

Egyptian Highlights at the EAO in Cairo

Text and photos: Monika Savier
Lay-out: Mario Brunetti

El Zahraa State Stud: Traditional and Modern Times Celebrate Together

Every year in November, two great shows take place in the green oasis of El Zahraa, the Egyptian State Stud. And every year, the stud – located in central Cairo, a city of 18 million – gives the impression that time comes to a standstill on the premises. The contrast between the show horses brought in from all over Egypt, and the stud's approx. 400 stock of horses can hardly be any sharper than it is. El Zahraa has always been committed, albeit with differing levels of success, to the aim of breeding elegant Arabian horses whose origin can be traced back, without interruptions, to the Bedouins of the Nejd. Which is why

these horses are rooted in Arabian culture to a great extent, as this was the basis for the breeding stock of the Egyptian pashas in the 19th century. Show Arabians, on the other hand, might be dubbed „modern culture Arabians“, as their origins are in El Zahraa, but via selection and adaptation to today's show criteria, they have changed their outer appearance in many aspects.

For years now, every year El Zahraa has succeeded in bringing together both horse populations, efficiently merging them for a brilliant multicultural mega event.





Events in El Zahraa, the Oasis of Straight Egyptians - November 12 to 15, 2015

In Cairo, two great horse events took place on 12th to 15th of November: in the green oasis of Cairo, in El Zahraa, the 17th International Championships (ECAHO B Show) and the National Egyptian Championships were held.

by Fabio Brianzoni

El Zahraa („The Flower“) is a name synonymous with tradition, heritage, culture, and love for horses. The farm was founded by Prince Omar Toussoun in Bachtim in 1842, and even as far back as that, the management was entrusted in the last century to the RAS (Royal Agricultural Society) to preserve the purebred original Arabian, the Straight Egyptian. Fans of Straight Egyptian Arabian horses of that time had the great vision and foresight to close the studbook and thus preserve the bloodlines of all those Straight Egyptians who today inhabit the world. Among the great names that have their roots in El Zahraa, there are Morafic, Ibn Halima, Aswan, Hadbahn Enzahi, Kaisoon, and the famous mares, Bint Bukra, Hanan, Mahiba, Kamla, Tamria and numerous others - to describe and com-

ment on all of the famous horses that have been bred on this farm in the course of the breeding seasons would take years of study. Those who want to extend their knowledge can read the chapter “The Egyptian State Stud of El Zahraa” in the last book by Dr. Nagel which covers the subject comprehensively.



17th International Championships ECAHO-B-Show



In 1930 the farm was moved and settled permanently in Cairo. It has been called “El Zahraa Stud” ever since. Always managed by the RAS, the breeding farm has never changed its principles for breeding, thus maintaining the purity in bloodlines and genetics. The interim Chairman of EAO, Mr. Essam Mtawaa, and the director of the stud farm El Zahraa, Mr. Marwan El Messeery, together with their approved team of assistants from the stud, were the organizers of the two top-level shows now held right on the premises. For the National Show, 182 horses were entered. The judges who had been invited for them were Mr. Koentraad Detaillieur (Belgium), Mrs. Renata Schibler (Switzerland), Mrs. Maria Ferraroni (Italy), and Mrs. Julie Maden (Belgium). Thanks go to the Disciplinary Committee for its excellent work: Mrs. Barbara Pfister (Switzerland), Mr. Mateusz Jaworski (Poland), Dr Mohamed Abd El Aziz (Egypt), DVM Sameer Ahmed (Egypt), DVM Islam Al-Mahdi (Egypt,) and DVM Mohamed El Shreef. For the International Show, the



panel of judges consisted of Mrs. Johanna Maxwell (GB), Mrs Christiane Chazel (France), Mrs Claudia Darius (Germany), and Mr. Christian Moschini (Italy). Summed up across both shows, the officials saw about 330 horses – an enormous number, even for a location as renowned as El Zahraa. So the ringmasters had a lot to do, and Mr. Ronny Vosch (Belgium) and DVM Ayman Saad (Egypt) took



their parts with flying colors. Mr. Saad, by the way, is also the veterinarian for the stables of El Zahraa. As the speaker for both shows, Mr. Emad Zaghloul had been won, and for general management support, Mrs. Noha Saber performed her usual but no less remarkable miracles behind the scenes. The classes within both shows were held with great regularity, and the timing worked well, despite the high number



of horses in the two competitions. The VIP area and the table service were impeccable. It is definitely not an easy task to organize an event of this magnitude, and to do this well down to the details. We congratulate the staff of El Zahraa for the results of their efforts, and I personally thank everyone for the warm welcome. Now enjoy the pictures of the 2015 National Egyptian Championships and of the International ECAHO B show! Next year come to Cairo, to El Zahraa, to discover a place where the ancient culture of the Straight Egyptian and the legacy from the desert have absolute priority.



The National Egyptian Championships EAO - El Zahraa Stud

17TH INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CAT. B- ECAHO CLASS WINNERS

Results for Class1 Fillies born 01/10/2013 : 30/09/2014

1. ORCHIDA AL BAYDAA (Kays Al Baidaa x Abha Malawi)
Al Baydaa Stud-Belgium
2. KAHRAMANA KHATTAB (Kenz Al Baidaa x Eratyra)
Khattab& Tahani Stud-Egypt

Results for Class2 Fillies born 01/10/2012-30/09/2013

1. ZAMZAM NEGM (DA Prestigex Zarof Azbah)
Negm El Saharaa-Egypt
2. MONA AL MAMLAKA (NWSiensei x Amani Al Khalidiah)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt

Results for Class3 Fillies born 01/10/2011-30/09/2012

1. RASHA AL MAMLAKA (DA Prestige x Ayah Rahim)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt
2. KAMAR ZAD (Tahir x Kamila Zad)
Zad El Rakeb Stud-Egypt

Results for Class4 Mares born 01/10/2009-30/09/2011

1. MARWA AL AMEEN (Jamil Al Rayyan x Mashoukah Al Ameen)
Al QasrAlMalaky-Egypt
2. DAHMA AL MOHANDES (GR Mustafa x Zvara's Zannah)
Al Mohandes Stud-Egypt

Results for Class5 Mares born 01/10/2007-30/09/2009

1. ARWA AL KHALIDEYAH (Tabayan Al Qusar x Aseela Al Shaqab)
Kheir Stud-Egypt
2. AMANI AL KHALEDIAH (Moutaz Biwaiya x Divine Destinee)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt

Results for Class 6 Mares born 30/09/2007&Older

1. SHAIKHAT AL KHALIDIAH (Om El Abadan x KL Psparkle)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt
2. BALAA B (El Nabila B x Bediaa B)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt

Results for Class7 Colts born 01/10/2013 – 30/09/2014

1. AMIR AL MAMLAKA (GM Aiyad x Amira Al Mamlaka)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt
2. ADHAM AL MAMLAKA (Magic Magnifique)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt

Results for Class8 Colts born 01/10/2012-30/09/2013

1. MAHER AL MAMLAKA (DA prestige x Maha Al Mamlaka)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt
2. HA JUSTIN (WH Justice x Bint Feriha Magidaa)
Hanaya Arabinas, Austria

Results for Class 9 Colts born 01/10/2011-30/09/2012

1. LIBANO MPE (Marwan Al Shaqab x Thee Rahiba)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt
2. DJADAN IBN DJASIRA (WH Justice x Djasira Princess Psytadel)
Mrs.Claudia Polte-Welbers- Germany

Results for Class10 Stallions born 01/10/2009-30/09/2011

- 326 NAWWAF AL MOHAMADIA (F Shamaal x Saida Bint Shahlia)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt
- 322 EDISSON (Enzo x Monica PGA)
Al Mamlaka Stud-Egypt

Results for Class11 Stallions 01/10/2007-30/09/2009

1. MILAGRO TDA (Bellagio RCA x Lotus Sadiy)
Al Gamil Stud-Egypt
2. HILAL LE SOLEIL (Laheeb Al Nasser x Alfabia Nile Queen)
Mrs M.Khamis-Italy

Results for Class12 Stallions born 30/09/2007 & Older

1. DHS MABROUK (Al Lahab x MA-Ajmala)
Bebo Stud-Egypt
2. NW SIENSEI (Ghazal Al Shaqab x NW Siena Psyche)
Al Mai Stud-Egypt



THE CHAMPIONS

Fillies Gold Champion: ORCHIDA AL BAYDAA
Fillies Silver Champion: RASHA AL MAMLAKA
Fillies Bronze Champion: KAHRAMANA KHATTAB

Mares Gold Champion: SHAIKHAT AL KHALIDIAH
Mares Silver Champion: MARWA AL AMEEN
Mares Bronze Champion: DAHMA AL MOHANDES

Colts Gold Champion: LIBANO MPE
Colts Silver Champion: DJADAN IBN DJASIRA
Colts Bronze Champion: AMIR AL MAMLAKA

Stallions Gold Champion: NAWWAF AL MOHAMADIA
Stallions Silver Champion: MILAGRO TDA
Stallions Bronze Champion: EDISSON



The National Egyptian Championships - EAO - El Zahraa Stud



The National Egyptian Championships - EAO - El Zahraa Stud



THE NATIONAL EGYPTIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015, EAO CLASS WINNERS

Results for Class1-A Fillies born 01/10/2013: 30/09/2014 "A"

1. REHAB EL GABRY (Jamil Al rayyan x Zebdeyah) El Gabry Stud-Egypt
2. SHAHRAZAD AL AAMER (Heznaah Al Rayyan x Zebada Al Sayyad) Al Aamer Stud-Egypt

Results for Class 1-B Fillies born 01/10/2013 : 30/09/2014 "B"

1. HABIBA EL GABRY (Jamil Al Rayyan x Khorafa El Gabry) El Gabry Stud-Egypt
2. ZAHWA AL SAYYAD (Hamra Aligance x Zeina Al Yasser) Durra stud- Egypt

Results for Class 1-C Fillies born 01/10/2013 : 30/09/2014 "C"

1. NESMA MESRATA (Mirajh RCA x Maheeba El Sheruk) Mesrata Stud - Egypt
2. SHAHIRA EL GAMIL (Imperial Bareez x Shahrazad El Gabry) Al Gamil Stud-Egypt

Results for Class 2-A Fillies born 01/10/2012- 30/09/2013 "A"

1. AZIZA BOUSTAN KHEDR (Simeh el Sheruk x Bushra Cahr) Boustan Khedr Stud-Egypt
2. SALMA AL SHENNAWY (El Thay Amun x Reem al Ra-sheedy) Aal Al Shennawy Stud Egypt

Results for Class2B Fillies born 01/10/2012- 30/09/2013 "B"

1. SAWAHER FILA (Barakat Al Khaled x Halawa Fila) Fila Stud Egypt
2. NABILA AL FARIDA (Amaar Al Rayyan x Imperial Koublah) Al Farida Stud

Results for Class3 Fillies born 01/10/2011-30/09/2012

1. KAMAR ZAD (Tahir x Kamila Zad) Zad El Rakeb Stud-Egypt
2. DEMA EL GABRY (Jamil Al Rayyan x Dalila El Gabry) El Gabry Stud-Egypt

Results for Class4 Mares born 01/10/2009-30/09/2011

1. FOTNA A.R.M (Ezz Ezzain x Gamila Aal Hanafi) Mr. Nayef Bin Mansour Bin Saleh-Egypt
2. KAMARNA EL GAMIL (Ezz Ezzain x Ghozlan El Gabry) Hind Stud-Egypt

Results for Class5 Mares born 01/10/2007-30/09/2009

1. MAGDA EL GABRY (Gamil El gabry x El Thay Matala) El Gabry Stud-Egypt
2. MALEEKA HEMEIDAH (Shabib Ikhnattoon x Melouk Al Mo-gheerat) Al Gamil Stud-Egypt

Results for Class6 Mares born 30/09/2007 & Older

1. AWDAH EL MOUSA (Al Fateh x Areeb Al Arab El Mousa) El Mousa Stud-Egypt
2. ZIZI GAWDAT (Ezz El Din Gawdat x Angham Gawdat) Sahar Stud-Egypt

Results for Class 7-A Colts born 01/10/2013- 30/09/2014

1. MAHSOUB AL AMEEN (Amal Al Khaled x Miriya) Al Murtajiz Misr Stud-Egypt
2. ASIL ZINAH (Barakat Adam x Asila Zinah) Al Banna Stud-Egypt

Results for Class7B "B" Colts born 01/10/2013- 30/09/2014

1. SAKR EL GABRY (Gamil Saqr x Yasmeeen el Gabry) El Gabry Stud-Egypt
2. JALLAB EZZAIN IKHNATOON (Alaa El din Ezzain x Jude Ikhnattoon) Ikhnattoon Stud-Egypt

Results for Class8 Colts born 01/10/2012 : 30/09/2013

1. ABOU TREKA LILAN AL BOST (Hezaah Al rayyan x Loaloah Al Fagr) Al Etani Stud-Egypt
2. TAMEEM ADEL (Andaleeb Al Baidaa x Taysir Ikhnattoon) Aa Zaki Stud-Egypt

Results for Class9 Colts born 01/10/2011-30/09/2012

1. MOHAB EL SHERUK (Mirajh RCA x Maheeba El Sheruk) Alaa Al Din Stud-Egypt
2. SAHER AL BAIDAA (Jamil Al Rayyan x Ansata Bint Sa-miha) Al Baidaa Stud-Egypt

Results for Class 10 Stallions born 01/10/2009- 30/09/2011

1. TALAL ADEL (Tabayan Al Qusar x El Thay Matala) Mr. Mohammed Al Awwad-Egypt
2. SUKKAR TAHANI (Mudir Madheen x Sokarah Tahani) Mr. M.Bukhary Soliman-Egypt

Results for Class11 Stallions born 01/10/2007- 30/09/2009

1. KASEM SAQR (El Thay Kamil x Kismat Saqr) Al Rayyan Misr-Egypt
2. EID AL ASAYEL (Mahrasn Ikhnattoon x Rhanah) Al Etani Stud-Egypt

Results for Class12 Stallions born 30/09/2007 & Older

1. SEEF AL FARIDA (Said Hafid El Chamsin x Loaloah A) Al Farida Stud-Egypt
2. SHADY IKHNATOON (Tayar x Shaylah II) Ritaj Stud-Egypt

THE CHAMPIONS

- Fillies Silver Champion: REHAB EL GABRY
 Fillies Bronze Champion: AZIZA BOUSTAN KHEDR
- Colts Gold Champion: SAKR ELGABRY
 Colts Silver Champion: ABOU TREKA LILAN AL BOSTANY
 Colts Bronze Champion: JALLAB EZZAIN IKHNATOON

- Mares Gold Champion: MAGDA EL GABRY
 Mares Silver Champion: FOTNA A.R.M
 Mares Bronze Champion: KAMARANA EL GAMIL

- Stallions Gold Champion: KASEM SAQR
 Stallions Silver Champion: SEEF AL FARIDA
 Stallions Bronze Champion: TALAL ADEL



Interview with Mr. MARWAN EL MESSEERY



Saviez: Numerous political changes took place in the last three years. Now you are the new manager of the Egyptian State Stud. What are your plans for shaping the future of El Zahraa?

Marwan El Messeery: I have only been here for 4 or 5 months and I found myself confronted with a lot of problems, which I am attempting to solve. However, that's long-term strategies. First of all, we have grave infrastructural problems here, with stables and barns in need of repair and additional ones urgently needed. But there is also the professional training for the grooms that needs to be improved, as well as the training the management receives in order to further improve procedures.

Saviez: Can the farm offer services of different kinds, generate some income that way, and fund the stud with that?

Marwan El Messeery: Basically yes, however, El Zahraa is one of the projects of EAO and is as such financed out of EAO income funds.

An important aim is to vitalize our veterinary hospital located on the premises of the stud. We hope for an international cooperation such as has already been discussed with the University Hospital in Perugia, Italy.

Saviez: Is the Veterinary Hospital intended to be available for the breeders of Cairo, too?

Marwan El Messeery: Yes, of course, it is intended to improve veterinary care for the horses in the Cairo area – quite apart from the fact that we need the hospital for our own stock of animals.

Saviez: What other services does El Zahraa offer?

Marwan El Messeery: There is also the Riding School. It has been in existence since the 1990ies. Here, children and young people from the vicinity can learn how to ride. We also plan on show training for the grooms, to teach them how to handle the Arabian show horses.

In addition, EAO is the official administrative body for the Egyptian studbook, so they do all the registrations here, issue passports, write out export and import certificates, and much more that centers around the tasks of a registry for WAHO. We stable horses for different owners here in El Zahraa, and we run the stallion station featuring the famous sires of El Zahraa, offering their services to all breeders.

Last not least, we have 2 to 3 auctions per year here, to sell horses from out of the stud.

Saviez: Are there also efforts to generate income from tourism, such as



horse presentations on the stud premises for horse fans that would like to visit the stud?

Marwan El Messeery: For the public, we have been offering the shows and auctions on the premises so far, but you are right, it's a good idea, we might offer the opportunity to walk around the stud with a guide, see the premises and have the Arabian horses presented.

Saviez: The famous horse stock of El Zahraa is one of the last gene pools that present the Arabian horse, as a breed, in his original state.

This population ought to be protected, and a grant application ought to be made to UNESCO to do that. What do you think? (bleibt also unverändert)

Marwan: We've been thinking along those lines for some time. We need to get the necessary national recognition of El Zahraa as a protected heritage first, which means El Zahraa will be required to preserve its original bloodstock, without following mere new breeding trends. I am intending to talk to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation about that. Then, we can create a team or a high-level committee to work on the application to UNESCO, to gain international UNESCO World Cultural Heritage support for El Zahraa. We need promoters and sponsors who will support El Zahraa in making this idea of protecting El Zahraa as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage a reality, as it will be a lot of effort, but it sounds like a wonderful solution which will surely benefit the farm and the Straight Egyptian horses.

Saviez: We of Tutto Arabi and Desert Heritage Magazine will make our contributions. Mr Messeery, thank you very much for the interview.

THE PRIVATE STUDS LOCATED IN CAIRO ARE A FASCINATING EXPERIENCE FOR EVERY BREEDER

A group of breeders from Germany, Italy, and Switzerland had followed the call of Pyramid Society Europe to come and visit the shows in Cairo in November. Once there, they would not go without visiting some significant studs as well, in order to get an insight into the breeding concepts, the horses, and their way of living. Having a look behind the scenes is always fascinating and makes for fresh experiences. Sometimes, new contacts will result, stimulating the market for stallions or making interesting new connections for breeding possible. In today's media world of pictures, it is more important than ever to be able to have a personal close look at horses, also inspecting their offspring, so as to get to a realistic assessment of their value for the globalized breeding of our



Etienne Dinet, Cairo, 19th Century

Straight Egyptians. Arabian type and noblesse were definitely impressive both in the shows and in the studs. Type and functionality ought to be a harmonious whole, but in two of the studs visited by the group, it was obvious that many horses in Cairo have far less access to space for free running and exercise than is the case in Europe. Other studs, by contrast, offered a harmonious image not only by virtue of their wonderful architecture, but also by supplying the requirements of their horses.

Cairo is well worth a stud study tour and everybody is called to see it for themselves. The brilliant hospitality of the Egyptian breeders is impressive and one more reason for the fact that the tour was a great joy for everybody involved.

ALI SHAARAWI STUD

"Beauty is our Passion"

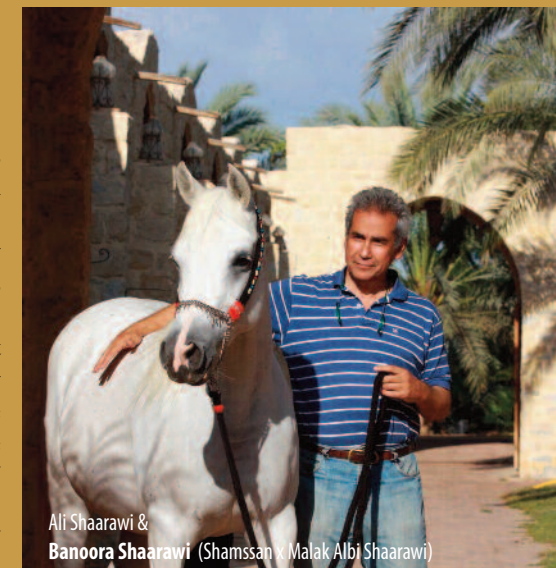
Ali Shaarawi is an experienced and competent ECAHO judge and in this capacity, is well known and liked in Europe. People who visit El Zahraa state stud have a good chance of meeting him, as he is the Senior Breeding Advisor there – in his rare moments of spare time, he is passionately engaged with the breeding and selection work of the stud with its historic gene pool of 400 authentic, Straight Egyptian Arabian horses. His own life's work, however, is not to be found in that gigantic metropolis of Cairo, but to the Northwest from there, on the Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road. After maybe 30 km (19 miles), you leave the road for the green delta of the Nile, reaching one of the most beautiful studs in Egypt. Five stars not only for the architecture there, for the botanical palm garden, and for the quality of life in those buildings. Five stars also for the world where the horses live, in roomy cool stable barns built of natural stone, containing extremely horse-friendly, communicative box stalls for them – if they don't roam one of the numerous paddocks and meadows, surrounded by half-height stone walls and green nature. Ali's father had a stable of racing horses. Ali himself started riding as little boy, however, his passion for horse breeding took a tangible shape during the 1980ies, when together with his wife Yasmine, he founded Shaarawi Arabians Stud.

Of course, we were delighted when we learned of the invitation to his Open House day. From my earlier visits there, I knew that not only the horses and the premises are adorable,

but also that Ali's cooking skills are well known in the area.

All of that is obviously not unnoticed. On his homepage (www.shaarawiarabians.com) Pat Canfield says: "Beauty is our Passion". These words summarize the deeply held beliefs of Ali and Yasmine Shaarawi in all aspects of their lives. Everything about the world that they are creating on their farm just outside of Cairo illustrates their philosophy: whether it is the magnificent Straight Egyptian Arabian horses, the noble Sloughi dogs, the exotic palm trees, the subtle landscaping of the grounds and buildings, or Yasmine's individual approach to painting".

The famous statement that „only happy horses are beautiful horses“ gets to the heart of this stud. We were presented about 20 beautiful Straight Egyptians, divided into the 6 families of Hadban Enzahi, Obeyyan, Kuhaylan Krush, Dahman Shahwan, Kuhaylan Jellabi and Saklawi Jedran. It was an impressive and interesting experience for everybody.



Ali Shaarawi & Banoora Shaarawi (Shamshan & Malak Albi Shaarawi)

ALI SHAARAWI STUD

"Keep El Zahraa as it is for the next generations"!

I asked Ali Shaarawi for the role that the straight Egyptians play in breeding nowadays, and for his relationship to El Zahraa.

Savier: These are brilliantly beautiful horses, but how do you see breeding nowadays if one is not breeding for shows?

Shaarawi: As to the market, it's difficult. But some people should be dedicated to that, like me for instance, because that's the only way to preserve our treasures and our heritage.

Savier: What is your opinion about the breeding that's spreading around Cairo and Egypt, with young people wanting to buy a showhorse and the elder breeders wanting to keep straight Egyptians – is there conflict, or is there an "anything goes" attitude?

Shaarawi: I think everybody feels attracted to the show ring. The problem with the show ring, however, is that horses are not judged as complete beings there, based on their heritage. The horse with the highest score is the winner, and the winner is the best – which is not usually the case. We get lots of problems with legs, with conformation, and things like that. People are not careful to breed their horses correctly. So they lose all the strong points of our horses of this heritage. I wish breeders were more careful of what they breed and would not just jump at the pretty heads in the show ring.

Savier: What would the role of El Zahraa be for influencing people today, and how much did the bloodstock of El Zahraa influence your own breeding?

Shaarawi: El Zahraa is how I started with my breeding, I acquired several horses from there. Now I keep two lines from El Zahraa. El Zahraa horses were the source of all Egyptian Arabian horses. This heritage we should cherish and preserve, it's our history. It's from EZ horses where all the famous stallions came from that changed the world of Arab horses. For me, this place is sacred! It is very important and needs to be protected. The horse lines need to be preserved, too, so everybody can make use of them and get help in his own breeding – they are the source, the wellspring of the Arabian horse that has spread everywhere like a river.

Savier: It appears to me as if some influential breeders would like to modernize El Zahraa, bring it to today's show level in a matter of maybe three generations. How can you defend against these, say, neoliberal influences?

Shaarawi: In the show ring, only a few horses are promoted, tracing to a few super stallions. Where is this going to take us? The gene pool continues to decrease that way. Shortsighted breeders wish to see show winners as sires in El Zahraa, but that would make El Zahraa like everybody else. El Zahraa is the source, it should be different, the place you can go to find an outcross for your horses. Which is why I think we should go on

breeding the El Zahraa lines and breeding them correctly, with good legs and bodies, color and balance, and a correct functionality. I think people should accept EZ the way it is and not interfere in its policy. They are free to do what they want with their own horses, but keep El Zahraa for the generations to come. People need to understand that special value. The extremes of the show ring are not what we need, horses even die from extreme show-oriented breeding.

Savier: You are on the executive board of WAHO. What can WAHO do to support and preserve the heritage of the straight Egyptians as a "breed within the breed" within world-wide studbooks and particularly, within El Zahraa?

Shaarawi: WAHO's concept does not differentiate between Polish, Egyptian, Spanish etc. lines. I think this okay, caring for the Egyptians should be the responsibility of Egypt and the lovers of Egyptian horses. What we can do is put a kind of stamp or mark in a horse's passport, not only as they do today for markings and color, but to emphasize the origin. And not only for El Zahraa horses, but also for Polish and Russian horses etc, as there are also lovers of these horses. A kind of trademark, as you say. This might be a good idea. For me, the Straight Egyptian is the Egyptian horse that was selected by the masters of breeding at RAS (the Royal Agricultural Society, the predecessor of EAO, the Egyptian Agricultural Organization). And this is what we have, this is the best we could select for thousands of years, it's the pool of horses we now call straight Egyptians.

Savier: Thank you very much, Ali. We will discuss the Straight Egyptians in Egypt in some more detail in the next issue of our Desert Heritage Magazine.



Amirah Moon MH (Haliluyah MH x Moon-Storm)



Shaarawi Arabian's Stables



ALI SHAARAWI STUD



Monieta Maareia (Richter MH X MFA Bint Monden)



Shahiinah Asiiil (Thee ever after x Kahlaara)



EL BADRAWY STUD



EL BADRAWY STUD

El Badrawi stud - a farm that wrote history in Straight Egyptian breeding.

Giza is not far from Cairo, but when you hit the road during rush hour, it can take you two hours to wrestle your way along the motorway and then Sakkara Road to the many studs located in Giza. The breeders in Giza make for a world of their own – not only because they border on the desert and have the pyramids as a background, and the thousands of tourists that go with them. They also have the sphinx eternally resting there above the worldly bustle, probably asking herself what else needs to happen in this corner of the world so a social balance can be reached in this world of extreme poverty and fascinating villas and gardens.

Last century, Giza was still a green oasis, it was part of the "grocery area" on the other side of the Nile from Cairo, and far enough away from the metropolis to enjoy the green expanses of the Nile delta for horse breeding and riding. Nowadays most of the green has been engulfed by the sprawling buildings of Cairo and Giza to leave only a narrow strip of green along the Sakkara Road.

El Badrawi stud is one of those historic studfarms in Giza that made history by their Arabian horse breeding activities. Today, the stud tends a stock of 90 Straight Egyptians on about 10 hectares (25 acres) of land. Mohammed El Badrawi and his sisters manage the stud. He is an ECAHO judge who used to present his horses himself for shows. Two of his sisters joined us as well to welcoming the small international group of breeders from Europe. Mohammed had selected 30 horses for us to provide us with an overview of his particularly typey mare families. Accompanied by a cup of tea and French patisserie, he comments on his breeding concept, without reservations and giving interesting facts.

When I ask him how things began for him, he reads me a report given by his father Achmed Fathi Badrawi: „At the end of the 19th century, my maternal grandfather Mahmoud Pasha El Etrebi founded the stud and was soon considered one of the best breeders in Egypt, with international successes of his horses. He and my paternal grandfather El Sayed Pasha are the main founders of the Royal Agricultural Society (now EAO), making a gift of two of their best stallions to RAF. In 1947, I began breeding Arabian horses in my village, using some of my grandfather's horses in addition to my own. In 1961, the revolution government disowned me, selling my horses to cart drivers. When I took up breeding again, in 1970, I moved to Giza and bought the best horses I could find from EAO and Hamdan Stables. It was not easy to start all over again, but for the whole family it was a joy to see our good horses flourish with lots of dedicated work from us.“ *Achmed Fathi Badrawi*

Savier: "This is a great story Mohamed, and which are the lines you are breeding today"?

Mohamed El Badrawi: We only breed straight Egyptian lines of El Zahraa / E.A.O.

Savier: Does you and your family present horses of theirs on shows?

Mohamed El Badrawi: We used to go and attend shows with our horses, but we don't do that anymore, there is too much „politics“ involved in judges' decisions today.

Monika Savier: What does El Zahraa mean for you today?

Mohamed El Badrawi: El Zahraa is the main founder of all the stud farms in Egypt, and the main source of the straight Egyptian around the world. And they still have stallions of some bloodlines that the breeders like to use.

Savier: Would you agree to opening El Zahraa for other SE horses, or do you think the studbook should remain closed?

Mohamed Badrawi: Yes, I agree to the stud book remaining closed. However, I don't mind if we use one or two Straight Egyptian stallions who might be re-imported to El Zahraa. They must have a special type and be well-balanced horses with very special pedigrees, which we really need for breeding. The aim is, after all, to breed a very typey horse that is well balanced with good legs, a horse that can win shows and on the racetrack, and that can be ridden well.

Thank you very much, Mohamed, and good luck with the horses!



Al Rattan



Nesmat El Nil



Dandana



Safire



Badrawi Stables

Introduction
At the end of the Nineteenth Century, my maternal grandfather "Mahmoud Pasha El Etrebi" established his stud, with some of the most elite and beautiful Arabians of the time. He was considered one of Egypt's best breeders. He gave to the R.A.S. (now EAO) as a gift two of his well known stallions "Nehus" and "Ghandour", to use on their mares. Since its foundation "El Etrebi Pasha's" Stud flourished nationally and internationally. In 1947, I started breeding Arabians in my village "Bahari" with 10 quality mares and 2 stallions from my grandfather's horses. Unfortunately, in 1961 the revolution government confiscated my land properties, and liquidated the stud selling the horses to cart drivers. In 1970 I decided to resume breeding Arabians, this time in Giza close to the Pyramids. I tried my best to put together a fine collection of horses, buying from the E.A.O. and Hamdan stables, these elite Arabians. It was not easy to start all over again, but after many years of sincere love, devotion and hard work from my self, finally and specially my son Mohamed, our Arabians flourish in shows and on the races track.

*Achmed Fathi Badrawi
Badrawi Stud
Giza - Egypt*



Karnareen

MENAT ALLAH STUD

"Treat them as a part of your Family."

Visit at Menat Allah Stud, owned by Captain Yasser Hossny and his wife Julia.

If you drive north from Cairo, covering Ismailia Road as far as Ahmed Orabi, you pass a small but remarkable stud of straight Egyptian Arabians of top-level quality. The stud has been existing since 1995 and the buildings are lovingly restored and cared for – just as are the inhabitants, a small herd of wonderfully beautiful horses. The owner, captain Yasser Hossny, gives the impression of a very competent man, not only on water. Together with his wife Julia and their son Mourad, they spend as much time as possible with their horses in their small oasis in the desert, on a hill overlooking Cairo.

Savier: Captain Yasser, are you breeding for show or to maintain the historic breed of the SE Arabians?

Yasser Hossny: It's nice to see your horses winning in the show ring, but I am not breeding for show. I consider the horses a gift from Allah, therefore I called the Farm Menat Allah, which



Yasser Hossny and his stallion Al Farabi Menat Allah (Al Hattal Menat Allah x ZT Mizwalah)

means God's gift. It is in our blood to breed them! In mythology they call it romance.

Savier: Do you see El Zahraa as a source and useful gene pool for the SE horses still?

Yasser Hossny: El Zahraa still is and will remain the pure source of that gene pool, and will always be useful to obtain a cross with a new bloodline for your breeding. For this purpose it was kept as it is, as well as to safeguard and guarantee purity. At some stage in your breeding, you will definitely need these bloodlines, hoping you may achieve your dream.

Monika Savier: Which are the breeding stables that influenced you in your selection?

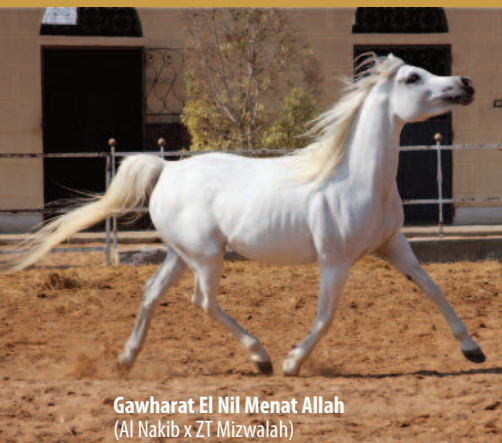
Yasser Hossny: Grandchildren of El Zahraa horses influenced my breeding via Gleannloch Farm, which is where my lovely stallion Al Nakib by Ruminaja Ali was bred. I admire Messaoud blood as well.

Savier: What is your personal strategy for reaching your aim in your breeding of SE horses?

Yasser Hossny: In fact, my personal strategy is to dream high and to be patient, draw your favorite horse in your mind and just follow your heart. See what you have and add what can influence their faults. And do not give up if you really love them, treat them as a part of your family.



Shadiyah Menat Allah (Taymour Halim x Shahida)



Gawharat El Nil Menat Allah (Al Nakib x ZT Mizwalah)



Shah Zinan Menat Allah (Amal Al Khaled x Gawharat El Nil)



AL TAREK STUD

"I'am looking forward to admiring the Arabian horse as a work of art and not to look at each part of the horse separately."

Interview with Tarek Hamza, breeder and ECAHO Judge, owner of AL TAREK Stud.



Tarek Hamza

Savier: The Hamza family is well known for their famous horse breeding, but what got you interested in Arabian horses in particular?

Tarek Hamza: I grew up surrounded by horses since childhood. My father has always been breeding horses on our farm in the countryside. My elder brother was a very good rider and I have always been impressed by his bravery and riding skills. I started riding at the age of 7 years until I decided to have my own breeding program in 2005, a

few years after my graduation from Paris 1 – Sorbonne law school – which is when I acquired my first mare from Fatma Hamza of Hamdan Stables who is a cousin of my father. I've always had the belief that I have to continue our family tradition which has started with my late grandfather Ahmed Hamza Pasha.

Savier: You're strongly committed to El Zahraa stud. How did that happen?

Tarek Hamza: Yes, I am - because later on, I moved my horses closer, to the boarding place located at El Zahraa stud farm. This has been a great opportunity to learn more about El Zahraa stud's famous horses and bloodlines, since I used to visit the horses and the farm more frequently on a weekly basis, and to follow their development from their moment of birth until they are mature. After almost four years of observation and study of these horses, I started to recognize and to select certain bloodlines that I would like to include in my private breeding program. Consequently, I started to buy few mares out of El Zahraa bloodstock that had been proposed for sale at El Zahraa auctions.

Savier: Tell us more about your broodmares and breeding concept.

Tarek Hamza: The cornerstone of my breeding is based on the Hadban Enzahi and Dahman bloodlines that I believe are very influential and easy to breed. I have selected several mares going back to Bint Kamla, El Khansaa - through her famous daughter Azhar- and the Bukra families. My breeding philosophy aims to reproduce very nice and well balanced Arabian horses suitable for breeding purposes with good conformation and type that relate form to function and represent the look of the family while trying to reduce and eliminate the common faults and to reinforce the points of strength related to each family. I'am looking forward to admiring the Arabian horse as a work of art and not to look at each part of the horse separately.

Savier: You have shown us your wonderful stallion Rebat Al Tarek. His dam and sire are both bred in El Zahraa. You are going to send him to Germany to Nedschd Arabs for 2 years. Does that mean that the breeders in Europe can breed back to the original bloodlines of the Straight Egyptians, maintaining high quality in phenotype? Tell us something about this stallion.

Rebat Al Tarek is a young straight Egyptian stallion born in 2012. He is a Hadban Enzahi with a lot of elite and famous horses of the EAO in his pedigree. His sire is the famous Rawwah of the EAO who is by Rashdan x Ramiah, and his dam is Al Gazyah, EAO mare as well by El Ragel x Zebeebah. Rebat traces back to the famous line of El Khansaa. In addition, he is line-bred to the famous and well-known stallion Rashdan that belonged to the EAO. Rashdan has been introduced and played an influential role in several breeding programs, among them the breeding program of Albadeia stud in Egypt where they used his son Magd Albadeia for many years before he was leased to the renowned Al Shaqab stud for a season and afterwards sold to Al Waab stud of Qatar. I'm a believer in the future of this stallion and hope very much that he will have success in Europe.

We all wish you good luck for your farm and your stallion.



Al Gazyah (El Ragel x Zebeebah)



Mansoura Shaarawi (Rebat Al Tarek x Guna (EAO))



Rebat Al Tarek (Rawwah EAO x Al Gazyah EAO) breeding season 2016/17 in Germany

KHATTAB & TAHANY STUD

Show Training in Giza.

The Khattab & Tahany family has the roots in Giza. Even 30 years ago, the four brothers were breeding horses below the pyramids. Later on, they moved the stud to the green Nile meadows in the vicinity of the Saccara Country Club and built a remarkable facility there. For many years now, they have been buying European straight Egyptians and in addition to breeding, are engaged in show training and show participation – successfully, at that. In their early years, they brought Frank Spoenle to Cairo as a handler. With him at their side, they quickly achieved decent results and soon



after, their first championship titles. They were quick to learn the skills and soon, the youngest of the brothers, Tarek, took over in show training. For our European breeders group, it was also Tarek who presented the horses. And there were not only Straight Egyptians professionally displayed, but also some Polish Arabians from top show lines that had been imported from Germany and Poland. The frame for the presentations was made up of a sunset, lots of palm trees, and choice cakes accompanied by tea and coffee.



AL AMIN STUD

Straight Egyptian Horse Presentation and Gala Dinner at Mohamed Al Amin Stud.

After both shows had ended, there was a nice surprise for a lot of people. Mohamed Al Amin, long-standing fan and supporter of El Zahraa, invited us for a gala dinner to his farm. Organizers, judges, DCs, employees, breeders of the Pyramid Society Europe, and many local breeders – all of them took to Ismaelia Road, in the direction of the desert and to the northeast of Cairo. It was dark when we arrived in Orabi Area. An alley of palms accompanied us up to the farm. To our right, there were sand paddocks thickly covered with straw and a herd of 15 to 20 grey mares sleeping peacefully there.

The arena was brightly lit by floodlights, and the music was already playing. The show can start at once! 26 horses were presented, all of them except 4 home-bred in Al Amin Stud. Of the 18 mares presented, most were offspring of the noble Dahman Shahwan horses that had been re-imported from Germany.

The story of that started in 2002 and shall be told here, in short. That year, Mr Amin found his partner, the German architect Peter Gross and his wife, both of whom have been known for 30 years for their breeding on the basis of the noble Dahman Shahwan lines. Mr Amin, loving the Arabian horses who are the cultural heritage of his ancestors, became apprentice to the breeding approach of Peter Gross and is now continuing this tradition in his Al Amin stud. He knows that these beautiful and yet hardy and tireless horses have made the Orient well-known all over the world for centuries. They were sold into all parts of the world, with the breed partly continued there, and partly the precious gene pool getting lost. However, Mr Amin bets on the renaissance of these horses and their pedigrees in their country of origin. Now they are back and he has in his stud, thanks to the cooperation with the





AL AMIN STUD

AL AMIN STUD

Peter Gross family, the valuable dam line of *Moheba II*, who opens up the direct access to the gene pool of those dams of the century from the Dahman Shahwan lines, *Halima* and *Bukra*. These pedigrees gave rise to high expectations, of course, so Mohamed Amin convinced Peter Gross to bring his foundation mares and the key stallions of the respective tail lines to Egypt, into his stud. The result of this cooperation was the combination

of the Peter Gross lines, which are well-known, and of the former stock mares of Amin Stud. Perpetuating breeding into the future is the plan not only for the pure Dahman Shahwan line, but also for the successful combination of Dahman Shahwan and Saklawi lines. During our evening there, we saw very beautiful mares, elegant, noble, typey and good movers, presented in a small

show of their own and commented by the Gross couple. Most of the stallions enchanted the spectators despite the fact that hunger slowly set in, even more so because from the buffet in the garden, the unmistakable aromatic scent of fine food and freshly baked flatbread was rising, further intensified by the crackling sound from the barbecue area with its lamb chops and skewered kebab. Under these conditions, who is supposed

to be able to concentrate on the 3rd generation in the pedigree of the last stallions in the arena? Finally, there was thunderous applause and then a chance of scene: after just a few minutes, all the guests were to be found at the tables of the gala dinner, taking their time at eating while discussing the presentations they had just seen. It was a nicely successful evening that is sure to stick in everybody's memories.



A. Studer



A. Studer

