

Salaa El Dine

Chief Sire Number One

by Monika Savier, Leigh Jamieson

Photos: Erwin Escher, Gigi Grasso, Glenn Jacobs, Joanna Jonientz, Dr. Hans Nagel archive, Monika Savier, Rik van Lent Sr. and Jr.

“Every stallion I use needs to have outstanding potential for improving my breeding. You can’t always know that, sometimes you just have to give it a try”

(Dr. Hans Nagel, 2003, Katharinenhof)

All his life, the stallion Salaa El Dine (1983 –2007) had a private as well as a public function. The private one was his role as Chief Sire Number One at Katharinenhof Stud, in Germany. The stallion was an important element in the breeding concept of Dr. Nagel, for many years and the current President of the World Arabian Horse Organisation, “WAHO“. From an early stage, Dr. Nagel had translated his passion for Arabian horses into a strategy. He was determined to fulfil a desire of his, planning to maintain the famous but critically endangered horse population of the Arabian peoples in the South of the Arabian peninsula, the Nejd region, and to revive the breed in his stud. Salaa El Dine, one of the “essential elements” of this genetic concept, was greatly successful in living up to that role. Even whilst alive, he became hugely popular – without ever having made an appearance at an Arabian show. His excellent offspring more than served to establish his fame in five continents.

His public function as a sire – with his gene pool used by mare owners from many countries, all trying to achieve successes similar to those his breeder Dr. Nagel had achieved - was marked by great and small successes, as well as occasional failures, just as is the case with all publicly serving sires. Salaa El Dine was, however, by no means a closed book, as there were detailed “directions for his use” to be read in Dr. Nagel’s book “Hanan, the Story of an Arabian Mare”, which was written in the 1990’s and was precise and fitting on the subject of Salaa El Dine.

Salaa El Dine was something special. In contrast to most famous stallions, he was neither a projection of the vanities of his owner, nor a money making vehicle, and he was also not just a lucky strike. He was the last foal of Hanan and was sired by Ansa-ta Halim Shah, destined for a special role in the long-term experiment taking place at Dr. Nagel’s Katharinenhof Stud located near

Bremen in Northern Germany.

At the beginning of the 1970’s, Dr. Nagel imported his exotic foundation mare Hanan and three other mares, but with less influence, from El Zahraa near Cairo, taking a circuitous route to Germany via Babolna in Hungary, and founding Katharinenhof stud with them. Hanan’s first foal, Ibn Galal I by Ibn Galal, was born in 1972 while she was still stabled in Hungary. She produced 11 foals in all, three of whom have made priceless contributions, not only to the future of Katharinenhof, but also to Straight Egyptians throughout the world. These three horses were Ghazala (by the Bukra son Ghazal), Jamil (by Madkour I), and Salaa El Dine (by the peerless Ansata Halim Shah).

Two other Madkour 1 daughters, Arussa and Ameera, made significant but lesser contributions, and two other sons - Ibn Galal I (by Ibn Galal) and Asfour (by Malik) - became great sires at their



Salaa El Dine (1985, Ansata Halim Shah x Hanan) - Gigi Grasso



Ansata Halim Shah (Ansata Ibn Halima x Ansata Rosetta) - Rick van Lent Jr.



Hanan (Alaa El Dine x Mona)



Hanan (1967, Alaa El Dine x Mona) - Rik van Lent



Alaa El Dine (1956, Nazeer x Kateefa)



Mona (1956, Badr x Mahdia)

respective stud farms of Babolna in Hungary and Simeon Stud in Australia. That means that at least 7 out of her 11 foals became outstanding horses and breeding animals – a record surely unmatched by any other mare in history.

In addition to Hanan's Obeyyan line, one of the other strains that interested Dr. Nagel was the Dahman Shahwan line of the mare Bukra, but there were no suitable horses of that family left in El Zahraa, the best mares having been

imported into the USA by Judith Forbis.

In the course of time, Dr. Nagel realized certain improvements needed to be made in his breeding programme in order to reach his goal. He had been able to



Nashua (Salaa El Dine x Lotfeia).
Bred by H.J. Nagel - Erwin Escher



NK Nariman (Salaa El Dine x Amrullah)



Safir (Salaa El Dine x Aisha). Bred by H.J. Nagel

search through many Arabian countries, through the USA and Europe, and had defined his breeding goal according to what he had seen. He had a clear mental picture of the standard he was aspiring to, and for him, the only horses that came close to the ideal he was seeking were to be found at El Zah-rra, but he definitely wanted to arrive at his goal, and he would not leave anything to chance until he had reached that ideal. So he wanted his Arabian horses to have the following features:

- they must have a chiselled Arabian face with big black eyes and black skin,

- they must have good tail carriage, elevated during every movement,
- they must have very good movement, and
- they must have a docile and friendly character.

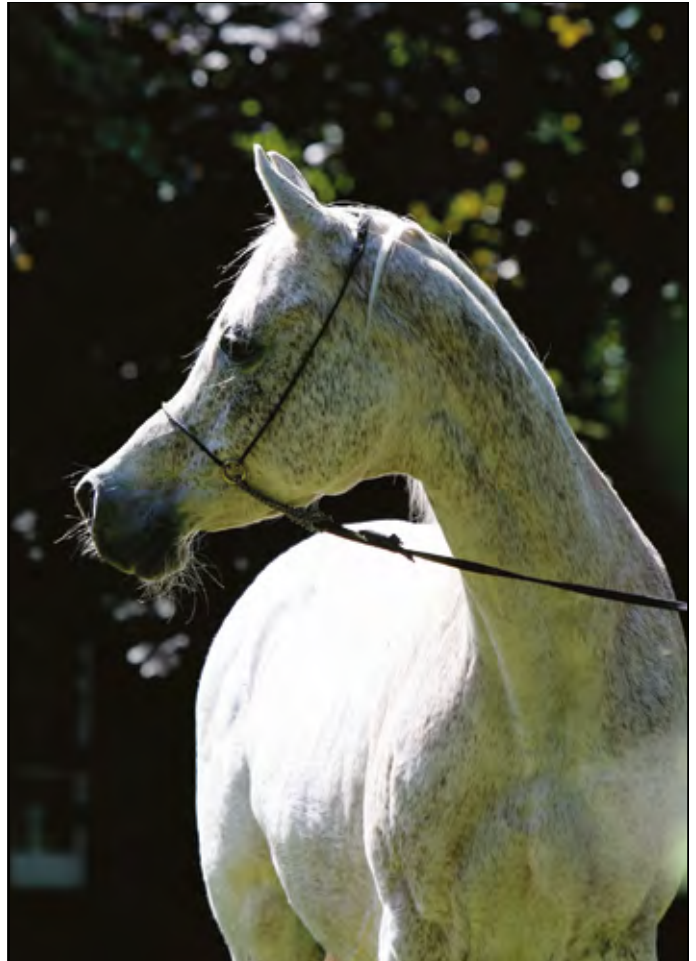
He intended to improve the body overall as well, having become aware that his breeding stock could do with a better croup and shoulder. Based on that assessment, he re-ali-sed that not only did some of his horses require improvement in these areas, but that it was a general

problem of most of the Egyptian horses. His logical conclu-sion was to start a systematic search for a stallion who was able to improve these as-pects, finding him in 1983 in the two year-old Ansata Halim Shah of Judith Forbis' Ansata Stud in the USA. He brought him to Katharinenhof Stud for two years, and, in exchange, sent Jamil, the son of Hanan and Madkour I, to the US. The decision was a milestone in Egyptian Arabian horse breeding, and the results were to change the looks of Egyptian Arabians throughout the world.

Jamil was intended to be the perfect



Salaa El Dine (Ansata Halim Shah x Hanan)



Ansata Ken Ranya (Salaa El Dine x Ansata Prima Rose)

match for the Katharinenhof mares after return-ing from America, but he died young and mysteriously. So once again, Dr. Nagel needed to find a fitting stallion to re-place his leading sire, when Hanan, who had been served by Ansata Halim Shah, gave birth to her last foal, little Salaa El Dine. Ansata Halim Shah, as well as his sire Ansata Ibn Halim, and his grandsire Nazeer were stallions who could produce good mares as well as good stallions. Lat-er on, Salaa El Dine was to follow in those footsteps, proving to be an outstanding sire of offspring of both sexes, and these were soon to be found, not only at Katharinen-hof Stud,

but also outside of it. Few other stallion before him ever influenced overall breeding as extensively as he did.

Having an outstanding Ansata Halim Shah son in Salaa El Dine to put over his mares, Dr. Nagel made a decision not to dou-ble up on mares with Ansata Halim Shah blood, but, rather, to put Salaa El Dine over Jamil daughters, as he believed that Jamil's daughters would be perfectly com-plemented by the infusion of Ansata Halim Shah blood. In order to fix the superb type of Hanan's sons and daughters, Dr. Nagel experimented with putting Hanan's

sons over Hanan's daughters, initially using Ja-mil, and after his death, Salaa El Dine. The results were astonishing. To Ameera, he produced Nahaman, a handsome steel grey stallion whose grey daughter NK Nabeelah (out of Nashua) was a leading broodmare at Katharinenhof until her untimely death in 2011. Her full sister, the lovely bay Bint Nashua, is an important broodmare for the El Adiyat Stud of Mahmood Al Zubaid in Kuwait. To Ghazala, Salaa El Dine pro-duced the magnificent grey stallion Adnan,

whose daughters are revered and much



Radames (Salaa El Dine x Ansata Rebecca)
Owned by Al Amin Stud, Cairo, Egypt



Mia Mouna (Salaa El Dine x TB Basma).
Bred and Owned by Cristin Ten Haaf - Joanna Jonientz

sought after around the world today. Nashua (Salaa El Dine x Lotfeia) produced a series of lovely fillies by Nahaman, of which NK Nabeelah and Bint Nashua were the pick. She also nicked brilliantly with the Salaa El Dine son Adnan to produce three exquisite grey daughters in NK Nasrin, NK Nadirah and N.K. Nada. Both NK Nasrin and NK Nadirah have been retained by Dr. Nagel and are probably his best broodmares. N.K. Nada went to the very impressive Ezzain Stud of Usamah Al Kazemi in Kuwait, and was sold recently for a king's ransom to Al Wahab Stud in Qatar. Nashua became an outstanding broodmare for the tastefully designed and beautifully laid out Ajmal Stud of Mohammed J.K. Al Marzouk in Kuwait. We need, at this point, to step back in time to Salaa El Dine, and to examine the influence that this stallion has had on both Katharinenhof and on a world wide basis. Here, we can only deal with his influence on the future of

Katharinenhof, but it should be pointed out that he was also the sire of many outstanding horses for other breeders around the world, such as RN Farida (from the Hadban Enzahi daughter Noha), one of the most beautiful mares ever born, and the signature mare at Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar. RN Farida is also the dam of the superlative young sire Safir Al Rayyan by Ashhal Al Rayyan, a grand-son of Salaa El Dine.

Salaa El Dine only sired 54 foals for Dr. Nagel, but what a list it was! Nejd, Nahaman, Adnan, and so on. Apart from the impossibly beautiful three daughters from Nashua already mentioned, Adnan sired other lovely mares in NK Yasmin (out of Helala, and now at Ezzain Stud in Kuwait), NK Hallah (out of Asfoura, and now at El Adiyat Stud in Kuwait), Samsara Nihal (out of Assal, and now at Seven Oaks Arabians in Australia), and Asma Bint Asfoura (out of Asfoura, and bred by Annette Hedley of Briery

Close Stud in U.K.). He also sired the colt Mubarak (1990 – 2012) out of the Obayyan mare Myrna, who arrived in Iran as a gift to the breeder Mrs. Mary Gharagozlou. During his lifetime, he produced more than 1000 foals, giving to the Iranian Asil Arabs a better type. Also, many of his offspring had enormous success on the racetracks and showgrounds in the country.

1992 was another defining year at Katharinenhof, as this saw the birth of Helala, by Salaa El Dine out of the Jamil daughter Ansata Gloriana. Dr. Nagel acquired two Dahman mares from Ansata Stud, being the Jamil daughter Ansata Gloriana, and, at a later point, Ansata Ken Ranya, who was by Salaa El Dine out of the Jamil daughter, Ansata Prima Rose.

In 1993, Salaa El Dine's best foal was probably Nour, a grey filly who became an important broodmare at the Samsara



Mubarak (1990-2012, Salaa El Dine x Myrna).
Bred by H.J. Nagel



Al Whaid El Dine (Salaa El Dine x Gioia APS).
Bred and owned by Dr. Paolo Teobaldelli

Stud of Donald Duke in the U.K. In 1995 the lovely grey Sanaya daughter NK Layla was born, and another birth was the stunning grey full sister to Helala, Ansata Helwa, who became an important broodmare, in-itially for Omar Sakr in Egypt, and thereaf-ter for Al Khaled Farm in Saudi Arabia. Fi-nally, the incomparable NK Nariman (out of the Jamil/Ghazala daughter Amarilla) was born. NK Nariman is the dam of some wonderful foals, mainly sired by NK Hafid Jamil. These include the mares NK Jurie and NK Lolowah (both at the Ezzain Stud of Usamah Al Kazemi in Kuwait), and the brilliant grey stallion NK Qaswarah, who is siring truly astonishing foals of both sex-es at Ezzain Stud, and NK Nessma (at the U.K. Stud of Hassanain Al Nakeeb). NK Nariman's last foal, NK Ninnifee, born in 2007, is an extremely beautiful and elegant young mare by Jamal El Dine and she has been retained by Dr. Nagel, and produced a stunning 2012 colt by

NK Nadeer. After 1995, Salaa El Dine's role was largely taken over by his sons and grandsons like NK Hafid Jamil, NK Kamar El Dine, NK Jamal El Dine and NK Nadeer. However, he was not done yet, and in 1996 he sired the very lovely grey mare, NK Aischa out of Amarilla, and this mare became a very important mare for the Aj-mal Stud in Kuwait.

In 1997 Salaa El Dine sired NK Asila, a full sister to N.K. Nariman. She has produced beautiful daughters to N.K. Hafid Jamil, being NK Aziza (retained by Dr. Nagel), Amarilla HM (owned by Seven Oaks Ara-bians in Australia) and the bay Jamilla HM sold originally to Ezzain Stud in Kuwait and now owned by the superb new stud of Abdulrahman Al Jasmi in Bahrain. In the following years Salaa El Dine sired many important horses in Europe and around the world, such as the black stallion TB Yasir, out of Sulifah, a Jamil and Salaa El Dine granddaughter, and the type

maker Al Whaid El Dine (Salaa El Dine x Gioia APS) and many other well-known horses. In 2007 Salaa El Dine sired his last foal for Katharinenhof, in the grey stallion NK Sharaf El Dine out of NK Aziza. This valuable stal-lion spent two years at Tre Balzane Stud in Italy and belongs now to Bebo Stud of Mila Khamis.

From Salaa El Dine's 54 foals at Katharinenhof, at least 26 (nearly 50%) would be classified as outstanding horses, all of whom have bred on. These figures alone represent an extraordinary breeding career for a stallion, and the results were achieved from a variety of bloodlines – a truly remarkable feat. In addition, of course, Salaa El Dine sired many outstanding horses of both sexes for other breeders in a number of countries. Mention has already been made of the incomparable mare RN Farida in Qatar, the stallion Crusader in Sharjah and, inter alia, there is also a fine



NK Sharaf El Dine (Salaa El Dine x NK Aziza).
Bred by H.J. Nagel and owned by Mila Khamis,
Bebo Stud - Joanna Jonientz



TB Heba (NK Sharaf El Dine x TB Hasna).
Bred and owned by Monika Savier - Joanna Jonientz



Ken Bint Amal (Salaa El Dine x Ken Amal)

stallion in Salaa Sihr (out of the Jamil daughter Ansata Nile Magic) at Pearsons View Stud in Australia.

Salaa El Dine had firmly fixed the type which has become known as the “Nagel type” around the breeders’ world. Good stallions who will transmit their outstanding qualities are the basic potential of any stud, as “if you don’t

infuse with good stallions re-peatedly, the offspring will always slip down into mediocrity” (Federico Tesio). His offspring is living proof of the fact that Salaa El Dine is a top stallion who can do without flaunting displays. Still, when Salaa El Dine became 20 years old, visitors to the birthday party asked why the stallion had never been to a show, and Dr. Nagel’s answer was: “Arabian horses in history were used for so many purposes; they grew up under desert conditions or even here in Europe, and a uniform standard of evaluation never existed. I think today we have one standard, called Show. And for many years now, many breeders have been selecting their Arabian horses for the show. But from the point of view of a breeder, show criteria can’t be the only criteria, and they are not my criteria. So I invite you to reflect on the standard you like and you are searching for. That means you must make your own choice and then breed very consistently to reach the goal”.

Thanks also to Salaa El Dine, Katharinen-hof Stud produced many fine horses which were much sought after, particularly by breeders in Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, as the Arab countries became aware of the need to buy back their history and their heritage. But during this period, the foundations were being laid for a major quantum leap in refinement and quality, which would seal the future of Katharinenhof and of many other studs as well. ■

Interview with Dr. Nagel

by Monika Savier

What are your long-term results with Salaa El Dine, now that the 2nd and 3rd generations fill the pastures of Katharinenhof Stud? Salaa El Dine has improved the overall con-formation of my horses. In particular, he transmitted a markedly good shoulder, his long neck and the good topline. And the next generation also feature these positive characteristics. I can't imagine my breeding stock without them any more.

Who were his most important sons?

As to my own stock, that was definitely Adnan. Then there is his brother Safir who also had significant influence on the breed, serving in Doha on Al Rayyan Farm and through his son Ashal Al Rayyan. Another important son of Salaa El Dine is Mubarak who was sold to

Iran quite early in his life. He had crucial influence there and was able to improve the breed country-wide. Another horse to be mentioned might be Crusader, in the UK, who was very success-ful on the racetrack before he made himself a name as an inheritor. Later, there were a lot more whose development I was not able to follow closely, but generally I noted that Salaa El Dine is a very good match for Ansata lines. Myself, I have a rather closed population of broodmares which he served, so it was rather easy to assess the results. As to outside mares, I never advertised my stal-lions, and most breeders coming to the stud have those lines themselves, but from the results of which I know, you can conclude that matings with the Judith Forbis lines continued to bring the best results.



NK Mudeer (NK Nadeer x Ansata Ken Ranya by Salaa El Dine) - Joanna Jonientz



Helala (Salaa El Dine x Ansata Gloriana). Bred by H.J. Nagel



TB Yasir (Salaa El Dine x Sulifah). Bred by Tre Balzane Stud



NK Nasrin (Adnan x Nashwa by Salaa El Dine)

...and who are his most important daughters on Katharinenhof Stud?

There are many good mares, in my own stud as well as in other breeders' stables. The Salaa El Dine mares with the greatest influence on Katharinenhof stud itself are Nashua, Helala, Nariman, and Ranya. But there is also Asila, no longer in our stable, who transmitted excellently.

Does Salaa El Dine reveal more of his dam Hanan or of his sire Ansata Halim Shah?

Salaa El Dine is a good combination of both. Many of his sons are, to name one thing, definitely more long-legged that he was. His beautiful long neck and the well-built legs, that is Hanan heritage. And Hanan had a singularly good tail carriage which he inherited from her, not to mention pigmentation, which results in that occasional black offspring of his. From Halim Shah he got the good shoulder and croup, in addition to the Arabian noblesse he consolidated overall.



RN Farida (Salaa El Dine x Noha). Bred by Al Rayyan Farm, Qatar - Gigi Grasso

Looking back, would you state that Salaa El Dine was the best of the sons of Ansata Halim Shah?

The stallion that accomplished most, due to his great influence, is definitely Salaa El Dine, followed by Maysoun. In the Middle East, there is Ansata Hejazi who is highly influential, and Al Adeed Al Shaquab, of course. There was also El Thay Ibn Halim Shah, unfortunately

passed away early, but he had already started to attract attention as an important son of Ansata Halim Shah.

Was Salaa El Dine a milestone in Katharinenhof Stud?

He was a landmark and "watershed". He was incredibly important for my whole concept of breeding, which is still true for today.



Pashmina (Salaa El Dine x A Little Passion)



GJ Amira Deenaa (Naseem Al Rashediah x Pashmina by Salaa El Dine).
Owned by El La Diva Stud, Belgium - Glenn Jacobs

There are rumours that enormous sums have been offered for Salaa El Dine from the Middle East.

Salaa El Dine was my horse. You don't sell a horse you have that kind of relationship and attachment to. It's just as if you were giving away the soul of the stud. A horse who accomplished so much for your own breeding – you can't but keep such a horse.

What recommendations can you give on the subject of using Salaa El Dine offspring?

It's easier to predict the results if you breed with related blood and lines. Generally, however, it's true that mares should be beautiful to be considered for breeding. When Ansata Halim Shah was at my place, I chose 35 hand-picked mares for him. The results were great, with the exception of just 2 or 3 foals. Later, when he was in the US,

he was more generally advertised and used, outside of Ansata Farm, with the result that the number of successful offspring decreased markedly. There is now offspring of his that don't live up to the results he achieved in Germany.

The same is true for Salaa El Dine.

Stallions are to improve the breed, but the mares need to provide a quality basis for the stallion to stand a chance to transmit his big points. Successful breeding works only if you have two good parents who are mutually compensative. ■



Leigh Jamieson and Hans J. Nagel



Monika Savier