

A Guide to Historical Names and Terms

Associated with

Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeding

by Cynthia Culbertson

A good Arabian horse breeder is always interested in the history of the breeders and horses of the past. Yet many names, abbreviations, and definitions are confusing. Several languages may be involved and spellings may differ. Following is a brief guide to names and terms associated with the history of the straight Egyptian Arabian and its foundation breeders in Egypt.

Abbas Pasha I (1813-1854)

Viceroy of Egypt from 1848 to 1854, Khedive Abbas Pasha I was born in Arabia and lived among the Bedouin tribes before returning to Egypt to found one of the greatest Arabians studs of all time. His rule of Egypt was regarded as less than stellar by most historians, and ended with his assassination. But to Arabian horse breeders, his name is legendary. In addition to acquiring many of the finest horses of the Arabian desert, he also sent emissaries to gather their histories. Compiled into a priceless manuscript, students of the breed may read an

*English translation, as well as a history of his famous stud, in the book *The Abbas Pasha Manuscript* by Judith Forbis and Gulsun Sherif. The original manuscript in Arabic is now held in the collection of the King Abdul Aziz Library in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.*

Abbas Pasha Hilmi II (1874-1914)

The Khedive Abbas Pasha Hilmi II, who was eventually dethroned by the British, maintained a stable of fine Arabian horses. Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt and the Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.) both acquired horses from him, and he also obtained several horses from the stud of Ali Pasha Sherif as well as many desertbreds which were gifts of Arab sheikhs.

Ali Pasha Sherif (died 1897)

An Egyptian whose father was governor of Arabia during the reign of Mohamed Ali the Great, Ali Pasha Sherif was also influential in various positions in the Egyptian government during the reign of the Khedive Mohammed Tewfik. A great admirer and passionate breeder of purebred Arabian horses, Ali Pasha Sherif acquired forty of the original horses from the stud of Abbas Pasha I during its dispersal. He also imported

numerous Arabians from the desert and eventually housed more than 400 superb Arabian horses at his stud.

Babson

"Babson" describes any Egyptian Arabian descending from one of the seven Egyptian Arabians of Henry B. Babson's landmark importation from Egypt to the U.S. in 1932. Of the seven horses imported, the colt *Metsur died shortly after his arrival, and it is through the remaining six that the Babson influence lives on. The mares were *Bint Serra from the stud of Prince Kemal El Dine, *Maaroufa bred by Prince Mohammed Ali, and *Bint Bint Sabbah, *Bint Saada, and *Bint Bint Durra all bred by the Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.). The sole stallion of the importation, *Fadl, was a full brother to *Maaroufa, and also

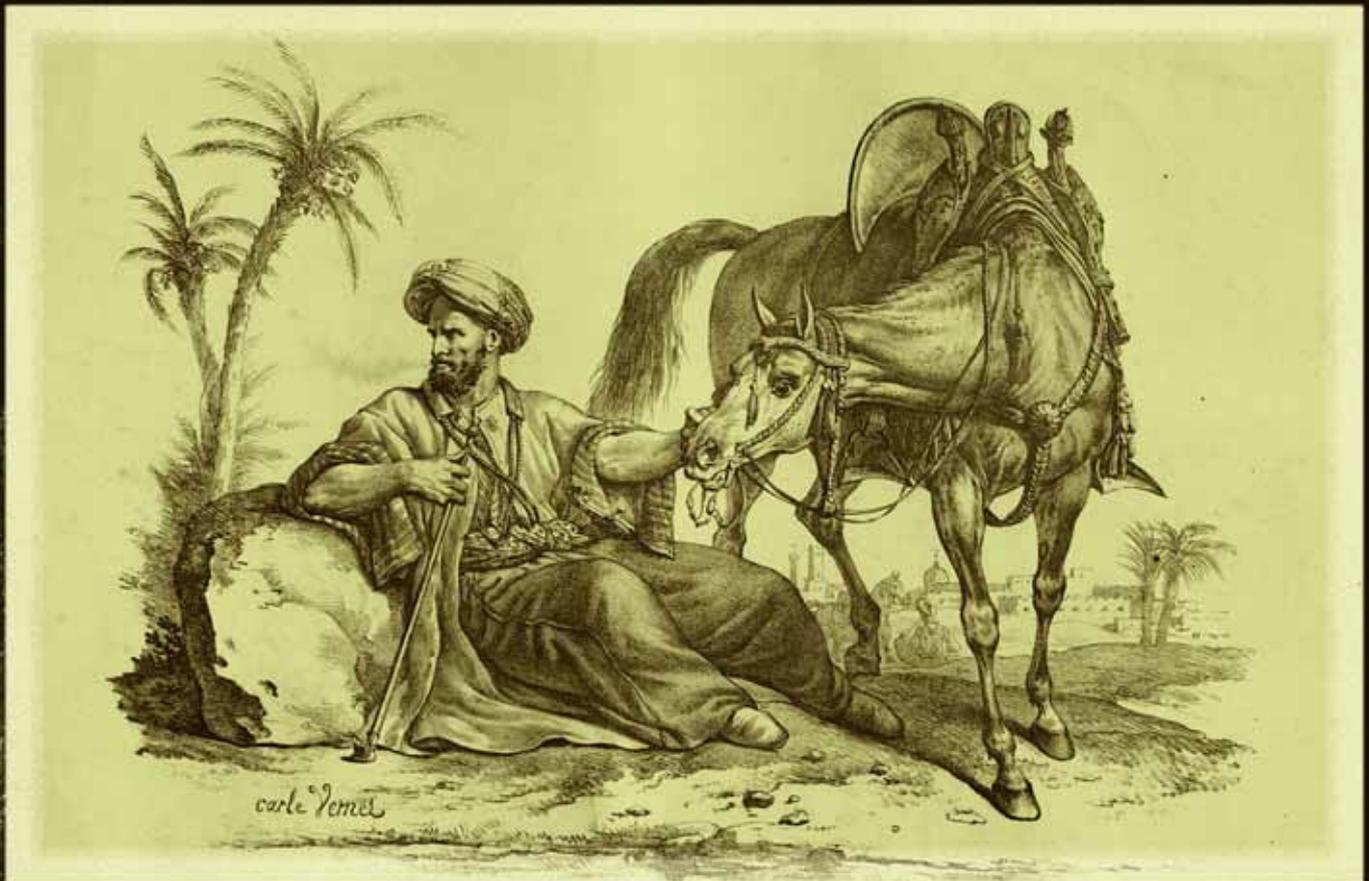
hailed from the stables of Prince Mohamed Ali.

Crabbet Stud

Founded in England by Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt, horses from the Crabbet Stud were imported to Egypt in 1920 by the Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.) in order to obtain descendants of the bloodstock of Ali Pasha Sherif. This was the only time that horses from Europe were used by the Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.), although they still represented the treasured bloodlines of Egypt. The horses imported to Egypt from the Crabbet Stud are found in almost all modern Egyptian pedigrees.

D.B.

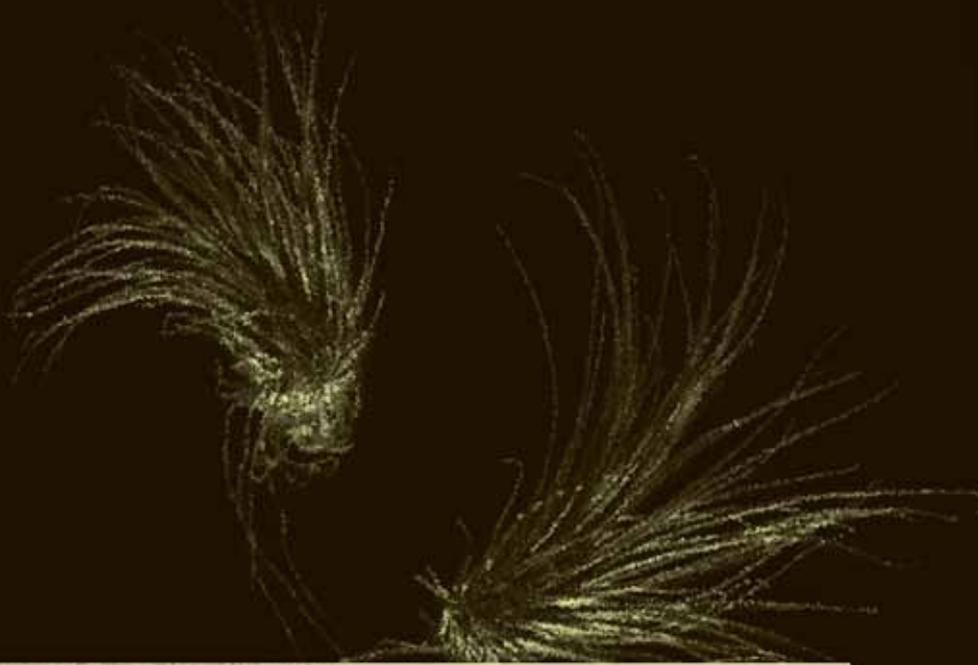
D.B. stands for "desertbred" and when researching a pedigree far enough, you



will eventually reach horses with this annotation. *D.B.* simply means that the horse in question was bred by one of the desert tribes of Arabia or the Middle East, and not by a stud farm or named owner. Usually these horses will have an identifying strain, but not in every case. In European studbooks you often see the initials *O.A.* instead of *D.B.*, which stands for "Origin Arabia" and means simply that the horse was bred or imported from the desert countries of the Middle East or Egypt.

E.A.O.

In 1952 the Royal Agricultural Society was renamed the Egyptian Agricultural Organization (*E.A.O.*) and continues as



the government stud farm of Egypt until the present day. The E.A.O is the official registrar of all Egyptian Arabians in Egypt, supervises private stud farms, including identification, exportation and importation, and publishes the official studbook of Egypt.

El Zahraa Stud

El Zahraa is the name of the E.A.O.'s breeding farm located at Ein Shams, on the outskirts of Cairo. Famous for its beautiful palm-lined entrance and eucalyptus-shaded paddocks, the cherished Arabian horses of Egypt were moved here in 1930 under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Inshass Stud

Inshass was the Royal Stud of the Egyptian Kings Fouad and Farouk. These stables were operated independently of the Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.) until the overthrow of the monarchy in 1952. Inshass used the bloodlines of established Egyptian breeders as well as incorporating horses presented to the Royal family from members of the Arab aristocracy in neighboring countries.

Kafr Farouk

When the Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.) was originally formed the horses were housed at a farm at Bahteem, but during the 1930's most of the Society's horses were relocated to a newly-built facility named "Kafr Farouk" in honor of King Fouad's son. After the overthrow of the Egyptian monarchy the R.A.S. became the E.A.O. and the farm was renamed El Zahraa.

"New Egyptian"

The term "New Egyptian" generally refers to post-World War II Arabians in Egypt, especially those bred at the Egyptian Agricultural Organization (E.A.O.) or the Inshass stud, as well as the "new" Egyptian imports to the U.S. beginning in

1958. Many Egyptian breeders consider the E.A.O. sire Nazeer (1934-1959) to be the architect of the renaissance of the "new" Egyptian Arabian.

"OA"

See D.B. above.

"Old Egyptian"

"Old Egyptian" refers to the pre-World War II horses bred in Egypt, such as those from the studs of Ali Pasha Sherif, the Blunts, Prince Mohammed Ali, and other members of the Royal family, as well as the Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.). The term also encompasses those Egyptian Arabians imported to the U.S. before 1958, such as the imports by W.R. Brown and Henry Babson.

Prince Ahmed Pasha Kemal (1857-1907)

A famous Egyptian breeder from the late 1800's until the turn of the century, Prince Ahmed Pasha Kemal bred many horses which were used by the Blunts and the R.A.S. as well as other royal stables of Egypt. Many of his horses featured the bloodlines of Ali Pasha Sherif, and he also imported several Arabians from the desert. His son, Prince Yousef Kemal, was also an equine enthusiast and numerous horses of his breeding live on in modern pedigrees.

Prince Kemal El Dine (1874-1932)

Prince Kemal El Dine Hussein was an avid explorer, hunter, rider and horse breeder. Indeed he preferred these pursuits over his ancestral claim to the throne of Egypt, which he declined. The Prince donated several horses to the R.A.S. and also used their horses in his breeding program. Probably the most famous line from his stud which has bred on in modern pedigrees is that of "Bint Serra I, imported to the U.S. by Henry Babson.

Prince Mohammed Ali Tewfik (1875-1955)

Twice first-in-line for the Egyptian





*throne, fate decreed that Prince Mohammed Ali would never rule his country. An extremely cultured and well-educated man, he was the author of the esteemed reference book *Breeding of Purebred Arab Horses*, published in Egypt in two volumes in the mid-1930s. The Prince had a lifelong love of Arabian horses and while he maintained four stables in Egypt, the most renowned was located at his spectacular Manial Palace on the isle of Roda in Cairo. His most famous horses traced to the grey mare Bint Yamama, bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II, and many Egyptian horses today descend from this respected family.*

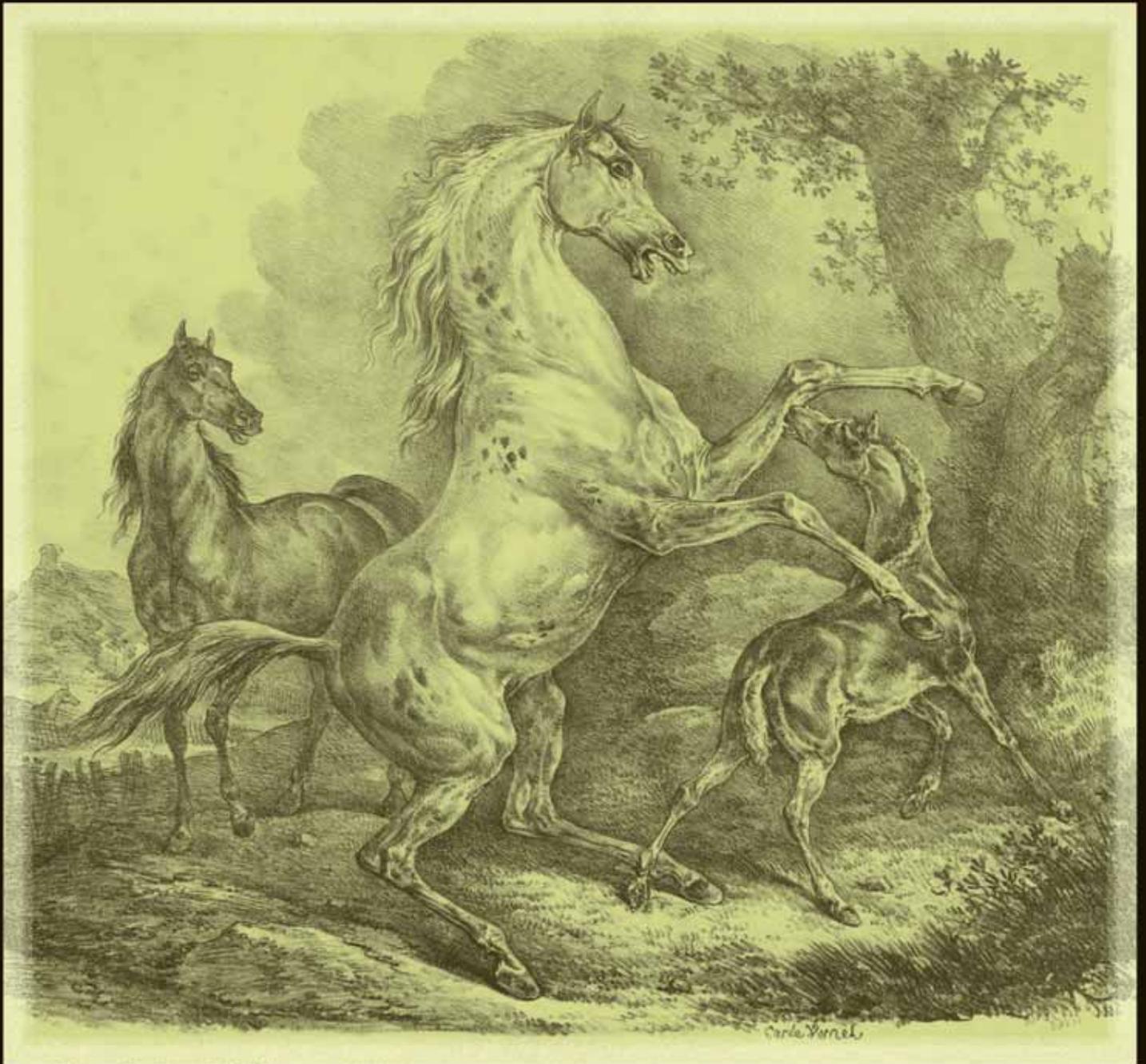
R.A.S.

The Royal Agricultural Society (R.A.S.) was founded in 1908 under the patronship of King Fouad and managed the breeding of purebred Arabian horses in Egypt. The Society obtained most of its original blood-

stock from the royal and titled families of Egypt, many of which were descendants of the famous horses of Abbas Pasha I and Ali Pasha Sherif. The R.A.S. maintained two farms, Bahteem and Kafr Farouk until 1930, when all of the horses were moved to Kafr Farouk.

Sheykh Obeyd Stud

Sheykh Obeyd is the name of the Egyptian farm in Ein Shams, near Heliopolis, established by Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt. The Blunts obtained many excellent desertbred Arabians, as well as superb Egyptian Arabians from various private studs, and they were especially fortunate to acquire several horses from the dispersal of the herd of Ali Pasha Sherif. Lady Anne truly loved her garden estate in Egypt, and, after her separation from Wilfrid, elected to remain in Egypt where she lived until her death. Many horses the Blunts obtained in Egypt can be found in



modern Egyptian Arabian pedigrees.

Tahawi or Tahawiyah

The Tahawi are a Bedouin tribe in Egypt descended from the Bedouins of Arabia. They have been dedicated breeders of Arabian horses for centuries and many of the private and royal studfarms of

Egypt acquired horses from them over the years. There are a few modern lines of straight Egyptian horses that descend from Tahawi bloodlines. □