

n by **Pat Canfield**

photos by Joanna Jonientz, Erwin Escher, Gigi Grasso

EL Zahraa National Show

A long standing tradition in the world of Arabian horse breeding continued with the thirteenth annual EAO National Horse Show held at El Zahraa Stud in Cairo. The first two days of the four- day event, November 16th and 17th belonged to the Nationals. An international group of visitors from Europe, America, Australia and the Middle East joined with the Egyptian guests to form an enthusiastic audience who were all anxious to voice their opinions and cheer their favorites. It is interesting to note the addition of many new breeders and attendees each year. The weather was ideal with clear sunny days and mid autumn temperatures.

One of the highlights for new visitors is always the opportunity to stroll around the historic grounds and watch the

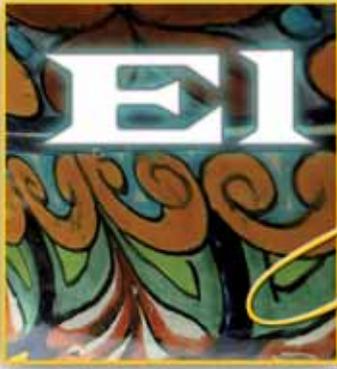
mares and young horses eating, playing or even sleeping in the Cairo sun out in the paddocks. The stallion barns are another favorite area for people to wander. There are still over four hundred horses in residence on the historic thirty-acre farm with open stabling nestled among the old and dusty eucalyptus trees. Little has changed through the years in the tranquil ambience of the farm hidden in a crowded area of Cairo.

Judges for the Show were: Bruce McCrea - Saudi Arabia, Willi Poth - France, Francesco Santoro - Italy and Ms. Deidre Hyde - United Arab Emirates. They were all quite familiar to the spectators. The Disciplinary Committee was comprised of Mrs. Barbara Pfistner, Switzerland, Dr. Mohamed El Otaifey and Dr. Ezz El Deen Abdel Kader



TRAVA





El Zahraa National Show



**Gharam Al Mamlaka
Champion Filly**



**Shaza Albadeia
Champion Mare**

both of Egypt. Ring Steward was Willy Luder of Italy.

The Nationals are not considered to be an ECAHO affiliated show. Although for the first time, the first generation of imported horses was allowed to participate unlike previous years where only second-generation horses were included. This has been a stumbling block for a number of years and has resulted in the ECAHO affiliated show being held at Saqqara. As such, the results at this El Zahraa competition are not recognized by ECAHO and therefore do not qualify for ECAHO championships.

The classes were designated by years beginning October 1st and ending September 30th with the exception of the first class, which was ranking only for fillies born 1/10/05 - 15/8/06. Twenty-four fillies were registered in what was the second largest class of the show. The class was handily won by Tarnimah Albadeia (Simeon Sharav x Tamima Albadeia) the full sister of the very special Tammam Albadeia who was Jr. Champion at Saqqara and has since gone to Sharjah. Her breeder and owner is Albadeia Stud. Second place in the rankings went to a very promising Khorafa El Gabry (Ajmal Sinan x Gawharet Aal Hanafi) owned and bred by El Gabry Stud. In third place in the class was Tala Al Khalediah (Tabayan Al Qusar x Yamama Al Khalediah) bred by Al Khalediah Stud, Egypt and owned by Al Khaled Stud.

The first official class, Fillies born

CHAMPION



1/10/2004 - 30/9/2005, was the largest of the show by one entry. The foal classes are always great crowd pleasers and this was no exception. The winner of the class, the very pretty and correct Gharam Al Mamlaka (Bilal El Gezira x Fayzah El Dahab) went on to be awarded the Jr. Female Championship to the great delight of her owner and breeder, HRH Saud bin Sultan Al Saud, who bought her dam at the age of three years from Germany. Second place went to Asalah Al Hamd (Imperial Madori x Hebet Allah Al Sharbatly) bred and owner by Ahmadeyat Al Hamd Stud. A very close third place went to Malak Al Farida (Aggour x Lelia Aal Hanafi) owned and bred by Farida Stud.

The winner of the next class, Fillies born 1/10/2003 - 30/9/2004, also won the ribbon as Reserve Jr. Female Champion. A very refined and typey Set El Kol SEA (Al Fateh SEA x Set El Habayeb SEA) continued the winning traditions of her bloodlines. Her dam and sire were both Junior Champions at the ages of one year and eight months respectively. And as her breeder and owner, Wegdan El Barbary reminded us, her grandsire, Sukkar Maoud (Misk x Farah) was Supreme Champion stallion. Hebet Allah Al Bawady (Ibn Arabia Saqr x Hoboub) owned and bred by All Bawady Stud handily won second place. She was closely followed by Leila El Gabry (Tallahsman x Halawa Saqr) who is a particular favorite of her owner and bree-

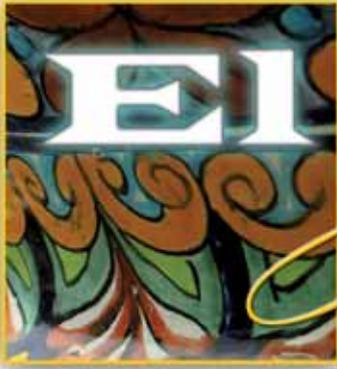


Gamil Saqr
Champion Stallion



Farouk Saqr
Champion Colt
and Most Classic Head Male





Zahraa National Show



**Ghazalah El Gabry
Reserve Mare**



**Set El Kol Sea
Reserve Filly**

der, Mohsen El Gabry.

Doaa Al Hamd, a very showy chestnut by Sindbad out of Ayah owned by El Gabry Stud and bred by Ahmadyat Al Hamd Stud improved on last year's showing by rising one slot to take first place for Fillies born 1/10/2002 - 30/9/2003. She was Reserve Jr. Champion in 2004. Ghaleya Ikhnatoon (Tayar x Shayal II) bred and owned by Ikhnatoon Stud won second. Asfoura Albadeia (Farid Albadeia x Simeon Safir) bred and owned by Albadeia Stud showed the refinement of both her parents as she won third place in the class, Fillies born 2002 - 2003.

As always, the spectators looked forward to the annual parade of EAO mares. The crowd was thrilled to see the grand dam of EAO, Adalat who is showing her age but still has that incredible head which has not been duplicated even though strong traces are visible in many of her produce. The other mare who epitomizes the grace and beauty of the Egyptian mare is the wonderful Tee (Adl x Bint Ibtisam) '95. Among the promising younger mares were: Zadah (Adl x Marzouka), Mangoomah (Gad Allah x Wadha) and Bayader (Baydown x Banoota).

In the afternoon, all were treated to three mare classes showing the development of some of the females who had been in earlier shows in addition to many first time entries. Unfortunately, the number of entries was not particularly high. Class of Mares born 1/10/2000 - 30/9/2002 was

RESERVE

won by the wonderful Ghazalah El Gabry (El Basha Saqr x Konooz). The always impressive bay mare has become even more typey and self assured since last year when she won the Jr. Championship. This year she took Reserve Champion of the Nationals. Gawharet Aal Hanafi (Tallahsman x Morgana) also owned by El Gabry took a very close second place. She was bred by Aal Hanafi Stud. In third place was another powerful mare, Bint El Basha (El Basha Saqr x Bardeyah) who was bred by El Magd Stud and is owned by Al Najdiah, a part of Rabab Stud.

The next class, Mares born 1/10/98 - 30/9/2000 was won by the Senior Champion Mare, Shaza Albadeia (Gaafar Albadeia x Sondos Albadeia). The dark dappled grey mare has a powerful body with tremendous movement and was Jr. Champion in 2004. She is owned and bred by Albadeia Stud. Second place went to Baheyah Ikhnaatooon (Ibn Akhtal x Haneyah Ikhnaatooon) in a close score. Third place prize went to Bint Montasir Rahim (Montasir x AF Bint Maamouna). Owned by El Gabry and bred by Rahim Stud, Bint Montasir has one of the most beautiful heads and has won in previous shows for most classic head.

The last class of the day had some truly lovely older mares all born prior to 30/9/1998. The three top placements were all within 1/3 point of each other. The winner of the class was the beautiful Dalloua, an El Zahraa bred mare now



**Borhan Saqr
Reserve Stallion**



**Haytham Albadeia
Reserve Colt**





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owned by Al Mamlaka Stud. She is by Harras and out of the great dam Adalat who was seen in the EAO mare presentation. Shereefa Saqr (Imperial Madori x Imperial Kamaala) a striking grey mare bred by Saqr Stud and owned by Omar Stud took second place. And Nawwaret Hamdan A, her half sister by Imperial Madori out of Dhimaara won a close third spot. The bay mare bred by Hamdan A Stud and now owned by Al Najdiah has been producing very well in the Rabab black breeding program.

The second day of the show was devoted to colts and stallions. As with any show, the audience anticipated a livelier exhibition with the males in the ring. Overall the classes were smaller than the previous day, which proved to be a good thing in light of the long Friday prayer and then lunch break.

The first class featured eleven colts born 1/10/2005 - 15/8/2006 for ranking only. First in the ranking was an enthusiastic colt Romh Al Madaeed (Gamil Saqr x Mabrouka El Gabry) bred and owned by Shomookh Al Masaheed Stud. The second place colt was out of another El Gabry mare, Negma El Gabry and by the stallion Ayser: Montasir Al Hamd. He is bred and owned by Ahmadayat Al Hamd Stud. Third place among the youngsters went to Negm Al Din Al Yasser (El Basha Saqr x Rawaah Gawdat) owned and bred by Al Yasser Stud.

The second colt class for those born 1/10/2004 - 30/9/2005 was the largest of the day with nineteen lively participants. The winner was Noor El Din Al Yasser (Gamil Saqr x Ahlam Al Fadaly) He is owned and bred by Al Yasser Stud, one of the younger farms to enter the competition and with some good results. Montaser Granata (Gamal Saqr x



Romh Al Masaheed
1° Pl. Foals born 2005



Doaa Al Hamd
1° Pl. Mares 2002-2003

Masreya) a colt bred by one of the long-standing breeders, Granata Stud won second place. Khattab & Tahani Stud now owns him. Nadeem Albadeia the son of two of Albadeia's well-proven horses (Rihan Albadeia x Dandanah Albadeia) won third place.

Class 10: Colts born 1/10/03 - 30/9/04 was won by the Reserve Junior Champion, Haytham Albadeia (Simeon Sharav x Galagel Albadeia). The very refined stretchy grey colt displays much of his renowned sire in his overall look and presence. Second in the class of thirteen entries was Saab Al Khalediah (Sahran x Saaba Al Shaqab). He was bred by Al Khalediah Stud, Egypt and is currently part of the program at Omar Stud. Third place in the class went to the half brother of the winner; Ghaith Albadeia (Simeon Sharav x

Tamima Albadeia). A very elegant young colt, he carries the stamp of his famous sire as evidenced in all of his get.

The last of the colt classes - born 1/10/02 - 30/9/03 was one of the smaller groups with only five competing. The winner Farouk Saqr (El Habel x Desperado's Fancy) is an exceptionally typey dark grey young stallion with an outstanding chiseled head even at his young age. He not only won Junior Championship but also took the prize for Most Classic Head Males. His owner at Al Mamlaka Stud said that the first time he saw him; he knew this was a special horse. "With any horse," Prince Saud said, "they must catch my heart first and then I evaluate the particulars. With Farouk, I knew I had a winner". Second in class was Negm El Din Granata (Gamal Saqr x Bint Nazli) bred by Granata Stud and owned by Khattab & Tahani Stud. He won his previous classes last

year at the EAO and also at Saqqara. In third place we had Mashhour El Mousa (Sukkartein SEA x Nawwaret El Waha) bred by El Mousa Stud and owned by Al Boraq Stud.

The afternoon featured the three Stallion classes. The sires and dams of all the winners are very well known in the breeding programs here in Egypt either having been winners themselves or having produced many class winners and champions. The winner of Class 12: Stallions born 1/1/2000 - 30/9/02 was Gamil Saqr (Tallahsman x Ansata Helwa). An extremely handsome young stallion with great presence, the elegant grey Gamil is now senior stallion at El Gabry Stud. He has an excellent foal crop and was also the winner of a very strong class at Saqqara. He was bred by Saqr Stud as were a great many of the winners both at EAO and Saqqara. In second place was Al Ameer Hedayah (Nabeel II x Dhimaara) He was bred at Hedayah Stud and is now owned by Khattab & Tahani Stud. Moatasem Asayel (El Nasek x Nafeesah Ikhnatoon) bred by Asayel Stud and owned by Omar Stud took the prize for third.

Class 13: Stallions born 1/10/98 - 30/9/00 was one of the smaller classes having only four entries. The winner and Reserve Champion was another example of Saqr breeding taking high placement; Borhan Saqr (Farid Albadeia x Alidarra) is a powerful bay stallion with a well-balanced body and is an integral part of the Albadeia Stud combined breeding approach. A dramatic grey stallion bred and owned by Shams El Asil Stud won second place. Waley El Ahd SEA (Beltagi x Set El Hosn A) is a spot-on example of the look that stamps the Shams El Asil program. In third place was Maleeh (Ibn Akhtal x Haneefah)



Tarnimah Albadeia
1st Pl. Foals 2005-2006



Dalloua
1st Pl. Fillies 98 and older

who was bred and owned by Al Ameen Stud.

The last class of the afternoon featured stallions born 30/9/98 and older. The winner was Mansour Rahim (Imperial Madori x Lemya B). He was bred by Rahim Stud and is now part of the program at Al Khorafi Stud. Wagdan, in second place is a good example of El Zahraa breeding, which is integrated into private farms, in this case Khattab & Tahani Stud. Wagdan is by Harras out of Wogoud. In third slot was another of the Shams El Asil breeding:

Meshmesh SEA (Sukkar Maaoud SEA x Meshmeshah). The striking chestnut carries the high stepping movement of both of his parents and is owned by Al Mousa Stud.

Over all, the consensus was that the quality of horses in this year's show was up considerably and that the individual farms are taking the issues seriously and trying to focus on their own programs. Comments in the stands were mixed as usual regarding the judging in a few cases. The point was made that since there are so many new breeders, it is important that a consistent standard should be maintained in the judging that they can learn what properly wins so that they can become skilled in their own programs.

It was also observed by some that in general, the fillies and mares were of a higher quality than the males. This was reflected in a larger number of entries in the first day. The EAO show has become a focus for long time breeders and those new to this endeavor to meet and exchange

ideas under the umbrella of El Zahraa. Since there are now over two hundred and fifty farms registered under the EAO, there is a great opportunity for learning and expansion of the Arabian horse in its native world.