

The Mares of Al Qusar Stud and Their Offspring, a Story in Generations

by Monika Savier



AL QUSAR
ARABIANS

is a stud farm in Germany whose name stands for the successful breeding of classic Egyptian Arabians whose offspring can be found in many studs around the world. The stud AL QUSAR Arabians has a long history, as it changed over the years from an internationally successful show-training stable to a successful stud for breed-

“When I take the mares with their foals to the pasture early in the morning and see the babies exploring their environment, running after butterflies and do canter pirouettes in front of their proud mothers, then I know that I wouldn't want to trade this 7-day job for anything in the world.”

Robert Schlereth



*All Photos are by
Joanna Jonientz*

ing straight Egyptian Arabians. The two owners, Robert Schlereth and Volker Wettengl are experienced trainers and breeders who not only seek to realize their own interests through breeding, but are also influencers for many young and older breeders in Germany who have also succumbed to the fascination of straight Egyptian Arabians.

You could say they are all part of a large network that not only exists in the social media, but also supports each other in real life, advises, and helps at events. In principle, they all agree that climate change is also a problem for horse breeding and that ecological farming and animal welfare play a major role, which in the reality of the studs has to some extent eclipsed the discussions about the past of Arabian horses. Large pastures, healthy feed, loving treatment of the horses, strategic planning of reproduction is almost a matter of course at the traditional studs in Germany. Critical, on the other hand, is the breeding and selection of specialized show Arabians, because a beautiful Arabian horse with type and charisma should not be judged by the show circus first but should rather become a successful breeding or riding animal according to other criteria. Quality, functionality, Arabian nobility and type, all these are characteristics are better evaluated in the studs, specifically when the horses can be judged in a relaxed way in their home environment, without being trained and presented according only to ECAHO show criteria. The first of the "Open House Presentations" was hosted at the Nobel Festival in Holland, and last year at the Open House of the studs at the Katharinenhof of Dr. Nagel, at the El Thayeba Stud and Al Qusar Stud- all three studs are located in the same place Grossenkneten in the north of Germany. It is thanks to these three world famous studs that the region has gained recently an international reputation for the breeding of Straight Egyptians.



Robert Schlereth
and some of his mares

If today the horses of Al Qusar are no longer to be found at shows, then there is a good reason for this. The stud was founded 25 years ago in the Lüneburger Heide in the north of Germany by Robert Schlereth and Volker Wettengl as a breeding and show training stable. There, everything has always revolved around Arabian horses, on the ground, in hand, in the saddle, and on the many kilometers on the road to the shows. Full of hopes, joy, sometimes disappointments, but always with the vision of an own breeding, which was successfully worked on in parallel over the years. This stud in the Lüneburg heathlands was an institution in Germany for many breeders and a great challenge for the two owners. But at some point, something had to change so that it could continue.

Robert Schlereth: *"We developed more and more away from the shows, because the way you have to train horses to be successful there was no longer acceptable to us. 20 years ago, it was enough to have the horses washed, nicely dressed up maybe and they then went to a show to perform. A really good horse had every chance of winning. But as time went by, it became all about the sponsors, who were more important to many show organizers than the horses, who are the real actors of the show. It was all about the money, to put it briefly.*

That's why today we prefer to meet with other breeders at the stud or at an event without the atmosphere of a competition generating winners and losers".



Volker Wettengl
with Muneera and Natifa Al Qusar

TEYMUR B
Leading Sire



Muneera Al Qusar
and Natifa Al Qusar



ASSAD 1984	ANSATA HALIM SHAH 1980
TEYMUR B 1994	ARUSSA 1977
214 IBN GALAL I 1979	IBN GALAL I 1972
MASHAHANA AL QUSAR	
EL THAY SHAH MABROUK 1990	EL THAY IBN HALIM SHAH 1985
MAIDA BINT BINT MOHSSEN 1998	EL THAY MAHEERA 1981
KP BINT MOHSSEN 1989	MOHSSEN 1966
	KP MOFIDA 1985



ASSAD 1984	ANSATA HALIM SHAH 1980
TEYMUR B 1994	ARUSSA 1977
214 IBN GALAL I 1979	IBN GALAL I 1972
MUNEERA AL QUSAR	
EL THAY MAMELUK 1988	IBN NAZEEMA 1983
EL THAY BINT MAHEERA 1993	EL THAY MANSOURA 1983
EL THAY MAHEERA 1981	NIZAM 1973
	MONA II 1974

The horses and the owners of Al Qusar Stud all live together in a large historic farm surrounded by eleven hectares (110,000m2) of pasture land and with 21 large and bright horse stalls. Working with horses on the farm, farming and pasture care defines the lives of the residents there.

"We are not here in this area by chance today, but because Dr. Nagel needed assistance at Katharinenhof and asked me if I could help out there. I agreed, because it was a new challenge for me, which I find very exciting, even if I have my own breeding strategy based on our regular horses. But with Dr. Nagel's stallions we have succeeded



	ASSAD 1984	ANSATA HALIM SHAH 1980
		ARUSSA 1977
TEYMUR B 1994		
	214 IBN GALAL I 1979	IBN GALAL I 1972
		HANAN 1967
PAMINAA AL QUSAR		
	PRINCE FA MONIET 1981	THEEGYPTIANPRINCE 1967
		FA MONIET 1967
ANSATA PRINCESSA 1992		
	ANSATA JAHARA 1988	ANSATA HALIM SHAH 1980
		ANSATA JACINDA 1979

in breeding a successful line. We also feel very comfortable here in this village, we have a lot of contact with our neighbors, there are many studs and horses in this area and everyone helps everyone here".

The horses at Al Qusar Stud are known for their beauty and good character. Indeed, it doesn't take a show judge to determine that. The straight Egyptian bred "Asil Arabian", or the classic Arabian type from the Nejd, the south of the peninsula of Saudi Arabia dominates the pedigrees of the horses in terms of genotype. As far as the phenotype is concerned, the Al Qusar horses are typey people-oriented horses with a lot of charisma and nobility. They come across as light and elegant, displaying calmness and composure.

"We cannot turn back the wheel of time, the original Arabian from the Nejd desert does not exist anymore, but in the pedigrees of our mares you can still find exactly these ancestors. We try to breed by selection an Arabian horse that primarily represents classical beauty and the Arabian character that made it possible for these horses to develop an intensive relationship with us", Volker Wettengl describes his breeding concept.

What criteria were used to select the stud's foundation horses? Robert Schlereth. *"First of all, the broodmares must be beautiful and, in addition to good legs and a good croup with classic tail carriage, they must of course have type and character. As far as pedigree is concerned, the generations of parents and grandparents are most important to me. I try to avoid heavy horses in the pedigree. Many breeders of Straight Egyptians look at the pedigree first. I look at the mares first. If they don't trigger any emotions in me, they are out of the question for our breeding, even if the pedigree is considered particularly valuable. Maida Bint Mohssen was such a mare. She was not perfect, but she had these beautiful big black eyes, the fine typey face and an enormous charisma. When she was later imported to Qatar by Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Thani and became one of the foundation mares of*



Pandora Al Qusar



FA Merit Amun



Mahir Al Qusar



Maha Al Qusar



Majda Al Qusar



Mufida Al Qusar



Murjanah Al Qusar

Al Rayyan Farm, her daughter Mashabana Al Qusar established the first important mare line at our stud. It was only later that I realized the importance of her famous Dahman Shawan bloodline. Also, the purchase of her sire, Teymur B (Assad x 214 Ibn Galal I), whom I was able to acquire in 1996 as a 2-year-old at the State Stud Babolna in Hungary, was rather a spontaneous and emotional decision. The fact that his sire was Assad, a famous son of Ansata Halim Shab and that his dam came from the beautiful Tamria line of the Dahman Shawan family was less important to me at that moment. But the history of our stud and the offspring of these horses shows that in the end phenotype and genotype must go together and quality comes from both."

Not only the Dahman Shahwan family, tracing to Farida and Tamria are represented in the stud, but also a group of mares of the Siglawy Jedran Ibn Sudan strain represent the fine and typey Al Qusar horses. Root mares are the small bay El Thay Bint Maheera, whose daughter Muneera Al Qusar by Teymur B was able to establish her own family at the stud. The second one was Naafisa Al Qusar by KP Nameed out of Hayat II, who goes back to Mahiba. Today there are their third and fourth generation foals at the farm.

How were you able to finance the stud? Robert Schlereth: *"Only through hard work with the horses, countless show performances and training sessions were we able to implement our long-term strategy and acquire our foundation mares. It was crucial that we did not sell our own first good foal for good money right away, because even if that would have helped us for a moment, we would never have gotten to know if our breeding concept was right that way."*



Madiba Al Qusar



Mayla Al Qusar



Pamira Al Qusar



Jasina Al Qusar

Three Ansata mares were leased or purchased, as initially the Ansata Halim Shah aspect in Teymur B's pedigree was to be strengthened. Ansata Queen Nefr came, whose dam, Ansata Nefertiti, is also an Ansata Halim Shah daughter. Ansata Princessa came, she was a daughter of Prince Fa Moniet and through her dam Ansata Jahara, an Ansata Halim Shah granddaughter. Through Bagdady, another daughter of Ansata Halim Shah came to the stud. Over the years, new experiences were added, new mares and new foals. The foundation mares were handpicked and selected according to the highest standards and all the rules of the art, because the contribution of the mares is more influential than that of the stallion, in addition to genetics through pregnancy and education of the foal. Moreover, a broodmare at Al Qusar must be a good mother. It was soon realized that it was better to acquire a few very good mares than to own a larger herd of mediocre mares. Little by little, the offspring at the stud formed a group of impressive young mares from their own breeding.

Last year the AK Nawal granddaughter FA Nefilim joined the group. She was at the farm for mating with the already successful young stallion Majd Al Qusar (NK Nadeer x Mashahana Al Qusar). After much urging with the owner, Robert Schlereth and Volker Wettengl were finally able to buy this mare. She gave them a beautiful filly this year, Authentic Nadirah.

The successful breeding of Arabian horses is a long-term commitment, and at the beginning it requires a good concept to be in place. But with time, experience and results play an important role and the strategy may need to be readjusted. The easiest way to do this is to use different stallions flexibly. At Al Qusar, however, Teymur B was used for many years without moving increasingly to inbreeding. In fact, this strategy has brought the stud a lot of success. His cross-bred offspring are very successful, both at shows and under the saddle.



Mirah Al Qusar



Meryem Al Qusar



Majd Al Qusar
Junior Stallion at Al Qusar Stud

From the root mare Mashahana Al Qusar, the successful daughter of Teymur B at the stud, her son Majd Al Qusar was selected as his successor. The young stallion with the large black eyes and small ears, representing the Dahman Shahwan line of both his parents, already has successful offspring. His sire, NK Nadeer (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nadirah) from Dr. Nagel's Katharinenhof Stud, has passed on to him his impressive charisma and great trotting action, while his gentle character is certainly not only due to his parents, but also to the horse-friendly husbandry at Al Qusar Stud.

"Our horses must be brave and curious with a clear mind and have a good nature. Visitors must also be able to touch them. But our breeding goal is not only to maintain and perhaps improve the Arabian type in the best manner, they must also have a healthy, athletic body," says Volker Wettengl.

"Not only type and trotting action, but athletic ability, coupled with trainability, is one of the most desirable qualities. Whether our Egyptians can also be performance horses, that depends on the goals of the potential buyer. We do everything we can to give them a good basis for this," adds Robert Schlereth.



Fa Nefilim

Who in the farm takes care of the foal births? *"In spring, when the foals come, we both take care of the night watches and the foal births. It is of course very exciting to experience whether the foal lives up to our expectations. There are many horses I have bred that come close to my ideal. But one probably dreams of the perfect foal all one's life. But who knows- the next foal that is born could be our best? After all, I hope that with our breeding we have contributed to the preservation and improvement of Egyptian Arabians and I hope that we have been and will continue to be an inspiration to other breeders as well. "*

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LIST OF STOCK

MARES AND FILLIES

DAHMAN SHAHWAN STRAIN

MASHAHANA AL QUSAR *2003

TEYMUR B X MAIDA BINT BINT MOHSEN

MASARAH AL QUSAR *2012

NEDSCHD MANSOUR X MASHAHANA AL QUSAR

MASUDA AL QUSAR *2018

NK NIZAM X MASARAH AL QUSAR

MURJANAH AL QUSAR *2017

NK NABHAN X MASHAHANA AL QUSAR

MAJDA AL QUSAR *2018

NK NIZAM X MASHAHANA AL QUSAR

MOUNIA AL QUSAR *2020

NK LOTFY X MASHAHANA AL QUSAR)

MIRIJA AL QUSAR *2016

FA MEDU NETER X EL MASRIA AL QUSAR

MERYEM AL QUSAR *2020

NK LOTFY X MIRIJA AL QUSAR

FA MERIT AMUN *2007

EL AHHIM SHAH X EL FAIJUM

FA NEFILIM *2010

FA MEDU NETER X NADIRAH EL SHAH

AUTHENTIC NADIRAH *2022

MAJD AL QUSAR X FA NEFILIM

MIRA AL QUSAR *2018

MAJD AL QUSAR X FA MERIT AMUN

MERIEEM AL QUSAR *2020

NK LOTFY X FA MERIT AMUN

PAMIRA AL QUSAR *2014

NK HAFID JAMIL X PAMINAA AL QUSAR

PANDORA AL QUSAR *2021

NK NABBAH X PAMIRA AL QUSAR

SIGLAWY JEDRAN IBN SUDAN STRAIN

NATIEA AL QUSAR *2005

TEYMUR B X NAAFISA AL QUSAR

NADIA AL QUSAR *2018

TEYMUR B X NAAFISA AL QUSAR

MUNEERA AL QUSAR *2007

TEYMUR B X EL THAY BINT MAHEERA

MUFIDA AL QUSAR *2014

NK NADEER X MUNEERA AL QUSAR

MAYLA AL QUSAR *2020

NK LOTFY X MUFIDAH AL QUSAR

MAHA AL QUSAR *2016

FA MEDU NETER X MAHARA AL QUSAR

JASINA AL QUSAR *2020

NK LOTFY X JADWA AL QUSAR

STALLIONS AND COLTS

DAHMAN SHAWAN STRAIN

TEYMUR B *1994

ASSAD X 214 IBN GALAL I

MAJD AL QUSAR *2015

NK NADEER X MASHAHANA AL QUSAR



Natifa Al Qusar and Nafisa Al Qusar