

REFLECTIONS ON THE *Family* RADIA



The exquisite head of a classic Saqlawi beauty the Egyptian mare Radia 1904 grey mare (Feysul x Ghazala), photographed in old age by Carl Raswan.

by Joe Ferriss ■ photos by Judith Forbis archive

Radia (also known as Ghadia) descends from the original Saqlawiyah Jidraniyah mare Ghazieh born 1850 in the fabled stud of Abbas Pasha I ruler of Egypt. She was a daughter of the beloved Ali Pasha Sherif mare Ghazala who was born at Sheykh Obeyd in Egypt and left two daughters, Jemla and Radia before coming to

America where she was much admired. Jemla would become the female line of Mr. Babson's mare Bint Serra imported to the U.S., while Radia created a celebrated family in Egypt. By all accounts Radia was described for her great beauty and her few photos seem to bear that out. Carl Raswan described her as one of the premier Saqlawi Jidran of Ibn Sudan



Radia at the R.A.S.
photographed by Carl Raswan

mares of her time. His photo of her lovely head shows her radiant beauty. Interestingly another picture of her taken by Carl Raswan shows her overall form and conformation. Taking these two pictures into account one gets a general idea of what she must have been like.

American breeder W.R. Brown sent his agent Jack Humphrey to Egypt in 1932 with a genuine interest in buying some stock to take back to the U.S. Humphrey's descriptions and images about his trip are a great insight into one man's fresh opinion of the breeding stock there. At the R.A.S. Humphrey was shown the senior sire at the time, which was Ibn Rabdan, the handsome dark liver chestnut stallion he described as a kind of "dark olive" color almost appearing black. His impression was that, except for his rather plain head, he was of championship quality with handsome proportions. Humphrey further commented that Ibn Rabdan is a very dominant sire and that many of his get were dark colored regardless of the color of the mare. However he felt that those few grey mares who passed on their color must truly be more dominant than he. Certainly this fits the description of Radia, for she was bred to the dark producing Ibn Rabdan four times and all were grey and resembled her. She was also bred to other stallions of color such as Ibn Samban, a deep chestnut, and Mashaan, the dark bay desert bred stallion. Each time the results were grey with more or less her form and general look. Radia's final foal was Fadell who was sired by the grey Kheir but nonetheless retains that special look of the Radia line.

I thought it would be an interesting visual exercise to display the family of Radia in pictures through the produce of her lovely daughter Bint Radia, a premier broodmare at the R.A.S. Although

the photography of the past era is not as sophisticated as today's images, and some horses here were photographed in old age, or not properly posed, one can see in general the clean, classic overall Arabian character, with large eyes, deep jowls, beautifully set and shaped ears, dry bone with short canon bones, nice overall body proportions often with good length of neck set on powerful well shaped shoulders. Not all in this "family photo album" are found in Egyptian breeding today but it is still an interesting family study of the produce of Bint Radia.

In reflecting on the impact of Moniet El Nefous, I often wonder if through her sire Shabloul we don't see some of the beauty of Radia, combined with the known beauty of Moniet's mother Wanisa. Likewise it is interesting to see that many of the Hamdan and Shabloul daughters are quite lovely in pictures. And let us not forget that Samira is the dam of Zaafarana who has created a dynasty of her own through Ansata Bint Zaafarana and El Ameera. This is the dam line of the exquisite mare The Vision HG dam of Al Labab and other famous champions.

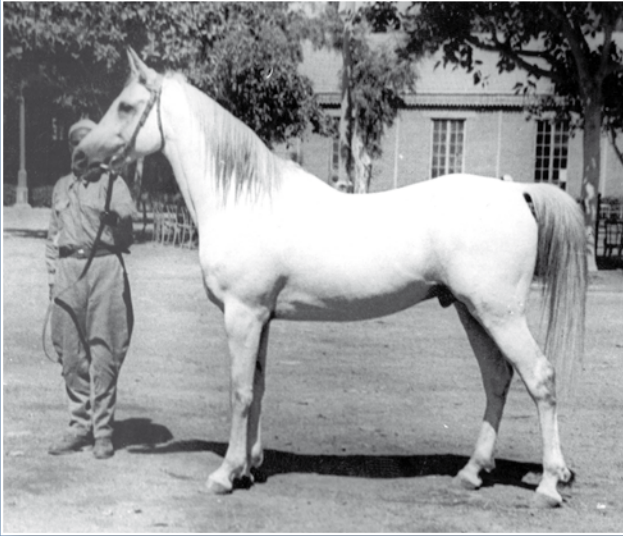
It is unusual that pictures can be found for eight of the nine produce of a mare born in 1920. However, through the courtesy of Judith Forbis's collection of old images, I hope you enjoy this "family album" reflecting on the family of Radia.

A PHOTO ALBUM OF THE
PRODUCE OF
BINT RADIA

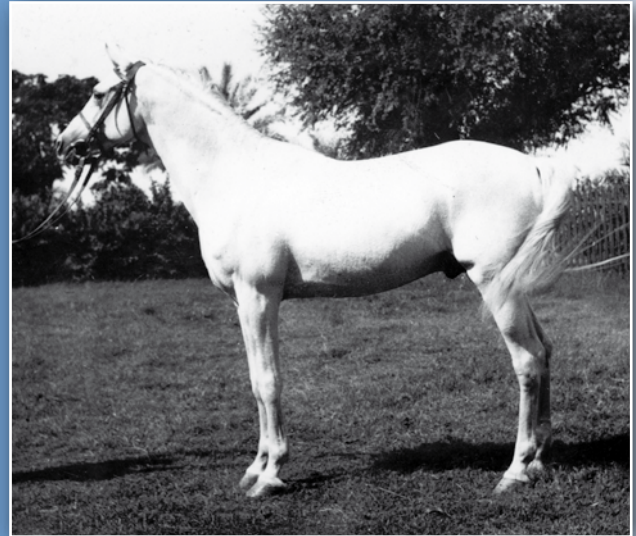
Bint Radia, 1920 grey mare (Mabrouk Manial x Radia) bred by the R.A.S. Her sire Mabrouk Manial was given to the R.A.S. by Prince Mohammed

Ali and her dam Radia was from Lady Anne Blunt's Sheykh Obeyd stud. She had nine foals of which eight are pictured here:

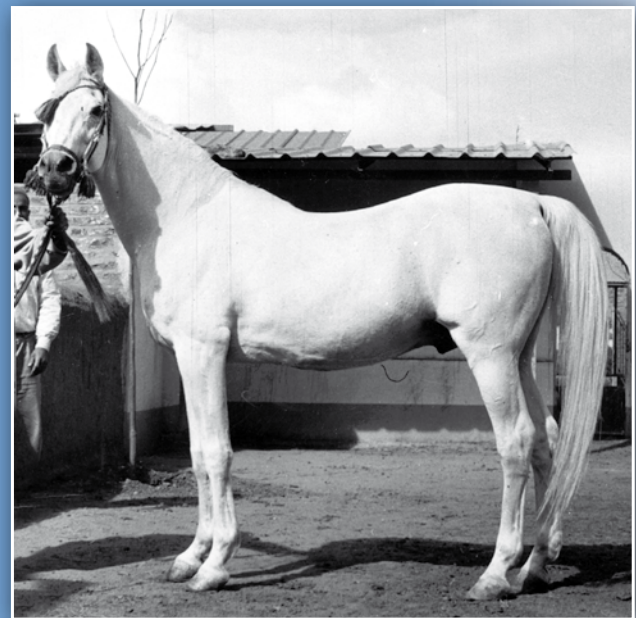




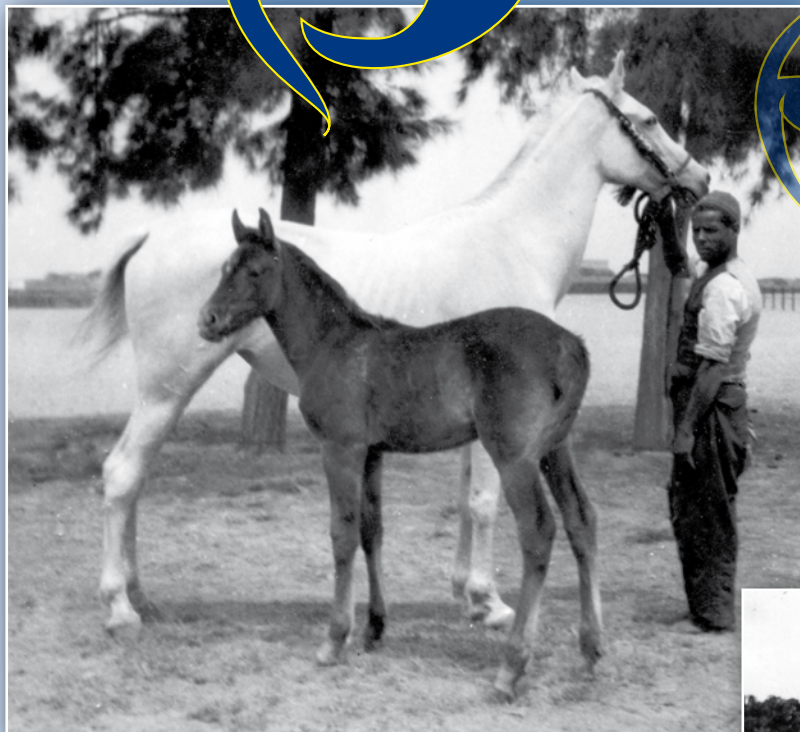
Shahloul 1931 grey stallion sired by Ibn Rabdan. He became the successor to his sire at the R.A.S. and proved to be a very good sire. He is remembered for his many extraordinary daughters Moniet El Nefous, Bukra, Maisa and Kateefa, and his two sons El Sareei and Mashhour.



Radwan 1934 grey stallion sired by Ibn Rabdan. He was one of four siblings by Ibn Rabdan. Radwan is not found in pedigrees today.



Hamdan 1936 grey stallion sired by Ibn Rabdan. Bred by the R.A.S., he was presented to King Farouk and used in the Royal Inshass Stud. Late in life he was acquired by Ahmed Hamza who established his stud of Arabian horses in 1942 naming it after Hamdan. He is pictured here in old age at Hamdan Stud. Like his brother Shahloul, Hamdan proved an excellent sire.



Zamzam 1932 grey mare sired by Gamil III. Though she is old and thin and not being posed properly one can still see her quality and refinement so I felt it important to include her picture in this album. She is the dam line of Hayam (Mashhour x Tahia) in the U.S., Nabila (Enzahi x Zamzam) in South Africa and Salha (Sameh x Saklawia II) in Germany representing champions on several continents.



Nasir 1937 grey stallion sired by the bay desert bred stallion Mashaan. A very handsome horse with quality, nice proportions, big eyes, and noble bearing. Note his lovely short shapely ears. Unfortunately Nasir is not found in pedigrees today



Samira 1935 grey mare sired by Ibn Rabdan. Bred by the R.A.S. her produce became of interest to the racing community. She put herself on the map however with her daughter Zaafarana, the largest branch of Radia's family and a dam line of international champions.



Radi 1928 grey stallion sired by Ibn Samhan. He was Bint Radia's first son. His sire also was the sire of Balance. Radi raced one season running in five races, winning three, second in one and third in one. He is not found in pedigrees today.



Fadell 1938 grey stallion sired by Kheir. Another handsome son of Bint Radia, pictured here in old age in the U.S. He was Bint Radia's last foal. He was owned by King Farouk's mother who brought him to the U.S. in the early 1950s. He is found in Egyptian pedigrees today but is rare. In this picture I see a lot of old Radia's influence.