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photos by Richard T. Bryant

The glorious fields of bluegrass, bordered by rail and stone fences, are a familiar sight to anyone who travels to the Egyptian Event in Lexington, Kentucky. Although beautiful to behold, and famous




around the globe as an ideal horse breeding environment, this is a landscape that far removed from the ancestral terrain of the Arabian horse. Yet each year in June, visitors and horses from around the world trek to Lexington for a week to celebrate the horse of the East.

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The Kingdom comes to Kentucky



At the 27th Annual Egyptian Event, the homelands of the Arabian horse were a recurrent theme. The opening ceremonies of the championships, beautifully written by Majid Alsayegh and produced with the assistance of Kent Mayfield, were a moving tribute to the five noble and free companions of the desert – the Bedouin, the camel, the falcon, the Saluki, and the Arabian horse – complete with a parade of representatives resplendent in their native garb. Then, as the winners of the week trotted back into the arena for the championship honors, the attendees learned they were not the only ones watching with anticipation, as the finals were being filmed live by Saudi Arabian Channel One. As the championships were announced, it was obvious that the horses of the desert had conquered the bluegrass, as five of the six champion titles were victories for the Al Khalidiah horses from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

While the mission of The Pyramid Society is clear: the preservation, perpetuation, and promotion of the Straight Egyptian horse as the premiere source of classic Arabian type in the world, the show also allows Egyptian-sired horses to compete in the “World Class” division as well as in the Egyptian-sired futurity divisions. This means, when championship time comes at the end of the week, not all of the winners are necessarily straight Egyptian. For 2007, both the Supreme Champion Mare and Stallion were examples of Egyptian blood being used on

other Arabian bloodlines – in this case, the Russian cross with Egyptian blood was validated in a big way.

The Supreme Champion stallion, bred by HRH Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz of Al Khalidiah Farm, was Warad Al Khalidiah, a handsome, balanced bay stallion sired by Thee Ricochet out of a Padron’s Psyche daughter of primarily Russian/Spanish/Crabbet breeding. Aptly shown by the master handler, Micheal Byatt, this 2005 bay stallion was named Junior Champion and also defeated his older stablemate for the title of Supreme Champion. F Shamaal, the compact chestnut selected as the Senior Champion Stallion, was the second Egyptian Event Senior Champion sired by the German Maysoun, a son of Ansata Halim Shah, as Shahil had been victorious just two years ago. Now owned by Al Khalidiah, he was bred by the Friedmann family of Germany, owners of last year’s Supreme Champion Stallion, Al Lahab. Notable as the Reserve Senior Champion Stallion was Mishaal HP, a son of Ansata Sinan, shown by Frank Sponle for Rock Creek Arabians. A stallion with a beautiful head and neck, Mishaal was also represented by several sons and daughters at the show and was the winner of the World Class Stallions, 10 and over class. The double Nabel grandson, Arabest Samir, sired by Akid Geshan and bred by the Trapp’s also garnered several fans at the show, placing reserve to F Shamaal in the World Class Stallions 6-9 year olds.

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ESA Laila Nile, by Ansata Nile Nadir out of Imperial Baazirah was named Junior Champion Filly of the show. She is owned by Polly Schaefer and was shown by Steve Dady



The beautiful Ashhal Al Rayyan daughter Athenaa, shown by Michael Byatt, was named Senior Champion Mare and Supreme Champion Mare for her owner, HRH Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz of Al Khalidiah Farm.



Pyramid Foundation President Christie Metz of Silver Maple Farm greets Marion Richmond of Simeon Stud

Becky Rogers of Kehilan Bloodstock, with Mary Lang



*Athenaa, the graceful and feminine mare who was named Supreme Champion, is no stranger to the show scene, having won many international titles in the past. A daughter of Ashhal Al Rayyan bred by Delyth Gamlin of the United Kingdom, she also represents an Egyptian / Russian combination. Athenaa is owned by HRH Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz of Al Khalidiah Farm and is making many new fans in the United States after being exhibited both at the Egyptian Event and at the World Breeders' Cup in Las Vegas. The title of Reserve Supreme Champion Mare and Reserve Senior Champion Mare went to another grey mare, MC Alexis, for the second time, having garnered those titles last year as well. She is a straight Egyptian daughter of The Elixir who dam is a Sar Ibn Moniet daughter out of an *Ansata Ibn Halima daughter. Interestingly, Sar Ibn Moniet is also the double grandsire of F Shamaal's dam.*

Another mare who was loudly cheered in the championships, and rightly so, was the lovely Dorian Bint Hadidi, owned by Ahmad and Jennie Amer of Yorklyn

Arabians, who have farms both in the United States and Egypt. Shown by Steve Dady, this classic mare, who was Reserve to MC Alexis in the World Class Mares 10 and older class, is sired by World Champion Hadidi out of a daughter of Prince Fa Moniet.

The Junior Champions are eagerly anticipated, as these are the classes which yield tomorrow's stars. One star that began to shine at last year's Event is the lovely filly ESA Laila Nile. Maturing nicely, she returned better and brighter than ever and was shown by Steve Dady to the Junior Championship of the show. Sired by Ansata Nile Nadir, a promising young son of Ansata Sinan who was tragically lost last year, ESA Laila Nile is out Imperial Baazirah, a daughter of Imperial Baarez. She is owned by Polly Schaefer of Eastern Star Arabians. Reserve Junior Champion Filly was LF Triumphant Star, a Thee Desperado daughter out of a Tammen daughter who is bred and owned by Gary Fernandes. Reserve to Warad Al Khalidiah in the Junior Colt Championships was Revelations ASA, a grey sired by Thee Asil out of a Pimlico RCA daughter.

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Mieke Opstein and Ward Bemong
of Al Khaled Farm in Egypt



The Ansata Sinan son, Al Bahir, won the Futurity Finals for
Straight Egyptian Yearling Colts born 4/16-12/31.
He is owned by the Mary E. Anderson
trust and was shown by Joe Polo.



Dorian Bint Hadidi, sired by
World Champion Hadidi out
of a Prince Fa Moniet
daughter, was Reserve
to MC Alexsis in the World
Class Mares 10 and older
competition. She is owned
by Ahmad Amer.



Mishaal HP, by Ansata Sinan, was the winner of the World Class Stallions, 10 and over, and was also named the Reserve Senior Champion Stallion of the show.



As always, a special award is given to the breeders of the highest scoring straight Egyptian mare and stallion of the show. This year the winners were Michael and Donna Zimmerman, breeders of MC Alexsis, and Inge and Hans Juergen Friedmann, breeders of F Shamaal.

The Stallion Showcase is a favorite of Event-goers who enjoy entering the arena and seeing their favorite stallions up close. While most attendees agree the ideal venue for this showcase is one of the many beautiful outdoor arenas at the Kentucky Horse Park, the scattered thunderstorms that seem to be inevitable in June mean having the stallions in the indoor arena is sometimes a drier choice. After the announcement that Imperial Egyptian Stud would soon close its doors after several influential decades, it was a bittersweet moment to see the three beautiful Imperial Stallions, Imperial Baarez, Imperial Al Kamar and Imperial Shehaab together at the showcase. There was also a moving video tribute to Imperial owner Barbara



F Shamaal, bred by the Friedmann's and owned by Al Khalidiah, was named Senior Champion Stallion and Reserve Supreme Champion Stallion.

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Mutlaq bin Misref al Qahtani, Manager of Al Khalidiah Farm, gives F Shamaal a victory kiss after winning the World Class Stallions 6-9 Years Old.



Warad Al Khalidiah, a son of Thee Ricochet out of Psyches Kyss was named the Junior Champion Stallion and Supreme Champion Stallion. He is owned by HRH Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz of Al Khalidiah Farm and was presented by Michael Byatt



Judith Forbis of Ansata Arabian Stud with her infamous chihuahuas, Rudi and Liz



Taylor Bryan of DeShazer Arabians with a new friend



LF Triumphant Star was the Reserve Junior Champion Filly. She was presented by Bryan Jeffries for owner Gary Fernandes.

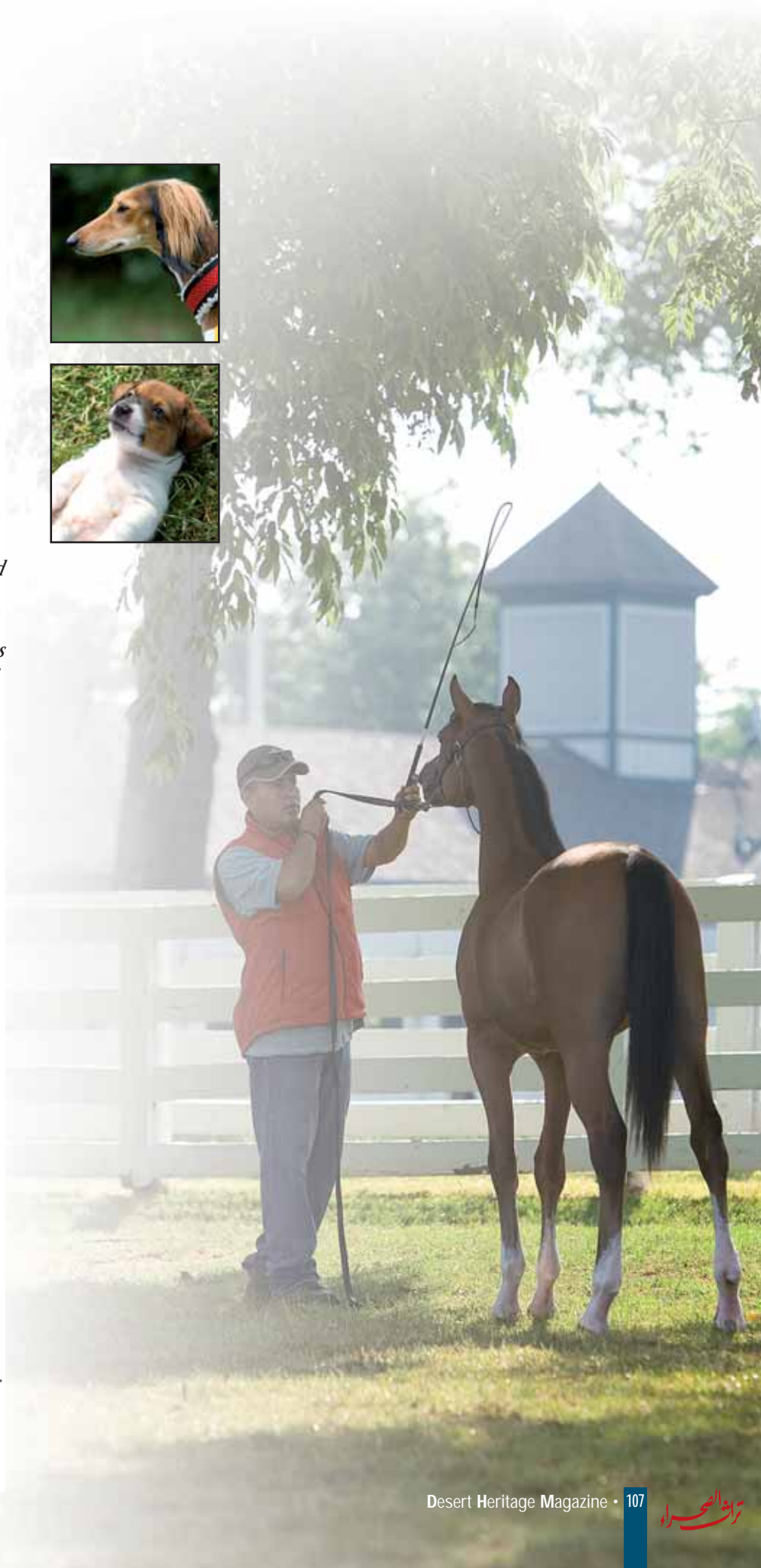
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Griffith who was honored with a Trustees award at the annual dinner dance and art auction.



Futurity classes at the Egyptian Event are generally large and this year was no exception. The yearling classes are divided according to age group, which is helpful both to onlookers and judges. A charming Imperial-bred filly, Imperial Kismetah, owned by Barry Dearle, was the winner in the Yearling Futurity for fillies born January through April. In the later age group, for those fillies born after April, the winner was the lovely Saamara KA, a Marquis I daughter bred by Kehilan Arabians. In the Yearling Colt Futurities, the typy Ansata Sinan son, Al Bahir won the older age division, and a showy chestnut True Colours colt, MVA Imperial Colours, won the younger division.

The Arabian show world has become more international each year, and it is interesting to see so many European-based handlers showing at the Egyptian Event. Paolo Capecci, Mary Lang, and Frank Sponle, to name just three familiar faces, were all showing horses this year. While many of the horses they are presenting have been educated in a more "American" way, these handlers still do a great job, especially in motion, and give attendees a look at a slightly different style of handling.





MC Alexis (The Elixir x AK Athena) was named Reserve Senior Champion Mare and Reserve Supreme Champion Mare for the second year in a row. She is owned by Elite Arabian Horse Intl. LLC and was shown by Frank Sponle.

When it came to siring winners, Botswana once again had a fantastic Egyptian Event, as sixteen classes were won by his sons and daughters, in both halter and performance divisions. Both winners of the Most Classic Head Class, Female and Male, were won by the Botswana get, TF Star of Afrika and TF Afrikhan Shah, owned by Talaria Farms. He was also victorious in Get of Sire and the Amateur halter classes were nearly a clean sweep for his offspring.

As always, there are lots of wonderful educational seminars and demonstrations at the Egyptian Event and the topics this year were an excellent combination of the art and science of breeding horses. The incredible working cow horse, Amiin, proved that a straight Egyptian can handle cattle with beauty and style, and this stallion also earned a Reserve place in the World Class Stallions, 10 and older. The Liberty classes remain popular and entries have to earn their way to the finals in the preliminary divisions. This year, the beautiful Ansata Qasim, owned and bred by Ansata and standing

at Lisa and Steve Zukowski's Highview Egyptian Stud was the winner, as well as being a popular stallion in the Stallion Showcase.

Endurance races were again a part of the Egyptian Event and this year a "Fun Ride" was included as well. For canine aficionados, Salukis also fill the Kentucky Horse Park this week, competing for their own national championship. Several participated in the opening ceremonies for the Egyptian Event championship and in a reciprocal endeavor, Warner Waite with the spectacular black costume horse, Thee Outlaw, was present when the national championship titles were handed out to these elegant hounds of the desert.

At the end of the week, everyone was reminded that the saga of the Egyptian Arabian horse has been a cycle of enchantment across the globe. From their desert homelands in the Arabian peninsula, they went to Egypt, where they were later discovered by astute American and European breeders and exported to the West. Then, as



Revelations ASA (Thee Asil x Pimlicos Ghailan) was named Reserve Junior Champion Colt. He is owned by First Capital Management Corp. and was presented by Luis Paniagua

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they became a vital source for a renaissance of breeding in their countries of origin, they flew eastward once again. Now, in our modern international world of competition, their descendants return once again to the West, this time flying by air. Yet throughout the centuries one thing remains the same – the Egyptian Arabian is a classic. □



Please visit the website
of The Pyramid Society
for complete results of the 2007 Egyptian Event:
www.pyramidsociety.org

