

AL Kidir

The Silent Emperor

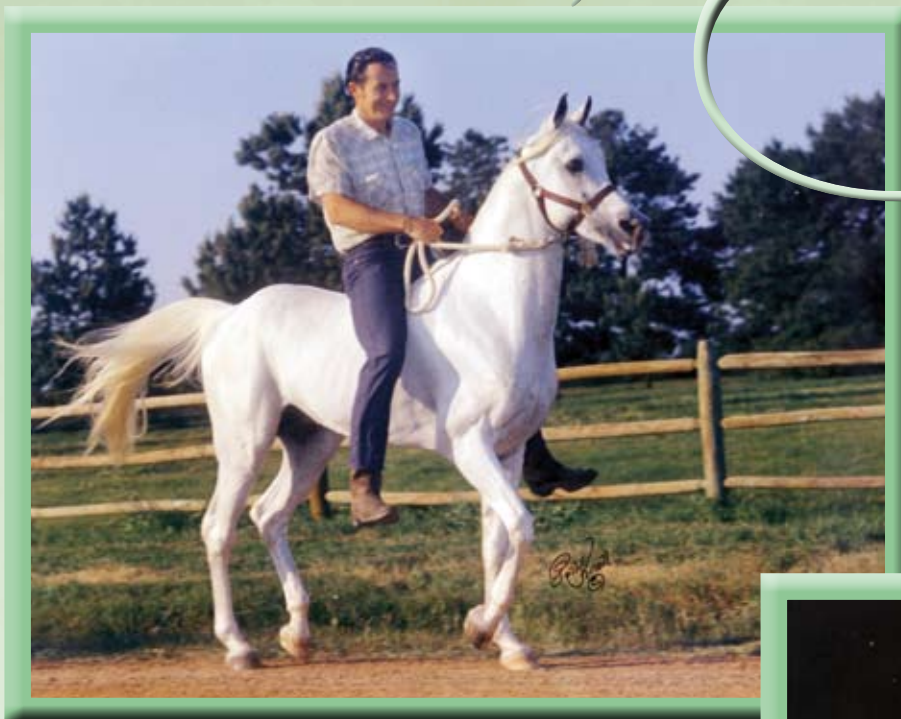
1983 - 2009

■ by **Oliver Wibibal** © *straightegyptians.com*

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Al Kidir as a yearling at Gleannloch Farms



The immortal Morafic, shown here with his life-long caretaker, the late Tom McNair. Al Kidir had two very close crosses to Morafic.

The Glory Years

The story of Al Kidir began back in 1982 when he was not even born. The German couple Siegfried and Brigitte Kübe accompanied Douglas B. Marshall and his wife Margaret to the „Egyptian Breeders Sale“, an annual auction held by The Pyramid Society in conjunction with the Egyptian Event in Kentucky. Marshall was the owner of the famous „Gleannloch Farm“. Kübe owned the „Brigittenhof“, once the largest studfarm for straight Egyptian horses in Europe. Marshall and Kübe shared ownership in the Morafic son Maddah (a three-quarter brother to the mare Magidaa). Remember, those were the days when Arabian horses were promoted by breeders in the United States as an „investment in living art“. As a result prices boomed and especially the rare straight Egyptian horses commanded a fortune. The EAO bred stallion Ibn Moniet El Nefous (Morafic x Moniet El Nefous) had made history for being syndicated for the sum of \$ 4,000,000. Stud fees for Egyptian stallions were up to \$ 25,000 and popular stallions like Nabel, Tuhotmos, Shaikh Al Badi, or The Egyptian Prince bred well over 50 mares per year.

Douglas B. Marshall had imported the largest single group of horses ever imported from Egypt. They built the cornerstone of his breeding programme. His key stallion was Morafic (Nazeer x Mabrouka), until today the leading Egyptian sire of National winning get in the United States. His extreme beauty is legendary and etched into the hearts and minds of those who had the fortune to see him.



The Egyptian Prince, the sire of Al Kidir

One of the most exquisite and refined mares Douglas B. Marshall ever had brought in from El Zabara was the grey mare Omnia (Alaa El Din x Ameena by Hamdan). Born in 1966 at the Egyptian Agricultural Organization, she came to the USA in 1968 as a two-year-old filly. Pictures of that time show an extremely refined filly with long legs, fine bones and a beautiful face with huge eyes. When I saw her, she was quite old but still in very good shape. A noble mare, Omnia had one of the most exquisite heads of her time. Eventually she was sold to Bentwood Farms and was bred to their herd sire, Ibn Moniet El Nefous (Morafic x Moniet El Nefous). The resulting foal



AK Khattaara in the paddock of Gleannloch Farms just after a rainfall dirty but still beautiful

was AK Khattaara, born in 1977. When she was five years old, she was bred to her sire's three-quarter brother, The Egyptian Prince (Morafic x Bint Mona) and consigned to the Pyramid Society Sale 1982. Unbelievably refined and beautiful, AK Khattaara stirred much interest at the auction and became the object of lively bidding. Finally the hammer fell at over \$ 300 000! AK Khattaara became the high-selling lot of the auction and the successful buyer was no other than Douglas B. Marshall. Overwhelmed with joy, he hugged his friend Siegfried and promised him AK Khattaara's first foal. „I thought this was just a nice gesture, a little joke because he was so happy that he finally got this mare“, Siegfried Kübe later admits. But ten months later Siegfried's telephone rang. „Congratulations, you are the owner of a gorgeous little colt“, Douglas B. Marshall said. „His name is Al Kidir.“

He came, he saw, he conquered

As a yearling he did the long trip to Germany and in 1987 as a four-year-old he passed the rigid German Stallion Licensing with flying colours. In fact, his charming personality, extraordinary type and dazzling movement made him one of the crowd's favourites. The judges were thrilled by him as well. He was extremely beautiful but critics were on hand who questioned his ability as a riding



Mahala (Al Lahab x Mahasin by Al Kidir)

horses. He was „too beautiful“ to perform, they said. Well, Al Kidir proved all these „experts“ wrong when he was entered in the harsh German Stallion Performance Test and came off as winner (stallions got tested for 100 days and then had to pass a final assessment, consisting of dressage, hunter jumping and a race). Critics became silent. Over the years he was lightly shown as well but never was in professional show training. However, his quality shone through and the judges named him (among others) Reserve Senior Champion Stallion of the 1988 Asil Cup.

His daughters were his fortune

Over the years Al Kidir's reputation as a sire of beautiful daughters silently grew. Today we see the enormous impact they have as the producers of countless champions. Al Kidir's internationally most successful granddaughter is without any doubt the ethereal Mahala (Al Lahab x Mahasin II by Al Kidir). She is the epitome of grace and feminine beauty. Bred in Germany by Susanne Reiter, she is owned by Rabab Stud of Sheikh Khaled bin Laden in Egypt. When he saw Mahala, it was love at first sight. "This was my Egyptian horse. I knew she was special and she never ever disappointed me!" Judges agreed that she is a special lady and made her champion mare at several different occasions. At the European Egyptian Event in 2008 she won big: Mahala was Champion Mare, Most beautiful Head winner and "Best Egyptian of the Year".

Sheikh Khaled wanted to buy Mahala's dam Mahasin II as well, but she wasn't for sale at any price. He searched



Alia El Nile (Al Kidir x Mahasin)



Kaliya (Al Kidir x Kaythara Halima)

Europe for another Al Kidir daughter and finally found Mahasin's younger full sister, Alia El Nile. A small yet ultra refined grey mare with huge black eyes who now grazes Rabab Stud's broodmare band. Alia El Nile is the dam of the bold moving Elha El Nile (by Classic Shadwan) who was Junior Champion Filly at the Egyptian Event in Italy 2006 and is now owned by Dubai Arabian Horse Stud.

One of Al Kidir's most beautiful and refined daughters is the chestnut mare Kaliya (Al Kidir x Kaythara Halima) whose extremely short head with a deep dish and huge eyes is nothing but perfect. Her bold movement made her famous and fans name her the „flying beauty“. In 2000 she was named Reserve Champion Mare at the Egyptian Event Europe. Her equally beautiful chestnut son Authentic Kharazi (by Maysoun) was awarded a Gold medal at the annual German Stallion Show in 2002. His full brother Authentic Khazim is the sire of Kamal, the Reserve Senior Champion Stallion of the Egyptian Event Europe 2009. Another charming daughter is the fleabitten-grey Korashia (Al Kidir x Kaidara), owned by German breeder Dr. Freimüller. An avid mover, this lovely lady was named



Authentic Kharazi (Maysoun x Kaliya by Al Kidir)



Al Kidir



Korashia (Al Kidir x Kaidara)



Bint Kahila (Al Kidir x Kahila II)



Al Lahab (Laheeb x The Vision HG)



Pyramid Layyan (Al Lahab x Bint Kahila)

Reserve Champion Mare of the 2009 Arabesque Egyptian Event.

Al Kidir's most prolific daughter is Uwe-Jürgen Wagner's bay mare, Bint Kahila (Al Kidir y Kahila II). Born in 1997 at the Brigittenhof, the bay mare produced numerous champion get so far. Her first foal was Al Khayyat (by Ali Valentino) who was champion of his class at the Egyptian Event Europe in 2002. The beautiful chestnut now resides in Israel. In 2002 Uwe-Jürgen and his wife Petra fell in love with the now famous champion stallion Al Lahab (Laheeb x The Vision HG). In fact, they were one of the first breeders to use him. They bred Bint Kahila



Pyramid Lahara (Al Lahab x Bint Kahila)

to him four times in a row – and were rewarded with four wonderful foals (three fillies, one colt). All of them were successful at shows but the stallion Pyramid Layyan „K“ certainly stands out. Born in 2004, the grey stallion won many championships and is the pride and joy of his owners who dearly love him. When you look in Pyramid Layyan's soulful eyes you instantly know that „beauty is its own excuse for being“. „He is the crownprince of our small studfarm“, says Petra Wagner. Pyramid Layyan's latest succes: He was Senior Champion Stallion at the 2009 Arabesque Egyptian Event in Germany. His quality has caught the attention of many other breeders including the director of the famous Marbach State Stud, who utilized Pyramid Layyan last season.

Layyan's older full sister Pyramid Lahara „K“ is owned by Bebo Stud in Egypt whereas the full sisters Pyramid Nour El Nil „K“ and Pyramid Kahileh „K“ (Reserve Junior Champion Filly at the Arabesque Egyptian Cup 2009) will remain at Uwe-Jürgen's farm as future broodmare prospects. Bint Kahila's latest foal was born last spring: the filly Raia El Nile „K“ (by MH Richter). Let's wait and see what the future has in store for this beautiful young lady...

The final years

After the Brigittenhof had closed its doors, Al Kidir and several of his daughters found a new home at Michael Ponnath's farm in Bavaria. Besides Al Kidir's outer beauty, it was his playful spirit and and lovely disposition



Pyramid Nour El Nil (AlLahah x Bint Kahila)



Pyramid Kahileh K (Al Lahab x Bint Kahika)



Bint Moufisa (Al Kidir x Moufisa Halima)



Moufisa Al Kidir (Al Kidir x Moufisa Halima)



Monisa Halima (Al Kidir x Moufisa Halima)

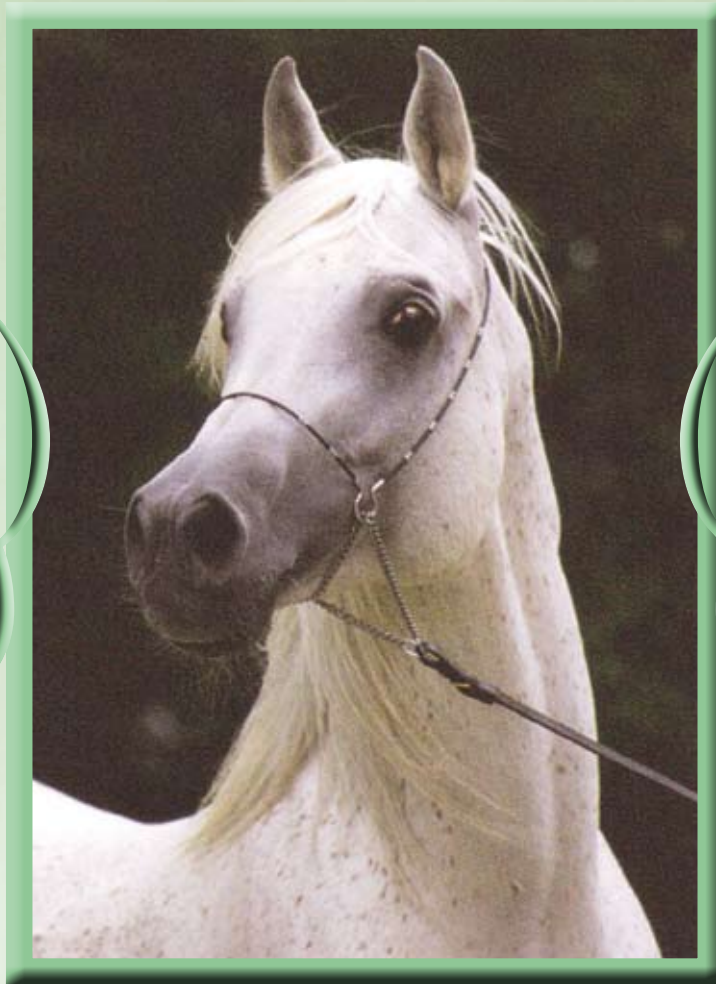
that appealed most to Michael. „He was such a wonderful character“, he says. „A very intelligent horse, Al Kidir was a happy horse. He loved life and he certainly he loved the people who cared for him.“

Some of Al Kidir's most beautiful daughters are Michael's foundation mares. These are the full sisters Bint Moufisa, Moufisa Al Kidir and Monisa Halima (x Moufisa Halima by Halim Al Kadir). In tail female line they trace back to one of the most famous Saqlawi mares of all time, the legendary Moniet El Nefous. The alabaster white Bint Moufisa made waves when she was named German National Champion Mare and Reserve European Champion Mare in 1996. Her son Mahfouz Halim (*2007, by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) is one of the most successful Al Adeed get born in Europe. In 2008 he was Junior Champion Colt at the Egyptian Cup Europe.

Four years ago Michael leased Al Kidir to the famous Ajmal Stud in of Mohammed Al-Marzouk in Kuwait where he held court like a Pasha. His unique pedigree without a line to Ansata Halim Shah made him the perfect outcross for many breeding programmes in Kuwait. According to Klaus Beste, General Manager of the Bait Al Arab Stud, Al Kidir had fulfilled every expectation and left some very promising get. This year he was even sent to Saudi Arabia



**Mahfouz Halim
(Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Bint Moufisa by Al Kidir)**



Al Kidir

to breed some of the finest mares. His last foals will be born next year, Inshallah.

In August, Al Kidir passed away in his stall. There was no battle for life, no pain. It was an easy and quiet death, reflected by his gentle and calm nature throughout his life. It was as if an angel had given him a kiss as he fell asleep. Rest in peace, Al Kidir. □