

Egyptian



Dams Lines

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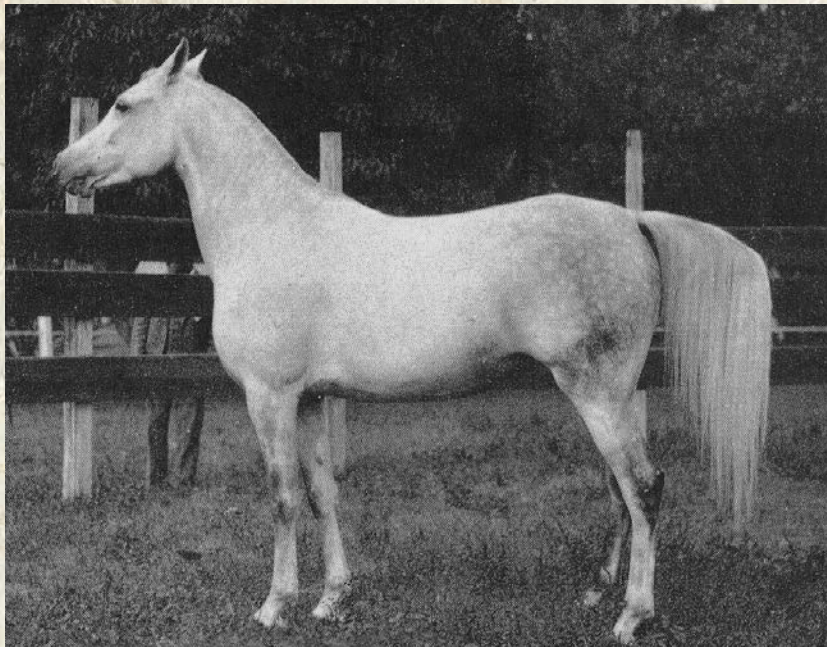
A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE FOUNDATION MARES

■ by **Cynthia Culbertson**
photos by Gigi Grasso

There is an interesting phenomenon repeated around the world at countless Arabian horse shows as well as at prominent breeding establishments – there are generally more good mares and fillies than colts and stallions. Perhaps even more interesting is that, in the best horses of either sex, the same mare lines recur with surprising regularity. A logical conclusion is that if one aspires to breed exceptional Arabian horses a careful study must be made of the dam lines. While this may sound simple, it rapidly becomes more complex when a significant study is undertaken. Different branches of the same family may produce horses of considerably varying type and quality. Some dam lines achieve their success primarily when blended to sires from a particular family, while their offspring from other lines are average at best. Still other dam lines have a strong type-to-color link and the look of their descendants is remarkably

different depending on their color.

In our fast-paced world, we seek instant knowledge and quick results, yet the realm of Arabian horse breeding requires patience and thoughtful study. Rather than attempting to define and categorize all of the various Egyptian Arabian dam lines, only a general overview will be given along with examples of various horses of that heritage. The challenge then becomes to study your own pedigrees and those of the horses you admire. Trace their lineage back to these root mares and the path taken to arrive at this final destination. Look for trends and tendencies. Decide for yourself which lines and families consistently produce a look that you admire. There is simply no substitute for taking the time to accumulate this knowledge, and by taking the longer path to your



Marhoussa

(Mabrouk Manial x Negma)

was bred by Prince Mohamed Ali. She is a granddaughter of Bint Yamama, bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II. Many lovely horses descend from this mare, first thought to be a Koheilah Jellabiyah, but now known to be Saqlawiyah Jidraniyan in strain.

destination, the journey becomes more satisfying and the results more likely to meet your expectations.

Because the Egyptian Arabian makes up less than 4% of the general Arabian population, the root mares from which all straight Egyptian Arabians descend are relatively few in number. Of the approximately twenty foundation mares in modern pedigrees, most were foaled in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These mares generally fall into two broad categories, either bred by the ruling family and aristocracy of Egypt or desertbreds presented as gifts to Egypt. Today, these foundation mares are generally organized by their strain names, and thereafter through various families that descend from the root mare, with different branches of each family. Judith Forbis, in her many reference books on the Egyptian Arabian, began grouping the dam lines in this useful manner, and today countless breeders around the world use her example in defining their horses beyond a simple strain designation.

The examples given of horses descended from the various foundation mares are by no means complete and arbitrarily combine both modern and historic horses. The lists are not intended to indicate the relative quality or merit of those horses named, or those that are left out. Instead, they are included in the hope of provoking further study by the reader.

Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah

The majority of straight Egyptians of the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah strain descend from three mares: Ghazala, Om Dalal, and Bint Yemama.

*Ghazala, who was foaled in 1896, was bred by Ali Pasha Sherif and during her lifetime was also owned by two other Arabian breeders of historic prominence, firstly by Lady Anne Blunt, and thereafter by Spencer Borden who imported Ghazala to the United States. Ghazala's daughter Ghadia (also known as Radia), and her daughters Bint Radia and Zareefa, were important mares for both the Royal Agricultural Society and the Inshass Stud. Of Zareefa, foaled 1911, Lady Ann Blunt wrote, "Very beautiful filly...the most lovely in the world." Several important stallions in Egypt, including Hamdan, Shabloul and Antar, are representatives from this family. Mares from this female line were also exported to many countries, such as Germany, Hungary, and the United States, where many have bred on into modern pedigrees. In addition, this family was used by private breeders in Egypt, including the Hamdan Stables and Albadeia. Zaaфарana was an important mare of this family, as was *Bint Serra I.*

Descendants of Ghazala

Al Lahab

Allah Ateyyah

Ansata Bint Zaafarana

Antar

Bint El Arabi

Bint Serra I

El Moez

Emad

Fa Serr

Fay El Dine

Gulnare

Hayam

Hamdan

Ibn Yakout

Naglaa

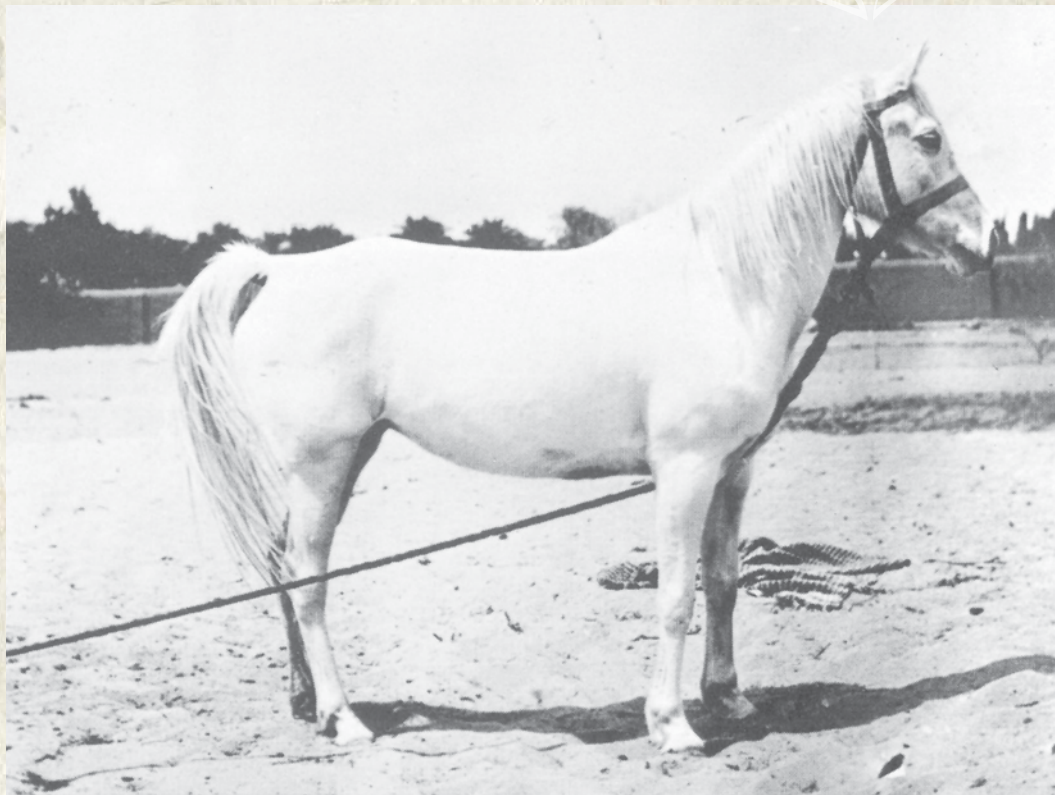
Shabloul

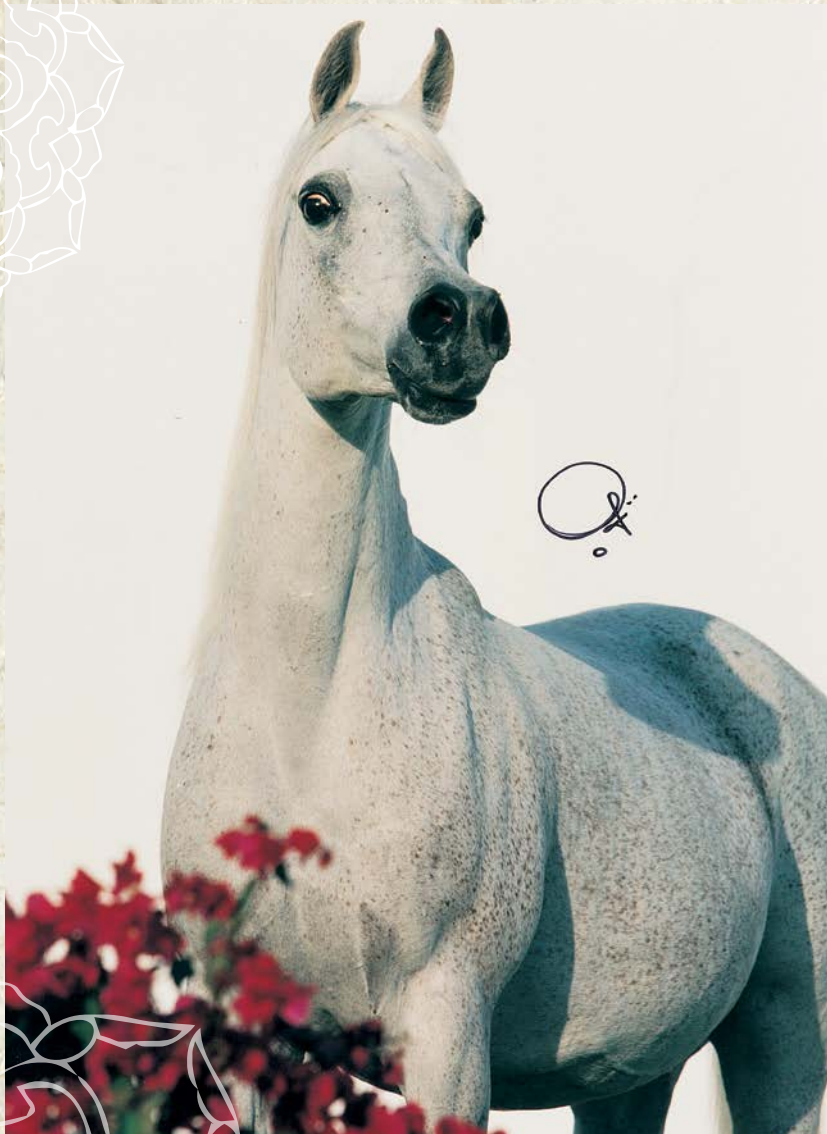
**Talal*

Ghazala

(Ibn Sherara x Bint Helwa)

foaled in 1896 and bred by Ali Pasha Sherif was
an Egyptian foundation mare of the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah strain



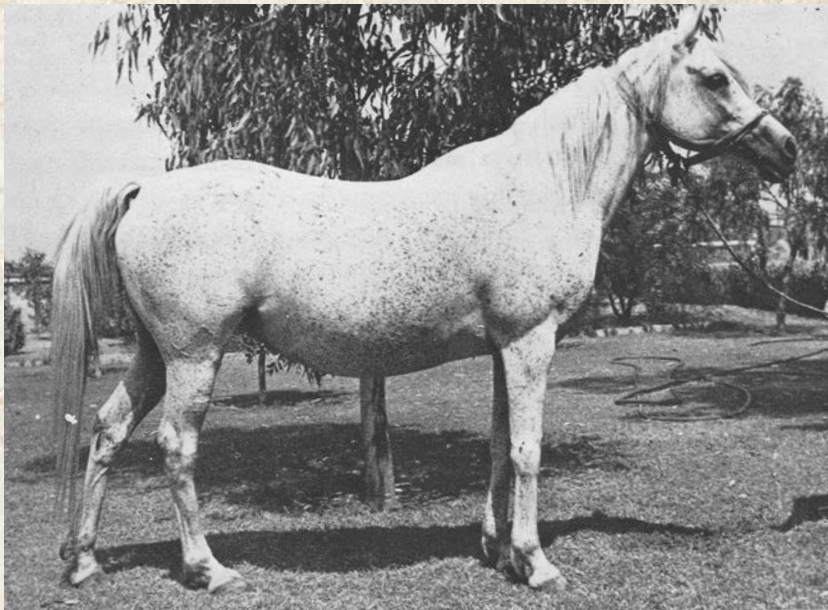


Ansata Selket

(Ansata Halim Shah x Ansata Samarra)

represents the Bukra family of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah strain tracing to the root mare Obeya

Om Dalal was a chestnut mare foaled in 1899. Owned by Prince Mohamed Ali, she was bred by Prince Ahmed Kemal and was a granddaughter of the famed Saqlawiah mare Roga El Bada of Ali Pasha Sherif. Like Ghazala, Om Dalal had considerable influence through the Inshass Stud as well as through the Royal Agricultural Society and the Egyptian Agricultural Organization. This dam line is perhaps the best known of the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah families of Egypt, however, because of the fame of her prolific descendent, Moniet El Nefous. Through the sons, daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters of Moniet El Nefous, this blood was distributed in almost every country which breeds Egyptian Arabians. Other branches of the family include El Bataa and Rateeba.



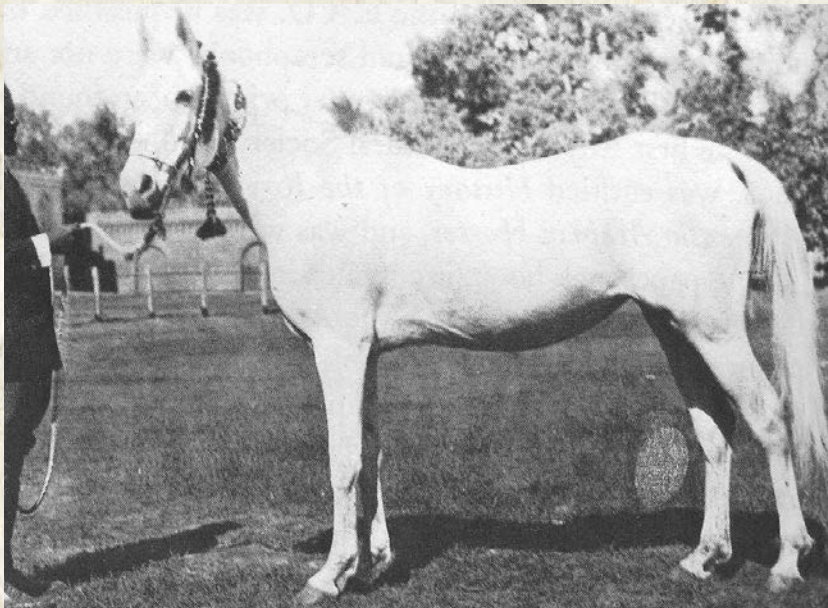
Bukra

(Shahloul x Bint Sabah)

is a great-great granddaughter of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah mare Obeya (Koheilan el Mossen x El Dahma) who was bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II. This family has had great influence in Egyptian breeding, particularly through Bukra branch

Descendants of Om Dalal

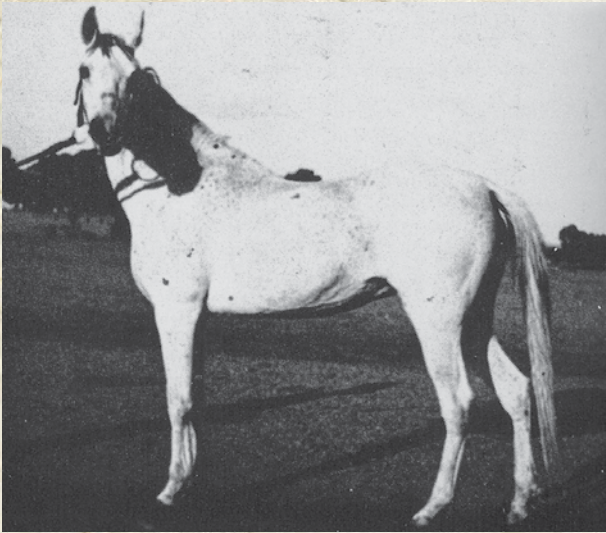
Ansata Bint Mabrouka
Ansata Ibn Sudan
Bint El Bataa
Bint Ibtsam
Bint Moniet El Nefous
Bint Mona
Ghalion
Ibn Moniet El Nefous
Imperial Madbeen
Kenz Noor
Korima
Loubna
Lubna
Mahiba
Maysoun
Moneera
Morafic
Mourad
Sultan
Tee
The Egyptian Prince
Tubotmos
Turkiya Al Rayyan



Dalal

(Rabdan x Dalal)

was foaled in 1903 and is a daughter of the Egyptian root mare Om Dalal bred by Prince Ahmed Kemal. She founded a famous Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah family which includes the "Queen of the Nile" Moniet El Nefous



Farida

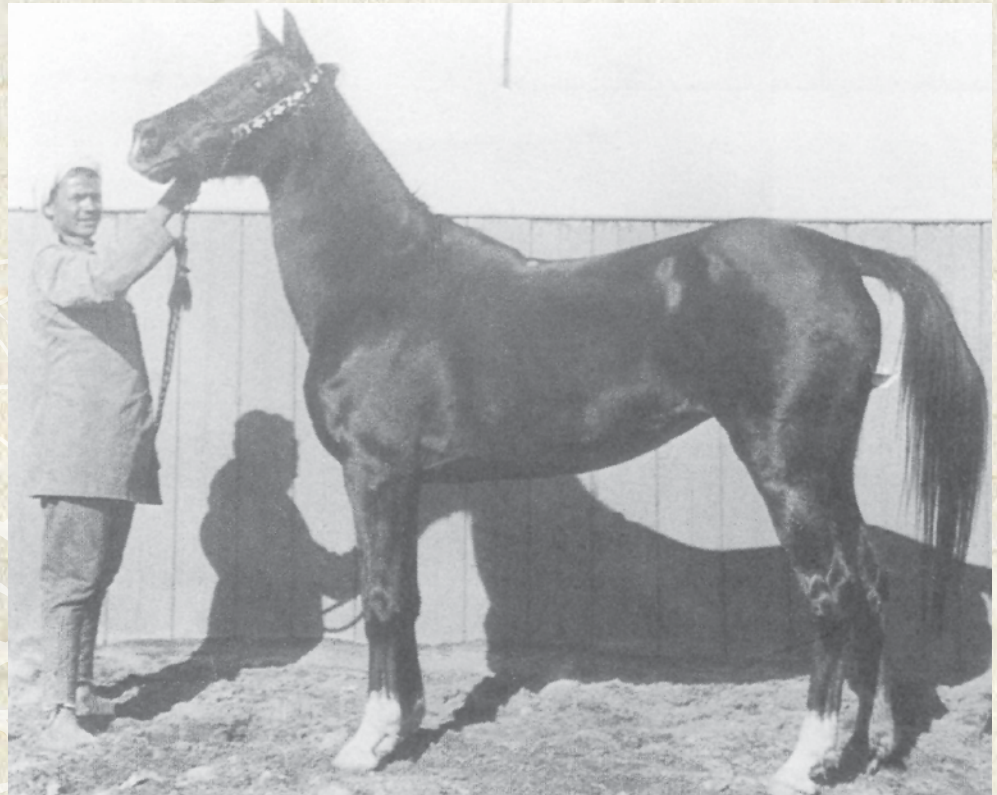
(Saklawi II x Nadra El Saghira)

was bred by Prince Mohamed Ali and later acquired by the RAS. Her family represents a third influential branch of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah strain in Egypt

Bint Yemama is also an important foundation mare for Egyptian breeding and she was believed for many years to be Kheilah Jellabieh in strain. However when additional writings of Lady Anne Blunt were published in the late 1980's it became apparent the accepted parentage of this mare was incorrect and that she was indeed a half sister to Messaoud. Colin Pearson's book, "The Arabian Horse Families of Egypt" listed Bint Yemama as a Saqlawiyah, and Volume 2, by Kees Mol, explained the rationale behind this change. The controversy was finally put to rest with the assistance of modern science when Michael Bowling used mitochondrial DNA to demonstrate the descendants of Bint Yemama matched that of the mares descended from the Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah mare Ghazieh, and did not match the descendants of the known Kheilah Jellabiyah strain from Egypt. This is an excellent example of why families merit more consideration than strain alone, for regardless of whether this family was Kheilah or Saqlawiyah, the descendants of Bint Yemama included many lovely horses.

Bint El Bahreyn

was foaled in 1898 and presented by Sheikh Aissa of Bahrain to the Khedive Abbas Pasha II in 1903. She was later owned by Lady Anne Blunt and today her descendants are an important branch of the Dahmah Shahwaniyah strain





R.N. Farida

(Salaa El Dine x Noha)

as her name implies, traces to the Farida branch of the Dahmah Shahawaniyah strain through the Marbach mare Nadja

Descendants of Bint Yemama

218 Elf Layla Walayla

Adhem

AK Atallah

Asilat Albadeia

El Hadiyyah

El Halimaar

Fadl

Jasir

Imperial Baeraz

Maaroufa

Maar-Ree

Mabroussa

Nasr

Prince Fa Moniet

RDM Maar Hala

Roda

Roufah

Other Saqlawiyah root mares in Egyptian foundation stock include: Hind, a grey mare foaled in 1942 and bred by King Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia

El Samraa, a grey mare foaled in 1924 purchased by Pasha from Sheikh Omar Abd el Hafiz

Mabrouka, a bay mare foaled in 1939 presented to Pasha by King Abdul Aziz al Saud Bint Barakat, a grey mare born in 1941 bred by the Tahawi Bedouins and owned by Hamdan Stables until her death in 1971.

Dahmah Shahwaniyah

The Dahman strain was highly prized in Egypt, both by Abbas Pasha and Ali Pasha Sherif. In modern Egyptian breeding, the three primary root mares for this strain are Obeya, Bint El Bahreyn, and Farida.

Obeya was a grey mare foaled in 1894. She was bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II and her dam was El Dahma of Ali Pasha Sherif. Obeya was eventually acquired by the Royal Agricultural Society where she lived until her death in 1919. It seems somewhat peculiar that she was given the name Obeya, which, although it means "cloak" in Arabic, is also the name of a strain and is therefore a bit confusing. The most influential line of this family is through Obeya's granddaughter, the 1920 chestnut mare Sabah, and subsequently through her daughter, Bint Sabah. This line was particularly influential in the United States and Germany and is also a valued damline for many breeders in the Arabian Gulf. The stallions Sheikh El Arab and Sid Abouhom were influential sires in Egypt from this family.



Bint Samiha

(Kazmeen x Samiha)

is most famous as the dam of Nazeer.
She is also a granddaughter of Bint Hadba



Hanan

(Alaa El Din x Mona)

has created her own dynasty of the Abeyyah Om Juryas strain, which traces to the mare Obeya Om Jurays presented to Egypt in the 1930's by King Abdul Aziz Al Saud

Descendants of Obeya

9 Tamria

Abeer

Akbtal

Alidaara

Ansata Bint Bukra

Ansata Halim Shah

Ansata Hejazi

Ansata Iembotep

Ansata Sinan

Bint Bint Sabbah

Fa Halima

Fikri

Ghazal

Glorieta Sayonaara

Kamar

Noor El Fagr

NK Hafid Jamil

Pharrah

Rasbdan

Sheikh Al Arab

Sid Abouhom

Bint El Bahreyn As her name implies, this bay mare foaled in 1898 was bred by Sheikh Issa bin Khalifah of Bahrain. He presented her as a gift to Abbas Pasha II in 1903 and she was later purchased by Lady Anne Blunt in 1907. Lady Anne declared Bint El Bahreyn a "fine mare" yet referred to one



Bint Rissala

(Ibn Yashmak x Risala)

was bred by Lady Anne Blunt and foaled at Crabbet Arabian Stud in England. She was sold to Egypt as a young foal and founded one of two branches of the Koheilah Rodaniyah strain in that country



Gelgelah Albadeia

(Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia)

is a descendant of the Hadbah Enzahiyah foundation mare El Hadba El Saghira



defect, that of having ears like "bats' ears." However Lady Anne also noted that Bint El Bahreyn did not transmit this to her daughter Dalah, a filly which she described as, "Very beautiful... gazelle-like head." The descendants of this family are primarily through Durra and her daughters Zareefa and Bint Durra. The Marei family's Albadeia stud has also had many successful mares from this family.

Descendants of Bint El Bahreyn

AK Narvaal
Bint Maisa El Saghira
Cleopatraa
El Sareei
Elwya
Gassir
Madkour
Morgana
Orashan
Seef
Shaikh Al Badi
Tammen

Farida was foaled in 1921 at Prince Mohammed Ali's stables at the Manial Palace. She was a pure-in-strain Dahmah Shahwaniah and eventually went to the Royal Agricultural Society where she died in 1944. Farida's son Balance was a superb racehorse in Egypt, as well as a great sire of racehorses, but it was through the female line that the Farida family truly gained acclaim. Her daughters Bint Farida and Futna both founded families known for their exceptional quality and type. Straight Egyptian breeding in Germany was highly influenced by this family, both with stallions and mares, and Ansata Ibn Halima was a monumental influence on Egyptian Arabian in the United States.

Descendants of Farida

Abla
Adaweya
Adl
Ansata Ibn Halima
Ansata Majesta
Ashhal Al Rayyan
Balance
Bint Nefisaa
Dahma II
Deenaa
El Hilal
El Thay Kamla
El Thay Ibn Halim Shah
Fayek (Ramses Fayek)
Gbazalabb
Halima
Ibn Akhtal
Inas
Madkour I
Malik
Malikah
Messaoud
Moheba II
Noha
RN Farida

Hadbah Enzabiyah

The Hadbah strain in Egyptian breeding traces to the mare Venus who was bred by the Shammar tribe and brought to Egypt in the mid-1890's. Two branches of the Venus family come from her daughter Hadba, but it is through Bint Hadba El Saghira that this strain founded an influential dynasty in Egyptian breeding.

Bint Hadbah El Saghira was a chestnut mare born in 1912. She was bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II and both her sire and dam were sired by Saklawi I. Like many of the other Egyptian foundation mares, she was eventually acquired by the Royal Agricultural Society and died there in 1931. In a fashion often adopted by the Arabs, she was named "Daughter of Hadbah" or Bint Hadbah, with the suffix El Saghira, the "smaller" or "younger." Along with the suffix "El Kebira," which means the bigger or older, these additions to the name helped further identify the offspring of a particular mare and helped prevent confusion with their namesake. Bint Hadbah El Saghira had four daughters which bred on: Samiha, Bint Rustem, Bint Hadba, and Magboursa. The vast majority of her descendants, however, trace from the Samiha and Bint Rustem branches of the family. Because of the unprecedented success of her great-grandson, Nazeer, the majority of straight Egyptians in the world boast multiple lines to this mare. She remains influential through the tail female as well, and this family has consistently produced both outstanding stallions and mares.

Descendants of Bint Hadbah El Saghira

Al Adeed Al Shagab
Aswan
Bint Saida Al Nasser
Bint Samiha
El Thay Kamla
Farazdac
Farid Albadeia
Gad Allah
Galal
Gelgelah Albadeia
Gharib
Hadban Enzahi
Hafeed Anter
Hemmat
Hind
Foze
Kamla
Khofa
Kodwa
Makhsous
Malekat El Gamal
Mamdouha
Mohga
Nazeer

Shams

Shaarawi

Shaker El Masri

Simeon Safanad

Simeon Shai

Thee Desperado

The Mistril

Tiffaha

Yosreia

Other Hadbah root mares in Egyptian foundation stock include: Bint Gamila, a grey mare foaled in 1911 bred by Abbas Pasha Hilmi II and acquired by the RAS in 1914.

Abbeyah Om Jurays

The Abbeyan strain is considered to be highly related to the Saqlawi, yet, as in the case of Bint Yemama, science in the form of mitochondrial DNA and other DNA sequencing, may soon reveal much about the relationships between Arabian horse families. Both the al Saud and Ibn Jaluwi families of Arabia highly prized this strain and its most common sub-strain was named after Al Sherrak. In Egypt, this strain is found through the mare El Obeya Om Jurays.

El Obeya Om Jurays (Grees) was a gift to the Inshass stud



from King Abdul Aziz Al Saud in the 1930's. Little is known about her and the names of her sire and dam are not given. Obviously her name is the same as her strain, Abbeyah Om Jurays, although, as usual, the spelling may differ depending on which transliteration system one is using. Of the major strains in straight Egyptian breeding today, this is one of the rarest. However it has produced many extremely influential mares and stallions, primarily through the Mahfouza and Mahdia branches. Two modern mares descending from El Obeya Om Jurays, Hanan and Magidaa, have founded their own families which have produced numerous outstanding horses.

Descendants of El Obeya Om Jurays

Aisha
Alidarr
Asfour
Bilal I
Bint Magidaa
El Araby
Ghazala
Hanan
Jamil
Ibn Galal I
Ibn Hafiza
Maddah
Magidaa
Nabiel
Nashua
Ruminaja Ali
Sala El Dine
Safir

Kobeilah Rodaniyah

The Kobeilan is said to be the original strain of Arabian horse. Although the breed is quite ancient, the concept of strains is relatively a recent one, as the various divisions and sub-strains evolved in a little over three centuries. In Egyptian breeding the Keheilan Mimreh strain has been lost in the tail female line, and those horses thought to be the representatives of the Kobeilan Jellabi strain are now classified as Saqlawi. This leaves the Kobeilah Rodaniyah as the primary Kobeilan strain in Egyptian dam lines. Both branches, that of Bint Rissala and Bint Riyala, trace to Rodania, a Kuhailan Ajuz of Ibn Rodan, foaled in 1869. She was purchased by the Blunts from a branch of the Anazeh tribe, who related that they had taken her earlier from the Ruwala. A chestnut mare with considerable white markings, Rodania bore the scars from wounds in battle and was well-known in the desert.

Bint Rissala (Razieh) was a chestnut born in 1920 at Crabbet Park in England. Lady Wentworth sold her to the Royal Agricultural Society as a young filly and she died in Egypt in 1946. Bint Rissala's descendants in modern

Egyptian breeding are through her daughters Yaquota, Kateefa and Yashmak. Interestingly, none of her sons bred on into modern pedigrees. This dam line is noted for both its height and athletic ability, and many of Bint Rissala's descendants, even today, have excellent motion. Several well-known stallions traced to this family, including Kaisoon, Farag, and Alaa El Din, who was noted for his daughters.

Descendants of Bint Rissala

Alaa El Din
El Mareekh
Enayat
Farag
Hossny
Ikhnatoun
Kaisoon
Kayed
Kisra
Nazic
Om El Saad
Omnia
Rafica
Rashad Ibn Nazeer
Rarweyah
Sakr
Serenity Sonbolah
Yashmak

Bint Riyala (Risama) was a bay mare foaled in 1920, also at Crabbet Arabian Stud. Like Bint Rissala she was sold that same year to the Royal Agricultural Society in Egypt. In 1934 she was sold once again, this time to T. G. B. Trouncer. This has been a prolific family, primarily through Bint Riyala's granddaughter Malaka, and several horses of this line were exported to the United States where they won numerous championships and national titles.



Descendants of Bint Riyala

Asadd

Imperial Imdal

Imperial Madori

Dalia

Fifi

Nazeera

Omayma

Romanaa II

Salomy

Serenity Bint Manioui'a

Shabeen

Waseem

Other Kehilah root mares in Egyptian foundation stock include: Futna, a grey mare foaled in 1943 bred by Abdul Hamid el Talawi. Her strain was Kobeilah Halarwiyah and she remained at Hamdan Stables until her death in 1960.

El Kabila, a bay mare foaled in 1921 and presented to Inshass Stud by King Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabian in 1927. While no details of her strain are recorded, she is presumed to be a Kehilah by virtue of her name.

While there are a few other mares who contribute to straight Egyptian breeding, these are the primary families that exist today. Study them well and remember the future of the straight Egyptian Arabian lies in the hands of today's breeders! □