
BEAUTY BEYOND BORDERS

Magnificent Mares of the Polish State Studs

PART III

◆ by Kamila Kozłowska ◆

The term 'beauty' encompasses so many different qualities and, as it is somewhat subjective, it often feels like everybody has its own unique idea of what it actually means. The Oxford Dictionary defines beauty as 'the quality of giving pleasure to the senses or to the mind', while the Cambridge Dictionary adds that it particularly refers to physical appearance. It is all true but it seems that Arabian horse aficionados have their own distinct definition of beauty which specifically refers to one of the most captivating creatures in the world – the Arabian mare. Actually, the Arabian mare herself can be regarded the most extraordinary embodiment of beauty that has ever existed as no other individual illustrates this notion better than the forceful yet feminine, dignified yet delicate being who incessantly inspires painters and poets alike. It may seem that calling an Arabian mare beautiful is an understatement as she is so much more than a 'pretty face'. With all her charm

and charisma, elegance and exquisiteness, grace and refinement, she was believed by the Bedouins to be a gift from God who can fly without wings. The Polish breeders must have been God's favourites as they have been blessed with mares that not only possess the most desirable characteristics of the breed but also barely touch the ground while trotting. The breathtakingly beautiful and profoundly powerful Polish mare can be considered one of God's finest creations.

Part I and II of this article covered eight distinguished Polish dam lines that have produced many outstanding individuals over the years but there are a few more potent Polish families whose influence on the Arabian breed cannot be overlooked.

One of such outstanding dam lines tail female traces back to a desert-bred mare SCHERIFE 1896, imported to the Hungarian State Stud of Babolna in 1902. Her

great-granddaughter BULWA 1937 (Kuhailan Zaid DB – 12 Siglavy Bagdady / Siglavy Bagdady DB) was imported to Poland in 1946 with other Babolna-bred mares who arrived to Polish state studs mingled among the Polish Arabians reclaimed from Germany shortly after the end of World War II. Before she returned to Hungary in 1951 where she was put to death in 1957, BULWA produced three full siblings by the epochal stallion WITRAŻ 1938 (Ofir – Makata / Fetysz), two fillies and one colt.



Bulwa (Kuhailan Zaid DB - 12 Siglavy Bagdady / Siglavy Bagdady DB) with her daughter Bulgotka by Witraż



Algonkina (Pietuszk - Alga / Witraż) Zofia Raczkowska



Probat (Pohaniec - Borexja / Exelsjor) Jerry Sparagowski

While the stallion CHMIEL 1949 was not used for breeding at all, the two mares, ALGA 1947 and BULGOTKA 1951, proved to be prolific producers. The former is best remembered as the dam of the amazing ALGONKINA 1961 (by Pietuszk), while the latter greatly influenced the worldwide breeding through her daughters BOGORIA 1956 (by Laur), BOLTONKA 1958 (by Arax) and BUSZNICA 1960 (by Faher). After being exported to Sweden, the grey BOGORIA blessed her new owners, the Blommeröd Arabstuteri,

with a dark-bay filly BOREXIA 1968 (by Exelsjor), an excellent broodmare and the dam of the legendary stallion PROBAT 1975 (by Pohaniec). PROBAT, a paternal grandson to the prematurely deceased COMET 1953 (Abu Afas – Carmen / Trypolis), came to Poland in the early 1980's to re-establish the significant sire line of KUHAJLAN AFAS DB which at that time was on the verge of extinction. Before being further exported to the US in 1987, PROBAT served as a stud at Janów Podlaski and Michałów

where he sired 154 foals of which 80 mares and 32 stallions were used for breeding in Poland and abroad. Apart from leaving the invaluable legacy in the form of many exceptional broodmares and a few classic stakes winners, PROBAT sired some show ring superstars like European and World Champion Senior Stallion PIRUET 1983 (out of Pieczęć / Palas),



Boltonka (Arax x Bulgotka / Witraż) Alexander



Borexja (Exelsjor - Bogoria / Laur)

Aleksja (Czort - Algonkina / Pietuszok)
Jerry Sparagowski

Algomej (Celebes - Algonkina / Pietuszok)
Gabrielle Boisselle



World Champion Junior Colt FAWOR 1981 (out of Fatma / Anarchista), World Reserve Champion and All Nations Cup Champion Senior Mare PIKIETA 1982 (out of Platyna / Czardasz) and European Reserve Champion Senior Mare EGZOTYKA 1982 (out of Elana / Elf).



Alsa (Kahil Al Shaqab - Alameda / Wachlarz)
Sylvia Itenda

In 1963, the bay BOLTONKA was bought by Dr Eugene LaCroix of Lasma Arabians and exported to the USA, where she became 1964 US National Reserve Champion Mare as well as 1964 and 1965 US National Top Ten Park Horse. The horses purchased that year in Poland by LaCroix for Lasma included one of the most prominent sires in the history of the American Arabian horse breeding – BASK 1956 (Witraż – Bałatajka / Amurath Sahib) with whom BOLTONKA was crossed repeatedly while being the broodmare at Lasma Arabians. This match of two US National Champions produced two US National Top Ten winners in performance, the bay mare TONKI 1967 and the bay stallion BOMARC 1970. BULGOTKA's chestnut daughter BUSZNICA produced a few valuable broodmares but it was her 1968 grey colt BUSZMEN (by Negativ) that made the mark on the North American show scene as 1974 Canadian National Champion Stallion, 1975 US National Reserve Champion

Stallion and three times Grand Champion Stallion in Scottsdale in 1972, 1974 and 1975.

Without a doubt, the daughters of BULGOTKA were great assets to the Arabian horse breeding worldwide but it was the aforementioned ALGONKINA who was and still is a legend in her own right. Not only was she a progenitor of a very successful family that still stands strong in the world show rings but she also left a lasting mark on the Arabian breed. Bred by Albigowa State Stud, ALGONKINA spent most of her life at Janów Podlaski where she served as a broodmare until her premature death in 1974. The 1968 bay mare ALEKSJA (by Czort) and full siblings, the 1971 bay mare ALGERIA and the 1973 bay stallion ALGOMEJ, linebred to WITRAŻ through their maternal granddam ALGA and their sire CELEBES 1949 (Witraż - Canaria / Trypolis), were ALGONKINA's most valuable offspring. ALEKSJA had left only three daughters in Poland



Albula (Fawor - Algeria / Celebes) Gigi Grasso

before she was exported to the USA and two of them, the bay ALWERNIA 1974 (by Celebes) and the grey ALBANIA 1976 (by Gwarny) as well as their descendants, were mostly predisposed for racing and endurance. On the contrary, the 1975 grey ALEJA (by Bandos) did not race at all but she produced the beautiful bay ALEJKA 1985 (by Palas), 1993

Polish National Champion Senior Mare and the granddam of the remarkable bay ALSA 2013 (Kahil Al Shaqab – Alameda / Wachlarz), three times European Champion Senior Mare (Gold in 2020, Bronze in 2021 and again Gold in 2023) as well as 2021 Bronze Champion Senior Mare in Menton, France. ALSA continuously captivates the crowds with her



Algeria (Celebes - Algonkina / Pietuszok)
Zofia Raczkowska

commanding charisma and powerful movement and at the same time exhibits the femininity and finesse of her gorgeous granddam ALEJKA. As a young mare with so much breeding and show potential, ALSA managed to mesmerise Nayla Hayek, the founder and owner of Hanaya Arabian Stud, and thus since the end of 2019 she proudly represents the Swiss stud in the show arenas all around the globe. The abovementioned ALGOMEJ was 1980 Swedish National Champion and 1986 Polish National Reserve Champion Senior Stallion, while his full sister ALGERIA, 1982 Polish National Champion Senior Mare, has forever changed the Polish and world Arabian horse breeding through her priceless progeny. Out of her three sons used for breeding, the 1983 bay ALEGRO (by Probat) was not only a successful show horse that won the title of Dutch National Champion Senior Stallion but he also stood out as a sire that produced two Polish



Albigowa (Fawor - Algeria / Celebes)
Zofia Raczkowska



Altona (Eukaliptus - Albigowa / Fawor) Stuart Vesty



Amba (Eukaliptus - Albigowa / Fawor) Stuart Vesty



Amra (Eukaliptus - Albigowa / Fawor)
Stuart Vesty



Amra (Eukaliptus - Albigowa / Fawor) Sylwia Itenda

National Reserve Champions, the bay EUROL 1989 (out of Europa / Bandos) and the grey ANGOR 1992 (out of Angola / Palas). Yet, it was ALGERIA's daughters that became crème de la crème of Arabian horse breeding, especially the two full sisters sired by World Champion

Junior Colt FAWOR. The younger ALBULA 1994 reached for the title of Polish National Champion Junior Filly and Best in Show as a yearling and four years later she fetched the record price of \$130 000 at the 1999 Polish Prestige Sale, purchased by the famous British breeders, the late

Shirley and Charlie Watts of Halsdon Arabians. The older ALBIGOWA 1987, appropriately named to honour the birthplace of her highly-influential maternal granddam, started a separate sub-branch of the SCHERIFE family through her distinguished daughters. The three grey full sisters sired by the first Polish National Champion Stallion EUKALIPTUS 1974 (Bandos – Eunice / Comet), ALTONA 1999, AMRA 2000 and AMBA 2001, were successful in the show arena and in the breeding barn. The oldest one ALTONA proved to be an outstanding producer before being sold to Belgium for €180 000 at the 2007 Pride of Poland auction. Even though she left only three fillies at her home stud in Janów Podlaski, she ensured the continuity of this superb sub-family. All three of her daughters were grey, exceptionally



Anawera (Piaff - Altamira / Ekstern) Sylwia Itenda



Altamira (Ekstern - Altona / Eukaliptus) at the 2013 Polish Nationals. Ewa Imielska-Hebda

Altamira (Ekstern - Altona / Eukaliptus)
Stuart Vesty



Adelita (Kahil Al Shaqab - Altamira / Ekstern) Glenn Jacobs



Atma (Ekstern - Altona / Eukaliptus) Anette Mattsson



feminine and of excellent quality. Enormous black eyes, incomparable dryness, horizontal top line and heart-stopping movement were their identification marks. ALTONA's firstborn ALTAMIRA 2005, sired by the immortal EKSTERN 1994 (Monogramm – Ernestyna / Piechur), combined the best of her sensational sire and her delightful dam. She was Polish National Reserve Champion Junior Filly as well as the dam of the international show winner ANAWERA 2012 (by Piaff) and 2015 European Gold Champion Yearling Filly

Alabama (Gazal Al Shaqab - Altona / Eukaliptus) Sylwia Itenda



Atakama (Empire - Atma / Ekstern)
Paola Drera



Atakama (Empire - Atma / Ekstern) Sylwia Itenda

ADELITA 2014 (by Kahil Al Shaqab). In 2015, ALTAMIRA was sold for €250 000 to Great Britain and joined the exceptional, predominantly Polish broodmare band at Halsdon Arabians. ALTAMIRA's full sister ATMA 2007 was petite yet powerful. Her incredible movement and undeniable charisma made her a medallist of a few national and international shows and all her highly sought-after features she passed onto her progeny. ATMA's best daughter to date is the grey ATAKAMA 2015 (by Empire), 2018 Białka Junior Spring Show Gold Champion Junior Filly. Last but not least, ALABAMA, the 2006 grey daughter of ALTONA and World Champion GAZAL AL SHAQAB 1995 (Anaza El Farid – Kajora / Kaborr), after acquiring bronze medals at the 2010 Scandinavian Open Championship and the 2011 Polish Nationals, was purchased by Al Thumama Stud of Qatar for €165 000 at the 2014 edition of Pride of Poland sale.

The second daughter of the incomparable ALBIGOWA and the legendary EUKALIPTUS, the charming and charismatic AMRA, was born at the Janów Podlaski State Stud at the turn of the century. She was another stellar example of what her phenomenal family is capable of creating. Abundant in show attitude and distinctly feminine, AMRA did not only enchant the judges of the 2002 Polish National Show, who granted her the titles of Champion Junior Filly and Best in Show, but she also won the hearts of Shirley and Charlie Watts who paid €340 000 at

the 2008 Pride of Poland sale to be able to take this magnificent mare home. If it was not for the unrivalled Platinum World Champion Mare KWESTURA 1995 (Monogramm – Kwesta / Pesennik), who sold for the astronomical amount of €1 125 000 at the same auction, AMRA would have fetched the record price at the unforgettable Pride of Poland sale in Janów Podlaski that year. It seems like the renowned British breeders at Halsdon Arabians held the family of ALGERIA in high regard as apart from her daughter ALBULA, her granddaughter AMRA and her



Albula (Fawor - Algeria / Celebes) Gigi Grasso



Agusta (Piaff - Albigowa / Fawor)
Stuart Vesty



Adyga (Kahil Al Shaqab - Amiga / Piaff) Stuart Vesty



Amiga (Piaff - Amra / Eukaliptus) Sylwia Itenda

great-granddaughter ALTAMIRA, they also acquired ALBIGOWA's last daughter AGUSTA 2005 (by Piaff), who later in life found a loving home at Vineyard Arabians of Slovenia where her handsome brown full brother ALBEDO 2006 serves as a chief sire. As if it was not enough, the granddaughter of AMRA, the beautiful bay ADYGA 2013 (Kahil Al Shaqab – Amiga / Piaff), 2015 Prague Intercup Silver Champion Junior Filly, purchased for €130 000 at the same edition of the Janów Podlaski auction as her close cousin ALTAMIRA, was also added to the Halsdon Arabians broodmare collection. AMRA's legacy at Janów Podlaski is continued through her bay granddaughter AMORENA 2016 (Pogrom – Amiga / Piaff), the dam of the classy bay colt AL NARCISO 2021 (by Erantis), twice Polish National Bronze Champion Colt in 2022 and 2023 as well as repeat winner at other national and international shows.

The last produce of EUKALIPTUS and ALBIGOWA, the elegant grey AMBA, was sold as a maiden mare for the second highest price of the 2005 Pride of Poland auction, bringing €85000 to her Polish home stud in Janów Podlaski. After the auction, AMBA travelled overseas where she blessed her new owners, Hennessey Arabians of the USA, with some high-quality broodmares. She was later resold to another devoted breeder of Polish Arabians, Tex M. Kam of Little Acre Arabians in Canada with whom she will probably stay for the rest of her life.

The only daughter of ALBIGOWA and Polish National Champion Stallion



Alhambra (Ecaho - Albigowa / Fawor) Stuart Vesty



Amorena (Pogrom - Amiga / Piaff) Sylwia Itenda

ECAHO 1990 (Pepton – Etruria / Palas), the gorgeous grey ALHAMBRA 2002, phenotypically resembled her three half-sisters by EUKALIPTUS. Next to the excellent EMANDA 1996 (out of Emanacja / Eukaliptus) and the precious PALMETA 2001 (out of Pilica / Fawor), ALHAMBRA was one of the best daughters of ECAHO bred

at the Polish state studs. As such, she was Champion Senior Mare at the IV Autumn Show in Janów Podlaski and is best remembered as the granddam of the international sensation AL JAZEERA 2013 (Kahil Al Shaqab – Alhasa / Ganges) who missed out on the podium by one place at the two most significant shows in the world,



Al Jazeera (Kahil Al Shaqab - Alhasa / Ganges)
Sylwia Itenda



the 2014 All Nations Cup in Aachen, Germany and the 2014 World Championships in Paris, France.

The contribution to breeding of ALBIGOWA's year younger bay half-sister ALGORA 1988 (by Probat) also needs to be noted as she produced two full brothers by EUKALIPTUS, the bay ASLAN 1998 and the grey ALWARO 2000. As both stallions were successful at the racetrack and in the show ring, they became chief sires at their home stud. ASLAN was 2000 Białka Junior Spring Show

Alhasa (Ganges - Alhambra / Ecaho)
Sylwia Itenda



Aslan (Eukaliptus - Algora / Probat) Stuart Vesty



Algora (Probat - Algeria / Celebes)
Stuart Vesty



Reserve Champion Junior Colt, while ALWARO won the title of Champion Senior Stallion at the 2006 Autumn Show in Janów Podlaski.

Another immensely important dam line in the Polish breeding was founded by the chestnut desert-bred mare RODANIA, born in 1869 and imported to the renowned Crabbet Park Stud of Great Britain by Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt in 1881. Out of her three daughters born in Britain, the chestnut ROSE OF SHARON 1885 (by Hadban DB) was the most prolific one. Her chestnut great-great-granddaughter RISSALMA 1932 (Shareer – Rissla / Berk) was imported to Tersk State Stud of the

Alvaro (Eukaliptus - Algora / Probat)
Stuart Vesty

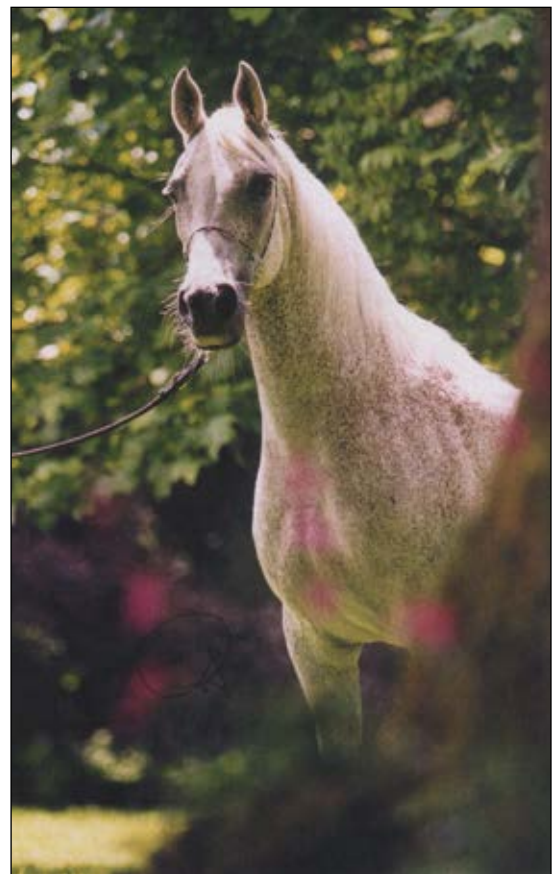


Pikieta (Probat - Platyna / Czardasz) Zofia Raczkowska

former Soviet Union where with the Janów-bred PIOŁUN 1934 (Koheilan I – Dziejanna / Bakszysz) she produced the significant stallion PRIBOJ 1944, the sire of PIETUSZOK 1954 (out of Taktika / Taki Pan). RISSALMA was purchased by the Russians from Crabbet Park together with other twenty-four horses, including the stunning grey stallion NASEEM 1922 (out of Nasra / Daoud), allegedly the most beautiful son of the legendary SKOWRONEK 1909 (Ibrahim DB – Jaskółka / Rymnik), bred by Antoniny Stud of Poland. Bred to NASEEM, RISSALMA produced the chestnut filly NATURALISTKA 1937 whose grey daughter PIENOCZKA 1952, sired by the pure Polish stallion PAWODOK 1945 (Piotun – Włodarka / Ofir), was acquired by Michałów State Stud in 1956. Due to some fertility issues, PIENOCZKA produced only one foal for Michałów, the grey filly PLANETA 1958 (by Nabor) who turned out to be a remarkable broodmare. Her

five foals born at Michałów include POHANIEC 1965, one of the best sons of COMET and the sire of the aforementioned PROBAT, as well as two grey fillies, POHANIEC's full sister PALETA 1964 and PLATYNA 1966 (by Czardasz). As a three-year-old filly, PALETA was exported to the USA, whereas her dam died in an accident in 1970, so the burden of prolonging the dam line was solely carried by the not-so-pretty PLATYNA. Against all odds, PLATYNA did not disappoint as the only progenitor of her precious female line and became the dam of seven high-quality fillies.

Interestingly enough, her most successful show progeny, the aforementioned PROBAT's daughter PIKIETA, was not the one who extended the dam line of RODANIA DB in Poland. After conquering national and international show arenas and acquiring the titles of 1987 Polish National Reserve Champion



Pikieta (Probat - Platyna / Czardasz) Gigi Grasso



Paleta (Comet - Planeta / Nabor) Johnny Johnston

Senior Mare and 1988 World Reserve Champion Senior Mare, PIKIETA was exported to the USA in 1990. She was later repurchased by Shirley



Persja (Namet - Platyna / Czardasz) Jerry Sparagowski



Platyna NA (Shanghai EA - Pantera / Ekstern) Sylwia Itenda



Pilawa (Burkan - Platyna / Czardasz)

Watts of Halsdon Arabians from where she continued her triumphant parade through international show rings until she reached the peak of her long and lustrous show career, winning the honours of 1997 All Nations Cup Champion Senior Mare. As a broodmare, PIKIETA is best remembered for producing one of the Halsdon Arabians chief sires, the black stallion HS PIRANDELO 1999, sired by the Janów-bred bay PILOT 1987 (Fawor - Pipi / Banat). Four other daughters of PLATYNA, PLAJTA 1974 (by Gedymin), PERSJA 1975 (by Namet), PILAWA 1976 (by Burkan) and PLOTKA 1986 (by Penitent) did not produce any fillies for the Polish breeding programme, while POGOŃ 1977 (by Burkan) left only one average female descendant, PANDA 1982

(by Partner), so again the whole responsibility of retaining the dam line was put on one mare, the grey PATERA 1978, the only daughter of PLATYNA and the prominent sire BANDOS 1964 (Negatiw - Bandola / Witraż).

PATERA, a petite but pretty mare, did surely deliver what was expected of her and beyond. She produced four fine fillies for Michałów, including two excellent full sisters by Polish National and European Champion Stallion PENITENT 1979 (Partner - Penza / Fajer), PRETORIA 1985 and PALESTRA 1986. Before being exported to France and gaining the title of 1995 French National Reserve Champion Senior Mare, PRETORIA produced one daughter, PUSTYNNNA TARCZA



Palestra (Penitent - Patera / Bandos)
Stuart Vesty

Palestra (Penitent - Patera / Bandos)
Irina Filsinger



1991 (by Pamir), the founder of the whole dynasty with the nickname 'pustynny(a)' which corresponds to the adjective 'desert' in English. Out of her six daughters born in Poland, PUSTYNNA RÓŻA 1999 (by Emigrant) and PUSTYNNA DROGA 2000 (by Laheeb) seemed to have the highest

breeding potential when it comes to show progeny. The younger half-sister PUSTYNNA DROGA, exported to the UAE in 2004 as a four-year-old maiden mare, was the winner of some significant shows, including the 2007 Ströhen International Arabian Horse Show in Germany and the 2009 Arabian

Masters in Bordeaux, France. Matched with World Junior Champion MARAJJ 2004 (Marwan Al Shaqab - RGA Kouress / Kouvey Bey), PUSTYNNA DROGA produced the 2008 grey stallion MARJAN ALBIDAYER, the gold and silver medallist of the 2015 Austrian National and International



Pustynna Tarcza (Pamir - Pretoria / Penitent) Sylwia Itenda

Pustynna Tarcza (Pamir - Pretoria / Penitent)
Stuart Vesty



Pustynna Malwa (Ekstern - Pustynna Róża / Emigrant) Sylwia Itenda

Pustynna Malwa (Ekstern - Pustynna Róża / Emigrant)
Glenn Jacobs



Pustynna Róża (Emigrant - Pustynna Tarcza / Pamir) with her 2006 filly Pustynna Gala by Galba. Sylwia Itenda



Pustynna Droga (Laheeb - Pustynna Tarcza / Pamir) Stuart Vesty

Arabian Horse Show in Wels as well as European Bronze Champion Senior Stallion in Verona in 2015. PUSTYNNNA RÓŻA, the bearer of a beautiful name that means 'desert rose', was 2000 Polish National Reserve Champion Junior Filly as a yearling and the dam of six quality fillies as a broodmare at

Michałow. Her 2008 grey daughter PUSTYNNNA MALWA (by Ekstern), with her ground-covering trot, was always a strong contender in the Polish show arenas but competing against so many other phenomenal daughters of her legendary sire as well as the younger generation of

fillies sired by World Champion QR MARC 2005 (Marwan Al Shaqab – Swete Dreams / Magic Dream), made her usually end up in the top five of her class but she never reached the championship podium. However, her firstborn filly, the breath-taking dark-bay PUSTYNIA KAHILA 2013



Pustynia Kahila (Kahil Al Shaqab - Pustynna Malwa / Ekstern)
Sylvia Itenda

(by Kahil Al Shaqab), reached for the highest possible honours an Arabian horse can acquire. The long list of her most significant titles includes 2014 Polish National Bronze Champion Junior Filly, 2014 All Nations Cup Bronze Champion Yearling Filly, 2014 European Silver Champion Yearling Filly, 2014 World Gold Champion Yearling Filly, 2015 Polish National Gold Champion Junior Filly, 2017 Polish National Gold Champion Senior Mare, 2017 European Silver Champion Senior Mare, 2018 All Nations Cup Silver Champion Senior Mare and 2018 European Silver Champion Senior Mare. Apart from this extremely successful granddaughter who is now one of Michałów's most cherished broodmares, PUSTYNNA RÓŻA is also represented by another

bay showwinning mare, PUSTYNNA LILIA 2019 (Złoty Medal – Pustynna Kalia / Esparto), Bronze Champion Yearling Filly of the 2020 Białka Junior Spring Show.

The precious, powerfully moving PALESTRA 1986 was the highest scored horse of the 2000 European Championships, receiving the remarkable total score of 94.20 points. A year after the show, she was sold to the UAE but first she ensured the continuity of her priceless gene pool at her home stud in Michałów. Her firstborn filly PROGNOZA 1990 (by Etogram) followed in her dam's footsteps and also left Poland but she ended up closer to home, at Kullatorp Arabian Stud in Sweden, where she was a most appreciated broodmare who also won the

titles of triple Swedish National Champion Senior Mare in 1998, 2001 and 2003 as well as 1998 Reserve Champion and 2007 Champion Senior Mare at the Scandinavian Open in Blommeröd. PALESTRA's most precious progeny include two exceptional full sisters sired by the unforgettable MONOGRAMM 1985 (Negatraz – Monogramma / Knippel), PALESTYNA 1994 and PALMIRA 1995. PALESTYNA was eventually sold at the 2004 Pride of Poland auction for the record price of €300 000 but before her exportation, she produced a firstclass filly by the champion-maker GAZAL AL SHAQAB, the grey PAMPA 2004. PAMPA is best known as the maternal granddam of the 2015 gorgeous grey PLATYNA NA (Shanghai EA – Pantera / Ekstern). Bred by the well-known Polish



Palestyna (Monogramm - Palestra / Penitent) Stuart Vesty

Pustynna Lilia (Złoty Medal - Pustynna Kalia / Esparto)
Ewa Imielska-Hebda



Pampa (Gazal Al Shaqab - Palestyna / Monogramm) Stuart Vesty

private breeder Alicja Najmowicz and currently owned by Hanaya Arabian Stud, PLATYNA NA was 2017 Polish National Bronze Champion Junior

Filly, 2023 Bruges Bronze Champion Senior Mare and 2023 European Silver Champion Senior Mare. PALESTYNA can also be found in the pedigrees

of some recent show winners. She is the maternal great-granddam of the 2022 grey colt SHAALAN AL ZOBAIR (Raoud Albidayer – Nawader Al Zobair / FA El Rasheem), multiple medallist of various Middle Eastern shows, including the 2023 Sharjah International Arabian Horse Festival and the 2023 Fujairah International Arabian Horse Championship.

PALESTRA's youngest Polish-bred daughter PALMIRA, a highly-decorated show champion herself, made the greatest contribution as far as the preservation of the RODANIA dam line at Michałów is concerned. As 2003 World Reserve Champion Senior Mare, 2007 Polish National Champion Senior Mare and Best in Show as well as 2007 All Nations Cup Champion Senior Mare, PALMIRA passed her most desirable qualities onto her precious



Palmira (Monogramm - Palestra / Penitent) Sylwia Itenda



Palmira (Monogramm - Palestra / Penitent) - still beautiful at the ripe age of 25. Karolina Misztal

progeny, especially onto the 2004 grey PISTORIA (by Gazal Al Shaqab) and the 2008 grey PARMANA (by Al Maraam). When it comes to a successful show career, PISTORIA's accomplishments were not far from those of her distinguished dam. No wonder that this 2007 European Champion Junior Filly, 2011 European Reserve Champion Senior Mare and 2013 All Nations Cup Bronze Champion Senior Mare sold for €625 000, the second highest price of the memorable 2015 Pride of Poland auction when the Janów-bred grey PEPITA 2005 (Ekstern - Pepesza /

Eukaliptus) fetched the highest price in the history of Polish sales to date - €1 400 000. PISTORIA was purchased by Al Zobair Stud of the UAE where she became a worthy successor of her stunning granddam PALESTRA. In 2020, PISTORIA blessed her current owner with an amazing grey filly, AJWAN AL ZOBAIR (by Suhail Al Zobair), 2023 Sharjah Arabian Horse Festival (UAE Bred) Silver Champion, 2023 Fujairah International Silver Champion and 2024 Ajman Gold Champion Senior Mare.

PARMANA's show career was

slightly less impressive than that of her dam or her older half-sister, yet she managed to secure the titles of 2009 Białka Junior Spring Show Reserve Champion Junior Filly, 2010 Ströhen International Gold Champion Junior Filly, 2010 Elran Cup Bronze Champion Junior Filly and 2011 West Coast Cup International Bronze Champion Junior Filly. However, PARMANA made a major contribution to the Polish breeding by producing the young promising sire PTOLEMEUSZ 2018 (by Złoty Medal), 2020 Białka Junior Spring Show Silver Champion Junior Colt,



Ajwan Al Zobair (Suhail Al Zobair - Pistoria / Gazal Al Shaqab)
Morhaf Al Assaf



Pistoria (Gazal Al Shaqab - Palmira / Monogramm) Paola Drera



Ptolemeusz (Złoty Medal - Parmana / Al Maraam) Sylwia Itenda



Parmana (Al Maraam - Palmira / Monogramm) Glenn Jacobs

2020 European Silver Champion Junior Colt and 2022 Polish National Silver Champion Senior Stallion, as well as the beautiful dark-bay PARMANIA 2013 (by Kahil Al Shaqab)

who, together with her dam, is responsible for the survival of this small but significant sub-branch of RODANIA family at Michałów Stud. And she seems to be doing a stellar

job! Not only did she produce two high-quality fillies: 2020 Białka Junior Spring Show Gold Champion Junior Filly PESALINA 2018 (by El Omari) and 2023 Prague EuroCup Silver



Parmania (Kahil Al Shaqab - Parmana / Al Maraam) Sylwia Itenda



Protesta (AJ Azzam - Parmania / Kahil Al Shaqab) Sylwia Itenda

Champion Yearling Filly PROTESTA 2022 (by AJ Azzam) but she is also the dam of the young auspicious stallion PORTO RICO 2020 (by Złoty Medal), 2021 Białka Junior Spring Show Silver Champion and 2021 Prague EuroCup Bronze Champion Yearling Colt, who

has just started his career as a sire at Michałów Stud.

Another female line of utmost importance to the Polish breeding is the family of SELMA DB 1865, bred by Abbas Pasha I in Egypt. Similarly

to RODANIA, this particular dam line was first introduced to Europe by Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt who brought SELMA's grey daughter SOBHA 1879 (by Wazir) to Crabbet Park Stud in the UK from where this significant family spread across



Porto Rico (Złoty Medal - Parmania / Kahil Al Shaqab) Sylwia Itenda



Pesalina (El Omari - Parmania / Kahil Al Shaqab) Sylwia Itenda



Rasima (Rasim Pierwszy - Sardhana / Nureddin II)



Sardhana (Nureddin II - Selima / Astraled)

the Old Continent. In 1927, Baron William Bicker, the owner of Ujazd Stud in Poland, bought the bay mare SARDHANA 1924 (Nureddin II - Selima / Astraled), SOBHA's great-granddaughter bred by Crabbet Park, who was lost in the turmoil of World War II in 1945. After the war, all the breeding material of Ujazd Stud was nationalized and divided between the state studs in Albigowa

and Klemensów. In this way, SARDHANA's last daughter RASIMA 1943 (by Rasim Pierwszy) became a broodmare in Albigowa. According to Roman Pankiewicz, the deputy director of Albigowa Stud, RASIMA was a large mare with a beautiful head, huge eyes and incredible movement. Repeatedly bred to WITRAŻ, she produced eight foals of whom her firstborn bay filly CESIMA

1949 commenced a sub-line which remains active in the Polish breeding until today. At the beginning of her breeding career at Albigowa, CESIMA produced two average colts and thus she was sold to Jerzy Maryański of Bratkowice Stud where in 1958 she gave birth to a bay filly, ZŁOTA IWA (by Arax). Interestingly enough, the filly was later found and purchased by Pankiewicz and in 1963 she became a broodmare at Michałów Stud. As such, she produced eleven offspring of whom the 1972 grey ZAZULA (by Negativ) turned out to be tremendously valuable as a show champion and as a broodmare.



Zazula (Negativ - Złota Iwa / Arax) Michałów Stud Archives

In 1981, the nine-year-old ZAZULA became European Reserve Champion Senior Mare and three years later she stood on the podium of the prestigious All Nations Cup in Aachen as Champion Senior Mare. Her career as a broodmare was no less remarkable. She crossed especially well with PROBAT and with his 1981 chestnut son ENRILO (out of Emisja / Carycyn), the maternal



Zuela (Probat - Zazula / Negatiw)
Zofia Raczkowska



Zula (Probat - Zazula / Negatiw) Stuart Vesty

half-brother to the Michałów most celebrated broodmatron EMIGRACJA 1980 (by Palas). With PROBAT, ZAZULA produced two fillies, the 1981 bay ZULA and 1982 chestnut ZUELA. ZUELA's heritage at Michałów was continued by the grey ZENOBIA 1988 (by Endel), the only filly she left in Poland before being

exported to Great Britain. Currently, this continuation is ensured by two great-granddaughters of ZENOBIA, both out of the 2008 bay ZAZULKA (Ekstern - Zuzelia / Werbum), the 2014 bay ZULIMA (by Equator) and the 2017 bay ZAZONA (by Pogrom).

A strong sub-branch of the family was started by ZULA and continued by her 1991 dark-bay daughter ZATOKA (by Arbil). Her most distinguished descendants include 2021 Polish National Silver Champion Yearling Filly ZŁOTA MYŚL 2020 (Equator - Złota Bulla / Kahil Al Shaqab), 2022 Białka Junior Spring Show Silver Champion Yearling Filly ZŁOTA AURA 2021 (Morion - Złotna / El Omari), both bred and owned by Michałów Stud, as well as 2021 Israeli National Silver Champion Yearling Filly ZAREEM AA 2020 (Emerald J - Złota Gwiazda / Al Maraam), bred and owned by Ariela Arabians and Guy Zvirin. ZATOKA's year older full sister ZEMSTA is no longer represented at

the Polish state studs, however her female descendants still exist in private breeding, including her granddaughter ZEKSTERNA 2003 (Ekstern - Zorza Polarna / Wojśław), bred by Czeple Arabians of Poland, and her great-granddaughter ZENOBIA KA 2014 (Mikado KA - Zafia D'Elzenwalle / Extreme), bred by Knocke Arabians of Belgium, two times gold medallist at Bruges Arabian Horse Event in 2016 and 2017. Also, 1991 Polish National Reserve Champion Junior Filly ZALETA 1989 (Piechur - Zula / Probat) has currently no female representatives in the Polish breeding but it is worth noting that she produced the grey stallion ZŁOCIEN 2000 (by Laheeb), 2001 Polish National Reserve Champion Junior Colt and 2002 Polish National Champion Junior Colt as well as the sire of the award-winning grey mare BAJADERKA 2007 (out of Bagatela / Pesal), bred by Agricola Farm of Poland and currently a broodmare in Kuwait. Taking into consideration



Zenobia (Endel - Zuela / Probat)
Stuart Vesty



Złota Myśl (Equator - Złota Bulla / Kahil Al Shaqab) Ewa Imielska-Hebda



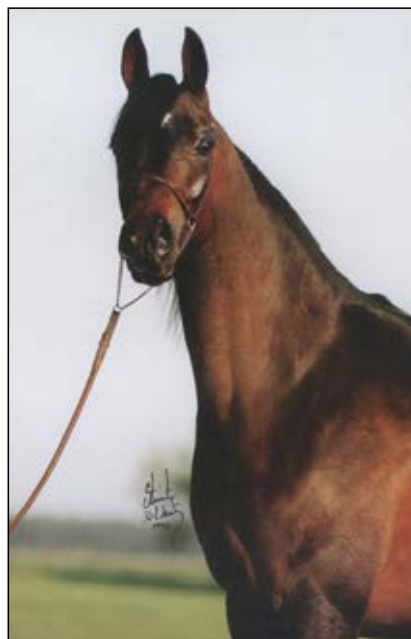
Zazulka (Ekstern - Zuzelia / Werbum) Glenn Jacobs



Złota Aura (Morion - Złotna / El Omari) Sylwia Itenda



Zemsta (Arbil - Zula / Probat) Stuart Vesty



Zatoka (Arbil - Zula / Probat) Stuart Vesty

the fact that ZŁOCIEŃ did not get too many opportunities to breed high-quality mares, siring only one successful show filly seems like a

great achievement. The grey ZGUBA 1986 (by Enriło), the last daughter of the exquisite ZAZULA, turned out to be one of Michałów's

most appreciated broodmares, mainly due to her highly-decorated daughter ZAGROBLA 1994 (by Monogramm). Over the years, ZAGROBLA shone



Zagrobla (Monogramm - Zguba / Enrilo) Erwin Escher



Zagrobla (Monogramm - Zguba / Enrilo) Sylwia Itenda



Zguba (Enrilo - Zazula / Negatiw) Stuart Vesty

Złota Orda (Pesal - Zagrobla / Monogramm)
Stuart Vesty

bright in the European and overseas show arenas where she achieved the following awards: 1995 and 1996 Polish National Reserve Champion Junior Filly, 1996 All Nations Cup Reserve Champion Junior Filly, 2000 All Nations Cup Champion Senior Mare, 2000 and 2007 European Reserve Champion Senior Mare,

2000 World Champion Senior Mare, 2003 Scottsdale Reserve Champion Senior Mare, 2003 US National Champion Senior Mare, 2017 Polish National Reserve Champion Senior Mare and 2018 Polish National Bronze Champion Senior Mare. As ZAGROBLA spent most of her time promoting the Polish Arabian horse

in different corners of the world, there was not much time left for her to be a broodmare. Still, she blessed Michałów with two fantastic grey fillies, ZŁOTA ORDA 1999 (by Pesal) and ZIGI ZANA 2009 (by QR Marc). The former produced a few quality fillies for Michałów but her 2012 grey son ZŁOTY MEDAL (by QR Marc) is



Zigi Zana (QR Marc - Zagrobla / Monogramm) at the 2023 All Polish Arabian Horse Championship in Tarnów. Karolina Misztal



Zigi Zana (QR Marc - Zagrobla / Monogramm) at the 2011 European Championships in Verona. Erwin Escher

surely her greatest achievement. As 2013 Białka Junior Spring Show Champion Yearling Colt, 2013 Polish National Reserve Champion Junior Colt, 2014 Białka Junior Spring Show Reserve Champion Junior Colt, 2017

Polish National Bronze Champion Senior Stallion, 2022 Prague Intercup and EuroCup Silver Champion Senior Stallion, 2023 Polish National Gold Champion Senior Stallion, 2023 Prague Intercup Silver Champion

and EuroCup Gold Champion Senior Stallion and, most recently, 2023 European Bronze Champion Senior Stallion, ZŁOTY MEDAL has undoubtedly earned his name which means 'gold medal' in English. However, he also stands out as a sire who has so far produced the aforementioned PUSTYNNNA LILIA, PTOLEMEUSZ and PORTO RICO as well as the 2018 grey EMILIA ZŁOTA (out of Emily / Poganin), Gold Champion Senior Mare at the 2023 Kurdistan Pure Breed Arabian Horse Show, and the 2019 grey WIRAT (out of Wentaja / Gaspar), Silver Champion Yearling Colt at the 2020 Arabian Horse Event in Bruges.

The youngest daughter of ZAGROBLA, the enchantingly elegant ZIGI ZANA, started her show career as 2010 Białka Junior Spring Show



Złoty Medal (QR Marc - Złota Orda / Pesal) at the 2022 Polish National Show in Janów Podlaski. Karolina Misztal

Reserve Champion Junior Filly, 2010 Polish National Champion Junior Filly as well as 2010 and 2011 European Reserve Champion Junior Filly. As Polish mares mature like fine wine, she continued her show career as a senior contender, winning the titles of 2013 Polish National Reserve Champion, Gold Champion and Best in Show Female of the 2023 All Polish Arabian Horse Championship as well as 2023 Polish National Bronze Champion Senior Mare. ZIGI ZANA's best produce to date include 2019 Polish National Bronze Champion Senior Mare ZIGI ZARA 2015 (by Shanghai EA) and the 2022 bay colt ZIGI ZAHN (by AJ Azzam), who reached for gold at the 2023 All Polish Arabian Horse Championship, the same show at which his dam was crowned Gold Champion and Best in Show Female. In 2005, after ZAGROBLA returned from her overseas travels, she gave birth to a grey colt ZIGI-ZAN (by Padrons Psyche), who grew into a



Zigi Zara (Shanghai EA - Zigi Zana / QR Marc) Sylwia Itenda

masculine, charismatic stallion and a phenomenal mover. In 2012, he was sold to Sinus Arabians Stud of Sweden where he got a chance to shine in the show rings of Scandinavia. Soon after, ZIGI-ZAN became 2012 Scandinavian Open Bronze Champion

Senior Stallion and the star of the 2013 Swedish Nationals with the titles of Gold Champion Senior Stallion, Liberty Champion and Best in Show. A few years later, ZIGI-ZAN won the titles of 2015 Nordic Open Silver Champion Senior Stallion as well as 2015



Taktika (Taki Pan - Krona / Kann)



Podwika (Comet - Potencja / Priboj)
Jerry Sparagowski



Penelope KA (QR Marc - Polonia / Ekstern) Sylwia Itenda

Passa (Eukaliptus - Pascha / El Paso)
Zofia Raczkowska

Scandinavian Open Gold Champion Senior Stallion and Best in Show.

The other sub-branch of the SELMA dam-line originates from the Tersk-bred bay mare POTENCJA 1952 (Priboj - Taktika / Taki Pan) who tail female traces back to SOBHA through SARDHANA's maternal half-sister, the bay STAR OF THE HILLS 1927 (by Raswan), purchased by the Russians at the 1936 Crabbet Sale. STAR's bay daughter TAKTIKA 1943 (by Taki Pan) was named 1958 All Union Champion in Moscow and graded 'elite' at Tersk, the highest possible honour in Russian breeding, so it made sense to incorporate her daughter POTENCJA as well as her full brother PIETUSZOK into the Polish breeding programme. In 1956, POTENCJA won the Polish Derby and in 1960 she became a broodmare at Michałów. She was hardly the epitome of an Arabian mare as she

rather resembled a half-bred but she proved to be a valuable producer. Out of her five fillies born at Michałów, the 1964 bay PAGODA (by Branibor) was exported to France, the 1965 grey PODWIKA (by Comet) and the 1967 bay PATYNA (by Czardasz) were sold to the USA, while the 1968 dark-bay POCHODNIA (by Bajdak) was purchased by Christinelunds Stud in Sweden.

The only one left at Michałów was PATYNA's full sister POTĘGA 1966, whose 1980 bay granddaughter PASSA (Eukaliptus - Pascha / El Paso) became the first Michałów-bred winner of the coveted World Champion title - 1982 World Reserve Champion Junior Filly. Today, PASSA is present in the pedigrees of many show winners, including 2014 Tulip Cup, Bruges and All Nations Cup Silver Champion Junior Filly, 2015 Chantilly Bronze Champion Junior

Filly and 2015 European Gold Champion Junior Filly, PENELOPE KA 2012 (QR Marc - Polonia / Ekstern). It is worth noting that PENELOPE KA, bred by Knocke Arabians of Belgium and owned by Al Thumama Stud of Qatar, is the dam of two rising stars of the show rings, the 2019 grey full brothers sired by 2020 Straight Egyptian World Champion Stallion NASEEM AL RASHEDIAH 2014 (Al Adeed Al Shagab - Nabaweyyah Ezzain / Ansata Almurtajjiz), PALERMO AT and POSITANO AT. The former was named 2020 Qatar International Gold Champion Yearling Colt, 2021 Italian National Gold Champion Junior Colt and 2022 All Nations Cup Bronze Champion Junior Colt, while the latter won the title of 2022 L'Arte del Cavallo Gold Champion Junior Colt and 2022 United Crown Cup Bronze Champion Junior Colt. As far as the Polish breeding programme is concerned, PASSA's prizewinning

descendants include 2018 Białka Junior Spring Show Bronze Champion Yearling Filly, 2019 Polish National Bronze Champion Junior Filly, 2019 and 2020 European Silver Champion Junior Filly and 2021 Ströhen International Silver Champion Senior Mare, PAPROTNIA 2017 (Elgast – Paeksa / Ekstern) as well as 2020 Prague Intercup Gold Champion Junior Filly, PAWITA 2017 (WH Justice – Paema / Ekstern). PAPROTNIA and PAWITA, bred by the late Lech Błaszczuk, are close cousins as ELGAST 2010 (out of Elfera / Psytadel) was sired by WH JUSTICE 1999 (Magnum Psyche - Vona Sher-Renea / El Sher-Mann), while their dams are full sisters tracing back to PASSA through her 2000 bay daughter PASYWA (by Wachlarz) and her 2005 bay granddaughter PASYMA (by Piaff).

It is next to impossible to name all the important and influential mares born at the Polish state studs and fully demonstrate the extent to which they have shaped the world Arabian horse breeding over the years. These priceless pearls born on Polish soil as well as their precious progeny have dominated the national and international show rings. Without a doubt, they will continue to do so as shown by the most recent successes of the marvellous Michałów-bred EMARELLA 2018 (Sahm El Arab – Emandorella / Eden C), the typical representative of the meritorious family of MILORDKA, and the bewitching Białka-bred PERFINKA 2011 (Esparto – Perfirka / Gazal Al Shaqab), who represents

Pawita (WH Justice - Paema / Ekstern)
Sylvia Itenda

the significant dam line of SZAMRAJÓWKA. The former was named Bronze Champion Senior Mare of the significant title show – the 2024 Katara International Arabian Horse Festival in Qatar, while the latter won the laurels of Champion Senior Mare at the 2024 Scottsdale Show in the USA. High prices at auctions also reflect the unflagging interest in Polish mares. At the most recent Pride of Poland sale, two Michałów-bred beauties, the wondrous grey WILDONA 2014 (Shanghai EA – Wilda / Gazal Al Shaqab), who represents the world-renowned dam line of SZWEYKOWSKA, and the ethereal grey EL ESMERA 2018 (Sahm El Arab – Esmeraldia / QR Marc), another mesmerizing member of the famous family of MILORDKA, brought nearly € 1 500 000 to their home stud. WILDONA was purchased by Hanaya Arabians of Switzerland for €650 000, while her classy stable companion EL ESMERA, the highest bid of the 2023 sale in Janów Podlaski - €810 000, found her new home at Al Zobair Stud of the UAE.



Paeksa (Ekstern - Pasyrna / Piaff)
Sylvia Itenda

Due to the fact that Polish breeders have always aimed at adhering to their foremost philosophy of producing a 'bold and beautiful' Arabian horse, no other mares in the world have been so prepossessing





Paprotnia (Elgast - Paeksa / Ekstern) Sylwia Itenda



Paema (Ekstern - Pasyma / Piaff) Sylwia Itenda

yet so well-built and powerfully moving at the same time. Even some of the most celebrated mares in the world have never reached for the title of Polish National Champion Mare, so strong was the competition at a national level. The magnificent mare KWESTURA might serve as an illustration. A show legend in her own right, a champion on three continents, multiple World Champion title winner, including the most prestigious Platinum prize, KWESTURA was 'only' Reserve Champion Senior Mare in Poland (twice!) and there are many more cases like hers.

As already highlighted in the previous parts of this article, the preservation of the precious Polish dam lines that exhibit the most desirable qualities of the breed and ensure its genetic diversity is of utmost importance and

should not be treated lightly. Not only is each of these female lines special in its own way but they also defied the odds and survived the most dangerous of times: the wars, the revolutions, the communist regime... Each and every time, the Polish female lines rose like a phoenix from the ashes, often being rebuilt from a single representative, to give the world so many incredible individuals who continuously captivate the crowds with their incontestable charm and commanding charisma. The magnificence of Polish mares transcends the standard definition and understanding of 'beauty' and defies any

physical or mental boundaries that we as breeders and human beings chose to create. The Polish mare, an endless source of inspiration and one of God's finest creations, is beauty in its most refined form that reaches beyond borders. ♦



The author of the article with the multichampion mare EL Esmera who fetched the highest price of the 2023 Pride of Poland sale. Karolina Misztal