

- THE LEGACY OF MAHIBA -

A desert flower with the kindest eyes in the world

Some horses born to greatness, but have little time to achieve it. The mare Mahiba was one of these. In the brief time on Earth she was given, she produced only four foals. But these were enough to create a legacy far greater than other mares achieve with far more offspring.

by Betty Finke

Photos by Joanna Jonientz, Gigi Grasso, Rick van Lent, Erwin Escher, Irina Filsinger, Archive Dr. Nagel, Glenn Jacobs, Dr. Ali Hawaj, Nicole Sachs, Martin Kubat

Mahiba was foaled on August 22, 1966, at El Zahraa. She was the third of four full sisters by Alaa El Din out of Mouna, arguably the greatest daughter of the celebrated “Queen of the Nile”, Moniet El Nefous. The two oldest of the four sisters were retained by El Zahraa while the two younger ones, Mahiba and Moneera, came to Germany.

One day when Mahiba was just a yearling, a young man came to El Zahraa to see the horses. His name was Dr. Hans Nagel, and he had already encountered Arabian horses at the state stud of Hungary, Bábolna. But he had never seen anything like this before. He describes his first encounter with Mahiba as follows: “Exotic – that was the proper word for this small, peculiar head. Delicate it seemed, with a slightly rounded, broad forehead, a groove bisecting the length of the profile.

The nostrils opened wide and trembling, showing pink inside as they laboured to breathe out in the heat. The ears were short, much shorter than usual, and pricked alertly. The dark eyes were round, almost perfectly circular, and stood clearly out from the little head. Yes, the huge eyes were dark – and appeared even bigger because of the grey-black skin surrounding them. The whole body appeared dry and clearly defined, a fine skin covering bones, sinews, veins, and muscles; elasticity, lightness, hardiness and strength were evident (...) This little horse was not shy, not sulky. Its eyes were friendly, calm, and good-natured, a little bored, but alert and expectant as it approached. Trust instead of fear, serenity instead of tension (...) This was my first encounter with a true Arabian mare, exotic through and through, refined as a desert flower with the kindest eyes in the world.”

Mahiba, born 1966,
by Alaa El Din x Mouna by Sid Abouhom
and Moniet El Nefous,
bred by El Zahraa, Egypt



Heritage, Heartbreak, and a Friend in Need

Dr. Nagel bought Mahiba, along with several other fillies, which for reasons of quarantine were first taken to Bábolna. They all grew up there and produced foals at Bábolna first. Mahiba had a daughter by Ibn Galal, who was retained as a broodmare under the name of 18 Ibn Galal. She produced two colts there, one of them a Shagya-Arabian stallion who became a chief sire.

Mahiba's first foal at Dr. Nagel's stud was a full sister to 18 Ibn Galal, Sabah. Dr. Nagel describes her as different from her sister, more reminiscent of her sire. She produced several licensed stallions, the best known among them being Sherif Pasha (by Ansata Abbas Pasha),

who was World Junior Champion in 1985. Her son by Mohafez , Sameer, was not a show champion, but did well as a sire and has international descendants, especially through his black son DF Siraj. Sabah's Jamil daughter Sehnab established her own family. Sabah's dam line also continues at other stud farms through her daughters Shahwana (by El Moniet) and Salua III (by Mohafez), Mahiba's next two foals were sired by Mahomed (Hadban Enzahi x Malikah). The first was a colt named Ibrahim. Bearing a striking resemblance to his sire, Ibrahim became a well-known and popular breeding stallion in Germany at the El Shams Stud, siring numerous sons and daughters and gaining the title "Elite". Among his outstanding daughters were

Mahiba (right), with her daughters Kis Mahiba (middle) and Sabah (left), both by Ibn Galal





Kis Mahiba, born 1970,
by Ibn Galal x Mahiba by Alaa
El Din and Mouna, bred by the
Hungarian State Stud Babolna -
she is a half sister to Mona II



Salua, born 1981,
by Mohafez x Sabah by Ibn
Galal x Mahiba, bred by
Dr. Hans - Joachim Nagel

Matari, who produced three stallion performance test winners; Shams El Inazaa, whose son Pamir I became a chief sire at Marbach State Stud; and most famously Mahameh, who was such a wonderful broodmare for Peter Gross. Mahameh was the dam of the stallions Moheeb (grandsire of Al Ayal AA), Mahfouz, Mahadin, and El Thay Ibn Halim Shah, who was one of the most influential Ansata Halim Shah sons in Germany. Ibrahim also sired the very successful and popular stallion Masoud (out of Mona III), also known as El Thay Masoud, who was an early sire for El Thayeba Stud.

At an already advanced age, Ibrahim was one of the horses chosen as foundation stock for the new Kuwait state stud. But his second career proved to be short-lived. Ibrahim, along with many other horses, was lost during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and none of his blood survives there.

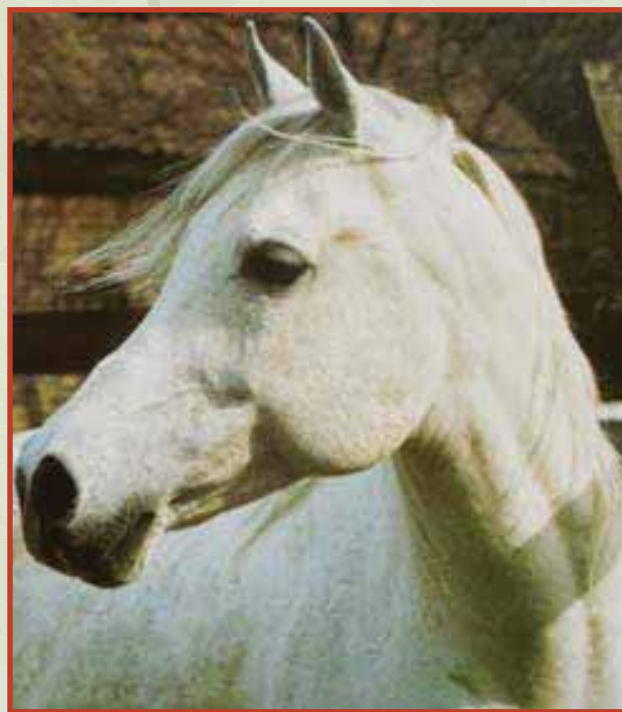
Mona II, Ibrahim's full sister, was to be Mahiba's last foal. As any horse breeder knows, joy and heartbreak lie close together. After only three foals, Dr. Nagel lost his beloved Mahiba to complications following pneumonia. Devastated, he called his friend Dr. Burgert, director of Bábolna, to tell him what had happened. And Dr. Burgert proved a true friend indeed: after hearing of Dr. Nagel's loss, he sent Mahiba's first daughter, 18 Ibn Galal, to Katharinenhof as a replacement for her dam. In Germany, she was renamed "Kis Mahiba", meaning "Little Mahiba", and she proved a phenomenal broodmare, producing seven fillies for Dr. Nagel. All of them became broodmares. The oldest, Maysouna, was by Kis Mahiba's own sire Ibn Galal. She was an astonishing broodmare herself, producing 13 fillies and five colts, of which four were licensed. She is best known for her son Maysoun, one of the best sons on Ansata Halim Shah in Germany, champion of the last stallion licensing and a prolific and successful sire of both sons and daughters.

The family continued at Katharinenhof through Kis Mahiba's daughter KEN Muniba (by Mohafez), who was initially sold to Sylvie and Wolfgang Eberhardt, Katr El Nada Arabians. But Dr. Nagel bought back

her granddaughter, Muncera Al Ariba, who descends twice from Kis Mahiba through her dam and carries an additional cross to Mahiba's son Ibrahim through her sire. Her family is very strong at Katharinenhof at present, with two superb daughters, NK Lina and NK Lateefa, both by Kamar El Dine, in the broodmare band and several of their daughters waiting in the wings.

El Thayeba and the Dynasty of Mona II

Mona II, Mahiba's last foal, may well be called her dam's greatest triumph. She became one of the foundation mares for Dr. Hans-Jörg and Cornelia Tauschke's El Thayeba Stud, which is continued today by Cornelia Tauschke and Klaus Beste and last year celebrated its 50th anniversary, making it one of the oldest straight Egyptian studs in Germany. It was there that Mona II firmly established her place in the history of the Arabian breed.

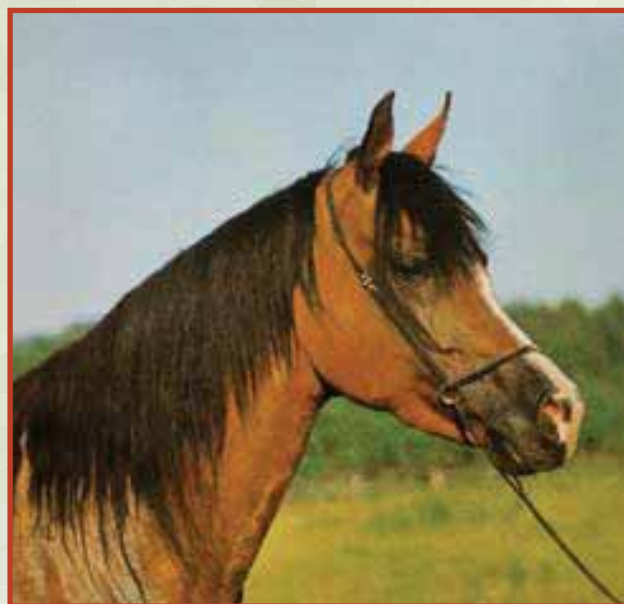


Ibrahim, born 1973, by Mahomed x Mahiba by Alaa El Din and Mouna, bred by Dr. Hans - Joachim Nagel - he is a full brother to Mona II and was used successfully by El Thayeba through his son El Thay Masoud and his daughter Mahameh, dam of El Thay Ibn Halim Shah



Mona II, born 1974, by Mahomed x Mahiba by Alaa El Din and Mouna, bred by Dr. Hans - Joachim Nagel - she is a full sister to Ibrahim and a foundation mare of El Thayeba Arabians

Her first daughter alone would have been enough to ensure that status. Madinah, a striking bay rabicano filly with a blaze, was sired by Ibn Galal who had already proved such a successful sire with this family. Professor Dr. Siegfried Paufler and his wife Ruth, looking for a future broodmare, saw her as a yearling and wanted to buy her, but she had already been sold to South Africa. However, the sale was still pending on the purchase price being transferred by a certain date. When the money didn't arrive on time, Dr. Tauschke called Professor Paufler to ask if he was still interested. Professor Paufler hitched a trailer to his car and set out at once to collect the filly. And just as well he did, because the rest is history.



Madinah, born 1978, by Ibn Galal x Mona II by Mahomed and Mahiba, bred by El Thayeba, sold as a Yearling to Prof Siegfried and Ruth Paufler, Madheen Arabians, Germany



Imperial Madheen by Messaoud x Madinah by Ibn Galal and Mona II, bred by the Paufler family, owned by Imperial Stud, USA



Mesoudah M, by Maysoun and Madinah, bred by Prof. Dr. Siegfried and Ruth Paufler - she has Mahiba, the dam of Mona II through her sire and dam in her pedigree



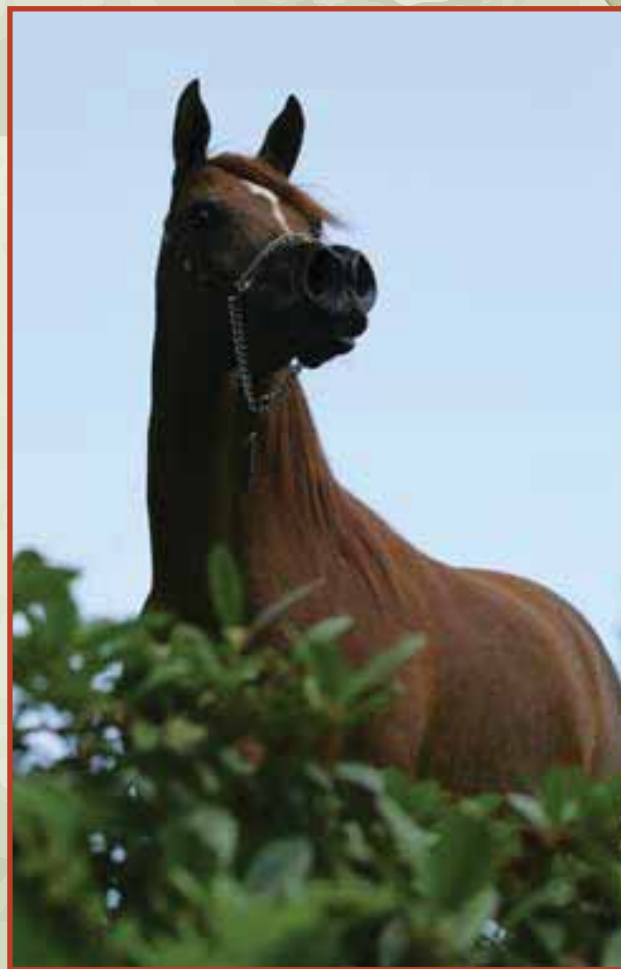
Mofisa, born 1979, by Nizam and Mona II - full sister to El Thay Maheera, bred by El Thayeba, sold to family Kuebe, Al Sachra - Brigittenhof Stud, Germany



Moufisa Halima, born 1987, by Halim Al Kadir x Mofisa by Nizam and Mona II, bred by Al Sachra Brigittenhof, owned by Michael Ponnath – she became a foundation mare of Ponnath Arabians, where her dynasty is existing since 5 Generations

Madinah became Professor Paufler's only foundation mare, proving that a small breeder can achieve greatness with just a single broodmare – provided it is the right mare! Madinah's legacy is impressive even if you just look at her sons. The oldest, El Moniet (by Mohafez), became a popular sire in Germany. Imperial Madheen (by Messaoud) needs little introduction – he was sold to Imperial Stud, USA, from where his blood spread across the world, even back to Egypt. His last owner was Omar Sakr, Sakr Arabians, who admired him a lot. And the black Madallan-Madheen (by Ansata El Salaam) was a hugely successful sire for Rothenberg Stud in Germany, and his line is still going strong.

Moufisa Al Kidir, born 1996, by Al Kidir x Moufisa Halima by Halim Al Kadir and Mofisa, bred by Al Sachra - Brigittenhof Stud, owned by Michael Ponnath, Ponnath Arabians





El Thay Maheera, born 1981, by Nizam x Mona II by Mahomed and Mahiba – full sister to Mofisa representing the Saglawi Jedran Strain – Moniet El Nefous at El Thayeba

But Madinah's daughters were equally successful. Mesoudah-M, full sister to Imperial Madheen, produced the show champion and sire Maydan-Madheen (by Maysoun) and the international sire Mishaal HP (by Ansata Sinan), exported to Arabians Ltd, USA. Her daughter Mathea-M was an early foundation mare for Klaus Beste, Al Sabah Arabians, and has an extensive family herself.

Mona II's second daughter Mofisa (by Nizam) was a foundation mare for the Brigittenhof Stud, which flourished during the 1980s. Her family continues today through her daughter Moufisa Halima (by Halim Kadir) at the stud of Michael Ponnath through Moufisa Al Kidir, Nashua Halima (by Al Adeed Al Shaqab) and Nayla Halima (by ZT Mallah), and Mosa El Nile (by Kasr El Nil) at the stud of Rosemarie Kolster. Moufisa Halima's daughter Monah Halima by Al Kidir became a foundation mare for Tameri Arabians of Christina Krumm.



El Thay Mansour, born 1986, by Ansata Halim Shah and El Thay Maheera by Nizam and Mona II - full brother to El Thay Maheer



El Thay Bint Kamla by El Thay Mansour who is by Ansata Halim Shah and El Thay Maheera - Mona II. She is a representative of the Dahman Shahwan (El Dahma) – Moheba II – Kamla II family at El Thayeba and influenced by Mahiba



El Thay Mashour, born 1990, by Madkour I x El Thay Bint Kamla by El Thay Mansour who is out of El Thay Maheera - Mona II. With the exception of El Thay Kamria he can be found in the pedigrees of all horses of the Dahman Shahwan Strain – Moheba II and Malukah family at El Thayeba



El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Khadija) by El Thay Mashour who is out of El Thay Bint Kamla - El Thay Mansour - El Thay Maheera - Mona II

El Thay Maheera (Nizam x Mona II), full sister to Mofisa, was retained by El Thayeba. Like her dam Mona II and her granddam Mahiba, she was awarded the “Elite” title by the German registry and was a superb broodmare, though she started something that became a trend in this family: she produced one colt after the next. Excellent colts, it has to be said: El Thay Maheer and El Thay Mansour (both by Ansata Halim Shah), El Thay Moufeed (by Ibn Nazeema), El Thay Shah Manial and El Thay Shah Mabrouk (both by El Thay Ibn Halim Shah), all of them established and successful sires. But she also produced four daughters, of which three were retained. The fourth, El Thay Bint Maheera (by El Thay Mameluk), became a foundation mare for Robert

Schlereth’s Al Qusar Stud and has been very successful there. Her daughter Muneera Al Qusar is one of the best mares at the stud today.

Maheera’s oldest daughter, El Thay Mabrouka (by El Thay Ibn Halim Shah) continued along the path set by her dam, producing six colts in a row. Eventually Cornelia Tauschke was fed up and sold her. Of course, she promptly gave her new owner, Gabriele Schuster and late Dr. Ferdinand Denzinger of Nedschd Arabians, two fillies...

El Thay Magidaa (El Thay Mameluk x El Thay Maheera) did rather better and produced three fillies in between a

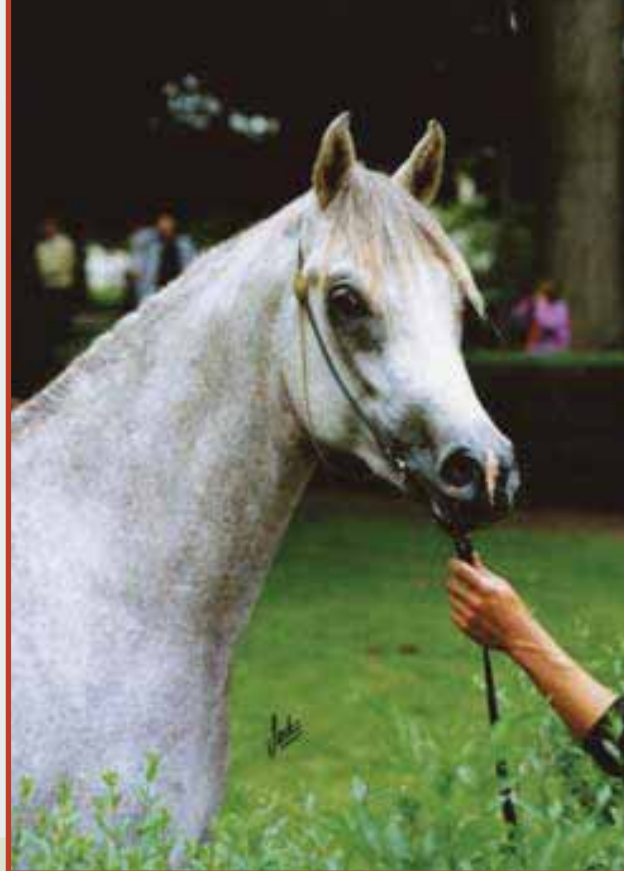
El Thay Kais Al Sabah, born 2018, by El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah - He shows Mona II through El Thay Mansour - El Thay Maheera as well as Ibrahim, the full brother to Mona II in his sire and damline



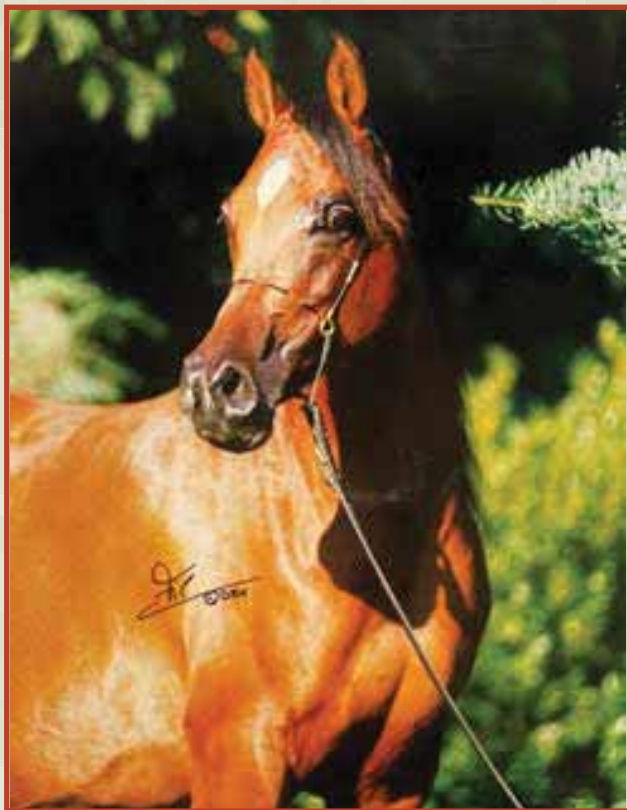
El Thay Moufeed, born 1987, by Ibn Nazeema and El Thay Maheera by Nizam and Mona II



El Thay Mabrouka, born 1988, by El Thay Ibn Halim Shah x El Thay Maheera by Nizam and Mona II - shown by Viktoria Tauschke. She was sold to Nedschd Arab, Germany



El Thay Shah Mabrouk, born 1990, by El Thay Ibn Halim Shah x Mahameh by Ibrahim, a full brother to Mona II and El Thay Maheera out of Mona II. He was awarded multi times Champion and later sold to Chile



El Thay Bint Maheera, born 1994, El Thay Mameluk x El Thay Maheera by Nizam and Mona II, owned by Robert Schlereth, Al Qusar Arabians, where she founded a very nice family

majority of colts; but for some reason or another, they were all sold. But when her fourth daughter arrived, the glorious bright chestnut El Thay Mayassa, she was definitely a keeper. She was a daughter of the homebred stallion El Thay Mahfouz (Ansata Selman x El Thay Mahfouza), who carries two lines to Mahiba through Ibrahim himself. She was also her dam's most look-alike daughter and a perfect example of her dam line.

But the "colt curse" struck once more: Mayassa delivered five colts in a row. Cornelia Tauschke was beginning to despair of keeping the family going at El Thayeba. She finally gave up the struggle and sold Mayassa to Claudia Scheidel, Al Ryah Arabians. To replace her, she bought another mare of the same family, tracing to Mahiba's full sister Moneera. But again, she got only colts.

But meanwhile, Mayassa pulled the same trick as El Thay Mabrouka had done before her: once she had changed hands, she promptly produced a filly. Fortunately (having gotten wise after what happened with Mabrouka) Cornelia Tauschke had made provisions for such a case, and the filly returned to El Thayeba as a future broodmare. Mayassa didn't stop there, though; she went on to produce another two fillies!

So now, after having all but vanished, the Mahiba family at El Thayeba is going strong once more and has grown considerably. Mayassa's first filly, El Thay Mouna Al Ryah, has now been joined by her dam Mayassa, who has come home again in hopes that she will have more fillies in the future. But that's not all, because there are two more exciting new arrivals from the Mahiba family at El Thayeba.

Along with Mayassa and her daughter came the 4-year-old mare Moniet Al Ryah (Nader Halim x Maheebah Al Ryah). Her breeder and owner Claudia Scheidel has been reducing numbers, which is why these horses became available. The very appropriately named Moniet Al Ryah is not only of Mahiba's dam line, but carries a total of six crosses to Mahiba: two through Kis Mahiba and four to Mona II, including both her sire and dam in tail female descent.

The other new arrival is the stunning 2021 colt NK Laziz (NK Nabhan x NK Lateefa), tailing back to Kis Mahiba. This chestnut colt was one of the stars at Dr. Nagel's open day in 2021, every inch a little superstar, wowing the spectators with his style and presence. He was not actually for sale, since Dr. Nagel has tried for years to breed an outstanding stallion from this family. So it took

El Thay Magidaa, born 1992, by El Thay Mameluk who goes back to Ibrahim, a full brother to Mona II and her dam is El Thay Maheera out of Mona II



El Thay Mayassa, born 2009, by El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Magidaa by El Thay Mameluk and El Thay Maheera - Mona II. She continues the legacy of the family of Mona II. Photographed with her second daughter by Nader Halim Mounirah Al Ryah who is owned by Claudia Scheidel, Al Ryah Arabians



Nader Halim, born 2012, by Maydan Madheen who goes back via Madinah to Mona II and out of Mofisa Al Kidir who also goes back via Mofisa to Mona II



El Thay Mouna Al Ryah, born 2020, by Nader Halim x El Thay Mayassa by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Magidaa



El Thay Mahfouz - he is out of El Thay Mahfouza who goes back to Ibrahim, the full brother to Mona II through her sire El Thay Ibn Halim Shah. He, his sister El Thay Malakah and his daughter El Thay Munifa represent the influence of Mahiba in the Kohailan Rodan - Bint Riyalla family at El Thayeba Arabians

some persuasion, and Dr. Nagel still retains a half ownership. It probably helps that the two farms are only a few miles apart. His full sister in blood, NK Lara (NK Nabhan x NK Lina), also born 2021, was sold to Doha Stud and very successfully shown at the Katara International Arabian Peninsula Horse Show, where she was awarded Silver Champion Yearling Filly, and at the Kuhaila Straight Egyptian Arabian Horse Show in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where she took the crown of the Gold Champion Yearling Filly. She is very similar to her brother in type, conformation and colour.



El Thay Munifa (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malakah by El Thay Mashour - she traces back to Mona II via El Thay Mansour and to Ibrahim, the full brother to Mona II via El Thay Ibn Halim Shah



El Thay Toya, born 2009, by El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Taqiyah who is double El Thay Mansour, a son of El Thay Maheera in her dam line. She represents the influence of Mona II - Mahiba in the Hadban Enzahi Strain - Taghreed - Yosreia family at El Thayeba Arabians



Moniet Al Ryah, born 2018, by Nader Halim x Madeenah Al Ryah by Farees Halim x Maheebah Al Ryah. She goes back to the daughters of Mona II which are Madinah and Mofisa as well as to Kis Mahiba, half sister to Mona II - influenced by the breeding programs of Ponnath Arabians and Tameri Arabians - a new addition to E Thayeba



NK Lara, born 2021, by NK Nabhan x NK Lina by Kamar El Dine x Muneera Al Ariba - to Kis Mahiba, bred by Nagel's Katharinenhof Stud, owned by Doha Stud, Qatar - she is a sister in blood to NK Laziz

Today there is only one horse at El Thayeba that doesn't descend from the Mahiba family. Most of them trace to her two or more times, through both Mona II and her full brother Ibrahim. Now Laziz is growing up at El Thayeba, and the future has never looked more exciting. The lines of Kis Mahiba and Mona II may soon be joining to create the next thrilling chapter in the story of the little mare with the kind eyes, who only had four foals, but became an icon of the breed. □

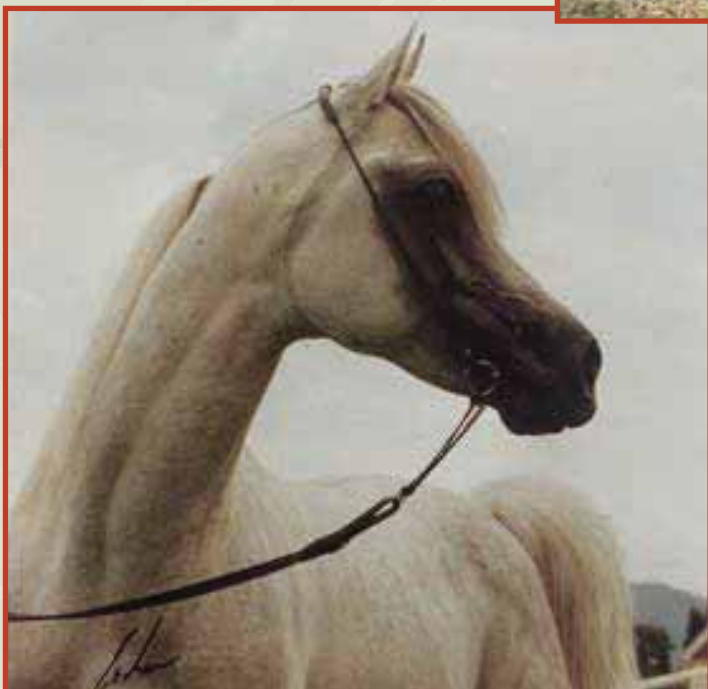


NK Laziz, born 2021, NK Nabhan x NK Lateefa by Kamar El Dine x Muneera Al Ariba - to Kis Mahiba, a half sister to Mona II. The blood of Moniet El Nefous shows several times through Mahiba as well as Ibn Moniet El Nefous. He is bred by Nagel's Katharinenhof and co owned by Dr. Nagel and Klaus Beste

Muneera Al Ariba, born 2001, by KEN Asam x KEN Mufaji - going back to Kis Mahiba - a half sister to Mona II. The blood of Moniet El Nefous is several times in her pedigree through Mahiba as well as Ibn Moniet El Nefous



El Thay Masoud, born 1981, by Ibrahim (full brother to Mona II) x Mona III - he was an early sire at El Thayeba Arabians



KEN Asam, born 1982, by El Thay Masoud who is by Ibrahim - full brother to Mona II and out of KEN Amal. Bred by Cornelia Tauschke, owned by Katr El Nada Arabian Stud of Sylvie and Wolfgang Eberhardt