



Shaikh Al Badi (Morafic x Bint Maisa El Saghira) at 9 years old.
Johnny Johnston photo.

AN EGYPTIAN PATRIARCH

Shaikh Al Badi

■ by Joe Ferriss

photos by Judith Forbis, Erwin Escher, Gigi Grasso, Javan, Johnny Johnston, Rhita McNair, Polly Knoll, Rik VanLent, Michael Vink

I cannot write about Arabian horses that I have known without a bit of sentiment. Shaikh Al Badi is one of these. In my early discovery of the Arabian horse, he was one of those horses I saw that made a big impression on me that remains timeless.

*One summer day in 1972 my wife, Sharon, and I were on our way to Flushing, Michigan with Arabian breeders Jim and Virginia Perry who were taking us to see the Egyptian horses of Ranch Ruminaja, the pride of Russ and Mildred Jameson. The Perrys were friends of the Jamesons. Mr. Perry had previously visited the famed Gleannloch Farm where he saw Shaikh Al Badi's parents, *Morafic and *Bint Maisa El Saghira. He told us how magnificent they were and for that reason he sought out the young Shaikh Al Badi.*

We had discovered the Arabian horse two years earlier in 1970, and I had read everything I could get my hands on to better understand the breed. I had already read about the Egyptian imports to the U.S. with Nazeer breeding and was intrigued with their look. I became consumed with the image of Morafic who seemed larger than life: beautiful, noble, pearl-white, and a vision of the spirit of the Arabian in its highest form. Bint Maisa El Saghira was one of the most beloved Egyptian mares in the U.S. show ring with her rich bay color, stylishly brilliant movement and charming spirit.

The horses at Ranch Ruminaja were to be my first time seeing direct get of Morafic in the flesh. In 1972 they had an extraordinarily well-bred group of Egyptian youngsters:

*Shaikh Al Badi (Morafic x Bint Maisa El Saghira),
3-year-old grey stallion
Bint Alaa El Din (Alaa El Din x Serenity Sabra),
3-year-old grey mare
Zebda (Morafic x Bint Kateefa),
2-year-old grey mare
Bint Nabilabh (Morafic x Nabilabh),
2-year-old grey mare
Bint Magidaa (Khofo x Magidaa),
2-year-old grey mare
Negmaa (Ansata Ibn Halima x Bint Nefisaa),
2-year-old grey mare*

The Jamesons were wonderful hosts. Even before seeing the horses we were given a tour of their magnificent climate-controlled greenhouse which contained Mr. Jameson's complete Orchid breeding program. It was clear that he understood the essence of good breeding and good results. Mr. Jamison was highly regarded for his distinctive Orchids. In true "Bedouin" generosity he gave us a potted red and white Orchid to take home.



Morafic (Nazeer x Mabrouka) in Egypt. Judith Forbis photo.



Though we had heard so much about the young Shaikh Al Badi, the other young Egyptians at Ranch Ruminaja were also very inspiring, so I will describe my impression of them first. Among the youngsters was the absolutely beautiful two year old filly Bint Magidaa, by the splendid *Morafic son *Khofo and out of the lovely Alaa El Din daughter *Magidaa. What a lovely filly she was--typy with a charming personality, showy but friendly, curious and with very compelling eyes. She carried her head and neck relatively upright and had a short back, forming a perfect silhouette when watching something in the distance. She would later become the mare everyone wanted to own. Almost anyone visiting the Jamesons would be forever touched by Bint Magidaa's beauty and charm. Bint Alaa El Din (Alaa El Din x *Serenity Sabra) was a relatively small and compact 3 year old with a lovely head and smooth body of graceful curves. She was sort of an eggshell grey with dark mane and tail. Bint Nabilabh (*Morafic x *Nabilabh) a full sister to *Khofo, and Zebda (*Morafic x *Bint Bint Kateefa) were typy 2-year-olds, a bit immature at the time, but refined, lovely fillies. Negmaa (*Ansata Ibn Halima x *Bint Nefisaa) a full sister to El Hilal, was an exquisite filly with huge dark eyes and sweet temperament.

Next, the time was at hand to see this elegant young stallion we had heard so much about. As Shaikh Al Badi emerged from his stall, he stepped in a lively but controlled fashion listening carefully to his handler but clearly full of energy, waiting for the chance spring into action. Once successfully positioned, he stood statue like in the large barn aisle, motionless for a moment, but all the while his eye followed us as we moved around him. He was keenly aware of everything. Then he danced a little as if to let all know he is the monarch-to-be and could release his energy at anytime but

chooses to cooperate for our viewing pleasure. His eyes were alive. His head was clean and masculine, not extreme or exaggerated, but full of nobility. His dappled, dark steel grey color radiated an almost mirror like shine. Even though only 3 years old, his most distinctive feature was his silhouette: a beautifully integrated neck and shoulder combination: powerful shoulders blending perfectly into a beautifully shaped neck set at the most ideal location, rising gracefully up and forward at the same time. He gave the impression of much air underneath, tall but not disproportionately so--good size but all in a harmonious way. This wonderful silhouette with impressive shape of the neck carried up and arched, perfectly blended into the shoulders would become a trademark feature



Shaikh Al Badi as a yearling. Polly Knoll photo.



**Ruminaja Ali (Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa).
Polly Knoll photo.**

of the influence of Shaikh Al Badi. He won many class A halter championships and was chosen U.S. National Futurity Reserve Champion at age 3. Later he became a leading sire of Champions. He was always stunning as a younger horse. Later in life he did not age all that gracefully, but he still was king and remained in demand as a prepotent sire.

In his lifetime, Shaikh Al Badi sired an incredible 696 get, yet less than half of those were straight Egyptian. In Michigan he was an instant success as a sire of stylish show winners and was heavily used on a wide range of bloodlines. The Jamesons also owned a number of Crabbet/Egyptian cross mares which crossed well with Shaikh Al Badi, and many became successful show horses. His success with Crabbet lines resulted in many popular show horses such as the beautiful bay stallion Avatar Al Sufi (x Bint Buena Suerte), a champion and sire of numerous U.S. National winners. Yet the very few straight Egyptians sired by Shaikh Al Badi in the first 12 years of his life were almost entirely only those bred at Ranch Ruminaja. But what an impact worldwide came from just this one farm. True to being a patriarch, it was to become the sons, grandsons and great-grandsons of Shaikh Al Badi that would establish him as one of the most prominent and prolific sons of Morafic.



Bint Magidaa (Khofo x Magidaa). Johnny Johnston photo.

At Ranch Ruminaja the mating of Shaikh Al Badi to the lovely Bint Magidaa quickly proved to be a golden cross repeated many times. Bint Magidaa was an extraordinary broodmare, producing 17 foals in her lifetime, ten of which were by Shaikh Al Badi, three were by his grandson The Minstril, and two were by his great-grandson Thee Desperado. While a few choice daughters were produced, the majority of the matings between Shaikh Al Badi and Bint Magidaa produced stallions, most of which became phenomenal sires. These include: Ruminaja Rabia, Ruminaja Bahjat, Ruminaja Majed, Ruminaja Fayez, Ruminaja Ali, and Alidaar. All full brothers, collectively they sired nearly 1,100 get, 450 of which were sired by Ruminaja Ali.

I will never forget being at the US Nationals in 1979, the year that Ruminaja Ali won U.S. National Champion Futurity Stallion. I could not get over how much he looked like his sire did as a 3 year old except being a little shorter in the length of back, a bit longer in the hip and with a more classic head. His beautiful type, movement, body language and nobility got everyone's attention. He seemed to love the attention of the crowds in the ring. With flagged tail and snorts, he displayed an enormous amount of style and attitude. It was an unforgettable sight.

Ruminaja Ali's special style and classic type were dominant features of so many of Ali's descendants resulting in many

halter champions. Like his sire he was used heavily and bred to a wide range of bloodlines, and crossed well with many American bred mares of Crabbet and Polish lines. Without question one of the most prominent of these is the bay stallion Ali Jamaal (x Heritage Memory), exported to Brazil where he established the whole "El Jamaal" line including the U.S. National Reserve Champion Stallion Parys El Jamaal, and also Dakar El Jamaal who sired 2007 Paris World Champion Dakharo.



Ali Jamaal (Ruminaja Ali x Heritage Memory).

Ruminaja Ali's success eventually attracted a larger number of straight Egyptian mares. Many of his daughters were not only beautiful in their own right but also great producers, such as the lovely Bint Atallah (x AK Atallah) dam of Pharos, and AliJamila (x Ansata Justina) dam and granddam

of numerous champions, to name just a few. But the patriarchy was to continue with a number of straight Egyptian Ruminaja Ali sons becoming influential sires.

The mare Bint Deenaa (Ansata Ibn Halima x Deenaa) was such an excellent cross with Ruminaja Ali that six of her twelve foals are by him, five being stallions. The most famous of these full siblings include: Australian National Champion Anaza El Nizr and multi-champion Anaza El Farid. "Farid" who was chosen U.S. Top Ten, Top Five at the Salon du Cheval, and U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion. Like his sire Ruminaja Ali, Anaza El Farid crossed very well with all bloodlines, not just Egyptian. A fine example is his champion son Gazal Al Shaqab, out of the excellent mare Kajora. He became U.S.



**Anaza El Farid
(Ruminaja Ali x Bint Deenaa).
Rik VanLent photo.**

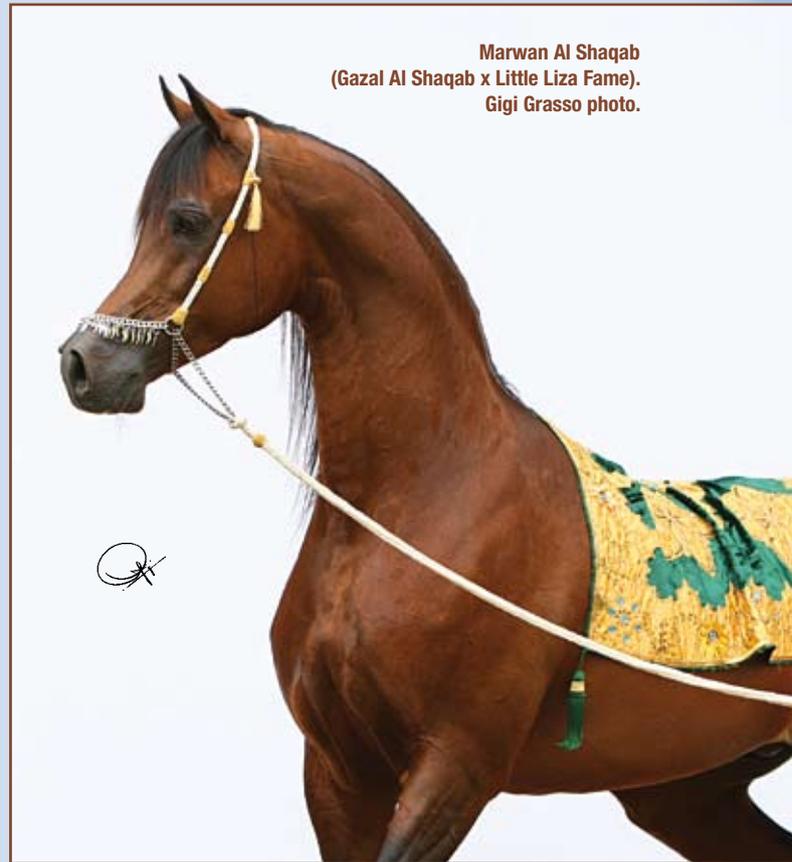


ZT Faa'Iq
(Anaza El Farid x ZT Jamdusah).
Gigi Grasso photo.

National Reserve Champion, World Champion and Middle Eastern Champion. Gazal Al Shaqab is a supreme sire with many international champions including U.S. National Champion mare Pianissima and multi international Champion Marwan Al Shaqab, himself an extraordinary sire and part of the patriarchy.

There are many classic straight Egyptian sons of Anaza El Farid and a few include international multi-champion Farres (x Shameera), ZT Faa'Iq (x ZT Jamdusah), Reserve Junior Champion at the Salon du Cheval, sire of champions and endurance winners, and Farid Nile Moon (x GA Moon Tajhalima), U.S. Egyptian Event Supreme Champion Stallion.

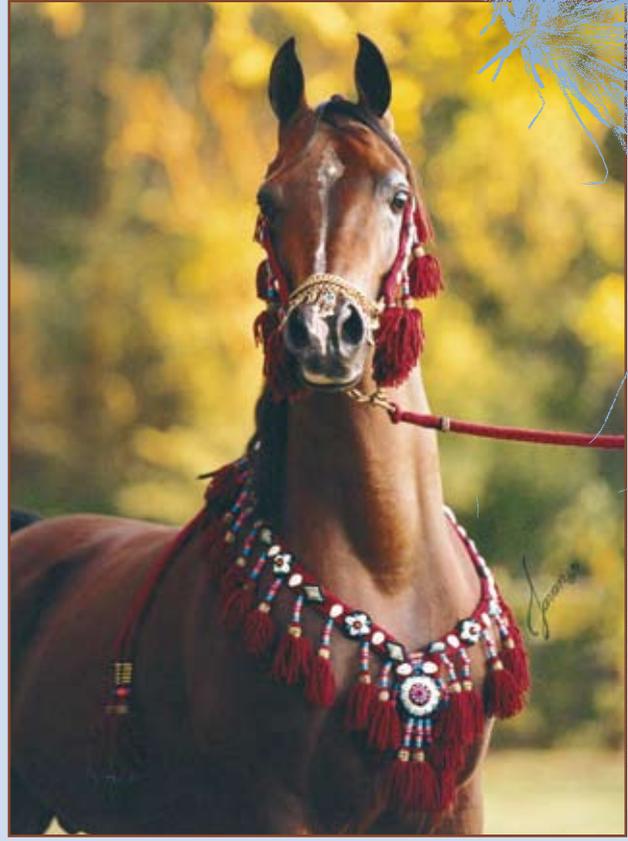
If Ruminaja Ali had not sired another son, those already mentioned would certainly continue this patriarchy, but the story continues. In 1984 the German bred Egyptian mare Bahila (Ibn Galal 1 x Bakria) produced a bay colt, sired by Ruminaja Ali that would continue to spread the line of Shaikh Al Badi worldwide. The colt was named The Minstril. As a young stallion he was striking in appearance, he had a rich deep bay color with neat, trim markings, his coat had an almost mirror like sheen and he had that characteristic silhouette of the beautiful neck and shoulders carried in the most graceful arch, the trademark influence of the patriarchy. He had all the style and nobility associated with



Marwan Al Shaqab
(Gazal Al Shaqab x Little Liza Fame).
Gigi Grasso photo.



Gazal Al Shaqab (Anaza El Farid x Kajora). Gigi Grasso photo.



Thee Desperado (The Minstril x AK Amiri Asmarr). Javan photo.



his sire but in a rich bay color. He won many championships and was U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten.

Like a considerable number of German bred Egyptian mares *Bahila was a mare of good overall quality and structure. She was also of the relatively rare black color. Occasionally Shaikh Al Badi would sire the rich mahogany bay color which was often attributed to his dam, *Bint Maisa El Saghira. With the pedigree of The Minstril, there was a stronger chance in producing blacks and dark colors and in fact he became very popular for his ability to produce dark colors. His colorful get were beautiful and unforgettable in the show ring. The Minstril is the sire of more than 585 get so far. He is a leading living U.S. Egyptian Event sire of champions, and an international sire of champions. Without question he was the next in line of succession from the patriarchy of Shaikh Al Badi, but it did not stop there.

The Minstril's success as a sire found his number of get nearly doubling each of the first several seasons at stud. In

The Minstril (Ruminaja Ali x Bahila). Javan photo.



Royal Colours
(True Colours x Xtreme Wonder). Gigi
Grasso photo.



Farres (Anaza El Farid x Shameera). Erwin Escher photo.

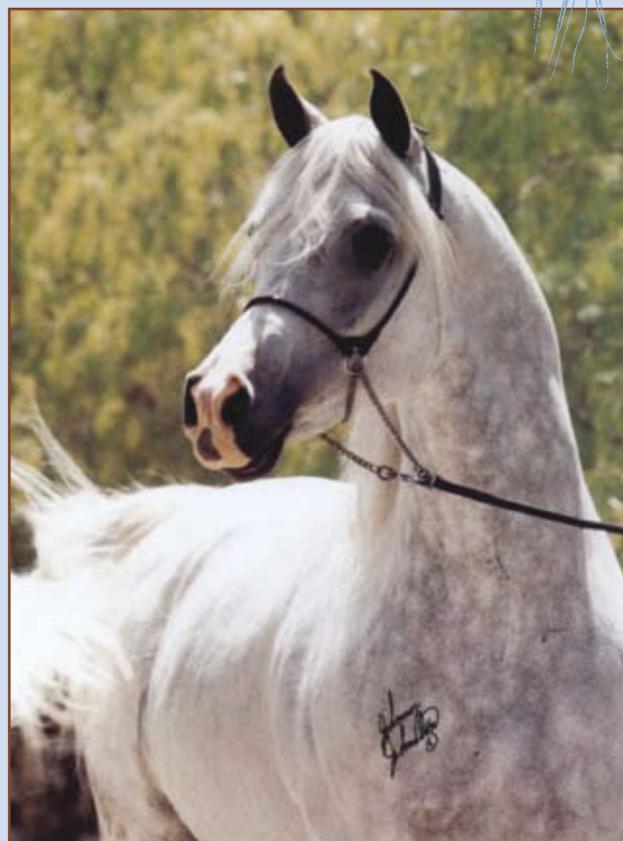
Al Lahab (Laheeb x The Vision HG) Gigi Grasso photo.



Sche'Mon Ami (Ruminaja Bahjat x ZT Shahmona).
Gigi Grasso photo.



Ruminaja Majed (Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa). Polly Knoll photo.



Ruminaja Bahjat (Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa).
Johnny Johnston photo.

1989, the Minstril's third season at stud, along comes a very special bay colt, one that has all the trademarks of the patriarchy, magnified. It was Thee Desperado (x AK Amiri Asmarr). He was of the rich bay color and beautiful from all angles, graceful lines and classic type. It had been said that Ruminaja Ali blood crossed well with TheEgyptian-Prince blood (Morafic x Bint Mona) and certainly Thee Desperado would be a perfect example. Of interest is that Thee Desperado's granddam, Asmarr was outcross to the rest of his pedigree, no Morafic or Nazeer in her pedigree. As a show horse, Thee Desperado had it all and won many major championships. Interestingly in 1993 both The Minstril and his son, Thee Desperado won U.S. Top Ten at the Nationals, a father and son first indeed. Later Thee Desperado was to become U.S. Reserve National Champion Stallion, as well as a leading sire of Egyptian Event Champions, and a sire of numerous international champions. He eclipsed his sire, producing currently 829 get to become, as of this year, the all time leading Egyptian sire of Arabian foals. He competed in performance classes as well as halter classes, and has sired

Alidaar
(Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa).
Gigi Grasso photo.



many champions internationally in both categories. And he is only 19 years old!

The success of both *The Minstril* and his sons and daughters resulted in considerable line breeding to *The Minstril* and his sire *Ruminaja Ali*. Often this has done well in the show ring. Just one example being the spectacular dark bay stallion *Royal Colours* (*True Colours* x *Xtreme Wonder*) with 3 lines to *The Minstril*, 2 of which are *Thee Desperado*. He was chosen 2006 World Champion Colt in Paris and won many other international championships in Europe. Some of these *Minstril* line breedings have also produced good broodmares who crossed well in the outcross to other Egyptian lines. One good example of this is the black mare *The Vision HG*. She has an interesting pedigree being sired by *Thee Desperado* out of his three quarter sister, *Belle Staar* (*The Minstril* x *Alia-Aenor* by *The Egyptian Prince*). She is a great broodmare including two exceptional stallions, *Al Maraam*, winner of many championships including Nations Cup Reserve Champion, and *Al Lahab*, multi-international champion, World Champion, Senior Champion in Dubai, and All Nationals Cup Champion. Aside from their show careers, both these stallions have been very popular and successful sires.

After all this, it would seem a fitting conclusion to the patriarchy of *Shaikh Al Badi*, but the story continues because there were many other *Shaikh Al Badi* sons who established

prolific branches of this sire line. There is not even enough room in one publication to adequately cover all of them but a few deserve note.

As mentioned before the mating of *Shaikh Al Badi* to *Bint Magidaa* was the golden cross. We have seen just how much impact on the breed *Ruminaja Ali* has, but his other full brothers were also, great horses in their own right and excellent sires. *Ruminaja Majed* and *Ruminaja Fayez*, previously mentioned, were good sires of note. Second to *Ruminaja Ali* in prolificacy was his full brother *Ruminaja Bahjat* siring 308 foals. He became a phenomenal sire of mares, many of them absolutely beautiful. Among these beauties are: *Sonbolahs Music* (x *SF Bint Sonbohla*) exported to Germany, *Antiqua Dance* (x *Talyla*) dam of *Marquis I* and *Calypso Dance*, *Gift of the Nile* (x *Ansata Nile Gift*) and *Sche'mon Ami* (x *ZT Shabmona*).

The *Shaikh Al Badi* - *Bint Magidaa* story would not be complete without mentioning the final member of this legacy, the stallion *Alidaar*. Born the same year as the *Minstril*, *Alidaar* was much like *Ruminaja Ali* in his style and appearance, yet he was his own horse. As he matured he was a stunning example of the classic Arabian that led him on an international journey. In 1991 as a seven year old he was exported from the U.S. to France impressing the judges in his first show at Menton with a near perfect score. He then went on to establish himself as an excellent sire. Mo-

ving about Europe he gained momentum as a sire of unforgettable "classics" such as the stallions *Classic Shadwan* (x *Shagia Bint Shadwan*) and *Classic Rayan* (x *AK Raiyeh*) to name a few. The final leg of *Alidaar's* journey so far is in Qatar where he has had the opportunity to breed some of the world's finest Arabian mares with very impressive results. He has sired well over 200 foals as of last year with more on the way.

The role of *Bint Deenaa* in extending the patriarchy of *Shaikh Al Badi* is not just through her famous sons by *Ruminaja Ali* already mentioned. Her only foal by *Shaikh Al Badi* is the absolutely beautiful stallion *Anaza Bay Shabb* (*Shaikh Al Badi* x *Bint Deenaa*). This beautiful dark bay stallion was U.S. National Top Four Futurity stallion and Australian Reserve National Champion, as well as sire of international champions in both halter and performance. He also sired a number of popular and prolific sons, extending the patriarchy. However he is also a fine sire of excellent producing mares.

As I reflect on this long succession of stallions descending from *Shaikh Al Badi*, the size of this patriarchy is astounding and the lines to this network continue to grow with each new generation. He sired many get and produced many



Anaza Bay Shabb (Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Deenaa). Michael Vink photo.



**Classic Rayan (Alidaar x AK Raiyeh).
Gigi Grasso photo.**

popular sons, grandsons, and great grandsons. His direct get were exported to Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

I feel very fortunate to have made that visit in 1972 to see this young horse at a time when it could not be predicted where his journey would lead, and then to watch all of this grand patriarchy unfold over more than 3 decades and more than 6 generations later. The acclaimed Thoroughbred breeder and theorist, Federico Tesio, cited the great difficulty in producing a male line that is consistently successful for more than 3 generations. Perhaps *Shaikh Al Badi* has beaten those odds, for his line continues to enjoy success many generations later, making him not just another son of *Morafic* but a grand patriarch in his own right. □