



REMEMBERing Hosna

It was in the late spring of 2000, that my partner Kuti Aharon and I first travelled together to the centuries old Hungarian State Stud at Babolna. This was my first visit, and the culmination of a decades old dream, while Kuti had toured the stud several times previously.

Although we had only just arrived in Hungary, Kuti's fluency in the Magyar tongue had won us an instant and elusive VIP status, and a car and driver had picked us up at the Budapest airport. Now Kuti and Stud Director Atilla Borsfai were rapidly walking through the historic Baroque stables, deeply engrossed in conversation. Unable to follow even one word, I lagged behind, checking out what appeared to be rows of empty stalls in the hopes of glimpsing my first Babolna-bred Arabian at home. And then, suddenly, there she was.

A very classic bay mare was standing quietly in her stall, watching me out of large, perfectly set dark eyes. There was a definite aura about her, a distinctive look reminiscent of the stallion El Sareei. Her expression was especially noble and feminine, and unmistakably Arabian. She possessed an undeniable quality and I thought her extremely exotic. Her head was dry, the facial features molded in exquisite detail, with the blood vessels showing clearly beneath fine dark skin.

Her wide forehead and deep jowls tapered down to a chiseled muzzle with generous and expansive nostrils. An elegantly arched neck and matching high set tail accented her harmonious, deep body to perfection. A young bay colt nursed at her side.

We stood there gazing at each other. I had no idea who she was, yet I was completely and totally captivated. "Kuti!", I called out several times. At first he didn't respond, but finally he turned around to see what I wanted, looking vaguely annoyed at this unseemly outburst.

"Did you see this mare?" I asked. "I don't know who she is or how it will happen, but this mare is going to be ours!" Kuti remained silent, and turned back to the Director.

Turning back to the mare, my eyes chanced upon the sign hanging high above the stall, which quickly solved the riddle of her identity. According to the sign, this was 227 Ibn Galal I, an 18-year old straight Egyptian mare, sired by former Babolna Chief Sire, Ibn Galal I, a son of the celebrated mare Hanan (Alaa el Din x Mona). Her dam was 202 Ibn Galal, which meant that she was a direct maternal granddaughter of the original Egyptian import, Hosna.

A delicious shiver went through me. Hosna was the

by Tzviah Idan (All Rights Reserved) ■ photos Tzviah Idan, Simeon Stud, Susan Werth-Hofbaeur, Rik Van Lent, Shira Yeger, Menashe Cohen, Little's Photography, Stuart Vesty, Moshe Sandbank, Chen Nof, Jennifer Ogden, Erwin Escher, Carola Toischel



*The very exotic 18-year old mare 227 Ibn Galal I (Ibn Galal I x 202 Ibn Galal), at Babolna in June 2000. Tragically, she grew ill and died prior to export; we received her black daughter 247 Rajan B as a replacement.
© Tzviah Idan.*



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very mare that had first ignited my imagination about Babolna, back in the early 1980's. Now fate had intervened and events would unfold in such a way that the classic bay 227 Ibn Galal I would become the cornerstone for our own 'Babolna Egyptian' program.

Why was this mare so intriguing, and just who, in fact, was Hosna?

Background

The 1965 grey mare Hosna was bred by the Al Badeia Stud in Egypt and exported to Hungary in 1971, one of a long list of horses which helped to establish Babolna's famous straight Egyptian program. Her sire was Ibn Maisa, a Nazeer son out of Maisa (Shahloul x Zareefa), the full

sister to the significant broodmare sire El Sareei, and the dam of the influential American show mare Bint Maisa El Saghira and the important German foundation sire Madkour (ex Morafic). Maisa was a Dahman Shawan by strain and a key progenitor of the Bint El Bahreyn family. Hosna's dam Rida was a daughter of the influential Shahloul son El Sareei. Rida traced back in tail-female to the very significant 'double Hadban' mare Hind (Ibn Rabdan x Bint Rustem), founder of a prolific branch of Egypt's famous Hadban Enzahi family. Her maternal granddam, Rouda, was sired by the key broodmare sire Sheikh el Arab and was the only female offspring of the lovely Fasiha (Awad x Hind). Rouda produced Galila (ex Sid Abouhom), who became the progenitor of a large and



202 Ibn Galal spent her entire life in Hungary and was the SE daughter who carried Hosna's family forward at Babolna. When we saw her at age 24 she was still in excellent shape and was a tremendous mover with exceptional tail carriage. Pictured here as younger mare.
© Susan Werth-Hofbaeur.



The 1966 stallion Ibn Galal or 'Magdi' (Galal x Mohga), bred by the EAO and Chief Sire at Babolna during the '70s, was an excellent sire and proved the perfect mate for Hosna. © Van Lent



27 Ibn Galal-5, or 'Galal', imported foundation mare for Simeon Stud, demonstrates the flagged tail carriage and powerful fluid movement for which the Hosna family is justly famous.
Photo credit: Simeon Stud



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*The 2005 mare Hayat AA (Laheeb x Hora B), co-bred with Ariela Arabians, recently produced an extremely promising Simeon Sharav colt for Idan Atiq.
© Menashe Cohen*

influential family; she is particularly remembered for her grandson Shaker [Shaker el Masri], sire of the legendary half-Spanish stallion El Shaklan (Estopa). Rouda also produced two additional daughters, Semria (ex Nazeer), who left no Egyptian offspring, and Rida, who left only one foal - Hosna.

Hosna was six at the time of her importation and was

registered at Babolna according to historic tradition - with a numeral in front of her name, thus becoming 10 Hosna. Her lifetime production record of thirteen foals included a son and a daughter born in Egypt prior to her export, and two daughters born in Germany following her 1982 sale from Babolna. Unfortunately, a worldwide search has yet to turn up a photograph of this mare.

*The 2000 mare Hora B (Halim Shah I x 216 Haszuna B out of 227 Ibn Galal I), imported to Israel as a weanling.
© Menashe Cohen*



*The 2000 mare Hila B (Efendi B x Haniya B out of 227 Ibn Galal I) chosen as a weanling at Babolna for Idan Atiq.
© Shira Yezer*



*The young stallion Atiq Haleeb (Laheeb x Hila B), exported to Namibia.
© Stuart Vesty*

The unforgettable 1984 stallion Simeon Shai (Raadin Royal Star x Simeon Safanad). Photo Credit: Little's Photography



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*Atiq Ma'ajan, a 2009 filly
by MD Elasperado out of Harajana B.
© Menashe Cohen*



*The 2006 stallion Atiq
Hilal (Laheeb x Hila B),
now a herd sire at Idan
Atiq. © Menashe Cohen*

Descriptions of Hosna

Veteran breeder Dr. Nasr Marei, owner of the Al Badeia Stud, was abroad studying for a post graduate degree when Hosna was growing up at the family stud, and he has no recollections of her at all. But Marion Richmond, of Australia's famous Simeon Stud, saw Hosna at Babolna and remembers her as "a big-framed, correct mare who moved beautifully." She has vivid memories of this 1975

visit, made with her late mother, Ruth Simon, a very capable dog judge. Ruth rode horses 50 miles per day, believed in the importance of good conformation in all species, and had a practiced and critical eye.

Marion recalls that, "Hosna was 'passed' by my very critical mother. My own impression was that she was a magnificent mare -- a formidable mover with great power and a rear end like a circus horse, long and wonderfully strong. Hosna



The 2007 filly Atiq Hadas (MD Elsporado x Hopa B).
© Moshe Sandbank



Future broodmare prospect Atiq Hadas was sired by MD Elsporado (Thee Desperado x Izara Blue CA) and is out of Hopa B (El Aziz B x Hayila B out of 227 Ibn Galal I). She is a double granddaughter of Salaa el Dine.
© Chen Nof



The 2007 filly Atiq Haliah (MD Elsporado x Hila B) at one week old.
© Menashe Cohen

2009 filly Atiq Dimona (Simeon Sharav x Hila B) combines the blood of the two full sisters 202 Ibn Galal and 27 Ibn Galal - 5.
© Menashe Cohen



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Simeon Saada, an Asfour daughter out of Simeon Safanad (Sankt Georg x 27 Ibn Galal - 5). © Stuart Vesty

had a long neck and correct limbs, and was an extremely tall mare and handsome; very Arabian with good eyes, not exotically 'dishy' but with the type of frame one wants for a broodmare. The test is in the pudding, and the foals born this year, four to date, are like a dream -- and all trace back to Hosna."

A Most Fortunate Cross

While in Hungary, Hosna was bred to four different stallions and produced nine viable foals. Most noteworthy of these, and our focus here, were the three full siblings she produced by the Egyptian import Ibn Galal (Galal x Mohga). This fortunate cross was truly remarkable in



Simeon Salit, an Asfour daughter out of Simeon Shavit (Anaza Bay Shahh x Simeon Safanad). © Stuart Vesty

that it would produce a unique and recognizable straight Egyptian model with very definite and positive Arabian traits; and most importantly, one with the inherent ability to consistently reproduce these same traits over many generations.

Ibn Galal, also known as 'Magdi', was, like Hosna, a Hadban Enzahi in strain and a very tightly-bred individual. In fact, he was 'pure in the strain' or 'double' Hadban, tracing through both sire and dam to the important Sheikh el Arab daughter Yosreia (Hind), best remembered as the dam of the famous stallion Aswan. His own sire, Galal, was himself 'double Hadban' in strain, and a son of the famous Nazeer. Galal's dam, the Yosreia daughter Farasha, was the dam of the excellent full brothers Farazdac and Faleh (ex Alaa El Din), and the important Anter daughter Nabilah.

The dam of Ibn Galal was the magnificent black mare Mohga (El Sareei x Yosreia), known for her particularly beautiful head. Mohga was the dam of the well-known US Reserve National Champion Mare Nahlah (ex Morafic) and the famous black stallion El Mokhtar (ex Galal), star of the film "The Black Stallion Returns".

With his striking dark liver chestnut colour and light mane and tail, Ibn Galal was a very handsome stallion. He had notable Arabian type and very correct conformation with excellent limbs and feet, and he proved to be a talented athlete with a superb temperament. Imported to Babolna as a two-year old, he served as Babolna Chief Stud for nearly a decade and then went to Germany where he was



The young herd sire Simeon Shifran (Asfour x Simeon Shavit).
© Jennifer Ogden



The classic Simeon foundation mare, Simeon Safanad (Sankt Georg x 27 Ibn Galal - 5). © Stuart Vésty



The beautiful bay mare Simeon Sahron (Anaza Bay Shahh x Simeon Shavit). Photo credit: Simeon Stud



Simeon Shalal is a double Asfour mare, sired by Asfour and out of the Asfour daughter Simeon Simona out of 27 Ibn Galal - 5.
@Stuart Vésty



Simeon Shuala (Simeon Shai x Ramses Tina), is the dam of several well-known champions, including the Asfour son Simeon Sharav. Now owned by Nasr Marei, Sharav has reintroduced the blood of Hosna to the Al Badeia program in Egypt.
Photo credit: Simeon Stud



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(c) Carola Toischel

*The stallion Ibn Halim Shah I-1 by Orashan out of Halim Shah I-1 (Halim Shah I x 227 Ibn Galal) as a young horse in Germany.
© Carola Toischel*

a significant foundation sire for Ursula Poth. Ibn Galal consistently stamped his get with type, correct conformation and fitness for any athletic discipline. Although most of his get were chestnut, he also sired blacks, bays, and greys.

Hosna and Ibn Galal went on to together produce the following offspring: the 1973 liver chestnut mare, 27 Ibn Galal - 5, exported to Australia as a two-year old to found an international dynasty for Simeon Stud; the 1974 black/bay stallion, El Aswad [Ibn Galal 15], exported to Germany where he was especially noted as an excellent sire of performance horses; and the 1976 bay mare, 202 Ibn Galal, who spent her entire life at Babolna where

she produced, among others, the very highly-regarded and prolific broodmare, 227 Ibn Galal I.

The Proof is in the Pudding

Both Hosna and Ibn Galal were excellent individuals and very beautifully bred, with a notably high percentage of ancestors who traced back through various descendants to the highly-respected Hadban Enzahi foundation mare Venus. In theory, and 'on paper', this cross carried a great deal of genetic dynamite, and seemed to offer formidable breeding potential. But as any experienced breeder will tell you, theoretical potential does not always result in



Simeon Sukari, an Asfour daughter out of Simeon Safanad. © Jenny Jerrard



Simeon Sarice, an Imperial Madaar daughter out of Simeon Sayver (Anaza Bay Shahh x Simeon Sukari). © Erwin Escher



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predictable results. Fortunately, in this case, this breeding combination struck pure gold; over several decades it has consistently produced extremely balanced and athletic Arabians with wonderful type and expression, particularly beautiful eyes, great depth and substance, sound limbs and feet, full pigmentation (including particularly vibrant chestnut hues), excellent movement, faultless tail carriage, and ideal temperament.

Studying the photos accompanying this article will tell the story far better than words.

According to past interviews with Marion Richmond, Simeon Stud's savvy purchase of 27 Ibn Galal - 5 was made on the basis of her individual excellence, her dam's individual excellence, and the strength of pedigree behind them -- particularly noted were all the crosses to great mares. Marion believes that in any breeding program, the mares one chooses are of paramount importance, and her breeding strategy throughout the years has been to continually strengthen her mare herd. Her stallion battery, she says, is an 'addendum' -- their strength being in that they, too, all trace to great mares.

As long-time admirers of the Simeon program, Kuti and I borrowed several leaves from Marion's book when we selected our own foundation stock. We were fortunate to be able to see the old matriarch 202 Ibn Galal in the flesh, and to study and film a considerable number of her progeny both at Babolna and in Germany.

And, although additional mare families are represented in our program, our faith in this particular family was such that our original foundation stock included two daughters and four granddaughters of 227 Ibn Galal I. These included the 1986 black 247 Rajan B (Rajan x 227 Ibn Galal I) [deceased], the 1995 chestnut 216 Haszuna B (Ansata Nile Pasha x 227 Ibn Galal I) [deceased], the 2000 bay Hila B (Efendi B x Haniya B out of 227 Ibn Galal I), the 2000 chestnut Hora B (Halim Shah I x 216 Haszuna B), the 2001 chestnut Harajana B (Halim Shah I x 247 Rajan B out of 227 Ibn Galal I), and the 2002 grey Hopa B (El Aziz B x Hayila B out of 227 Ibn Galal I).

Ten years have passed since Kuti and I first traveled together to Hungary, and today we feel extremely fortunate to be breeding beautiful and versatile Egyptian Arabian



*The proven halter and performance sire Simeon Sochain (Simeon Sadik x Simeon Simona) was recently exported to North America.
© Carol Maginn*

horses which are very much appreciated both at home and abroad. We are especially thankful to the Babolna Stud for allowing us to purchase so many fine mares, most of which were made available to us even though they were not on the published sales list. And finally, we are grateful to Hosna, the very special mare who has provided such a rock-solid foundation for our program. □