



Beauty is Not Everything, But Without Beauty Everything is Nothing.

Straight Egyptian Arabians in El La Diva Stud, Belgium.

by Monika Savier

Paul Lamers can be described as a veteran of Belgium's original Arabian horse people. Already, as a young rider, he demonstrated his deep empathy for horses. In 1987, he met Winand Bijmens, the then President of the Belgian Arabian Horse Association, and was able to train his horses. They were straight Egyptian Arabians. This was a challenge in this different environment. Belgium is a country dominated by agriculture, bordering the Netherlands to the north, Germany and Luxembourg to the east and France to the south. The west is washed by the Atlantic Channel and its capital, Brussels, is also the administrative capital of the European Union. In keeping with the tradition of its neighbouring countries, Belgium also has a successful history in equestrian sport and horse breeding. The Belgian warmblood breed is an internationally successful showjumping and dressage horse of powerful and large size that dominates the Belgian sport horse scene and this is also an economic factor.

But it is not just a matter of economy. With the interest in so many multicultural dimensions on the part of the international EU administration, there was the great passion of some horse lovers to import fine exotics from the East, namely Purebred Arabians. For many fans of Arabian horses in this country, beauty

was not everything, but it was precisely because of the exotic beauty and elegance of these horses in relation to the sport horses that the desire for Arabians crystallized more and more in Belgium and also in the Netherlands and West Germany, whether they came from Tersk in Russia, Poland and more rarely, Egypt.



Sabine Lens and Paul Lamers with Ibn Barrada (Gad Allah x Barrada) and his owner Bernard Van de Putte in 1998.



Paul Lamers and Ibn Barrada in Chantilly 1998.

Paul Lamers commented: "I loved these fine elegant Arabian horses, they were more intelligent in training and if you treat them like a partner without pressure, they were loyal and would always cooperate."

A few years later Sabine Lens became his partner, and both were now working with Arabian horses. The first horse with which they had lasting show success was the EAO stallion IBN BARRADA by Gad Allah out of Barrada of Ikhnaton, imported from Egypt.

This authentic, typey chestnut also dominated the open shows in the 90s, as the first Egyptian Event

was still years away. Sabine and Paul founded "O.O.X Training Stables" and presented mainly Straight Egyptians, which again had a different type and a finer conformation than the Russian and Polish Arabians from the area. The Arabian horse associations in Europe organized breeding shows where especially the offspring of the good mares and stallions could impress and also be sold. The judging criteria were developed by the newly founded ECAHO (European Conference of Arab Horse Organizations) and the shows at that time in the 80s and 90s were the place to



Paul and Christine Jamar in Balen (Belgium).





CD Anasta (Safeen x Qublah).

be with Arabian horses.

Sabine and Paul left the world of amateurs and dedicated themselves completely and successfully to professional show training and showing. Their love was unreservedly for the Straight Egyptians. "We accompanied the horses everywhere, to the shows, back then, and we slept in the service stalls next to the horses. For us it was not an option to retire comfortably to a hotel in the evening. It had something of a modern nomadic feel to it. The stables were open to all during the shows and visitors came to have a coffee with us and discuss the horses. We were a community and although there were conflicts, we had something in common that created a strong cohesion, namely the work with the horses, which we all enjoyed," Sabine Lens says about the 90s show scene.

At the beginning of 2000, things slowly changed, the classic breeding show became a beauty contest, a catwalk for horses with panda-eyes and pearl halters. They now increasingly came from the Gulf region, which provided the show business with new money and the ECAHO adjusted the selection criteria

CD ANASTA* b 1998 ARABIAN	SAFEEN* gr 1991 ARABIAN AHR #477566	IBN SAFINAZ* gr 15.3 1981 ARABIAN AHR 247122	SEEF* b 1959 ARABIAN EAO*290 vol. 2	MASHHOUR* b 1941	SHAHLOUL* gr 1931		
			SAFINAZ* ch 1970 ARABIAN EAO 3/P104-695	ELWYA gr 1950	BINT RUSTEM* b 1922		
		ABITIBI MADEENA* ch 1987 ARABIAN AHR #396546; CAHR ...	IMPERIAL MADHEEN* gr 1984 ARABIAN AHR 338606	MESSAOUD* gr 1979	ALAA EL DIN* ch 1956	SID ABOUHOM* gr 1936	
			ABITIBI MAAMOUNA gr 1981 ARABIAN AHR #233485; CAHR ...	MADINAH* b 1978	ZAREEFA* b 1927	NAZEER* gr 14.2 1934	
			MADINAH* b 1978	RAMZA gr 1963	KATEEFA* gr 1938	EL SAREET* b 1942	
			MONIET EL NAFIS* gr 1976	SHAHBAA* gr 1951	MADKOUR* gr 1964	SHAHLOUL* gr 1951	
		QUBLAH* gr 1993 ARABIAN AHRA 499682 B-A-3856	IBN MORAFIC* gr +++ 1973 ARABIAN AHR*94395	MORAFIC* gr 1956 ARABIAN EAO*29	ABITIBI ZAMANA* gr 1975	MAYMOONAH* gr 1971	
				KAHRAMANA* gr 1966 ARABIAN AHR*56069	ANSATA SHAH ZAMAN* gr 15.0 1968	IBN GALAL* ch 1966	
			SOUFIAN* ch 14.3hh 1968 ARABIAN EAO*546 AHR*56073 ...	ALAA EL DIN* ch 1956	MONA II* gr 1974	IBN MONIET EL NEFOUS* gr 1964	HOYEDA* ch 1963
				MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	NAZEER* gr 14.2 1934	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	ANSATA SHAH ZAMAN* gr 15.0 1968
	ANA GAYAH* gr 1974 ARABIAN AHR #109910		MORAFIC* gr 1956	MANSOUR* gr 1921	IBN MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1964	ANSATA SHAH ZAMAN* gr 15.0 1968	
			FAWKIA* gr 1965	BINT SAMIHA* b 1925	HOYEDA* ch 1963	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				NAZEER* gr 1936	HOYEDA* ch 1963	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				MABROUKA* ch 1951	MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				ANTER* ch 1946	MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				KAMAR* gr 1953	MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				ALAA EL DIN* ch 1956	MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				MORAFIC* gr 1956	MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				FAWKIA* gr 1965	MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970	
				MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970		
				MONIET EL NEFOUS* ch 1946	BINT DAALDAN* ch 1970		
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La Diva Noaa (Sahib x CD Anasta) and Ladiva Nile-La on the pasture at the farm.

accordingly.

The breeders of Straight Egyptians mostly did not want to jump on this wave of the new show world. Consequently, the format of the “Straight Egyptian Event”, once created by the Pyramid Society in the USA, came into being. From the German Pyramid Society Europe came the idea for the title show Egyptian Event Europe, which took place for many years in Lanaken, Belgium.

Paul was tired of the show circus after 20 years and didn't want to show horses himself anymore, but the couple supported the Oben family, who were the organizers, with practical and organizational help and also had their own horses presented there, because in the meantime they had founded the farm El La Diva Stud.

It came about like this: Ibn Barrada's owner, Bernard Van de Putte, imported the mare Qublah (Ibn Morafic

x Qisani) from Canada to Belgium in 1998. She was in foal to the SE Show stallion Safeen (Ibn Safinaz x Abitibi Madeena). Qublah stood, like the other show horses of Bernard, in the OOX training stables. When the foal CD Anasta was born there, Paul and Sabine made their decision quickly. This foal should stay. This was a good decision and the bay typey CD Anasta, who also has an excellent body, became the stud's foundation mare, and with great success. But where did she come from?

Qublah, the dam of CD Anasta, embodies the Who's Who of American Straight Egyptians imported to Texas in the 60's by Douglas B Marshall (Gleannloch Farms) from EAO, El Zahraa in Cairo. Besides the early Ansata imports, the Douglas B Marshall imports were the elite of the Straight Egyptians at that time and the basis for the world success of these horses, also in Europe and later in the Gulf States. Qublah's dam



La Diva Omar (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta) went to DG Arabians Albania.



La Diva Nooa (Sahib x CD Anasta) went to DG Arabians Albania.



Qisani was sired by Soufian, a Moniet El Nefous son. She was also imported by Douglas B Marshall from EAO, as was the later world-famous stallion Morafic, whose son Ibn Morafic was the sire of Qublah. Anasta's female line trace back to the influential mare Rodania and thus belongs to the Kuhaylah Rudaniyah tribe. She was born to the Ruala Bedouins in 1869 and was one of the Root Mares of Lady Blunt's Sheykh Obeyd Stud in Cairo.

CD Anasta's sire, Safeen was the stallion that won the most shows in the 1990s and was also a top show producer through his offspring. His sire, Ibn Safinaz, who was imported to the USA from Cairo/ EAO in 1982, was also an extremely successful show champion in the USA, Paul and Sabine founded their El La Diva stud and, true to their principle of class over quantity,

CD Anasta 23 years of age.



Sabine Lens and La Diva Noor (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta).



La Diva Safina (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta) went to Saudi Arabia.



La Diva Nile-La (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta).



La Diva Amalouna (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta) went to Jean Conings Belgium.



La Diva Noor (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta) went to Al Hayal Stud Israel.



La Diva Baha (Shael Dream Dessert x CD Anasta) went to China.



La Diva Noor with her daughter La Diva Sahida (Sahib x la Diva Noor).



La Diva Hamad (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta) went to Stefan Brugman the Netherlands.

they first concentrated on CD Anasta and selected her to be bred to the stallion Ansata Nile Echo. La Diva Noor and La Diva Nile-La were born out of this mating and remained as foundation mares at the stud. 'Never change a winning team' was the concept and four more foals by CD Anasta and Ansata Nile Echo confirmed the quality of this match. The stallion Sahib by Salaa El Dine also mated Anasta successfully and the beautiful daughter La Diva Noaa was born. Anasta's offspring and grandchildren can be found in Saudi Arabia, Israel, China, Albania, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium.

A few years later the impressive mare Pashmina (Salaa El Dine x A little Passion) came to the stud and produced the pretty filly La Diva Naseema with Naseem Al Rashediah and the colt La Diva Jawhar with Ezz Al Rashediah.

Paul Lamers and Sabine Lens were impressed by the



La Diva Nadeem (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta) went to Pakistan.



La Diva Naseema (Naseem Al Rashediah x Pashmina) went to Israel.



Pashmina (Salaa El Dine x A Little Passion).



La Diva Nile-La (Ansata Nile-Echo x CD Anasta) as foal at the Egyptian Event Lanaken in 2012.

type and charisma of the NK horses at Katharinenhof and after several visits there they decided to bring home the typey NK Nizam daughter Al Qusar Madiba out of Masara Al Qusar, bred by Robert Schlereth, for their breeding. Thus, the first Dahmah Shawaniyah mare moved in with El La Diva.



Sabine and Anasta.

Monika: What is the most important thing for you when selecting horses for breeding?

Paul: "I look for refinement and nobility in the Arabian horse, by that I also mean their character, not just the body & type. But I still look very carefully at the legs, they are also important to me, because today, when I



La Diva Nooatt (Hatem II Al Safi x La Diva Noor) went to Jean Conings Belgium.



Sabine Lens and Paul Lamers.

only breed, I try to get as close as possible to my ideal".
Sabine: "Not only the character and type are important to me, but also the pedigree of our horses. Pedigrees tell their cultural history; they are the witnesses of the past and we are also responsible to give meaning to their pedigrees through their foals for the future of the breed".

Monika: *That also means you don't do an embryo transfer, where many full siblings with the same pedigrees in the same year are part of a commercial concept and no longer part of the cultural history of the breed?*

Paul: "There is no real reason to do embryo transfers. We breed in generations and want to be able to judge the result of each mating accurately and also learn from it for the future. In my opinion, industrialized animal reproduction has no place in our breeding. It is not about producing a lot of horses for the market, but about selective breeding of chosen horses that are worth the good reputation of the Arabian. We have the responsibility for that when we have Arabian horses in our stables and breed with them." □



Al Qusar Madiba (NK Nizam x Masarah Al Qusar).



**Home of Selected
 Straight Egyptian Arabian Horses
 in Belgium**

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