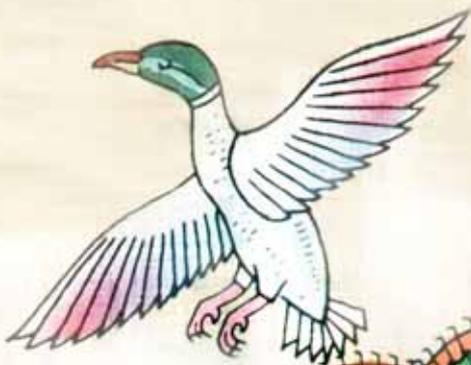


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Egyptian National Championships

ساقرة

■ by **Pat Canfield**

photos by Erwin Escher, Joanna Jonientz, Francesca Messina

The setting of the Egyptian National Championships, which are held at the Saqqara Country Club, provides one of the great natural venues for showing the Arabian horse. Situated at the edge of the desert between the Great Pyramids of Giza to the north and the Saqqara plateau to the south, a rolling sand dune provides the backdrop for the showing of the horses. This is done in a ring that is bordered by dark blue tent work decorated by Arabesque designs. On March 3rd and 4th, an international group of breeders and horse lovers came to enjoy the show and many of the visitors said that the ambience added to the pleasure of watching the horses in a natural setting.

There is still a bit of confusion as to why there are two National Championships every year in Egypt. However, as the pattern is becoming more settled, it is generally

understood that the EAO Show in the fall is not ECAHO affiliated whereas this one is official. The Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Association under Omar Sakr, has organized the Festival for a number of years. This year was their most successful to date in terms of 138 horses being scheduled for showing during the two days.

Judges for the show were: Mrs. Ann Norden (Sweden), Dr. Gianmarco Aragno (Italy), and Mrs. Sylvie Eberhardt (Germany) The Disciplinary Committee was run quite efficiently by Mrs. Gudrun Waiditsch (Germany), Mrs. Yasmine Shaarawy (Egypt) Mr. Sherif Foda (Egypt) and DVM Ashraf El Kalla, also of Egypt. As usual, the first day was devoted to fillies and mares. The initial class with seventeen entries was devoted to yearling fillies born from 01/01/05 to 31/08/05. The



winning filly was Yasmine Al Masaeed, a daughter of Simeon Sharav out of Lolova Al Mousa bred and owned by Shomokh Al Masaeed. Second place went to Shahd El Gabry, a correct little filly with a nice soft eye. She is by El Basha Sakr out of Bint Montasir Rahim and she also was second in her class at the

Khaled Sakr Champion Stallions



Champion

Khaled Sakr
2006

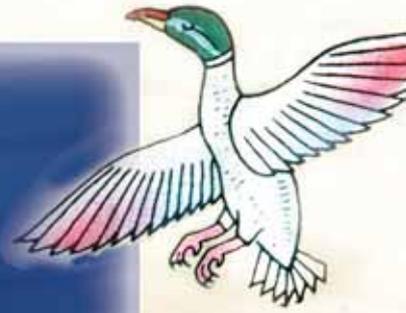
Ansata Bint Shahrezad Champion Mares

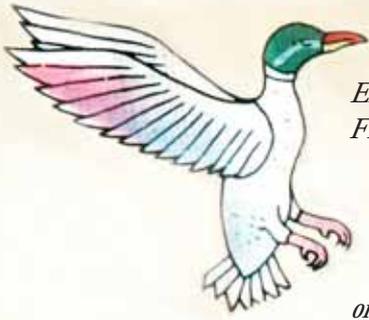


تأممات
Albadeia
Champion Colts



سادات قرادheen
Champion Fillies





EAO show last November. Fillies born in 2004 was won by a delicate grey filly with a lot of presence, Anbar Nour (Ibn Arabia Sakr x Hams El Koloob). As with many others of the show participants, Anbar

Noor won her class at the recent EAO show. She was bred by Noor and is owned by Leila Stud. Anbar took Reserve Champion Filly at this show and took her victory lap held on a loose lead by a very young boy who clearly had done this before. The rapport between them was quite evident as the entire audience cheered both of them. Her half sister, Hebet Allah Albawady by Ibn Arabia Sakr out of Hoboub was a close second place in the class. The sprightly light grey filly is bred and owned by Albawady Stud.

The last filly class, those born in 2003, went to Sadah Madheen (Maydan Madheen x Shahneekha) bred in Germany and owned by Al Khaled Stud. A typey, fine boned filly, she went on to win the Junior Championship. The light charcoal grey filly is quite harmonious with a lovely head that captures her overall refinement. Second place went to Doaa Al Hamd, a very flashy high stepping chestnut filly with a blond mane and tail. She is by Sindbad and out of Ayah, an El Basha daughter. Doaa was Reserve Champion Filly at the EAO in 2004 and won her class in last year's Saqqara show.

The afternoon was devoted to the mares. Some of these entries are veterans of other show and it is evident in their ease with the situation. Class four for Fillies born 2001 - 2002 was a strong group with many mares having close scores. The winner was one of the crowd favorites, Ansata Bint Sherezad (Farres x Ansata Sherezad) bred in the U.S. and imported by Al Baydaa Stud. The mare is very much in the Ansata type with a lovely feminine head and large expressive eyes. A dappled grey with white mane and tail, she showed with a spirit that highlighted her balance. She was even showier in the Championships when she won the Senior Mare trophy.



Second place and Reserve Championship went to Hekayat Albadeia (Anaza Bay Shah x Simeon Safir) an extremely typey and showy bay mare with high elegant movement. She consistently places high in all of her classes and is bred and owned by Albadeia Stud.

The fifth class of the day, Mares born 2000 and older had ten entries. The winner of the class, Baheya Ikhnaaton out of Haneya Ikhnaaton, immediately put spectators in mind of her sire, Ibn Akhtal. She moved with her neck in a long low arc which could have been superimposed over a photo of the stallion. Graceful, flowing movement along with type gave her the scores to win. Mogha Sakr, an Imperial Madori daughter out of SES Marah, won second place in the class. The very elegant, high-moving bay mare was Reserve Champion at the EAO. A full sister to the Champion Stallion, she was bred by Sakr Arabians and is owned by Tahani Stud. She also won the last class of the day, Most Classic Head Mares.

A bit of delay was caused on the second day by a change in the system of showing. On the first day, the horses entered the showring, made a full round at the trot then did their walk, stop in front of the judges and exit. The trainers felt that this system allowed them to show the horse directly from the warm up ring and therefore presented a better score for movement. The second day was changed to the normal system of a short trot; stop at judges and then the final trot.

The day finally began with what many of the spectators felt was a stronger class than the filly class of the previous day. For Colts born 2005, the winner, hands down was Tamman Albadeia (Simeon Sharav x Tamima Albadeia) bred and owned by Albadeia Stud. The extremely correct and typey grey colt was an instant crowd pleaser. That combined with a beautiful head brought him the first score in the show with two 20's. He went on to win the

Junior Colt Championship. The second place colt GR Lahari, an Al Lahab son out of GR Marianh, was another typey grey with very good movement. He also caught the crowd with his strong personality that accentuated his free striding trot.

The second class, Colts

born 2004 went to a half brother of Tamman. Haytham Albadeia, by Simeon Sharav out of Gelagel Albadeia, is looking more and more like his sire as he is maturing with the same head and neck as well as an elegant stretchy body. Haytham, bred and owned by Albadeia won his class at the EAO International show last November. Second place was won by Moheeb El Gabry (El Basha Sakr x Mehyara). The nicely balanced chestnut colt, bred and owned by El Gabry Stud, won the foal ranking class in November.

The last colt class of the morning was won by Ezz Ezzain (Ansata Almurtajjiz x Najeiah). The correct grey colt had three 20's and six 19's in his score all of which reflected his highly typey look with good head and neck and extremely good movement. He was Reserve Champion Colt for the show. Second place went to Negm Eldin Granata, a very nice big-bodied colt with a solid balanced look. He was the first son by Gamal Sakr and is out of Bint Nazli, bred by Granata Stud and owned by Tahani Stud.

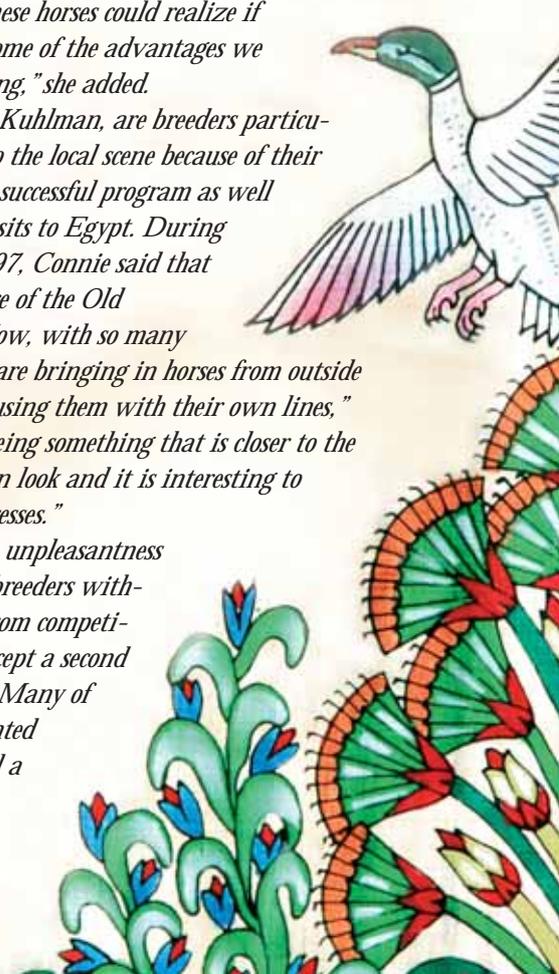
In the afternoon, we had two stallion classes. The first, Stallions born 2002-2002 had a total of five entries with fairly close scores. However the clear winner with seven 19's was Gamil Sakr, a Tallahsman son out of Ansata Helwa. The very typey grey stallion with a large eye, very good head and top line is now the senior stallion at El Gabry Stud. He was bred by Sakr Stud. Gamil was Senior Champion Stallion at last year's Saqqara show. Second place was won by Mohab (Montasir x Haya Hedaya). The correct nicely balanced grey stallion has a good shoulder and uses his neck quite well on his extended trot.

Class ten, Stallions born 2000 and older had eight entries. The class winner was the striking dynamic Khaled Sakr (Imperial Madori x SES Marah). An elegant stallion with good substance, he dominated the showring and went on to win Senior Champion Stallion. He was bred by Sakr and is owned by Shomokh Al Maseed. Second place in the class went to the familiar Al Mokhtar Sakr (Al Habeil [Shaheen] x Zandai Arabia). Bred by Sakr Stud and owned by Badrawi, the eight-year-old showed himself as a different type from Khaled. The refined elegant stallion also won the Most Classic Head for stallions.

A performance by three dancing horses provided a fitting ending for the show. The galabeiya clad riders showed the particular specialty of each of the stallion to the music of the folkloric tabla Beladi players. Interestingly, the horses were grey, chestnut and black so it was very easy to iden-



tify them with their specialized silver trappings. In addition to interested local people, many of the spectators were visitors from abroad. Among the first time guests from the States were David and Melanie Barrett of Blackwatch Arabians in Atlanta. They felt that seeing the Egyptian Arabian in its own world made a tremendous difference. She and David already have a connection to Germany and Egypt because they own the dam of Hafid Ali Dahab, a colt who won many times at this show. "It is true, Egypt is the cradle of this horse," Melanie said, "it is different to see them here. She was highly impressed by what she saw at the show and visits to some of the private studs. "I can only imagine what potential some of these horses could realize if they had access to some of the advantages we have for conditioning," she added. Connie and Joseph Kuhlman, are breeders particularly well known to the local scene because of their own extensive and successful program as well as their frequent visits to Egypt. During their first visit in '97, Connie said that they saw much more of the Old Egyptian type. "Now, with so many new breeders, they are bringing in horses from outside and doing well in using them with their own lines," she said. "We are seeing something that is closer to the American/European look and it is interesting to watch how it progresses." The only noticeable unpleasantness occurred when two breeders withdrew their horses from competition rather than accept a second place in the scores. Many of the visitors commented that it was after all a show and only one



Reserve

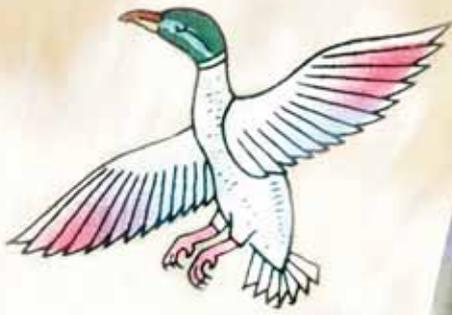


Heqayat
Albadeia
Reserve Mares

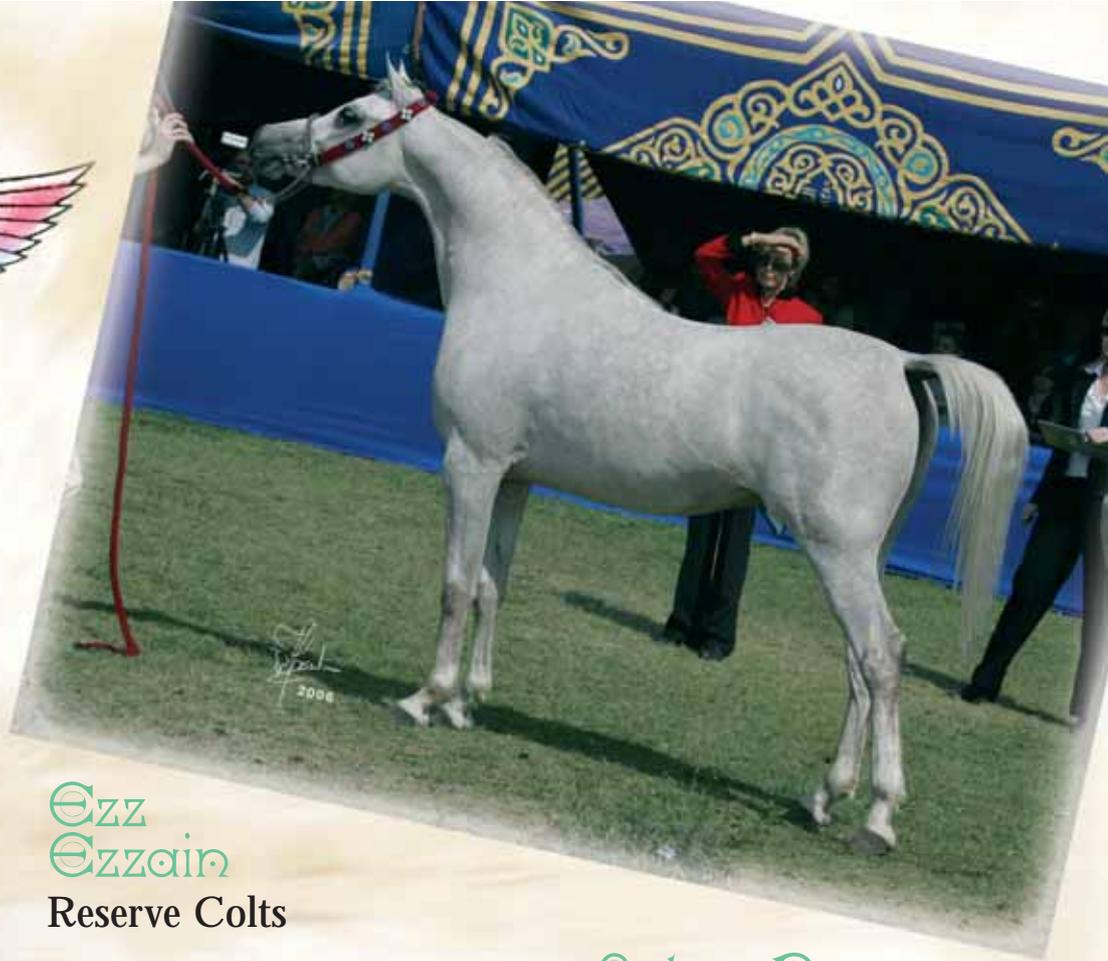


Al Mokhtar Sakr
Reserve Stallions





horse can win each class. Overall, the horses received high comments from the spectators and all are looking forward to the next presentation. New farms and older established breeders combined to make a successful show and the most important thing was that the horses looked terrific in their own world. □



Ezz
Ezzain
Reserve Colts

Anbar Noor
Reserve Fillies

