

"The mare that

carried her tail high"



The Story of the
Desert-bred
Abeyyah mare

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photos by
Gigi Grasso,
private archives

Marah

and her Offspring

"Many times we were talking about Marah and saying how it is strange that so much has been written about Magidaa and Hanan and some of the other Abbeyan mares and yet very little about Marah. She has started a world-wide dynasty too and it's time to tell her story."

(Cathy Rochon, Canada)

Marah's background

It's not only facts that tell of the history of horse breeding. Can you imagine the cultural history of Arabia without her fascinating legends, told and re-told across the generations in the Bedouin tents, and now re-told once more, using the media of today's information society? They give rise to pictures and are the emotional key to the world of Arabian horses and the natural environment of their origin.

The mare MARAH tailed famous El Shahbaa, thus being a member of the Abeyyah Om Jurays Strain. This, now, is her legend.

Oral history tells of a group of 5 bedouins who, after some years of great drought, discovered a herd of Asayel horses in the Nejd. Very happy about this, they sought to capture some horses, building a fence-trap around the waterhole of the oasis. After many days the men succeeded. Each Bedouin choose and rode a mare, and so the five of them started the long return journey to their camps. But the trip was very long and they had soon exhausted their provisions. So the men, sunk in despair, decided to sacrifice a mare! Immediately a group of gazelles whizzed past! It was the hand of God who watched over the horses. God does not want one of His favourite creatures, one of the daughters of the wind, to be killed. Immediately, the 5 Bedouins began to hunt the gazelles. The hunt was successful - so, according to ancient oriental tradition, each Bedouin gave a name to his horse:

The first mare was Al Saqlawiyah: the kicking one (or the brave and intelligent one). The second mare was Al Om Urqub: the peculiar hoof (or with strong legs). The third mare was Al Kuhaylah: with large and prominent eyes tinged with black around the lids. The fourth mare was Al Shuweymah : with a beautiful distinguishing mark. At last, about the fifth mare: the last Bedouin had lost his cloak during some wild gallop. This cloak was caught by the tail of his mare, hanging there because she carried her tail so very high: the mare was called Abeyyah from the Arab word "abey", meaning "cloak" - the mare who carried the cloak on her very high tail! And so

she came to be named: the mare who carried her tail high. (Some scholars think that the Arab root word is "ubi", and derived from that the mare's name is "ubayyan" - to be trustworthy, to be loyal because of the loyalty she attracted. -From: The Pure Arabian Horse, by Carlo Guarmani.)

The Abeyyah strain (also spelled Obayyah, Ubeyyah, Abbeyyah...) is divided into two sub-strains: the Abeyyah Sherraqiyah and the Abeyyah Om Jurays (Om Jereys - Om Gerees - Ummi Ceris...). The Sherraqiyah strain is almost extinct today, at least in WAHO-accepted pedigrees. It has possibly survived in the desert and desolate mountains of North Eastern Syria. In Judith Forbis's book "Hoof Beats Along the Tigris" she reports a study about the strains written by Doct. Selahattin Batu: "...even today (1960) it is possible to find some families of the Abeyyat Sherraq." The doctor noted the Taleban tribe as breeding very good Ubeyyan and Saqlawi Cedran horses. In the area of Homs and Haleb (Aleppo), the Fidaan-Anazeh tribes are breeding Kuheylan Nowaq and Ubeyyan Sherraq, as are the Taleban tribes. The Ubeyyetul Ummi Ceris are a sub-strain of the great strain of Ubeyyani Serreq (text from the book "Turkish Horses and Horse Breeding Knowledge" - the main text-book used at Ankara University's Zoological Institute in the study of horses.

In "Hoof Beats..." Judith Forbis writes: "the best and most classic horses of desert breeding (in the Syrian-Turkish border region) were unquestionably of the Ubayyans Heyli and Sherraq families."

Lady Anne Blunt mentions this strain saying: "The Abeyyan is generally the handsomest breed, but is small, and has less resemblance to the English Thoroughbred than the Saqlawiyat and the Kuhaylat. The Abeyyan Sherraq is the sub-strain most appreciated, and an Abeyyan Sherraq we (Lady Anne Blunt and her husband Wilfrid -t.n.-) saw at Aleppo, bred by Gomussa, could not



Marah
with the Nagel's daughter

have been surpassed in good looks; he was not, however, of a racing type. Again an Abeyyan Sherraq mare belonging to Beteyn Ibn Mershid was the most perfect mare we saw (the celebrated Queen of Sheba). The pure Abeyyan Sherraq strain is only found in the family of Abu Jereys of the Mesekha and in a single family of the Jelaas." Some individuals of this precious desert breed were kept in the Royal Stables of Abbas PashaI. But these horses disappeared and no one knows of their destiny. Even when the Royal Agricultural Society was founded in Egypt in 1908, under the patronage of King Fuad, they collected the purest and noblest Arabian Horses, bred by royal families. But in their notes, there is not one member of the dam line of the Abeyyah strain mentioned.

The name "Abeyyan Om Jurays" appeared suddenly in 1931.

In 1922 Egypt had turned into a monarchy after having been under British influence. The new King's name was Fuad. King Fuad was an avid racing enthusiast and supporter of the Royal Agricultural Society. His Royal Stables, "The Royal Khassa", were located at Inshass near Cairo.

In 1931, King Fuad purchased the famous and celebrated El Shahbaa from El Haj Mohamed Ibrahim. She was a light grey mare with a blaze, born in January 1925. Her sire was El Hamdani El Naseri and her dam the legendary



Magidaa (Maysa x Alaa El Din)
was the half sister of Marah and the mother of Bint Magidaa
who producer the famous sons: Alidaar, Ruminaja Ali
and Ruminaja Bahjat

El Obeya Om Grees, an Abeyyah Om Jurays mare. In 1936 King Fuad died. His young son Faruq, who had been studying in Great Britain, was installed as sovereign. King Faruq was an avid collector of noble Arabians. His stud barn, the world-famous Inshass Stud, saw glorious times under the supervision of a most capable veterinarian, Doctor Mohamed Rasheed. In this stud, many of the noblest horses who founded the legendary nucleus of R.A.S. E.A.O. breeding were born.

Was all of this just lucky coincidence? Or a whim of destiny? Or no more than the careful study and the shrewd eye of good breeders? King Fuad, his son King Faruq, his manager-veterinarian Dr. Mohamed Rasheed, all of them followed by the General von Szandtner and Dr. Mohamed El Marsafi who was to recognise the value of this family of horses?

Until now no one knows who exactly was Al Haj Ibrahim Mohamed. A simple horse dealer? A man out of a story? A student of very old desert families? A simple Bedouin? Or a djinn of the desert? The whole story is shrouded in mystery, just like in the classic oriental tale of Arabian Nights!

El Shahbaa became the true foundation mare of this family in Egypt, and the only source of the Abeyyah strain throughout Arabia. The origins of this mare, who bred her and where, are nebulous. Her sire and dam were bred in Syria,



near the city of Deyr Ez Zor. In the Syrian studbook, recently published, there are 4 horses of the Obayan Om Jreis strain registered. Maybe El Shahbaa originated from Syria? Reading "Hoof Beats Along the Tigris", as well as Lady Anne Blunt's diary and correspondence, the Manuscript of Abbas Pasha, the Authentic Arabian Bloodstock, and others - well, it might be possible. But, looking at the phenotype of the foundation mares of this family (El Mahrousa - Mahfouza with Hafiza and Maysa, Marah and Magidaa; and Mahdia -- Mona with Hanan), what you find is the classic phenotype of the Southern Arabian Asil Horse, the true Arabian horse. Fully pigmented, lacking large white markings, dry shape of body, dry shape of head, medium to low height, the eyes spaced far apart, the eyes large, black and round, extraordinary carriage of tail: the true hall-mark of this strain. Temperament: calm and affectionate.

But these are not the main features of the Northern Syrian Arabian, who is a race horse - but reputed to the origin of El Shahbaa?

The first registered daughter of the mare El Shahbaa, the grey El Mahrousa, born January 12th in 1937, became the actual foundation mare of this family. Her sire was El Zafir/El Zafer, a dark grey stallion without white markings, born on August 15th in 1930. He was bred by Prince Khemal El Dine Hussein and became chief sire at Inshass Stud from 1936 to 1937. El Zafir was a powerful, long-legged stallion, somewhat plain but with an expressive head with prominent eye sockets. He was double Dahman Shahwan: both from the dam's and from the sire's side.

El Mahrousa was sold to the Veterinary Section of the Army in 1953, together with her daughter Mahfouza, after King Faruq had been overthrown.

El Mahrousa had two main daughters, full sisters, both of them bays: Mahfouza, born March 30th in 1943, and Mahdia, born November 6th in 1947, by the chief sire of what was later to become Hamdan Stables and of Inshass Stud: the light grey Hamdan.

Who was Hamdan? A light grey stallion born September 13th in 1936. He was the full brother of Shahloul. Both brothers are well known as important sires of foundation mares. Hamdan was a Saqlawi Gidran Ibn Sudan, bred by

Baglady

(Ansata halim Shah x Bushra) bred by Dr. Nagel and owned by Robert Schlereth. She is the dam of the Ibn Shah Mabrouk, gold ribbon winner in Aachen.

R.A.S. In 1939 he was given to King Fuad as a present for his stud, where he became chief sire.

When the days of Egypt's monarchy ended and King Faruq was overthrown, in 1952, his magnificent collection of Arabian Horses was auctioned off. Most of these horses, the noblest, the purest, and the best, were transferred to the E.A.O. at El Zahraa.

Mr. Ahmed Hamza, minister of agriculture under King Faruq and bestowed the title of "Pasha" by the King, was very interested in breeding pure Arabian Horses and was able to buy the old white stallion Hamdan at the auction. Hamdan had turned into a pathetic creature as he had been neglected by the army. So attached did Mr Hamza become to Hamdan that he named his stables in honour of him.

Hamdan Stables flourished, the stallion regained health and vigour, until one morning Mr Hamza woke up to find himself under sequestration by the new pro-socialist Nasser regime. Now it was his horses' turn to be auctioned. Hamdan, once again neglected, was sold to the zoo, where he was to be slaughtered and fed to the animals. But providence intervened once again and he was saved by an American horse lover. Hamdan hardly resembled the noble creature for which King Faruq had once refused an offer of \$ 120,000! The brave stallion gained in strength and spirit. He spent his remaining days at the stud farm where he was born.

Hamdan was an excellent sire of daughters, taller than Shahloul, with a masculine head and a smooth body - a true breeding horse.

The bay Mahfouza was bred to a son of Hamdan (a very classic in-breeding), the powerful and masculine chestnut Antar/Anter foaled September 21st in 1946, one of the most favourite stallions of King Faruq. After his father Hamdan, he was a leading sire for Inshass Stud, but was later incorporated (together with Sameh) into the E.A.O. breeding programme.

Antar was remembered as a sire of beautiful well-built mares. He was a bright chestnut, with mane and tail lighter than the coat, a stallion of royal bearing and good gaits. His spirit was full of fire - just like his color! He was double Saqlawi Gidran Ibn Sudan, but his phenotype was a bit on the coarse side (reminiscent of Ibn Rabdan) with slightly heavy bones. To his daughters, Antar gave beautiful powerful shoulders, a fantastic balance of fore and rear, long necks, brilliant and extended gaits, and powerful bodies - on the other hand, however, Antar is known for his medium to small eyes which were placed high up in the head.



Ar Shandiz

(Alaa Ibn Tuhotmos x Sheria, the granddaughter of Sherifa), owned by E. Knobloch

One of his daughters was the chestnut Maysa foaled November 26th in 1955. She was a very solid and powerful mare. A true Antar daughter, Maysa was an incredible broodmare: she was the dam of:

- Magidaa, a chestnut born March 13th in 1964 and
- Marah, a chestnut born December 13th in 1966.

Those two half sisters out of the two Nazeer sons, Alaa El Din and Galal, should have, in their own right, had a place of their own in the fairytales told by sheiks and patriarchs of tribes to the emissaries of Abbas Pasha I.

Magidaa was imported to the US in 1968, by Gleannloch Farms. She was the dam of the outstanding horses Bint Magidaa, Shafeekah, and Nabel. Marah (Galal x Maysa) was discovered and bought by Dr. Nagel in 1968 in the Egyptian state stud of El Zahraa, imported from Egypt to Hungary in 1968, and in 1971 finally imported to Germany. She travelled together with her stable mates Hanan (Alaa el Din x Mona), Lutfia (Alaa El Din x Bint Kamla), Maheeba (Alaa El Din x Mouna,) and Tamria (Tuhotmos x Kamar). There, these five mares became the founding mares of the famous Katharinenhof stud of Dr. Nagel.

Galal the son of Nazeer and for many years one of the chief sires at El Zahraa, Egypt



Maysa born 1955 in El Zahraa (Anter x Mahfouza)



Desert Heritage: Which were the criteria you used when choosing mares from the Egyptian state stud at that time?

Dr. Nagel: "When you want to buy several foals, even in a big stud such as El Zahraa you have only a limited number of horses available. There were about 40 to 50 foals born in El Zahraa every year, about half of them colts. Unfortunately, the percentage of loss was quite high then, so basically there were no more than 28 to 32 fillies available from two crops. Somebody wanting to buy 5 foals practically bought 20% of the entire stock of foals. The five fillies I chose were, indeed, the best from those two crops, as there had been the war in 1967 and there were virtually no buyers anywhere. I was absolutely free to choose.

However, I took Babolna interests into account: they wanted Arabian type, but at the same time they wanted a correct conformation and excellent movements, as at that time, "Arabian type" meant more to people than just a concave line of the bridge of the nose. All the horses I chose at that time conformed to the demands of Babolna, including Marah.

In addition, I knew the Marbach Arabian stock and of course, the Babolna Shagya herd as well. In both herds, it struck me that pigmentation disorders were quite prominent. I did not like that, and I did not like a lot of markings in the face and on the legs. This is why more than half of the horses I bought at that time were bays or chestnuts, and with the greys I chose, I paid attention to them having few markings and possessing black hooves. Marah fit in excellently with this group of foals."

Desert Heritage: How do you, today, judge the quality of the offspring you got from them?

Dr. Nagel: "It was not easy to find stallions that fit Marah. Marah herself was a Galal daughter, and at that time, there were no other options in Germany except for the three Nazeer sons. In addition, it soon became apparent that Marah was one of those mares which are not particularly successful as dams of sires. With this trait, she is in excellent company. There are a lot of mares for which this is true. This was the point where she was entirely different from Hanan, who was a typical dam of sires.

On our Katharinenhof stud, however, we got excel-

lent fillies, meaning I was very lucky. The first filly was Ameena by Ghazal, a most beautiful horse who was selected for Count Zichy-Thyssen in Argentina by Dr. Fillinghaus and Dr. Franke. They could have chosen another filly, but they insisted on purchasing this one.

Unfortunately, this mare died early in Argentina, but Count Zichy-Thyssen is still full of praise for Marah. Ghazal died then, unfortunately. This stallion should have been an excellent mating for Marah.

Well, then there were the full sisters Layla and Sharifa, both of them excellent typewise, maybe not really the optimum in topline according to today's demands. These mares gave top performance in all fields including inheritance. Then there were the full sisters Bushra and Matala Bint Marah by Jamil. Bushra was a highly typey bay mare, at once surrounded by potential buyers from abroad. She had a really beautiful face, a most powerful way of moving, maybe she was somewhat short-legged but this is a trait that does not contradict Arabian type and is a hallmark of many Arabian horses. The grey Matala Bint Marah followed in her dam's tracks and produced a whole number of excellent fillies, just as Marah had done. Marah later left the farm, but not because I wanted her to, but because the Poth family, after their much-appreciated Ibn Galal had died, absolutely wanted another horse from that line. Actually, I wanted to do these friends of mine a favour by letting them have Marah."

Desert Heritage: Which were the strengths and the weaknesses of Marah?

Dr. Nagel: "As to conformation, Marah was the most strong-boned of the five fillies I purchased first. She had excellent, powerful movements, covering a lot of ground, and she was excellent for riding. Sitting her was a heavenly feeling. The professional riders in Babolna rated her higher than any of the other mares who came from El Zahraa to Babolna at that time.

Marah was attached to people and easy to handle, she was an excellent and caring mother, and got fat on no feed at all. This latter trait later proved to be a problem, as she was highly sensitive to excess feed and susceptible to foundering, meaning we had to be extremely careful in this respect."

Her Daughters Sherifa und Layla with Mahomed as a Sire

The mating of Marah and the noble Dahman Shawan stallion Mahomed (Hadban Enzahi x Malika) produced two particularly typey and fertile daughters: the grey mares Sherifa (1973) and Layla (1974). The older one, Sherifa, was sold to Switzerland at the age of 3 years, where she lived with Barbara and Karl Liesegang for twenty years, bringing them 12 foals until her death in 1996. "Sherifa was such a consolidated inheritor, you could have mated her to a donkey and she would have produced a beautiful foal", Frau Liesegang enthuses over her foundation mare. Actually, they preferred matings with Galal sons or grandsons such as Ibn Galal, Mehanna, Golmoud El Ahmar or Madheen Pasha, but stallions such as the Hanan son Abdallah or Ibn Moheba were used repeatedly. The Ibn Galal daughters Sheykha Abbaya and Shergala proved to be especially good in breeding.

Shergala changed owners several times before she found her proper home with Klaus and Margot Oswald near Lake Constance in Germany.

Among the offspring of Sheykha Abbayah there is a son, the beautiful black UP Sheitan (by Mehanna), and a grandson, the dark chestnut Pasha Yasin (by Alidaar out of UP Sheika Bint Pasha), both of them stallions who have been awarded the gold ribbon in Germany. As to success under the saddle, there are the offspring of the Sheykha Abbayah daughter Shareefah (by Madheen Pasha) to be mentioned, who is from the breeding stock of the Vögtlin family in Switzerland.

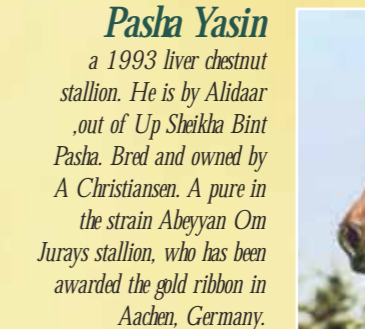
The typey dark chestnut mare Shergala is one of the last Ibn Galal daughters who are still active in breeding. She is of excellent health and is expecting her 14th foal in April. Unfortunately, Shergala was to have just a few daughters, of whom the grey mare AGS Ghazalla (by UP Mohammed Ali) is the last remaining mare of the Liesegang family's stock and destined to continue her dam's line.

Just like Shergala, her half sisters Bint Abdallah, Bint Sherifa, and Shedana were exported to Germany, where the grey mares produced the typey offspring which made such a good name for the stud of Dr. Radjai. One of the most beautiful mares of this stud, the fiery chestnut AR Farida (by Alaa Ibn Tuthotmos out of Shedana) is not only enchanting with her extraordinary colour, but attracts attention as well with her excellent foals, particularly those from sires of the Ansata Halim Shah line (Ibn Bint Inas and Maymoun).

The second Mahomed daughter out of Marah, Layla, is of



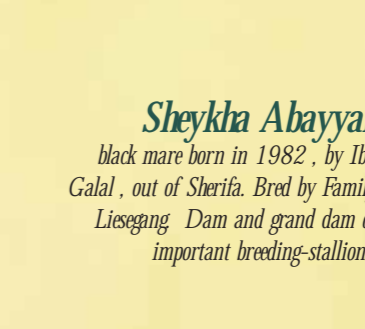
Baa Shamaal
(Bayfyrrre x Shergala ,
the daughter of Sherifa),
owned by K. Oswald,
Germany



Pasha Yasin
a 1993 liver chestnut
stallion. He is by Alidaar
out of Up Sheikha Bint
Pasha. Bred and owned by
A Christiansen. A pure in
the strain Abeyyan Om
Jurays stallion, who has been
awarded the gold ribbon in
Aachen, Germany.



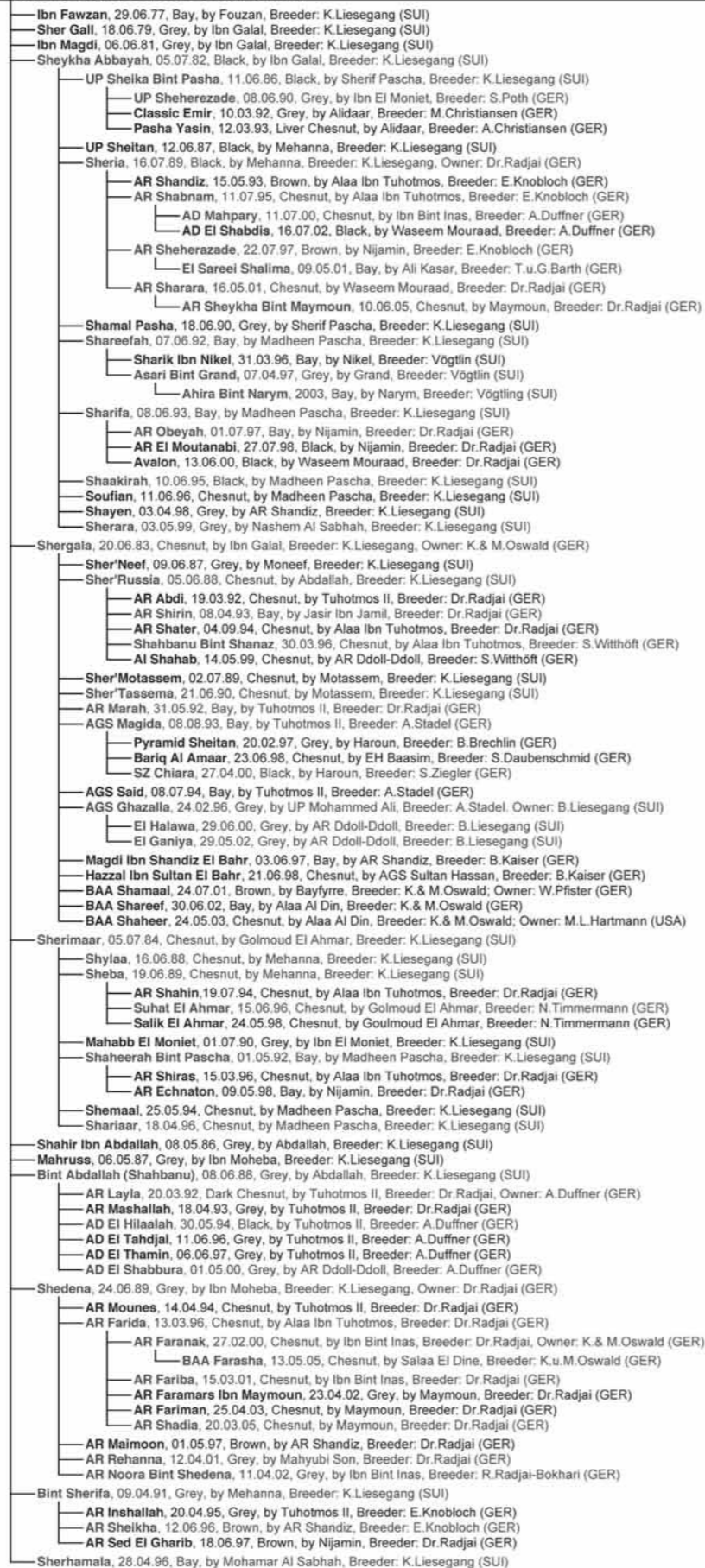
Baa Shaaref
(Alaa Al Din x Shergala),
owned by K. Oswald



Sheykha Abayyah
black mare born in 1982 , by Ibn
Galal , out of Sherifa. Bred by Family
Liesegang Dam and grand dam of
important breeding-stallions.

Marah, 13.12.66, Chesnut, by Galal, Breeder: El Zahraa

- Farag 3 (I)
- Ibn Marah
- Ameena
- Sherifa, 17.07.73, Grey, by Mahomed, Breeder: Dr.Nagel, Owner: K.Liesegang (SUI)
- Layla
- Karim
- Mahair
- Bint Marah
- Bushra
- Burkan
- Mataa Bint Marah
- UP Bint Marah
- UP Marfa
- UP Mohamed Pasha
- UP Hebet Allah
- UP Mabrouk



Sherifa
grey mare, born in 1973, by Mahomed out of Marah. Bred by Dr. Nagel, owned by Family Liesegang. Her owner says about her: You could have mated her to a donkey and she would have produced a beautiful foal.

Lahif
bay colt Nizam out of Layla



Shannah
bay mare born in 1978. Bred and owned by Family Jattiot. She is by Ibn Galal out of Layla. Shannah was of noble type and harmonious conformation, with beautiful movements.

almost identical quality. It took several visits and a lot of persuasion until Lore and Peter Jattiot were able to convince Dr. Nagel to sell them the mare, at that time pregnant by Ibn Galal. Layla was a joy to the eyes, with magnificent type, a beautiful dry head, the big dark eyes, and the delicately shaped ears. Her excellent movements were the heritage of her dam and compensated for slight faults of topline and hind-quarters. At 15 h 2 in, Layla was among the bigger-framed mares. Her first filly, the bay Ibn Galal daughter Shannah, was Layla's most successful daughter. The mating could, unfortunately, not be repeated as Ibn Galal was sold to Southern Germany, into the Dobel stud of the Poth family. Shannah produced really excellent foals in the next years, with the Ansata Halim Shah daughter M Shahlima and her - sibling M Sharin (by Ibn Bint Inas) particularly worth mentioning. Both of them have their home at the El Marees stud of the Grefenstein family today. From the mating of Shahlima and Malik el Nil came the typey filly Shayla II. She produced a total of 10 foals and can today enjoy her well-earned retired status. Shannah was a dominant inheritor of noble type, harmonious conformation, excellent topline, and movements clearly above average. Layla's second foal, Habibah by Kaisoon, was exported to Canada, where she bore a total of six foals for different breeders before Tzviaan Idan purchased her for his stud in Israel. An exceptional foal was Layla's bay colt Lahif (by Nizam) with the Patt family. Approved as a sire and decorated as a three-year-old, he had a great future ahead of him. Fate, however, did not mean him well. During the preparations for the stallion performance testing in Marbach, he had an accident and had to be put to death. At the beginning of the 1980ies, the owner of Gleannloch

AR Farida a 1996 bright liver chestnut mare, by Alaa Ibn Tuhotmos out of Shedena. Bred by Dr Radjai. Dam of beautiful foals



Shedana grey mare born in 1989, by Ibn Moheba out of Sherifa. Bred by Family Liesegang, owned by Dr. Radjai.



Farms, Douglas Marshall, had the burning desire to breed a new Morafic. 10 mares were leased in Germany and mated to Morafic sons. One of them was Layla who was mated for three successive years to her granddam's half brother Maddah. The result of the first mating was M Ibn Maddah, a bay colt who fulfilled every expectation. A beaming Douglas Marshall had him brought to the US as a weanling, where the Morafic grandson had to pass 14 days of quarantine. For whatever reason - tragically, M Ibn Maddah did not survive the quarantine period. The third foal from that planned mating, M Labeeba, went to the US as a broodmare. Into breeding as well, but this time in Germany, went Layla's last two fillies, the bay M Laylata Amsi by Halim Al Kidir and the grey M Lolitha by El Thay Mansour. When Lore Jattiot broke up her stud because of her failing health, Layla found her way to the Grefenstein's farm as well, where she is now retired.

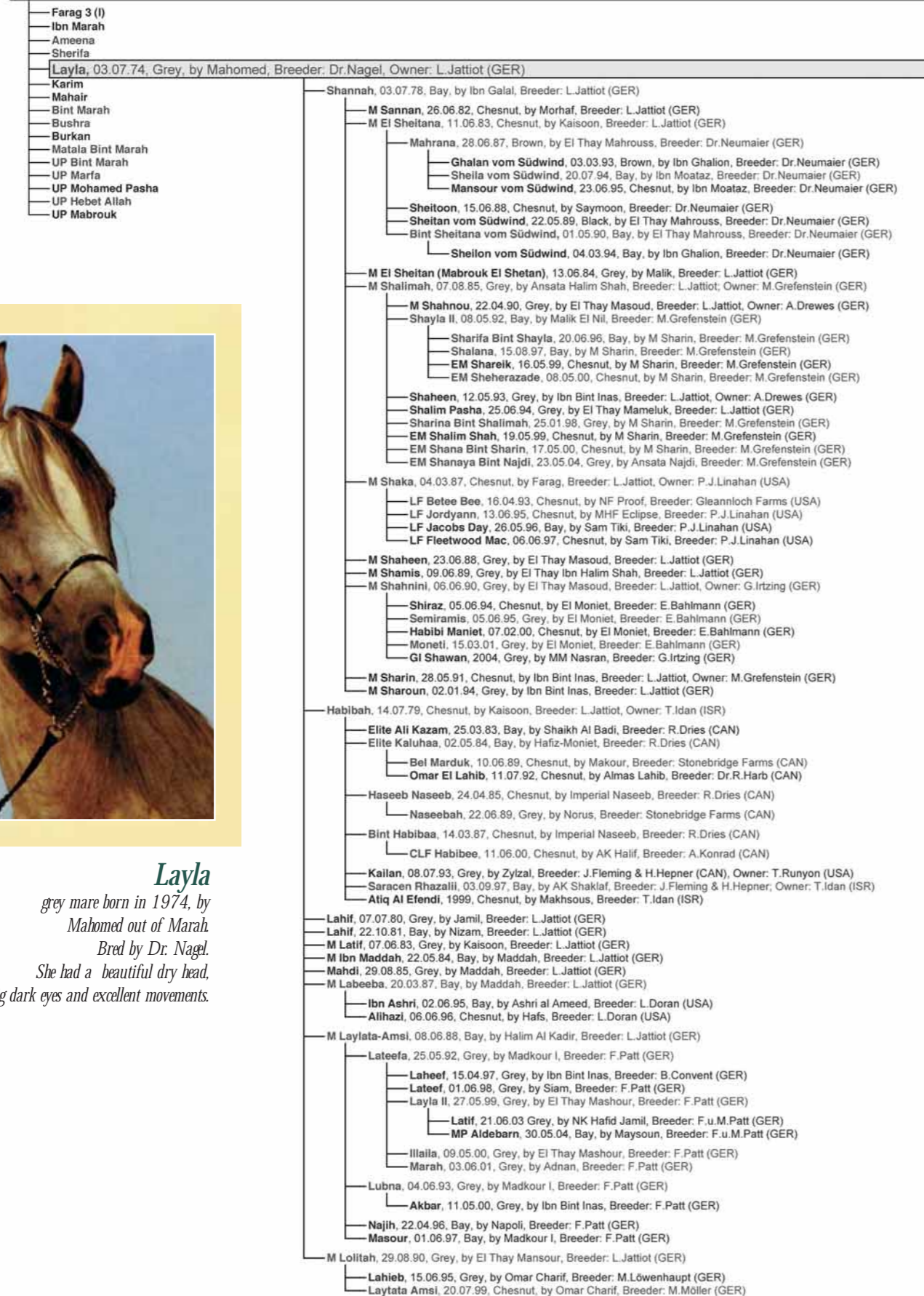


M Sharin chestnut stallion born in 1991. By Ibn Bint Inas out of Shannah. Bred by Family Jattiot, owned by M. Grefenstein. Winner of the stallion license Show in Aachen



UP Sheitan black stallion born in 1987, by Mehanna out of Sheikha Abayyah. Bred by Family Liesegang, owned by Poth-Family. He has been awarded the gold ribbon in Germany.

Marah, 13.12.66, Chesnut, by Galal, Breeder: El Zahraa



Layla
grey mare born in 1974, by Mahomed out of Marah Bred by Dr. Nagel. She had a beautiful dry head, big dark eyes and excellent movements.

Her Daughters Bushra and Matala Bint Marah with Jamil as a Sire

Bushra

In 1980 the brown filly Bushra was born at Katharinenhof stud. Her sire was Dr.Nagel's incomparable Jamil (Jamill). She became a beautiful mare and Dr. Nagel bred two daughters from Bushra, the first of them, Beshira, by her sire Jamil in 83, and the second one, Bagdady, by Ansata Halim Shah in 85. Beshira was an important breeding mare at Katharinenhof stud for many years. Her big black-eyed bay daughter Salua (by Salaa El Dine) is now standing in Italy at Gigi Grasso's Alfabia Stud. Her daughter Badawia was sold to Mr. Al Nakeeb and is now, together with her impressing offspring, living in Great Britain. Bagdady is still living in Germany. At the age of four, she was sold to Claudia Schwarze (later on Claudia Marggraf) and produced excellent offspring, among them the type inheritor Ibn Shah Mabrouk who was awarded gold in Aachen, and her fascinatingly beautiful

ful full sister Mahail. For three years now, Bagdady has been living in the Al Qusar stud in Northern Germany. Her owner Robert Schlereth mated her to Teymur B and got a superb colt, Tahassoun Al Qusar, who has by now grown into a young stallion candidate. Bushra was again bred to Ansata Halim Shah and exported to Canada as a six-year-old. The resulting colt, Ibn Bushra, is now in the US. She was next bred to Dalul and produced another colt, Shah Dalul, who is now owned by and siring for Dr. Ann Campbell of Oklahoma City. Shah Dalul is a Class A show champion. Bushra's 89 filly, Bushira by Ibn Luftia, was exported to Jordan.



Bushra and other Abbayan mares from the Mahroussa family at the Katharinenhof

Said Hafid El Chamsin



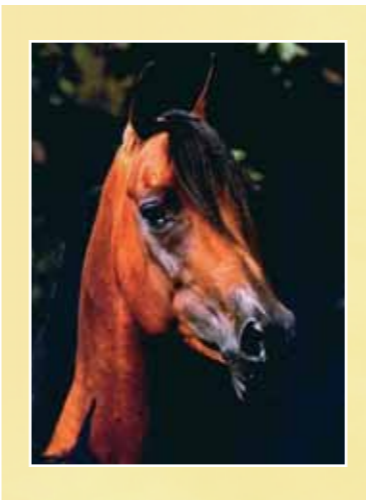
Salua is a Salaa El Dine daughter out of Beshira, the daughter of Bushra with Jamil as sire, who gave undoubtedly his big black eyes to his grand daughter. Salua was bred by Dr. Nagel and is owned by Gigi Grasso, Alfabia Stud in Italy.



Ibn Shah Mabrouk, the beautiful son of Baglady (Bushra x Ansata Halim Shah) with the outstanding breeding license. He got the golden ribbon in Aachen. Now standing at Al Qusar Stud in Germany.

Marah, 13.12.66, Chesnut, by Galal, Breeder: El Zahraa

- Farag 3 (I)
 - Ibn Marah
 - Ameena
 - Sherifa
 - Layla
 - Karim
 - Mahair
 - Bint Marah
 - Bushra, 16.06.80, Bay, by Jamil, Breeder: Dr.Nagel, Owner: C.M.Rochon & B.T.Hora (CAN)**
 - Burkan
 - Matala Bint Marah
 - UP Bint Marah
 - UP Marfa
 - UP Mohamed Pasha
 - UP Hebet Allah
 - UP Mabrouk
- Beshira, 14.10.83, Bay, by Jamil, Breeder: Dr.H.Nagel (GER)
 - Salua, 22.03.89, Bay, by Salaa El Dine, Breeder: Dr.Nagel; G.Grasso (ITA)
 - Mabroka, 01.01.94, Chesnut, by Suleyman, Breeder: A.Zizi (MAR)
 - Zahrat Nour, 15.01.98, Bay, by Adnan, Breeder: A. Zizi (MAR)
 - Najat Nour, 13.04.99, Grey, by Ansata haji Jamil, Breeder: A. Zizi (MAR)
 - Hayat Nour, 10.04.98, Bay, by Adnan, Breeder: A. Zizi (MAR)
 - Fath Nour, 25.04.99, Bay, by Suleyman, Breeder: A.Zizi (MAR)
 - Princess Of Nejd El Chamsin, 03.04.01, Grey, by NK Hafid Jamil, Breeder: H.Wohlann (GER)
 - Said Hafid El Chamsin, 05.05.02, Brown, by NK Hafid Jamil, Breeder: H.Wohlann (GER)
 - Sahiba Bint Salua El Chamsin, 03.05.03, Bay, by NK Hafid Jamil, Breeder: H.Wohlann (GER)
 - Kahtan, 05.07.90, Grey, by Salaa El Dine, Breeder: Dr.Nagel (GER)
 - Siba, 19.03.93, Bay, by Mohafez, Breeder: R.Ziethen (GER)
 - Taja, 31.05.02, Grey, by RT White Magic, Breeder: U.Reinartz (GER)
 - Badawia, 29.04.97, Grey, by Nahaman, Breeder: Dr.Nagel. Owner: Al Nakeeb (GBR)
 - NK Badr, 16.03.01, Grey, by Adnan, Breeder: Dr.Nagel (BRD)
 - Bilal Al Nakeeb, 2002, Grey, by Ashhal Al Rayyan, Breeder: Al Nakeeb (GBR)
 - Murtajab Al Nakeeb, 2004, Grey, by NK Hafid Jamil, Breeder: Al Nakeeb (GBR)
 - Baghdady, 10.03.85, Grey, by Ansata Halim Shah, Breeder: Dr.H.Nagel; Owner: Al Qusar (GER)
 - Attalah, 24.04.89, Chesnut, by El Moniet, Breeder:Dr.H.Nagel (GER)
 - Aimee Bint Bint Halim Shah, 16.03.91, Grey, by KEN Asam, Breeder: C.Schwarze (GER)
 - El Wa Ha Amar, 17.01.95, Bay, by Potomac, Breeder: C.Schwarze (GER)
 - El Wa Ha Sajjida, 02.06.00, Grey, by El Thay Kayed, Breeder: K.& E.Müller (GER)
 - El Wa Ha Khalif, 05.07.01, Grey, by El Thay Kayed, Breeder: K.& E.Müller (GER)
 - Nichem, 18.04.92, Grey, by Madkour I, Breeder: C.Schwarze (GER)
 - Nabilah, 20.04.93, Grey, by Nahaman, Breeder: C.Schwarze (GER)
 - Shaloul, 28.02.99, Chesnut, by Salaa El Dine, Breeder: C.Marggraf (GER)
 - Nahlah, 30.05.00, Dark Chesnut, by Ibn Shah Mabrouk, Breeder: C.Marggraf (GER)
 - MS Nasif, 19.04.02, Grey, by Ibn Shah Mabrouk, Breeder: C.Marggraf (GER)
 - Mahail, 24.03.94, Grey, by El Thay Shah Mabrouk, Breeder: C.Schwarze (GER)
 - Mouhannas Magnum, 04.06.98, Grey, by Messaoud, Breeder: B.Schmauch (GER)
 - Mahailah, 13.02.02, Grey, by Assad, Breeder: C.Geischer (GER)
 - Ibn Shah Mabrouk, 15.05.95, Grey, by El Thay Shah Mabrouk, Breeder: C.Schwarze (GER)
 - MS Romanaa, 30.06.97, Grey, by Ramin, Breeder: C.Marggraf (GER)
 - Rhanah, 04.04.03, Chesnut, by Ibn Shah Mabrouk, Breeder: C.& T.Marggraf; Owner: M.Savie (ITA)
 - Mohssen, 08.04.99, Chesnut, by El Thay Mashour, Breeder: C.Marggraf (GER)
 - Asfour, 17.05.2001, Grey, by Adnan, Breeder: C.Marggraf (GER)
 - Tahassoun Al Qusar, 02.04.04, Grey, by Teymur B, Breeder:Al Qusar (GER)
 - Ibn Bushra, 05.03.86, Grey, by Ansata Halim Shah, Breeder: Dr.H.Nagel; Owner: Dr.J.Coles (USA)
 - Shah Dalul, 01.07.87, Chesnut, by Dalul, Breeder: Dr.J.Coles. Owner: A.E.Campbell (USA)
 - Bushira, 16.05.89, Bay, by Ibn Lufia, Breeder:Stonebridge EA ; Owner: Montebello (CAN)
 - MB Talira, 11.05.93, Grey, by Talmaal, Breeder: Montebello (CAN)
 - Bushra, 24.08.97, Bay, by The Atticus, Breeder: Montebello (CAN)
 - SK Zeyn, 1999, Bay, by AK El Sennari, Breeder: S. Khair (JOR)
 - Bilal Al Khair, 2000, Bay, by Scudslly , Breeder: S.Khair (JOR)
 - Bushra Hilal, 11.07.97, Bay, by Moon Sheine, Breeder:Stonebridge EA (CAN)
 - Ali Galal, 06.04.00, Chesnut, by The Conspirator, Breeder:C.K.Rochon & B.T.Hora (CAN)
 - NL Badr Ben Bushra, 08.04.01, Chesnut, by The Conspirator, Breeder:C.K.Rochon & B.T.Hora (CAN)
 - Juraysah NAN, 12.06.04, Grey, by The Conspirator, Breeder:C.K.Rochon & B.T.Hora (CAN)



Bushra
(Jamil x Marah),
the impressive daughter of Marah,
standing in Canada
at the Nadj Al Nur stable

"I first saw Bushra and her daughter, Bushra Hilal, in 1993. It was a year before I could persuade her owner to sell me Bushra Hilal and another three years before I bought Bushra herself, in partnership with Beth and Terry Hora. We have bred Bushra three times to The Conspirator for a 2000 chestnut colt Ali Galal owned by me; a 2001 chestnut colt Badr Ben Bushra owned by the Horas; and a 2004 bay filly Juraysah NAN also owned by me. Bushra is now 25 years old and is retired, and still doing well.

She has passed on her lovely head, good legs and good movements to her offspring. They are also very easy to train and very loyal and affectionate with their people, but they can be somewhat aloof with strangers. I think that the Abbeyans are very well known in some ways, but mostly through the lines of Hanan and Magdaa, especially in North America. Here in Canada, Bushra and her offspring are the only representatives of the Marah line"
(Cathy Rochon, www.nadjalnurstable.com)



Matala Bint Marah

The sixth daughter out of Marah, born on Dr. Nagel's Katharinenhof in 1983, was the grey mare Matala Bint Marah. Long-legged, with a chiselled poll, a long neck, big black eyes, and unbelievable movements, she did not only flaunt being a daughter of Marah, but was also unmistakably stamped by her famous sire Jamil (Jamill). In 1986 she was sold to the Maiworm family, pregnant by Malik. In 1987, her first filly Malimah was born, who in her turn can boast of extensive offspring of excellent quality. The same is true for the following daughters, Marahna (by Ameen) and Malesha (by Maysoun), both of whom have extensive offspring to their credit. In 1991, Matala's only colt, Matal by Maysoun, was born. He was sold to Sweden and became a successful breeding stallion. After that, the Maiworm family parted with Matala Bint Marah - very reluctantly, however - and the mare, then pregnant by Maysoun, moved to Siegfried and Wally Manz in Ehningen near Stuttgart. There, she bore Mansoura I, a show mare with lots of type and movements who today has her home in Egypt with Al Khalidiya Stud. She was the reason for the Manz family to decide to use Matala Bint Marah as the foundation mare for their Egyptian Arabian breeding on the Birkenhof stud.

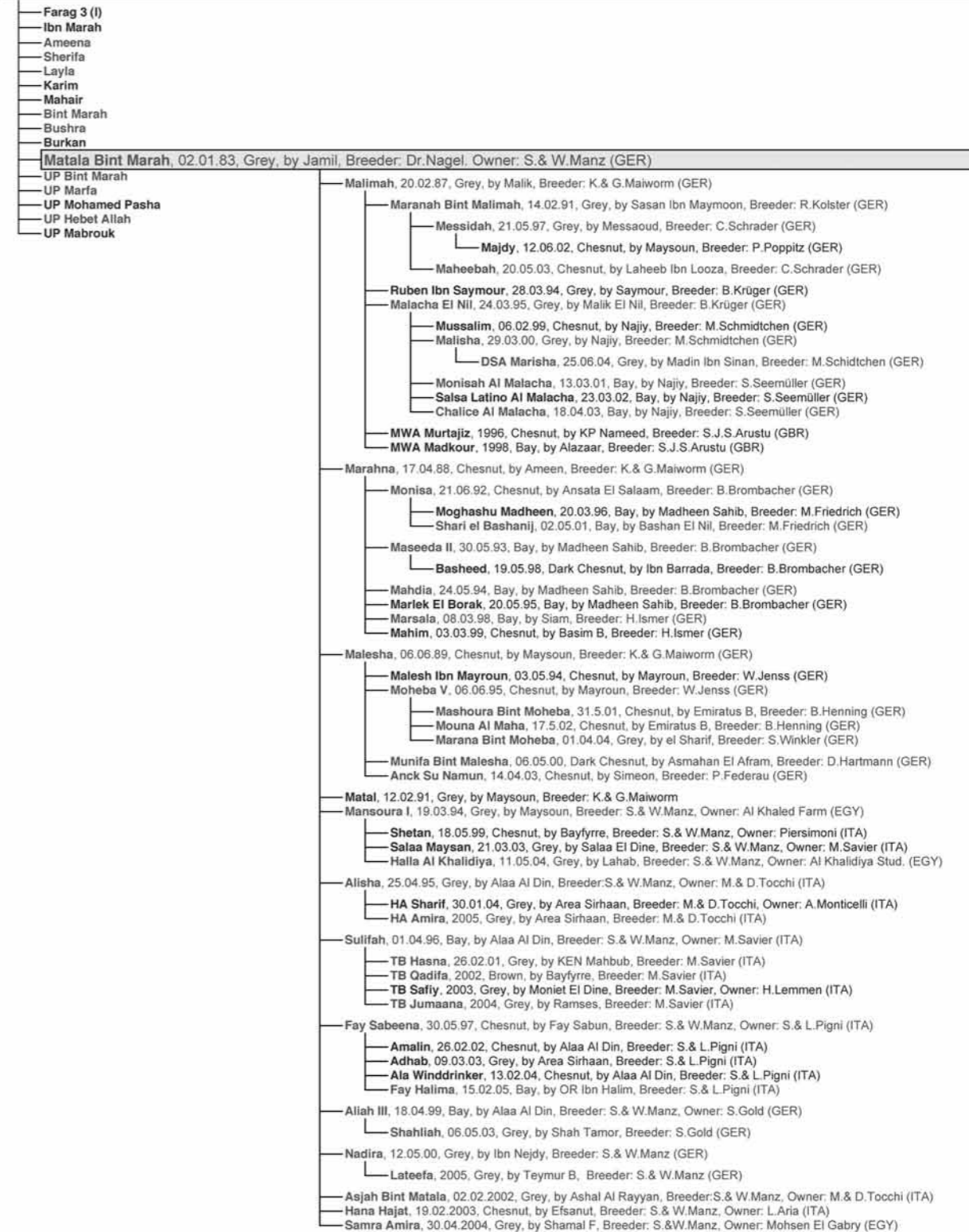


Matala Bint Marah (Marah x Jamil), the full sister of Bushra produced 9 outstanding fillies at the Birkenhof stud of Siegf and Wally Manz.



HA Sharif the charming son of Area Sirhaan and Alisha, the full sister to Sulifah, with the outstanding movement and charisma, was bred by Domenico Tocchi, Hadhad Aabians and is owned by Annalisa Monticelli, Halypa stud, Italy.

Marah, 13.12.66, Chesnut, by Galal, Breeder: El Zahraa



Desert heritage: What was it you liked so much about Matala Bint Marah then that you decided to buy her?

Siegi Manz: Well, I have to admit, at that time, my prime interest was in a Jamil daughter as a foundation mare for our Egyptian breeding stock. I knew Jamil from having seen him on the Katharinenhof, I also had video of him which I used to watch again and again thinking "what a stallion, this charisma, how can I integrate this genetic heritage into our breeding?" I was quite simply fascinated by Jamil.

Desert heritage: However, Matala Bint Marah has not given you a stallion of the like of Jamil to date.

Siegi Manz: No, not at all. She is an incredible dam of mares and has not born a single colt for me up to now, but she gave me nine excellent mares. She really is a stroke of luck, this mare.

Desert Heritage: Marah, her dam, also produced nine very good mares. Do you think there is a link-up here?

Siegi Manz: Initially, I had underestimated the genetic value inherent in Matala Bint Marah's dam line. Just like almost any beginning breeder, I made that mistake of putting too much emphasis on the sire lines. The stallions were to put everything right, but reality is quite different, of course. Marah had a rather calming significance for me, however, in the fact that she was desert-born in Egypt and had been chosen by Dr. Nagel, whom I have always appreciated as a real horse expert with an eye for a good horse. Additionally, she had an important sire, the Nazeer son Galal.

Desert Heritage: It was the prophet Mohamed who said that his Arabian mares are the wealth of a Bedouin...

Siegi Manz: This is a point in which I absolutely agree with him... Matala's daughters have been sold, for the most part, to Italy and into the Arabian countries. Our stud got its funds exclusively from this foundation mare. Not only that, but on shows, Matala's daughters always did very well. Matala - just like other daughters of Marah's - is an absolutely solid inheritor genetically, she can be relied on to pass on

her positive aspects, it's almost no matter which stallion. All of her daughters possess good type, good gaits, and good legs. And most importantly for a breeder: she is absolutely uncomplicated as a mother: fertile, independent, very motherly, and a dam of mares, as we said before... This time, she is again pregnant by Ramses (Adnan x Ansata Rebecca) as we are hoping that this mating, which is highly similar to the mating of Marah and Gazal - which resulted in a dream mare - will be successful with Matala Bint Marah as well."

Alisha and Sulifah, two full sisters having Alaa Al Din by Salaa El Dine as a sire, went to Italy when they were still young mares.

Alisha is a foundation mare with Martha and Domenico Tocchi, Hadhad Arabians, in Grosseto/Toscana.

Her first foal was HA Sharif, by Area Sirhaan, an Ansata Iemhotep son who was sold to Annalisa Monticelli, Halypa Arabians, in Bari. Today, he is a highly convincing young stallion with lots of type and a very harmonious build. Genetically, he is a 50/50 combination of lines bred by Dr. Nagel and by J. Forbis. In 2005, his beautiful full sister HA Amira was born in Hadhad stud.

Sulifah, on the other hand, founded a mare line of her own at Monika Savier's Tre Balzane stud in Umbria/Italy. Just like her dam, she is an outstanding broodmare. The three daughters she produced up to now, TB Hasna by Ken Mahbub, TB Qadifah by Bayfyrrre, and TB Jumaana by Ramses, have enchanted a whole lot of visitors already. Their first foals will be born this spring. Sulifah herself is now pregnant by Salaa El Dine.

Different from her dam, beautiful Mansoura I gave birth to a colt, Salaa Maysan by Salaa El Dine, who became Reserve Champion of the Egyptian Event in Baden-Baden/Germany even as a foal. Today, he also has his home in Italy at Tre Balzane Stud.

Asjah Bint Matala, Matala Bint Marah's daughter by Ashal Al Rayyan, was also brought to Grosseto by Domenico und Martha Tocchi.

And Matala Bint Marah's youngest daughter, Samra Amira, started her journey back to the roots of her grand grand dam...to the Middle East even as a weanling and is right now trained for showing.



TB Qadifa

(Sulifah x Bayfyrrre) double Abbayan in the strain through the Bayfyrrre grand dam Magidaa and Marah, the grand dam of Sulifah. She is bred and owned by the Tre Balzane Stud in Italy.



Sulifah a daughter of Matala Bint Marah by Jamil. She is the pillar of the breeding program at the Tre Balzane Stud in Italy.

Marah at the Poth Family

When Marah moved from the North of Germany to the Black Forest with the Poth family in 1983, she was 18 years old already. She brought another five foals there before she died.

Desert Heritage: What made you think of buying Marah? She was no longer a young mare, after all.

Ursula Poth: "Initially, Marah had impressed us with her type, so very beautiful and a brilliant eye - her pedigree was and still is special. Marah was pregnant by Malik when we got her, and she gave us the filly UP Bint Marah. Of all the foals Marah gave us, UP Bint Marah was the top of the lot. She was strongly stamped by Malik, herself, but from her matings with Alidaar we got two outstanding horses (Classic Medaba and Classid Madaraa).

Desert heritage: What do you think why the Abbayan strain is less well known than other Bedouin lines?

Ursula Poth: The Abbayan (Obayan) strain was regarded very high particularly in the Arabian countries. Especially in Egypt, breeders are very much interested in this strain and used to pay particularly high prices".

Five foals out of Marah were counted at the Dobel stud. While offspring from UP Bint Marah mainly went to France or Italy, the Marah daughter UP Marfa was sold to Gleannloch Farm in the US. Her offspring are still existing, widely spread and successful today. Using Alidaar, himself a Magidaa grandson and therefore a member of the Abbayan strain, was a good move that served to consolidate positive traits by inbreeding in the 2nd generation. Certainly, not all of the owners of mares from the Marah line

Marah, 13.12.66, Chesnut, by Galal, Breeder: El Zahraa

- Farag 3 (I)
- Ibn Marah
- Ameena
- Sherifa
- Layla
- Karim
- Mahair
- Bint Marah
- Bushra
- Burkan
- Matala Bint Marah
- UP Bint Marah, 27.03.84, Grey, by Malik, Breeder: Dr.Nagel, Owner: M.Kraus (GER)
- UP Marfa
- UP Mohamed Pasha
- UP Hebet Allah
- UP Mabrouk

- UP Mourad, 09.07.88, Chesnut, by Mohssen, Breeder: U.Poth (FRA)
- UP Maheen, 18.06.89, Grey, by Mohssen, Breeder: S.Poth (FRA)
- UP Mahfouza, 13.05.90, Grey, by Ibn El Moniet, Breeder: U.Poth (FRA)
 - Masei, 10.03.94, Bay, by Ruala Faisal, Breeder: Courthouse Farm (FRA)
 - Mahboul, 19.04.95, Bay, by Ruala Faisal, Breeder: Courthouse Farm (FRA)
 - Masei Marah, 16.02.97, Bay, by Ruala Faisal, Breeder: E.G.Buttigieg (FRA)
 - Madjid Du Sauveterre, 16.05.98, Grey, by Sousse, Breeder: E.G.Buttigieg (FRA)
 - Mousse Clark, 03.05.99, Bay, by Madmaymour, Breeder: E.G.Buttigieg (FRA)
 - Moita Du Sauveterre, 25.04.00, Bay, by Nedjar De La Salut, Breeder: E.G.Buttigieg (FRA)
- Classic Mahari, 15.05.91, Grey, by Ibn El Moniet, Breeder: S.Poth (GER)
 - Maymoon, 31.07.01, Chesnut, by Maysoun, Breeder: B.Hermanns (GER)
- Classic Medaba, 04.04.92, Grey, by Alidaar, Breeder: S.Poth, Owner: 2m Arabian (ITA)
 - Malesh, 22.02.96, Grey, by Alidaar, Breeder: (FRA)
 - Classic Lohelia, 05.02.97, Grey, by Lohim, Breeder: U.Poth (FRA)
 - Classic Mabrout, 1998, Grey, by Lohim, Breeder: U.Poth (FRA)
 - AF Magic Noor, 05.06.00, Grey, by Coaltown, Breeder: (ITA)
 - Twom Medina Shaklan, 2001, Grey, by El Shaklan, Breeder: 2m Arabian (ITA)
 - Twom Hiddiyah, 25.03.2002, Grey, by Imperial Pharaj, Breeder: 2m Arabian (ITA)
- Classic Madaraa, 03.06.93, Grey, by Alidaar, Breeder: S.Poth (FRA)
 - Classic Mahlaha, 07.03.98, Grey, by Lohim, Breeder: U.Poth (FRA)
 - Classic Mabrouka, 26.02.99, Grey, by Lohim, Breeder: U.Poth, Owner: R.Chiezzi (ITA)
 - RC Aliyah, 20.06.03, Grey, by Classic Mansour, Breeder: R.Chiezzi (ITA)
 - Classic Magdi, 15.02.00, Grey, by Lohim, Breeder: U.Poth (FRA)
 - Classic Malikah, 24.02.01, Grey, by Lohim, Breeder: U.Poth (FRA)
- Classic Mourad, 07.06.94, Bay, by Alidaar, Breeder: S.Poth (FRA)
- Bedouin Bint Alidaar, 01.02.99, Chesnut, by Alidaar, Breeder: J.Wölk, Owner: M.Kraus (GER)
 - GK Bahjad, 01.02.031, Grey, by GR Amaretto, Breeder: M.Kraus (GER)
- Mangan Ibn Shadwan, 28.07.01, Chesnut, by Classic Shadwan, Breeder:A.& E.Escher (GER)
- GK Malikah, 02.06.04, Grey, by Messaoud, Breeder: M.Kraus (GER)



UP Bint Marah

Rhanah

(Ibn Shah Mabrouk x MS Romanaa-Baglady).
Her highly inbred genetic pool printed her just like a copy of her grand grand mother Marah. Rhanah is owned by Monika Savier, Italy.



knew how to breed strategically, and they left some things to chance. From this perspective, it is particularly impressive that the phenotype of Marah will win through again and again, with the carefully selected sires only playing secondary roles.

Hopefully, that genetic pool is consolidated to such an extent that we will succeed, just in time, to preserve that beautiful image of desert Arabians, „carrying their tails high“, for future generations.



UP Mohamed Pasha,
one of the best sons of Marah,
with Sherif Pasha as sire.
He is owned by Renate Shai.