stallions and some of their foals. They are favoured by having all the attention of Prince Khalid Bin Fahad. He follows daily the developments of this group. Most of his mares are of an astonishing quality. His instructions on what he likes to own or what he chooses himself convince everybody that he understands this subject very well. Many of his horses were found in the US, except a few which he has recently brought from Germany. His explanation and argument follows typical tradition. "He wants the Obayan mare from that and that family." His horses should look dry and elegant, with good tail carriage and not too big. He likes a good head, but he is not a "head hunter" and does not forget all the other important criteria over that one feature. Most of his horses belong to the well known, previously mentioned bloodlines and families. In addition, he bought some others, as he appreciated their look and overall expression. He discusses such choices concerning pedigree and breeding records with some of his friends who finally assisted him in his purchases. His group is now composed of Obayan mares referring back to Bint Magida and Hanan, two Siglawy mares related to the mares Mahiba and Muneera in Germany, some mares going back to the Babson mare Bint Sabah of Dahman Shawan strain and finally a very fine Hadban mare from the Lotfeia family in Germany. He is very fortunate to also own a group of Koheilan mares, members of the same family as the extremely elegant mare Ameena in El Zahraa. This mare could develop to be a perfect foundation mare, if properly followed up. She gave birth to very beautiful offspring, Enayat by Morafic, and the impressive Alaa el Din daughter, Omnia, a fine, docile and lovely-looking mare and thirdly to a colt by Alaa el Din. At that time El Zahraa made many promises that these horses would never leave the Stud. However, after time they let the two last ones go. They were shipped to the US; a big loss for the Stud, but a happy acquisition for the new owner. Enayat remained in Egypt, but had no good chances. Presently, three of the Ameena offspring are in the Stud of the Emir, a challenge to discover this family once again. Two stallions are serving these





AL RAYYAN
(Imperial Madheen x Naffata)

Al Rayyan presents himself as a fine elegant stallion. He is the sire of many foals in the Stud. His strain is Dahman Shawan.

mares, a young Ansata-bred stallion by Ansata Iemhotep out of Ansata Sekmat, named Al Bassam and by his side, Zandai Abu Zeidan, a powerful, elegant bay stallion by Ibn El Mareekh. This Stud finally follows the same concept of breeding as its fellow breeders in Kuwait and Qatar in order to arrive at a type of Arabians which could be called, "the elegant Original Arabians of the Nejd country." This Stud is young but it follows a sound concept, knowing

AA MAYMOON AL ADEAYAT
(Salaa El Dine x Madinah Bint
Saariyah)



A.A. Maymoun's mother was a famous mare in the US, winning many championships in several major shows. Salaa el Dine, his sire, seems to fit perfectly to this dam. Their both son is a very elegant, correct and dry horse showing all points of a later successful stallion.

how to proceed and where to go. Such planning qualifies a person as a breeder, as he knows what to select.

Mr. Khalid Haddad, owner of the Al Aadeyat Arabian Stud, which is the second Stud in Saudi Arabia also clearly recognisable as a breeder farm, has its own and distinct purposes of what to breed and what type of Arabians he should choose. He has long been a horseman. His first Stud was established in Egypt and later he decided to live with all his Egyptian horses in Saudi Arabia; a very sensible man, even in his daily profession in the medical field. After a while he divided his herd of about 100 horses into two groups: one assigned to racing or performance, the other to breed the classical Arabian with the intention to eventually become show horses. Consequently, the variety of horses in his Stud is bigger than in others. To work out such a pro-

MADINAH BINT SAARIYAH
(Imperial Madheen x PLF
Saariyah)



She was a multi-champion-mare in the US and even shown in Germany with great applause.

SIMEON SITRI
(Simeon Sadik x Maardassa)



This mare came all the way from Australia, a very proud, fine mare with a wonderful Arabian expression, bred by the well-known Simeon Stud near Sydney.

gramme as a private person offers a great challenge. However, since Saudi Arabia is still at these early stages of these disciplines to offer such a variety of activities to the public like shows and racing, his progress and knowledge in selection may go parallel in time. It is to be understood, that he had to choose his horses, unlike the other breeders. Partly they originate from Egypt, a group belonging to his previous Stud, and the remaining majority was imported from the US and as far away as Australia. A visit to his farm, knowing his concept, brings anybody to the idea of how to find out which horses might belong to this or the other programme. What the eyes will see is one thing, what the horses will do later on is another. Training and race records decide in which direction a horse will develop and all this is over a long period of time. At present, the majority of his foals were sired by Al Rayyan, a fine balanced and proud stallion, very expressive in Arabian type. He is a Dahman Shawan horse, as well as his second stallion, AA Maymoun by Salaa el Dine. This young stallion has all the chances to become a very elegant sire, his dam was a famous show mare in the US and his sire is definitely adding many points belonging to the Arabian heritage. In checking the stock list in the Stud one finds that, again, Dahman Shawan mares are in the lead. Some mares are related to Ansata Bint Bukra, some to Moheba and Nadja from Marbach and others to the EAO in Egypt including a daughter of the mare Adalat, one of the prettiest mares in El Zahraa and a granddaughter of Abla which had a great influence on that Stud. The next group asking for attention is the Koheilan-Rodania mares, a very interesting choice because such horses are known for power and performance; horses once bred at Crabbet Park and offspring of the famous Rodania-mare which Lady Blunt brought back from one of her voyages to Syria. These two groups completed by some mares of other strains offer a promising base to achieve the two goals. The recognition that two different types are needed to accomplish such a devised programme is of fundamental importance.

The total number of Arabian Studs in Saudi Arabia and in the Gulf countries, as mentioned before, has reached more than a hundred. The oldest one in Saudi Arabia managed in Western style, "with Stud book registration", is the governmentally-owned, Dirrabh Stud near Riyadh. Local Saudi Arabian horses and imported ones, mostly from Egypt, and the US populate the large





Photo by Gigi Grasso

In Ajman a new Stud is emerging. Excellent stables, built in a traditional style, will be the home for a group of carefully selected Arabians which have the potential to become show horses of excellent class. The Sheikh bought them in Germany and in the US; they are mostly of Russian breeding.

paddocks. The Stud is impressive by its well maintained style in detail and generally offers ideal facilities for all kinds of events and presentations. Lately Dirrabh organised the most prominent Arabian horse show in Saudi Arabia and was chosen as the registering authority under the WAHO umbrella.

The Saudi Arabian breeders are very fortunate that they receive a great support and public attention by the fact that the Royal Family in Saudi Arabia has a great devotion to this horse. H.M., the Crown Prince Abdullah, loves the Arabians and he is encouraging breeding throughout the whole country. His care for the Royal Stables means an example and is a clear signal. He devoted even a part of his time to visit the highlight moments of the first Arabian Horse Show at Dirrabh and gave to this event weight and national importance through his presence.

This royal involvement continues as H.H. Prince Sultan has built wonderful facilities not far away from Riyadh for his horses, an impressive place to visit and for viewing its wonderful collection of Arabians. In both Studs some of the worldwide known precious horses are preserved, most of them great champions in the major shows.

Also in these Royal Studs local Saudi Arabian horses are kept and bred as a heritage. All these Saudi horses as found in the Royal Stables, in the Nejd Stud or in Dirrabh resemble each other in an astonishing way, and only when one makes effort to look at them one by one it becomes obvious that there are



CRUSADER
(Salaa El Dine x Ak Kastana)
Owned by: Emir of Sharja

Photo by Gigi Grasso

One of the famous horses in the Al Qasimi Stud is Crusader, a Salaa el Dine-son, bred in Sweden. He made his career as a great show horse, as a good stallion and even as a race horse in Europe. In this stud he is surrounded by a wonderful group of other well selected Arabians of other lines. H.H. Sheikh Dr. Al Qasimi is generously encouraging all activities in Arabian horse breeding. For him these shows are not only events of presentation, they are educative as well.

many different features which give room for ample selection, but what selection aim to follow is another question and a subject in itself.

In returning to the Gulf countries, at this time the Sheikh of Ajman is completing its new stables. He has decided to build it in a traditional Arabian style and imported a group of very pretty horses, which are undoubtedly a welcomed enrichment to the developing show activities in the Emirates. Most of

them originate from the Padron sire line, i.e., they are sired by Padron Psyche or Magnum Psyche, at present the top show horse producers in the US.

A visit to the Arabian Stud of H.H. Dr. Sultan Al Qassimi in Sharja, gives a long lasting impression, how much effort was made to revive and to encourage Arabian horse breeding over a long period of time. Well known horses from Europe are lucky enough to live now under such marvellous care, as given to these horses in this Stud, the most famous among them, the stallion Crusader, a Salaa el Dine son, bred in Europe and a top Show Champion as well as a good racehorse. These Arabian horses seem to be an integral part of this Sheikdom's tradition, and it will not take too long before this Al Qasimi

A group of Omani-orientally dressed riders approaching the beach.



Stud will present a breeding concept on its own merits and style.

Finally, all the various horse breeds which can be admired in the Royal Stables of Oman, Arabians enjoy the most eminent position. Due to the lively sport activities in these stables such as racing, riding, schooling in riding, driving and show jumping, English Thoroughbreds, Irish Hunters, Friesian and even Haflinger horses have been brought to Oman to perform each in his specific discipline. Arabians are mostly trained in formation riding, and when presented to the public their appearance becomes an overwhelming and exciting show of elegance, colour and harmony.

It is fascinating to experience in these past years, the great revival and ded-



Photo by Gigi Grasso



Photo by Gigi Grasso

*Royal Stables of Oman
breeding division.*



ication extended to the Arabian horse in breeding and to see it introduced again into the wide range of cultural life comprising personal enjoyment, all kinds of sports and public presentation in shows and festivals.

The Royal Stables in Oman and Abu Dhabi, Al Qasimi Stud of the Emir in Sharja, the Studs in Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, all of them are fulfilling a great traditional duty in caring and reviving the Arabian horse breed in its native country. All these Studs, all these Arabians in their variety regarding regional origins or breeding origins, are holding and occupying one or the other important position within the Arabian worldwide community and are a valuable contribution that the breed in all its forms will continue to exist.



*Race arabian horses
Sultanate of Oman.*

Photo by Gigi Grasso

CONCLUSION



There were not many people who travelled and searched through the Arab countries for Arabians thirty to forty years ago, but in spite of their efforts not much could be found. One single major tribe must have owned in the past, the same number as what remains in all the Arab countries together, as it was mentioned before. Now at the beginning of the 21st century, forty years later, in a period of spanning no more than ten to fifteen years, an enormous development has taken place. Travellers or tourists of today are the witnesses of a total revival of Arabian horse breeding in the Middle East. It appears as a renaissance, like the rebirth of an old spirit, a kind of an obedience to an old religious order which was nearly forgotten since the necessity of its existence had vanished. "It should make any Arab proud to own an Arabian horse." This was a traditional message.

Ten or even fifteen years in horse breeding terms is just a door step. However, this first step as it happened in Arabia was done on a broad basis. The interest in these horses woke up everywhere in the Middle East from the north to the south and from the west to the east. The most deserted and empty region, but at the same time the most historical one was the Arabian Peninsula including the Gulf. Syria and Iraq offered a much better agricultural infrastructure for keeping horses, and the race activities in nearby Beirut and Baghdad were helping these regions to sustain against the general downtrend. Now the Peninsula is catching up to fill this hole, and big steps are underway. Huge investments for the benefit of this breed, make one believe that the future for this breed is well secured. The upcoming wealth in the Peninsula and the inspiration for the Arabian horse by a multitude of activities in the West, the vicinity of Egypt, which is annually visited during summertime by thousands of visitors from Arabia, often combining such visits with excursions to El Zahraa and its wonderful Arabians - these are all



Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Shary B. Akers



incentives to remember and will activate this prestigious tradition. Nobody can overlook the importance of Egypt in this context: beginning with the fierce love of Abbas Pasha for these horses, the historical decision of the Royal Agricultural Society in favour of the classical Arabian as their improver horse instead of like in the West which turned to the English Thoroughbred, and finally all the efforts and dedication of the breeders in the West who have been impassioned by this treasure in Egypt, have made it possible and offered such marvellous opportunities to receive back what at one time was taken away from the Arabian Peninsula. These horses from Egypt were the nearest to them, historically, geographically and also genetically. There is in fact not a single breeding farm, royal, governmental or private where one cannot find an Arabian from Egypt within their group. They are present everywhere. The fact that these Studs which decided to be breeders of a traditional type of horse in the beginning chose this kind and type of Arabian is more than understandable and practically a logical consequence of what has happened before.

Horse breeding needs time to arrive at satisfactory results and this fact requires patience, persistence and sacrifice. It needs dedication, love and feelings for this unique creature and these sentiments will be even stronger when they are rewarded and returned by such horses being themselves handsome, human-attached, docile and well-tempered but intelligent and spirited at the same time.

There was a period between 1970 and 1980 when in some regions in the middle of California a boom for Arabians was bursting out. Splendid Studs, rich and opulent, were built, housing the best Arabian horses worldwide at that time. Only a few years later due to fiscal reasons this glamour collapsed. Wild trees and bushes took over and overgrew the left stables and most of the sites were turned over into housing- and urbanisation schemes; and where once horses were grazing cattle took their place. In observing these tremendous developments many people are asking themselves if this could happen again. All the odds are against such a repetition. Even in the States these excesses are over and thousands of Arabian horse owners continue to enjoy their horses and many might be happy that these overheated times have passed. Now in Arabia a completely different ownership has taken over

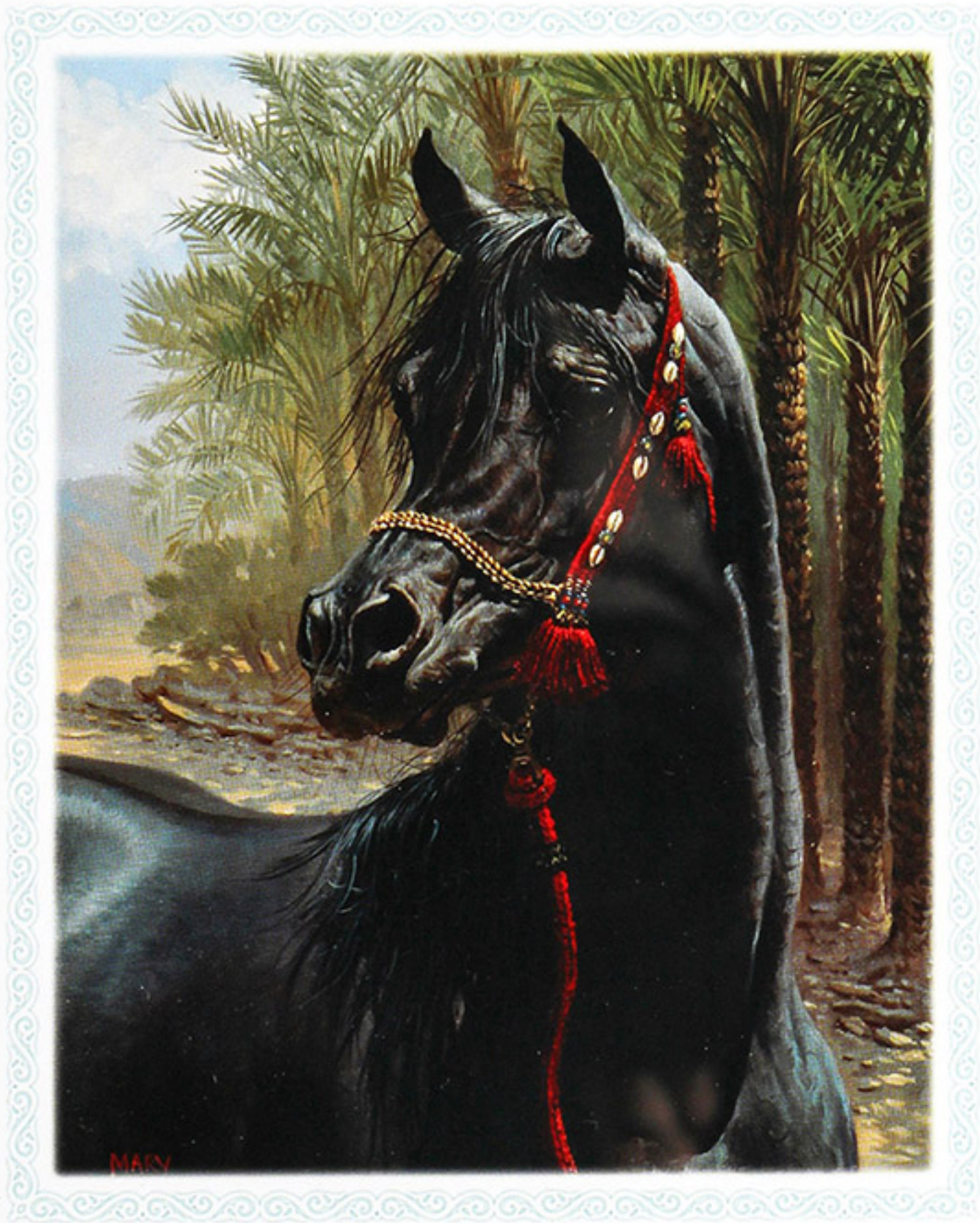


Photo by Gigi Grasso

the obligation to continue this breed. They are the faraway-children from generations who once created this horse. The history of the breed is a part of their own history, the environment which formed the breed into a certain feature was also once their ancestors' environment. In the past these horses were indispensable in war affairs, in local battles or by order to spread the dynamic religion of Islam over the whole world. Now peaceful duties are asked from these horses. It should race, it should perform over long distances, it should be proud and alert, expose its beauty and spirit in shows and presentations. But most important of all, it should please its owner by its unique appearance and its reliable friendly behaviour. For sure the last one, the pleasure is the most solid and persisting one. The vast majority of all Arabians owes its existence to these inherited abilities to be a horse for human contentment. In Arabia as a region where traditions are still highly respected, these Arabian horses were cared for, appreciated and associated in a long history of generations. It has returned and should find a prominent place and a long lasting future in this society once again.



Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Marry Haggard



Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Marry Haggard



ANNEX



The following tables allow an overview about time and generations. They show the historically first recorded Arabian mare which is considered to be the original foundation mare of a certain Arabian strain. No further information prior to the indicated year exists except she was a member of this certain strain. Until the second decade of the last century, these horses and their offspring were kept and bred in the different stables of several Egyptian Princes or in the stud El Obeid of Lady Blunt. Some of these mares were then bought by the RAS. A new history in this society began. They became foundation mares of this Stud, a second time. There is a certain difference concerning the Obayan strain; its foundation mare entered directly the Inshass Stud, in 1925. There was no record before in the RAS. She entered the EAO breeding herd in 1953, when the Inshass Stud was dissolved.

About 40 – 50 years later – mostly in the late Sixties - some offspring of these horses left Egypt and arrived in Arabian studs in Europe and in the US, many of them were just established. For these exported mares it was the third time that they could be a foundation mare for their strain, this time in the hands of breeders in the Occident.

It was up to these new owners in Europe and the US how to handle the breeding of these mares. Some of these exported mares showed a perfect ability to produce good and enough foals, others just vanished and never created a family of importance. But also many of the fertile ones remained in the shadow because their offspring was widely dispersed or were bred without any sound and lasting concept. In their new homes they never appeared as a family.

Another 30 – 40 years have passed and the end of the century came close. A fourth time Arabian mares were bought to travel back to the Peninsula, many of them from Europe and the US, with the expectation to create a successful family. Since then, a noticeable return to the Middle East began.

Drawing by Victor Adam.

For each of these strains, which are now strongly represented in the Arabian Peninsula, such a timetable is shown. Each genealogical "tree" ends with one or several mares which are now owned by one or the other breeder in the Peninsula. These final mares should be taken as an example. They present the last living generation and determine how many generations have passed since the very first beginning of recording. Some of the mares are shown as bottom horses with the intention to indicate their importance as stallion mothers of those horses which had a major influence on the breed.

It is interesting to study how much time these Arabians have spent in their known history in the different places and how much time was allowed in each Stud for proper breeding and selection. It is indicated when they started their breeding career in the RAS at about 1920 and in which year their offspring was exported to Europe or to the US where they began a new life and history.

Private Collection
Mohammed J. Al Marzouk
Painting by Peter Upton



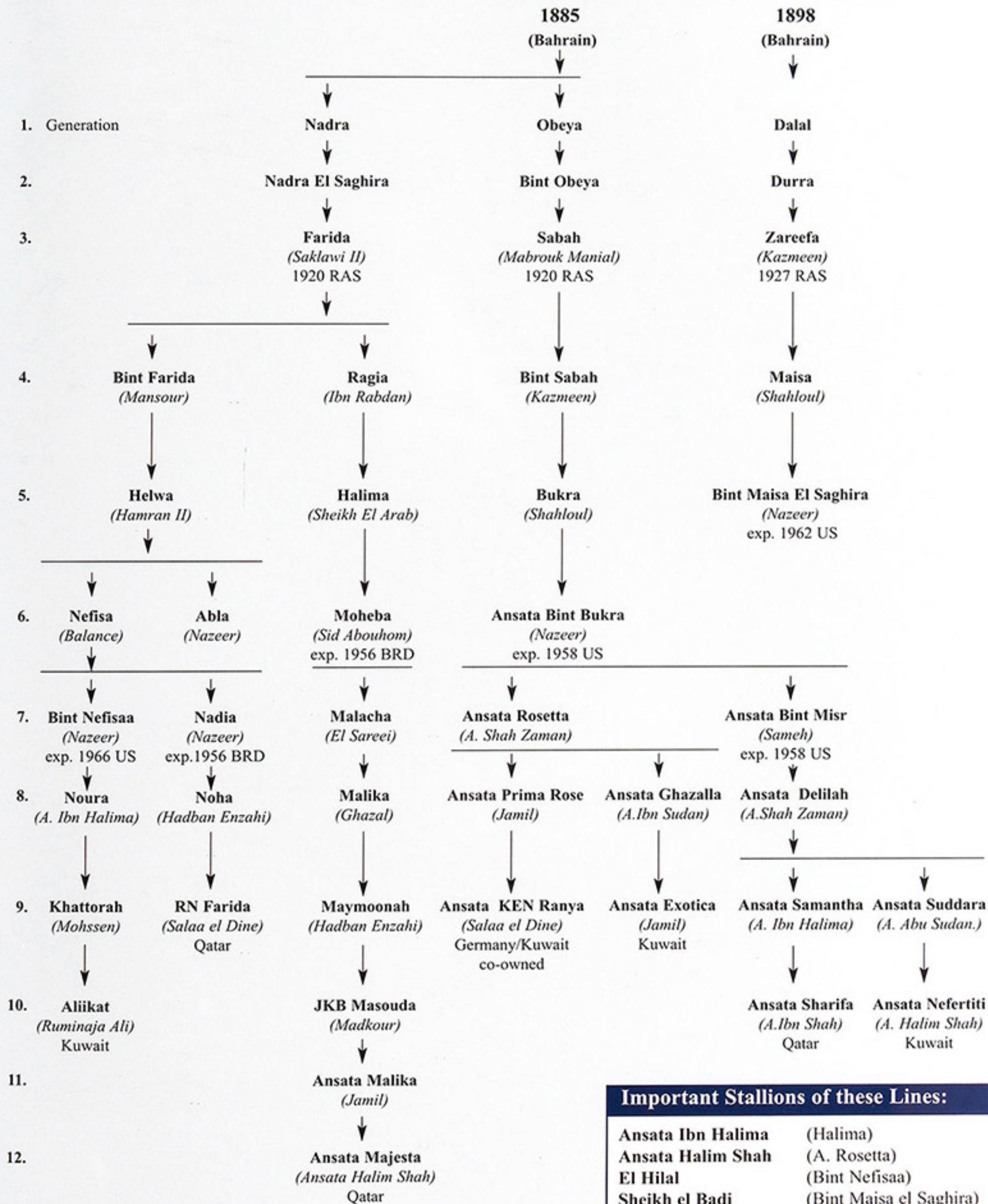
ANNEX I

THE DAHMAN SHAWAN STRAIN

Known Original Foundation Mares

El Dahma

Bint El Bahrain



Important Stallions of these Lines:

Ansata Ibn Halima	(Halima)
Ansata Halim Shah	(A. Rosetta)
El Hilal	(Bint Nefisaa)
Sheikh el Badi	(Bint Maisa el Saghira)
Ghazal	(Bukra)
Ansata Hejazi	(A. Suddara)

ANNEX II

THE HADBAN STRAIN

Known Foundation Mare

Venus
ca. 1890
Shammar / Syria

1. Generation

Hadba

2.

Bint Hadba El Saghira
1912 RAS

3.

Samiha
(*Samhan*)

Bint Rustem
(*Rustem*)

4.

Bint Samiha
(*Kazmeen*)

Hind
(*Ibn Rabdan*)

5.

Samha
(*Baiyad*)

Yosreia
(*Sheikh El Arab*)

6.

Kamla
(*Sheikh el Arab*)

Zahia
(*Sid Abouhom*)

Farasha
(*Sid Abouhom*)

7.

Bint Kamla
(*El Sareei*)

Nagdia
(*Nazeer*)

Nabilah
(*Anter*)
exp. 1965 USA

8.

Lotfeia
(*Alaa el Din*)
exp. 1968 BRD

Malakat el Gamal
(*Wassem*)
exp. 1971 USA

Farabellah
(*The Egyptian Prince*)

9.

Nashua
(*Salaa el Dine*)

Nashwa
(*Salaa el Dine*)
Kuwait

Imperial Sayyah
(*Kayed*)

Classic Farida
(*Alidaar*)
Qatar

10.

NK Nabeela
(*Nahaman*)

NK Bint Nashua
(*Nahaman*)
Kuwait

NK Nada
(*Adnan*)
Kuwait

Sundar Alisayyah
(*Ruminaja Ali*)
Qatar

11.

NK Nakeebiah
(*NK Hafid Jamil*)
Kuwait

NK Omayma
(*Adnan*)
Saudi Arabia

Important Stallions of these Lines:

Nazeer	(Bint Samiha)
Hadban Enzahi	(Kamla)
Aswan	(Yosreia)
Al Aceed Al Shaqab	(Sundar Alisayyah)
Sharawi	(Bint Kamla)

ANNEX III

THE OBAYAN STRAIN

Known Foundation Mare

El Obeya Om Grees

Egypt /Syria

1. Generation

El Shahbaa

1925

2.

Mahroussa
(El Zafir)

3.

Mahdia
(Hamdan)

Mahfouza
(Hamdan)

4.

Mona
(Badr)

Maisa
(Anter)

5.

Hanan
(Alaa el Din)
exp. 1967 BRD

Magidaa
(Alaa el Din)
exp. 1968 US

6.

Ghazala
(Ghazal)

Ameera
(Madkour I)

Bint Magidaa
(Khofo)

7.

Amarilla
((Jamil)

Aischa
(A. Halim Shah)
Qatar

Asfoura
(A. Halim Shah)

Masidaa
(Ibn el Mareekh)

8.

NK Aisha
(Salaa el Dine)
Kuwait

NK Hallah
(Adnan)
Germany/Kuwait
co-owned

Baraka Aziza
(Baraka Aziz)
Saudi Arabia

Important Stallions of these Lines:

Jamil	(Hanan)
Asfour	(Hanan)
Ibn Galal I	(Hanan)
Salaa el Dine	(Hanan)
Adnan	(Ghazalla)
Safir	(Aischa)
Nabiel	(Magidaa)
Ruminaja Ali	(Bint Magidaa)
Ruminaja Bahjat	(Bint Magidaa)
Alidaar	(Bint Magidaa)

ANNEX IV

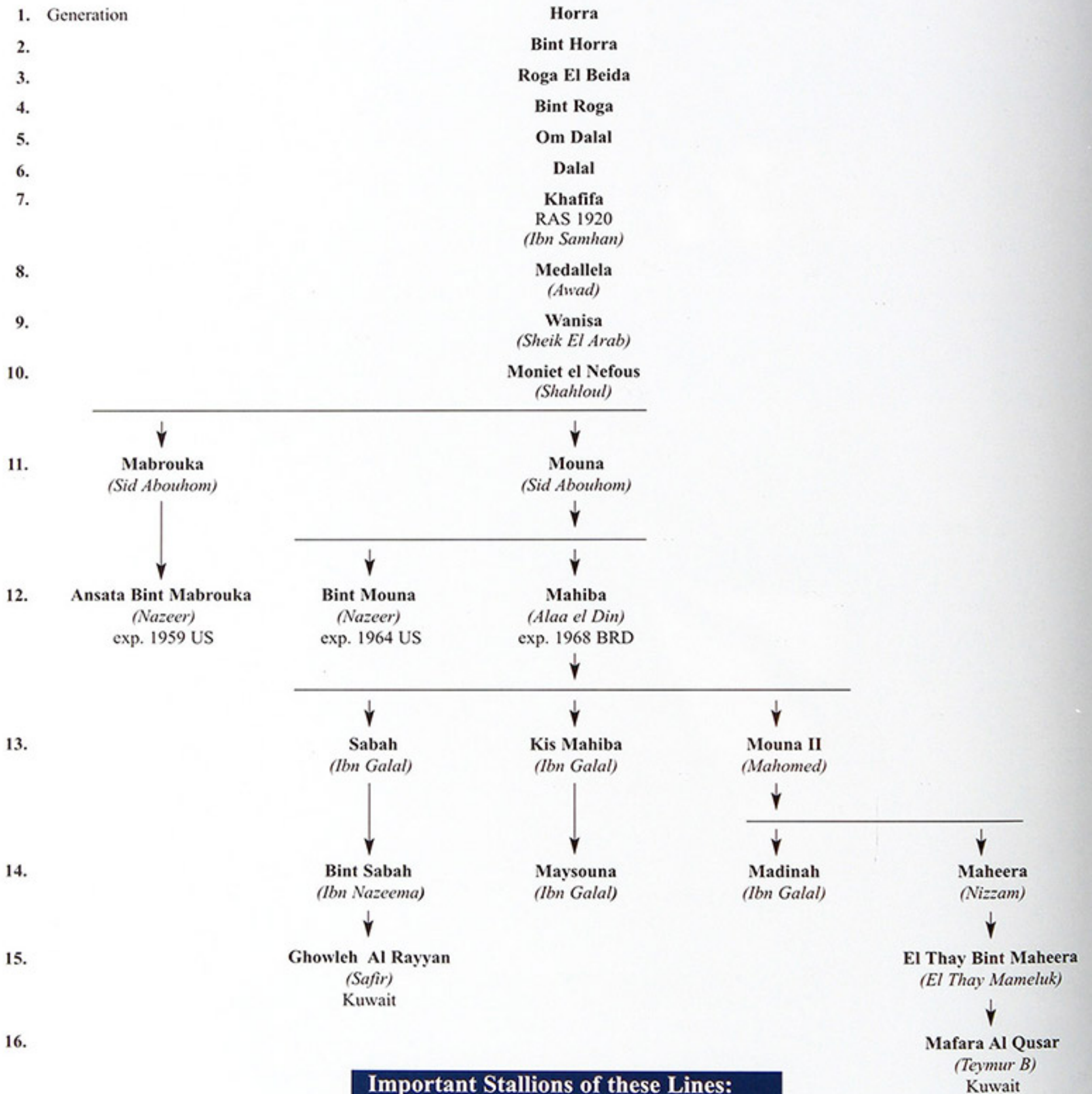
THE SIGLAWY JEDRAN STRAIN

Known Original Foundation Mare

Ghazieh

1845

Abbas Pasha



Important Stallions of these Lines:

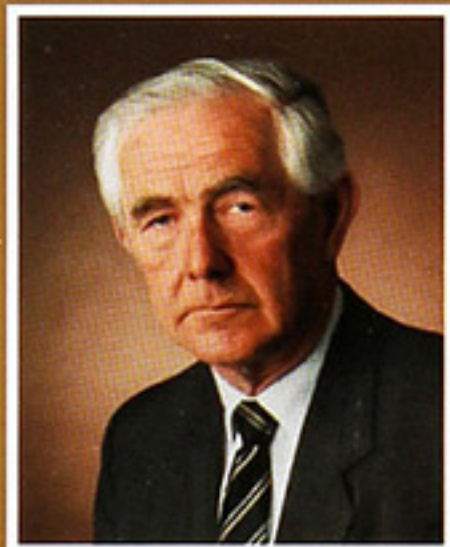
Morafic	(Mabrouka)
Ansata Shah Zaman	(Ansata Bint Mabrouka)
Ansata Ibn Sudan	(Ansata Bint Mabrouka)
Maysoun	(Maysouna)
The Egyptian Prince	(Bint Mouna)
Imperial Madheen	(Madinah)
El Thay Mansour	(Maheera)

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CREATED BY:



Dr. Hans Nagel has spent his life in the field of animal husbandry. Being an economist by education, his professional interest focused particularly on developing countries and the importance of their agricultural growth. He worked with the once huge Hungarian State Combinat Babolna, the well-known agroindustry in East Europe. This activity extended to most of the Arab countries, namely to Egypt and Iraq. In Babolna he met first time a larger group of Arabian horses and his several following visits to El Zahraa ended finally with the purchase of 3 Egyptian fillies, which are until today the foundation mares of his Katharinenhof Stud in Germany.

Dr. Hans Nagel was born 1930, was for 22 years the President of the German Arab Horse Society and since 1994 he is the Vice President of WAHO. His wife Nawal comes from Lebanon; they live in Bremen/Germany.



Photo by Gigi Grasso

Mohammed Jassem K. Al-Marzouk is a well known Kuwaiti businessman born in 1968. A lover and a great enthusiast of the Arabic & Islamic heritage. He considers the breeding of Arabian horses and the implementation of Islamic architecture in his projects, his personal passion.

"Two people had a profound effect on me" he says. "My father who provided me with good education, financial and moral support all along. Second, my friend Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Khaled Al Thani who guided me and shared his experience of Arabian horses in general and Egyptians in particular."

Mohammed is a strong believer that "knowledge has no ownership" in order to achieve the ultimate goal. Hence, he supports many cultural activities in this field. Mr. Al-Marzouk owns Ajmal Stud in Kuwait, established in 1998.

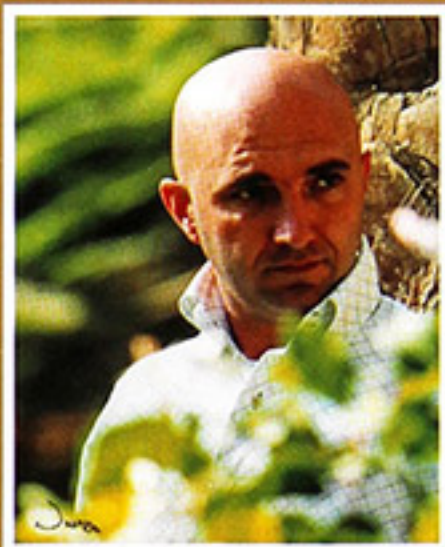


Photo by dott. Nasr Marei

Gigi Grasso, a native of Italy, is known throughout the world for his poetic use of the camera to capture the unrivaled magnificence of the Arabian horse. A consummate photographer, he is both an artist and a horseman, and this unique combination of talents results in an exceptional ability to unite the beauty and character of his subjects. This book, Gigi's eighth, illustrates his special passion for portraying the harmonious and time-honored relationship between the Arabian horse and the desert, of the Arabian Gulf. The result is a visual feast which chronicles the renaissance of the Arabian breed in its ancestral homeland and beautifully illustrates the philosophy of the ancient Greek horsemen, Xenophen, who wrote: "A horse is a thing of such beauty... none will tire of looking at him as long as he displays himself in his splendor".



