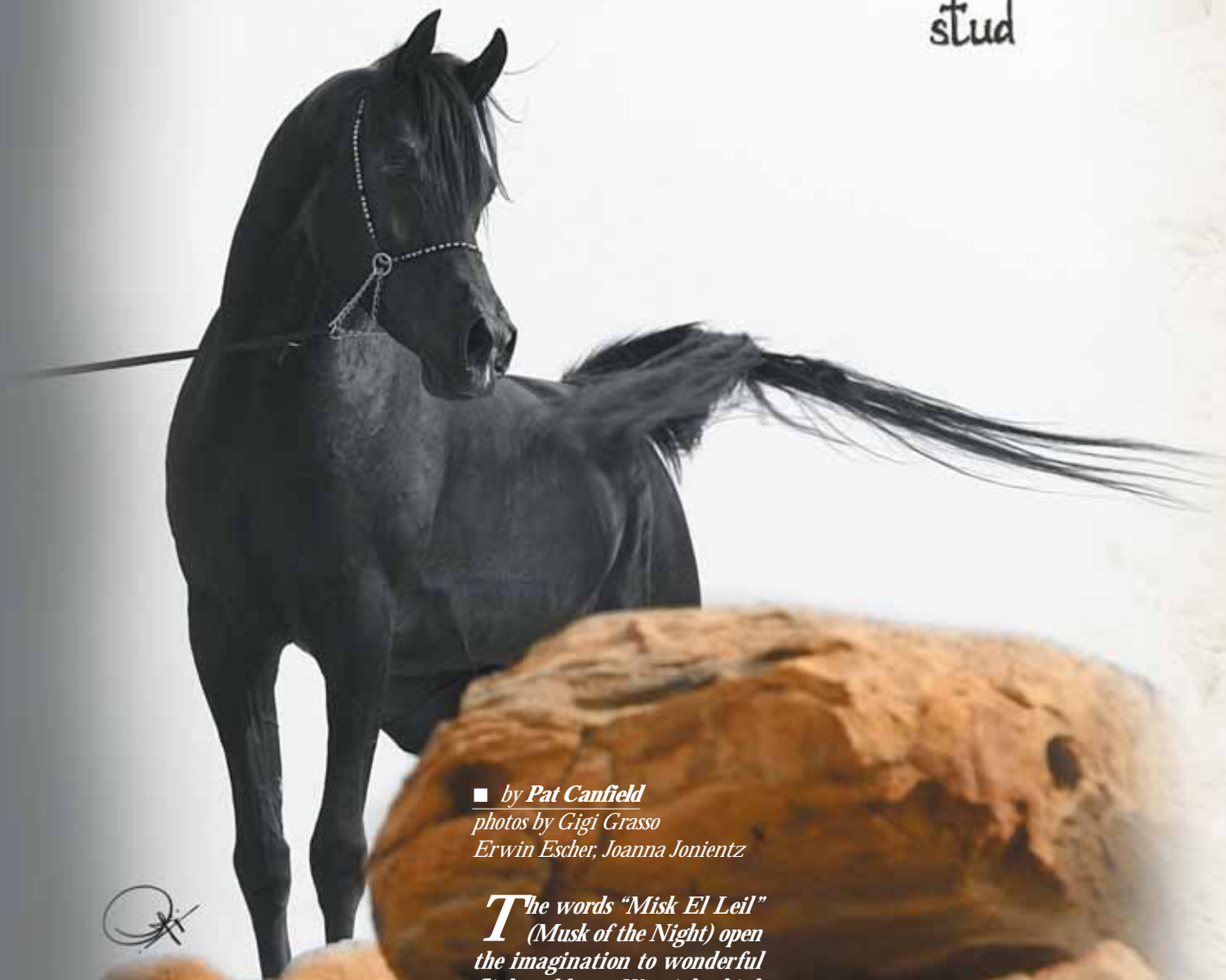


Rabab

stud



■ by *Pat Canfield*

photos by Gigi Grasso

Erwin Escher, Joanna Jonientz

The words "Misk El Leil" (Musk of the Night) open the imagination to wonderful flights of fancy. We might think of the heavenly scent of the flowers that come to life under the cover of darkness. Musk of the night, honeysuckle, and

Bouznika (Imperial Mashaar x Mayyat)



Bouznika (Imperial Mashaar x Mayyat)



Ibn El Basha (El Basha Sqr. x Nawader)



GR Lahari (Al Lahab x GR Marianah)

night blooming jasmine: all blooms with haunting essence that can take your mind on wonderful journeys. It is a time when you can find another world in the shadows before you. Imagine yourself on a moonlit night sitting in a fragrant garden at the edge of the desert not far from the monuments of ancient Egypt. A glim-

mer of amber moon begins to rise over the gently waving fronds of tall date palm trees; soft dunes of sand undulate across the darkened horizon. You are surrounded by peace and subtle whispers of the night. Off in the distance, you become aware of murmurs of a different timbre.

The trees and the grasses are taking on a different life as something swishes through the foliage from afar. Then comes a faint percussion echoing on the ground with a muted regular rhythm. The grasses and trees vibrate with slight sparks of electricity. And suddenly bursting through the darkness of the shadowy garden is an almost otherworldly apparition.

A midnight black stallion explodes into your world with eyes flashing, neck cresting, tail flagging as a vision from all the ages comes to life in front of you. You have met Bouznika, a jet-black stallion who is beginning to forge his own dynasty at Rabab Stud just outside of Cairo at the edge of the great Sahara Desert. Bouznika (Imperial Mashaar x Mayyat) '99, a grandson of the formidable stallions: Imperial



[Handwritten signature]
2006

Kenz Noor



Kenz Noor (Imperial Madori x Naksh El Kouloub) with Khaled bin Laden



Morgan Al Najdiah – RB (Ibn El Basha x Bardeya)



Romman with Salem bin Laden



Mozahem (Shaikh Al Shamal x Nermein El Sheruk)



GR Maarif (GR Faleeh x Maria Halima)

Madheen and Shaikh El Badi, is a newcomer to Rabab Stud. A stallion of great presence and self-assurance, Bouznika has had an interesting journey back to his roots near the desert. He started his life at The Royal Stud in Morocco and then moved to Germany. Now the elegant stallion has found his home as he oversees his domain in Egypt. While it is rare to find a black that has both a correct powerful body combined with refinement and a handsome head, it is all here in Bouznika.

For over twenty years, Khaled bin Laden has dreamed and planned to make Rabab Stud into his own image of an Arabian horse farm. His vision has been formed by a love of the history and tradition of the horse and its heritage within his own culture. The stables are built in a simple artistic and functional Arab design that brings the total environment into the plans: light, air and accessibility all factor into an organic design that flows and makes sense for the animals and the people. This same careful thought process goes into his selections for the breeding program.

Many of the foundation horses at Rabab are



Filly (Taymour x G Ashalima)



G Ashalima (Asham Sharafa x AK Sirhalima)



Bint El Basha (El Basha Sqr. x Bardeya)



Anbar Noor (Ibn Arabia Sqr. x Hams El Kouloub)



*GR Meskarah
(GR Amaretto
x Meeskah
Maisa)*

still strongly represented in today's program. The magnificent grey mare, Kout El Kouloub (Ikhnaton x Ghadeer) '85, her famous stable mate, the dynamic chestnut mare, Sharbat (Raki x Wasfeya) '85, the lovely Egyptian-Spanish cross mare, Shaymaa (SEA Maddah x Bushret Kheir) '86 are all National and International Champions as well as being dams of multi champions.

Ibn Adaweya (Akhtal x Adaweya) '80 is the grand old man of the Stud. At twenty-six years of age, the fiery chestnut stallion does not give an inch to any other horse. Any stallion who is led past his box had better show proper respect. It is still a wonderful sight to see Ibn Adaweya regally returning to his stall and gazing at his



Kahramanah RB (Mogeer Ikh. x Alf Leila Wa Leila)

desert as he rounds the corner coming home from spending late afternoon in his paddock. He has sired many of the important horses at the farm. One of his last foals, the sprightly grey filly, Wegdan RB '05 out of Kout El Kouloub carries the blood of two major forces in the program and is named as a tribute to Mme. Wegdan El Barbari who has been a great inspiration and mentor to Khaled throughout the years.

Everything in Rabab Stud is in a constant process of building on the past, improving the present and planning for the future. This holds true for the physical set-up as well as the selection of the horses. For the past few years, Khaled has been particularly focused on the breeding of black Arabians but only those, which he considers to be of great beauty as well as outstanding presence and conformation. His artist's eye complements that of the breeder as he has managed to bring together an outstanding collection of midnight black horses of exceptional beauty. "I am lucky with what I bring", is a phrase often repeated by Khaled as he walks

through the paddocks and watches over every aspect of the operations.

Some extremely good horses who contribute both beauty and correctness along with tremendous presence grace this part of the breeding program. Nawader (Hafeed Anter x Dahimaara) '93 is an extremely lovely black mare with a sculpted head and strong well-formed body. Her two-year-old daughter, Morgana Al Hadhoud-RB by Nesr has brought forward the best of the dam and strengthened the body. Another mare who has produced an outstanding filly is the bay mare Nawwaret Hamdan (Imperial Madori x Dahimaara) '99. Her filly, Layaly Al Najdiah-RB by Ibn El Basha is truly striking with a beautiful head, a strong shoulder and flowing movement that sets off her jet-black color. Most recently, the filly was second in her class at the EAO Nationals in 2005.

Another recent addition to the farm is G Ashalima (Asham Sharafa x AK Sirhalima) '91. This elegant black mare carries forward the lines of two famous grandsires: Moniet El



Layaly Al Najdiah – RB (Ibn El Basha x Nawwaret Hamdan)



Qamar Nour (Nabiel x Naksh El Kouloob)

Sharaf and Ansata Ibn Halima. The mare had been in Germany until the day when Khaled walked into her barn and she called to him from the far end of the aisle. When he reached her stall and saw the full intelligent eye and the graceful cresting neck, he knew she was coming to Rabah. GR Fadil (Madallan – Madheen x Fanisah) '05, a yearling black colt is one of the newer additions to the stable of what Khaled calls his “black beauties” all of whom have that special polished ebony coat that gleams by day and night.

Another black colt born in spring '06 will join Fadil shortly. GR Maarif is the first foal out of Maria Halima by the stallion GR Faleeh. An addition to the barn is currently under construction to showcase the collection of blacks. Following in the over-all design of the farm, the facility flows in the open Arabesque style with domes over large open boxes and takes advantage of natural air circulation and gentle shelter from the elements of desert weather.

While the black lines are important at Rabah, they are not being used to the exclusion of the



Nawwaret Hamdan (Imperial Madori x Dahimaara)



Nawader (Hafeed Anter x Dahimaara)

other bloodlines that shape the rest of the program. The original star mares are still strongly represented in today's horses. Kout El Kouloub was bred to Ibn Adaweya and together they produced Afrah, National Supreme Champion mare and the dam of Ghozlan '95 who is carrying on their special tradition. In 2002, the same pair produced Yakout RB, who even as a young stallion very clearly shows the same fine features of both his parents.

Sharbat is equally a grand dam at the Stud. The high stepping chestnut was bred to Ibn Adaweya and produced Alf Leila Wa Leila '94. A very refined and dynamic moving chestnut mare, she not only carries the best of her parents but also passes it on to her foals. A recent example is Kahramanah RB by Mogeer Ikh. who looks amazingly like her dam as she flies over the ground in a free flowing trot. Another example of this breeding produced SEA Al Fateh in '99. The amazing chestnut colt was National Junior Champion at six months and has gone on to repeatedly be an audience pleaser in every show in which he is entered.



Morgana Al Hadhoud – RB (Nesr x Nawader)



Kout El Kouloub - Granddaughter ^ Ghozlan - Great Granddaughter ^ Zahra RB

An outside stallion who factors importantly into the breeding program at Rabab is El Basha Sqr. (Imperial Madori x Alidaara) who has left Egypt for Saudi but left a strong pre-

sence. His son, Ibn El Basha out of the black Nawader, a large seven-year-old bay with a powerful body and movement has a well-sculpted head and commanding presence. He is



Morgan Al Najdiah-RB (Ibn El Basha x Bardeya) '04 is one of the rising stars of the Stud. A large dramatic dark grey stallion with a commanding high trot, he was Reserve Junior Champion his first time out at the EAO Show in '05. On his dam side, he is bringing the strengths from his grandsires: Ikhnaton and Hafeed Anter. His half sister, Bint El Basha (El Basha Sqr. X Bardeya) '00 is a dark bay with great similarities to Morgan but with very much her own look and presence.

As with any true breeder, Khaled is constantly refining the breeding program at Rabah. With his university education in Fine Arts, he views the Arabian horse as a piece of art. This does not mean something that is static and meant to be seen as an inanimate object or sculpture. To him, the horse shows its true beauty through its spirit and movement as well as type and conformation. In order to redefine his horses, he breeds from his original lines and brings in bloodlines that he believes will achieve the look he wants to have.

In the group of new lines being integrated into the program, there are a number of superb show horses. Two get of the internationally acclaimed stallion Al Lahab are leading that list. Mahala an exquisite three-year-old grey filly out of Mahasin II is making a name for herself on the European circuit before coming to the Stud in Egypt. Mahala was Junior Champion at St. Tropez and Schotten, Reserve Junior Champion at Neufchateau and Top Ten at the European Egyptian Event at Baden Baden all in '05. Her half brother GR Lahari, out of GR Marianah, a Madallan-Madheen daughter, hopefully will follow in her path as he strutted his way to second in a strong yearling class at the Saqqara Show in March '06, his first time in the show ring.

GR Meskarah (GR Amaretto x Meeskah Maisa [Anaza Bay Shah]) is a dark grey two-year-old filly who surprises all visitors to the farm with her size and maturity. Many of the horses are showing great benefits from the feeding program which encompasses the newest in nutrition and natural supplements. Another

already putting his stamp on some of the younger horses on the farm. One of his fillies, Naderat Al Najdiah-RB out of Nawwaret Hamdan intensifies the Madori blood in the line.



Mahala (Al Lahab x Mahasin II)

recent addition to the farm, the dappled bay colt Mozahem, by Shaikh Al Shamal out of Nermein El Sheruk is carrying lines that go back to Ruminaja Ali, Farazdac and Imperial Imdal. These are among the royalty of Arabian breeding all returning with great flourish to Egypt, the country of their predecessors.

The lines of Imperial Madori and Ibn Nazic (Nawaf x Nazic, a Morafic daughter) are strongly featured at the farm in two show winning horses. The seven-year-old Kenz Noor (Imperial Madori x Naksh El Kouloub [Ibn Nazic x Ghadeer) is capturing attention in America at this time. The extremely showy light bay stallion is standing with Michael Byatt before going on to Germany on his way

back to Rabab. Before leaving Egypt, Kenz was brought into show condition by riding in the desert as well as longing. He produced four excellent foals before he traveled including: the colt Mamlook RB and Kenooz Noor both out of full sisters by Ibn Nazic.

The other horse carrying these lines is Anbar Noor (Ibn Arabia Sqr. x Hams El Kouloub) '04. The highly refined and balanced grey filly made a strong impression on the crowds at the Saggara National Show with her high marks in all categories and buoyant personality. As Junior Reserve Champion, she also took her victory lap being led by a very young boy to the enormous delight of the audience. Anbar is one of a number of very special young horses who



Mahala

hold great promise for the future of the stud. Salem bin Laden, Khaled's older son has been developing a stronger interest in the breeding program but also is putting an emphasis on riding. He primarily responds to the spirit of the Arabian horse. When he rides in the desert, he says, "You must always consider the intelligence of the horse. There is a give and take and that makes it a richer experience". Salem has been very successful in the Dancing Horse competitions where he rode Hilaly (Ibn Adaweya x SEA Fereeha) to three EAO National Championships. Salem's way of training is to know the horse inside and outside. "When you get to know him", he says, "It becomes easier. The horse will want to do it". Even now, when Salem attends an Arab wedding, he can't go without taking his horse to help celebrate the occasion. "When I hear the music", he adds, "I have to have my horse with me or it is not a real party for me".

Over the past couple of years, the farm has taken on a slightly different look with the addition of larger than regulation size Dressage and Show Jumping rings with full warm-up areas and easy van access. They are in separate locations bordering the stables and turnout paddocks. Built-in seating and night-lights add to the professional look of the rings. Plans are now in place to begin a show schedule early next year that will take full advantage of what is becoming a full Equestrian Center.

Rabab Stud is constantly in the process of evolving its breeding programs as well as the overall facilities. As a visitor walks through the barns and around the open paddocks at the edge of the desert, one becomes aware that every part of the facility is harmonious. Everything about Rabab is Arab, deceptively simple and completely at one with nature. In keeping with the lightness and open atmosphere, you may be surprised and greeted by a herd of Shetland ponies who have free range of the farm and blend with the regal Arabians who pay them no notice.

The world of Rabab Stud is graceful and has a peaceful feel of everything being in order. It is a



Kout El Kouloub

gentle world at the edge of a desert which can suddenly blow into a great sandstorm - but then the winds stop and all will be calm again. The sound of the Arabians nickering to each other, the look of them tossing their magnificent heads and galloping with tremendous grace and strength over the sands under the date palm

trees - it is truly a world that has a magic whether in the full light of the Egyptian sun or the gentle shimmer of the moon rising over the scents of the midnight flowers. □



Farm Information:
Saqqara Road - Shabramant
El Regha - Giza - Egypt (farm)
Tel. (2 02) 381 1133 - Fax (2 02) 338 2306
Mobile (2 012) 407 9730 (Manager)

Mohandessin - Egypt (home)
Tel. (2 02) 748 8200
Mobile (2 010) 550 0222
Website: www.rababstud.com
E-mail: sbinladin@gmail.com