

# In Memoriam

## Prof. Dr.

# Siegfried Paufler

## 1928 - 2024

■ by *Judith Wenning*

Over the last few decades, I have met many very different people through Arabian horses. One of the most pleasant ones I have had the chance of talking to were certainly Mr. and Mrs. Paufler, whom I first met at a show in Qatar around 20 years ago. We got on very well straight away and talked regularly at events and on the phone. A few years later, when my first filly by Al Adeed Al Shaqab was born at my stud farm Orienta Arabians, the Pauflers - both of whom were approaching 80 at that time - made it a point to get in the car as soon as possible and drive the not really short distance from Lower Saxony to Bavaria to take a look. A wonderful afternoon followed during which the two told numerous stories from the good old days of Arabian horse breeding.

You don't find people like the Pauflers very often. Straightforward and down to earth, with great expertise and an unerring instinct for horses, yet modest and a close-knit team in every situation. Sadly, Ruth Paufler passed away a few years ago, followed now by her husband. On February 21 of this year, Prof. Dr. Siegfried Paufler, honorary member of the German Arab Horse Society VZAP, passed away just a few days before his 96th birthday.

The Pauflers managed an unusual feat: they bought just one Arabian horse - the mare Madinah - in their breeding career and built their world-class breeding program on it.

As Honorary President of the Pyramid Society Europe, Prof. Dr. Siegfried Paufler took over the fate of the society in the 1990s after the passing of the first President Günter W. Seidlitz. Under Paufler's aegis, the Egyptian Event Europe flourished again and found a new venue, usually in conjunction with ECAHO shows on the Kauber Platte with the support of the Buschfort family.

During this time, two new volumes of the book PSE Almanach were published on Prof. Dr. Siegfried Paufler's initiative.

Prof. Dr. Siegfried Paufler was born on February 26, 1928 in Bischofswerda (East Saxony) and grew up on his parents' large estate. After the war, he moved to the West, studied veterinary medicine in Hanover and completed his doctorate in 1955 on artificial insemination in horses. Until his retirement in 1993, he was active in research and education at the University of Göttingen and established a reputation far beyond Germany's borders with numerous



Prof. Dr. Siegfried Paufler.

scientific publications. This also applies to his work as an Arabian horse breeder. Prof. Dr. Paufler was a prime example of what a small breeder can achieve with the right foundation mare.

When I spoke to Prof. Dr. Paufler years ago about his childhood, he recalled: "I often had to deal with horses on my parents' estate in East Germany, but of course they were always warmbloods. The war kept everything within narrow limits. After leaving school, I immediately went to the West because I was told that the

son of a big farmer would never get a place at university in East Germany. My school friend was already in the West and I went straight to him in Munich. I got a job as a groom and rider at the state-owned Isarland stables in Munich Riem, on the racecourse. Feeding, grooming and riding was now my job. After a year, I moved to a trotting stud because I wanted to learn about breeding horses. After two years working with horses, I finally got a place to study at the veterinary college in Hanover. That was my big goal for the time being. It was a tough

**Prof. Dr. Paufler loved to attend Arabian horse shows.**  
**Photo Doris Melzer.**



Prof. Dr. Paufler and his unique foundation mare Madinah. Photo taken at the show in Aachen in 1980. Photo private.

# Siegfried Paufler



Prof. Dr. Paufler was a member of the German Stallion Licensing Committee for many years. Photo private.



Prof. Dr. Siegfried Paufler, photo private.

time at university, as I had very little money to spare and had to work alongside my studies to survive. I passed all my exams and became a veterinarian in February 1955, graduating as Dr. vet. In the meantime, I met my wife Ruth and we got married.”

With a sideways glance at his wife Ruth, he continued in his pleasant, calm manner: “We moved to Rinteln, my wife’s home town, and I worked as a veterinary trainee, as a practice representative and at an insemination station. I also substituted twice in Göttingen. When the owner of the practice was asked by the director of the university’s veterinary institute for an employee, he suggested me as a good choice. I was asked by the director for an interview and was immediately hired as head of the veterinary clinic and the insemination station for all domestic animals. That was the start of my career and I worked extremely hard. After three years, I was also involved in the lectures at the university. In June 1963 my boss asked me if I could take on a research fellowship in the US at Cornell University - of course I immediately said yes. In the fall of 1963, the whole family - we now had three children - went to Ithaca, New York. American life was

very good for the whole family, life was international. After the first year, I had a vacation and we drove with the family all over the country, from east to west, then through California and back east again. We visited many horse breeders and universities. The next year we traveled to Florida in the same way. We got to know Arabians horses and thoroughbreds and were thrilled.

In the fall of 1965, we returned to Germany by ship and lived in Göttingen again. I continued my research intensively in Göttingen and was able to habilitate in 1968. I then became a professor and then a university professor.”

When asked how exactly they started breeding Arabians, Prof. Dr. Paufler replied: “Every time we went on vacation, we visited a stud farm on the way there or back. One day my wife Ruth said that she would like to have a riding horse. We hardly had any money, so we drove to the Dill stud farm in Herzberg and bought a riding horse. A box was set up in the workroom and we started riding. Of course, this led very quickly to a second horse, as single horse keeping was not good for the animal and



there was no second rider to accompany my wife. Both horses were now stabled with a local farmer. Now my wife and I could ride out together. The second horse was an Anglo Arabian with some temperament that gave Ruth a lot of pleasure. In Gieboldehausen, very close to Göttingen, the annual Arabian horse show took place, which we of course attended with great interest. As a result, we visited one or two Arabian horse farms on every vacation trip. On our way back from Austria, we asked to visit Dr. Tauschke's stud farm who lived in Bad Heilbrunn at that time. That was in June 1978. We were thrilled with the filly Madinah by Ibn Galal out of Mona II and immediately bought her the next day during a phone call with Dr. Tauschke and picked her up a little later. By chance, we had now slipped into the breeding direction of straight Egyptian Arabians. Of course, we were very interested in this subject, as these horses were still very rare in Germany at that time. Well, we had time because Madinah had to be raised first. At

the same time, we sold the horses we already had. With Madinah, we had set ourselves the goal of continuing to breed in this direction. In our little free time, we continued to visit many stud farms and were particularly interested in the breeding stallions.

As it was impossible to talk about the successes of all the horses bred by the Pauflers, he limited himself to a few that particularly stuck in his mind. He recalled: "Madinah developed excellently, the first breeding took us to Dr. Nagel's stud and she was covered by Mohafez in 1981. The resulting stallion foal El Moniet was bought by the Dr. Bahlmann family as a foal and was Mrs. Bahlmann's favourite from the very beginning. He developed into a premium stallion and stallion performance test winner.

The second foal, a filly by Kaisoon, was sold as a foal to Dr. Yoyner in the USA. Both foals were of good

**Imperial Madheen**  
as a matured stallion – the epitome of type.  
Photo Rik van Lent jr.



# Siegfried Paufler



Imperial Madheen  
as a colt in 1984.  
Photo private.

Imperial Madheen  
bronze by the American artist Karen Kasper.  
Photo private.





quality and were highly prized. Madinah proved to be an uncomplicated broodmare. Because of our breeding activities, we extended our stable to three boxes and rented a nearby pasture. So, everything went well, also because we now had some money for it. Our enjoyment of breeding was unstoppable. Madinah's purchase had proved to be a great success. We joined the breeding association, attended all the Arabian horse events that were available and I got involved in the association's foal registrations. In breeding, we of course stayed with the straight Egyptians. At the third choice for the covering of Madinah we now had a direct hit. We decided on the stallion Messaoud by Madkour out of Maymoonah, owned by Erika Rudolph, as her next partner. The stallion Madhin was born in May 1983. He was super! At the show in Gieboldehausen he became Junior Champion at the age of four months. It had never happened before that a foal became champion. But all three judges agreed that he was an outstanding foal.



Mathea-M (Maysoun x Mesoudah).  
Photo Escher.



The very typey Mathea-M on the pasture. Photo private.

# Siegfried Paufler



Madinah and one of her influential offspring.  
Photo Escher.

He was raised by us for another year and then went to Imperial Stud in the USA where he was given the new name Imperial Madheen. He developed very well and won several smaller championships. When he was in quarantine for the World Championships in Paris, the stallion unfortunately suffered a severe injury to one of his testicles. This led to his exclusion from all breeding shows, which was a hard blow. But his breeding results - fortunately he could continue to be used for breeding - were so good that he was used a lot in the USA and also in Canada. Eventually he was bought by a Canadian stud farm because there was now a lot of offspring from him at Imperial. After three years in Canada, Count Federico Zichy-Thyssen bought him for a large sum for his stud in Argentina.



From the Pauflers' private photo album:  
Madinah in 1979.





Maydan Madheen was crowned Supreme Champion at the Asil World Cup in 2000. Photo private.



The Multi Champion  
Maydan Madheen.  
Photo Melanie Groger.



# Siegfried Paufler



Mesoudah-M a full sister to  
Imperial Madheen.  
Photo Filsinger.

He stayed in Arizona temporarily, as the artist Karen Kasper was to create a bronze statue of him. Then he went to Argentina, where he was able to enjoy a wonderful, free life. The owner Count Federico Zichy-Thyssen often rode him. I checked - according to an extract from the breeding register, Imperial Madheen sired several hundred offspring in Argentina alone. Then the Egyptian breeder Omar Sakr took him to his heart and wanted to buy Imperial Madheen as well as his son Imperial Madori for the breeders in Egypt to refresh the breed. And he succeeded. Both traveled to the origin of the pure Egyptians. Not all Egyptians were in agreement with this, as no stallion from abroad had ever been used before. However, Omar Sakr was not swayed and the fantastic offspring in Egypt speaks for itself."

Imperial Madheen's worldwide influence was and is extreme. Marion Richmond bought the Madheen son Imperial Madaar for her "Simeon Stud" in Australia. He became Australian National Champion, several times East Coast Champion and Victorian Classic Supreme Champion. In addition, he left behind outstanding

progeny. The King of Morocco was enthusiastic about Imperial Madheen and bought several Madheen sons: one of them, the black Imperial Mashhar, born in 1992, won the title of World Junior Champion in Paris for his Royal Stud Bouznika.

In Egypt, of course, the Imperial Madheen granddaughter Gelgelah Albadeia, bred by Dr. Nasr Marei, Albadeia Stud, who became World Champion Mare in Paris against the strongest competition, immediately comes to mind. One could go on for pages and pages about Madheen get who have produced outstanding offspring in the important studs in Qatar, USA and Canada. In the USA, Ansata Sokar (x Ansata Samantha) is just one example.

No wonder that Mr. and Mrs. Paufler repeated the same mating that produced Imperial Madheen - the combination was done five times. One of them was Madheen's full sister, Mesoudah-M, was born, of whom the couple were very proud. She was later sold to Gestüt Preuß together with her son Maydan Madheen.



From the Pauflers' private photo album: Ruth Paufler enjoyed horses as much as her husband.



Ruth Paufler with two of her beloved dogs.  
Photo private.

Unfortunately, this farm has now also become history after the death of its owner Horst Preuß. Multi-champion stallion Maydan Madheen later went to the stud farm of Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah.

Another very important stallion going back to of Prof. Paufler's breeding program was Mishaal HP (Ansata Sinan x Mesoudah-M). He was first sold to the Preuß family who shortly after received an offer from Arabians Ltd. in the USA. Mishaal HP emigrated to the land of unlimited possibilities and covered many mares there in a very short time before his untimely death. He left amazing progeny.

In Germany, the black stallion Madallan-Madheen (Ansata El Salaam x Madinah), who was bought by Erwin and Annette Escher as a foal from the Paufler family, made a name for himself and became a founding pillar for their breeding program. His successful get can be found on all continents now.

Prof. Dr. Paufler ended our conversation with the following words: "I think that this was about the most important part of our stud farm. My wife and I have always enjoyed being with the horses and have had a lot of fun with our straight Egyptians." modestly he added: "Madinah was our spark, that was just a stroke of luck." □