

BINT MAGIDAA

Pearl of the Abbeyah



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*photos by Gigi Grasso, Rik Van Lent Jr, Scott Trees, Stuart Vesty,
Randi Clark, Johnny Johnston, Sarah Loken, Judith Forbis, Jean Pierre, Javan, Polly Knoll, Rhita McNair*

The year was 1970. Richard Nixon was president of the United States. The Beatles had their final number one hit, "The Long and Winding Road." Tragedy had struck in Peru and East Pakistan, where an earthquake at one end of the earth and a tsunami at the other had claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. Outside the earth's atmosphere, the ill-fated lunar spacecraft Apollo 13 suffered an explosion and its astronauts amazingly returned to earth safely.

Yet for the straight Egyptian Arabian horse a great era was just beginning. Exports from the Egyptian Agricultural Organization were having an impact around the world, particularly in Europe and the United States. A fledgling organization devoted to these exceptional bloodlines, The Pyramid Society, had just been formed by a group of visionary breeders. The first generation of foals were being born from their Egyptian immigrant parents and the best of them would carry the banner of the straight Egyptian Arabian into the 21st century.

Only a select few of these foundation Egyptian horses descended from the strain of Abbeyan Om Jurays, tracing in tail female to the mare El Shabbaa, a gift to the Inshass Stud from the King of Saudi Arabia. This family is rare, even today, and lives on primarily through the dam lines of Mahdia and Mahfouza. Mahdia, through her daughter Mona, is the tail female family of the incomparable Hanan, a foundation mare of Dr. Hans Nagel's renowned Katharinenhof Stud of Germany. Mahfouza bred on in modern pedigrees through the graceful bay mare Hafiza, and the chestnut mare Maysa, perhaps best known for her daughter Magidaa, imported to the United States from Egypt by Gleannloch Farms.

On February 4, 1970, Magidaa, whose name meant "glorious, exalted, splendid," gave birth to her first foal. Like both her sire and dam, Magidaa was a rich chestnut in color, yet her firstborn filly was grey. The filly's elegance and quality must have been apparent from the beginning, however, as she was deemed worthy of carrying forward the illustrious name of her dam. She was called Bint Magidaa and grew up to be a precious gem of a mare a gleaming white pearl of her famed Abbeyah strain.

To become a great broodmare, there are several qualifications, as well as an "X" factor that is perhaps best described as a combination of luck and fate. Bint Magidaa qualified for her elite status as one of the world's greatest broodmares on every front. Certainly, she was a prolific producer. While her dam, Magidaa, had produced thir-

teen foals, Bint Magidaa went even further, producing eighteen living foals, seventeen of which survived. Her production career spanned three decades, and although her last two foals were produced by embryo transfer, the others were born the old-fashioned way – she carried and gave birth to them naturally.

*Merely to give birth to healthy foals, however, did not earn Bint Magidaa a place in the history books. Like all great broodmares, she had a powerful heritage behind her. The sire lines in her pedigree reflect the most important stallions of the EAO – Nazeer, through his two sons *Morafic and Alaa el Din, as well as Anter and Sid Abouhom. In addition, she had three crosses to the graceful Hamdan, a magnificent stallion who lived to the great age of 31 after narrowly escaping a fate as fodder for the lions of the Cairo Zoo. Her pedigree also features a line to Hamdan's full brother, Shabloul, who is perhaps best known as the sire of Moniet El Nefous.*

*Bint Magidaa's sire, *Khofo, was a beautiful and powerfully-built *Morafic son imported by Gleannloch Farms and owned for the rest of his life by Serenity Farms Ltd. A successful show horse, he won many championships in the North American show ring. His dam, Nabilah (*Nabilahh in the U.S.), was an Anter daughter out of the lovely Farasha, also dam of the influential stallions Galal, Farazdac and Faleh. *Magidaa, her mother, lived up to her name, and was a significant mare as well, known especially for Bint Magidaa, as well as her dynamic son, Nabiel.*

*The final requirement for a date with destiny as an acclaimed broodmare has nothing to do with the mare herself, yet is a crucial factor – she must have good owners. They must care for her well, choose wisely when breeding her, and possess the means by which to introduce her offspring to the world. Bint Magidaa was especially blessed in this regard. Her original owners, Douglas and Margaret Marshall of Gleannloch Farms, were landmark Egyptian breeders, whose foals crops were inspected with care by other enthusiasts of these bloodlines. As a yearling, Bint Magidaa was purchased by Russ and Mildred Jameson of Ranch Ruminaja in Michigan, who, just two years before, had selected another young foal from Gleannloch, a colt sired by *Morafic out of *Bint Maisa El Saghira. Their choice of these two young horses had a profound effect on the Arabian breed around the world, for the colt was Shaikh Al Badi, and when bred to Bint Magidaa the combination was thrilling, time and time again.*

Bint Magidaa's good fortune with owners continued

BINT MAGIDAA

KHOFO

MORAFIC

NABILAH

MAGIDAA

MAYSA

NAZEER

MABRUOKA

ANTER

FARASHA

NAZEER

ALAA EL DIN

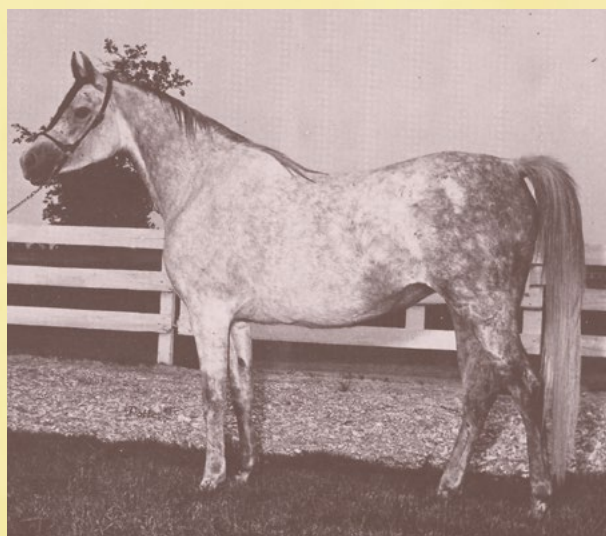
KATEEFA

ANTER

MAHFOUZA



MORAFIC



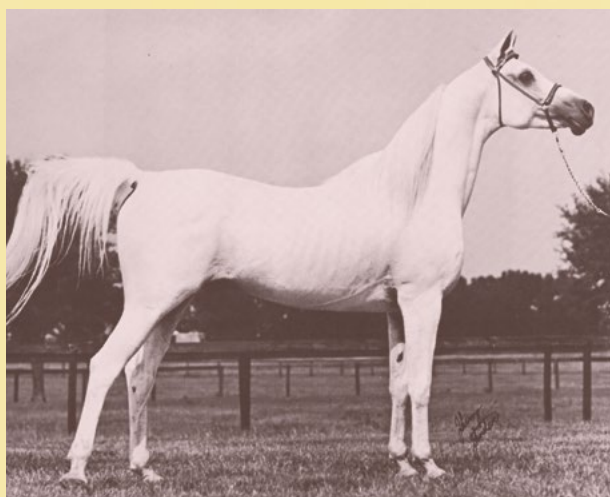
NABILAH



ALAA EL DIN



MAYSA



*KHOFO



*MAGIDAA



when, in 1983, she was sold to the Joe and Henny Krusznki of Krush Arabians. Cared for and managed by Arabians Ltd., she was subsequently purchased by the farm's owners, Jim and Judy Sirbasku, who owned her for the rest of her life. Judy Sirbasku, who is particularly attached to the broodmares on the farm, had a strong feeling for Bint Magidaa from the beginning. "I fell in love with her at first sight!" Judy declares. To this day, her special bond with the mare remains a highlight of her life with Arabian horses.

As an individual, Bint Magidaa was a tall mare with a pronounced wither, and shapely neck combined with an excellent throatlatch. She had overall good body structure, with a strong, level croup and high-set tail. In body type she was a longer, stretchier mare, with the longer face that generally accompanies that look. Her eyes were large and dark, complimenting the dryness of her face and accentuating her type. "If you relate type to strain," observes Shawn Crews, the dedicated manager of Arabians Ltd., "Bint Magidaa had an ideal Abbeyan look."

Bint Magidaa's life as a broodmare began with ten foals by Shaikh Al Badi: seven colts and three fillies. The first was the grey stallion Ruminaja Rabia, a sire of 21 foals, although only one has bred on in straight Egyptian bloodlines. The Jameson's must have liked what they saw, however, because they immediately bred Bint Magidaa back to Shaikh Al Badi and the result was another colt, this time a chestnut named Nazeem. Like his full brother, Ruminaja Majed, born six years later, these two, as might be expected, were different in type than her grey foals. Both stallions have bred on, however Nazeem only sired five foals, none of which were straight Egyptian, while Ruminaja Majed sired nearly forty foals, several of which have bred on in modern lines.

The Jamesons clearly had an excellent broodmare in Bint Magidaa, but it was with the birth of her third foal, yet another colt, that her influence became legendary. If she had but one foal, she would still have become famous with this one! His name was Ruminaja Ali and he gained immortality by being both a great champion and great sire. Of course this great stallion is well-deserving of an article solely devoted to his enormous influence on the breed, so please see "The Life and Legacy of Ruminaja Ali" in Desert Heritage Volume 1, Anno 1/2002 for a complete history of this legendary stallion.. With over four hundred foals to his credit, the influence of Ruminaja Ali is profound, both within straight Egyptian breeding as well as with the outstanding foals

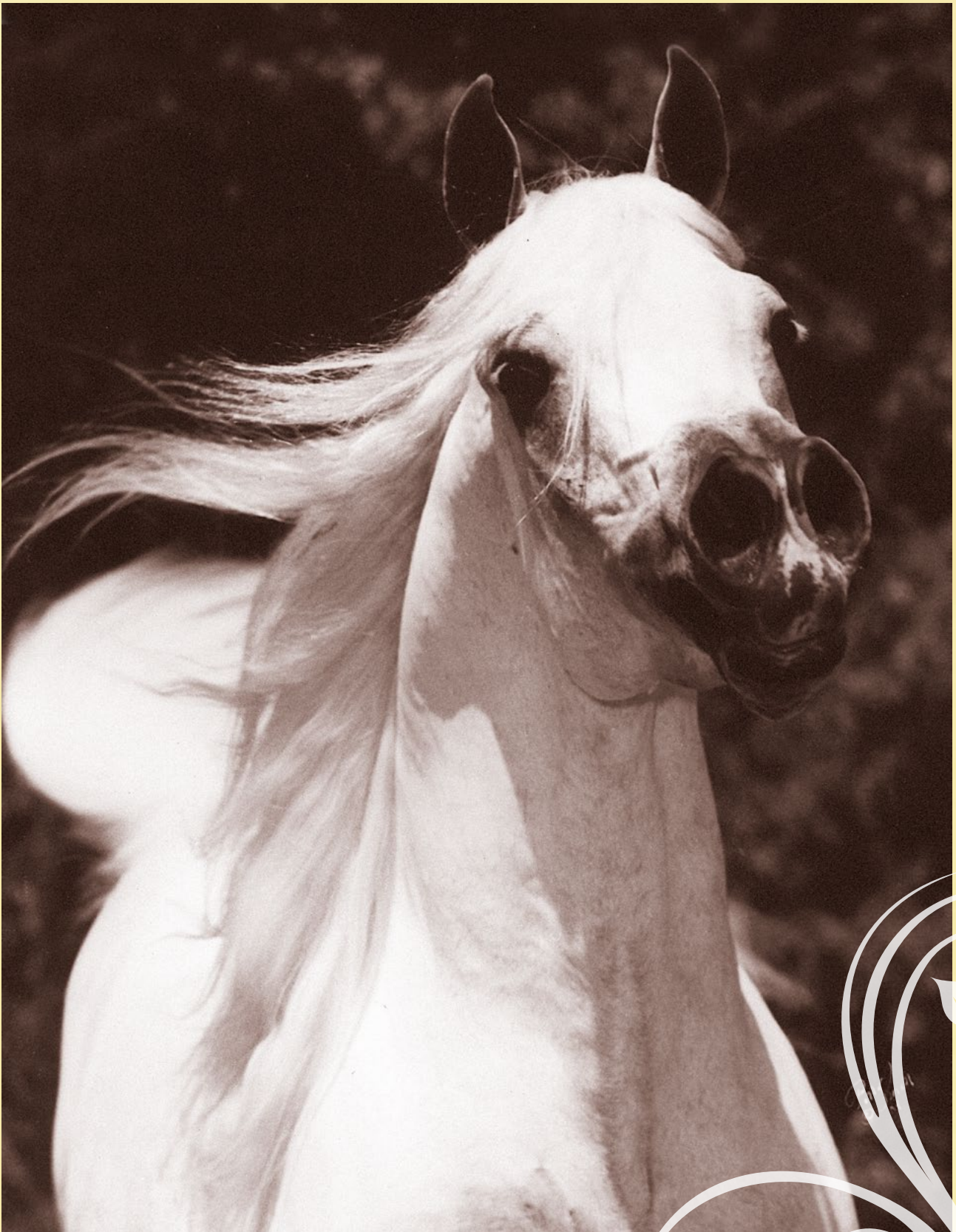
he sired when bred to mares of other bloodlines.

Another full brother was foaled in 1977, the beautiful Ruminaja Bahjat. "He was a horse ahead of his time," states Janice Bush of Kehilan Arabians, who managed Bahjat while he was at Somerset Farm. "Sadly, when he was in his prime, the United States was breeding more for the style of horse that was currently winning in the show ring." While Ruminaja Bahjat did produce his share of winners, especially with non-Egyptian mares, his real value is one that takes a generation to appreciate – he was a fantastic broodmare sire. His daughters have been superb producers, consistently passing on his type, high-set neck, length of leg, charismatic expression and size. "He was a woman's horse," remembers Janice, "and simply did not respond well to men." Regularly ridden by the girls who were grooms at Somerset, Janice also recalls his owner, Lee Romney, sneaking down to the stables at night and being caught sitting next to Bahjat, who was lying peacefully in his stall basking in the attentions of his owner. Like several Bint Magidaa offspring, Ruminaja Bahjat ended up in South America, where he went to a farm renowned for its beautiful broodmares, that of Count Zichy-Thyssen, and continued to have an influence as a sire.

*In 1979, Bint Magidaa finally gave the Jameson's a filly, Ruminaja Shakira. This time the sire was the Nazeer son, *Ramses Fayek and the result was a beautiful mare and worthy daughter. Ruminaja Shakira was later exported to Brazil and, sadly, only had one straight Egyptian son that has bred on. Her next daughter, Ruminaja Magidaa, the first filly sired by Shaikh Al Badi, survived less than a year.*

Once again in foal to Shaikh Al Badi, Bint Magidaa traveled to Texas. Shawn Crews, who was just a teenager at the time, clearly remembers Bint Magidaa's arrival. "I had been Ruminaja Ali's groom, so I knew that this was his mother and was anxious to see her." While Shawn's heart at the time was firmly in the show barn rather than the breeding shed, she still took time to admire Bint Magidaa. "She had a regal, knowing look," Shawn recalls. "Later, it was clear many of the traits we prize in the breeding program at Arabians Ltd., such as height, length of neck and clean throatlatch, came directly from Bint Magidaa."

Two sons came next, first Ruminaja Fayez, who was foaled in Texas after Bint Magidaa made her move there. Matthew Bergen, whose family also owned Ruminaja Ali, recalls that Ruminaja Fayez was a big and powerful stallion, much like his brother. "Fayez had a



RUMINAJA ALI
(Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa)



BINT BINT MAGIDAA

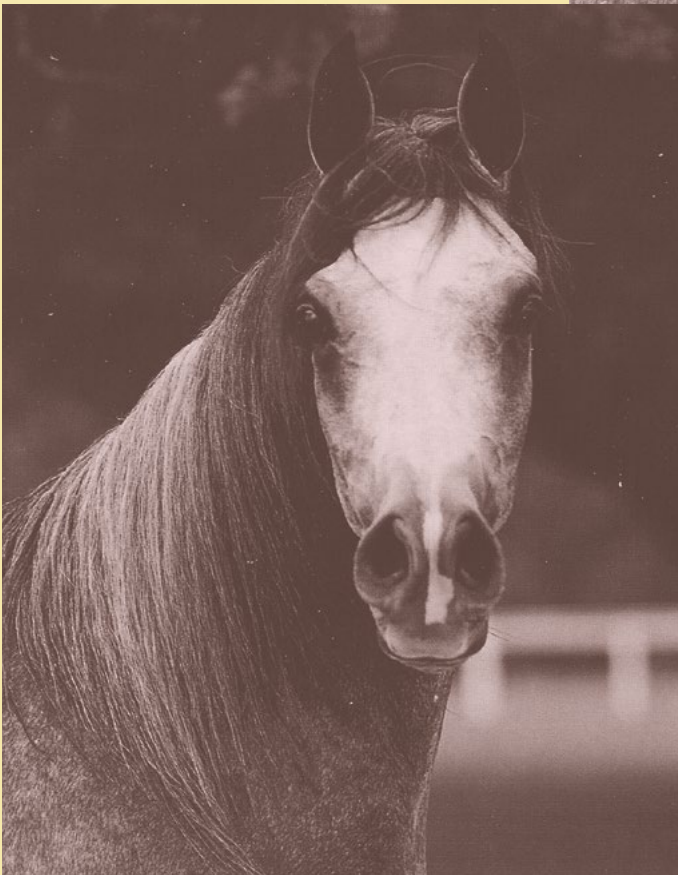
(Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa)
with Judy Sirbasku and Shawn Crews of Arabians Ltd.



Bint Bint Magidaa at Scottsdale. She was capably shown by Shawn Crews, who despite the mare's intense dislike of the show ring, coaxed this lovely pose from her in center ring.



The chestnut filly
BELOVEDD INFIDEL,
sired by Thee Desperado, was Bint Magidaa's last foal.
A result of embryo transfer, she was foaled in 1996
when her dam was 26 years old.



AKIRA MAGIDAA
was the last of Bint Magidaa's foals by Shaikh Al Badi.





MISS MAGGIE MAE

was Bint Magidaa's second foal by The Minstril,
a cross which doubled the blood of Bint Magidaa.
In the tradition of her dam, she has been an excellent producer with offspring
such as Thee Jazzman, Gatsby CC, and Savannah CC.



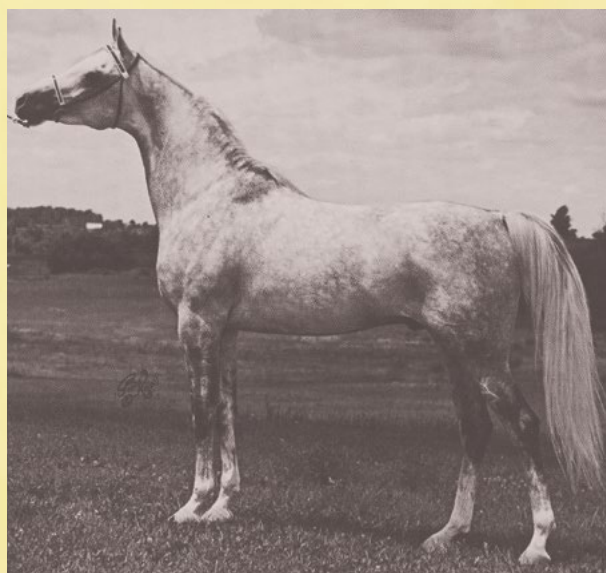
BINT MAGIDAA

Sculptor Karen Kasper depicted Bint Magidaa in bronze for her owners Judy and Jim Sirbasku.
As is her custom, Karen carefully studied this beautiful mare in life before commencing her work,
and the result superbly captures the essence of this famed broodmare.



RUMINAJA MAJED

foaled in 1981, was one of two chestnut stallions that Bint Magidaa produced by Shaikh Al Badi.



RUMINAJA RABIA

was the first of the many wonderful stallions Bint Magidaa produced with Shaikh Al Badi. He was foaled in 1974.

bold presence about him,” says Matt, “and was a photogenic and charismatic stallion. Just like Ali, Fayez did anything I asked of him and always tried to please me.” Somewhat overshadowed by his famous brothers, Fayez nevertheless sired over eighty foals in his lifetime.

The story of Bint Magidaa’s next colt is still unfolding, as he continues to be a sire of influence around the world. A dynamic stallion of classic type, Alidaar was foaled in Texas, but has clearly conquered the world. Originally owned by the Kruszynski’s, he was later sold to Willi and Ursula Poth of Classic Arabians in France. Daughters of Alidaar have played a major role in many programs, including several mares with the “Classic” prefix bred by the Poths. Alidaara, out of Glorieta Serima, has been a foundation mare of note for Sakr Arabians in Egypt, and Al Khaled Farm, also of Egypt, boasts five Alidaar daughters. Alidaar is now owned by the renowned Al Rayyan Stud of Qatar. “As the main part of my program is based on Dahmah Shawanieh, Bukra – Farida family, I needed an outcross,” states owner Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khaled Al-Thani. “At the time I bought Alidaar, I thought he would be the best choice, and until today I have never regretted that choice – he has given me even more than I hoped for. After ten years we still use him regularly for breeding and his daughters are amongst my favorite broodmares on the farm.”

*It is a brave move indeed to once again breed away from a such a successful cross, but for her next foal, Bint Magidaa was bred to her half-brother, Nabel. The result was a beautiful filly, Nagda, an intensification of this rare Abbeyah blood. Now owned by Hassanain Al Nakeeb of Al Nakeeb Stud in England, Nagda is a distinguished mare who has already produced two grey stallions with excellent balance and type, Sterling Vision by Imperial Imdal, recently exported from the U.S. to Michael Ponnath of Germany, and Majestic Noble SMF, owned by Silver Maple Farm. She was also bred to Alidaar to produce the linebred *Magidaa mare Alidaarlin and will hopefully continue to produce influential bloodstock for Al Nakeeb.*

Bint Bint Magidaa was the next foal, and once again a mare whose name was chosen wisely. She was, however, an excellent example of the need for patience when breeding straight Egyptians. Not the prettiest of fillies at that tender age, she was regularly hidden from view until she was almost two years old when she finally began to blossom. Owned by the Bint Bint Magidaa partnership, consisting of Mark and Nancy Ness and Jim and Judy Sirbasku, she was soon shown to a win at the Egyptian Event by David Gardner. In a move which validated the talents of his assistant, Shawn Crews, he then turned over the lead, and it was Shawn who garnered the Reserve Junior Championship with her. A mare that was coveted by several breeders around



ALIDAAR

(Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa)

the world, Shawn tells of a time when she was at the Egyptian Event and, after another win in the ring, was presented privately to several overseas guests. A strong trotting mare, Bint Bint Magidaa surprised them all by taking three steps and becoming dead lame. The best vets in Kentucky were immediately called to examine her, but she never showed a hint of the lameness again – almost as if she made absolutely certain she would return home to Texas, refusing to entertain the idea of international travel. Bint Bint Magidaa produced three fillies and three colts during her lifetime and her son Richteous, by Richter MH, owned by DeShazer Arabians, is currently on lease to Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar.

Bint Magidaa's final foal by Shaikh Al Badi was the grey filly Akira Magidaa, who grew up to produce two stallions by The Minstril, both of which have bred on. For her next foal, Bint Magidaa herself was bred to The Minstril, giving birth to her first bay foal, Thee Alche-

mist, who was later exported to the Brazilian Stud of Dr. Aloysio Faria and sired nearly eighty foals for that farm. The following year Miss Maggie Mae was born, a full sister to Thee Alchemist, but grey in color like her dam, whom she greatly resembled. She also has been an excellent broodmare, dam of such horses as Gatsby CC and Savannah CC, and Thee Jazzman.

The final three foals out of Bint Magidaa were bred by Jim and Judy Sirbasku. The first of the three, a chestnut mare named Magidaa's Image, was also sired by the Minstril, once again doubling the blood of Bint Magidaa. Magidaa's Image has been a fantastic producer of fillies for the farm, with six to her credit to date. The last two foals of Bint Magidaa were by the influential sire Thee Desperado, her great-grandson, and included the bay colt Thee Infidel, as well as her final foal, a chestnut filly named Belovedd Infidel. Both were successful show horses, and Thee Infidel was named a U.S. Top Ten Futurity Colt as well as a U.S. Top Ten Stallion.

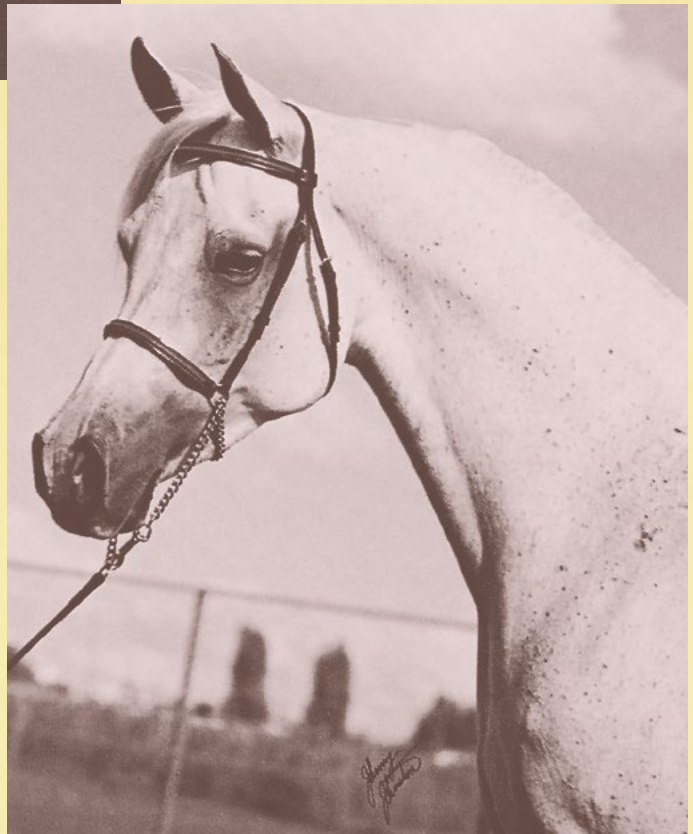




***MAGIDAA**
sired by Alaa el Din,
is the dam of both Bint Magidaa and Nabel

"Thee Infidel is a culmination of many years of horses at Arabians Ltd.," states Shawn Crews. "Although he is bay like his sire, he resembles Ruminaja Ali more, with strong Abeyyan traits like great structure and charisma. His head, although not extremely exotic, is quite short and pretty." A sire of more than 200 foals, the Sirbaskus are particularly pleased with his daughters, who are proving to be excellent broodmares. The final foal in Bint Magidaa's long career, the lovely chestnut mare Belovedd Infidel, was also a halter winner. She was born on February 3rd, 1996, just one day before her dam's birthday, and was perhaps the best birthday present a great mare like Bint Magidaa could receive.

Bint Magidaa lived two more years after her final foal, and, in November of 1998 at age 28, was laid to rest in November of 1998. During her years in Texas she had received a succession of visitors from around the globe who always



BINT MAGIDAA

had a shapely neck and fine throatlatch which may be seen in many of her descendants.



BINT MAGIDAA AND BINT BINT MAGIDAA

A queen and her princess: Bint Magidaa as an aged mare (right) beside her lovely daughter, Bint Bint Magidaa.

asked to pay homage to this noble mare, and for good reason. More than 1,000 horses descend from her in the second generation alone, passing forward the hallmarks of her strain: high-set tail; long, shapely neck; imposing height; and balanced structure. The great Arab poet Farazdaq might have envisioned such a mare when he wrote the following verse:

*...free of the desert born...
her whiteness shimmering cool as the pearls, at whose step
the very earth will light...*

Bint Magidaa, a wondrous pearl of the Abeyyah, remains an extraordinary mare in the hearts and minds of those who knew her.



RICHTEOUS
(Richter MH x Bint Bint Magidaa)



SCHE MON AMI
(Ruminaja Bahjat out of Bint Magida x ZT Shahmona)



RUMINAJA BAHJAT

(Shaikh Al Badi x Bint Magidaa)
was a superb broodmare sire.

He was a senior sire for Somerset Farm
of California before traveling to Argentina
where he joined the herd
of County Federico Zichy-Thyssen.



THEE INFIDELBY

Thee Desperado out of Bint Magidaa, was Bint Magidaa's last colt.

A tall imposing bay stallion, he has won multiple halter championships, including both U.S. Top Ten Futurity Colt and and a U.S. Top Ten Stallion.



NAGDA

(Nabiel x Bint Magidaa) is the dam of the lovely stallions Sterling Vision and Majestic Noble SMF. She is owned by Al Nakeeb Arabians of England.



PHAAROS

(ZT Faaïq x Bint Atallah)

*Special thanks to The Pyramid Society for the use of reference photographs from their
"Reference Handbooks of the Straight Egyptian Horse."
Although several volumes of these treasured books are out of print, remaining volumes may be ordered at:
www.pyramidsociety.org*

*Thanks also to Jim and Judy Sirbasku and Shawn Crews
for generously sharing their photographs of Bint Magidaa and her offspring.
To read more about Bint Magidaa's most famous son, the legendary Ruminaja Ali, please read
"The Life and Legacy of Ruminaja Ali" in Desert Heritage Volume 1 Anno 1/2002*

*Courtesy of Desert Heritage and Straight Egyptians.com, this article may also be accessed on-line at:
http://www.straightegyptians.com/barn/background/ruminajaali/index_e.html*