

■ *by Hans Nagel*
Gigi Grasso, Erwin Escher,
Polly Knoll, Rik Van Lent

In discussing breeding subjects of large animals, such as horses, an extensive period of time has to be examined. It takes approximately nine to ten years for just one horse generation to be established. So if one wishes to study genetic influences, at least several generations are required to do this, and thus many, many more years must be considered.

There is no doubt that the Arabian horse breed is very old. Numbers like a thousand years or more are often mentioned, and this is possibly correct. However, when it comes to looking for data and information

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Of International influence in Arabian Horse Breeding

material suitable for an accurate study, the reality looks different. The collection of Arabian horses and the recording of their lineage in a reliable form began no earlier than in the middle of the 19th century and compared with the number of Arabian horses today, there were only a few that came out of the Arabian countries into Eastern or Western Europe.

It all began at the end of the 19th century, when Hungarian purchase expeditions and Lady Ann Blunt from Crabbett Park in England returned to Europe

from their voyages to the Middle East with desert-bred Arabian horses. It was at this time that written pedigrees by European horsemen replaced the Bedouin tradition of verbally tracing the origins and the breeding of their horses. To a great extent, the records created by early European breeders are the foundation of all recorded pedigrees today. Similar expeditions were carried out by the Polish, French and Italian governments, and some horses were exported from Arabia to the US as well. Proper recording

KUBINEC

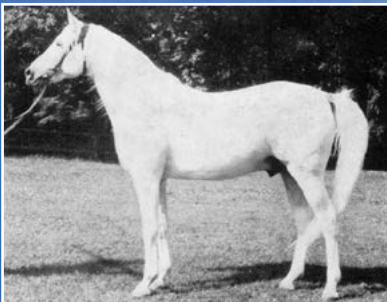
1987 chestnut, stallion

NABEG RASB*1620 Bay 1966	ARAX RASB*1018 Bay 1952	AMURATH-SAHIB RASB*997 Grey 1982
MENES RASB*2231 Bay 1977	NOMENKLATURA RASB*255 Bay 1943	ANGARA RASB*1342 Bay 1947
METROPOLIA RASB*1312 Chestnut 1957	PRIBOJ RASB*313 Chestnut 1944	NASEEM RASB*5 Grey 1922
BALATON RASB*2714 Chestnut 1982	MAMMONA RASB*168 Bay 1939	MAMMONA RASB*168 Bay 1939
ASWAN RASB*1379 Grey 1958	NAZEER RASB*247 Grey 1934	PROLUN RASB*75 Chestnut 1944
PANAGIA RASB*1837 Grey 1971	YOSRFIA RASB*399 Grey 1943	RISSALMA RASB*141 Chestnut 1952
PUSTINIA RASB*1571 Chestnut 1965	SALON RASB*1412 Grey 1959	OUR RASB*571 Grey 1943
SALON RASB*1412 Grey 1959	PTASHKA RASB*1094 Bay 1958	KRUCICA RASB*211 Chestnut 1929
MUSCAT RASB*1845 Chestnut 1971	NEGATIV RASB*377 Grey 1945	MANSOUR RASB*111 Grey 1921
MALPIA RASB*1349 Chestnut 1958	SONATA RASB*133 Chestnut 1946	BINT SAMUDIA RASB*111 Grey 1925
KONMETIKA RASB*2198 Bay 1976	PRIBOJ RASB*313 Chestnut 1944	SHEIKH EL ARAB RASB*228 Grey 1933
ARAX RASB*1018 Bay 1952	NEGATIV RASB*377 Grey 1945	HIND RASB*192 Bay 1982
KARTA RASB*1465 Bay 1962	SONATA RASB*133 Chestnut 1946	NEGATIV RASB*377 Grey 1945
KAPELLA RASB*1306 Chestnut 1957	PRIBOJ RASB*313 Chestnut 1944	SONATA RASB*133 Chestnut 1946
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Ghazal



Skowronek



Negativ



Gwarny

was initiated at that time. Since then, 100 - 120 years have passed and even when applying a very generous consideration, most of the Arabian horses of today can only look back to a recorded history of 10 - 15 generations in total. It is this span of time, which can be considered as the known and fairly reliable history of the Arabian horse breed.

The circumstances of the purchases and the purpose of these early acquisitions were rather vague. In fact, one can consider a first period, from 1850 until World War I, when those buyers from Hungary, Poland, England, Germany and the United States bought their horses for two primary purposes:

a) The majority of Arabian horses were selected to improve the old European breeds. In particular, the High Society was invol-

ved in a very sophisticated horse breeding concept, partly as sheer luxury and partly with the idea to create better horses for the army and for work. The earliest state studs founded at that time were charged with the same purpose as well. Many of those early stud farms kept hundreds of horses, but their majority always consisted of half-bred Arabians, and only a small group of purebred Arabians of 10 - 20 mares served as a gene-pool for further use.

b) The second idea for choosing horses of Arabian origin was for racing. The great success of certain Middle Eastern stallions in England as race horses, and later as breeding stock used on English mares, had originally encouraged the Blunt family to search for such fast horses in Arabia as well. However, this idea regrettably failed.

The breeding for both purposes had only a short life. The

Nazeer



Witraz



Aswan

English Thoroughbred became more and more popular as a cross to improve local horses; the public and the army were asking for bigger horses and half-bred Arabians did not have the required body size. Only the Hungarian State Stud of Babolna maintained the original strategy which resulted in the development of the very well known Shagya breed which became one of the best half-bred Arabian breeds with its own type, its own stud recording and its own studbook. No world-class purebred Arabian sire line was created during this first period. One could only mention the so called Shagya Arabians of Babolna, which began with a sire named Shagya who is praised as the founder of this breed.

When the miserable consequences of the World War I vanished away and life returned back to normal, Arabian horse breeding also enjoyed a new prosperity.

Around 1920 to 1930, the Crabbett Park in England, one of the oldest Arabian studs in Europe, reached its zenith. Its Arabian horses conquered nearly all parts of the world. Also the Arabian horse breeding studs in Poland, at Babolna in Hungary, at Tersk in Russia and last but not least, at the Royal Agricultural Society in Egypt, increased their number of mares and looked for better stallions for their breeding programs. In the middle of all this activity, suddenly three stallions appeared and caught the attention of most of the knowledgeable breeders. These stallions established a new period, a new era in the breeding of Arabian horses. This period, plus another 50 years, one could call a "second period". These three sires influenced this period to a great extent.

The spectacular stallion Skowronek, a horse born in Ukraine and later, owned by

Lady Wentworth at Crabbett Park, created a new and exciting look in Arabian horse breeding, particularly through his two sons, Naseem and Raffles. The first son, Naseem, was bought by the Tersk Stud, and the second son, Raffles, found his new place in the US. Together they proved the exceptional quality of Skowronek as a sire. At Tersk, Naseem created his own sire lines, mainly through his son Negativ who is still influential today. People in the US nearly got the "Raffles-fever", even though this horse was highly criticized due to his height of only

about 140 cm. But for the majority, he was the greatest sire of that time.

The next important stallion was the Polish-bred Amurath-Sahib, born in 1932. He was the late offspring of the famous Bairactor sire line, originating from the Marbach Stud of Weil, Germany. Again, the weakest point for Amurath-Sahib was size and for a long time the Polish authorities were divided in their opinions of if and when to use this horse. However, Amurath-Sahib became a stallion with a great future and tre-



Hadban Enzahi

PAIDRONS PSYCHE

1988 chestnut, stallion

ASWAN RASB*1379 Grey 1958	NAZEER RAS*247 Grey 1934	MANSOUR RAS*121 Grey 1921
PATRON AVS*586 Chestnut 1966	YOSREIA RAS*399 Grey 1943	PIST SAMHY RAS*183 Grey 1929
PODRUGA RASB*823 Chestnut 1951	PRIBOJ RASB*313 Chestnut 1944	SHEIKH EL ARAB RAS*228 Grey 1943
*PADRON AHR*175389 Chestnut 1977	DIKARKA RASB*42 Chestnut 1930	HINO RAS*101 Bay 1929
BRIGHT WINGS AVS*280 Chestnut 1965	BRIGHT SHADOW AHSB*1311 Chestnut 1948	PILOU RASB*75 Chestnut 1944
ODESSA AVS*678 Chestnut 1973	SILENT WINGS AHSB*2096 Chestnut 1954	RISALMA RASB*104 Chestnut 1942
SERINDA AVS*335 Chestnut 1969	SERADIN AHSB*3090 Chestnut 1962	DENOUSTE SIREAR*500 Chestnut 1971
ARAX RASB*1018 Bay 1952	CINDERS AHSB*2648 Chestnut 1959	CARABINE PASB*190 Grey 1935
*TAMERLAN AHR*181487 Bay 1967	AMURATH-SAHIB PASB*497 Grey 1932	RADI GSB*823 Bay 1925
TRAPEZIA RASB*1462 Bay 1961	ANGARA PASB*1342 Bay 1947	PALE SHADOW GSB*4285 Chestnut 1941
KILIKA AHR*266273 Bay 1982	POMERANETS RASB*952 Chestnut 1952	ORAN GSB*1025 Chestnut 1940
KILIMANDSCHARO GASB*324 Grey 1968	TAKTIKA RASB*254 Bay 1943	SILENA GSB*1152 Chestnut 1944
*KILIFA AHR*226721 Chestnut 1972	ASWAN RASB*1379 Grey 1958	MANASSEH GSB*3076 Bay 1907
KAPELKA GASB*247 Chestnut 1966	KARTA RASB*1465 Bay 1962	SILINDRA GSB*1477 Chestnut 1980
	ASWAN RASB*1379 Grey 1958	ALGODON GSB*1546 Chestnut 1952
	KAPELKA GASB*247 Chestnut 1966	YATERMATH GSB*1694 Grey 1951
		35 AMURATH PASB*101 Bay 1927
		SAMHA PASB*1252 Grey 1921
		WELIKI SALEM PASB*967 Bay 1938
		BRODA PASB*1277 Chestnut 1934
		PRIBOJ RASB*313 Chestnut 1944
		MANASSA PASB*198 Bay 1929
		TAKI PAN RASB*105 Bay 1937
		KRONA RASB*164 Chestnut 1940
		NAZEER RAS*247 Grey 1934
		YOSREIA RAS*399 Grey 1943
		ARAX RASB*1018 Bay 1952
		KAPILLA RASB*1999 Chestnut 1957
		NAZEER RAS*247 Grey 1934
		YOSREIA RAS*399 Grey 1943
		POMERANETS RASB*952 Chestnut 1952
		KNOPKA RASB*762 Chestnut 1955

mendous influence. His son Arax, who represented him in Russian breeding, and Gwarny in Poland were the direct offspring of this family. At this point, it is highly recommended to turn the page to a most instructive document, written as an introduction to the 9th Edition of the Tersk Studbook. In this book, the great influence of these two horses is perfectly demonstrated through current times as is documented by the following sequence of generations:

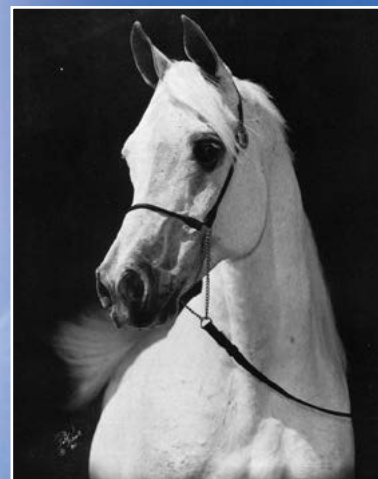
First: Amurath-Sahib - Arax - Nabeg - Menes (or maybe any other known Nabeg son), four generations as a spectacular band of sires.

Second: Skowronek - Naseem - Negativ - Salon - Muscat, again with all the potential to successfully continue their line for further generations.

Before the third sire is discussed, a different looking horse should be mentioned. He is Kuhailan Haifi, a stallion that is very closely associated with historic Polish Arabian breeding. When naming the horses forming this line, the great importance of this sire line becomes clear for everyone who knows the high skill of Polish horse breeders. His sire line is Kuhailan Haifi - Ofir - Witraz - Bask - Negatraz - Monogramm.

And finally, the last sire who proved to be the most brilliant one in all modern day Arabian horse breeding. This horse is the famous stallion Nazeer, bred by

the Royal Agricultural Society in Cairo, Egypt. Nazeer and several of his sons gained world wide fame and today are still considered highly respected sires of the breed. The first Nazeer son, Aswan, out of Yosreia, had the unique chance to become one of the chief sires at the Tersk Stud for more than twenty years. While the other stallions mentioned here were known for adding type and elegance to the Arabian breed, Aswan contributed these characteristics to an even greater level. He stamped his offspring with his own extreme Arabian type. People like to criticize and look for problems; many only search for the negative and forget the positive. This stallion also had his faults. He had a short neck, not the best front legs, a soft back and even the angle of his hind legs was rather insufficient. However, overall he looked like a true Arabian horse, one that came from another region of this world which had created its own types of desert animals and wonders. The stud director believed in him, he passed the tests and they used Aswan more than any other horse during his life. He just seemed to fit into the Russian breeding programme together with the previously mentioned two sire lines. The Tersk Stud produced its best Arabians in applying this three-fold combination of sires. The well known stallions Kubinec and Padrons Psyche are just two examples. A pedigree study of these two horses shows the power of all three of these sires in conjunction, one of the keys for the success in Russian breeding.



Shaikh Al Badi



Maysoun

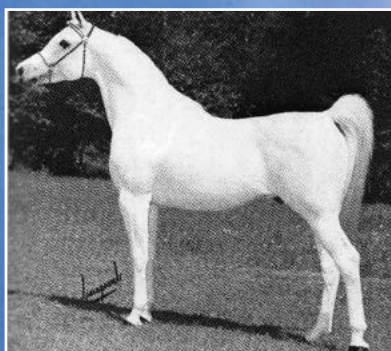


Ali Jamaal



Ruminaja Ali

In straight Egyptian breeding, Nazeer's position of excellence was never contested. Including Aswan, he can present six sons of equal quality and breeding power. Regrettably, not all of them were given a good chance. These five additional eminent stallions, besides Aswan, were Hadban Enzahi, Ghazal, Morafic, Ibn Halima, and Alaa el Din. Only Alaa el Din remained in Egypt all his life. He had, more than other, the ability to produce the most wonderful females, yet as a sire producer he was not successful. Therefore, there is no sire line of Alaa el Din of any lasting importance.



The Egyptian Prince

The stallion Hadban Enzahi arrived at the German Stud of Marbach in 1955. Immediately he became for many German breeders an example of oriental type and excellence. Very soon a herd of grey mares, all of them Hadban Enzahi daughters, were grazing on Marbach's hilly pastures. They were a delight and symbol of oriental beauty, far away from their country of origin. Hadban Enzahi's offspring included good males and females, some of which remained in Germany. Several others were exported as far away as South Africa and Australia where they definitely influenced Arabian breeding in those countries. However, a strong, long-lasting sire line by Hadban Enzahi is not yet visible either in Germany or elsewhere. Perhaps the most promising prospect would be the stallion Madkour I. This Hadban Enzahi son was certainly the most striking one. He was a very presentable horse and

winner of shows. Madkour I sired Jamil, a proud, well-balanced stallion. Jamil left his mark of influence in the United States, when he was leased by Ansata Arabians. Ansata used him intensely and also took him to the show ring where he was a US National Top Ten Stallion in 1984. But none of Jamil's sons made it as a top sire. The same could be said for the second Hadban Enzahi son, Malik, whose only real outstanding son, the stallion Asfour owned by the Simeon Stud in Australia, produced females of excellent quality, but a sire of world-class stature has not yet presented himself.

At this time, it is worthwhile to mention Frederico Tesio within this context. Mr. Tesio presents in his enjoyable book "Making The Race Horse", a study of great interest. In it he has shown that the influence of a stallion, with respect to the heritability of speed, almost completely vanishes within three generations. Most sire lines in Thoroughbred racing lose their importance during such a period. It seems this theory applies to other breeds and other breeding purposes as well.

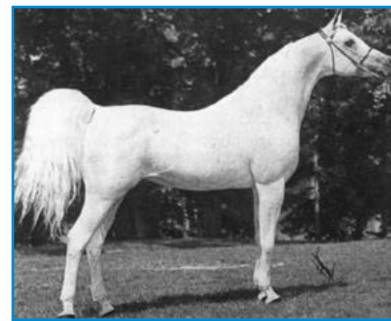
Ghazal, a Nazeer son out of the mare Bukra, came to the Marbach Stud at the same time as Hadban Enzahi. Ghazal's dam, Bukra, was possibly the prettiest mare in Egyptian breeding at that time and was a brood mare of first class. Ghazal is mentioned here as an example of how even experienced horsemen can be wrong and misjudge the breeding quality of a stallion.



Ansata Imperial

The directors of Marbach rejected him because of faults in his physical structure or phenotype. Ghazal was almost completely discarded from the Marbach breeding program due to his low back. However, the few offspring he left showed his enor-

mous potential as a sire. Apparently they underestimated the value and strength of his dam, Bukra. At least, they produced one stallion, Zaher - a perfect sire for Marbach, but since his mother was not a straight Egyptian, Zaher's career was limited too. Only the few straight Egyptian daughters sired by Ghazal in Europe kept his blood alive.



Ansata Ibn Halima

Margaret Marshall, just loved this horse and apparently Morafic returned this attention by being a real sire of stallions.

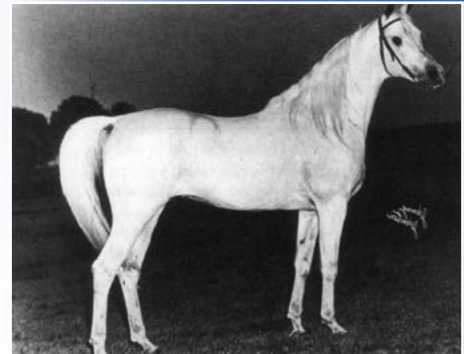
Morafic sired the stallions Dalul and The Egyptian Prince, both with so

Ansata Halim Shah



many good offspring - males and females. Another strongly built Morafic son was Shaikh Al Badi who stood at Bentwood Farms in Texas. These stallions became some of the most popular stallions in the US. In examining our current situation, it looks as if Shaikh Al Badi, through his son Ruminaja Ali, out of the Alaa el Din granddaughter Bint Magidaa, seems to be the one to continue the Morafic sire line in the US. The Ruminaja Ali son, The Minstral, produced Thee Desperado, and anybody visiting an Arabian show ring in the

USA will see just how many horses of this origin are presented. In addition, there is the unique stallion Ali Jamaal, owned by Lenita Perroy of Haras Meia Lua in Brazil. Ali Jamaal, by Ruminaja Ali and out of the mare Heritage Memory, has built his own empire. His sons excel in the show rings of South America, the US and Europe. They also excel as breeding stallions which confirms their good genetic background. The passage of time has not been long enough to see which one, or even two or three, of these sires will be the real



Morafic

Ansata Hejazi







Al Adeed Al Shaqab

heir of the Nazeer - Morafic - Shaikh Al Badi - Ruminaja Ali sire line.

The last and prettiest of all the Nazeer sons was Ibn Halima. Don and Judi Forbis bought this horse as a yearling from El Zahara Stud in Cairo, Egypt in 1959 and brought him to the US. This horse made the now world-famous Ansata Arabian Stud known to every horse breeder involved in Egyptian breeding. Ansata Ibn Halima, as he was registered in the US, was in phenotype and genotype a stallion of excellence - beautiful all over - a living painting - with the most delightful spirit. In addition, he was a very prepotent sire. Again, he could do both, sire sons and daughters of exceptional quality. His most well known sons were Ansata Imperial, Ansata Ibn Sudan, El Hilal and Ansata Halim

Shah - all four of excellent stallion quality.

Ansata Ibn Sudan remained at his home stud and added his value and beauty to the herd of mares at Ansata Arabians.

Ansata Imperial is considered as a sire who made a great contribution to the Imperial Egyptian Stud in Maryland, USA. It became a famous place for having some of the best Egyptian horses. However, Ansata Imperial's influence remained mostly in American, at least when he is compared with other sons of Ansata Ibn Halima. The same applies to El Hilal. This son of Ansata Ibn Halima was an American-bred horse of straight Egyptian lines, and if his name appears in a pedigree, the heart beats faster. Such sires breeders like to see

in a pedigree because they increase the value of each horse when related to them.

Ansata Halim Shah became an international traveler. He started his career very early as a 3- year- old when he was leased to Katharinenhof Stud in Germany. Thirty well selected mares were prepared and waited for him. They were mostly daughters or granddaughters of Alaa el Din and daughters or granddaughters of the Marbach-owned Mohebaa dam line. This close choice was a risk, but the calculation proved right.

It did not happen frequently in the stallion license system in Germany at that time, that several offspring of one licensed stallion would also be licensed and admitted for breeding

again. The majority of all licensed stallions in Germany never produced a licensed son. Out of hundreds of licensed stallions, only a handful were able to do that. However, they produced not more than two or three in total in all their lives. Ansata Halim Shah worked a miracle in one single breeding year. Nine of his seven born sons were chosen to be licensed for breeding. Such a result had never happened before and has never happened since. Ansata Halim Shah had his greatest success during this young age. After his return to the US, Ansata Halim Shah continued to sire some outstanding stallions at Ansata Arabians until he was sold to the Al Shaqab Stud in Doha, Qatar where he died much too early. Considering all these three areas of his breeding career, the following stallions present themselves as possible representatives to continue the famous Nazeer line via Ansata Ibn Halima and Ansata Halim Shah in Egyptian breeding. These are, according to their age, Salaa el Dine and Maysoun in Germany, Ansata Hejazi in Kuwait and Al Adeed Al Shaqab in Qatar. Time will tell which one of them will have the greatest influence in future. Already Maysoun through his son Orayan, Salaa el Dine through his son Safir in Qatar and Ansata Hejazi through several beautiful colts born in Kuwait have made their first steps on this ladder of success.

All the other important stallions in Egyptian breeding during the heyday of El Zahara, the so-called "Nazeer-free" ones, were not able to create their own strong sire

line, neither in Egypt or anywhere else. One or the other may possibly have produced one good son or grandson, but already in the same or in the next generation, the influence became weak and was unable to gain importance again in the great scenery of Arabian horse breeding.

In summary, the Nazeer sire line is spreading many fold, but the following have to be named as the clearest and most obvious stallions to continue this valuable line:

Nazeer - Aswan - Patron - Padron - Padrons Psyche

Nazeer - Morafic - Shaikh Al Badi - Ruminaja Ali, plus two potential sons

Nazeer - Ansata Ibn Halima - Ansata Halim Shah, plus four potential sons

It is very interesting to note that the three sires which were mentioned in the beginning of this discussion; Skowronek, Amurath-Sahib and Nazeer, had three things in common. All three of them were grey, all three of them were of small size - all well under 150 cm. - and, all three of them were considered to be the prettiest ones in their herd at that time, but compared to the criteria of today they lacked a lot. Nevertheless, they produced, with certain females, sons of extreme Arabian type. These facts might then show us just how important and influential the dam lines are when striving to improve the breed. Perhaps the traditional quotation or theory that, "The females maintain the breed and the stallions improve it.", might need a certain correction. □