

2008 Egyptian National Show

Cairo, Egypt

APRIL 24 - 26, 2008

STORY BY YASMIN ATIEH • PHOTOS BY ERWIN ESCHER AND CLAUDE STEMMELIN

Back again to spectacular Egypt, with its mystery and beauty. But this time the National Egyptian Show was not the guest of the desert and the Sakkara pyramids; rather, it was held in the heart of Cairo at the equestrian arena of the Cairo stadium. The show, which was previously held in March, took place in late April, springtime in Egypt. This year, however, we were treated to all four seasons in three days!



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It was obvious that the view this time was different also — the arena was larger and the seating was elevated. As Mr. Raouf Abbas, one of the show organizers, said, “An arena as big as this is an advantage, but the disadvantage is that the handlers get so tired running in it. One of the handlers handled 22 horses in one day and at the end he told me he was so tired.” The tables were set beautifully, waiting for Arabian horses lovers from around the globe to enjoy this lovely event. The sun warmed the arena, then said good-bye as the stars came out. Viewing the show under spotlights was a new experience for a halter show in Egypt and it was really enjoyable. There were no plastic bags and no whips in the arena, and the rule forbidding makeup made the view much better. Meanwhile, all the breeders greeted each other with love and respect, in a familiar way, filling the arena with an aura of warmth and affection.

The yearling fillies came in illuminating the arena and getting us into the mood quickly. The first class was so large (22 fillies) that it was divided into two classes. So there were two winners, Amoura Hamdan A (Ibn El Bashaa x Helaleyet Ikhnatoun), bred and owned by Hamdan Stud, and Amira Al Mamlaka (Farouk Sakr x Set El Koll Rahim), owned and bred by Al Mamlaka Stud.

As the class for two-year-old fillies began, spectators started keeping track of the marks awarded in order to figure out who would win. The elegant filly Anwaar Al Kaherah (Makhnificent KA x Moonira), bred and owned by Al Kaherah Stud, was the first of her class, followed by Dalia KA (Marquis I x Georgia KA), bred by Kehilan Arabians, U.S., and owned by El Farida Stud.

In the class for three-year-old fillies, the lovely Imeila (Imtaarif x Nimeelah), bred by Kenneth and Mary Scribner, U.S., took first place, with second going to

TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: SENIOR CHAMPION STALLION **HAMRA ALIGANCE** (ALI VALENTINO x SONBOHLAS MUSIC), OWNED BY EL FARIDA STUD, TAREK AND AHMED SOLIMAN, EGYPT.
BELOW: SENIOR RESERVE CHAMPION STALLION **IMPERIAL BAAREG** (IMPERIAL BAAREZ x IMPERIAL KARMAH), OWNED BY EL FARIDA STUD, EGYPT.



JUDGES:

Mr. Wladyslaw Guziuk, Poland;
Mr. Burchard Schroder, Germany;
Mrs. Christina Wale, Sweden;
and Mr. Gerard Wissler, France

Senior Champion Stallion: Hamra Aligance (Ali Valentino x Sonbohlas Music), owned by El Farida Stud, Tarek and Ahmed Soliman, Egypt; **Reserve:** Imperial Baareg (Imperial Baarez x Imperial Karmah), owned By El Farida Stud, Egypt.

Senior Champion Mare: Ghazalah El Gabry (El Basha Sakr x Konooz), owned and bred by El Gabry Stud, Mohsen El Gabry, Egypt; **Reserve:** Mohgah Sakr (Imperial Madori x SES Marah), owned by Khattab and Tahani, Egypt.

Junior Champion Colt: Adham Sakr (Imperial Madori x Amira Sakr), owned by El Farida Stud and Al Mamlaka Stud, Egypt; **Reserve:** Jamil Al Rayyan (Ansata Hejazi x Dana Al Rayyan), owned by Albaydaa Stud and El Gabry Stud, Egypt.

Junior Champion Filly: Imeila (Imtaarif x Nimeelah), owned by El Farida Stud, Egypt; **Reserve:** Anwaar Al Kaherah (Makhnificent KA x Moonira), owned by Al Kaherah Stud, Egypt.

Stallions Seven Years Old And Older: 1. Hamra Aligance (Ali Valentino x Sonbohlas Music), El Farida Stud, Egypt; 2. Mashkour Al Maha (Il Nasik x Kholood Albadeia), M. Omar, Egypt.

Mares Seven Years Old And Older: 1. Ghazalah El Gabry (El Basha Sakr x Konooz), El Gabry Stud, Egypt; 2. Mohgah Sakr (Imperial Madori x SES Marah), Khattab and Tahani, Egypt; 3. Imperial Kaavetah (Imperial Kamill x Imperial Orrapha), El Farida Stud, Egypt.

Stallions Four To Six Years Old: 1. Imperial Baareg (Imperial Baarez x Imperial Karmah), El Farida Stud, Egypt; 2. Ezz Ezzain (Ansata Almurtaajiz x Najeiah), Omar Stud.

Mares Four To Six Years Old: 1. Nawal El Gabry (Al Basha Sakr x Farida Hedaya), El Gabry Stud, Egypt; 2. Anbar Noor (Ibn Arabia Sakr x Hams El Koloub Noor), Leila Stud, Egypt.

Three-Year-Old Colts: 1. Jamil Al Rayyan (Ansata Hejazi x Dana Al Rayyan), Al Baydaa Stud and El Gabry Stud, Egypt. 2. Montasir Al Hamd (Ayser x Negma Al Gabry, Ahmadeyat Al Hamd Stud, Egypt.

Three-Year-Old Fillies: 1. Imeila (Imtaarif x Nimeelah), El Farida Stud, Egypt; 2. Imperial Koubla (Imperial Al Kamar x Imperial Falaah), El Farida Stud, Egypt; 3. Tala Al Khaled (Tabayan Al Qusar x Yamamet Al Khaledya), Al Kahled Farm, Egypt.

Two-Year-Old Colts: 1. Awwal Al Amaar (Amaar Al Rayyan x Farid Nile Dream), El Farida Stud, Egypt; 2. Nawawy Al Masaeed (Khaled Sakr x Lolowa El Mousa), Shomookh Al Masaeed, Egypt; 3. Gr Maarif (Gr Faleeh x Maria Halima), Rabab Stud, Egypt.

Two-Year-Old Fillies: 1. Anwaar Al Kaherah (Makhnificent KA x Moonira), Al Kaherah Stud, Egypt; 2. Dalia KA (Marquis I x Georgia KA), El Farida Stud, Egypt; 3. Halypa Monira (Ansata Emir Sinan x Serene Bana Al Da'ira), Khattab And Tahani, Egypt.

Yearling Colts: 1. Adham Sakr (Imperial Madori x Amira Sakr), El Farida Stud And Al Mamlaka Stud, Egypt; 2. Salman Al Marbat (Ezz Ezzain x Ghazallah), Omar Stud, Egypt.

Yearling Fillies - Section A: 1. Amoura Hamdan A (Ibn El Basha x Helaleyet Ikhnaatoun), Hamdan Stud, Egypt; 2. Kounooz El Farida (Said Hafid El Chamsin x Nour Sakr), El Farida Stud, Egypt.

Yearling Fillies - Section B: 1. Amira Al Mamlaka (Farouk Sakr x Set El Koll Rahim), Al Mamlaka Stud, Egypt; 2. Queen Of Royal (Royal Colours x Flaxman's Raja), El Farida Stud, Egypt; 3. Sukeyna Al Khaled (El Thay Khemal Pasha x Sadah Madheen), Al Kahled Farm, Egypt.

Most Classic Head - Mare: Kareemah Sakr (El Habiel x Maha Sakr), owned by Al Baydaa Stud, Egypt, and Athena KA (True Colours x El Thay Tohfa), Al Shurok Arabians.

Most Classic Head - Stallion: Ezz Ezzain (Ansata Almurtaajiz x Najeiah), owned by M. Omar, Egypt.



ABOVE: SENIOR CHAMPION MARE **GHAZALAH EL GABRY** (EL BASHA SAKR X KONOOZ), OWNED AND BRED BY EL GABRY STUD, MOHSEN EL GABRY, EGYPT.

BELOW: RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION MARE **MOHGHAH SAKR** (IMPERIAL MADORI X SES MARAH), OWNED BY KHATTAB AND TAHANI, EGYPT.



Imperial Koubla (Imperial Al Kamar x Imperial Falaah), bred by Imperial Egyptian Stud, U.S. Both fillies are owned by El Farida Stud.

When it was time for the class of four- to six-year-old mares, as the beauties entered the arena it started to rain — a strange occurrence at this time of the year — but no one seemed to care that much. Nawal El Gabry (Al Basha Sakr x Farida Hedaya), bred and owned by El Gabry Stud, was first. Second place went to Anbar Noor (Ibn Arabia Sakr x Hams El Koloub Noor), bred by Noor Stud and owned by Leila Stud.

The last class of the day, mares seven years old and older, had some of the finest mares. The winner of this class was the dazzling trotting mare Ghazalah El Gabry (Al Basha Sakr x Konooz), owned and bred by El Gabry Stud, followed by Mohgan Sakr (Imperial Madori x SES Marah), bred by Sakr Stud, owned by Khattab and Tahani in



ABOVE: JUNIOR CHAMPION COLT **ADHAM SAKR** (IMPERIAL MADORI x AMIRA SAKR), OWNED BY EL FARIDA STUD AND AL MAMLAKA STUD, EGYPT.

BELOW: RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION COLT **JAMIL AL RAYYAN** (ANSATA HEJAZI x DANA AL RAYYAN), OWNED BY AL BAYDAA STUD AND EL GABRY STUD, EGYPT.



second place. Filled with the essence of the wonderful day, the spectators adjourned until the following day.

On the second day, the yearling colts entered the arena to the accompaniment of oriental music and illuminated by the bright Egyptian sun — a perfect combination for the straight Egyptian horse. They were all so elegant and beautiful, one was mesmerized by each and every one as they entered the arena. When Adham Sakr (Imperial Madori x Amira Sakr) entered, everyone loved him, and his exotic charisma was so obvious he took everyone's breath away. Although his breeder could not attend, his name was admirably represented by one of his finest productions as Adham Sakr, owned by El Farida and Al Mamlaka Studs together, won his class. Second place went to Salman Al Marbat (Ezz Ezzain x Ghazallah), owned by Omar Stud, and bred by Al Marbat Stud.

"I do have lots of stallions already in my stud like Imperial Baarez, Imperial

Baarez, and Hamra Aligance," said Tarek Soliman of El Farida Stud, who recently purchased Adham Sakr. "I like to experiment with different bloodlines to know who can sire the best progeny. I bought Adham after I purchased the others. It does not mean he is better than those great stallions, but Adham is a really beautiful colt and he will be a great stallion. In the future, I plan to cross him with Imperial Baarez's daughters. I believe that will be a really good cross."

The class for two-year-old colts was won by Awwal Al Amaar (Amaar Al Rayyan x Farid Nile Dream), a lovely grey colt bred by Hank and Sandra DeShazer, U.S., and owned by El Farida Stud.

The class for three-year-old colts, Jamil Al Rayyan by (Ansata Hejazi x Dana Al Rayyan), imported from Al Rayyan Farm, Qatar, and owned by Al Baydaa and El Gabry Stud, was named the winner. After him came Montasir Al Hamd (Ayser x Negma Al Gabry), bred and owned by Ahmadeyat Al Hamd Stud.

Then came the stallions four- to six-years-old. The winner of this class was Imperial Baarez (Imperial Baarez x Imperial Karmah), bred by Imperial Stud, U.S., owned by El Farida Stud. After him came Ezz Ezzain (Ansata Al Murtajiz x Najeiah), bred by Ezzain Arabians, Kuwait, and owned by Omar Stud.

The last class of the day was for stallions seven years old and older. The stallions entered, pounding the arena with their blows and hooves. The winner of this class was the great, lovable Hamra Aligance (Ali Valentino x Sonbohlas Music), bred by Gubbiotti, Italy, and owned by El Farida Stud. Second place was Mashkour Al Maha (Il Nasik x Kholood Albadeia), bred by Al Maha Stud and owned by M. Omar. He was

once a race stallion and also did a great job at the track. In third place was Sheikh El Araby (Mahfouz x Bint Bint El Araby), bred by Mr. Peter Gross, of Germany, and owned by Fila Stud.

Spectators and horse owners were all feeling a bit strange as the marks awarded by judges of this show were not consistent. For example, one filly received 16,16, and 19 for legs, and others got 19,19, and 17 for head and neck. Everyone knew that there was one judge of the three who had a very different opinion from the others, which made some of the owners a bit frustrated.

On the third and last day, everyone was eager to know who would be named the champions. We started the day with a parade — each stud farm was allowed to enter with two horses, a mare and a stallion. The best of each stud was there, and it was really nice to see and learn the progress of each of them. It was not



ABOVE: JUNIOR CHAMPION FILLY **IMEILA** (IMTAARIF X NIMEELAH), OWNED BY EL FARIDA STUD, EGYPT. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FILLY **ANWAAR AL KAHERAH** (MAKHNIFICENT KA X MOONIRA), OWNED BY AL KAHERAH STUD, EGYPT. **BOTTOM LEFT:** FIRST PLACE MARES FOUR TO SIX YEARS OLD **NAWAL EL GABRY** (AL BASHA SAKR X FARIDA HEDAYA), OWNED BY EL GABRY STUD, EGYPT. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** FIRST PLACE TWO-YEAR-OLD COLTS **AWWAL AL AMAAR** (AMAAAR AL RAYYAN X FARID NILE DREAM), OWNED BY EL FARIDA STUD, EGYPT.



PHOTO: Stemmelin

a competitive time — all were there with a combination of good choices from each stud.

At last, the championships — the Junior Champion filly was Imeila by (Imtaarif x Nimeelah), bred by Kenneth and Mary Scribner, U.S., and owned by El Farida Stud. What about the Junior Champion Filly Imeila? “Well, I bought her from the U.S. She was four months old at the time,” says Tarek Soliman of El Farida Stud. “I just liked that filly. She has won previously at the 2007 Egyptian Event where she was a top ten filly. She is very strong. I think she has a great future.”

The reserve filly, once again, was Anwaar Al Kaherah (Makhnificent KA x Moonira), as she was last year at the same show at Sakkara 2007, and second in her class at the international EAO show last November 2007.

Then came the seniors, and it was hard to choose. Senior Champion Mare was Gazalah El Gabry (El Basha Sakr x Konooz), owned and bred by El Gabry Stud. “I have never seen her so animated,” says Mohsen Gabry.

Reserve Champion Mare was Mohgah Sakr (Imperial Madori x SES Marah), bred by Sakr Stud, and owned by the Khattab and Tahani studs.



PHOTO: Stemmelin

ABOVE: FIRST PLACE YEARLING FILLIES SECTION A **AMOURA HAMDAN A** (IBN EL BASHAA X HELALEYET IKHNATOON), OWNED BY HAMDAN STUD, EGYPT. **BELOW:** FIRST PLACE YEARLING FILLIES SECTION B **AMIRA AL MAMLAKA** (FAROUK SAKR X SET EL KOLL RAHIM), OWNED BY AL MAMLAKA STUD, EGYPT.



ABOVE: DR. NASR MAREI OF ALBADEIA STUD, EGYPT (LEFT), AND HANK DESHAZER OF DESHAZER ARABIANS. **BELOW:** TARIK SOLIMAN AND FAMILY OF EL FARIDA STUD, EGYPT.



This writer was lucky enough to visit the two farms representing the Senior Champion and Reserve mares shortly after the show. Ghazalah El Gabry and Mohgah Sakr have been competing and winning since they were two years old. At Mr. Mohsen El Gabry's farm at Al Mansouria, I enjoyed seeing Ghazalah. "I received a lot of offers to sell her, but I refused," said Mohsen. "I really like her; she is so unique. I wish I had two or three Ghazalahs at my farm." And he smiled. Mohsen also showed us Jamil Al Rayyan, the Reserve Champion Colt, so pretty — I really liked him. Mohsen said, "I liked him as soon as I saw him." Then came the lovely Gamil Sakr, so I had to ask why he did not come to the show although he was entered in the program. Mohsen said, "He stayed a while in the quarantine at the airport. I was afraid that I would push him too much by another transportation and another show."

His opinion about the show? "It was surely better than any other year; the facility was very nice. I liked the organization, the spirit of the owners and audience, and the priceless familiar time we spent. But what I liked most was that our locally bred horses won in a lot of classes."

Going to Mr. Atyah Khattab's farm, you can see the friendly hospitality he has from the first moment; waiting for us at the farm door was a lovely gesture, showing all of his horses, explaining their lines, breeds, crosses, and of course pedigrees. His horses come from all over the world. We walked through the stables until we got to the last stall; it was Mohgah Sakr's, and I said the first words that came into my head, "Hello Princess Mohgah." She was as pretty in her stall as she is at the shows.

"I just fell in love at first sight," says

Khattab. "She was a race champion when I bought her, at age five, but I saw the beauty in her more than the speed. This last year at our farm was Mohgah's year — she won four titles: two in Germany, Champion and Reserve; and Champion at Belgium; and Reserve Champion at Egyptian Event Europe 2007 at Lanaken, Belgium. Then she was Reserve in the international show at El Zahraa in 2007. She is in foal to GR Amaretto, and next year she will be covered by Laheeb. She will only be shown one last time in Egypt at the Zahraa show next November; then she will have some good time at home, enjoying her life as a mom."

Then the competition for the Most Classic Head, fillies and mares, was so beautiful that the judges had a problem deciding to name one, so they named two as the best classical head: they were Kareemah Sakr (El Habel x Maha Sakr), owned by Al Baydaa Stud and bred by Sakr Stud, and Athena KA (True Colours

x El Thay Tohfa), bred and owned by Al Shurok Arabians. One of them took the statue and the other took the flower necklace.

Dancing horses entertained us during a break, followed by some very talented dancers performing traditional Oriental dances, all nicely produced. Next came the tanorra dance; eight colored tanorras (huge skirts), with lots of colors going round and round so fast that all colors became one — they colored the arena with delightful colors. It is known that all the Middle Eastern countries have this dance with different variations.

Now it was time for the colts and stallions. Junior Champion Colt was Adham Sakr (Imperial Madori x Amira Sakr), jointly owned by El Farida and Al Mamlaka stud. The Reserve Junior champion was Jamil Al Rayyan (Ansata Hejazi x Dana Al Rayyan), bred by Al Rayyan Stud, Qatar, and owned by the Al Baydaa and El Gabry studs.



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PHOTO: Stemmelin

ABOVE: MOST CLASSIC HEAD – STALLION **EZZ EZZAIN** (ANSATA ALMURTAJIZ X NAJEIAH), OWNED BY M. OMAR, EGYPT. **BELOW:** TIED FOR MOST CLASSIC HEAD – MARE **KAREEMAH SAKR** (EL HABIEL X MAHA SAKR), PICTURED ON THE LEFT, OWNED BY AL BAYDAA STUD, EGYPT, AND **ATHENA KA** (TRUE COLOURS X EL THAY TOHFA), OWNED BY AL SHUROK ARABIANS, EGYPT.



PHOTO: Stemmelin

The stallion who was named the Senior Champion was Hamra Aligance (Ali Valentino x Sonbohlas Music), who was Reserve last year at the Sakkara show, bred by Gabriele Weixelbaum, Germany, and owned by El Farida.

The Reserve was the outstanding bay stallion Imperial Baareg (Imperial Baarez x Imperial Karmah), bred by Imperial Egyptian Stud, U.S., and owned by El Farida Stud. He was also a Reserve Stallion at the International EAO Show in 2007.

What about Hamra Aligance and Imperial Baareg? “Hamra was named the champion stallion and Baareg was the reserve

champion, so I was really happy for them both although I thought Baareg would be named Champion,” says Tarek Soliman, who owns both stallions. “But Hamra was really in a good mood for the show. He has received many titles in his life as a top ten in Paris and at Aachen. Since he now has earned the Egyptian National Champion, I guess he should rest at home, and Baareg should attend more shows.”

For the Most Classic Head, this time only two stallions entered, and the winner was Ezz Ezzain (Ansata Almurtajiz x Najeiah), bred by Ezzain Stud, Kuwait, and owned by the Omar Stud.

When asked about what the main difference between this venue and Sakkara country club, Mr. Raouf Abbas said, “At Sakkara, as it was beside the Pyramids, it was emotionally better, but practically speaking, the stadium is better and the ground is more suitable for horses.” Mr. Tarek Soliman, owner of El Farida Stud, said, “It was a really nice show, but I can’t be the one to respond as I won four titles and I am a member of the show committee. But after all, I think it was a lovely show although we can improve the organization, which is something we will work on for next year.” And what about the judges? “Well, somehow if the owner did not get a title, he puts it all on the judges,” says Soliman. “Who doesn’t want to win? This time we chose four judges randomly out of 10. The variation in the marks were huge and can’t be denied.”

So the show was over, all attendees delighted and hoping to see all the competitors next year with new horses and winners. Perhaps Tarek Soliman summed it up best when he said, “I’m so happy and proud of the progress the Egyptian Arabian has made throughout the world. As I recall, the straight Egyptian bloodlines account for only three to five percent of the entire Arabian horse population. The interest in the breed is getting stronger and I’m glad, as the straight Egyptian horse represents Egypt. Every day I’m more impressed as more and more people are getting closer and want to know more about this magnificent creature.”

