



*Zabia Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x Zubaida Eladiyat) Right :
Amal Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x NK Ablam)*

El Adiyat Stud Farm in Kuwait and Katharinenhof Stud in Germany: *A Close Cooperation in Arabian Breeding*

■ *by Monika Savier in collaboration with Dr. Hans J. Nagel*
All photos by Joanna Jonientz

The people of Kuwait have maintained strong ties to their history up to today, not just because of their religion and cultural heritage, but also because this is how they structure their lives, and those of their horses, of course. Many horse breeders in Kuwait invest a lot of time and effort into preserving the cultural history of their country, including arts, and into actively keeping Bedouin traditions alive.

For them, Arabian horses signify authenticity, elegance, and Arabian noblesse; and they love the pure beauty of these horses. Of course, beauty is not everything there is – and still, beauty is more important than we usually assume. Everything else aside, seeing your beautiful Arabian horses in the morning light is what carries the breeders on and makes them forget about all their efforts.

The well-known success of Kuwait's breeders does have to do with their fascination for this beauty, but alongside that, it largely results from their characteristic bonds of friendship and level of cooperation among each other, both invested into reaching a common breeding goal. They laid the foundation stones for this development in the 1990ies in Al Wafra, an oasis bordering on Saudi Arabia. Today, the studs that have been built there are major players in international Egyptian Arabian horse breeding. The original gene pool there was primarily based on imports, of course; however today, every stud has their own aims and goals, and most of them have their very own story of success to tell.

It was not an accident, therefore, that alongside Egypt and Qatar, it was the country of Kuwait



Mahmood Al Zubaid with NK Jamal El Dine (NK Hafid Jamil x Ansata Ken Ranya)

that radiated, with its horse breeding, a strong fascination which attracted the long-term connoisseur of the Orient, Dr. Nagel. Even in the 1990ies, he had realized that Arabian horses could maintain the historic traits of their breed most easily when experiencing the climate and natural surroundings of the Orient. The fascination of being able to further develop and observe his own breeding strains under these conditions – this was what made him decide to make his experiment of a “closed studbook” possible to take place in one more country: Kuwait. The results in this country prove him right.

I asked him to tell us the story of this experiment and of the cooperation with the Kuwaiti breeder Mr. Mahmood Al Zubaid:

The first time Mr. Mahmood Al Zubaid of El Adiyat Arabians and Dr. Hans Nagel of Katharinenhof Stud met in North Germany was in 1996. Mr. Mahmood came directly from Kuwait for this visit and brought with him a recommendation and cordial greetings from Sheikh Abdul Aziz al Thani of Qatar, whose Al Rayyan Stud Mr Mahmood had visited and where he had seen, in the stables, four nice mares which the Sheikh had bought a few years before from Dr. Nagel's place. There were already some foals and young daughters born from these mares, but the Sheikh was not prepared to sell any of them, instead he advised him to try his luck directly at Katharinenhof.

Mr. Mahmood was a newcomer in this field. Kuwait at that time was not at all a place where Arabians were bred. The police managed a stable with horses, there were horses on the race course, all of them looked like part-bred Arabians, only two

private breeders had bought some Arabians from Syria and Egypt. And there were these two Arabians from Germany which the government had imported years before. One was the stallion called “Ibrahim” and the other was an older mare. It happened that Ibrahim had been bred by Dr. Nagel. He sold him, as a colt, to a friend and when this shipment of horses was organised, it was decided to choose him as the most suitable stallion for this project, a project to bring the first so-called “Asil Arabians” to Kuwait. They survived the Iraqi invasion in 1990 by chance, because Kuwaiti people had hidden them away.

Some years before Sheikh Abdul Aziz had decided to bring Egyptian Arabians to Qatar. He already kept some Syrian and English Arabians in his stud, and on a trip to Syria, he saw there an Egyptian Arabian stallion who had been brought from El Zahraa in Egypt to Damascus. This fact encouraged him to



Dr. Hans Nagel and Mahmood Al Zubaid



NK Laymounah (NK Nadeer x NK Leena)



Amal Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x NK Ahlam) with her colt Ahmer Eladiyat by NK Nabhan

make a visit to El Zahraa Stud in Egypt where he found out that a full brother to this stallion in Syria had been sold to Katharinenhof in Germany. His name was “Ibn Nazeema”. Consequently, he travelled to Germany to see this horse, with the strong idea to buy him. He arrived at Katharinenhof on a very cold winter day, together with some friends, between Christmas and New Year. They rushed quickly into the warmer stables and as he told Dr. Nagel later, he was totally surprised by what he saw: Out of each

of the ten boxes looked a daughter of Ansata Halim Shah or Jamil and one daughter of Ibn Nazeema. Never had he seen something similar. Now these mares and this type of horses became his target and at the end of the visit, he bought three mares for his stud, and many more followed in the coming years. The same experience which the Sheikh had in Germany, Mr. Mahmood made in Qatar years later. This is why he came so quickly to Germany; he was so impressed by these mares in Al Rayyan Stud.



Zabia Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x Zubaida Eladiyat)

It happened that these two men, Mr. Mahmood and Dr. Nagel, had from the beginning a perfect understanding between each other. Mr. Mahmood is an architect running a construction and development business, and had just bought a piece of land of 10 hectares in Al Wafra with the idea to make it into a general farm to grow maybe vegetables, to keep some livestock such as sheep, goats and chicken – but first of all, to start to breed Arabians horses. This reminded

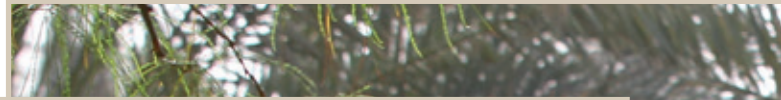
Dr. Nagel of his own story. He, as well, had started his farm including some old buildings to enjoy country life and country work, which ended up becoming Katharinenhof Stud.

Now there are more than a hundred Arabian horse studs in Kuwait. One area in the North of Kuwait, where different Arabian types are bred mainly for shows, and another one in the South, in Al Wafra, where the majority of horses are Egyptian Arabians.



NK Lamees (NK Kamar El Dine x Munira Al Arabiya)

NK Jamal El Dine
(NK Hafid Jamil x Ansata Ken Ranya)



Mr. Mahmood was the very first who established his horse farm in this Al Wafra.

The visit in Germany took a few days. It was not easy for Dr. Nagel to sell some of his foals. He liked to keep them to increase his own breeding stock. However, finally a bay filly named Bint Nashua, a grey filly named Nadeema, and a colt were chosen to go to Kuwait. Dr.Nagel was very keen to know how these young horses would be kept in Kuwait, so he



Amal Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x NK Ahlam)
with her colt Abmer Eladiyat by NK Nabhan





Lubna Eladiyat (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Lamees)

decided to fly together with these horses on a freight flight to Kuwait, which at that time was an experience, nowadays it is a usual business.

Mr. Mahmood had refurbished an old chicken barn, which was located on his land and had built inside ten boxes of a comfortable size. Outside he had arranged very large paddocks with a little bit of doubtful wooden fencing, which definitely needed reinforcement and

improvements. Dr. Nagel was very pleased when he saw all these preparations. Overnight after their arrival the foals stayed in their boxes; the next day it was a pleasure to let them out and to watch them after they were brought into the paddocks, enjoying their liberty to run freely in this sandy place. They galloped away and showed now and then their easy flying trot. It must have been a wonderful moment for Mr. Mahmood, really a sensation to have his first



NK Aya (NK Nadeer x NK Aziza)

Arabians in Al Wafra.

The stud Al Rayyan of Sheik Abdul Aziz in Qatar and the stud of Mr. Mahmood, El Adiyat in Kuwait, became a big attraction in the following years, visit after visit followed. Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouk, Mr. Khaled Ben Shokr, Mr. Talal Mehri and the late Mr. Usamah Al Kazemi, all started to think to enter into Arabian breeding. Beautiful and large studs came

Lamsa Eladiyat (NK Nadeer x NK Lobelia)





*Zabia Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x Zubaida Eladiyat)
Amal Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x NK Ahlam)*

under construction and one of the most impressive community of Arabian horse studs cropped up in this area of Kuwait in a relatively short time.

But where to find the Arabians which were required for these new studs? The Katharinenhof in Germany was breeding only 8 – 10 foals per year, not enough at all. But since Katharinenhof and Ansata Arabians in the US had been practising a perfect cooperation for years, it was only natural that Ansata Arabians

became the second, much bigger source for acquiring Egyptian Arabians of similar type. Already Sheikh Abdul Aziz had visited Ansata Arabians and had chosen the best foals every year for his stud. Now the Kuwaitis, mainly Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouk, followed and Ansata horses became as popular in Kuwait as in Qatar. And also Sheikh Abdul Aziz helped some breeders in Kuwait and was selling them some of his best offspring.

The Kuwaitis are known to be good and capable



*Zahia Eladiyat (NK Jamal El Dine x Eladiyat)
and her daughter Zaytoona
Eladiyat (NK Nabhan x Zahia Eladiyat)*

businessmen, and also they are perfect in management and execution and like to work in partnership or by cooperation. A very nice group of breeders developed under these circumstances and very friendly bonds existed between them; but also between Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Mr. Mohammed Al Marzouk, Mr. Mahmood Al Zubaid, Dr. Nagel, and Judith Forbis, the owner

Ahmer Eladiyat (NK Nabhan x Amal Eladiyat)



NK Luza (NK Nadeer x NK Lubna)

of Ansata Arabians – the most important five persons for the fact that the Egyptian Arabians had such a great acceptance in Qatar first and later on in Kuwait. In the course of time it became evident which type and kind of Arabian was chosen for further breeding by the major breeders. Most of them kept Ansata Arabians and their offspring. A few of them were breeding their Ansata Arabians and crossing them with horses which were coming from Katharinenhof. Some other breeders imported other Egyptians from

the US and some from Egypt directly.

Only two breeders worked exclusively with Katharinenhof Arabians, which became by that time well known under the name “NK Arabians”; they had their own typical look. One of these two was the late Mr. Usamah Al Kazemi. He was breeding his Arabians in his own way. He had asked for “NK Qaswarah” from Dr. Nagel, a wonderful, very delicate and prepotent stallion, who “made” his stud. One could say it became a “Qaswarah Stud”.



NK Mouna (NK Jamal El Dine x Munira Al Arabiya)

The story of Mr. Mahmood was different. This situation is due to the fact that both, Mr. Mahmood and Dr. Nagel, are open-minded people, always ready to learn and always ready to give. Ultimately, both studs keep the same breeding stock tracing back to Egypt. In 1968 Katharinenhof brought its first mares from Egypt to Germany and this rootstock is still the same since that time, four families have been the base of breeding for 50 years. In the course of time, offspring of these four families were bought by Mr.

Mahmood for his El Adiyat Stud in Kuwait, with the result that representatives of these four families are the base of his breeding herd as well.

A Siglawy family, based on the rootmare "Mahiba"

An Obayan family, based on the rootmare "Hanan"

A Hadban family, based on the rootmare "Lotfeia"

A Dahman family, based on the rootmare "Bukra".

These Dahman family came via Ansata Arabians to Dr. Nagel and went from there to Mr. Mahmood.

At this time about 15 – 20 mares are kept in each



NK Nizam (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nadeerah)



NK Nizam (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Nadeerah)

stud which are representing these four bloodlines and families.

Katharinenhof has been working self-sufficiently for 35 years. It is closed to any outside breeding horse since that time, this refers to stallions and mares. It is an experimental concept which is said to be have been used in the early times by the Bedouin breeders in the Arabian Peninsula, with the result that these horses as a whole became a highly homozygous population. Such a programme has to be handled with great care; it will guarantee that always an

offspring of a certain type of Arabians will appear, a feature which is genetically strongly fixed. Such a programme will only work when three or better four families are involved, when the breeding stock is free from all vertically transmitted diseases such as SCID or CA, and when no major faults in the structure of the Arabians are existing. And finally, all the necessary good features and characteristics must exist in this closed population, wherever they might be.

It is so important that such a program does not



Badra Eladiyat (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Bint Nashua)



NK Nabhan (NK Nadeer x NK Nerham)

only exist in one place, but is backed up by another population in another place. Otherwise major accidents and mishaps could not destroy all these many efforts made in previous years.

Mr. Mahmood is a person who loves and cares about his Arabians, and he is able to run his stud very successfully concerning health and fertility. He pays great attention that the vital points of an Arabian are properly fixed in all of his horses:

A typical nice impressive head, a perfect high tail carriage, a good conformation and a friendly character.

Concerning his stud as a property, he has arranged his place different from all the other farms. He kept the old stable building properly refurbished, he greened his paddocks and was able to let a whole variety of desert grasses and shrubs grow on his land; palm trees and high eucalyptus trees surround the paddocks and



Zeina Eladiyat (NK Nadeer x Zubaida Eladiyat)

provide fresh air and shade. Altogether a well cared-for green oasis in which his Arabians are living.

A yearly exchange of major stallions between the two studs whenever needed, and the evaluation of their foals after each breeding season, are always a highlight in this cooperation. In addition there are continuous discussions about the offspring – who should stay in the programme, and about the question to which mare a certain stallion should be bred.

Both studs, with the exception of the very different

environment – sandy and hot here, fertile and moderate there – work with the same breeding stock and apply the same management. They have together about the same number of broodmares as the Egyptian El Zahraa Stud had around 1960. Also this El Zahraa population started at the beginning with a few broodmares only, as one can read in its original first studbook. It remained a close population for a long time until it was opened by introducing other stallions who were not part of the Abbas Pasha heritage.



NK Nabhan (NK Nadeer x NK Nerham)

This cooperation also gives a clear answer to the often discussed question: If the environment as such is changing the Arabian type. In fact, it is not the weather, the rain and the sun, the cold and the heat which have a lasting effect on the type of horses in general. Definitely it was like this when for hundreds of years Arabian horses lived in the desert exposed to poor conditions for survival. Today this “environment” is replaced by management, a combination of feed quantity and feed quality, of housing, of limited freedom

and tight stabling, inadequate exercising and artificial breeding practices. This kind of management might deform an Arabian from a creation of nature to a man-made artefact. Positively expressed: The management should be adapted and in conformity with the general requirements of an Arabian horse, in order to maintain and safeguard this breed as a true creation of the desert, and in order to guarantee, this way, the splendid future of this unique breed. Now the fate of these Arabian horses lies in the hands of men only. □