
El Thay Mahfouz

2003 - 2023

His influence at El Thayeba

by Betty Finke and Klaus Beste

Photos: Betty Finke, Gigi Grasso, Joanna Jonientz, Martin Kubat, Jennifer Ogden

When the stallion El Thay Mahfouz died last year, only a few days short of his 20th birthday, he left a huge hole both in the heart and the breeding program of his breeder and owner, Cornelia Tauschke. The culmination of decades of breeding and planning, he was everything a breeder could hope for: a horse of almost transcendent beauty, a trusted companion under saddle, and a prepotent sire whose influence shaped the El Thayeba stud for the past two decades.



El Thay Mahfouz with his breeder and owner Cornelia Tauschke - Photo taken short after his 20. birthday by Joanna Jonientz



El Thay Mahfouz (Ansata Selman x El Thay Mahfouza by El Thay Ibn Halim Shah and El Thay Mansoura)
in front of the mare barn - Photo taken by Gigi Grasso in 2007



El Thay Konouz (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Kamla by El Thay Mashour) with filly by Naseem Al Rashediah (Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Nabaweyyah Ezzain)



El Thay Kenana (Ajmal Tameen x El Thay Konouz by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Kamla)

It is actually a miracle this horse even existed.

Back in 1977, the late Dr. Hans-Jörg Tauschke purchased his great-granddam, Momtaza, from the Bábolna State Stud of Hungary. Bred by the Egyptian State Stud El Zahraa, Momtaza was a rare Sameh daughter out of Mamlouka by Nazeer, from the Kohailan Rodan family. She was a beautiful mare; not with the extremely dished face favoured these days, but with the biggest, most beautiful eyes you could imagine.

But there was one problem. After she had produced her first daughter at Bábolna, Momtaza wouldn't get in foal again.



El Thay Kadira Al Sabah (El Thay Kais Al Sabah x El Thay Kenana by Ajmal Tameen and El Thay Konouz - El Thay Mahfouz)

When several years had passed with nothing to show, she was put up for sale.

Dr. Tauschke, however, never shied away from a challenge. He bought not just one, but two presumably infertile Egyptian mares from Bábolna: El Thayeba and Momtaza. While El Thayeba remained barren, leaving the stud only her name, Momtaza rose to the challenge and produced her second and last daughter: a look-alike grey filly that was named Morawa. Just to make things even more miraculous, Morawa's sire, Nizam, was also thought to be sterile at the time.

Morawa, then, was a true miracle filly: by a supposedly infertile stallion out



El Thay Kalila (El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Konouz by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Kamla)



El Thay Kamounah (El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Kahila by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Kamla) owned by Amir Barakat

of a supposedly barren mare. Less surprisingly, she was a keeper and never left the stud. As a broodmare, she was everything her dam was not, producing seven daughters and three sons (by eight different stallions). All of them bred on. Momtaza's family became one of the mainstays of the El Thayeba breeding program, and both Morawa and her eldest daughter were honored with the "Elite" title by the German registry.

Five of Morawa's daughters became El Thayeba broodmares, but only one, the oldest, was retained her entire life, becoming one of the stud's most treasured mares: the beautiful chestnut El Thay Mansoura (by Machmut). Most



El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Khadija by El Thay Mashour) with chest. filly by NK Laziz (NK Nabhan x NK Lateefa)

of her foals were colts, the best-known being the stallion El Thay Mameluk (by Ibn Nazeema). He stood for a while at El Thayeba, was leased to Momtaza's former home, Bábolna, and eventually exported to Kuwait. Mansoura's first filly died before she could produce any foals, but the next one, El Thay Mahfouza, was another keeper. She was sired by the homebred stallion El Thay Ibn Halim Shah, and it was she who became the dam of El Thay Mahfouz. It should be noted here that, although many horses of this family were sold, this core family line – Morawa, El Thay Mansoura, El Thay Mahfouza, and indeed El Thay Mahfouz himself – remained at El Thayeba their entire lives. You don't often find that, these days.



El Thay Kahila (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Kamla by El Thay Mashour)



El Thay Mahfouz (Photo by Gigi Grasso in 2011)



El Thay Mazyouna (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malikah by Ansata Selman) with colt by NK Laziz (NK Nabhan x NK Lateefa)



El Thay Komeirah Al Sabah (NK Nabhan x El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Khadija)

El Thay Mahfouz's sire was Ansata Selman (Ansata Hejazi x G Shafaria by Prince Fa Moniet). He has been acknowledged as the most significant sire used at El Thayeba since Ansata Halim Shah, who was his grandsire. Cornelia Tauschke first saw him as a 2-year-old at Al Rayyan Stud in Qatar and was impressed by his presence and his excellent movement, as well as the overall longer lines coming from Prince Fa Moniet, which she felt she needed for her horses. In 2002 she was able to lease him and bring him to Germany, where he was awarded a gold premium on registration. He stayed for the next four years, first on lease and eventually

purchased in exchange for the homebred stallion El Thay Mashour, before he was sold on to Al Waab Stud in Qatar. During his four years at El Thayeba, he left a rich legacy our four daughters of two sons. Of these, El Thay Mahfouz was arguably his greatest achievement.

El Thay Mahfouza had been following in der dam's footsteps by producing one colt after another, of which the first was exported and the next two gelded. She was among the first mares bred to Ansata Selman in 2002.

When her fourth foal arrived in 2003, it was yet another colt, but this one was

different. Cornelia immediately knew he was special. He had that something extra, a certain charm and grace that captured the hearts of all who saw him. He was one of two colts by Ansata Selman retained as future stallions, the other being El Thay Melek (out of El Thay Maheera). Both of them were eventually registered as breeding stallions, and both were used as sires. But while Melek sired just a handful of horses before being gelded and becoming a riding horse, Mahfouz went on to become the sire that took El Thayeba into the 21st century.

He was shown lightly as a youngster by Johanna Ullström and brought home a



El Thay Mofida (El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Mazyouna by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Malikah)

few ribbons, but he never was a proper show horse. He needed time to mature. Then, like all stallions at El Thayeba, he was broken to saddle by Cornelia and regularly taken out on rides, often accompanied by other family members. He always behaved impeccably when ridden, even in the company of mares.

But his real strength was as a breeding stallion. Seven of his daughters were retained as broodmares, and the herd at El Thayeba today is very much his creation. He reliably passed on his exquisite refinement and huge eyes, making his daughters easy to recognize, although – with the exception of two



El Thay Kais Al Sabah (El Thay Karim Shah x El Thay Kateefa by El Thay Mahfouz)



El Thay Mahfouz at the Noble Festival 2017 at Sham Stables, The Netherlands



El Thay Mahfouz with Cornelia Tauschke on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of El Thayeba Arabians in Aug. 2021. His bronze sculpture created by Nicole Sachs was unveiled

full sisters – they were all out of different mares.

The two full sister El Thay Konouz and El Thay Kahila are out of El Thay Kamla (El Thay Mashour x Kamla II), from the stud's arguably most successful dam line, tracing to the Dahmah Shahwanieh strain through Moheba II. Both of them have produced several daughters, Konouz's most recent one being a 2024 filly by Naseem Al Rashediah. Her daughter El Thay Kenana has produced two exquisite fillies that are linebred to El Thay Mahfouz, of which the older one is being retained. They are sired by the stud's young homebred stallion El Thay



El Thay Toya (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Taqiyah by Ansata Selman and El Thay Tiffany)

Kais Al Sabah, who is out of another Mahfouz daughter, El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah, from the same dam line. He has the most spectacular movements and has already sired some exquisite foals. His dam El Thay Kateefa Al Sabah has also produced the ultra-typey young mare El Thay Komeira Al Sabah, by NK Nabhan. El Thay Mazyouna (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malikah by Ansata Selman) was the result of breeding El Thay Mahfouz to his paternal half-sister. She was very successful at shows as a filly and has produced two daughters for the stud. Her daughter El Thay Mofida (by El Thay Karim Shah) is expecting her first foal this year.



El Thay Thamiyan (NK Nabhan x El Thay Toya by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Taqiyah) owned by Mr. Ali Saleh Abuasi, Palestine



El Thay Mahfouz (Photo by Martin Kubat in 2013)



El Thay Munifa (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malakah
by El Thay Mashour x El Thay Mahfouza)



El Thay Mouna Al Ryah (Nader Halim x El Thay Mayassa by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Magidaa)

El Thay Toya (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Taqiyah by Ansata Selman) is another successful result of breeding Mahfouz to a Selman daughter, and she is the mare Cornelia has named as the closest to her ideal she has every bred. It's easy to see why. With her ethereal beauty and big, soulful eyes, Toya is the very image of her sire and possibly the most beautiful mare at the stud. Her family, that of Venus/Hadban Enzahi through Taghreed, was nearly gone from the stud at one time. If it had not been for Toya, it may well have been, so the credit for reviving it belongs to El Thay Mahfouz.

El Thay Munifa (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malakah) is another example of successful linebreeding with Mahfouz, her sire and dam being maternal half-siblings out of El Thay Mahfouza. The



El Thay Maniha (Nader Halim x El Thay Maha by El Thay Mahfouz and El Thay Malakah) owned by Bait Al Arab, Kuwait



El Thay Maha (El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay Malakah by El Thay Mashour) x El Thay Mahfouza) owned by Caren Salden, Carsal Arabians



El Thay Mayassa
(El Thay Mahfouz x El Thay
Magidaa by El Thay Mameluk)
with chest. colt by NK Laziz
(NK Nabhan x NK Lateefa)

Jonas Ojsten

result was yet another exquisite mare who is now the mainstay of her dam line at the stud.

And last not least El Thay Mayassa, the only chestnut among them, but no less beautiful. She is out of El Thay Magidaa by El Thay Mameluk, which makes her double Momtaza. Cornelia hopes that she and her daughter, El Thay Mounah Al Ryah, will carry on the stud's branch of the Moniet El Nefous dam line through Mahiba.

Though he did sire two registered breeding stallions out of outside mares,



Daughters of El Thay Mahfouz with Cornelia Tauschke and her daughter Viktoria

El Thay Mahfouz was first and foremost an excellent broodmare sire who left a legacy of wonderful daughters. Nearly all of them were bred at El Thayeba. Mahfouz was never much advertised at stud and bred only a few outside mares. There was some interest in leasing him, especially from the Near and Middle East, where many of his get of exported. But Cornelia would not part with him, even temporarily. He only rarely left the farm, to be presented on special occasions such as the Noble Straight Egyptian Breeders Festival, and on such occasions, she always handled him herself.

"He was happiest when he was at home,"

says Cornelia's partner, Klaus Beste.

*"He was a very sweet horse with a wonderful temperament.
A gentleman among horses."*



الطيبة
El Thayeba
Straight Egyptian Arabians

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