

“A STUD’S MOST IMPORTANT ASSET IS THEIR MARES”



*Amoun Egyptian Arabians celebrating 25 YEARS of horse breeding
An Interview with Heike Hain*



Heike and Manfred Hain

■ *by Monika Savier*

photos by Joanna Jonientz and Amoun Egyptian Arabians archive

Breeding Arabian Horses is more than just a pastime today. It has become a challenge, as the times of plenty, when the globalization of markets resulted in a whole number of studs being founded in Western Europe, are over. The Gulf states have too many horses now after all the purchasing they did during the 1980ies and 1990ies. Restrictions of mobility because of the Corona pandemic are an additional factor in bringing to light these structural problems. **Quality, however, is hard to crush.** This is true for, among others, the long-established studs in Germany such as **Amoun Egyptian Arabians**. Because anybody who breeds these horses out of his or her joy in horses, anybody who loves to ride, or who



AMOUN HALISHA
2014 (Farhoud Al Shaqab x Amoun Halima)

likes to use the communication within breeders' social networks for cultivating their friendships across borders – anybody who does that won't be impressed by crises. Heike and Manfred Hain have a history of developing and cultivating a number of activities centered on horse breeding under their belts, and while many breeders are lamenting, or even closing their studs, the two of them have never been lacking ideas for exploring new avenues for themselves and for others.

Amoun Egyptian stud is located in Northern Germany, between Berlin and Rostock, in a thinly populated area with rolling green hills, a lot of lakes, juicy grass on the pastures, and cows and sheep and horses turned out on the grass – the Nebel valley, named for the small Nebel river. This is where Heike and Manfred Hain founded their stud of noble Egyptian Arabians 25 years ago. The beautifully kept premises of the Hain family are not located at the bottom of the valley, but up on a slope. How important their horses are to the Hain family I saw when Heike once opened her house's door to me. In through the door, you would be standing in the living room if you turned left, but you would be right in the middle of the mare's stable if you turned right. So horses and people are living under the same roof there, just as it was traditionally done in the Northern German farmsteads of the last centuries.

INTERVIEW

Monika: *Amoun Egyptian Arabians brings to mind a quarter of a century of breeding, riding, taking part in shows, organizing shows, judging in shows – that's a brilliant performance within the frame of international Arabian horse breeding. Looking back, which were your highlights during that time?*

Heike: *Looking back on the past 25 years, I can say that despite all of our individual successes, the most important asset of a stud is their mares – and we were delighted when, in the mid-1990ies, we were able to acquire three very good Straight Egyptian mares. The first of them was Khediwa Rodaniyah (Montasar x Kubaylah Rudanya), then we got Talia Halima who is a daughter of Ruminaja Ali out of Charm of Halima, and the third one we were able to purchase was Mattea M (Maysoun x Messoudah M). All three of these mares are no longer alive now; however, all of them got to be almost 25 years old in our stud and we still*

have their offspring, the fifth generation now.

The most beautiful time of the year, for us, has always been spring, when the foals are born. There are not very many foals born on our premises, no more than three to five per year, and they will grow up within their mare family and be very precious to us – more in the non-material sense, I suppose.

Monika: *Are the horses ridden on your farm?*

Heike: *I never ceased to remain faithful to riding, which is my great passion, even when it was hard to do with three small children to care for. I was also busy managing my own farm. Still, I like to be up in the saddle even today, taking part in horse trekking tours here in our scenic surroundings with the rolling hills and the many lakes and castles of our Mecklenburg - Western Pomerania area.*

Manfred stopped riding at some time in the past, he runs a not-so-small business of his own and has lots to do, but it



Trekking around Castel Basedow



TAYSOUNA

born in 1996 (Maysoun x Talia Halima),
a VZAP association premium mare,
steps up as her dam's successor



was important to him to go on working with horses, and as a veterinarian by training, he greatly values a sound conformation in a horse, of course. That is why he decided to take up training as a show judge according to ECAHO rules; he took all the exams successfully and has been traveling the world as an ECAHO A judge for some years now.

Monika: *How did the two of you come up with the idea of participating in shows? They evoke horror in many riders in Germany, after all.*

Heike: *Here in Northeastern Germany, we are about the only ones of our kind with our highly specialized breeding orientation. Which is why 25 years ago, hardly anybody knew us. So we decided to present our first foal crops at shows, to be able to learn from other breeders and to go public*



Foundation mare **TALIA HALIMA**
wborn in 1990 (Ruminaja Ali x Charm of Halima)
with Manfred Hain, about 20 years ago



AMOUN THORAYAH 2013 (Farhoud Al Shaqab x Taysouna)

with our horses. We were quite active in shows from 1997 to 2005. We were also lucky there, as in 1999, our Ansata Sinan son out of our Khediya Rodaniyah, Kamil Ibn Sinan, became Junior Champion Colt of the Egyptian Event in Kaub and Overall Champion of the Licensed Stallion Show in Aachen, where 150 horses participated. Later we sold him to the stud of the Royal House of Saudi Arabia.

In 1998, we took the opportunity once more and mated Khediya Rodaniyah to Ansata Sinan again, which resulted in the birth of Kamsin Rodan in 1999. This second Sinan son was even more refined and entirely corresponded to our breeding goal. So we decided to bring him up for our stud and kept him there for years.

These two self-bred stallions gave us wings, so to speak – they inspired us. Their type and character were just what we expect of an elegant, refined, and gentle Straight Egyptian stallion.





AMOUN HALIMA

2009 (Frasera Ramses Shah x Taysouna)



Participating in shows meant a lot of effort and expenses even then. Manfred and I spent thousands of kilometers on the road in a car pulling a trailer loaded with horses, as most of the shows took place far away from our stud.

Monika: *From participating in shows to organizing them, that is a bold step actually. How did that come about, the two of you deciding to do it?*

Heike: *In 2012, I had the opportunity to organize an interesting event for our Egyptian Arabian breeders, a show coupled with the Breeders Cup in Berlin which went on to take place there for four years altogether. Shows had been my long-standing pastime anyway. And whether I was there with our home-bred horses or because I was accompanying Manfred in his work as a show judge all over the world – I was able to gain experience at every location, or meet with breeders, and I knew from my own experience the kind of*



Heike Hain with Ellanga, she is a daughter of Al Maraam

difficulties participants and organizers are often faced with. I just imagined how I would, when organizing a show myself, try to create the best possible conditions for the breeders and their horses, as well as for the handlers. Something that was also close to my heart was to offer high-class events, combining them with clinics for further education, or with cultural highlights that might serve to create closer connections within the international breeders' family.

Monika: *You have been a board member of Pyramid Society Europe for a long time, eventually taking on the task of organizing the international title show EGYPTIAN EVENT EUROPE. This event was highly successful indeed, and an integrative factor for all visitors. Still, I heard that next year, you would only want to be involved in a supporting function. Why that?*

Heike: *I mostly enjoyed the whole thing very much, and*



Generation
AMOUN MOUNA BINT
HALIMA
 2020 (Jaffal Al Rayyan x Amoun Halima)





AMOUN HILAL
2020 (Jaffal Al Rayyan x Amoun Halisha)

our family has been much attached to the Pyramid Society Europe and Professor Siegfried Paufler for many years. After all, the Egyptian breeders were something like a family circle, as all of our horses are somehow related, so everybody is like kindred, not least because there is not an excessive number of members. However, I do not want to go on perceiving my own role as that of the front woman for events. At the same time, I promise that for the next Egyptian Event Europe, which will take place in Kauber Platte stud on the Rhine River in Germany, I will be on hand for the team, supporting and advising them. And I will definitely continue to actively support all issues and important activities centered around our breeding activities for Egyptian Arabian horses, in our association and beyond it.

Monika: *The team of Desert Heritage magazine wishes you lots of success and joy in your work.* □



AMOUN EGYPTIAN ARABIANS

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