



ARABIAN
HORSE
WORLD
PRESENTS...

Al Khalediah

by Caroline Reeves
photos by Erwin Escher

ARABIAN HORSE FESTIVAL



Senior Champion
Stallion **Padrons
Immage** (Padrons
Psyche x Scarlett
Angaell), owned
by King Abdullah
bin Abdul Aziz Al
Saud and sons,
Saudi Arabia.



It was with great excitement and a little trepidation that we disembarked the plane at Riyadh airport for the inaugural Al Khalediah Horse Festival held by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Visiting ladies had had to give clothing measurements in advance, and sure enough upon disembarking we were each given a box with our name on it. Inside were our black abaya (floor-length cape) and shala (scarfy thing) to wear for the duration of our stay. They are actually very light to wear, and ours had pretty horses embroidered on the sleeves with crystals. However, after a long flight, and perhaps topped up with our last alcohol for a week, it was rather difficult for us novices to keep the shala on top of our heads rather than in our eyes, and not trip over the long abaya, while struggling with a suitcase and hand luggage in the hot hall.

President Bush was visiting Saudi Arabia at the time so security was tight and soldiers visible as we made our way to the super hotel where we were to be very well looked after during our stay. All the employees of the hotel were men, apart from one lady employed to



Top left: Senior Champion Stallion **Padrons Immage**.



Top right: His Royal Highness HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, owner of Al Khalediah Stud, hosted the festival.



At left and above: Senior Champion Mare **Pianissima** (Gazal Al Shaqab x Pianosa), owned by Janów Podlaski Stud, Poland.

look after the bride during wedding celebrations held there. If a lady wished to use the gym or the pool, she had to give notice so that the areas would be closed to men. And women are not allowed to drive, though some of the old-fashioned male variety seemed to think that this rule might not be such a bad thing in their own countries.

Tuesday morning, having mastered the wearing of the shala over my head, instead of it having it fall off or over my face, I boarded the coach for the 90km trip to Al Khalediah Farm. The roads

are vast, smooth highways cut through the fantastic desert landscape, where gently sloping dunes and brush sometimes reveal small encampments, complete with camels and goats. As we drove further out of town the landscape became more rugged and we passed wind-whipped sandy red canyons. The sky was a perfect blue and hawks could be seen circling overhead. However, I must say that most of us were not prepared for the unseasonable weather — it was so cold! Minus six degrees Celsius, (about 21 degrees Fahrenheit),

very cold during the day and made worse by an icy wind.

After an hour in the coach we arrived at the farm to further security checks and drove down a long palm-lined drive toward the main farm of around 2,500 hectares (over 6,000 acres), home to hundreds of Arabian horses among other animals. At one point our coach swung right at a magnificent roundabout, at the center of which was a huge bronze horse on a plinth surrounded by a waterfall and decorated with stone and flowers.



Top left: Reserve Champion Mare **Eagleridge Passionata** (Sanadik El Shaklan x River Oak Dimity), owned by Ajman Stud, UAE.

Top right: Reserve Champion Stallion **Esparto** (Ekstern x Ekspozycja), owned by Michalów Stud, Poland, on lease to Ajman Stud, HH Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman, UAE.

Bottom: On race day, visitors were treated to several races featuring first class Arabian runners.

Photo: www.ErwatEas

Apparently two days earlier this roundabout hadn't even existed.

Today there was to be an auction of around 60 horses at the farm's own racecourse. We were taken up to a fabulous new grandstand, glass fronted with a beautiful vista of the blue sky, dark red sand of the racecourse, lakes and swans. The grandstand also housed many trophies representing the enormous success of the Al Khalediah show team. Some trophy room!

Some very nice horses passed through the auction, a few perhaps not so much the halter type, but good looking and useful horses all the same.

“One had to feel a little sorry for the finely coated racehorses, who seemed as shocked by the cold as we were!”

The average price was less than \$8,000 although the straight Egyptians fetched higher prices, as seems to be the norm these days. The multilingual (and multitalented it seems!) Guy de Fontaine took the role of auctioneer, doing a great job, despite looking decidedly chilly as the afternoon wore on.

Wednesday was race day. I was getting used to wearing my abaya by now and I have to admit it presented a certain freedom. And a distinct

advantage was that one didn't have to waste time choosing the day's outfit and matching accessories — something that I've never mastered — as the abaya covered me from neck to toe.

One had to feel a little sorry for the finely coated racehorses, who seemed as shocked by the cold as we were! The top few in each race were very impressive, mainly of French origin, big rangy types and fit, too — one great mare took the race in her stride and looked as if she could have run again. In between races



Top and middle left: Junior Champion Colt **QR Marc** (*Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams), owned Paul Gheysens, middle right, of Belgium.

Right: Reserve Junior Champion Colt **Baanderos** (*Marwan Al Shaqab x HB Bessolea), owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Saudi Arabia.



Al Khalediah Arabian Horse Festival

ECAHO B SHOW JANUARY 17-18, 2008

Judges: Sylvie Eberhardt, Germany; Luiz Rocco, Brazil; Dr. Nasr Marei, Egypt; Dr. Francesco Santoro, Italy; Marianne Tengstedt, Denmark; Mr. Peter Upton, Great Britain

SENIOR CHAMPION STALLION: Padrons Immage (Padrons Psyche x Scarlett Angaell), King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia; **RESERVE:** Esparto (Ekstern x Ekspozycja), Ajman Stud, HH Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman, UAE

SENIOR CHAMPION MARE: Pianissima (*Gazal Al Shaqab x Pianosa), Janów Podlaski Stud, Poland; **RESERVE:** Eagleridge Passionata (Sanadik El Shaklan x River Oak Dimity), Ajman Stud, UAE

JUNIOR CHAMPION COLT: QR Marc (*Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams), Paul Gheysens, Belgium; **RESERVE:** Baanderos (*Marwan Al Shaqab x HB Bessolea), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Saudi Arabia

JUNIOR CHAMPION FILLY: Sara Al Mohamadiah (*Marwan Al Shaqab x ZT Maghan), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia; **RESERVE:** FS Cayenne (AS Natsir-Apal x FS Cleopatra), Ajman Stud, UAE

STALLIONS TEN YEARS AND OLDER:
1 Padrons Immage (Padrons Psyche x Scarlett Angaell), King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia; 2. Fernando (Monogramm x Frejlina), Turban Stud, Denmark; 3. Shafe Psuede (Padrons Psyche x Focus Shafia), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia

SEVEN- TO NINE-YEAR-OLD STALLIONS:
1. Emiliusz (Laheeb x Emocja), Liezl Els, Agmal Arabians, South Africa; 2. Mankind (Jullyen El Jamaal x Markessa Rose), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia; 3. Hamras Akid (Ali Valentino x Akiysah Moon DMF), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia

FOUR- TO SIX-YEAR-OLD STALLIONS:
1 Esparto (Ekstern x Ekspozycja), Ajman Stud, UAE; 2. Al Milan (Al Lahab x Milena), Reinhard Sax, Sax Arabians, Germany; 3. BS Paparazzi (KAR Papageno x Sivka), Sheikh Abdul Mohsen bin Abul Malik Al Sheikh, Saudi Arabia



Al Khalediah Arabian Horse Festival



MARES TEN YEARS AND OLDER:

1. Madinah Bint Saariyah (Imperial Madheen x PLF Saariyah), Khalid Saad Al Haddad, Saudi Arabia; 2. Mira Nair (Kubinec x Qualified), King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia; 3. Lovins Khiss (*Khadraj NA x Lovin Spoonful VF), Waheeb Omer Abdulla Bawazeer, Saudi Arabia

SEVEN- TO NINE-YEAR-OLD MARES:

1. Eagleridge Passionata (Sanadik El Shaklan x River Oak Dimity), Ajman Stud, UAE; 2. Kharelle (*Dakar El Jamaal x Khemoselle), HRH Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Arabia; 3. Loredana K (Borsalino K x Bryelle NA), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia

FOUR- TO SIX-YEAR-OLD MARES 7A:

1. Bilkis Begum (Khidar x Nur Jahan), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia; 2. Porcelainna (Psytafel x Psierra PGA), Miss Anjuli Bethell, Great Britain; 3. Llayla (El Nabila B x Chiara K), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia

FOUR- TO SIX-YEAR-OLD MARES 7B:

1. Pianissima (*Gazal Al Shaqab x Pianosa), Janów Podlaski Stud, Poland; 2. Laha Al Khalidiah (Galba x Divine Destinee), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia; 3. RS Banafsaj (Maleik El Kheil x Batala), HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayla, Al Aryam Arabians, UAE

THREE-YEAR-OLD COLTS: 1. QR Marc (*Marwan Al Shaqab x Swete Dreams), Paul Gheysens, Belgium; 2. Baanderos (*Marwan Al Shaqab x HB Bessolea), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia; 3. Wathiq Al Khalidiah (Thee Ricochet x Psyches Myst), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia

TWO-YEAR-OLD COLTS 5A: Ataa Al Khalidiah (AJA Sangali x Mashael Al Khamisa), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia; 2. Hypnotic Ibn Eternity (Eternity Ibn Navarrone-D x WH Marissa Rose), Paul and Martine Despeghele-Van Hee, Belgium; 3. AJA Sanstorm (Psytafel x Sanadina), Malcolm and Jane Hickford, AJA Arabians, Great Britain



Top: Junior Champion Filly **Sara Al Mohamadiyah** (*Marwan Al Shaqab x ZT Maghan), owned by HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia.



Bottom: Reserve Junior Champion Filly **FS Cayenne** (AS Natsir-Apal x FS Cleopatra), owned by Ajman Stud, UAE.

we were treated to a parade of some of Al Khalediah's most successful halter horses, the 2007 World Champion Filly Layan Al Khalidiah (x Padrons Amour), her sire World Champion Dakhro (*Dakar El Jamaal x FOF Kharolina), and the Reserve World Champion *Marwan Al Shaqab son, Marquis CAHR (x Rohara Magnifica). All three looked extremely well and definitely enjoyed showing off on their home ground.

Wednesday evening was very special. We had received invitations to dinner at the private park of HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan. I think I wasn't alone in assuming that the park would be a pleasant green area, with the ubiquitous palms, greenery, and

perhaps a lake or two. Minibuses duly shuttled us from the racecourse down some more tree-lined roads within the farm. However, we rounded a bend and realized immediately that this was no normal park, as we approached a huge Jurassic Park-style gateway. Once through the gates we were transported to a "lodge" at the top of a small hill. Only this lodge was simply huge and beautifully decorated with mosaic tiles and chandeliers. The whole of the front of the lodge was glass. If ever there was a "Kodak moment" this was it. There were audible gasps from almost every single one of us as we approached the glass and looked out. For this was a wildlife park, and unlike any we had seen. On the slope down from the

lodge, literally a few yards from the glass front, were hundreds of animals: deer, zebra, giraffe, bison, gazelles, all massed around piles of alfalfa and all eating together. Surreal is a much overused word of late I know — but this truly was a surreal sight, and absolutely breathtaking. And then we realized we were able to go outside, so we did, bristling with cameras, and walked among them all. The animals were obviously a little wary, but we were able to get close enough for photos and to get a good look at a zebra foal! Eventually we dragged ourselves away from this magnificent scene and were taken into a dining hall within the lodge for a dinner hosted by His Royal Highness himself. A truly memorable evening and we were all greatly indebted to our host for his hospitality.

Thursday dawned and it was with relief that we realized each day was gradually getting a little warmer — no blankets needed today! And today was the start of the two-day ECAHO International B Show, which had a very good number of entries — around 200 horses from 19 countries, with some of the top horses from around the world due to be presented. The judges were Sylvie Eberhardt (Germany); Dr. Nasr Marei (Egypt); Louis Rocco (Brazil); Dr. Francesco Santoro (Italy); Marianne Tengstedt (Denmark); and Peter Upton (Great Britain). Four judged each class, by virtue of their names being pulled from a hat by none other than the UK's brilliant ringmaster Mr. Phillip Jenkins (now much in demand), resplendent in his very British bowler hat and who did a great job to ensure the arena ran smoothly and with discipline, although by the end of the second day he had worked so hard in the ring that he started to look a tad unlevel. The grass arena could have been a little larger, but was beautifully set out, surrounded by grandstands, with palm trees swaying in the (cold!) wind all around and a bright

blue sky. It really was a lovely — and fitting — setting for the most beautiful horses in the world.

The tables in the grandstands were laden with fresh flowers, boxes of Turkish delight, nuts and fresh dates, and beautiful glass bowls, painted with gold horses and full of Belgian chocolates! How useful these abayas could be, covering up a multitude of sins, including tummies full of chocs. Canapés and nibbles were served constantly throughout the day, negating the need for lunch, especially as there were plenty of short breaks for prayers during the long days.

ZT Maghan. This delicate filly trotted her way like a Bambi around the arena with tail flagged, and won her class with the very good score of 91.25. Bred in the U.S. by Harold and Dolly Orr, and Michael Byatt, this filly is sure to reappear at the top of the line again this year.

Second was Jawharat Al Mohamadiah (Farres x IWF Shahniah), a very cute, bouncy, fun filly who caught the eye, scoring all 19s for movement along the way. Both first and second fillies belong to HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, whose Al Mohamadiah



"Surreal is a much overused word of late, I know — but this truly was a surreal sight — absolutely breathtaking."

Apparently the show will be extended to three days next year, as there were so many entries this year that the classes were starting at 11 a.m. and finishing at around 10 p.m.

One of the first to trot into the arena was the eventual winner of the yearling filly class, Sara Al Mohamadiah, a truly lovely bay *Marwan Al Shaqab daughter out of

Stables had a very good show. Third was the big-moving, necky bay Psytadel daughter Al Anood (Psytadel x Galina), bred and owned by King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons and shown by Ryan Jones.

The second yearling filly class was not as high scoring as the first, but nevertheless still had some nice fillies at the top of the line. First was the pretty

grey, Bint Najd (Koronec x Rayanah), bred and owned by King Abdul Aziz and sons, again showing that the Kubinec son Koronec has really thrown some lovely show get. Second was the chestnut Al Aryam Nojoom, a tall, elegant Enzo daughter with a terrific neck and structure, bred and owned by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahayan, whose Al Aryam Arabians is gaining more and more prominence under the management of Jennifer Jennings. Third was another big-moving, showy Farres daughter, Salma Al Mohamadiah (x Galva).

The first three in the two-year-old filly class all scored 90.25, and interestingly all carried Padron in their dam lines. All three fillies scored all 19s for type too, so the U.S.-bred chestnut Ballerina BVA (Ames Charisma x LC Pirouette) owned by Al Mohamadiah Stables took the honors by having one point more for movement, with the pretty bay AJA Sangali daughter Aseefat Al Khalidiah (x Psyche's Myst) beating the big-framed Sweet Caroline LL (Legacy Of Fame x Carolina Moon OA) into third. Interestingly, Padrons Psyche featured in the pedigrees of 12 of the top three placings at this show.

The second two-year-old filly class was won by a personal favorite of mine, the gorgeous Psyche's Victoria owned and bred by Crzynno Palace Stud in Poland. This filly is a typical Ekstern daughter (x Pallas-Atena), dark grey, not particularly tall, but pretty in the face, with a nicely shaped neck and a really lovely way of going, helped by the fact that she was not put under pressure by Johanna Ullström. Second to her was Brazilian bred, Italian owned Sophie El Power JQ (Power World JQ x Elkada Sahibi), gaining some 20s for her very exotic head, but not having the movement of the winner. Third was William and Anne Nordén's Artic El Amina (Al Amin x Flavour), a good-bodied filly with a lovely head, shown elegantly by Tom Schoukens.

Winner of the three-year-old section



Top: First Place Seven- to Nine-Year-Old Stallions **Emiliusz** (Laheeb x Emocja), owned by Liezl Els, Agmal Arabians, South Africa.



Middle: First Place Mare Ten Years and Older **Madinah Bint Saariyah** (Imperial Madheen x PLF Saariyah), owned by Khalid Saad Al Haddad, Saudi Arabia.



Bottom: First Place Four- to Six-Year-Old Mares 7A **Bilkis Begum** (Khidar x Nur Jahan), owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Saudi Arabia.

was the very feminine, white, and showy AS Natsir Apal daughter FS Cayenne (x FS Cleopatra), bred by Frank Spönle and owned by Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi's Ajman Stud. Less American-style in looks and more European, she garnered six 20s for type and head and neck in this high scoring class. Second was the pretty Nowarat al Khalidiah, bred in the U.S. by Danielle Hickman and owned by HRH Prince Khaled. This lovely

*Marwan daughter (out of the Padrons Psyche mare Mysaa) is very light on her feet and carries herself beautifully. Third was Sheikh Abdul Mohsen bin Abdulmalik Al Sheikh's Marylla, full sister to the multi international Champion Magora (*Gazal Al Shaqab x Margotka). Like her superstar sister, Marylla is a lovely mover with super tail carriage, and she scored 91.25.

On to the yearling colts, and the more mature Numas Al Thani (Sabea

Al Sahraa Anapurna x Shamilah) easily won his class for HRH King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, a pretty and big-moving colt. Second was the almost foal-like *Marwan Al Shaqab son Naïf Al Mohamadiah (x Maria El Besson), who carried himself around the ring very well for such a baby, and third was Nayef Al Shaqab, by Ashaal Al Rayyan out of an Al Adeed Al Shaqab daughter owned by Mohammed Abdul Oahman Al Yousef. Not quite as pretty as the two above him at this time, but he really strutted his stuff and is a super mover.

*“Much anticipation preceded the entry in the next class of the superb *Marwan Al Shaqab son QR Marc, the most talked-about newcomer of the show . . .”*

AJA Sangali (FS Bengali x Bey Santeyna) is doing a great job out here, siring many show winners for his owner HRH Prince Khaled, including in this class the pretty two-year-old colt Ataa Al Khalidiah, pipping the multi-Champion white Hypnotic Ibn Eternity (Eternity Ibn Navarrone out of a Magnum Psyche daughter), who as ever had plenty of snort and blow. Another AJA horse and Aachen winner, the pretty AJA Sanstorm (Psytadel x Sanadina), went well to come third.

Altis showed his socks off to win the second two-year-old class. Moving better than ever, this WH Justice colt (out of the Polish Albina by Pers) really knows how to use himself, and he put on a fabulous display for Falborek Arabians. Second place went to owner/breeder Sheikh Abdul Mohsen bin Abdulmalik Al Sheikh’s Saqer Al Shqayir, a very nice chestnut F Shamaal son, who went well in this class, and third was Fawaz Al Mohamadiah, by the FS Bengali full brother Shakaar Ibn Sanadiva out of the Vatican daughter Galva.

Much anticipation preceded the entry in the next class of the superb *Marwan Al Shaqab son QR Marc, the most talked-about newcomer of the show, owned by Paul Gheysens of Belgium. However, his debut party was almost spoiled by the much improved other *Marwan son, Baanderos. Shown by Michael Byatt, this colt stormed into the ring and then showed flat topline and tremendous neck to best effect under the master of the pose, scoring an impressive 92.75 along the way. One has to say that the home country’s colt did have the upper hand over the much traveled QR Marc, who was still quite a showman and looked almost picture-perfect when stood up, with a very pretty chiseled head. Breaths were held as his marks came up — and he too had scored 92.75, splitting the judges, with two placing each of the colts first. Catalogs were quickly consulted and it was seen that QR Marc had won the class by virtue of an extra mark for type.



Top: First Place Two-Year-Old Colts Section A **Ataa Al Khalidiah** (AJA Sangali x Mashael Al Khamisa), owned by HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia.

Middle: First Place Two-Year-Old Colts Section B **Altis** (WH Justice x Albina), owned by Falborek Arabians/Krzysztof Gozdziński, Poland.

Bottom: First Place One-Year-Old Colts **Numas Al Thani** (Sabea Al Sahraa Anapurna x Shamilah), owned by King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and sons, Saudi Arabia.



Left: First Place Two-Year-Old Fillies Section 2B **Psyches Victoria** (Ekstern x Pallas-Atena), owned by Crzynno-Palace Stud, Krzysztof Poszepczynski, Poland.
 Right: First Place One-Year-Old Fillies Section 1B **Bint Najd** (Koronec x Rayanah), owned by King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and sons, Saudi Arabia.



On to the senior sections, with greys becoming predominant again, after the bays and chestnuts of the U.S.-parented youngsters. In the four- to six-year-old mares, the lovely Spanish-bred Bilkis Begum, a white Khidar daughter (x Nur Jahan), owned by Al Khalediah Farm, won her class over the double Padrone Psyche Porcelainna (Psytadel x Psierra PGA), bred by Thirteen Oaks Arabians in the U.S. This super chestnut showed very well for Rhodri Jones. Another Al Khalediah filly came third, Llayla (x Chiara K), a pretty grey mare by the Kubinec son El Nabila B, bred by Murillo Kammer.

Now, as it was getting dark, we had the next most anticipated entry of the show — the return of superstar Pianissima, who certainly did not disappoint! Greg Gallún was not going to let anyone else get their hands on “his” mare, and she still looks unbeatable, being awarded a deserved eight 20s for type and head and neck to reach the highest score of the show: 94 points, for Janów Podlaski Stud. This stunning bay is as near to perfect as any of us could care about. One hopes this phenomenal mare will soon return to her homeland and a life in the pastures with her friends after having such a high pressure and much-traveled career. The World Champion Galba’s daughter Laha Al Khalidiah, out of another Padrone Psyche daughter, Divine Destinee, was second to Pianissima and the lovely, big-moving RS Banafsaj (Makeik El Kheil x Batal) was third for Al Aryam Arabians. The extremely tall, yet pretty Aachen winner Bint Al Shamaal (Koronec x Thee Cover Girl), took fourth. However, Laha Al Khalidiah did not return for the Championships, so third and fourth were promoted up a place.

The feminine grey Sanadik El Shaklan daughter Eagleridge Passionate (x River Oak Dimity), won the final class of the day for the Ajman Stud, scoring a raft of 20s

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along the way, with HRH Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud’s bay *Dakar El Jamaal daughter Kharelle, out of Khemoselle and bred by Bob Fauls, coming second and the pretty white Borsalino K daughter Loredana K (by Bryelle NA), taking third place.

Friday morning dawned and hurrah — it was warm at last, much appreciated at the show by both humans and horses. We spectators were also quite warm when we got there, as our coach driver had gotten a little lost on the way and we only just reached the ring in time for the first class. By the afternoon the Belgian chocolates had melted and the ringmaster’s face was gaining color while he kept the show running to a tight schedule.

British-bred straight Egyptian Madinah Bint Saariyah (Imperial Madrheen x PLF Saariyah), took the 10 years and over class for Khalid Saad Al Daddad. This very attractive mare looked due to foal imminently, and hence didn’t seem to want to be very active in her movement! The super, big-moving, though less feminine chestnut Kubinec daughter Mira Nair (x Qualified), was second for the King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Centre and the lovely Khadraj daughter Lovins Khiss (x Lovin Spoonful VF), came third.

Next came the big boys, each of them setting the other off; strutting their stuff and snorting and blowing, they were an impressive sight in this lovely arena.

Michalów’s incomparable breeding program took over these stallion sections, winning two of the classes and coming second in the other.

Thirteen came forward for the first class. The rocking-



horse-grey Esparto (Ekstern x Ekspozycja) provided the second win for Ekstern offspring. This young stallion seems to enjoy his outings more and more, especially when outside, and he gave a terrific show to win the class for the Ajman Stud, where he is on lease from his owner/breeder Michalów. Sax Arabians' homebred Al Milan (Al Lahab x Milena) also went well, although this extremely pretty young stallion received lower head and neck marks than Esparto to come second, with ever the showman the grey BS Paparazzi (Kar Papageno x Sivka) storming into third.

A Michalów-bred stallion also won the following section, the super snow-white Emiliusz (Laheeb x Emocja), pleasing the crowd and moving for fun to take the class, much to the delight of his owner Liezl Els. Second to him and completely different in type was the refined bay Mankind (*Jullyen El Jamaal x Markessa Rose), bred by Javan Schaller. There was also a marked difference in the two stallions' show — Emiliusz seeming to have a party with Johanna Ullström (in her obligatory cap), while Mankind, although out-posing the victor, really did not look a happy bunny at all, a bit ironic when you consider his name. White, frothy, and very typy Ali Valentino son

Hamras Akid (x Akiysah Moon DMF), took third for HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, also the owner of Mankind.

The first horse in the 10 years and over class brought the ring alive again, the jet-black eye-catching showman BS Summerset (Taladinn x DP Black Sin Der), who looked fabulous. In fact, the eventual deserved winner Padrons Image (Padrons Psyche x Scarlet Angaell), did not catch the eye so much in the initial trot in. However, he really was very impressive in his individual display, much to the delight of the local spectators and this pretty grey stallion certainly out-posed all for Philippe Hosay. This stallion had recently been gifted by HRH Prince Khaled to his father, King Abdullah. The bouncy grey Monogram son Fernando (x Frejlina), outmoted the competition to take second place for the Turban Stud, Denmark, with another Padrons Psyche son, the impressive Shafe Psuede (x Focus Shalia), taking third. Mention must be made also of the fourth-placed, the super Burkan by Pakistan out of the wonderful Verjina, such a pretty Russian Arabian, who sadly didn't really show as well as he could, although sympathetically produced by Barry Shepherd for Al Aryam Arabians.

There were also classes at this show

TWO-YEAR-OLD COLTS 5B: 1. Altis (WH Justice x Albia), Falborek Arabians/Krzysztof Gozdziński, Poland; 2. Saqer Al Shqayir (F Shamaal x Syrena), Sheikh Abdul Mohsen bin Abdul Malik Al Sheikh, Saudi Arabia; 3. Fawaz Al Mohamadiah (Shakaar Ibn Sandiva x Galva), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia

ONE-YEAR-OLD COLTS: 1. Numas Al Thani (Sabea Al Sahraa Anapurna x Shamilah), King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia; 2. Naif Al Mohamadiah (*Marwan Al Shaqab x Maria El Besson), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia; 3. Nayef Al Shaqab (Ashhal Al Rayyan x Naima Al Shaqab), Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Yousef, Saudi Arabia

THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLIES: 1. FS Cayenne (AS Natsir-Apal x FS Cleopatra), Ajman Stud, UAE; 2. Nowarat Al Khalidiah (*Marwan Al Shaqab x Mysaa), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia; 3. Marylla (*Gazal Al Shaqab x Margotka), Sheikh Abdul Mohsen bin Abdul Malik Al Sheikh, Saudi Arabia

TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLIES 2A: 1. Ballerina BVA (Ames Charisma x LC Pirouette), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia; 2. Aseefat Al Khalidiah (AJA Sangali x Psyches Myst), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia; 3. Sweet Caroline LL (Legacy Of Fame x Carolina Moon OA), Ajman Stud, UAE

TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLIES 2B: 1. Psyches Victoria (Ekstern x Pallas-Atena), Crzywno-Palace Stud, Krzysztof Poszepczynski, Poland; 2. Sophie El Power JQ (Power World JQ x Elkada Sahibi), Az.Agr.Tripodi, Italy; 3. Artic El Amina (El Amin x Flavour), William and Ann Nordén, Lonhult Araberstuteri, Sweden

ONE-YEAR-OLD FILLIES 1A: 1. Sara Al Mohamadiah (*Marwan Al Shaqab x ZT Maghan), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah, Saudi Arabia; 2. Jawharat Al Mohamadiah (Farres x IWF Shahnna), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia; 3. Al Anood (Psytadel x Galina), King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia



Bottom left: Tarek and Ahmed Soliman of El Farid Stud, Egypt.

Bottom right: Salim bin Laden and his dancing horse Al Fatch.



ONE-YEAR-OLD FILLIES 1B: 1. Bint Najd (Koronec x Rayanah), King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia; 2. Al Aryam Nojoom (Enzo x Choumous Bouznika), Al Aryam Arabians, Saudi Arabia; 3. Salma Al Mohammadiyah (Farres x Galva), HH Prince Abdullah bin Fahd bin Abdullah Al Saud, Saudi Arabia

KSA DESERTBRED ARABIAN STALLIONS: 1. Rezaïq (Haleem x Zhuriya), King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia; 2. Drea (Kayid Al Thani x Alyaa Al Thaniya), King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia; 3. Khaleel Dirab (Rezaïq x Khuzamah), King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia

KSA DESERTBRED ARABIAN MARES: 1. Mandouba (Haleem x Okht Al-Nadba), HRH Prince Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Saud, Saudi Arabia; 2. Azbat Dirab (Haleem x Rasama), King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia; 3. Joza (Kayid Al Thani x Wadaha), King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia

KSA DESERTBRED ARABIAN COLTS: 1. Majd Al Khalidiah (Rahi x Meraisla), HRH Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia; 2. Nashmi Dirab (Rezaïq x Khuzamah), King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia; 3. Asil Dirab (Al Hazim Al Thani x Al Aadiyah), HRH Prince Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia

KSA DESERTBRED ARABIAN FILLIES: 1. Bint Khuzamah (Rezaïq x Khuzamah), King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia; 2. Ghala Dirab (Rezaïq x Khuzamah), King Abdul Aziz Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia; 3. Al Diriyah Al Thaniya (Kayid Al Thani x Ghazwa Al Thaniya), King Abdul Aziz and sons, Saudi Arabia

for local-bred horses, which, it has to be said, were surprisingly very popular and almost more fun to watch as they made quite a pleasant break from the extreme pressure that hangs over the multi-million-dollar industry of the ECAHO show classes. These classes were judged under the comparative system, and many of the horses were being presented in the ring for the first time. This made for interesting viewing, especially as most were shown by professional handlers, tugging and coaxing their charges for all they were worth to try to get some semblance of a pose. These horses are workhorses, where a pretty head is not a necessity, but they have plenty of bone, generally good conformation, move very freely, and look as tough as Barack Obama's opponent. A very nice touch at the end of each class was that HRH Prince Khaled himself came into the arena to present the awards for each horse placed.

There were no real surprises in the ECAHO Championships, with the superb yearling Sara Al Mohamadiah taking the Junior Female Championship,

and FS Cayenne the Reserve. Junior Male went to the two *Marwan Al Shaqab sons, QR Marc and Baanderos respectively. Senior Female was of course Pianissima, with Eagleridge Passionata taking reserve, and Senior Male went to Padron's Image, with Esparto runner-up.

After the Championships we were treated to a spectacular closing ceremony in the arena, with dry ice, a light display, dramatic scenery, and horses and riders in traditional costume acting out an oration on the Arabian horse.

Many congratulations to Al Khalediah for a very successful and well-organized inaugural festival with such high-quality entries.

And finally, a quote from British judge Peter Upton, "It was a delightful task to judge some wonderful horses, and I hope this is the start of more international shows in Saudi Arabia. Yet again it has been proved how the Arabian horse is tremendous for bringing people together from all over the world, united by a common interest."

1.



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4.



6.



7.



1. Left to right: Dr. Gianmarco Aragno, Christine Jamar-Demeersman, and Murillo Kamer.
2. Left to right: Greg Gallún, Paul Gheysens, Dr. Aragno, Christine Jamar-Demeersman, George Zbyszewski, and Marek Trela, Janów Stud Director.
3. Paulo Gubbioti of Cá DiGianni Arabian Horse Training Center, Italy, and Salim bin Laden.
4. Melanie Mannix, Al Khalediah Festival organizer, and Dr. Bruce McRae of King Abdul Aziz Al Saud Arabian Horse Center, Saudi Arabia, with daughter.
5. Caroline Reeves of AV Arabians, Great Britain.
6. Judges, left to right: Peter Upton, Dr. Francesco Santoro, Marianne Tengstedt, Ringmaster Philip Jenkins, Sylvie Eberhardt, Luiz Rocco, and Dr. Nasr Marci.
7. Wojciech Kowalik and Marek Trela of Janów Stud, Poland.

5.

