



Ruala Farha



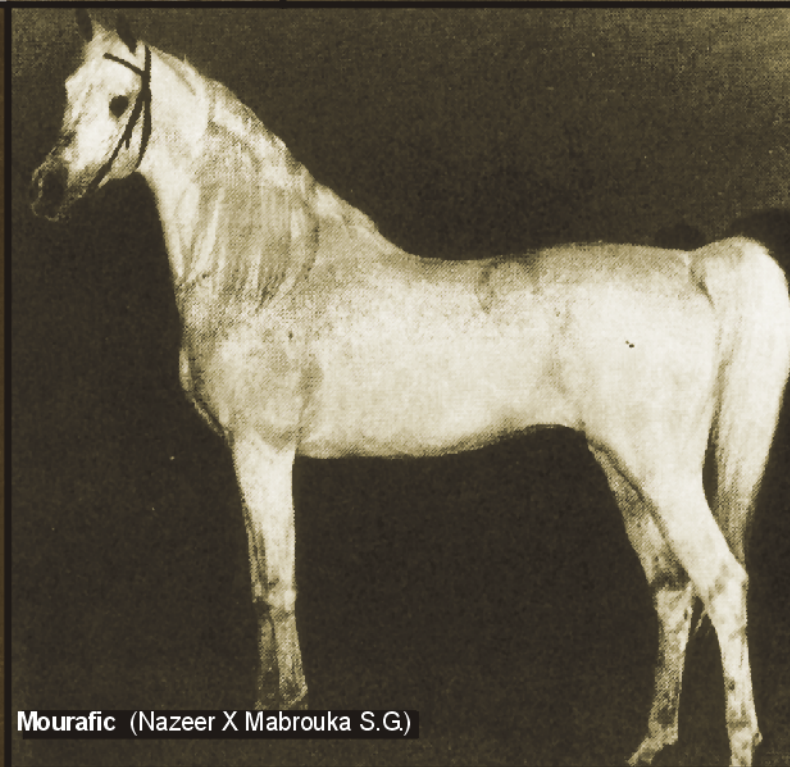
Kheir



Ruala Farida



Kaysoon Nazeer X Bint Kateefa K.R



Mourafic (Nazeer X Mabrouka S.G)



Ikhnaton (out of Bint Om El-Saad K.R.)



Ansata Ibn Halima (Nazeer X Halima D.S.)

presentation was hosted by Ahmed Hamza and Fatma Hamza at Hamdan Stud, the family estate north of Cairo. 47 horses were presented beginning with the 2 grandams of the farm: Bint Mounira at 25 years and Bint Fulla II, age 23. They are both surviving daughters of the great stallion Hamdan who was the inspiration for the beginnings of the farm by Ahmed Pasha Hamza. The grandson of Hamdan, Ashour (Anter x Ayda) put his special touch into the day by rearing and playing with his groom. The great finale of the week was the long anticipated presentation of the EAO horses. A new green and white sign at the front gate announced that we were entering the historic grounds of El Zahraa. The welcoming road of eucalyptus trees was festooned with banners welcoming visitors in the names of Wahag, Ikhnatoon and Safinaz. The fences had been freshly painted in the national colours of red, white and black some splashes of which could be seen on some of the younger horses playing in the paddocks. Special reviewing stands had been built for the occasion, which have become permanent and are the grandstands for today's shows.

During one of the last minute preparatory meetings, Dr. Zaghloul mentioned that the presentation was scheduled for Friday, a day he should have been at home with his family smoking his pipe and wearing his galabeya. We decided that El Zahraa was also his home and so he greeted the visitors wearing his Friday galabeya and abbaya.

One of the reasons for the show was to introduce the great EAO stallion Ikhnatoon (Farazdac x Bint Omm El Saad) to the visitors from abroad. The stallion was known and loved for his great presence

and look of a flashy Egyptian stallion. Sadly, Dr. Zaghloul had to announce that Ikhnatoon had tragically died during the night. At the age of 12 he was just fulfilling the great hopes that had been placed in him. A special prayer was said as 3 of his sons: Adl, Adawi and Mohab entered the ring without their sire but hoping to carry on his great legacy. A bit later on, Khaled bin Laden bought the exquisite daughter of Ikhnatoon, Kout El Kouloub, as a tribute to the stallion and because he genuinely loved the filly.

Dr. Zaghloul then presented some of the senior stallions from the EAO who have formed the basis of so many breeding programmes around the world. The elegant and

typey liver chestnut Ibdaa by Ikhnatoon. The legendary Adaweia (Anter x Abia) was shown with 3 of her daughters and 2 granddaughters.

Dr. Zaghloul and the EAHBA were all quite pleased with the results of the first horse show to be organised for this purpose. They had wanted breeders from around the world to see that the horse is still thriving in Egypt. On the last day of the EAO presentation, following lunch, a special parade closed the festivities. 9 stallions were ridden bareback by their grooms in a parade along the 3 lined paths from their barn to the grassy garden in front of the EAO office. Anas, Wahag, Emad, Shadwan and Adeeb amongst others walked

majestically in the middle of the spellbound guests and provided a dramatic finale to a week that had been filled with the magic of the Egyptian Arabian Horse.

The Breeders Association has been organising an annual show ever since. The EAO in 1995 decided to start their own show, and in 2003, it hosted the first ECAHO international B-show.

The show changed the rule of the game in the

country. Today, it is a common sight to see the best international trainers showing the horses. The benchmarks have been moved up and the stakes have become higher. One thing remains unchanged, and that is Egypt continues to be the source of the finest bloodlines, as well as being dedicated to the time honoured tradition of breeding the finest Arabians in the world...the Straight Egyptian Arabians. ■



Powerful 19 year old Mourad (Gassir x Mabrouka), Wahag and his son, Hafid Anter out of Basima, Shadwan (Sharaawi x Kamar), Anas (Alaa El Din x Ramza) and the showy blond maned Ibn Akhtal (Akhtal x Looza) all exhibited the grace, power and elegance that has made them all Sires of Distinction both here and abroad. The mares were divided into 3 major groups so that the visitors could focus on some specific breeding lines at the EAO. 12 mares from the Moniet El Nefous family were shown including 2 Ibtisam daughters: the exquisite grey Bint Ibtisam by Akhtal and the

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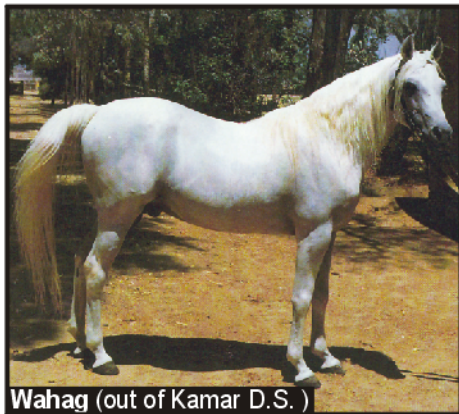
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Wahag (out of Kamar D.S.)



Emad (El Aeaby X Ebeda S.G.)



Akhtal (out of Hagir D.S.)

During the course of an interview with Dr. Helmy El Sedawy, current General Manager of El Zahraa Stud, he gave a brief history of the Egyptian Agricultural Organisation. He gave credit to the men who had led the breeding programme at the EAO including Dr. Amin Zaher, Dr. Mohamed El Marsafy, Dr. Ibrahim Zaghloul, and Dr. Khalil Suleiman who all preceded him. He stated that the EAO has been doing a great deal to maintain the purity of Egyptian Arabians by allowing Egyptian breeders, all over Egypt, to breed their purebred Arabian mares with stallions at El Zahraa. They also sell many colts and fillies born at El Zahraa through semi-annual public auctions.

The EAO today has 400 horses (among 5,000 Arabians all over Egypt) including 170 brood mares, 30 stallions and the rest vary between foals and yearlings. The EAO sells an average of 90 horses on yearly basis through its annual auction where 160 active breeding farms participate. Dr. Helmy also went on to explain that the general policy of preserving the Arabian breed and bloodlines at the EAO



Dr. Helmy El Sedawy

does not change, yet every management has had its own philosophy. Consequently, the adopted policy during the auctions includes *guarding* all the bloodlines and *just* selling their decedents. Responding to a question regarding the issue of importing Egyptian Arabian horses born abroad and in particular, in America, he clarified that those horses will definitely accommodate to their environment, yet genetically there won't be change. On the other hand, the EAO has a particular type of horse, a type that the organisation would unquestionably want to preserve hence there are no plans for the EAO to change it perception and plans, yet it will not stop any breeder from importing any straight Egyptian Arabian horses.



Ikhnaton (Son of Alaa El-Din)



ADL (Ikhnaton X Enayah D.S.)

El Zahraa National Arabian Horse Show Nov. 2005

Interviews by Nada H. Abdelmoniem

Ms. Wigdan El Barbary: *Egyptian breeder*

We are currently witnessing the civilisation, history & legacy of the Arabian horse.

Khaled bin Laden: *Saudi breeder*

Today, we have 280 horses, but most important, the quality is beyond explanation. Egyptian breeders have discovered how to make their horses compete, and not only that, but also win. And this year, all breeders are on a stride to compete internationally. It is felt that there are numerous competitors and the competition is very challenging.

Robert O'Leary: *Australian breeder*

The show is fantastic. The horses are lovely, and so are the surroundings. And of course we are at the famous El Zahraa station which is history in the making. And this is very exciting because the Egyptian Arabian horse is the fountain head of the Arabian horse. We are moving into breeding them and I think they are some of the best around. One is bound to grow fond of them.

Ms. Meela: *German breeder*

I think it's an interesting show. All the horses are beautiful and of course the standards have been highly raised.

Mustafa Omar: *Egyptian breeder*

The show is very organised and it's very good, and there are numerous competitors. The quality has been raised because some local breeders have started to diversify their breeding methods due to others importing Egyptian Arabian horses and mixing them with the locals. This show is on the same track as the ones in Aachen, or Cheval.

Khaled Hadad: *Saudi breeder*

The show has highly developed; even the young breeders have brought in knock out horses. It's beautiful. The Egyptian Arabian horse I think is the king of horses. No dispute, all breeders have started to look for purity of genes, the pedigrees, and the subtlety of it, trying to enhance it. And nowadays, even the breeds available worldwide

are of a lower quality if without Egyptian blood in them. Right now, this show is of no less significance than Cheval, or the shows in Qatar.

Mahmoud Anzarooti: *President of the Syrian Equestrian Federation*

I think the show was great. And the beauty of the shows in Egypt has really developed. The Egyptian Arabian horse is the horse that has the description of the Arabian horse, and is recognised worldwide.

Dr. Tarek Abdel Rahim: *Founder Member of the Syrian Arab Horse Association*

The current show is really organised. However, I thought I would see much better classes, more classes, and more heads. And I only see decadence with the young horses compared to the ones which I saw 10 years ago. The show is fine; the horses are not bad, and the levels are high, though not better than the horses that were there 10 years ago. The Egyptian Arabian horse is excellent. Egypt has footsteps in the history of the Arabian horse. It's the first country since the days of Abbas Pasha to record the history

Amir Mardini: *General Secretary of the Syrian Arabian Horse Association*

We are witnessing the beauty of the Arabian horse within the beauty of the Arabian land. It's grand. I notice beautiful change, beautiful development, and El Zahraa is historically known for its splendor. The horses here are culture & history. Sincere thanks to the organisers Dr. Helmy, Dr. Mohsin, and Ms. Magda, as well as to the sponsor Mr. Tarek Al Qahtani. El Zahraa is bound to succeed in such an event, naturally. They should have a wedding for the Arabian horse!

Mohamed Al Mudfaffer: *Saudi breeder*

The show is great. It's organised and the horses are of high quality and beauty. Arabian horses are beautiful, and today, they are at their highest peak.

Ahmed Fikry: *Director of Al Haram Al Akbar Arabian Horse Foundation*

This year the show is great and it's highly developed and organised. Arabian horses are the most

beautiful horses. They are a God given gift to us.

Dr Mohsin Abdel Razik: *Chairman of the EAO*

I'm very happy with the show! We have more than 280 competitors, which has never happened before in the past years. And I'm very happy that countries from all over the world are here to participate in this show.

Hassan Aboul Fotouh: *Egyptian breeder*

The show and the horses are great.

Hoda Hedayet: *Egyptian breeder*

I love the show, it's very competitive and all breeders must participate in El Zahraa shows. It's the origin, and whoever wants to win, has to implement that here.

Rafik Mohsin

The show is great and much better organised. The classes are booming as well and the local breeders are proving themselves to become challenging to the international ones. The horses here are jewels and need to be exposed to the world, and that's what I'm witnessing right now. As such, there also has to be participation in international events in order to provide more competition. The Egyptian Arabian horse is the most beautiful horse, thanks to our ancestors whom kept their purity alive.

Mohamed El Badrawy: *Egyptian breeder*

The show is very nice, and quite organised. On the other hand, the levels of the national horses are not as great as last years, but they are not that bad after all.

Giuseppe Palumbo: *Italian breeder*

This is my first time to attend a show in Egypt, and I really like it. Everyone is nice and I'm looking forward to coming again. There's a lot of participation which is very good. It's not as organised as the shows in Europe, they try harder there and eventually succeed, though I see potential for more plans to organise this show to a higher standard, and I'm eager to come next year to attend more shows. I love straight Egyptian Arabian horses and I'm in the midst of them now. Bellissimo! ■

Photos by Karim Osman



Dr. Nasr Marei



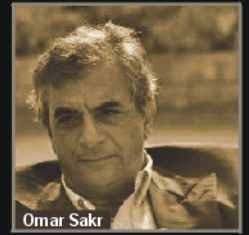
Amir Mardini



Basel Gedaan



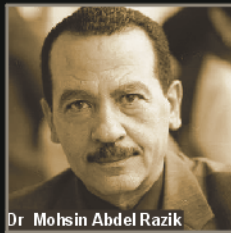
Haja Fatma



Omar Sakr



Giuseppe Palumbo



Dr. Mohsin Abdel Razik



Hassan Abo El Fotouh



Khaled bin Laden



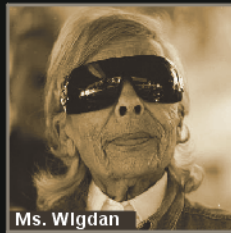
Khaled Bo Nkhila



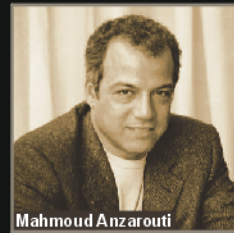
Khaled Hadad



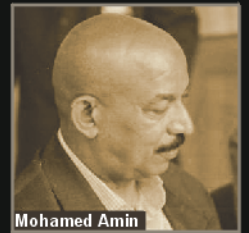
Ms. Meela



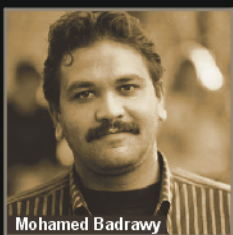
Ms. Wigdan



Mahmoud Anzarouti



Mohamed Amin



Mohamed Badrawy



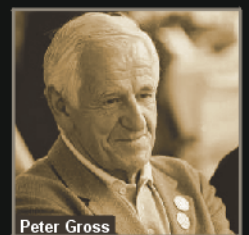
Mustafa Omar



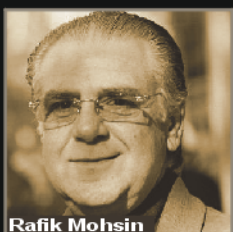
Mustafa Sabry



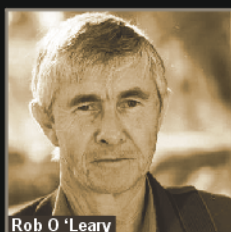
Mwafaq Khadra



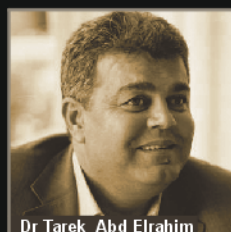
Peter Gross



Rafik Mohsin



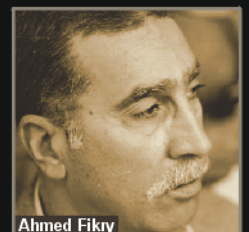
Rob O'Leary



Dr. Tarek Abd Elrahim



Simone Leo



Ahmed Fikry