

BASIL JADAAN

THE BUOYANT ARABIAN HORSE BREEDER OF SYRIA

By HT Staff



MR. BASIL JADAAN, AN AVID AND CONVERSANT ARABIAN HORSE BREEDER, INTERNATIONAL JUDGE, AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB HORSE ASSOCIATION, HAS BEEN LOYALLY AND PROMINENTLY DEVOTED TO PRESERVING THE ARABIAN HORSE FOR YEARS. HE HAS WORKED COOPERATIVELY WITH OTHER BREEDERS AND TRIBES TO LOCATE AND IDENTIFY THE REMAINING PURE ARABIANS IN SYRIA. HE HAS ALSO PRINCIPALLY CONTRIBUTED IN ORGANISING THE 2007 WAHO CONFERENCE HELD IN DAMASCUS, WHERE A PARADE OF A SPECTACULAR 400-STRONG TIDE OF BEDOUIN HORSEMEN IN TRIBAL ATTIRE, GENERATED BESIEGED TALKS AMONGST ALL WAHO OFFICIALS AND GUESTS.

ALONGSIDE BEING A BUSINESSMAN IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY, MR. JADAAN IS ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF ALQUDS INSTITUTION, AN NGO AND INDEPENDENT CIVIL ORGANISATION COMPRISED OF ARAB, ISLAMIC AND INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITIES AND BODIES. ALQUDS INSTITUTION'S PURPOSE IS TO WORK FOR SAFEGUARDING THE CITY OF ALQUDS (JERUSALEM) BY PRESERVING ITS ARAB IDENTITY AND ITS SANCTIFIED ISLAMIC AND CHRISTIAN PLACES. THE INSTITUTION AIMS AT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH THAT COVERS IMMEDIATE PROGRAMMES OF RELIEF AND RESCUE, SEASONAL PROJECTS, AND ABOVE ALL STRATEGIC PLANNING TO A SUSTAINABLE SERVE OF THE BLESSED CITY AND STRENGTHEN THE STEADFASTNESS OF ITS PEOPLE.

▲ Mr. Jadaan riding WED (Kohaila Khalawieh) during the 2007 WAHO Conference horse parade in Damascus



▲ *Mr. Jadaan & Majd Al Khair*

Besides his charity works, Mr. Jadaan explains, "I actually perform many things in many fields which are generally related to the Arabian horse in Syria. In addition, I am an executive committee member of the WAHO; I carry out some services to member Arab countries involved in the Arabian horse industry worldwide. However, my main business is real estate development. I also write; as the President of the Board of Directors of Al Quds Institution (Syria) and as a Member of Trustees, I am the Editor-In-Chief of Zahrat Al Maidan monthly magazine published through the institution." On his involvement with the Arabian horse in Syria, he adds, "I'm a breeder and contribute continually alongside others who are interested in the shaping of the modern history of the Arabian horse in Syria. By that, I mean its registration and development, aiming to bring back the vital historical role of Syria in the field of the Arabian horse to the present, and into the future."

When asking horse enthusiasts about the start of their love for the horse, their memories take them back in time. "It started very early in my childhood. I think the passion for the horse in general is born with us; it is in human nature. The difference lies in how involved one is with horses, the passion is there in all of us - it's really how close you are to them; the closer you are, the more passionate you become."

On becoming an International Judge and the establishment of the Jadaan Stud Farm, Mr. Jadaan adds, "Five or six years ago, I passed an ECAHO seminar course and exam and I got listed in the B List Category of the ECAHO approved Judges. I gained much experience through judging at many shows ever since and soon I will become eligible for the A List Category. I established my stud farm back in 1985; Jadaan Stables. I breed Syrian Bedouin horses and now there are horses that I can label as fifth generation. My horses are all of Syrian



▲ Bint Al Maha, Yaqout, Manolia, Mansorah & WED

Bedouin origin; I started with five mares that I got from the Shammar and Tai tribes and my horses have competed in Syrian National Shows and won many titles. I like all lines of Arabian horses, but as a Syrian who is involved with Syrian horses, I think there is a special connection between the Syrian Arabian and myself. I think it's a most intriguing task to study and work further on their development - bringing back to them the quality that they had before and was lost somehow. It's a joyful challenge to bring back what these breeds gave to the world. Having said so, I believe through selective breeding we can bring back to the Syrian Arabians all the elements they miss, through which we can preserve other important fundamentals that the Arabian horse around the world has lost such as its athletic abilities, good legs, intelligence, good nature and tranquil mentality. What makes The Syrian horse special is that they are the foundation horses of modern Arabian horse breeding. They represent the true Arabian horse in its original surroundings, which comes directly from the breeding of its original breeders; Arab tribes, clans and families." Stressing more on the role of the Arabian horse in Syria, he continues, "The Arabian horse in Syria

is our pride, it's connected to our history, religion and it's a part of our heritage. As for its improvement, we are working hard towards giving the aspiring generations of breeders a horse who presents a living history. The position of horse breeding and activities in Syria these days has never been better, but there is still plenty to implement."

A horse is a genetic pool; on the other hand, a horse is what a breeder makes it. How can a breeder create the next champion? Mr. Jadaan states, "A breeder can do his best with selection, pedigree analysis, good care, good feeding and training, along with naturally, God's will at the beginning and at the end since he is the creator. A breeder should also be patient and tolerant, and should learn from his experiences. Furthermore, has to be optimistic and at the end, his breeding programme should lead him in the correct direction eventually. This horse is such a blessed creature and those who breed him will feel the essence and goodness which are bonded to his forelock until the day of judgement, as it was said by the messenger of God, Mohamed (PBUH)." 