

Pianissima 2003 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Pianosa / Eukaliptus)
and El Dorada 1998 (Sanadik El Shaklan – Emigrantka / Eukaliptus) –
a breathtaking convergence of Poland's ultimate maternal dynasties,
capturing the ethereal representatives of the Szamrajówka
and Milordka lines standing together in a timeless portrait
of breeding perfection.



2007

BEAUTY FORGED IN FIRE: HOW A PERILOUS PAST SCULPTED THE PERFECT POLISH DAM

◆ by Kamila Grabowska (formerly Kozłowska) - photos by Alessio Azzali, Gregor Aymar, Erwin Escher, Elisa Grassi, Marian Gdzalski, Sylwia Itenda, Rik van Lent, Anette Mattsson, Karolina Misztal, Zofia Raczkowska, Javan Schaller, Jerry Sparagowski, Stuart Vesty, April Visel ◆

For the serious breeder, the phrase "Pure Polish" is far more than a mere geographical label; it is a rigorous, revered, and battle-tested genetic blueprint. Historically, Poland's breeding tradition has rested upon a fundamental, unshakeable cornerstone: that while the stallion remains a transient architect, the mare serves as the permanent foundation. Through three centuries of relentless geopolitical upheaval, world wars, systematic plundering, and total institutional collapses, the survival of the Polish Arabian was heavily carried on the backs of its resilient dam lines.

Yet, this brilliant blend of beauty, charisma, purity, and power was never a mere accident of nature. It was the direct product of the unmatched genius, master-level zootechnical intuition, and fierce patriotism of Polish breeders. Faced with recurrent catastrophes that would have caused any other nation to surrender, these master horsemen turned existential crises into tactical

opportunities, out-selecting the shifting whims of the global market. Today, the international arena stands in absolute awe of modern show ring superstars like El Dorada, Emandoria, Pinga, and Pianissima. Yet, beneath the glittering triumphs of these celebrated champions lies a sobering historical truth: these multi-million dollar dynasties, which today dominate the international show rings, exist purely by the grace of a miracle – often hanging by the fragile thread of a single mare's survival during the darkest hours of European history.

To fully understand this legendary power of genetic preservation, one must follow the chronological odyssey of the country's two most iconic maternal empires: the priceless "P" line of Szamrajówka and the esteemed "E" line of Milordka. These extraordinary bloodlines did not merely survive the tumultuous shifting of European borders; they flourished into globally admired, record-breaking dynasties.

The Aristocratic Bedrock (1700s – 1914): The Genesis of the Maternal Matrix

Long before the centralized state authorities assumed a complete mantle of stewardship, the destiny of the Polish Arabian was anchored within the private sanctuaries of an elite caste of visionary frontier nobility. Prior to the late seventeenth century, Poland's introduction to exquisite oriental blood was a random, volatile by-product of military conflict with the Ottoman Empire. When the historic 1699 Treaty of Karlowitz brought a sudden peace, it simultaneously closed these lucrative battlefield avenues. Faced with a dwindling supply, legendary magnates – most notably the Branicki, Sanguszko and Dzieduszycki noble families – boldly pivoted. Rather than abandoning their pursuit of equine perfection, they commissioned perilous, pioneering expeditions deep into the unforgiving deserts of Arabian Peninsula to source authentic desert stock straight from Bedouin tribes.



Count Franciszek Ksawery Branicki (c. 1730–1819) – Great Hetman of the Crown and founder of the historic Biała Cerkiew Stud. Portrait by János Rombauer, 1818

The Branicki family's historic breeding estate at Biała Cerkiew, founded by Hetman Franciszek Ksawery Branicki in 1778, became an early monument to this obsession. In their pursuit of unmatched quality, the Branickis imported 122 stallions and 15 mares directly from various Eastern empires over a span of 140 years. Their meticulousness was anchored by the Szamrajówka studbook, a legendary register maintained with benedictine care for over a century until its tragic destruction during the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. By 1870, the Biała Cerkiew estate had distributed 1231 horses as gifts and sold another 2009, representing an impressive total of 3240 horses for that era. An output of this magnitude inevitably exerted a significant, widespread influence on contemporary breeding programmes. The renown of the Branicki breeding excellency extended even to the Ottoman Empire; when Sultan Abdulaziz

established his own stud near Istanbul in 1864, he sourced 90 mares and fillies along with 2 stallions directly from Biała Cerkiew. It was within these pastures, circa 1810, that a priceless mare named Szamrajówka was born, establishing an invaluable maternal branch that would later be celebrated worldwide as the legendary "P" line.

The foundation of the Sanguszko herd is attributed to Prince Hieronim Sanguszko, the Voivode of Volhynia. The earliest documented desert-bred import to enter the Stawuta programme was the stallion Politowski, acquired in 1790 and originally owned by Polish King Stanisław August Poniatowski. By 1799, the Stawuta herd had rapidly expanded to 423 horses. The stock was maintained at Chrestówka, a dedicated breeding farmstead located forty-six kilometres from the family's ancestral seat of Stawuta in



Prince Hieronim Janusz Sanguszko (1743–1812) – the Voivode of Volhynia and founder of the world-renowned Stawuta Stud. Artwork by an unknown artist

Volhynia. Around 1820, a studbook was established at Stawuta and meticulously maintained until 1918. Following the upheavals of both World Wars, these invaluable records were successfully salvaged and ultimately located in Brazil. The global reputation of the Stawuta stud was solidified through a series of prestigious exhibition triumphs. At the 1866 All-Russian Exhibition in Moscow, contemporary hippological expert Vasily Koptev noted that the fame of the Sanguszko stock was universal among horse enthusiasts, a prestige underscored by the Russian government's routine acquisition of Stawuta stallions for their state studs. The ultimate international breakthrough came at the 1867 World's Fair in Paris, where the Stawuta-bred stallion Iskander-Pasza 1851 was awarded a gold medal – marking the first time a Polish-bred horse secured such a high international honour. This competitive dominance continued through the late 19th century. At the second All-Russian Exhibition in 1869, Stawuta's stock showed even greater refinement due to specialized race training, with the stallion Mahomet El Kadi and the mare Hanka securing top honours. The programme's supremacy was confirmed at the 1873 Vienna World's Fair; out of 460 horses exhibited, Stawuta's collection of eight mares completely eclipsed the Russian section, earning the exhibition's highest distinction – the Diploma of Honour – for their exceptional breeding and careful management. Stawuta's international acclaim was further cemented at



Juliusz Kossak, *Stud in Podolia*, 1886 – a prominent watercolor masterpiece depicting the historic cradle of Arabian horse breeding in Poland

the 1900 Paris World's Fair. Amidst a massive field of 1717 competing horses, the 1892 Sławuta-bred mare Melpomena distinguished herself by capturing the gold medal. Emerging from this elite breeding programme and coinciding with the birth of Szamrajówka at the Biała Cerkiew estate, a parallel miracle of maternal consistency was foaled in the stables of Sławuta: a grey filly of incomparable quality named Milordka, marking the establishment of the highly elevated "E" line – one of the most dominant dynasties in equine history.

While Western buyers historically squandered fortunes on flashy stallions for ostentatious display, the astute Polish nobility understood that the true crucible of prepotency

lay within the womb. Count Juliusz Dzieduszycki's journey to the Arabian Peninsula was a highly calculated mission to inject "desert-bred" blood directly into Poland. Even though he brought seven superb stallions, it was the three grey mares that had the greatest influence on today's Arabian horse breeding – the legendary trio of desert-bred females he brought back to his historic Jarczowce estate in 1845: Gazella, Mlecha, and Sahara, all born circa 1840.

Yet, even alongside these legendary desert-bred genetic giants, the lines of Szamrajówka and Milordka remained the ultimate home-grown maternal matrix. Polish breeders possessed a profound zootechnical insight: they refused to blindly trust eastern horse traders more than

their own meticulous records. By unapologetically prioritizing the female tail-line from the absolute beginning, these early breeders established an unshakeable genetic consistency – a predictable phenotypic blueprint that global breeders still rely upon today.

Janów Podlaski (1817) and Scientific Standardisation: From Aristocratic Hobby to Institutionalized Science

Prior to the nineteenth century, Arabian horse breeding in Poland – however bold and brilliant – remained the exclusive pursuit of wealthy aristocrats, with private estates operating entirely according to their own distinct tastes. This fragmented approach shifted fundamentally with the introduction of institutionalized

state supervision. The catalyst for this new era was actualized in December 1817, when a decree by Tsar Alexander I founded the State Stud at Janów Podlaski to rejuvenate the country's war-torn equine population. To streamline these expanding state operations, Grand Crown Horsemaster Aleksander Potocki proposed creating a centralized administrative body in Warsaw under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Police. Approved in April 1819, this landmark decree established the Directorate of Studs and Stallion Depots, marking the first formal organizational statute for state horse breeding institutions on Polish soil.

Under this state-directed management, the nineteenth century brought systematic standardization to breeding practices and record-keeping, while simultaneously introducing vital innovations such as formal veterinary education. Crucially, this entire pre-1918 breeding programme focused heavily on thoroughbreds and half-breds, bearing no structural or genetic connection to the purebred Arabian breeding programme for which Janów Podlaski became famous in its later, post-war history. Nevertheless, the state-backed stability meant that even if a private estate went bankrupt or fell to ruin, the core infrastructure of Polish equine management remained safe, secure, and centralized.

Collectively, these foundational measures paved the way for the zootechnical excellence that became so prominent in post-war Arabian horse breeding.



Prince Roman Damian Sanguszko (1832–1917) – the legendary breeder and final master of the estate, captured with a carriage team before the main palace entrance prior to the tragic destruction of 1917

The Crucible of World War I (1914 – 1918): Total Annihilation and the Gathering of the Shattered Embers

The fragile peace of the aristocratic era was brutally shattered by the onslaught of World War I and the subsequent 1917 Bolshevik Revolution – a cataclysm that virtually erased Polish Arabian breeding from the map. Private estates such as Biała Cerkiew, which was located the furthest east of all Polish studs, were totally destroyed during the wartime turmoil. Not a single horse from the estate survived, and the legendary 114-year-old Szamrajówka studbook was lost.

Similarly, Stawuta was plundered on 1 November 1917, culminating in the horrific murder of the 85-year-old Prince Roman Sanguszko by Bolshevik forces. While irreplaceable pedigree records were miraculously salvaged from the flames, the historic

stud and its ancestral lands vanished in the smoke of conflict, leaving the original herds decimated.

The Interwar Reimportation: The Retrieval of the Milordka and Szamrajówka Legac

The full, tragic cost of the conflict was laid bare by a census in 1918: out of roughly 500 elite Arabian broodmares thriving across Poland prior to 1914, fewer than 30 surviving females of breeding age remained within the borders of the newly independent Polish Republic. It appeared that the precious maternal dynasties of Szamrajówka and Milordka were doomed to vanish forever. Yet, a fragile remnant of these foundational bloodlines had quietly survived beyond the borders of the conflict, paving the way for an extraordinary, international rescue effort.

The vital lifeline for the endangered



Siglavy Bagdady 1908 (Siglavy Bagdady DB – Malta / Handżar) – an exceptionally valuable Radautz-bred foundation mare, celebrated as a direct tail-female ancestor of the monumental broodmatron Estokada



Kewa 1923 (Siglavy Bagdady 11 – Kalga / Amurath) – an exceptionally important interwar foundation mare who established the legendary Janów Podlaski "P" line

Milordka dam line emerged directly from the crumbling ruins of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Decades earlier, the Sanguszkos had sold select descendants of this maternal family to foreign state repositories – most notably to the imperial Austrian stud at Radautz. In the spring of 1919, amid the post-Habsburg collapse and the local authorities actively selling off the remaining imperial stock, Polish General Inspector of State Studs, engineer Jan Grabowski, launched a daring, desperate reclamation raid into Austria to secure these priceless horses. Braving complex border standoffs, railway gridlocks, and a strict lack of transit permits through Czechoslovakia, Grabowski successfully secured six precious mares belonging to the Milordka line. Shipped by rail through the smoke of a fractured continent, they were safely delivered to the state stables



Koalicja 1918 (Koheilan IV – 238 Amurath-25 / Amurath) – an exceptionally valuable interwar foundation mare bred by Radautz Stud, celebrated as a critical cornerstone of Poland's modern lines

at Janów Podlaski to anchor the rebirth of the lineage.

Among this salvaged transport were the foundational mares Anielka 1909 (Amurath 1881 – Belgja / Mazepa), who arrived pregnant with Arabja 1919 (by Koheilan IV), and Siglavy Bagdady 1908 (Siglavy Bagdady DB – Malta / Handżar). Alongside them came Koalicja 1918 (Koheilan IV – 238

Amurath / Amurath), celebrated by Professor Witold Pruski as a mare of supreme style whose exquisite head "remains an ornament of many publications to this day". Through these fragmented, war-torn paths, the ancient bloodline of Chrestówka bypassed total annihilation, allowing twentieth-century master breeders to cultivate the sparks that would safely perpetuate the magnificent Milordka bloodline.

A parallel, monumental breakthrough in strategic reimportation occurred in 1930, when Poland successfully located and reclaimed the precious, missing branch of the Szamrajówka lineage from Yugoslavia's Inocenzdvor Stud. This genetic rescue arrived in the form of the grey mare Kewa 1923 (Siglavy Bagdady 11 – Kalga / Amurath), a product of the family's eleventh generation.

The Racetrack Mandate and the Birth of PASB: A Legacy of Unforgiving Selection and Meticulous Record-Keeping

Prior to World War I, Polish noble families like the Sanguszkos and Branickis pioneered early structured persistence testing by organizing localized annual races across their sprawling frontier estates. However, these early endeavours were largely uncoordinated improvisations of little importance in breeding, and were eventually discontinued due to excessive transportation costs. Driven by a deep understanding of physical functionality, Polish breeders responded shortly after World War I by introducing a revolutionary institutional rule that forever separated their programme from the rest of the equine world: the mandatory racetrack performance test. While other nations fell into the trap of breeding Arabians purely for superficial show-ring elegance, Polish breeders demanded an uncompromising physical trial. This bespoke racing programme, developed by Bogdan Ziętarski between 1926 and 1927, laid the vital foundations for the legendary post-war phenomenon of the Polish Arabian horse.

As demonstrated in the research by Professor Krystyna Chmiel, the Polish system of race selection – which carefully respected the distinct physiological identity of the Arabian breed – successfully preserved unique breed conformation while rigorously testing physical stamina.

When the maternal families derived from wartime were painstakingly reconstructed, every young filly destined for a broodmare band was strictly required to prove her structural and functional integrity on the racetrack. This uncompromising selective pressure ensured that these resurrected dynasties did not degenerate into purely superficial show stock, earning them their enduring global moniker: "beautiful and bold".

Statistical analyses confirm that the cohort of high-ranking show winners from 1966 to 2009 contained a higher percentage of raced horses compared to the overall Polish population of the breed. This correlation most effectively validated the traditional breeding philosophy, proving that an exquisite oriental type and a high Coefficient of Success could be seamlessly united to produce ultimate elegance and athletic efficiency in a single horse.

In tandem with this performance-driven selection, institutional formalization reached its zenith in 1926, when Dr Edward Skorkowski consolidated centuries of scattered pedigree records to publish the historic first volume of the Polish Arabian Stud Book (PASB), establishing a rigid institutional safeguard for the remaining bloodstock. Faced with the monumental task of rebuilding after the wartime fires, Skorkowski meticulously audited old private archives, verifying ancestral lines from decimated estates like Stawuta and Jarczowce. The newly founded

initial section of the PASB verified and registered a fragile foundation of just 56 surviving purebred mares. By closing the registry to any individual with unverifiable lineage, this milestone publication formalized Poland's elite tail-female lines – permanently cementing the purebred status of the resurrected dynasties on the global stage.

The Great Evacuation and Wartime Odyssey (1939 – 1946): Guarding the Genetic Blueprint

The ultimate test of these interwar dam lines unfolded during the agonizing, chaotic evacuations of World War II, where the survival of the herd depended entirely on the remarkable bravery and devotion of Polish horsemen.

In the opening days of September 1939, the Janów Podlaski State Stud commenced a desperate evacuation eastward to escape the advancing German front. As the evacuation column learned that Soviet forces had crossed the eastern border, the staff attempted a retreat back to Janów Podlaski, only to find the stud trapped under Soviet occupation. The Red Army systematically transferred the entire equine stock across the Bug River and deported them deep into Russia. Once the horses were cleared, the facilities were thoroughly plundered.

Of the twenty-seven purebred broodmares registered in 1938, seven vanished without a trace during the turmoil, while twenty arrived at Tersk.

The transition proved fatal; evacuated on foot through the harsh climate of the Soviet Union during the depths of World War II, the displaced Polish mares failed to acclimatise. Three perished in 1940, three more in 1941, and an additional five succumbed in 1942, leaving a mere nine to survive past the three-year mark. Despite this tragic attrition, their genetic legacy endured through their retained offspring and the young fillies that returned from the racetrack in 1938.

This devastating confiscation by the Red Army completely erased the Szamrajówka line from Polish soil once more, leaving not a single mare behind. Five foundational descendants – Kewa alongside her four daughters, including the precious yearling Włodarka 1938 (by Ofir) – were transferred to Tersk. Through this single action, the painstaking restoration of this historic lineage after the turmoils of World War I was utterly undone. Yet against all odds,

the exiled Włodarka survived the grueling journey. In 1953, she gave birth to her tenth foal at Tersk: the brilliant bay mare Piewica (by Priboj), whose historic repatriation to Poland in 1956 would anchor a modern dynasty of global champions.

The fate of the Milordka family was scarcely better. Five female descendants of the valuable Koalicja were taken to the Tersk Stud, while her precious daughter Federacja 1924 (by Burgas DB) – the dam of the celebrated stallion Witeź II 1938 (by Ofir) – vanished in the turmoil of war. This significant sub-branch of the Milordka line was eventually restored to Poland through Federacja's granddaughter, the chestnut Walna 1938 (by Lowelas). Much like Włodarka, Walna had been forced on a brutal eastward march to Tersk as a yearling; years later, her grey great-granddaughter Parma 1966 (Aswan – Pokaznaya / Knippel) would successfully bring

this heritage home. Although Parma was a highly prolific producer – with 21 offspring registered in the PASB – and left behind several valuable daughters, she was first and foremost a legendary dam of stallions. Bred to a diverse selection of sires, she gave rise to a remarkable dynasty of champions. Her illustrious sons included European Reserve Champion Partner 1970 (by Eleuzis), Polish and Swedish National Champion Parys 1974 (by Tryptyk), German National Reserve Champion Pasat 1978 (by Gwarny), and Brazilian National Champion Polonez 1980 (by Etap). She also foaled Pamir 1984 (by Probat), a sensational athlete who captured the Polish Derby, won the Polish National Championship with Best in Show honours, and ultimately claimed the World Cup Championship title in Stockholm in 1990. Through these extraordinary track and ring achievements, Pamir perfectly embodied the true Polish ideal of athletic prowess married to majestic beauty.

A similarly tragic fate befell the sub-branch of Siglavy Bagdady 1908. Her only daughter Bajka 1920 (by Amurath III) alongside her two daughters, Satyra 1936 (by Hardy) and Tęcza II 1937 (by Kaszmir), were also deported to Tersk, leaving a void that made it seem as though this significant sub-branch of Milordka was lost to Poland forever.

Bajka 1920 (Amurath III – Siglavy Bagdady / Siglavy Bagdady DB) – a cornerstone mare of Janów Podlaski Stud and the foundation matriarch behind Poland's legendary "E" dynasty of international champions



In the wake of this sweeping Soviet plunder, the nation's rich equestrian heritage hung by a single, fragile thread. The arrival of German administration at Janów Podlaski, however, marked the beginning of a ruthless, systematic campaign to salvage the scattered remnants of the depleted Arabian stock. Occupation authorities launched relentless efforts to recover the dispersed breeding material, rounding up mares and foals scattered during the chaotic wartime evacuations. To consolidate what remained of this elite bloodstock, they seized young stock and mares from private estates, while other local breeders surrendered their animals voluntarily to shield them from plunderers posing as partisans.

These rigorous recovery efforts ultimately led to the discovery of the bay mare Saga 1936 (Hardy – Jaga II / Koheilan I), one of Bajka's granddaughters. Secured by the search teams, Saga was integrated into the Janów Podlaski broodmare band in 1940, breathing new life into her lineage.



Jaga II 1928 (Koheilan I – Bajka / Amurath III) – the dam of Saga and a critical foundation mare responsible for preserving her maternal branch for Polish breeding

Concurrently, the sub-branch of Anielka 1909 was safely preserved in Poland through her daughter Arabja 1919. Sold from Janów Podlaski to Bronice in 1923, Arabja produced the prized grey filly Elsisa 1930 (by Floks), who was later relocated to Wodzisław. There, Elsisa foaled two brilliant grey daughters by Amurath Sahib 1932 (Amurath II – Sahiba / Nana Sahib I): Lala 1938 and Amneris 1940. All three mares eventually joined the prestigious broodmare band at Janów Podlaski, arriving in

phases as the herd was painstakingly rebuilt; both Elsisa and Lala entered the state stud in 1941, followed by Amneris in 1943.

Once reunited, both sisters left an indelible mark on the nation's breeding heritage. Amneris excelled as a prolific dam of sires, producing Aquinor 1951 (by Miecznik), a stallion heavily utilized in Poland, and Aramis 1962 (by Nabor) – a celebrated champion in the US and Canada who was sadly never used in his homeland. Meanwhile, Lala established her own legacy through a superb line of daughters, most notably the distinguished broodmare Ela 1951 (by Miecznik).

In July 1944, Nazi authorities ordered the mass evacuation of the entire Janów stud. Transported by rail to Sohland near Rotstein, the herd remained in relative safety for over six months. However, the evacuation column was forced to march on foot directly into Dresden – arriving precisely as Allied forces launched their devastating, historic carpet-bombing raids. Amidst the roaring



Elsisa 1930 (Floks – Arabja / Koheilan IV) with her precious daughters – Bajadera 1941 (by Morocz), Amneris 1940 and Lala 1938 (both by Amurath Sahib)

firestorm, many horses perished. Yet, thanks to the immense bravery of their handlers, a core group survived the catastrophic ordeal. These surviving members of the herd were driven onward through Torgau to Schleswig-Holstein, where they finally found temporary sanctuary at the military remount depots of Schönböcken-Grabau until the end of the war.

In May 1945, the chaotic aftermath of the war saw the formation of the Board of Polish Studs in Germany. Guided by the master-level zootechnical intuition and fierce patriotism of engineer Andrzej Krzyształowicz, a daring reclamation effort was launched. Between August and November 1946, the surviving horses and their dedicated handlers commenced their voyage home, returning by sea from the port of Lübeck to Gdynia.



Andrzej Krzyształowicz with Penicylina 1976 (Palas – Pentoda / Bandos) – the long-time Janów Podlaski director in a gentle stable moment with his record-shattering \$1.5 million U.S. National Champion

According to the meticulous records of Professor Witold Pruski, the repatriated treasure consisted of 39 purebred mares, 12 unweaned foals, and 3 stallions. Once again, Poland faced the monumental task of rebuilding its highly admired Arabian breeding programme from a devastatingly restricted genetic pool.

Nationalization and Modern Dynasties (1945 – Present): The Zootechnical Mastery Behind Poland's National Treasure

The catastrophic onslaught of World War II once again inflicted unimaginable devastation upon Poland's purebred Arabian stock, resulting in the loss of 143 precious mares. Yet, it was through the extraordinary selflessness and unwavering devotion of the breed's protectors that a vital core of this heritage was saved from total annihilation.

From the ruins of war, a total of only 59 purebred mares was rescued, subsequently consolidated into three state-owned sanctuaries: Albigowa, Nowy Dwór, and Klemensów-Michałów. Through meticulous stewardship, the maternal population steadily recovered, reaching 103 mares by 1955. This era of structural rebirth culminated in 1953 with the relocation of the Klemensów-Michałów stock to its permanent home in Michałów. It was accompanied by the comprehensive restoration of Janów Podlaski from its wartime devastation, paving the way for the historic transfer of



Andrzej Krzyształowicz and Marek Trela, May 1997 – the legendary director of Janów Podlaski State Stud and his successor, representing two generations of leadership at the historic breeding programme

horses from Albigowa and Nowy Dwór between 1960 and 1961, which allowed the herds to finally return to their pre-war home.

The post-war resurgence of Poland's Arabian horse breeding was defined by the zootechnical genius of two master visionaries, Andrzej Krzyształowicz and Ignacy Jaworowski – long-standing directors of the Janów Podlaski and Michałów State Studs respectively – who transformed a ruined national sub-sector into a global empire. Working behind the Iron Curtain under highly restrictive Communist regulations, and with severely limited tools and resources, they managed to shield their breeding programmes from local political pressures and



Ignacy Jaworowski with Estarda 1990 (Gadir – Estancja / Palas) – the master breeder photographed alongside one of his favourite and finest creations from the legendary Milordka line

Ignacy Jaworowski with Jerzy and Urszula Białobok – a historic stable moment at Michałów Stud, capturing the legendary director with the next generation of leadership

short-term commercial trends. Operating with a dangerously narrow gene pool, they skilfully line-bred the surviving stock to fix elite traits within generations without succumbing to the degradation of inbreeding depression. Through this precise genetic mastery, they were directly responsible for resurrecting and rebuilding the historic Milordka and Szamrajówka dam lines, ensuring the continuity of Poland's most precious maternal blueprints. This monumental lifelong work was later seamlessly continued at Michałów by Jerzy Białobok alongside his wife Urszula, while Marek Trela masterfully picked up the torch from Krzyształowicz at Janów Podlaski. Together, by adhering to rigorous state selection criteria, these two generations of

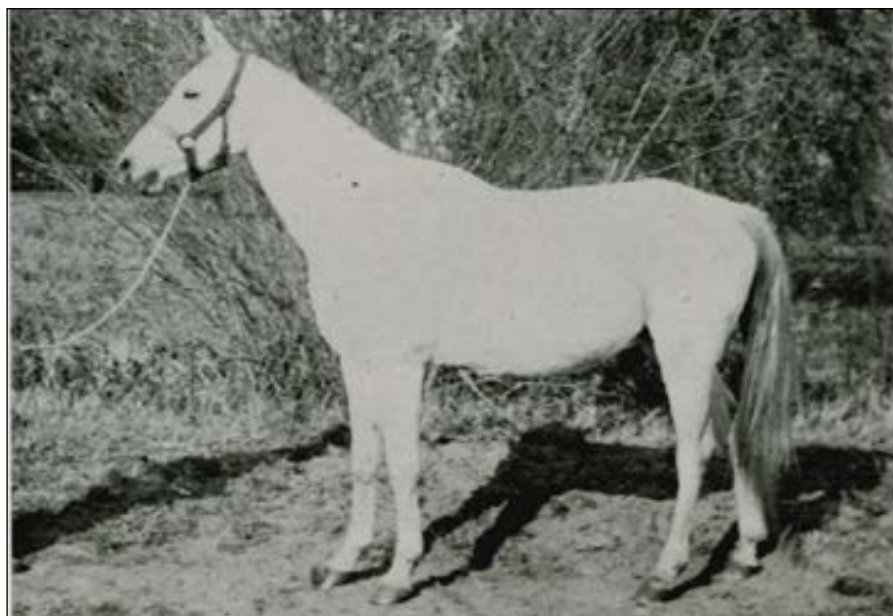
masters engineered a purebred phenomenon that eventually captivated international buyers and permanently redefined the global standard for the Arabian horse.

The Auction Age: Institutionalising the Global Prestige of the Polish Mare

In the late 1960s and 1970s, a dramatic economic awakening reshaped the destiny of Arabian horse breeding as wealthy foreign buyers discovered the undeniable superiority of these bloodlines. Here, the strategic brilliance of Polish breeders was demonstrated yet again: by transforming massive international demand into a rigorous quality filter, the state studs fiercely guarded their

finest maternal lines, exporting only a carefully selected fraction of their elite mares and fillies to ensure that the reservoir of Polish perfection would never run dry.

This overarching visionary strategy culminated in the institutionalisation of the market. The annual public auctions at Janów Podlaski became the ultimate structural filter, with the historic first live ring event taking place on 5 June 1970. This refined commercial system paved the way for unprecedented valuation milestones overseas, such as the unforgettable 1985 Polish Ovation Sale in Scottsdale, Arizona. Marking the historic first sale of Polish mares conducted in the United States directly on behalf of the Polish government, the event saw



Anielka 1909 (Amurath 1881 – Belgja / Mazepa) – one of the historic Radautz-bred foundation mares brought to the Janów Podlaski State Stud after World War I

Etola 1962 (Nabor – Ela / Miecznik) – A vital maternal link whose lineage led to elite producer Egzotyka 1982 and celebrated international champions Egna 1992 and Egzonera 1995

Janów's own Penicylina 1976 (Palas – Pentoda / Bandos) – a remarkable representative of the Szamrajówka dam line – command a record-shattering \$1,500,000 from the American billionaire David H. Murdock of the world-renowned Ventura Farms. This legendary valuation stood undefeated for decades, and later that same year, this gorgeous grey mare went on to capture the coveted title of US National Champion, instantly cementing the global financial supremacy of the Polish mare.

bred mare Anielka 1909. The long-term continuity of this maternal branch was solidified through her Nabor 1950 (Negatiw – Łagodna / Posejdon) daughter, Etola 1962, who founded a lasting maternal family. This lineage yielded the elite Egzotyka 1982 (Probat – Elana / Elf)

Egzotyka 1982 (Probat – Elana / Elf) – a pivotal foundation mare of her maternal line

Restoring Milordka: From Unpolished Gems to Global Sovereignty

Among the first monumental triumphs in rebuilding the shattered legacy of the Milordka family was the grey foundation mare Ela 1951, a prominent representative of the branch originating from the Radautz-



and reached a historic milestone through her two extraordinary grey daughters: the legendary international champion Egna 1992 (by Eukaliptus), who commanded a record-breaking \$120,000 at the 2001 Pride of Poland auction, and her younger maternal sister Egzonera 1995 (by Monogramm), a multi-titled champion who conquered arenas across both Poland and the United States.

Yet, the ultimate testament to the zootechnical genius and breeding intuition of Ignacy Jaworowski lies in the chestnut mare Estokada 1951 (Amurath Sahib – Saga / Hardy), the post-war matriarch of the Milordka branch that achieved global renown as the illustrious “E” dynasty of international champions. Stemming from the Radautz-bred mare Siglavy Bagdady 1908, this profound lineage narrowly escaped total extinction during the war, its entire future carried forward by a single, miraculous survivor – Estokada's dam, Saga.

Sired by Amurath Sahib 1932 – one of the most significant Polish post-war sires – Estokada scarcely conformed to the ethereal, textbook image of a delicate Arabian show horse.

Contemporary evaluators described her as remarkably brave, structurally deep, and highly athletic, yet visually unrefined and lacking the classic show standard. This robust conformation was likely inherited from Saga's sire, Hardy 1926. Although phenomenal on the racetrack and out of the priceless Gazella II 1914 (Koheilan DB – Abra



Egzonera 1995 (Monogramm – Egzotyka / Probat) – a shining jewel of her family, this multi-titled champion captivated show rings across both Poland and the United States

/ Anvil), Hardy was sired by Ganges I 1901 (Hindostan II – Lezginka / Obejan Szarak DB), a stallion noted for his stocky, heavy-boned build and lack of classic refinement.

However, what Estokada lacked in cosmetic polish, she more than compensated for with her sheer mechanical genius and vital force. Sent to the racetrack under the strict



Estokada 1951 (Amurath Sahib – Saga / Hardy) a monumental cornerstone of the Polish breeding programme, celebrated for establishing the esteemed “E” dynasty of champions

interwar standard, she completely dominated the turf, capturing the 1955 Oaks Stakes and the Criterium Stakes. In 1953, she was transferred alongside the entire Klemensów herd to Michałów Stud, where Director Ignacy Jaworowski immediately recognized her value.

Instead of dismissing her due to her rugged phenotype, Jaworowski exercised master-level zootechnical patience. He recognized that her iron constitution, powerful movement, and explosive racing stamina were the precise structural pillars required to revitalize this significant sub-branch of the distinguished Milordka line. In fact, the genetic evolution from Estokada – a rather plain foundation mare – to her modern descendants represents perhaps the most spectacular breeding progress in Arabian history, a transformation that elevated the Michałów State Stud to a global empire.

When paired with the refined, dry-typed Nabor 1950, Estokada produced three phenomenal full sisters, including the grey filly Estebna 1961. Estebna achieved what her dam never could: the ultimate synthesis of her mother's athletic power and her father's exquisite style, culminating in Poland's very first European Champion Title at Verden in 1973.

Even without the catastrophic consequences of war, breeders frequently faced formidable obstacles that severely limited the already-depleted genetic pool,



Estebna 1961 (Nabor – Estokada / Amurath Sahib) – Poland's historic first European Champion Mare



Estebna 1961 (Nabor – Estokada / Amurath Sahib) – an epoch-making mare, captured on the historic pastures of Michałów Stud

most notably the constant threat of devastating diseases. It was within this fragile environment that Estebna

perished prematurely in 1974, leaving just three daughters to carry on her legacy. Due to the early exportation



Elkana 1969 (Aquino – Estebna / Nabor) – imported by film director Mike Nichols to the United States, where she was celebrated as the 1972 U.S. National Champion Mare



Ernestyna 1989 (Piechur – Erwina / Palas) – the dignified dam of the undefeated "King of the Ring" Ekstern 1994

of the ethereal Elkana 1969 (by Aquino) – who left Poland at age of two to become a US National Champion and two-time Canadian Reserve National Champion – only two daughters remained to continue the line in Polish breeding. Despite this narrow genetic bottleneck, this powerhouse tail-female line led directly to the priceless broodmare Ernestyna 1989 (Piechur – Erwina / Palas), the dam of the legendary, undefeated show champion stallion Ekstern 1994 (by Monogramm). Although Ekstern could not directly extend the maternal line himself, he indelibly stamped his progeny with his finest qualities, leaving behind an unparalleled collection of daughters. This elite producing power of Estebna's family found a modern echo in Ekstern's classy

chestnut daughter, Ekliptyka 2003 (out of Ekspozycja / Eukaliptus). Doubly line-bred to Eskapada on both sides of her precious pedigree, this fifth-generation descendant cemented her legacy by foaling the phenomenal bay Equator 2010 (by QR Marc), a stallion who went on to capture the ultimate honour of World Platinum Champion Stallion in 2021.

Yet, the true renaissance of this female line flourished through Estokada's older daughter, Eskapada 1960, and her granddaughter Emisja 1974 (Carycyn – Espada / Aquino). Much like Estebna, Emisja died prematurely, leaving behind just a single daughter for Polish breeding. However, that lone daughter – Emigracja 1980 (by Palas), the legendary "mother of mares" – would



Emisja 1974 (Carycyn – Espada / Aquino) – a priceless link in the preservation of her lineage as the dam of the legendary Emigracja



Ekliptyka 2003 (Ekstern – Ekspozycja / Eukaliptus) with her bay foal Equator 2010 (by QR Marc) – the elegant Michałów matron alongside her phenomenal colt – a future recipient of the World Platinum Stallion title



Emigracja 1980 (Palas – Emisja / Carycyn) – a monumental Michałów matron pictured at 26 years old, still embodying the unparalleled genetic strength that would forever alter the course of modern Arabian horse breeding

alter equine history. While Emigracja's own personal show career could scarcely be called spectacular – earning the single notable title of Polish National Reserve Champion Senior Mare in 1991 – her true greatness lay in the breeding barn, where her female descendants systematically dominated the world's most prestigious show arenas and auction rings. As a fitting tribute to this monumental legacy, the beloved matriarch of Michałów was justly awarded the prestigious WAHO Trophy for outstanding individuals of the Arabian breed in 2006. While documenting the complete catalogue of her successful offspring lies beyond the scope of this article, a prime example of this genetic power is the multi-continental icon El Dorada 1998 (Sanadik El Shaklan

– Emigrantka / Eukaliptus), whose legendary accolades include Polish National, European, All Nations Cup, and US National Champion Senior Mare honours, alongside the

coveted titles of World Reserve and World Bronze Champion Mare. The immense global demand for this elite female line was spectacularly mirrored at the 2005 Pride of Poland



El Dorada 1998 (Sanadik El Shaklan – Emigrantka / Eukaliptus) crowned the 2012 World Bronze Champion Mare



Emanacja 1986 (Eukaliptus – Emigracja / Palas) – a legendary champion whose profound beauty and genetic legacy laid the foundation for generations of global superstars



Elandra 1995 (Monogramm – Erlanda / Eukaliptus) – captured at Janów Podlaski during the unforgettable 2005 Pride of Poland, where this magnificent mare made headlines as the highest-selling horse of the auction



Emanda 1996 (Ecaho – Emanacja / Eukaliptus) – the magnificent 2001 World Senior Champion Mare, pictured commanding the ring with the timeless type and athletic majesty of the Michałów ideal

Emandoria 2004 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Emanda / Ecaho) – a vision of timeless grace, the enchantingly beautiful multi-champion is pictured adorned with the ultimate crown of 2018 World Platinum Champion Mare

auction, where El Dorada's close cousin, Elandra 1995 (Monogramm – Erlanda / Eukaliptus), sold to the United States for a record-breaking €290,000.

The pinnacle of global acclaim and commercial value for this family, however, belongs to the illustrious branch of Emigracja's daughter, Emanacja 1986 (by Eukaliptus) – herself a celebrated World Reserve Champion Junior Filly and foundation of show ring royalty. This golden lineage beautifully progressed through her daughter, Emanda 1996 (by Ecaho), who secured the title of World Champion Senior Mare in 2001. Emanda then gave the world the enchantingly beautiful Emandoria 2004 (by Gazal Al Shaqab), one of the most highly decorated mares in the history of the Arabian breed, whose career culminated in the ultra-exclusive crown of World Platinum Champion Mare in 2018.



Emandoria 2004 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Emanda / Ecaho) – a breathtaking masterpiece of type and charisma, captured during her gold victory at the 2013 All Nations Cup in Aachen



Emilda 1990, Emanacja 1986, Emigrantka 1985, and Emigracja 1980 (left to right) - three generations of unmatched maternal power - the supreme queen of Michałów alongside her two daughters and a granddaughter

The unparalleled breeding strength of Emanacja's line is equally exemplified through her firstborn daughter, Emilda 1990 (by Pamir), who became a monumental producer of show ring excellence. Emilda gave birth to two extraordinary Monogramm daughters: the ethereal Emmona 1998, who reached the ultimate peak as World Champion Junior Filly, and her gorgeous older sister, Embra 1995, the direct dam of the multi-champion mare Emira 2000 (by Laheeb), who among other prestigious accolades, proudly added another World Champion title to the family's legacy.

Ultimately, the jaw-dropping financial power of this branch reached its absolute historical peak through Emandoria's grand-progeny, the exceptional El Esmera 2018 (Sahm El Arab - Esmeraldia /



Emilda 1990 (Pamir - Emanacja / Eukaliptus) - a monumental producer of show ring excellence

QR Marc). After being crowned the 2022 Polish National Gold Champion Senior Mare and Best in Show, El Esmera entered the auction ring at the 2023 Pride of Poland, where she

was sold to the United Arab Emirates for a staggering sum of €810,000 - cementing her family as the ultimate golden asset of modern Arabian horse breeding.



Emmona 1998 (Monogramm – Emilda / Pamir) – capturing the Polish National Silver Champion Mare title in 2010



Emmona 1998 (Monogramm – Emilda / Pamir) – showcasing her legendary, ground-covering trot



El Esmera 2018 (Sahm El Arab – Esmeraldia / QR Marc) – the undisputed high-seller of the 2023 Pride of Poland auction, sold to the UAE for €810,000



Emira 2000 (Laheeb – Embra / Monogramm) – a vision of breathtaking type and ethereal presence and the 2014 World Bronze Champion Senior Mare

Restoring Szamrajówka: How a Solitary Mare Sparked Global Supremacy

Meanwhile, while the Michałów State Stud was busy rebuilding and elevating the Milordka line, Janów Podlaski was meticulously restoring the priceless Szamrajówka family. This historic reestablishment of the legendary "P" line through the sole Tersk-bred foundation mare Piewica 1953 triggered an era of absolute global hegemony, producing some of the highest-scoring and most expensive Arabian horses in history. Upon joining the Albigowa broodmare band, Piewica's physical appearance stood out as a stark contrast to the rest of the herd, as Soviet selection and management systems prioritized a phenotype vastly different from the traditional Polish standard. Yet, her



Piewica 1953 (Priboj – Włodarka / Ofir) – a monumental foundation mare of Janów Podlaski Stud, celebrated as the maternal anchor behind the modern "P" line

true value lay hidden beneath the surface; she possessed an invaluable genetic potential that, when combined with the right stallions, completely

transformed the future of the breed.

Tracing down through Piewica's iconic World Champion granddaughter Pilarka 1975 (Palas – Pierzga / Negatiw),



Pilarka 1975 (Palas – Pierzga / Negatiw) – a close-up portrait of the European and World Champion Mare, showcasing the classic refinement of Janów Podlaski Stud's Szamrajówka line



Pilarka 1975 (Palas – Pierzga / Negatiw) – the European and World Champion Mare pictured in her signature ground-covering trot



Pianissima 2003 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Pianosa / Eukaliptus), Janów Podlaski 2012 - the iconic mare presented in the arena during the ceremony honouring her as the WAHO Trophy recipient



Pianissima 2003 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Pianosa / Eukaliptus) – the epitome of pure perfection

the line birthed Pianissima 2003 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Pianosa / Eukaliptus) – a flawless bay phenomenon who took the international show rings by storm, winning every yearling competition

unanimously. She made history as the first horse to capture the European Triple Crown as both a junior and a senior, ultimately crowning her career as the world's inaugural

World Platinum Champion Mare. Her extraordinary market power was cemented in 2009 when her single embryo fetched a record-breaking €175,000 at public auction.

Pinga 2004
(Gazal Al Shaqab – Pilar / Fawor)
and Pianissima 2003
(Gazal Al Shaqab – Pianosa / Eukaliptus)
a magnificent portrait capturing
the very finest of the Szamrajówka line.
Standing side by side at Janów Podlaski
in 2008, these close cousins and Platinum
World Champions represent the ultimate
pinnacle of Polish Arabian horse breeding

This standard of perfection was mirrored by her close cousin Pinga 2004 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Pilar / Fawor), who earned a historic, unmatched score of 96.33 points to become Polish National Champion Junior Filly and Best in Show, before going on to conquer the globe as a World Gold and World Platinum Champion Mare. Alongside these two icons, Palmeta 2001 (Ecaho – Pilica / Fawor) completed an elite triumvirate – the sole three mares in history to win Polish National Champion and Best in Show in both junior and senior categories. This legendary trio's shared excellence was appropriately recognized by the World Arabian Horse Organization; Palmeta was honoured with the prestigious WAHO Trophy for outstanding ambassadors of the Arabian breed in 2015, a distinction also awarded to Pianissima three years prior in 2012, and later to Pinga in 2017.



Pinga 2004 (Gazal Al Shaqab – Pilar / Fawor) – the celebrated Platinum World Champion Mare captured in full motion, showcasing the powerful trot characteristic of her lineage



Palmeta 2001 (Ecaho – Pilica / Fawor) with her chestnut filly Patria 2012 (by Eden C) – the WAHO Trophy winner pictured with her daughter, a future Polish National Silver Junior Champion

Penicylina 1976 (Palas – Pentoda / Bandos) – a highly decorated Janów Podlaski mare who made history in 1985 when she was purchased for a record-breaking \$1.5 million at the Polish Ovation Sale in Scottsdale



Pentoda 1970 (Bandos – Piewica / Priboj) – a pivotal Janów Podlaski foundation matriarch whose elite maternal legacy includes her legendary daughter, Penicylina



Beyond unparalleled show ring supremacy, another branch of the family tracing from Piewica through Pentoda 1970 (by Bandos)

established staggering financial benchmarks at the Pride of Poland auctions. This modern-day economic dominance heavily mirrored the

foundational success of Pentoda's firstborn daughter, Penicylina 1976, whose historic triumph at the Polish Ovation Sale had set the precedent

Pepita 2005 (Ekstern – Pepesza / Eukaliptus), Dubai 2019 – the record-shattering €1.4 million mare pictured winning the Senior Gold Champion Mare title at DIAHC

three decades prior. Building upon that legendary standard, the sensational Pepita 2005 (Ekstern – Pepesza / Eukaliptus), nicknamed 'Wonder Pepita' after capturing the highest senior titles across Europe and the Middle East, commanded a monumental, historic record price of €1,400,000 in 2015. Her success was heavily rivalled by her charismatic Biatka-bred cousin Perfinka 2011 (Esparto – Perfirka / Gazal Al Shaqab) – descending from Perforacja 1986 (Ernal – Pentoza / Ellorus), widely regarded as the finest broodmare in Biatka's 40-year history. Perfinka captured the coveted US Triple Crown in 2020 by sweeping gold at the US Nationals, Arabian Breeders World Cup, and Scottsdale, which drove her public auction price to an astonishing €1,250,000, forever establishing Piewica's descendants as the ultimate global icons of the breed.



Perfinka 2011 (Esparto – Perfirka / Gazal Al Shaqab) – the exceptional Biatka Stud-bred multi-champion mare, pictured during her historic, undefeated US Triple Crown winning streak

The Heartbeat of Resilience - Dynasties Beyond Time

To gaze upon a pure Polish mare in full, explosive motion is to look directly into the eyes of history. The mesmerizing presence we witness today in the world's most exclusive show rings is not merely an aesthetic triumph; it is a profound zootechnical victory over annihilation. When you listen to the rhythmic thunder of a Michałów or Janów mare galloping through the pastures, you are listening to a heartbeat that refused to stop when the plundered estates of Stawuta burned to the ground,

when the true Polish treasures were transported into exile at Tersk, and when the bombs rained down on the roads of Dresden.

Show ring royalty such as El Dorada, Emandoria, Pinga, and Pianissima does not belong to the shifting trends of modern commerce – they belong to the master-men and quiet heroes who shielded this genetic blueprint with their own lives. They belong to a long, unbroken line of Polish horsemen who understood that while stallions are the passing architects of a generation, the womb of the mare is the eternal sanctuary of the breed.

Dynasties and empires have fallen across Europe, but the sovereign maternal blueprints of Szamrajówka and Milordka endure, unyielding and absolute. They stand as a timeless reminder that true perfection cannot be manufactured; it is a legacy that survived the storms of history – sometimes hanging by the thread of a single mare – saved only through both the bravery and the zootechnical genius of those who refused to let it perish. Thus, the fire that threatened to consume them transmuted into a light that continues to illuminate the global stage through the timeless perfection of the Polish mare. ♦

Bibliography:

- Chmiel, Krystyna. (2007). *One tworzyły piękno (They created beauty)*. Warsaw: BB Publishing.
- Chmiel, Krystyna. (2017). *Polska hodowla koni arabskich czystej krwi (1979-2016) i jej sukcesy na świecie (Polish purebred Arabian horse breeding (1979-2016) and its successes worldwide)*. Warsaw: Agricultural Property Agency.
- Chmiel, Krystyna, & Dorota Sobczuk. (2010). Estimation of racing performance of Polish purebred Arabian horses winning title shows. *Annals of the Polish Zootechnical Society*, vol. 6, no. 1.
- Jaworowski, Ignacy. (1968). Stadnina koni arabskich w Michałowie (The Arabian horse stud in Michałów). *Koń Polski*, no. 2.
- Krzyształowicz, Andrzej. (1967). *Stadnina Koni Janów Podlaski (The Janów Podlaski State Stud)*. Monograph 4. Warsaw: Industrial Agricultural and Forestry Publishing House.
- Pankiewicz, Roman. (1979). *The purebred Arab horse in Poland*. Warsaw: Animex.
- Pankiewicz, Roman. (1989). *The breeding of purebred Arabian horses in Poland in their genealogical charts 1983-1986*. Privately printed.
- Pankiewicz, Roman. (2002). *Polska hodowla koni czystej krwi arabskiej 1918-1939 (Polish purebred Arabian horse breeding 1918-1939)*. Warsaw: Petroniusz Frejlich.
- Piechocki, Tadeusz. (1924). *Konie krwi orjentalnej i ich hodowla w Polsce (Oriental horses and their breeding in Poland)*, part I. Poznań: Privately printed.
- Polish Jockey Club. (2021). *Polska księga stadna koni arabskich czystej krwi (Polish Arabian stud book)*, Vol. XVIII – 4. Warsaw: Polish Jockey Club.
- Pruski, Witold. (1948). *Dzieje Państwowej Stadniny w Janowie Podlaskim 1817-1939 (The history of the State Stud at Janów Podlaski 1817-1939)*. Poznań: Poznań Society of Friends of Learning (Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Biological Committee, Vol. XI, No. 2).
- Pruski, Witold. (1980). *Wyścigi i hodowla koni pełnej krwi oraz czystej krwi arabskiej w Polsce w latach 1918-1939 (Horse racing and breeding of thoroughbreds and purebred Arabians in Poland in the years 1918-1939)*. Wrocław: Ossolineum.
- Pruski, Witold. (1983). *Dwa wieki polskiej hodowli koni arabskich (1778-1978) i jej sukcesy na świecie (Two centuries of Polish Arabian horse breeding (1778-1978) and its successes worldwide)*. Warsaw: Industrial Agricultural and Forestry Publishing House.
- Skorkowski, Edward. (1930). *Koń arabski w Polsce / The Arab horse in Poland / Le cheval arabe en Pologne*. Warsaw: Arabian Horse Breeding Society.