



Serra

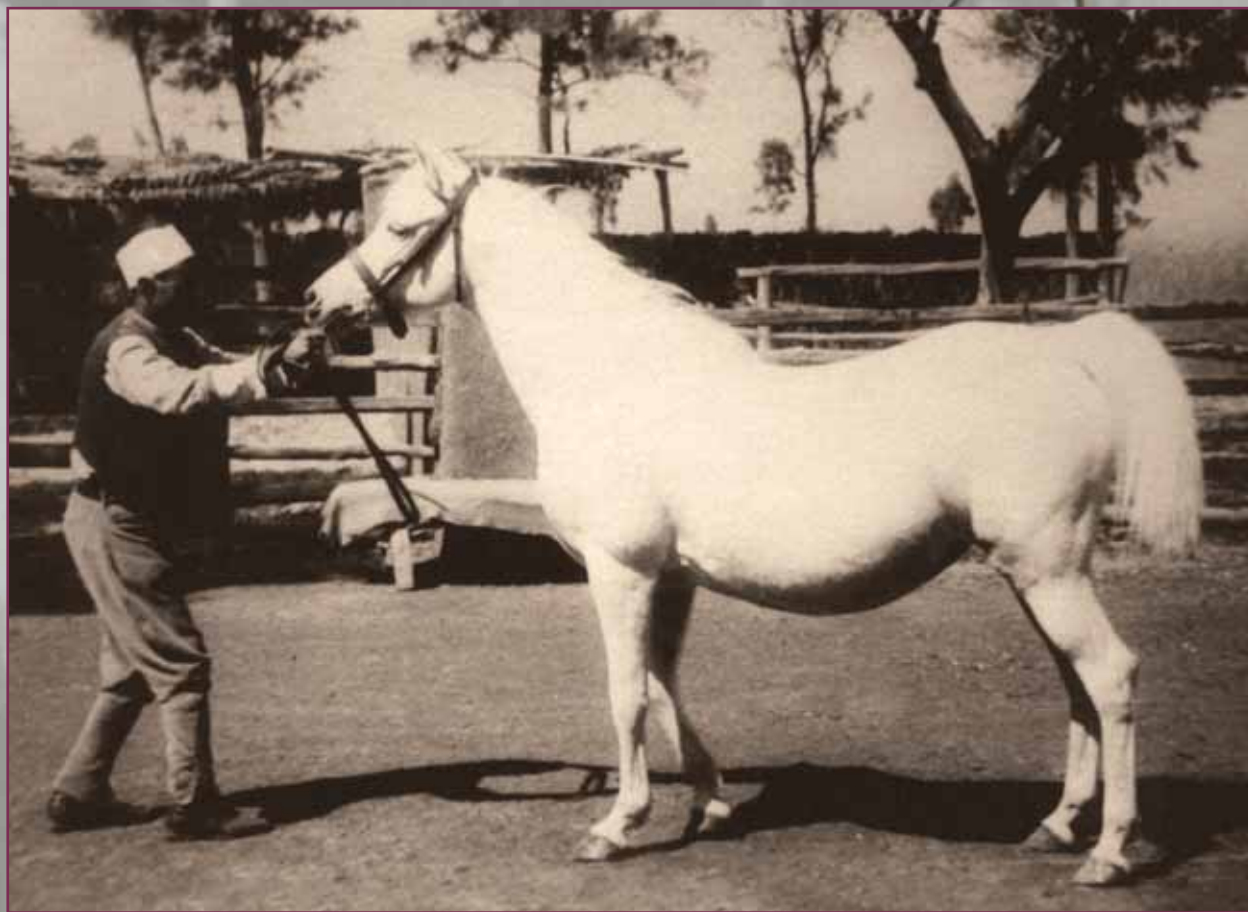
THE BEAUTIFUL OLD WHITE MARE

by Joe Ferris ■ photos TuttoArabi Archive

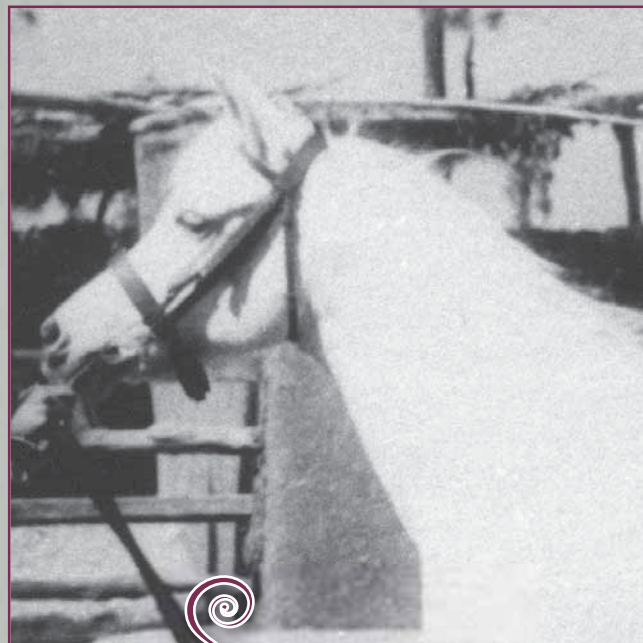
Looking deeply back into the ancestry of Egyptian Arabians there are some names that surface which are forever immortalized. Certainly the strain of Saqlawi Jidran of Ibn Sudan is a universally admired strain and there are legends about it. In Egyptian breeding this strain is honored through several sources and one of those is the highly celebrated mare Ghazieh 1845 acquired by Abbas Pasha. Abbas Pasha was said to be very fond of the Saqlawi Jidran strain and reportedly paid an enormously high price for a crippled old Saqlawi mare that he had brought back to his stables in a cart in hopes of producing from her.

Fortunately Ghazieh carries forward the legacy of this fa-

bled strain in good measure. There are some splendid mares coming from Ghazieh that played an important foundation role in Egyptian breeding. One of the most notable is the fine white mare Ghazala (Ibn Sherara x Bint Helwa APS). Of 100% Ali Pasha Sherif breeding, Ghazala was foaled in 1896 at the Blunt's Sheykh Obeyd Stud in Egypt. Later in life she was exported to the U.S. leaving some excellent daughters, including the lovely Gulnare (x Rodan). Gulnare is the dam of the magnificently noble chestnut stallion Gulastra (x Astraed). There was a time in the U.S. when Gulastra could almost be considered the "Nazeer" equivalent because he was a reliable source of so many successful and stylish show horses in both halter and performance. Gulastra horses were very noble.



Serra 1915 grey mare,
(Sahab x Jemla out of Ghazala).
Photo taken at Prince Kemal El Dine's stud farm when Serra
was seventeen years old and heavy in foal.
Jack Humphrey photo copyright Carol Lyons collection



Serra

Serra, close up of the Humphrey photo

Serra (Sara / Sit Serra)

1915 grey Saqlawi Jidran
Bred by Sheykh Obeyd Stud
to Prince Kemal El Dine c. 1918
to T.G.B. Trouncer c. 1933

Sahab

1903 grey Dahman Shahwan
Bred by Osman Bey Sherif

Jemla (Jamila)

1906 grey Saqlawi Jidran
Bred by Sheykh Obeyd Stud

Kawkab

c. 1885 grey Dahman Shahwan (Najib)
Bred by Ali Pasha Sherif

Bint Bint Azz

1895 grey Dahman Shahwan
Bred by Ali Pasha Sherif

Jamil (1896)

1896 chestnut Saqlawi Jidran
Bred by Ali Pasha Sherif

Ghazala AHR 211

1896 grey Saqlawi Jidran
Bred by Ali Pasha Sherif
Exported to the U.S. 1909

Ibn Sherara

Bint Nura (c. 1870)

Ibn Nura

Bint Azz (c. 1880)

Aziz

Bint Jamila

Ibn Sherara

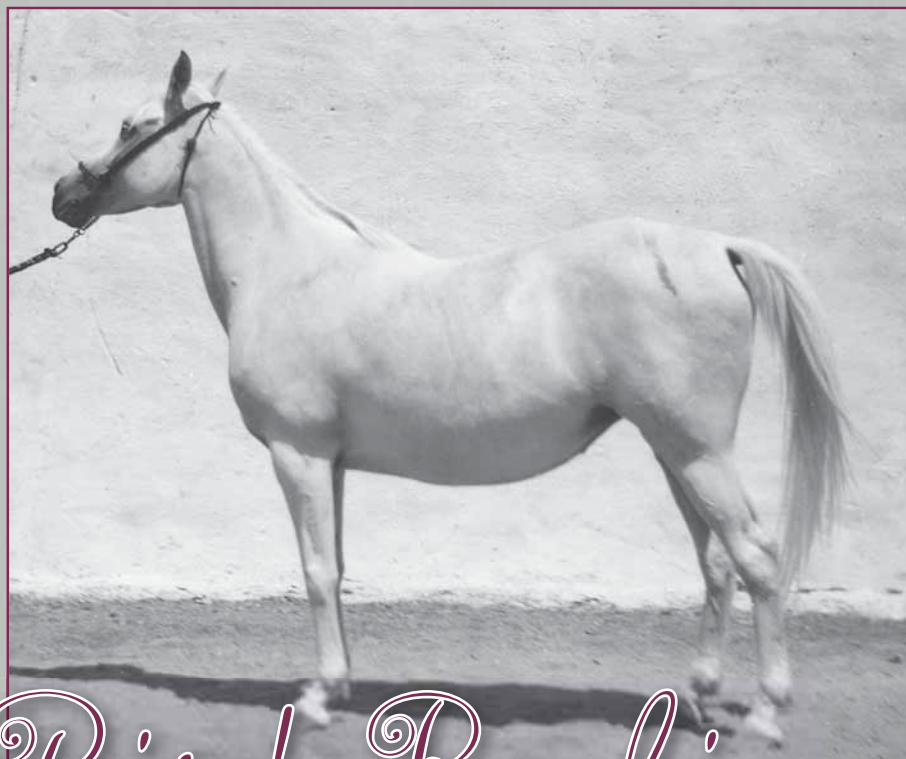
Bint Helwa

However, Ghazala also left an important foundation in Egypt before her exportation. Her daughter Radia (x Feysul) produced the splendid Bint Radia, dam of Shabloul, Hamdan, and Samira RAS. Radia also produced Zareefa 1911 whose daughter Bint Zareefa produced El Moez, sire of the legendary Sameh. Zareefa produced the stallion Rasheed (x Jamil 1896) sire of Bint Karima (x Karima), El Zahraa (x Zahra) and Ragaa (x Saada). These individuals all brought acclaim to Ghazala's daughter Radia.

Ghazala also had another daughter, Jemla (x Jamil). Jemla was foaled at Sheykh Obeyd Stud in Egypt. She produced a son and two daughters, only one of which survived in Egyptian breeding, the much admired Serra, also referred to as Sara and

Sit Serra (x Sahab). Foaled in 1915 at Sheykh Obeyd Stud, Serra was a highly celebrated mare of 100% Ali Pasha Sherif breeding.

Thanks to the late Carol Lyons's collection of historical material, the correspondence of Jack Humphrey's trip to Egypt in February 1932 provides some insight into this splendid mare Serra. Jack Humphrey was acting as agent for the American Arabian breeder W. R. Brown who ended up importing an impressive collection of Egyptian horses from Prince Mohammed Ali. It was when Humphrey was visiting Prince Mohammed Ali's cousin, Prince Kemal El Dine, that he discovered the mare Serra. He was immediately impressed with her overall quality but also of the quality of her produce regardless of



Bint Radia

1920 grey mare,
(Mabrouk Manial x Radia out of Ghazala).
RAS photo courtesy of Judith Forbis

sire. He noted: "...an old white mare, heavy in foal to Rustem. This is the outstanding animal in the Stud...I tried hard to get a price on her but nothing doing."¹ Several years later H.E. Fouad Abaza director of the R.A.S while visiting the Sidi Salem Stud of T.G.B. Trouncer remarked in a later report: "...Sit Serra was renowned as being one of the best mares in the land of the Pharoahs."² Both men were very impressed with Serra and her produce.

Reviewing Humphrey's correspondence helps in piecing together just how many foals Serra produced. In older times, some horses bred by the various private Royal family members would not necessarily end up listed in official stud book records

so it is helpful to see correspondence from people who actually saw the horses. The report on horse breeding in Egypt by H.E. Fouad Abaza also identifies animals that do not show up in studbooks. His dates and ages of similar horses seen by Humphrey are off somewhat but it is realistic to assume that his report of multiple visits to several private breeders was written at various times earlier and not submitted for publication in the Arab Horse Journal until several years later. However Humphrey was very focused and specific, taking many photos, with the desire to purchase the best he could for W.R. Brown, so I have relied mainly on the dates and ages of horses suggested in Humphrey's correspondence.



Bint Serra

1923 bay mare,
(Sotamm x Serra) at the Babson Farm after importation.
Babson Farm photo

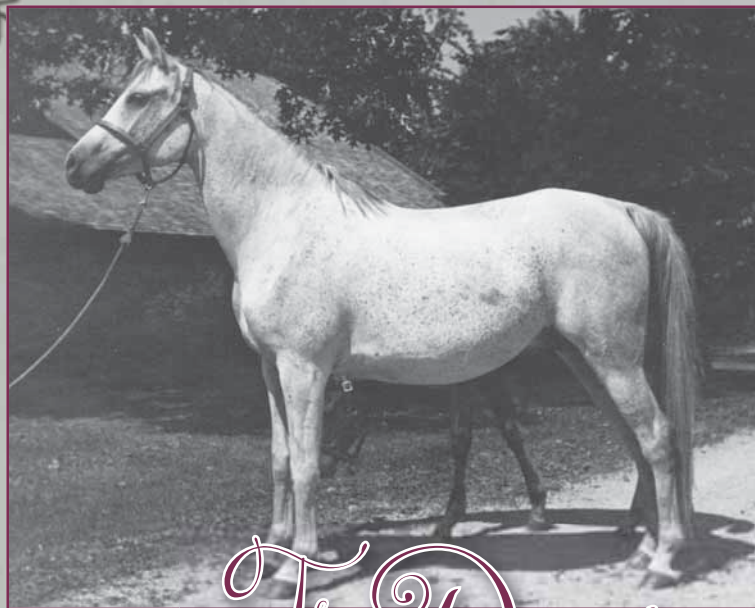


Fay El Dine

1934 grey stallion,
(Fadl x Bint Serra).
Babson Farm photo

Using the current AHA Datasource and comparing it to these various correspondences from the past, I have created the following list of likely produce of Serra:

1. Bint Serra I (x Sotamm) 1923. Exported to the U.S. in 1932.
2. Rasala bay mare (x Rustem) c. 1925. Later went to T.G.B. Trouncer.
3. dark chestnut stallion (x Ibn Rabdan) 1926. Not listed in stud book records.
4. "Bint Sara" bay mare (x Rustem) 1927. Not listed in stud book records.
5. dapple grey stallion (x Ibn Rabdan) 1928. Not listed in stud book records.
6. Ibn Awad, grey stallion (x Awad) 1930. Not listed in stud book records.
7. Ibn Sara (x Manial / Nasr) 1931. Used at Inshass stud.
8. In early 1932 Serra was heavy in foal to Rustem when seen by Humphrey. This is possibly the "grey 4 year old" daughter later seen by Fouad Abaza at T.G.B. Trouncer's Sidi Salem Stud.



FaDeene

1937 grey mare,
(Fadl x Bint Serra).
Babson Farm photo

9. Zareef (x Rustem) grey stallion c. 1930s. He was also called Zareif. He was used by the R.A.S. and by T.G.B. Trouncer.

Serra's first daughter Bint Serra I was imported into the U.S. by Henry Babson in 1932 before leaving any foals in Egypt. Serra's daughter Rasala later became a broodmare for Mr. T.G.B. Trouncer, who maintained a private stud in Egypt called Sidi Salem Stud. He was very successful in breeding good race horses and was best known for his Skowronek son Registan, who became the sire of Rasala's foals, thus her line did not continue in straight Egyptian breeding. The next 4 produce of Serra, which do not appear in any studbooks do not have any known straight Egyptian production. Serra's son, Ibn Sara was acquired by the Inshass stud from Prince Kemal El Dine. He sired two daughters at Inshass but eventually the lines to him died out.

This left only one remaining foal of Serra whose blood did continue in Egypt, the grey stallion Zareef, also known as Zareif. It seems likely that he was Serra's last foal. Around late 1932 Serra went from Prince Kemal El Dine to the Sidi Salem stud where she spent her remaining years with T.G.B. Trouncer. In modern times, all that continues from the magnificent Serra in straight Egyptian breeding is the blood of Bint Serra and of Zareef.

The mare Bint Serra I was an impressive dark bay mare of high quality and was already nine years old in 1932 when Jack Humphrey saw her. He was very taken by her, trying very hard to negotiate a price but was unable to buy her. She had long powerful shoulders, prominent withers and fine carriage of neck and was said to be an excellent mover. Fortunately for U.S. breeders, Henry Babson was

later able to acquire her that same year. Bint Serra I was quite prolific, producing 10 foals. She arrived in the U.S. with a chestnut colt named Metsur sired by Rustem at her side, but he died before he was of breeding age. Only 3 of her get carried on to the present within straight Egyptian lines. These 3 are, her two sons Fay-El-Dine and Fa-Serr, and her daughter Fa Deene, all sired by Mr. Babson's imported Egyptian stallion Fadl (Ibn Rabdan x Mahroussa). They became an important part of Henry Babson's straight Egyptian breeding program. Over time the tail female line to Bint Serra I failed to continue via daughters within the straight Babson breeding program. It was Bint Serra's sons Fay-El-Dine and Fa-Serr who became prolific and popular sires carrying on Serra's influence at the Babson Farm.

Often Fa-Serr would be bred to daughters of Fay-El-Dine thereby doubling the influence of Serra. To further intensify this blood within the Babson program, Fa-Serr was bred to his full sister Fa-Deene producing the popular stallion Ibn Fa-Serr. Ibn Fa-Serr was not only a prolific stallion but he sired numerous major show winners. His get were often superior movers with long powerful shoulders and good size. He is the sire of Abroufa, dam of the great German sire Mohafez. Abroufa's full sister Roufah was U.S. and Canadian Top Ten Champion and many times a Class A performance champion.

While Fa Deene did not continue as a female line at the Babson Farm, her line crossed very well with the Nazeer bred imports to the U.S. so there is an important



Ibn Fa-Serr

1960 grey stallion
(Fa-Serr x Fa Deene), photo taken in old age.
Sharon Ferriss photo



Roufag

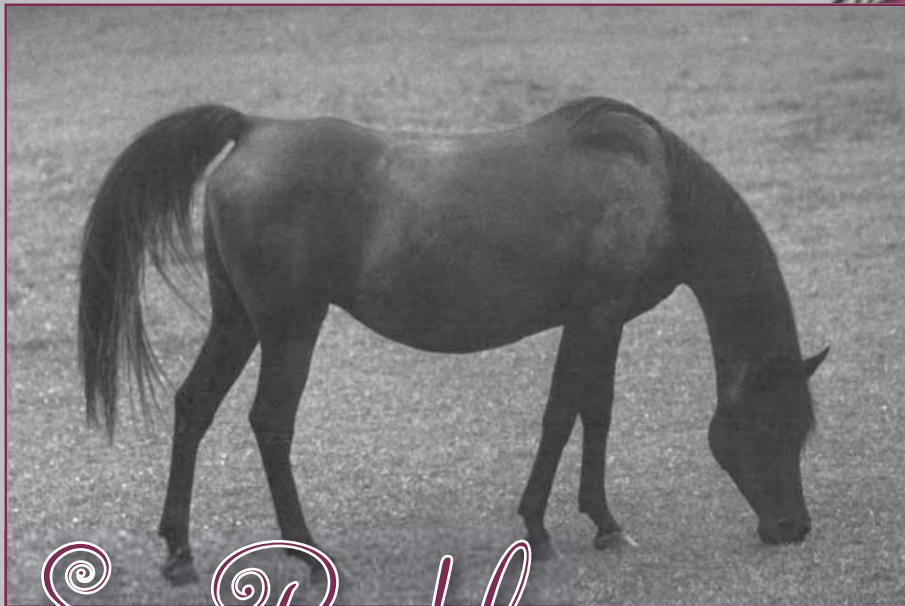
1965 bay mare
(Ibn Fa-Serr x Bah Roufa).
Johnny Johnston photo

tail female line to Serra in straight Egyptian breeding, it is just no longer within the straight Babson Egyptian group. Who could forget some of the lovely mares of this Nazeer/Babson breeding such as Bint Fa Dena (Ansata Ibn Halima x Fa Dena by Fa-Serr)? She and her full sister Il Bint Khedena were much admired mares. Bint Fa Dena produced the beautiful Monadena (x Ibn Moniet El Nefous), and also the strikingly handsome Fa Daalim (x Daaldan) a prolific sire. Il Bint Khedena is best known as the dam of AK El Sennari (x Ibn Moniet El Nefous) a popular sire in the U.S., Belgium, the U.K., Jordan and Egypt. Fa Daalim's full sister Bint Daaldan became an important foundation mare for Abitibi Farms in Quebec, Canada, producing many fine horses from this line including the beautiful stallion Safeen, with get in Belgium, Morocco and Jordan. Safeen is the sire of many champions including

multi-champion Shy Gayfeen.

A separate article could be written about just the influence of Bint Serra since she is now very wide spread in Egyptian breeding, and no doubt the main source of the blood of the lovely Ali Pasha Sherif mare Serra.

However it is interesting that Serra's son Zareef (x Rustem) managed to also carry Serra's blood into modern day Egyptian breeding through just one daughter, Atlus. This 1941 grey mare was out of the mare Zam Zam (Gamil III x Bint Radia), thus tracing back to the same Ghazala mentioned at the beginning of this article who is the female line of Zareef. Atlus produced a daughter named Shafia (x Enzahi) but this line eventually died out. Atlus had another daughter who carried forward and that was Fadila, a 1946 grey sired by the great Sheikh El Arab, sire of Halima and other important mares in Egypt. Then Fadila had only



Sera Beth

1975 bay mare

(Ibn Fa-Serr x Sera Beth by Fa-Serr out of a Fa-Serr granddaughter). This lovely mare was one of the most intensely bred Bint Serra mares at the Babson Farm but she did not trace in tail female to Bint Serra. Ferriss archive

one daughter who carried forward, the 1966 chestnut mare Naglaa, (x Mamdouh) foaled when Fadila was 20 years old. Were it not for Naglaa, the line to Zareef would have certainly died out. Naglaa was then exported from Egypt to Germany in 1971 producing 14 foals, mostly daughters. Three of Naglaa's daughters came to the U.S., Nashakla (AK Nashakla), Naglaana, and Chrymont Nasirah. This last mare did not produce, but Nashakla and Naglaana did. Both were sired by Shaker El Masri, sire of the legendary El Shaklan. Both left produce in Europe before being exported to the U.S. Nashakla and Naglaana were both described as chestnut mares of good size and excellent movers. Several of Naglaana's produce were also later imported. David Myers, of Renaissance Egyptian Arabians, remembers Nashakla as a tall chestnut mare with lots of roaning in her coat and a great mover. Jodi Cruz of Rancho Bulakenyo acquired Naglaana's daughter Maligana (x Malik) and describes her as a really beautiful mare with

huge black eyes, pretty head and ears, also well bodied and correct. Both Naglaa daughters have descendants in the U.S. winning in performance classes. Naglaa's influence has remained prominent in Europe as well predominantly through her daughters, all being quite prolific.

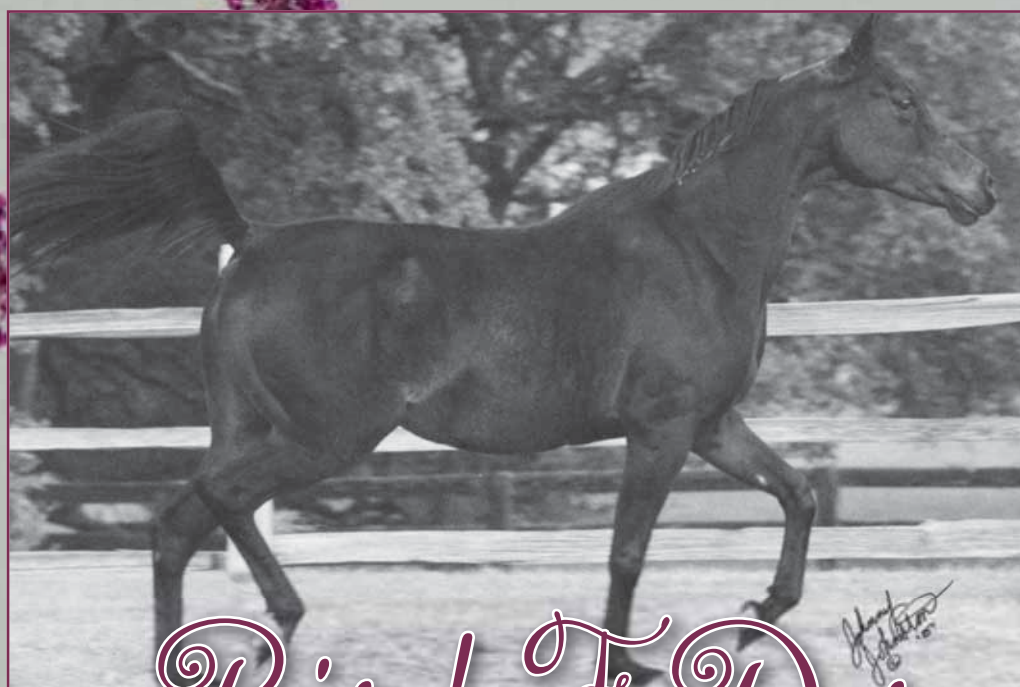
Upon reflection it is ironic that the splendid Serra's only producing daughter came to the U.S. where her legacy became dominated by the male lines from her, while Serra's only surviving son Zareef, was narrowly preserved only through one daughter who, when arriving in Europe, became prolific with a large number of daughters. Either way we are fortunate to have the legacy of this highly

celebrated mare Serra preserved to this day. Why does it matter? Because no matter how far back one goes in a pedigree, a powerfully influential mare must be preserved as a part of the solid foundation of the finest Arabians we have to breed from today. So it is fitting that we celebrate Serra, "one of the best mares in the land of the Pharoahs." □

Footnotes:

1 Lyons, Carol, Egypt in 1932 - "A Report by Jack Humphrey to W.R. Brown", Khamsat, Vol. 4 No. 3, 1987, pgs. 31-41.

2 Abaza, Fouad, "The Arab In Egypt", from The Journal of The Arab Horse Society 1935-1938, reprinted by Alexander Heriot & Co. Ltd, 1979, p. 112.

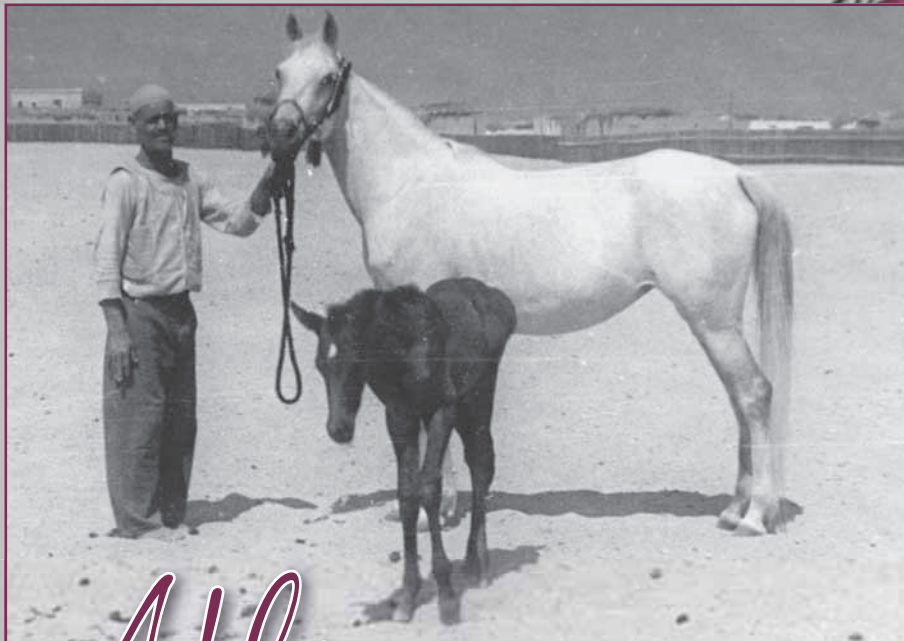


Bint Fa Dena

1966 black mare

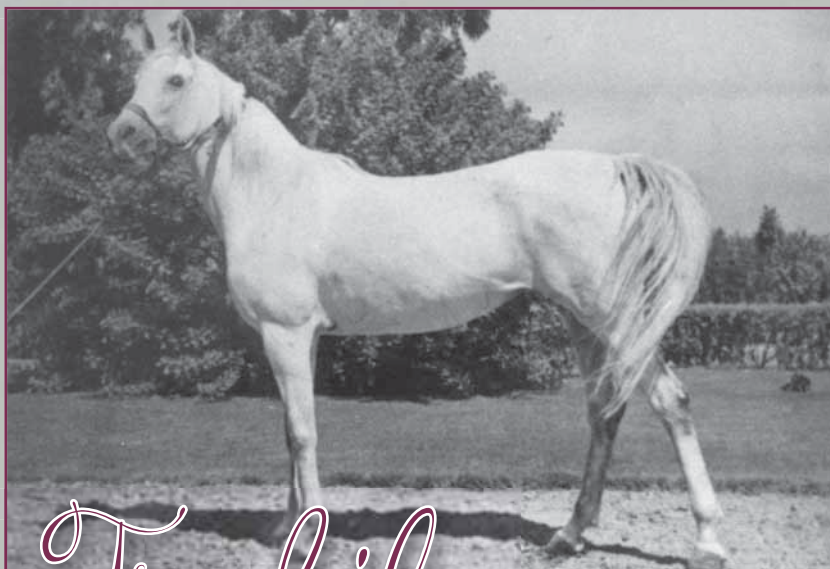
(Ansata Ibn Halima x Fa Dena by Fa-Serra)

A champion producer the lovely Bint Fa Dena traces in tail female to Bint Serra



Atlas

1941 grey mare
(Zareif x Zam Zam).
She was a granddaughter of Serra through her sire, and she traced to Radia in female line.
Photo courtesy of Judith Forbis



Fadila

1946 grey mare
(Sheikh El Arab x Atlas).
Pictured at the EAO. The line to Zareif continued only through Fadila's daughter Naglaa who was quite prolific.
Photo courtesy of Judith Forbis