

## BOOK REVIEW

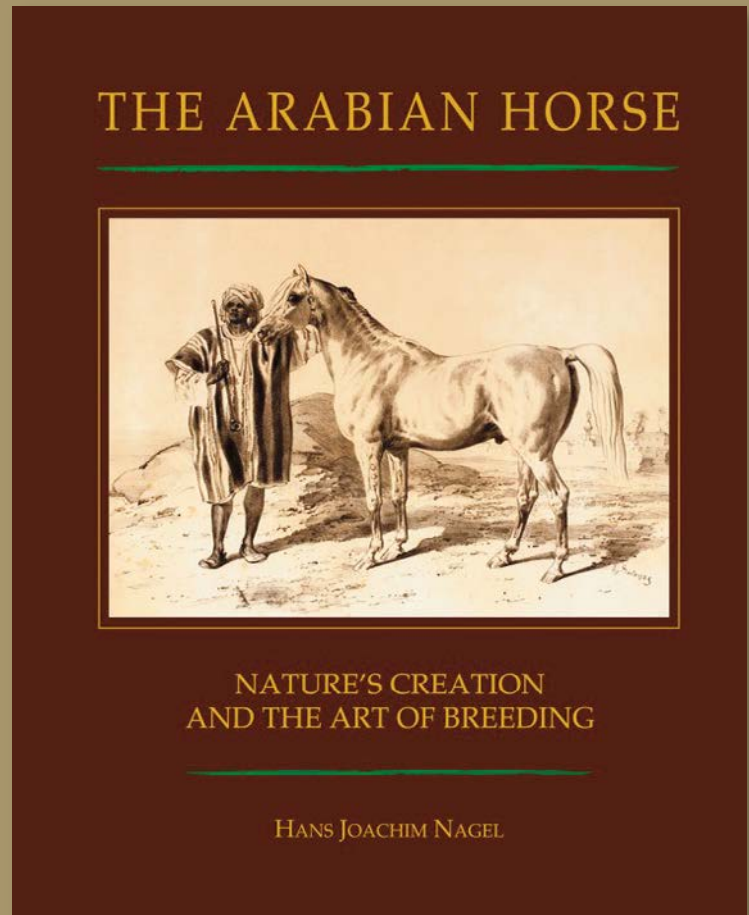
The New Book of Dr. Nagel:

# *The Arabian Horse. Nature's Creation and the Art of Breeding*

There was an idea first, from which this book grew and took form: to present our global cultural heritage of Arabian Horse breeding, analyzing the breeding approach of the horses of the Bedouins of *Arabia Deserta* in the past, to modern breeding concepts in Europe and the USA, to today's Katharinenhof Sud, a "long-term experiment in Arabian horse breeding" and a role model for many other breeders in the world. Guided by this concept, it took Nagel two years of diligent work to develop his complex volume *The Arabian Horse, Nature's Creation and the Art of Breeding*, a compendium for breeders. In the first part, he analyses in detail the approaches of the most successful Arabian breeding institutions of the world, such as the state studs of Egypt, Poland, Russia, Germany, and France, Crabbet Park Stud in England, Ansata Stud and Al-Marah in the US. Nagel tells of the concepts and breeding philosophies that can still be considered the foundation stones of successful breeding today.

In the second part of the book, he scrutinizes the approach, the journey and the goal of Katharinenhof Arabian stud. Here, interested readers find a good practice model for "hobby breeding" that takes its clues from the origins of Arabian horse breeding in the Nejd desert and that tries to maintain and even gently improve them, without altering the type or the Arabian noblesse of the horses.

Rather humbly, Hans Nagel calls his life's work a "long-term experiment in Arabian horse breeding". It would be more correct to talk of a homage to the breeding achievements of the Bedouins in the south



Large size volume: 540 pages in full color, containing 430 illustrations. Hardcover heat-printed in gold and colour printing.

**Published in English, Italian and German language.**

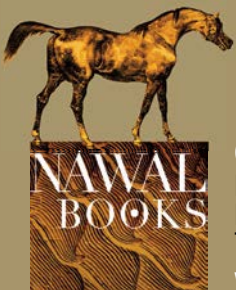
of Saudi Arabia, for after all, Nagel's approach is based on the sophisticated things they did in breeding without having the modern words for it. Breeding as Nagel does it is a total work of art, the synthesis of various sciences on a high level – genetics and reproduction in animal husbandry, biology, historic research, psychology of behavior.

Nagel, an excellent horseman, but also an entertainer with that dry humor those sensible people from Northern Germany have, and particularly, a skilled teacher, hard on himself, who lets others look behind the scenes of his success story without any reservations, critically analyzing the steps he took in his learning process and then sharing that with everybody. How did it all begin? "It would be a great pity," Hans Nagel explains, "if a person did not experience a



fantastically exciting event at least once in his life – one that gripped him entirely.”

The unexpected took place in 1967 while visiting the Egyptian state stud of El Zahraa. To quote his own words: "A spark had nested, a vague idea grew from out of nothing into the vision of a horse of my own, my own breeding operation. Spanning the last ten generations of breeding, Nagel created a closed breeding stock at the Katharinenhof stud with their positive characteristics well consolidated, in phenotype as well as in genotype.



Cultural Association  
Research, Preservation, Promotion and  
Publications of the **Arabian Horse Culture**  
Throughout the World  
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**HANS NAGEL**, on the photo with his wife Nawal, born in Germany in 1930, holds a PhD in social economy. He has been travelling and working in the Arabian world as a businessman and horse breeder for 50 years now. He was president of the German Arabian Breeding Association (VZAP) for 20 years, is an A-judge, President of WAHO (World Arabian Horse Organisation) and the founder of Katharinenhof Stud, the famous breeding stable of finest Arabian horses.

Once again, a masterfully written book by Dr. Hans Nagel regarding the history of the Arabian horse. This time, the author is sharing with honesty and integrity his lifetime journey and experience through the Arabian breed. What an admirable and valuable gift to the Arabian horse lovers worldwide! Hans Nagel books have always been a source of inspiration for breeders and horse owners.

I remember the day when a single copy of 'Hanan' found its way to Iran. Passing from one hand to another, people were able to learn more about the philosophy of Katarinahof. Their curiosity was understandable as they wished to know more about the birth place of Mubarak, a Salaa el Dine son who was changing the face of the breed in our country.

"The Arabian horse" is an excellent book for the horse owner, both the novice horse breeder for which this is a must and the experienced one, as a

remarkable educational reference book about horse families and different breeding approaches. Illustrations and photos are beautifully chosen with text rich in history of the Arabian horse, foundation bloodlines, proper conformation, selection of behavior and much much more.

This was a long awaited book from one of the most esteemed breeders of the Arabian breed whose vision has always been considered as "avant garde".

**SHARZAD AMIR ASLANI**  
Tehran, Iran



It's Nagel's way to look beyond what's obvious. He continues to prove himself a man who will not only link theory and the practical world, but also analyze his discoveries and experiences in publications, books and articles, extremely competent as to scientific content, journalistically well made, and easily understood for experts and the broad audience alike.

Through his Arabian horses, spread all over our world of different cultures, he has achieved an impossible dream: he has found a universal global language that speaks to all of us involved with the Arabian breed, these horses, the perfection of horse beauty and horse grace, dedicated to people in addition.

This comprehensive book of 540 pages, containing more than 430 color illustrations, can become every horse fan's key to successful breeding of Arabian horses in the world.

It goes beyond that, however. It's a guide on how to perceive history anew, a manual on the original cultural environment of Arabian horses who today are citizens of the world who have created comprehensive connections between Western and Eastern cultures. In essence, this book is about and for people's joy in experimenting – with horse breeding just as with whatever is worth the effort to them.

*Monika Savier*



**24th August 2013**

# **OPEN HOUSE AT KATHARINENHOF STUD IN GERMANY**

By MONIKA SAVIER

Photographies: JOANNA JONIENTZ

Graphic: Mario Brunetti



**“Orient and Occident  
are not separable any more.  
Sensibly between both worlds  
to dandle lightly I can accept,  
and also to move between  
East and West is the best  
anybody can do.”**

Quote from the *West-Eastern Divan*  
by J. W. v. Goethe, 1819

**W**hat brought about the event on Katharinenhof Stud in Großenkneten in North Germany in August was the presentation of Hans Nagel’s recent and voluminous book “The Arabian Horse – Nature’s Creation and the Art of Breeding”. The weather played along and about 200 guests from the Western and Eastern parts of the world, all assembled on the initiative of Hans Nagel, were in high spirits and spoke of a “very special cultural event”. Of course, stud presentations with food and service provided are an ever-welcome occasion to meet people: breeders, fans, friends, acquaintances and strangers. They are a platform for exchanging ideas and for philosophising about the horses presented. There is no competition, as there would





NK Nouna





be in shows, so there are no rivals, no winners, and no losers – instead, there are many new contacts to be established, which is particularly useful and valuable when market chances are not overly favourable. Again and again, one could hear somebody say “Aren’t we Facebook friends? How nice to finally meet you in person.” There seems to be quite a great demand for exchanging ideas and contacts with regard to that common goal, horse breeding, and quite often, friendships are established on the very basis of both parties breeding horses who have common factors in their pedigrees and are, therefore, somehow “related”. That common denominator will often set the basis for a positive communication between breeders. What’s special about Katharinenhof Stud, however, is the fact that this global player among studs has been and is still playing a great part in the lives of many fans of Arabian horses – for generations of horses and humans now. Who has never had a mare covered there,





1. NK Hafid Jamil
2. NK Nabaha
3. NK Nachita
4. NK Ayaa
5. NK Nasrin
6. NK Nerham
7. NK Bint Bint Nashua





8.



9.



12. - 13.



14.



15.

8. NK Nerham  
9. NK Noor  
10. NK Habiba  
11. NK Nabhan  
12. NK Nasrin

13. NK Nabaha  
14. NK Hawa  
15. NK Kamar El Dine  
16. NK Aziza



bought a foal, or just followed developments at the stud from a distance? Hans Nagel, after all, is the “big old man” of German Arabian breeding, a role model for many, and also a breeder that inspired others to explore their own limits. For twenty years, he presided over the German Arabian Breeding Association, building bridges to the Arabian world like hardly anybody else could, and not only as a private person and breeder, but also as a businessman and later as the President of WAHO.

Everybody there knew the history of Katharinenhof Stud: the beginnings with Hanan, Jamil, Ansata Halim Shah, Salaa El Dine, and NK Hafid Jamil, and the continuation with the young stars in the arena, such as NK Nadeer and NK Kamar El Dine, and the four groups of world-class mares. People love serials, and this afternoon, a very special serial was offered. Four hours of stud presentation, moderated by Hans Nagel giving a comprehensive account, delivered in both German and English, of his strategies of breeding, with his horses as the chief characters. Didactically well conceived, the presentation was much more than just highly entertaining – it was highly informative, providing insights into and answers for quite some questions, even the sceptical ones, regarding the breeding population of Nagel’s Katharinenhof that has been closed for years now and that is obviously and so far a unique lifetime achievement of international rank.