



THE 35TH ANNUAL *Egyptian Event*

by CHRISTY EGAN

The first Egyptian Event was held June 12-14, 1981, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. It raised the bar for the Arabian horse industry in a way that would last for the next thirty-plus years. In its first year, forty-nine straight Egyptian Arabian stallions took part in the Hall of Stallions and ninety-one Egyptian and Egyptian-

Sponsor of The Egyptian Event was Arabians, Ltd., of Waco, Tex. This year's show theme was "*Stallions: Kings of the Nile*" and the week's best seminar was based on this theme and hosted by Joe Ferriss. The annual gala party was held at the historic Spindletop Hall, with a buffet, art auction and dancing. It was somewhat less formal than in



Judges: Ferdinand Schwesterman (Switzerland), Richard Petty (USA), Talal Al Mehri (Kuwait), and Manfred Hain (Germany).

sired horses competed in four futurity halter and five performance classes. Over \$20,000 in prize money was offered. There was no indoor arena as is enjoyed today. Classes and presentations were held on the infield of a race track located west of the Big Barn.

Held June 2-6 of this year, the 35th Anniversary was in the same general location, but the Event's traditions have evolved and developed over the years, while still maintaining a distinct glamour and an unequalled dedication to the Egyptian Arabian. The 2015 Signature

years past and thoroughly delighted virtually all who attended.

Al Rayyan Farm, of Doha, Qatar, was the 2015 Egyptian Event Desert Emissary and the exclusive trophy and ribbon sponsor, among other sponsorships. They also won a number of the highest awards at the Egyptian Event based on six, splendid grey horses they brought. These were handled and managed by Michael Byatt. Their horses, especially the mares, were the talk of the show. The 2015 Gold Champion Filly was Nawaal Al



Gold Champion Senior Straight Egyptian Stallion and Most Classic Head **PHAAROS** (ZT Faa'Iq x Bint Atallah), bred by Judy Guess and owned by Alfala Stud.



Gold Champion Senior Straight Egyptian Mare and Most Classic Head **RAYYANA AL ALIYA** (Ashhal Al Rayyan x Asrar Al Rayyan), bred by Sheikh Mishal Bin Essa Bin Thamer Al Thani and owned by Al Rayyan Stud.

Rayyan (Ansata Sokar x Nadrah Al Rayyan) and the Gold Champion Mare was Rayyana Al Aliya (Ashhal Al Rayyan x Asrar Al Rayyan). Both mares were unanimous and both were also chosen Most Classic in their divisions.

"The show was quite good this year, with an excellent turn-out," said a smiling Anna Bishop, Pyramid Society

Executive Director. "Our visitors were relaxed, enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and were full of compliments. I think the judges in particular were very well received. Our appreciation and kudos to Manfred Hain from Germany, Talal Al Mehri from Kuwait, Ferdinand Schwesterman from Switzerland, and Richard Petty from Oregon." Anna adds, "I was fortunate to have visited the Middle East and



Christie and Henry Metz, Judith Forbis and Jody Cruz.

experienced the white horses of Al Rayyan. I remember when I first saw them, I found their beauty so profound that it brought tears to my eyes. It is delightful that exhibitors and spectators at this year's Event were able to see a few of these classically beautiful Egyptian Arabians."

The show's Gold Champion Colt, Montage CCA (Ramses Mishaal Nadir x Bint Ananda CCA) was bred in America by Michael Cimino of Colthill Crescent Arabians, an Arabians, Ltd. affiliate, and shown by Frank Spönle. Montage CCA was also chosen Most Classic in his age group. Gold Champion Stallion was the handsome 15-year-old, flea-bitten grey, Phaaros (ZT Faa'Iq x Bint Atallah), a line-bred Ruminaja Ali straight Egyptian of great quality, shown by Austin Coleangelo for Alfala Stud, Saudi Arabia. Austin's father, Mario Coleangelo, owns and handled the winning Egyptian Breeder's Challenge Colt, Jaguar ABC (Jaleel ABC x Ohanna Di Style JM) to the championship and winnings of over \$20,000, while David Reissig led Bint Bint Asila RCA (*Mishaal HP x Bint Asila RCA) to unanimous roses in the EBC Fillies for Arabians, Ltd.'s Judy Sirbasku and Rock Creek Arabians of Waco, Tex. Speaking of the EBC, their stallion auction, held annually at the show, is one of the most successful programs of any niche group in the Arabian horse industry. Class payouts in 2015 exceeded \$100,000!



Dr. Nasr Marei signing his new book, The Arabian Horse Of Egypt, for Allison Mehta.



*Gold Champion Egyptian Breeder's Challenge Colt ATH **JAGUAR ABC** (Jaleel ABC x Ohanna Di Style JM),
bred and owned by Mario Colangelo*



*Gold Champion Junior Straight Egyptian Colt and Most Classic
Head **MONTAGE CCA** (Ramses Mishaal Nadir x Bint Ananda
CCA), bred by Michael Cimino and owned by
Bint Ananda Syndicate.*



*Gold Champion Junior Straight Egyptian Filly and Most Classic
Head **NAWAAL AL RAYYAN** (Ansata Sokar x Nadrah Al
Rayyan), bred and owned by Al Rayyan Stud*



*Liberty winner AMIRS CRESCENDO
(Imperialamirkamar x Rhapsodys Crescendaa), owned by Timothy Manring.*



*Gold Champion Egyptian Breeder's Challenge Filly ATH BINT
BINT ASILA RCA (Mishaal HP x Bint Asila RCA), bred and
owned by Rock Creek Arabians of Texas, Inc.*

A great part of the success and charm of the Egyptian Event is its focus on the spectator, the new breeder and the casual visitor. They put forth a veritable “waterfall” of social events throughout the week allowing for exploration of the horse world, learning from educational opportunities, and taking delight in socialization, during parties, gatherings and horse presentations. Each year someone of international notoriety is honored and this year’s horseman celebrity was Dr. Nasr Marei of Albadeia Stud, Egypt. On Friday evening during the Gala, Dr. Marei was awarded for his many years of dedication to the breeding and preservation of the Egyptian Arabian horse. The third generation of his family to breed Egyptian Arabians, Dr. Marei’s bloodlines are represented internationally. On Saturday afternoon, Dr. Marei signed his new book, *The Arabian Horse of Egypt*, for fans and collectors.

As Lisa Cifrese, 2015 Egyptian Event Show Chair aptly stated, “The Egyptian Event is far more than a horse show, it’s a week-long celebration of the Egyptian Arabian horse.” It also manages to reach out and introduce newcomers to the Arabian and to horses in general. For that we are all indebted, and tip our hats to this 35-year-old showcase for the Egyptian Arabian. Happy Anniversary and many happy returns to the Kentucky Horse Park in June next year! ■