



El Adiyat

Mr. Mahmood Al Zubaid
Kuwait

■ by *Dr. Hans J. Nagel*

photos by *Gigi Grasso, Nicole Sachs*



Mares of El Adiyat galloping in the fields

The stud of Mr. Mahmood Al Zubaid, El Adiyat Arabians, is located in the Wafra area about 100 km south-west of Kuwait City. This Wafra region used to be an agricultural area where vegetable and fruit trees were grown and here and there some poultry farms and private properties were hidden behind lines of hedges. This region has enough of ground water which has transformed the whole region into a green spot amidst the surrounding desert. The property of Mr. Al Zubaid served about the same purposes: Some vegetable beds, a big barn and a weekend-house, and all this was animated by various animals, like sheep, goats, several dogs and even a group of camels, and from time to time he kept some riding horses for his own pleasure.

In 1995 this man visited Al Rayyan Farm of Sheikh Abdul Aziz in Qatar and took a serious look at the horses of this stud. Most of them were imported not long time ago. They apparently met his taste to the full. The main source of these Arabians at that time was Germany. Quickly he decided to

go to Germany as well with the strong idea not to return to Kuwait without an Arabian from Katharinenhof.

Katharinenhof's foal crop is limited and to obtain one of them is not easy. But this time it worked out, since it was apparently difficult to turn a person down who was deeply convinced that he wanted only this and nothing else. Bint Nashua, a nine months old bay Nahaman-daughter out of Nashua, one of the most outstanding mares at Katharinenhof at that time, and NK Nadeema, a seven year old Salaa el Dine daughter out of the even well known mare Amrullah (Jamil x Ghazala), were chosen to travel to Kuwait, together with a young colt that was taken more or less for riding purposes.

This choice and purchase was an important start. It was not only the beginning of Mr. Al Zubaid's Arabian breeding activity, but also the opening of the whole Wafra-region as the most populated settlement of serious Arabian horse breeders.



Ansata KEN Ranya (Salaa El Dine x Ansata Prima Rose by Jamil) bred by Ansata Arabians & Katr El Nada Arabians, co-owned by Katharinenhof Stud and El Adiyat

Friends and other people interested in Arabians came to visit Mr. Al Zubaid's new arrivals, and most of them became inspired to follow closely the breeding programme of Sheikh Abdul Aziz in Qatar and Katharinenhof in Germany. Wafra today is a haven for Egyptian horses in Kuwait.



Mr. Mahmood Al Zubaid and his son Khaled Al Zubaid

In the following years, Mr. Al Zubaid travelled nearly 2 – 3 times per year to Germany, but what he could get was at least "half a mare". He bought 50 % interest in the lovely mare Ansata KEN Ranya by Salaa el Dine out of Prima Rose and the exotic Adnan-daughter Hallah out of Asfoura (x Halim Shah). KEN Ranya is still in Germany, Hallah went later totally into his property, and she is now enjoying her stay in Kuwait. Due to this happy start, the later transactions and the equal taste and enthusiasm for the same type of a dry, elegant Arabian during the last ten years, a very close co-operation developed between El Adiyat and Katharinenhof.

Like in many other countries where Arabian horse breeding is still in its infancy, the availability of suitable stallions remains to be a great challenge. There is not enough choice to serve the specific needs of a mare to improve and to develop her breed into a wanted direction. It is known that certain stallions match some mares much better than others, and only certain stallions are prepotent enough to be able to transmit additionally desired characteristics to his offspring. Those stallions are rare and mostly not for sale.

It happened that Egyptian breeders in Kuwait and in Doha, as Al Rayyan Stud, were always very much impressed by the stallion Ansata Halim Shah who did in fact a great job for the whole Egyptian breed. Three Ansata Halim Shah-daughters and one Jamil-daughter were the first choice of Sheikh Abdul Aziz at Katharinenhof and it was those three mares that had left a strong impression on Mr. Al Zubaid. Consequently, their ideas circle around this horse and those female lines which did specifically well with this outstanding Dahman-Shawan-stallion. The mare Bukra, a cornerstone in this Dahman-Shawan-strain within Egyptian breeding, is therefore in the focus of such breeders and all offspring belonging to this family are very much sought after.

In order to remain in the same categories of those horses, Mr. Al Zubaid sent the two original imported mares, Bint Nashua and Nadeema back to Germany for breeding to Katharinenhof's stallions, where in the meantime NK Hafid Jamil and his son NK Jamal El Dine, both of the Bukra-family, had emerged as stallions of high quality. The mare Nadeema was in foal to the renowned Ansata Hejazi of Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouk, Ajmal Arabian Stud and went to produce a very special filly, Zobeida El Adiyat which necked very well with the stallions of Katharinenhof. Ansata Hejazi, being



Bint Nashua (Nahaman x Nashua by Salaa El Dine) bred by Katharinenhof Stud, Dr. Nagel, owned by El Adiyat Arabians



one of the best sons of Ansata Halim Shah and going again back in its motherline to Bint Bukra, suited as well his ambitious breeding.

Everybody who met Mr. Al Zubaid immediately found out that he is a born and real horseman. He has an easy hand to handle all livestock, but in particular horses. Wafra area with its richness in water makes it easy to arrange attractive landscaping, to decorate the site with trees of all kinds and – as most important – to create green pasture where the horses can graze and exercise at the same time. By looking at these Arabians, it becomes very clear and obvious that his Egyptian Arabians are really children originating once upon a time from this Arabian Peninsula region. The light and sunny climate has without doubt a great influence on the appearance of an Arabian horse. The hair is extremely short and lets the black skin, the Kabeilan colour; or in modern terms, the pigmentation, develop to its best over the whole body and especially visible around eyes and muzzle. Well bred Arabian horses travelling from European countries to the Middle East, enjoying this transition from moderate to sunny, hot areas and showing very fast the full beauty of an Arabian when returned to the native homeland.

Mr. Al Zubaid named his stud “El Adiyat” and created by the time an attractive and homogenous herd of mares, with very good behaviour, and that are clearly attached to their master. The horsemanship and its deep relation to nature and its creator, in this specific region, gives him obviously a good understanding of Arabian horses and makes him the advantage to discuss and think about Arabians.

Among the breeders in Wafra one can feel a very positive cooperation between each other has developed and everybody belonging to this group is well aware what the other is doing. In the usual weekly gathering so many issues related to Arabians and their breeding are openly discussed and Mr. Al



Amal El Adiyat, born 2006, by Jamal El Dine out of NK Ahlam by Adnan, bred and owned by El Adiyat



Jomana (Adnan x Ansata Julima by Ansata Iemhotep) bred by the Arabian Horse Center, Kuwait



Mahmood Al Zubaid and one of his fillies

Zubaid is consequently a very active and creative part among these breeders. In El Adiyat Farm one does not find Arabian horses only, but also a very detailed knowledge about these animals, their detailed pedigree and the concept of their breeding programme and valuable interesting ideas on how the Arabian breed could be developed further on.

It is a great gift if a person knows what he wants and where he wants to go. And it seems that Mr. Al Zubaid has such a clear conception of his objectives. He is apparently looking for elegant, lighter Arabian mares which have a nice dry appearance and a very good tail carriage; they should be very active in their movement. In their history Arabians used to be ridden in gallop and it looks many breeders have forgotten about this part and have concentrated only on spectacular trotting manners which are no doubt most impressive for the public in Arabian horse shows.

As a particular section in his farm arrangements, he has therefore installed nearly all around his stud a parcours to let his horses gallop whenever they feel to do so. This allows him to notice the sensation of a good galloping horse and indicates him in which of his broodmares and their foals such an ability is genetically available. The wide surrounding desert gives him even more the opportunity to ride these horses in full gallop over a long distance and have the proof of his efforts in breeding also in this direction.

There is no doubt that, on the long run, one will find in El Adiyat Arabians a group of valuable specimens which will prove that they are really true Arabian horses by their own nature. Just by giving them spectacular names or prefixes which should simulate that the public can find here something special, rare and exotic in of Arabian horse breeding is not enough. At El Adiyat and its surrounding studs in a country of origin of the Arabian horse a kind of an original will definitely emerge after a certain time, which deserves the best attributes of a true Arabian. □

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