

Nazeer's first-born foal and a tribute to the original El Dahma

by **Joe Ferriss**

photos Judith Forbis, Tzviah Idan, Pyramid Society, Susan McAdoo, Bentwood Farms, Polly Knoll, Johnny Johnston, Gigi Grasso, Rik Van Lent Jr., Judith Wagner, Stuart Vesty, Simeon Stud

The Dahmah Shahwanayah strain has long been celebrated in Egyptian breeding. Strains often receive their identifying names according to various stories handed down and likewise there are various legends associated with the original Dahmah mare. The name Dahmah in Arabic alludes to the "dark one". Legend has it that the original Dahmah mare was followed around by a black donkey when she was just a filly. Other legends refer to the original Dahmah earning her name because of especially dark eyes appearing as though wearing the traditional makeup of oriental women.

The oldest root mare of the Dahmah Shahwanayah strain in Egyptian Arabian breeding is El Dahma. El Dahma

was born about 1880. She was an early mare in the stud of the legendary Egyptian breeder Ali Pasha Sherif, being one of his desert-bred acquisitions. El Dahma was presented by Ali Pasha Sherif as a gift to Egypt's Khedive Tewfik. For the Khedive El Dahma produced the mares Nadra El Khebira and Obeya forming two important branches of this famous root mare. El Dahma's only son Saklawi II is most revered in the sire line of the legendary Nazeer.

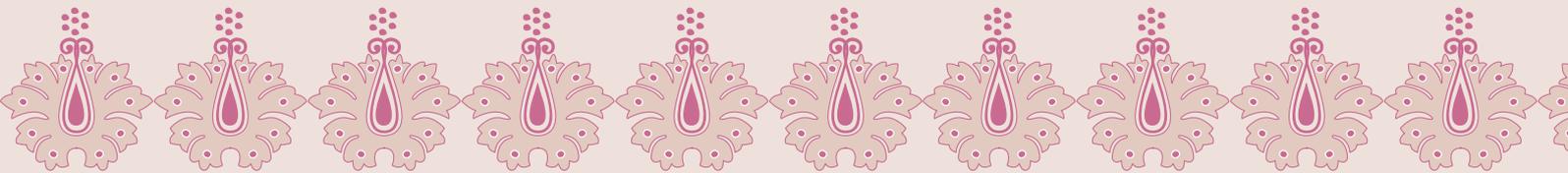
Nadra El Khebira is the grand dam of the celebrated Farida who established a renowned line of the Dahman strain. Farida was not only tail female to the original El Dahma, she was also sired by Saqlawi II, El Dahma's son, so at 37.5% El Dahma blood, she was indeed a choice incubator

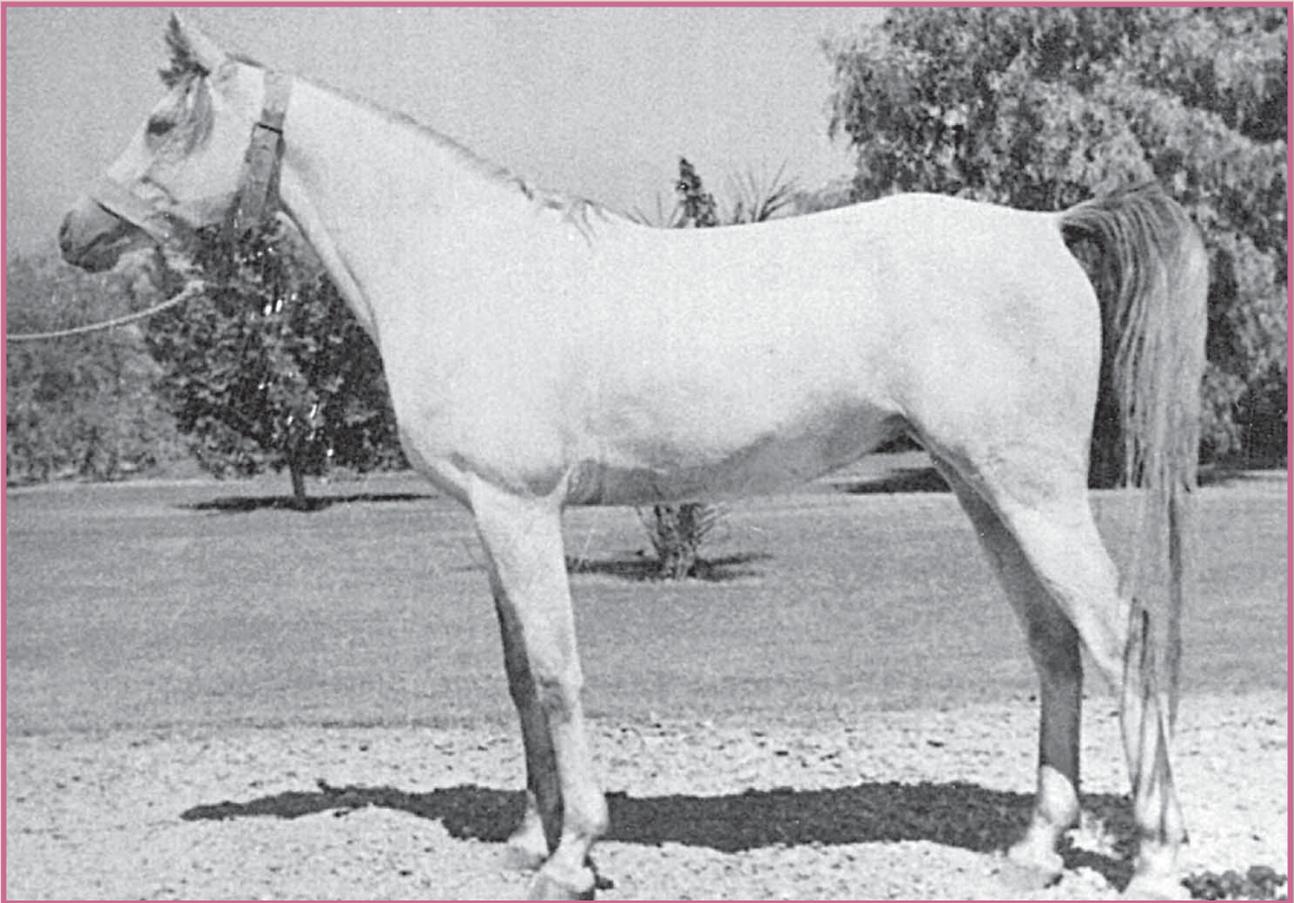


Maha II



Nazeer's first daughter, Dahma II romping in the paddocks of the E.A.O. Judith Forbis photo





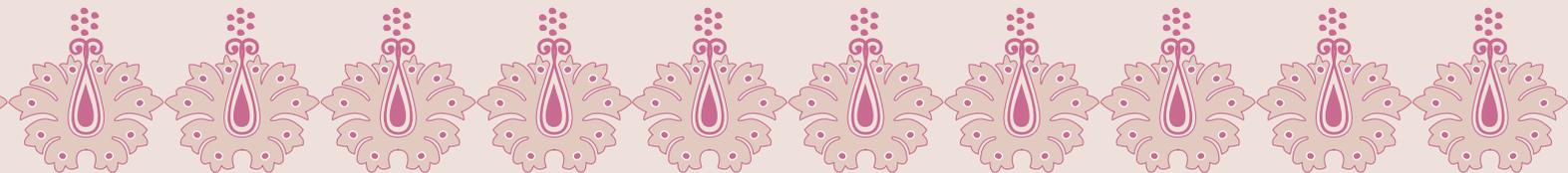
Dahma II as a young mare at the E.A.O. Picture from the Von Szandtner note book courtesy of Judith Forbis

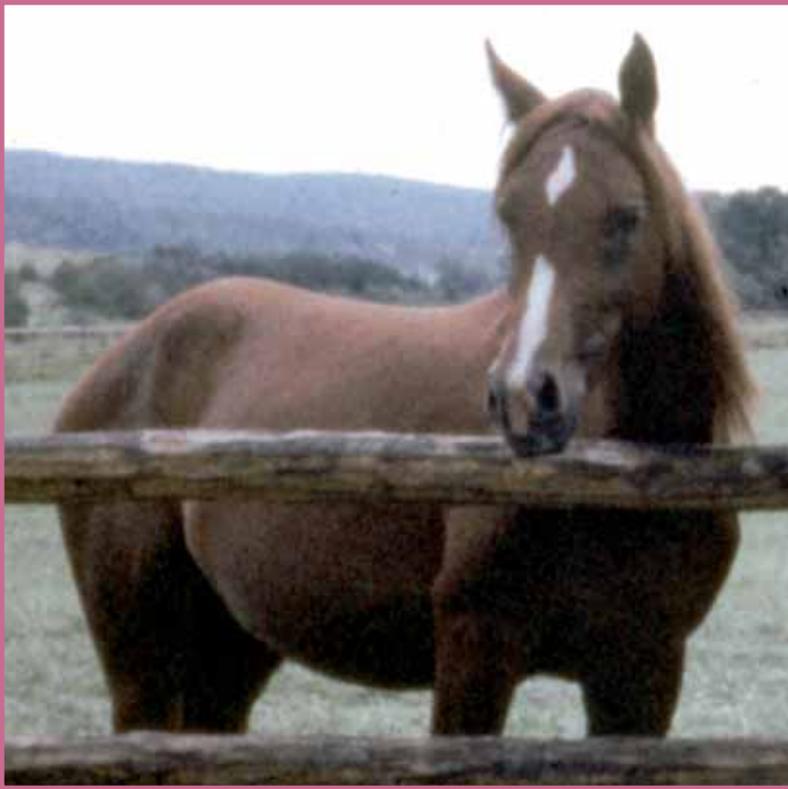
of this remarkable foundation mare. All three of Farida's daughters were sired by stallions with a line to El Dahma so undoubtedly El Dahma was an important mare early in the established breeding of Egypt.

Then the magnificent stallion Nazeer enters the scene in Egyptian breeding. Born in 1934, Nazeer would become the transformational sire in Egypt. He was sired by Mansour, a grandson of El Dahma's son Saklawi II. As a young stallion he was first put to the racetrack since his dam's line was proving successful. After a respectable racing career running 20 races with four wins, six second placings and one third placing, Nazeer was sent out to the provincial stallion depots for improving the local stock. There were already enough stallions at the R.A.S. government stud, so Nazeer would have to await future consideration. That

came at a time when Nazeer was already 15 years old. After World War II had ended and the Hungarian horse master General Tibor Von Szandtner had been hired by the R.A.S. to reorganize its Arabian breeding operations, he called back Nazeer from the stallion depots to see what he could do as a sire.

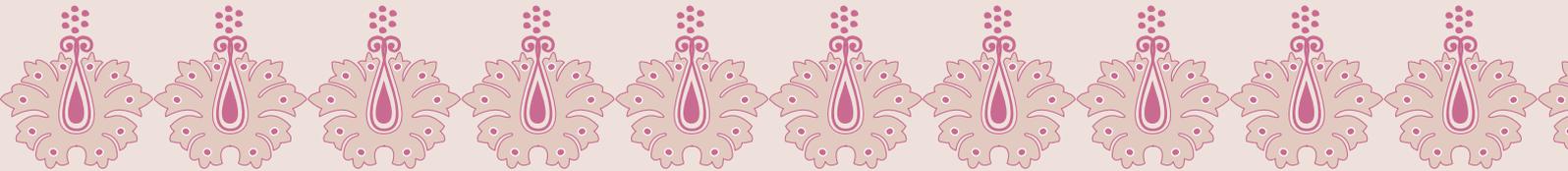
Nazeer's first-born foal was Dahma II, foaled October 1950 out of the Shahloul daughter Futna. Reviewing Futna's ancestry quickly reveals that she had 3 crosses to the original El Dahma. Breeding Futna to Nazeer added one additional cross to El Dahma resulting in four crosses to this legendary root mare. So it was only fitting that this resulting filly be named Dahma II in tribute to her celebrated ancestress.





Bint Dahma (El Sareei x Dahma II) named Kismat in Egypt. She was imported to the U.S. by Richard Pritzlaff. Pictured here as a young mare at Richard Pritzlaff's ranch. Photo courtesy Tzviah Idan

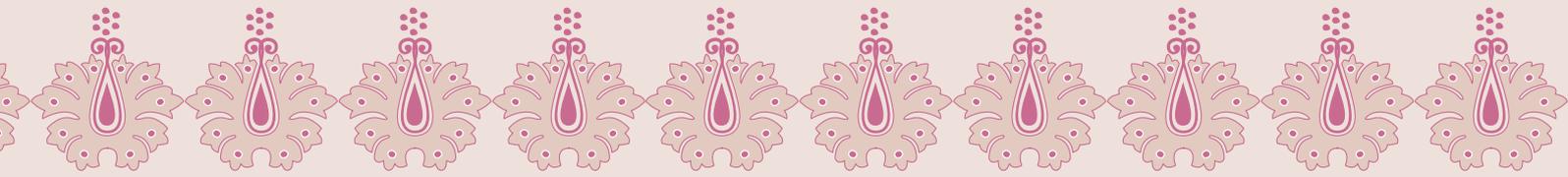
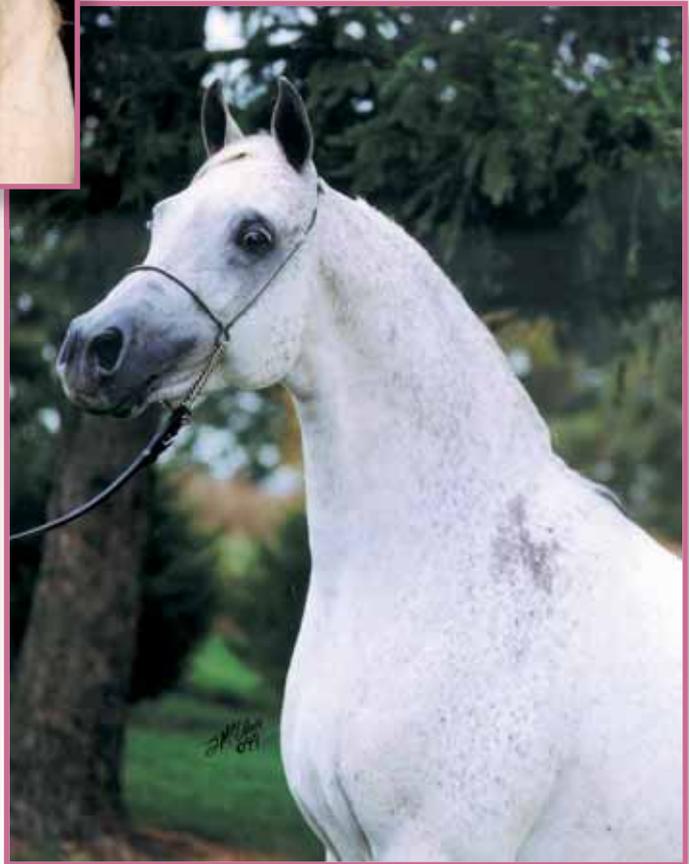
Dahmon RSI (Monietor RSI x Bint Dahma) a handsome bay son of Bint Dahma bred by Richard Pritzlaff. Photo courtesy of Tzviah Idan





Apple Hill El Nisr (Ansata El Nisr x Sarita RSI)
a classic stallion from Bint Dahma's female line.
Susan McAdoo photo courtesy of Judith Forbis

Sar Ibn Moniet (Ibn Moniet El Nefous x Sariella) a popular sire
of Bint Dahma's female line. Pyramid Society archive photo



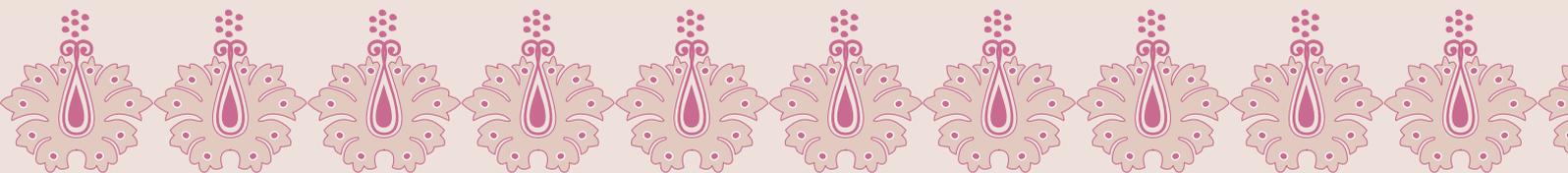


Bint El Dahma II (Sid Abouhom x Dahma II) photographed as a yearling in Egypt by Judith Forbis. Her daughter AK Hamida (x Nasrulla) was imported to the U.S. by Bentwood Farms

As the first-born Nazeer foal it was only natural that she would be under scrutiny and that there would be expectations of her. Dahma II grew into a truly lovely grey mare of fine overall quality. Judith Forbis who saw this mare frequently while living in Egypt described Dahma II as a very well balanced mare of extremely good type, a fine representative of the Nazeer daughters and of the Farida line. The numerous photos of Dahma II by Judith Forbis bear this out. It can be seen from some of the photos the quality of conformation, legs, balance and overall type, making Dahma II a worthy representative of the family name.

Dahma II, was the first of the Nazeer out of a Shahloul daughter crosses, a combination which would later produce such legends as Moniet El Nefous, Ansata Bint Bukra, Ghazal, and Alaa El Din to name a few. So both as an individual and by breeding, Dahma II was a winning combination but what would her legacy be? Being the first Nazeer foal and one of his best, where does one go from there?

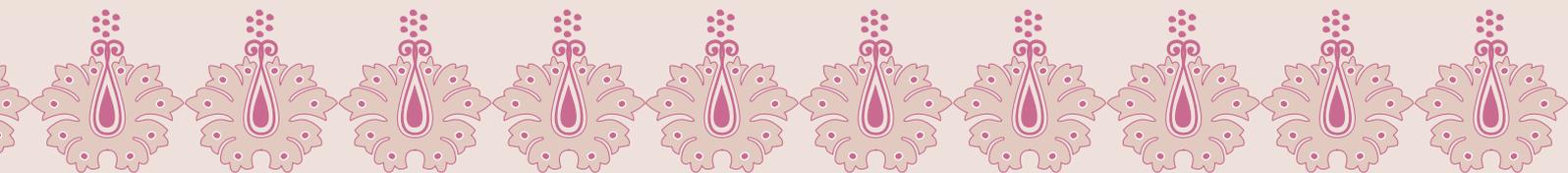
At the time there were only a few sire choices for Dahma II. She produced seven foals by various stallions. Her first was Bint Dahma, known in Egypt as Kismat. Bint Dahma





Deenaa (Sameh x Dahma II), brilliant moving daughter of Dahma II imported to the U.S. by H. J. Huebner. An excellent broodmare, she founded the biggest family from Dahma II. Polly Knoll photo

Narimaan (Morafic x Deenaa) Deenaa's beautiful Morafic daughter. Johnny Johnston photo



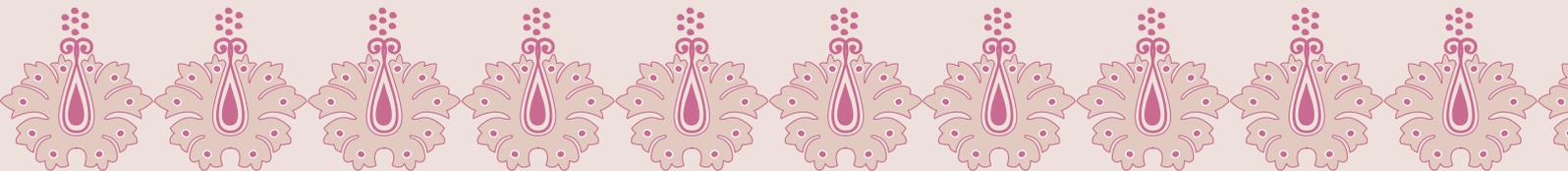


Ahir, the full brother to Narimaan, he was an important sire in South Africa. He was South African Reserve National Champion stallion. Pyramid Society archive photo

was sired by the handsome bay stallion El Sareei (Shahloul x Zareefa). She was a small but lovely chestnut who was among the famous Egyptian imports to the U.S. in 1958 by Richard Pritzlaff. I saw Bint Dahma as an aged mare and quickly realized that she was not photogenic for in person she was much lovelier and I took some movies of her. What struck me was, perhaps from the doubling of Shahloul, that her head shape was reminiscent of Moniet El Nefous but not as extreme, being a bit shorter, and with large lively eyes. Nonetheless, the shape of her face curved gracefully much like Moniet El Nefous. All of Bint Dahma's 11 foals were bred by Richard Pritzlaff, and all but one have bred on. Two of my favorite Bint Dahma produce were the full sister and brother Dahmoniet RSI and Dahmon RSI

both by Monietor-RSI. Two popular stallions from Bint Dahma's female line are SAR Ibn Moniet (Ibn Moniet El Nefous x Sariella) and Apple Hill El Nisr (Ansata El Nisr x Sarita RSI).

The next foal from Dahma II was Bint El Dahma II, an elegant chestnut mare sired by Sid Abouhom. She must have had something attractive to the racing community because most of her foals became a part of the racing scene except for her daughter Hamida (x Nasralla) who became a mare in Al Badeia Stud. Later Hamida was exported to the U.S. (along with two sons and daughter) where she was named AK Hamida and became a broodmare at Bentwood farm.





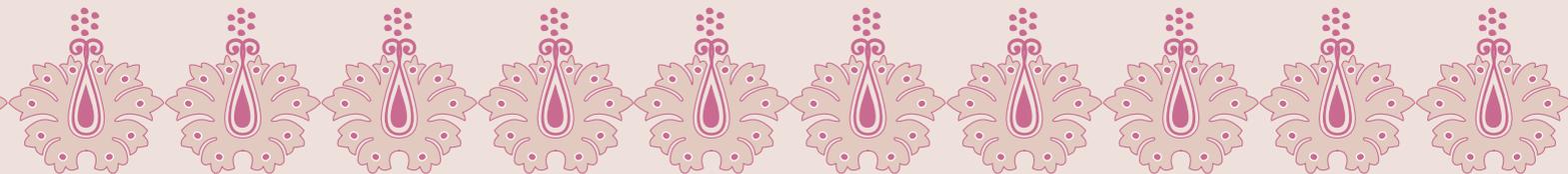
Thaqib El Nasser (Ansata Halim Shah x Imperial Madanah) a stallion from Imperial Fanniya's line, he was Qatari National Champion stallion. Pyramid Society archive photo

The next three foals from Dahma II were stallions that did not become a part of E.A.O. breeding but perhaps found a role in the racing scene. Dahma II produced a daughter by Ibn Hafiza at the E.A. O. named Rania, who left only one daughter Ramses Bint Rania (x Ibn Abla), imported to the U.S. by Martin Loeber. She produced a small but admired family that has descendants in the U.S. and South America.

However, born at the E.A.O. was a lovely bay filly who would guarantee the legacy of Dahma II worldwide. This bay filly was sired by Sameh and her name was Deenaa. Imported as a yearling to the U.S. by H. J. Huebner, Deenaa would move to the famed Gleannloch Farm a year later

where she began her career as a broodmare. Deenaa was actually a 7/8 sister to U.S. National Champion Serenity Sonbolah. Deenaa was lovely enough to be shown but her career was directed towards becoming a broodmare and she proved without question to be the premier representative of Dahma II.

Deenaa's first foal was the stallion Hanan who went on to have a successful show career but got no Egyptian foals. Deenaa's second foal was the lovely Morafic daughter Narimaan. I used to take riding lessons on Narimaan's first foal, the chestnut gelding AK Al Ahram (x Ibn Moniet El Nefous) who was a lot of fun to ride with his energetic movement and he was a great teacher for a novice like me.



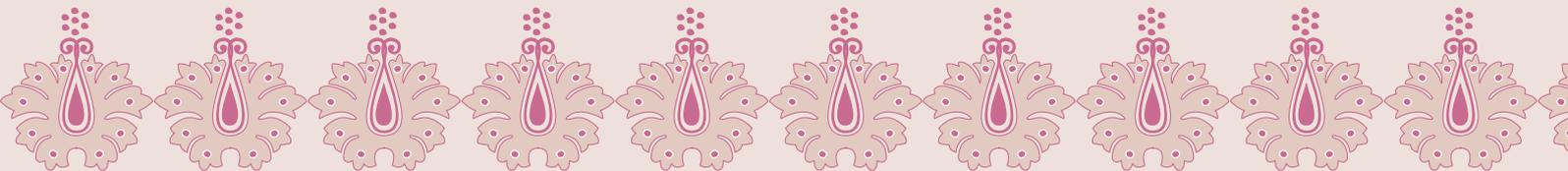


A Little Passion (Ansata Nile Pasha x Bint El Sanaa) a lovely European Champion who became a broodmare at Al Rayyan in Qatar.
Gigi Grasso photo

Narimaan produced only two other foals, AK Fanniya by Ansata Ibn Halima and AK Bint Narimaan by Ansata Abbas Pasha and both of these were primarily mare producers. AK Fanniya became a world traveler first producing in the U.S., then England and then in Jordan. But before she became a broodmare she was a show mare supreme winning the World Championship in 1989 and Jordanian Reserve National Champion mare in 1996. AK Bint Narimaan produced three fine daughters AK Nariman (exported to Egypt), Bint Bint Deenaa (exported to Canada) and AK Ansara (exported to Argentina). AK Bint Narimaan then became a broodmare in Argentina for Count Zichy Thyssen. Narimaan is also the dam line of the legendary stallion Farres.

Deenaa next produced Narimaan's full brother Ahir; a handsome stallion who was exported to South Africa where he became an important sire of many foals and is found in many straight Egyptian pedigrees there. He was twice South African Reserve National Champion and won other significant championships both in hand and under saddle.

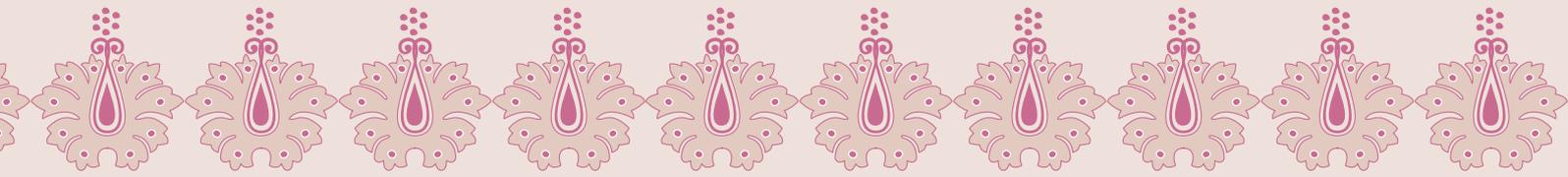
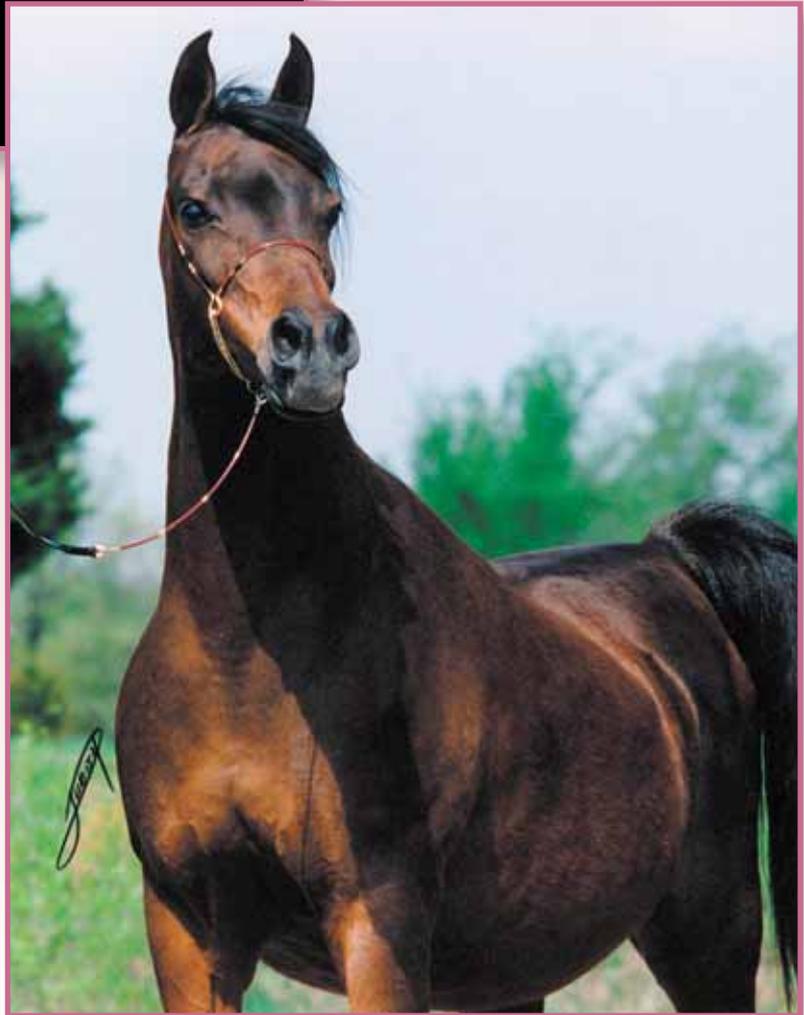
Deenaa did not go unnoticed by Imperial Egyptian Stud who acquired her in 1975 in foal to Farazdac's full brother Faleh (Alaa El Din x Farasha). The resulting foal was Imperial Faniyya. True to the legacy of Dahma II, Imperial Faniyya proved her value as an outstanding producer with six daughters to her credit. Imperial Faniyya's daughter Imperial Naffata produced the handsome stallions Al





Sabiell (Nabiel x AK El Sanaa) U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion, World Reserve Junior Champion, and Qatar Champion Stallion.
Rik Van Lent Jr. photo

Bint Deenaa (Ansata Ibn Halima) a beautiful mare and an extraordinary producer who guaranteed the legacy of Dahma II in Arabian breeding.
Judith Wagner photo



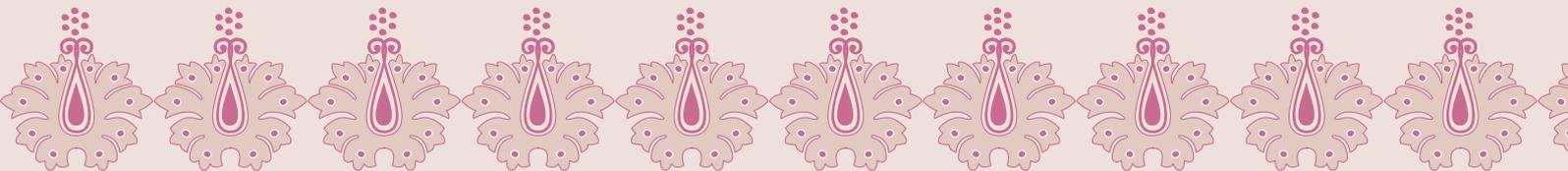


Imtaarif (Imperial Imdal x Taarifa) Bint Deena's grandson who was U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion and sire of champions.
Stuart Vesty photo

Rayyan exported to Qatar and later Saudi Arabia, and Nafis (x Imperial Imdal) born in Israel, then went to Jordan and Qatar. Al Rayyan's sister Imperial Madanah (x Imperial Madheen) produced Thaqib Al Nasser (x Ansata Halim Shah), Qatari National Champion. Imperial Faniyya's daughter Imperial Janaabah (x Imperial Im Jasim) produced the magnificent black stallion Imperial Mashhar (x Imperial Madheen) who was World Champion Colt, Middle East Junior Champion Colt and Jeddah Arabian Cup Reserve Champion Stallion, and a chief sire in the Royal Stud of King Hassan II of Morocco.

Deenaa's next foal bred by Imperial was AK El Sanaa by the brilliant moving Morafic son Mosry. She was sold as

a filly to Bentwood Farm where she became an excellent producer. Her daughters Bint El Sanaa and Amiri Sanaa by The Egyptian Prince were valued mares. Amiri Sanaa produced Maestro (x The Minstril) another important stallion in South Africa who was bred to some of the daughters of Ahir; thus doubling the lines to Deenaa. Bint El Sanaa was exported to England where she produced the Champions A Little Passion (x Ansata Nile Pasha) and A Little Tenderness (x Crusader). A Little Passion later became a broodmare for Al Rayyan in Qatar. AK El Sanaa also produced the magnificent Sabiell (x Nabel) U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion, World Reserve Junior Champion, and Qatar Champion Stallion. AK El Sanaa also produced the champion stallions Imexteme





Ibn El Mareekh (El Mareekh x Bint Deenaa) He was Bint Deenaa's first foal and beautiful proof of her incredible influence. He was a sire of champions. Judith Wagner photo

and Imtut both sired by Imtaarif who is tail female to Deenaa.

Deenaa's finale was Bint Deenaa, the exquisite mahogany bay daughter of Ansata Ibn Halima. Bint Deenaa was a producer extraordinaire. I first saw her in 1982 and will never forget those deep dark soulful eyes and incredible charisma. Her daughter Taarifa produced U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Imtaarif and sire of champions. Bint Deenaa's daughter D NA (x Ruminaja Ali) is now in Saudi Arabia with Alfala Stud. Bint Deenaa's youngest daughter Anaza BB Deenaa (x Ibn El Mareekh) is now in Germany at Ponath Arabians. But it is Bint Deenaa's famous sons that have helped make her a legend. Her first son Ibn El Mareekh became a popular sire of champions

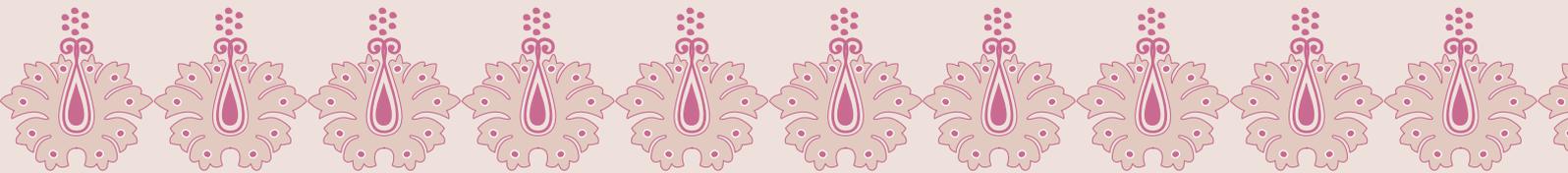
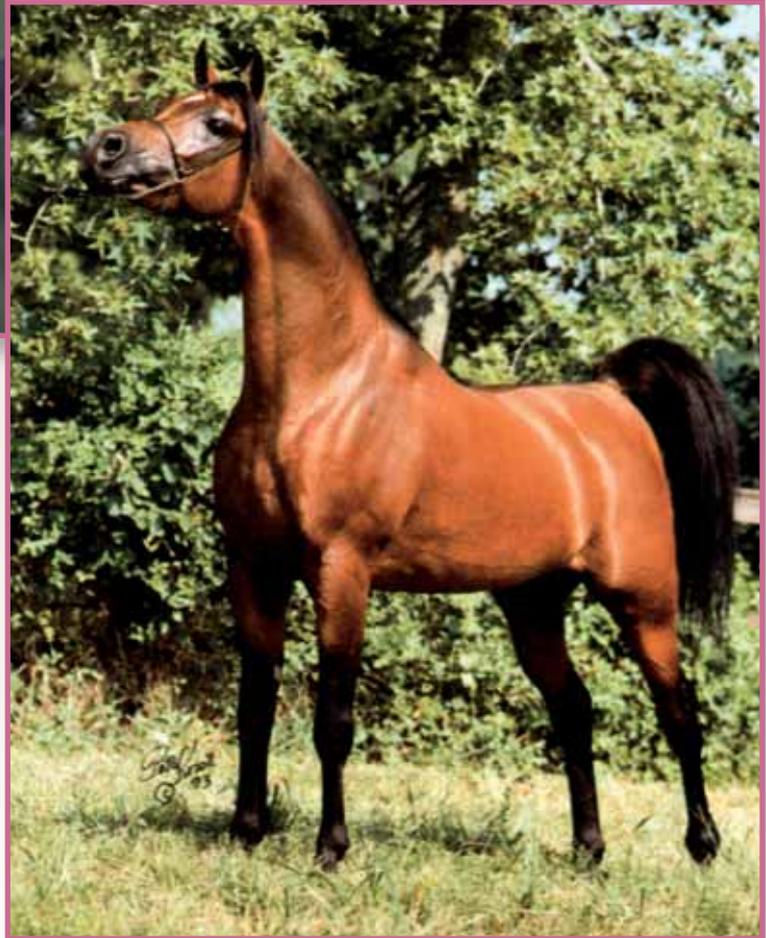
and his get can be found in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, Australia and South America. Her handsome bay son Anaza Bay Shahh (x Shaikh Al Badi) became an important sire for Simeon Stud in Australia and has get in the U.S., Europe, Australia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. Bint Deenaa also produced a famous team of full brothers all sired by the supreme sire Ruminaja Ali. First of these was Amir Alih, Class A Champion and sire of winners. Anaza El Nizr was a popular sire on several continents, first in Australia and later in Europe. Anaza Nahzir was exported to Saudi Arabia. Anaza El Kadeen remained in the U.S. and proved a sire of Egyptian Event winners. Undoubtedly the most famous of this cadre of brothers is the legendary Anaza El Farid. U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion, Anaza El Farid quickly





Anaza El Farid (Ruminaja Ali x Bint Deenaa) the reigning king of Bint Deenaa's family, a world famous sire and now a major sire line in Arabian breeding. Polly Knoll photo

Anaza Bay Shahh (Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Deenaa) another beautiful example of Bint Deenaa's influence, he became an important sire for Simeon Stud. Photo courtesy of Simeon Stud

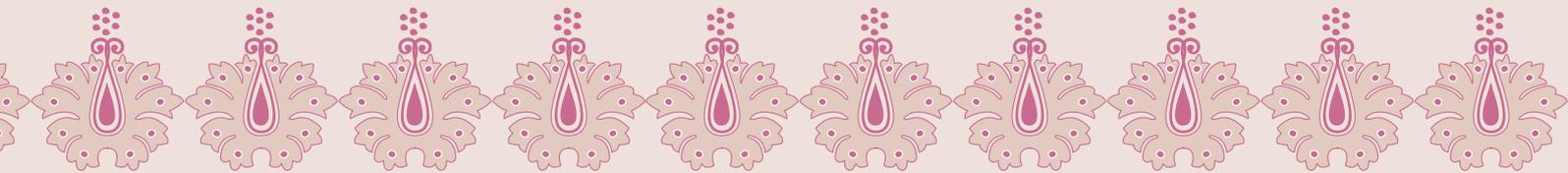




Anaza El Farid. Rik Van Lent Jr. photo



Gazal Al Shaqab. Stuart Vesty photo





Pianissima. Stuart Vesty photo

became a popular sire with international demand for his get. He was the most heavily used of Bint Deenaa's sons with famous get on several continents. Among his most famous is Gazal Al Shaqab, who by the incredible example of his daughter Pianissima and his son Marwan Al Shaqab, have spread the legacy of Dahma II around the world.

Who could have guessed that the original grey Dahmah Shahwaniyah mare, who was a gift to the Khedive from Ali Pasha Sherif would have such an impact on Arabian breeding. One of the world's leading sires today, Marwan Al Shaqab has 69 crosses to this original El Dahma, so it is only fitting that Nazeer's first daughter, who is of El Dahma's family should be named in her honor. Dahma II we celebrate you. □

Marwan Al Shaqab. Stuart Vesty photo

