

What Got Away?

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This series is about taking a look back, just for fun, at some photos of horses born at the R.A.S. many years ago who are no longer found in straight Egyptian breeding but might have made some interesting contributions to the quality and genetic choices for today's straight Egyptians.



The old stallion Awad (Mabrouk Manial x Bint Obeya) being presented to visitors at the R.A.S. in the late 1930s. Note his very large eyes. Forbis archive photo.

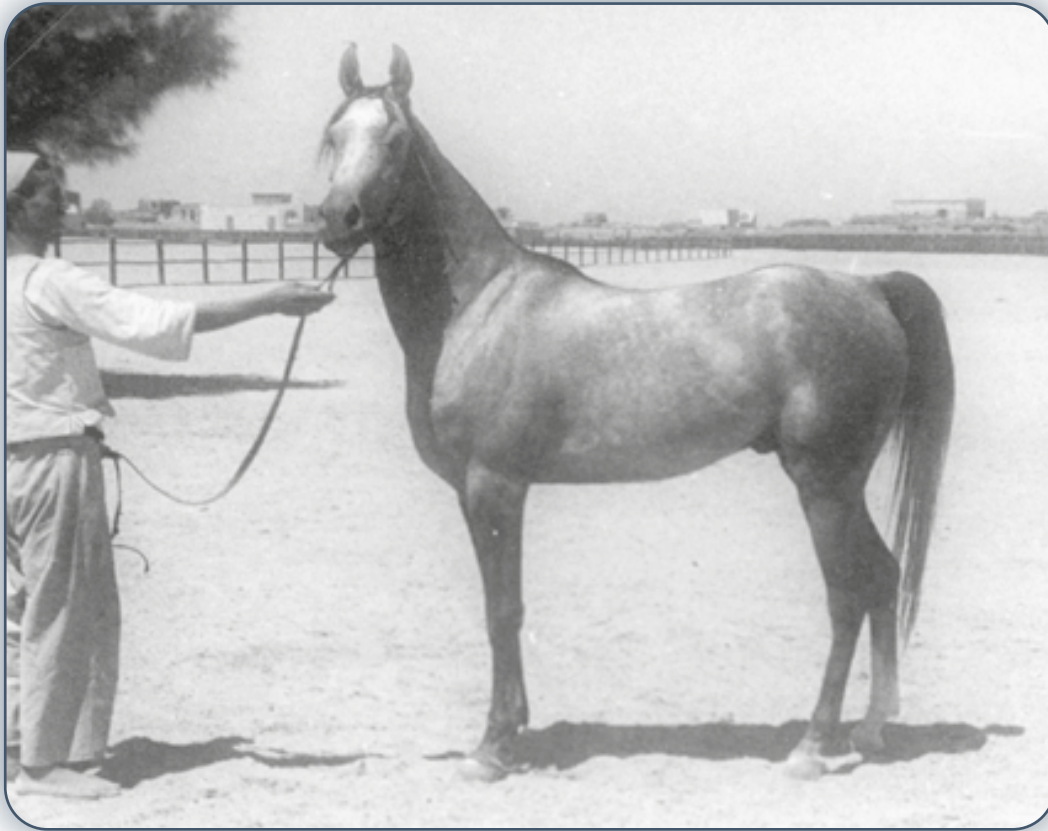
I chose the opening photo above just for reminiscing. In the late 1930s at the R.A.S. Nazeer would have been a young horse at the race track and then out at the stallion depots so he was not yet a phenomenon to be presented to visitors. His sire Mansour was much in use and had proved to be a very good sire. Mansour's first prominent son, Sheikh El Arab (x Bint Sabah), would precede Nazeer at stud at the R.A.S. Today we have Sheikh El Arab blood only through his daughters, not any of his sons.

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El Dalil 1940 bay stallion
by Sheikh El Arab x Bint Dalal.
Forbis archive photo.

In the Forbis archive are photos of two sons of Sheikh El Arab who are not found today in straight Egyptian breeding. The first is the 1940 bay stallion El Dalil (x Bint Dalal). He was used once by the R.A.S. producing a bay daughter named Dalila II (x Shams) sold as a 3 year old. Nothing much is known about what became of El Dalil but since his daughter was out of the mare Shams (Mashaan x Bint Samiha) there must have been some interest for racing potential. He appears to be a very handsome horse. The second son of Sheikh El Arab pictured here is Salhan, a 1943 grey stallion out of Medallela, making him a full brother to Wanisa the dam of legendary Moniet El Nefous. A handsome



**Salhan 1943 grey stallion
by Sheikh El Arab x Medallela,
a handsome full brother to Wanisa,
dam of Moniet El Nefous.
Forbis archive photo.**

horse, Salhan also exhibits the type and quality that seems consistent from Sheikh El Arab. However, there are no recorded get of Salhan and nothing further is known about his fate. Sheikh El Arab's daughters became legendary for their produce, yet sadly no sons succeeded him. Because most of his get were born during the era of World War II, one would speculate that point in history might have limited breeding opportunities for Arabians. Perhaps if either of these two Sheikh El Arab sons had been given an opportunity for a good selection of mares things would be different. They would have added a new branch to the Saklawi I sire line which now is only represented by Nazeer.

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Bint Rabdan,
1921 grey mare (Rabdan El Azrak x Bint Gamila)
a lovely full sister to Ibn Rabdan.
 Forbis archive photo.

Digging further in the Forbis archive reveals a photo of the R.A.S. mare Bint Rabdan. This lovely flea bitten grey mare is a full sister to the celebrated sire Ibn Rabdan (Rabdan El Azrak x Bint Gamila). She was born in 1921 and produced five foals for R.A.S. Unfortunately she died after her fifth foal, named Hakma, sired by El Deree. Hakma was sold to Mohammed Hilmi Baleigh and has no recorded progeny. Her only other daughter Rasmeia, sired by Rustem, was sold to the Italian Government. So there were no daughters to replace Bint Rabdan at the R.A.S., a loss considering the legacy of the Hadban Inzihi strain. Bint Rabdan produced three sons, Ibn Bint Rabdan (x Hamran), Dahshan (x Mansour) and Habashi (x Mansour). Dahshan died at age nine without any get, and there are no get recorded for the other two sons of Bint Rabdan. For such a nice mare, it is a shame that Bint Rabdan did not leave

any legacy today, even though there is considerable representation of her brother Ibn Rabdan. Judging from Bint Rabdan's son Habashi who is pictured here there seems to be a lot of quality in her get. Note Habashi's excellent legs and good proportions as well as having large eyes well placed in his head. Habashi was sired by Mansour, so again, if he would have been given an opportunity at stud he could have created another branch of the Saklawi I sire line. Often such good stallions spent their lives in the stallion depots out in the provinces to improve local horses and that is no doubt a worthy contribution for the Egyptian population who depended on good horse flesh to conduct their daily business. Nazeer himself spend much of his life in the provinces before being called back for stud at the R.A.S. [later renamed E.A.O.].



Habashi,
1935 grey stallion (Mansour x Bint Rabdan).
He was Bint Rabdan's last son before she died.
Note his overall high quality.
Forbis archive photo.

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Morgana,
 1936 grey mare (El Deree x Bint Samiha).
 Another good El Deree daughter bred by the R.A.S.
 sold to Mohammed Taher.
 Forbis archive photo.

While on the subject of Nazeer and the Hadban Inzahi strain, Nazeer's dam was favored by the racing community and her line has done well on the track. In honor of the new young King Farouk, the R.A.S. gave the stallion Hamdan (Ibn Rabdan x Bint Radia) to the Royal Inshass Stud in exchange for El Deree from the King. At the R.A.S. El Deree sired a number of good foals, [see Arabian Essence Newsletters April and May 2009] one of which was out of Nazeer's dam Bint Samiha. The resulting foal was the mare Morgana. This would have been an ideal representative of both parents. In Morgana's picture as a young mare one can see the good legs and conformation of her sire along with a lovely head of her dam. Morgana was sold to Mohammed Taher, presumably for the racing community, however she left no recorded progeny. El Deree was a wonderful out cross for the R.A.S. mares giving quality and genetic diversity. It would have been very nice if Morgana had replaced herself several times at the R.A.S. before being sold but it was not to be.

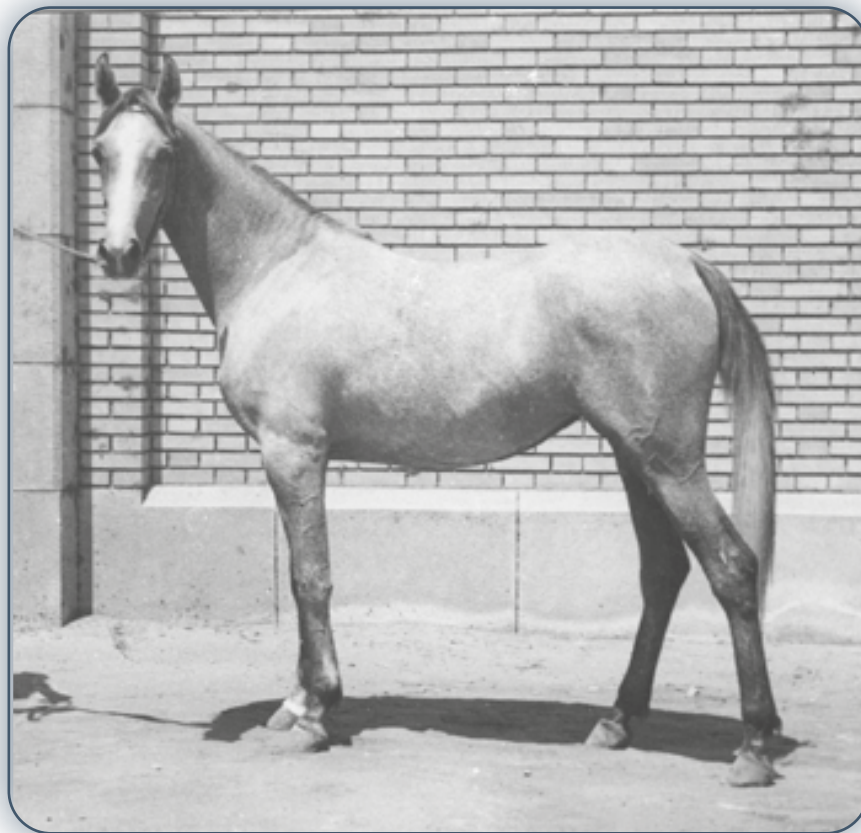


Azeem as a young colt,
1936 grey stallion (El Deree x Hind).
A good El Deree son bred by the R.A.S.
Forbis archive photo.

Another El Deree get produced in 1936 at the R.A.S. was the stallion Azeem out of Hind (Ibn Rabdan x Bint Rustem). The photo at right shows the good overall quality and form of another El Deree get from a mare of the Hadban Inzihi strain. His dam's line is that of the famed Aswan and Simeon Shai. If Azeem had been retained by the R.A.S. and given an opportunity for a selection of good mares, it would have been another opportunity to preserve the now very, rare El Deree sire line. But it did not happen.

While all of this is just speculation and perhaps a bit of lament about past choices, this newsletter is intended to encourage thinking about what has bred on into today, and to take a second look at maintaining some diversity so that the future of Egyptian breeding will not need to be one of fewer choices. Every new foal born deserves a closer look.

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Bint Bint Samiha 1932 grey mare (Mansour x Bint Samiha)
a full sister to Nazeer shown here as a yearling.
Forbis archive.

This series continues our look back at some photos of horses born in Egypt many years ago who are no longer found in straight Egyptian breeding but might have made some interesting contributions to the quality and genetic choices for today's straight Egyptians.

Let's explore some more possibilities that got away. First is the full sister to Nazeer, Bint Bint Samiha. Actually there two full sisters to the legendary Nazeer produced before Nazeer was born. Both were purchased by Ahmed El Sherif. While there are no recorded progeny from these two in the RAS studbooks it is likely that they became a part of the racing community since there was a great deal of respect for the produce of Bint Samiha as racing prospects. One can see by the yearling photo of Bint Bint Samiha that the special kind of dryness and refinement associated with Nazeer is also apparent in his full sister. It would have been interesting if one of Nazeer's full sisters was retained at the RAS to see how she would have contributed, but it was not to be.

A stallion of the Hadban Enzahi strain on both sides of his pedigree was the black-bay stallion El Akhrani born at the RAS in 1937. His is an interesting pedigree because he is by the desert bred stallion Nabras and out of the RAS mare Bint Rustem who founded the dynasty of many greats including Aswan, Ibn Galal and many others. Bint Rustem herself was close to desert breeding so this would make El Akhrani a useful outcross for Egyptian breeding at the RAS. He was sold to Mohamed Taher Pasha as a young horse so became a part of the racing community. Later he was owned by Queen Nazli of Egypt and when she came to America in 1950 she imported four Egyptian horses, including El Akhrani. He was the oldest stallion in the group and it appears that he was acquired by Riyad Ghali in California. It was not until he was 27 years old that he sired his first foals, only one of which was out of the Queen Mother's Egyptian horses, the stallion Kurasan out of the mare Princess Fawzia (Ibn Farhan x Saema). Kurasan was never used at stud. The other three were out of Al Khamsa mares that were predominantly Egyptian, early Blunt and Davenport desert breeding and while they continued on very thinly in Al Khamsa bloodlines, El Akhrani would become lost to Egyptian breeders which is sad considering the quality of his pedigree. The one photo of him shows a handsome horse with large expressive eyes so true to close up desert breeding.



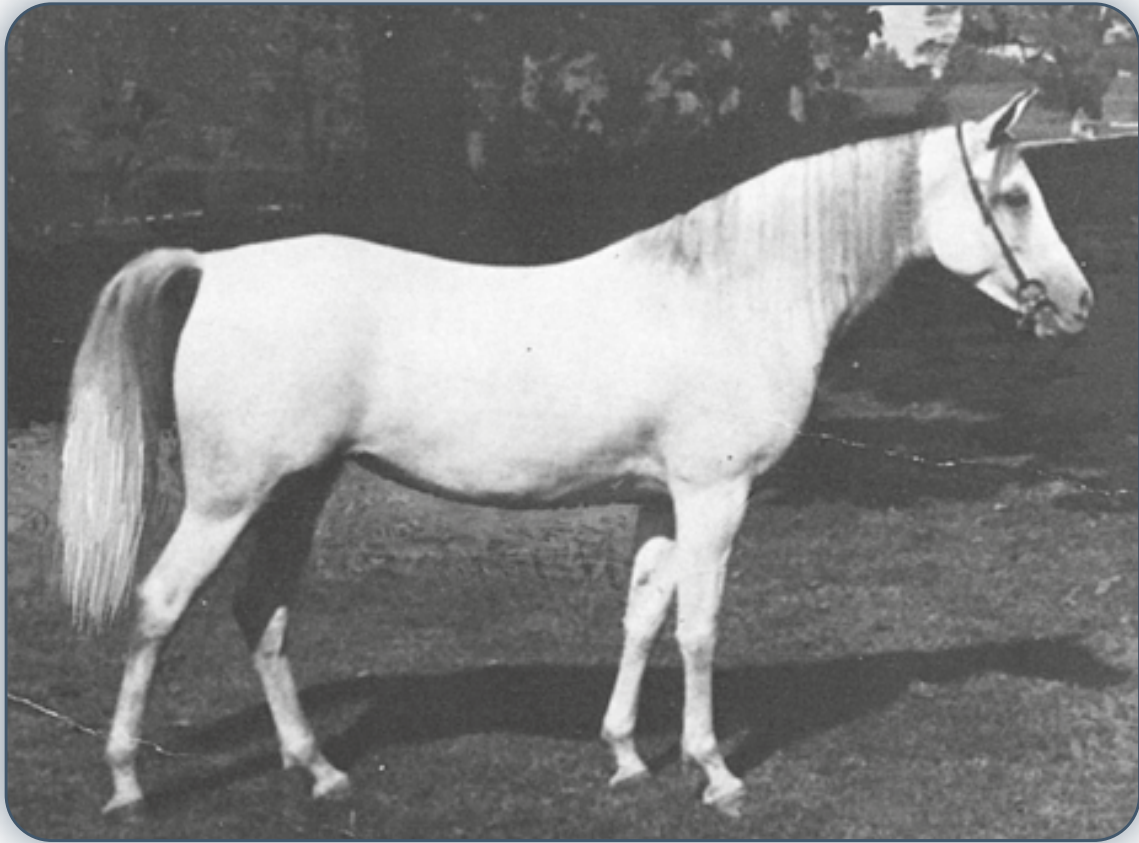
**El Akhrani 1937 black-bay stallion (Nabras x Bint Rustem)
imported to the U.S. as an old horse
by Queen Nazli of Egypt.
Forbis archive.**

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HH Mohamed Alis Hamida 1929 grey mare (Nasr x Mahroussa)
imported to the U.S. in 1932 by W.R. Brown.
Ferriss archive.

Another loss to American breeders of straight Egyptian bloodlines was the two Prince Mohammed Ali Bred mares HH Mohamed Alis Hamida (Nasr x Mahroussa) and HH Mohamed Alis Hamama [see Arabianessence September 2009 Newsletter]. Both were among the much-admired imports of 1932 by W.R. Brown that included Nasr, Zarife, Aziza, Roda (all who are found in straight Egyptian pedigrees still) and Hamida and Hamama (which are not). In HH Mohamed Alis Hamida one has the blood of Nasr and Mahroussa which are preserved though she is lost, in HH Mohamed Alis Hamama her sire is Kawkab (Saklawi II x Om Dalal) an excellent stallion of Prince Mohamed



HH Mohamed Alis Hamama 1927 grey mare (Kawkab x Mahroussa)
imported to the U.S. in 1932 by W.R. Brown.
Ferriss archive.

Ali which is only found in descendants of the Inshass mare Ragaa. I saw old home movies of HH Mohamed Alis Hamida and she was absolutely magnificent, perhaps the best mare of the importation and I provide one photo of her here. She did produce a few straight Egyptian foals in America but most were exported to South America and England where at that time there were no straight Egyptian horses for them. However HH Mohammed Alis Hamama is found in the pedigree of the magnificent Paris World Champion Carmargue and is now also in many other international champions, but sadly lost to straight Egyptian breeding.

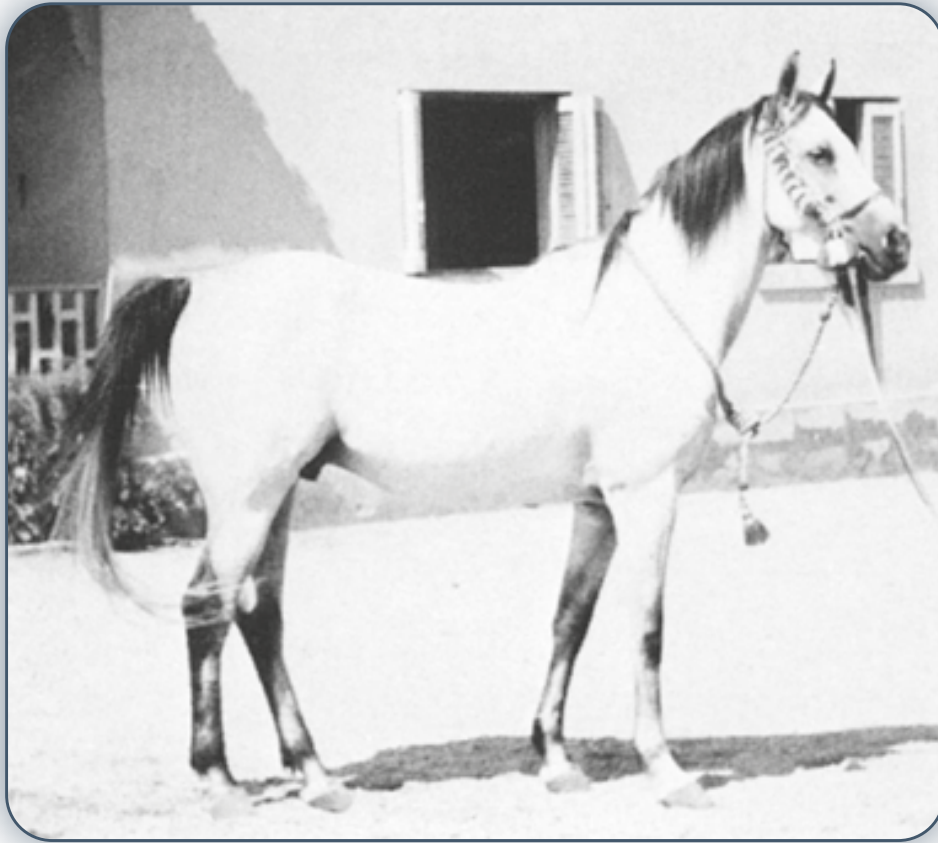
What Got Away?



Shaheera 1955 grey mare (Ghazi x Shahbaa)
a lovely mare lost now to straight Egyptian breeding.
Forbis archive.

When the Inshass Royal stud was dispersed and some of its horses went the EAO it was a treasure that we now realize. Because of the Inshass program the strains of Abayyan Om Jurays and Kuhaylan Krush were restored to the gene pool the new EAO had to work with. Among the very nice mares of the Kuhaylan Krush group was the lovely flea bitten grey mare Shaheera. She was sired by the Anter son Ghazi who was out of a mare tracing to the same female line as HH Mohammed Alis Hamama. Shaheera's dam is Shahd who was preserved in the Bint Shahbaa line exported to the U.S. and Germany and retained in the stallion Sabeel in Egypt. From the photo one can see that Shaheera was a wonderful mare and although she produced 5 foals in Egypt, they are all sired by the desert bred stallion Sharkasi, and her blood is no longer found in Egypt, though one daughter was exported to Russia.

In Egypt the RAS had acquired the excellent stallion El Nasser of the Kuhaylan Dajani strain and he was a good sire of horses that not only raced well but looked good also. However only one of his descendants bred forward



**El Moutannabi 1949 grey stallion (El Nasser x Fasiha)
more than a half brother to Nasrulla,
El Moutannabi was a handsome horse who raced very well.
Forbis archive.**

into modern Egyptian pedigrees, the stallion Nasrulla out of the Hadban Enzahi mare Salwa a daughter of Bint Rustem (who produced El Akhrani mentioned above). Over time Nasrulla has proven to be an influence of great quality and is in many thousands of Egyptian horses today. However another very handsome son of El Nasser was El Moutannabi who was also a Hadban Enzahi stallion out of Fasiha (Awad x Hind), a granddaughter of Bint Rustem. El Moutannabi raced very well. Because he became a part of the racing community, he did not leave any registered foals in the studbook. His photos show a very handsome stallion of great quality and type. El Moutannabi would have been another opportunity for the kind of formula that helped to extend the success of the horse of Egypt: that of an outcross desert bred horse combined with an Egyptian bred one. This formula created the great sires Sid Abouhom (El Deree x Layla) and Sameh (El Moez x Samira INS), the excellent mare Shams (Mashaan x Bint Samiha) and the important sire Kheir (Ibn Samhan x Badaouia), all found in the pedigree of today's famous sires such as Ansata Hejazi and many more. □