



Ghazal's last gift



Ghazala

■ by *Daniel Hölzel*
& *Oliver Wibihal*

The famous Hanan epitomizes the term "foundation mare". By the renowned Alaa El Din out of the Inshass mare Mona (Badr x Mahdia), the bay Hanan was born in Egypt in 1967. At the age of three she arrived in Germany (after two years of quarantine at the Hungarian State Stud at Babolna) along with her half sister Mahiba (Alaa El Din x Mouna) and the chestnut mare Marah (Galal x Maysa). She came to a small farm in northern Germany. "A farm which had ben purchased because of her," says Dr. Hans Nagel, Hanan's "discoverer" and lifelong owner. "She moved in, and from the start was the uncontested leader of the small herd." Hanan produced twelve foals in her lifetime – six stallions and six mares – and the quality of her



Ghazal's last gift

Ghazala

progeny brought her fame and world-wide attention. Her ability as a broodmare made the stud of her owner, the "Katharinenhof", a household name in the international world of Arabian horses. "Hanan's appearance was different," Dr. Nagel remembers. "Especially her long legs and the lightly arched neck. She was undeniably exotic, a type then unknown in Europe."

Dr. Nagel firmly believes that the strength of any breeding stallion is inherent through his dam. Therefore it came as no surprise that the Hanan sons developed into successful sires. Jamil, Asfour, Salaa El Dine, and Ibn Galal I made their mark as sires on four different continents. "A mare's greatest recognition is as the dam of a superior stallion," muses Dr. Nagel. "But we should not forget her daughters. They are the true successors of her line."

Hanan's "true successor" was her first daughter, the grey Ghazala. Her beautiful big eyes, extreme length of neck, good legs, and noble character were the traits she was famous for – and for the fact that she was the last foal of her famous sire Ghazal (Nazeer x Bukra).

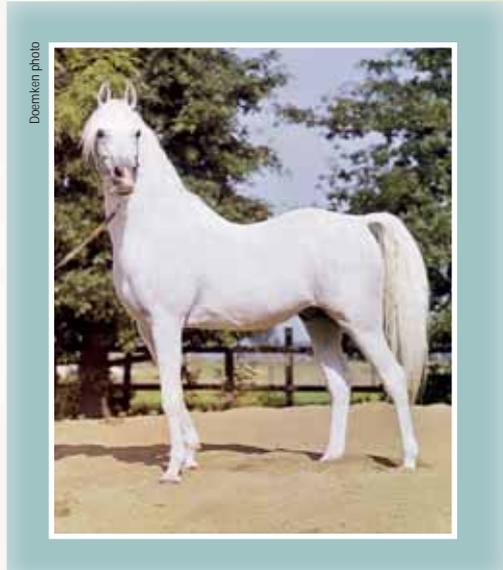
When Ghazala was born in 1973, Ghazal already had passed away. A sudden fall and a dream was shattered. For his many admirers, Ghazal ranked as their alltime favourite. He brought oriental flair and the "desert touch" to Germany. Simple words must fail when it comes to describe his presence. "He moved like a dancer, he acted like a king," says Carl-Heinz Doemken, his longtime owner. "Nobody could resist his charm." Dr. Nagel chose Ghazal for Hanan's second foal. Eleven months later Hanan delivered a delicate filly. "There was only one suitable name - Ghazala," Dr. Nagel remembers. This filly was Ghazal's promise for the future...

"Ghazala might be considered one of Ghazal's most beautiful and prolific daughters," says Dr. Nagel. "She reigned as a broodmare supreme. Whichever sire was chosen, her elegance was reproduced in her foals." For her first foal Dr. Nagel picked one of Hanan's stablemates at Babolna, Zohair, and Ghazala's long and productive career as a broodmare began. Her first foal was born in 1977, and her last in 1992. Here's a rundown of



her offspring, their accomplishments, and their destinies. Yasmeeen, a grey mare, sired by Zohair (Alaa El Din x Zebeda) was born in January 1977. "Yasmeeen was a wonderful filly," Dr. Nagel recalls. "I sold her to Martin Loeber, who incorporated her into his then famous 'Ramses' broodmare band." In the United States she was named "Ramses Bint Zohair". Before her untimely death in 1984, she gave birth to several foals. Yasmeeen has nicked well with Ramses Fayek (Nazeer x Fayza) but never produced a "superstar" foal. Her best-known daughters are the full sisters Ramses Shahara (by Ramses Fayek), a lovely member of the Rock Creek broodmare band and Ramses Fayeka of Hallmark Egyptian Stud in Missouri. Ghazala's second daughter Ayda (by Madkour I) was exported to the Netherlands. This elegant grey mare is best remembered for her ultra-refined son Nur Ad Dine (by Ghazala's maternal brother Salaa El Dine) who came to Germany and went on to become a sire of some extremely refined foals. Sadly this promising horse passed away much too soon.

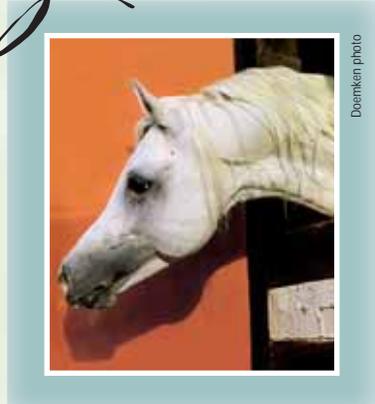
After Ayda was born a stallion came along that would become one of Ghazala's most durable mates. This was her half brother Jamil (Madkour I x Hannan), Dr. Nagel's young and then untested stallion. This elegant then four-year-old stallion was extremely balanced and refined, full of presence, and colored in a dark grey. In those days his huge, soft, dark eyes were something German breeders had never seen before. Jamil was like some good men - very masculine, but gentle and soft. He never responded to bullying, he responded to gentleness. "He really appreciated a soft touch," says Dr. Nagel. Jamil was a stallion to remember. Even Judith Forbis, who saw literally thousands of horses in her life, will never forget the day she met Jamil for the first time: "A snow-white horse standing against bright frosty snow, his great bright eyes in marked contrast to all that sparkling white surrounding him. He looked at you, and yet one sensed that 'look of eagles' as he looked beyond to the distant horizon. Jamil was a horse who knew his place in this universe." Today we all know of Jamil's abilities as a sire, but in those days his first foal were



Doemken photo

Ghazal

(Nazeer x Bukra)



Doemken photo



Ghazal's last gift



Nawal

Escher photo



(Salaa El Dine x Ghazala)

expected with great anticipation. As Ghazala delivered her first Jamil filly in 1980, the corks popped: a look-alike of her sire was standing on four shaky legs and looked into the new world with big, trustful eyes. "Afifa was so special and so pretty," Dr. Nagel remembers. "I would just sit in her stall to talk to her and admire her."

As she matured, she began a tour of major European shows. She succeeded at the Salon du Cheval at Paris and at the Nations Cup at Aachen. "Afifa was one of my favourites," Dr. Nagel says, "and I was very fond of her." Unfortunately, she never produced a foal. "But she was fun to have on the farm," Dr. Nagel remembered. "Afifa was a very dominant mare, and the minute she saw you, she wanted a treat or wanted to be taken out to eat some green grass. She really was a member of the family!"

In contrast to her, Afifa's younger sister Alifa became a reliable broodmare. But motherhood did not curtail her show career. In 1994 she won the Reserve Champion Mare title of the International Asil Cup under the guidance of her owner, Claudia Schwarze/Germany. Her femininity and

elegant appearance impressed spectators and judges alike.

The bay colt Aziz was Ghazala's third foal by Jamil. Judith Forbis imported the charismatic youngster into the United States. It was planned to show him and to stand him at stud - but it wasn't meant to be. Today the gelding is used as a pleasure mount and is enjoying his stressfree days without make-up or body clipping. Not a bad life for a horse, isn't it?

Next to Aziz came Amarilla and she was Ghazala's last foal by Jamil. The mare was born in January 1987. She was Ghazala's most prolific daughter and was kept Dr. Nagel all of her life. Her destiny was to produce one excellent Salaa El Dine daughter after another: NK Aischa, NK Ahlam, NK Nessma, NK Nadeema or NK Nariman - close your eyes, point at one of them and you will always point at extreme beauty! Especially Nadeema and Nariman blossomed into wonderfully dry and exotic broodmares much in the image of her granddam Ghazala. All of Amarilla's daughters have bred on and gifted their owners with excellent foals.

The exotic mare Aisha (Ansa-ta Halim Shah x Ghazala) was

Ghazala



born in 1985. She turned her back on Europe and found a new home in Qatar at the Al Rayyan stud of Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Thani. A desert queen returned to a desert kingdom! She has a most exquisite head and such a soft, sweet expression, that it is hard not to look at her. The judges couldn't resist her either and made her the 1997 Reserve Champion Mare of Qatar. Her son "www.straightegyptians.com/background/safir/index_e.html" Safir (by Salaa El Dine) who accompanied her to Qatar as a baby matured beautifully and became the head sire of Al Rayyan Farm.

Dr. Nagel still remembers the day, when Sheikh Abdulaziz visited the Katharinenhof to obtain Aisha. „This idea was in his mind since he had seen her one year before when he came to my farm for the first time. Now a three months old foal followed Aisha around, a small colt named Safir which means 'ambassador'. All of a sudden it was not only the mother which was the object of his desire, instead both mother and son were in his focus now. The Sheikh is an excellent connoisseur of pedigrees, but at the same time he always

has in mind both the horse and the pedigree. The one does not impress him if the other is not of equal value. And he has another obvious preference: He liked the stallion Ansata Halim Shah – perhaps even more than anybody else. Now in front of him were standing two horses, first the mare Aisha, an Ansata Halim Shah daughter out of Ghazala, one of the finest Hanan daughters of the Katharinenhof. Ghazala's sire was Ghazal, without doubt the best Egyptian stallion available in Germany at his time. Secondly there was her colt Safir sired by Salaa el Dine, a son of Ansata Halim Shah out of Hanan. In traditional Arabian terms: A combination of Dahman Shahwan and Obayan horses in a most concentrated and classical form."

However, it should be mentioned that little Safir was, in principle, a perfect and faultless creature, however, there was a slight indication of a low back which could be a reason of concern. This consideration becomes of importance when one remembers his grandsire Ghazal who was rejected by nearly all German breeders at that time due to

(Jamil x Ghazala) 1986 in Paris

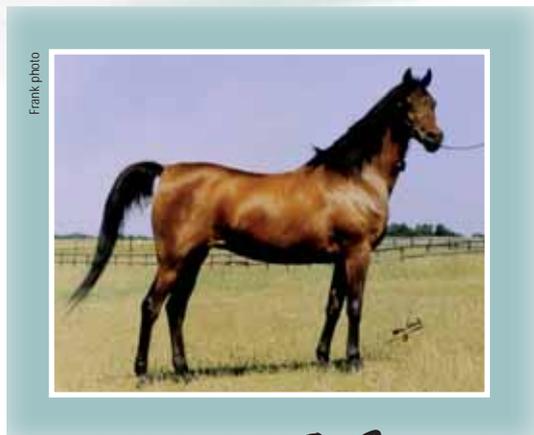


photo: Irina Filsinger *www.filsart.com

Aisha



Ghazal's last gift



Frank photo

(Alaa El Din x Mona)

Hanan



van Lam photo

his sway back – an unpleasant view which apparently irritated many. Finally, a simple business solution was found in case a sway back would show up. Now the doors to Qatar were open for Aisha and Safir and two months later they travelled to their new home where sun and blue sky are guaranteed all year long and to a region and climate where the Arabian bred has its original roots. „It was a difficult decision to let such a couple go which would have fit also perfectly into Katharinhof's own breeding programm”, says Dr. Nagel.

“Safir reached his peak at the age of seven”, Dr. Nagel explains. „Never before did he look better. Now he was a mature stallion, proud and impressive with his fleabitten colour but as gentle and kind as his dam. His movement was extremely powerful, showing an elegant, far extending trot, again like his dam. As everyone had expected he passed on the look of his double grandsire, Ansata Halim Shah. Quickly Safir became the chief stallion of Al Rayyan Farm. Several other stallions were tried during Safir's time at Al Rayyan, some did also very well, but it could be said that none of

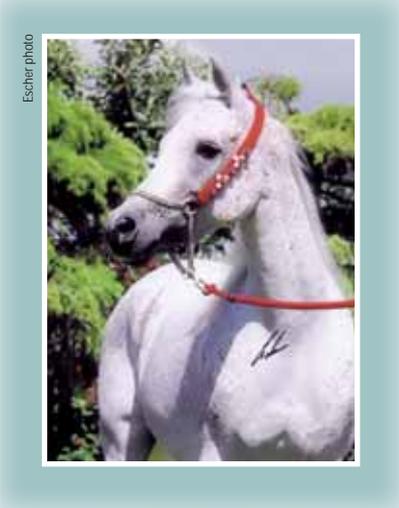
them could rival Safir's ability as a sire. Until this day no other Salaa El Dine son is equal to him. Safir became the best of them all!”

Safir's heir is his son “www.straightegyptians.com/por-trait/ashhaleng.html” Ashhal Al Rayyan (x Ansata Majesta): He was International Senior Champion Stallion in Qatar and sired countless different international champion horses. Aisha's most beautiful daughter to date is the exquisite Darine Al Rayyan (by Ashhal Al Rayyan) who was born in 2003. No doubt about it, she is a true daughter of Aisha! Until this day, Aisha still is regarded by many breeders one of the most beautiful mares anywhere in the world.

When the filly Farida (Assad by Ansata Halim Shah x Ghazala) was born in 1988, she looked like a miniature version of her mother. The same long and chiselled face, the same dark eyes, the same long and shapely neck and slender body. At the age of six month fate struck: She had an accident in the stall and was severely hurt. A show carrier was out of the question. In 1990 I saw her the last time - she had overcome her injuries and looked very promising. As

Ghazala

Sabawiah



(Salaa El Dine x Farida)

a four-year-old, Farida was sold to Donal Duke in Great Britain but Dr. Nagel leased her back for two seasons to bred her to her half-brother Adnan (Salaa El Dine x Ghazala). Today Farida is owned by Bart. For her next foals, Ghazala was bred to Salaa El Dine, by whom she produced the stallion Adnan and the mare Nawal. Both outstanding individuals, both typey and full of presence. As a youngster, Adnan was sold to Morocco but some years later - in 1996 - Dr. Nagel visited him. "I was spellbound," he recalls. "I would never had expected that he had developed into such a beautiful creature." Adnan now looked like a young and more correct version of his grandsire, Ghazal. "I almost couldn't believe what I saw. But then I tried my very best to get him back as soon as possible!" Dr. Nagel succeeded and six months later Adnan was awarded a gold medal at Germany's annual Stallion Show. He sired two phantastic foal crops for Dr. Nagel and then was sold to the famous Ajmal Stud in Kuwait where he resided as one of the herd sires until his death some years ago. Today his get is spread around the Middle East where his daughters have

a reputation as extremely prolific broodmares. Sadly enough Adnan's beautiful full sister Nawal (who was named after Dr. Nagel's wife) was infertile and never produced a foal in her life. She was more beautiful than words could describe her and it was a shame she didn't breed on. Imagine a foal by her and her brother Salaa El Dine... After one year time-out from the foaling barn, Ghazala produced Ibn Nejdy (by Nejdy) in 1992. It turned out to be her last and most controversial foal! Some say that Ibn Nejdy personifies the classic Arabian horse - they see in him the incarnation of a Vernet horse. They love his exquisitel head, his proud attitude, the wonderful shape of neck, his bright spirit and presence. Others say that he has nothing to offer but "just a pretty face". And that even his face is not pretty at all because of all the pigmentation loss! However, the true measure of a great stallion is whether or not he can sire exceptional foals. Ibn Nejdy sired many good foals but there is one son who surpassed all expectations: Hafid Jamil (x Helala by Salaa El Dine), who turned out to be the most prepotent



Ghazal's last gift

sire Dr. Nagel has bred in the last twenty years. He almost is like a genetic mutant and consistently passes on his type and presence to his get which can be found in studfarms around the world. Hafid Jamil, who is owned in partnership with Dr. Nagel and Hassanain Al Nakeeb, is regarded by many as one of the most exotic straight Egyptian stallions alive today. In 1993 Ghazala met an untimely death. It was a rainy day in November, cold and icy. She

came out of her stall and ran to the pasture. Suddenly she stumbled, went head over, and broke her leg. It was a dark day in Dr. Nagel's life when he had to make the painful decision to put her to sleep. "Ghazal's gift" was gone forever and the Katharinenhof was never the same without her.

In 2002 Ghazala was honored as an "Elite Mare" by the German Arab Horse Society. "First published on "www.StraightEgyptians.com". □

Production Record:

- '77 Ramses Bint Zohair/Yasmeen (by Zohair), grey mare, exported to the USA
- '79 Ayda (by Madkour I), grey mare, exported to Holland
- '80 Afifa (by Jamil), grey mare, multi-champion, infertile
- '81 Alifa (by Jamil), grey mare, Reserve Asil Cup Champion Mare 1994
- '83 Aziz (by Jamil), bay gelding, exported to the USA
- '84 Anees (by Malik), grey stallion, no recorded get
- '85 Aisha (by Ansata Halim Shah), grey mare, exported to Qatar, multi-champion
- '87 Amarilla (by Jamil), grey mare, successful broodmare for Dr. Nagel
- '88 Farida (by Assad), grey mare, exported to Great Britain
- '89 Adnan (by Salaa El Dine), grey stallion, "gold medal" - German stallion show, exported to Kuwait
- '90 Nawal (by Salaa El Dine), grey mare infertile
- '92 Ibn Nejdy (by Nejdy), grey stallion, sire of the famous NK Hafid Jamil