

Emigrantka



IZABELLA PAWELEC

# Zawadzka Interview

by Urszula Leczycka ■ photos by Stuart Vesty, Shira Yeger, Aymar

**U**rszula Leczycka: *The 2007 Arabian horse sale at Janów Podlaski was a great success with another record total of 2 millions Euro spent for Polish horses. There is no other such successful annual Arabian horse sale organized in the world so far – how do you think, why?*

*Izabella Zawadzka: There is no one and simple answer on this question. This success is caused by many reasons. One should remember that this was XXXVIIIth sale already – since 38 years, every summer at the same place – Janow Podlaski State Stud (celebrating its 19th anniversary this year) Polish studs offer the limited number of about 30 carefully selected mares of high quality accompanied with two - three stallions. The horses offered represents Polish best bloodlines and effect of long time consequent breeding work. The choice is made after good*

*analysis and plans that would provide the high quality sale offer without interrupting the breeding material reserves. Polish Arabian horse breeding had and still has the big influence in world. Poland is one of these European fundamental places from where the other countries trace their breeding stock and build their successes. Of course the consequent and long term marketing and promotion being ran by the breeders, breeding organizations and exporting and PR companies as well as the sale organizers (Animex, Polish Prestige, Poltuf) are important without a doubt. But the successes of Polish-bred horses, owned by Polish or new, foreign breeders are the best promotion. Poland's Arabian Horse Days which include Race Day at Warsaw Racecourse Sluzewiec and Polish National Arabian Horse Show in Janów Podlaski State Stud as well as the open days and visits at Polish State Studs are the unique opportunity of breeding stock review that is keeping the interest in Polish Arabian horse. Also the unquestionable magic of the place – historical Janow Podlaski Stud creates this very special and warm atmosphere where the clients want to come back.*

**UL:** *Polish Arabian horse is admired by the sale clients but the spectacular show successes seems to belong to the horses representing rather Egyptian type and pedigrees than Polish, what is the reason then?*

*IZ:* *I would not agree with that, as type is just a conventional matter not always corresponding with horse's origin. There are many horses in the world looking like so called "Egyptian type" but their pedigrees have not too much or nothing to do with Egypt. Indeed, the straight Egyptian horses with strongly inbred and closely related pedigrees they often have some features so admired and searched for in the desert – as dryness of tissue, strongly fixed type and beautifully shaped heads. That's why, after second world's war, when there were no more possibilities of purchasing horses straight from the desert (the last import from Arabia was made in 1931 by Polish Prince*

**Al Maraam**

photo by Shira Yeger

Roman Sanguszko for his stud at Gumniska in Poland and Babolna in Hungary) – Europe and United States turned the eye into Egypt. Especially well known for its high quality breeding stock El Zahraa Stud was the source of horses being imported for two reasons: to make the foundation of the Straight Egyptian breeding in purity or to improve the other bloodlines. And personally I'm sure that this second reason was the most successful for world's breeding. It added the good features of Egyptian horses as the beauty and refinement being combined with the other bloodlines' good points as the correct conformation, good proportions, excellent movement and harmony in overall. This was done in Russia (Aswan) and Poland (Palas and then Laheeb) and in other countries with very good results.

Indeed, in „show horses” that seems to be recently created direction of Arabian horse breeding the beauty and shape of head seems to be most important point. But I think that the best results of breeding are the horses being the combination of various strains. Let's have a look at Gazal Al Shaqab (Egyptian – Polish blood) or his son Marwan Al Shaqab, Padrons and Magnum Psyche, Escape Ibn Navarrone (British – Egyptian - Spanish – Polish – Russian), and just to look closer into 2007 ECAHO Cup leaders: Bess-Fa'izah and Robin K that tracks from Polish female lines. The first mare - Bess Fa'izah is twice linebred to the family of Saskia – Barwna – Baraka – Biruta (born 1955 at Nowy Dwor,

Poland, representant of the mare Sahara d.b. imported to Jarczowce in 1845); the second one - Robin K is the great-granddaughter of Swedish-bred, Pure Polish mare Afrodite by Aladdin out of Aleksandra – Aleksota (born 1965 at Janow Podlaski State Stud, representing the family of Mlecha d.b. imported in 1845 to Jarczowce).

**UL:** So what is the role of Polish Arabian horse breeding in the world and what is the best Poland could offer nowadays?

**IZ:** I think the role of Polish breeding hasn't changed. Poland is still able to uphold the high position in the world, offering high quality breeding stock and – following Polish tradition – the Arabian horses being “brave and beautiful”, bred by Polish state and positively developing private studs either.

**UL:** In Poland there seems to be kind a new fashion of purchasing horses from abroad, imported frozen semen use is being more common as well. Is it, in your opinion, a good direction for Polish Arabian horse breeding future and will not destroy the unique Polish type and

**Gazal Al Shaqab**

photo by Stuart Vesty

**bloodlines – so desired by foreign buyers at Janow Podlaski' sale?**

**IZ:** It all will depend on directions chosen by the breeders. I'm not afraid of the future of state studs – their direction is headed by the breeding program and the strict selection provides the goals achievement, also the large blood pool enables state studs to test various breeding combinations leaving only the horses being the best results of these tests at studs. As to the private ones it will depend on the knowledge, directions, patience, the ability of good observations and use of the others' experience, the patterns already proven, intuition as well as the luck of the bree-

ders. But I do trust in Polish love and talents for horse breeding, especially Arabian horse. At least, the 200 years of Polish Arabian horse breeding history - that survived from so many historical disasters speaks for itself.

**UL:** *There were quite a lot of foreign stallions used in Polish private but also in the state studs last years. Laheeb, Gazal Al Shaqab, Metropolis NA, Enzo, Psytadel, Al Maraam... - which of them, in your opinion, were, or will be, the most valuable for Polish breeding and what this stallions can add to this breeding program?*

**IZ:** *Use of „new” sire usually adds or preserves the good features, re-establishes the strains fading out or establishes the new blood strains by outcrossing. This was the goal of use the sires mentioned above as well. In my opinion it is too early to judge such sires as Enzo, Psytadel or Al Maraam, as their get was born in Poland in majority this year or these are the yearlings only, however some very interesting results can be noticed. On the other hand, I'm definitely sure about the positive opinion on Laheeb or Gazal Al Shaqab use in Poland. The first one, Straight Egyptian in pedigree, bred in Israel by the stud known for it's international successes has added such a desired features as: beauty, finesse, lightness and elegance. His Michalow-bred daughters with such beauties as Emesa, Emira, World Champion - Galilea or Janow-bred stallions as Perseusz and 2007 Polish National Champion Stallion, promising as Saklavi I strain continuator - Pogani are the best proof. Personally I'm very happy with the results of Gazal Al Shaqab use in Polish breeding. Gazal himself is the perfect Egyptian and Polish blood cross representing the type and horse features so admired in Poland so he produced so well with Polish mares. I have seen his sire - Anaza El Farid on a video only - but this is a horse of great beauty! I love Gazal's dam - bay Kadjora from excellent family of Ellora, dam of US National Champion Stallion - El Paso, originating from old, antique Polish female line of Woloszka 1810 by counts Sanguszko at Slawuta. I think I felt in love with Gazal when I first saw him while judging in Qatar. He produced excellent progeny in Poland including unbeaten multichampion Pianissima at Janow Podlaski, also 2007 Polish National Champion Mare and Best in Show - Ejrene at Michalow as well as his promising successors, colts: Pegasus and Pentamer at Janow Podlaski, Drabant and Eryks at Michalow. I would like to mention that Polish private breeders used some foreign stallions as Padrone Psyche and WH Justice with good results as well. I especially appreciate the outstanding show mare Primadonna owned by Tomasz Tarczynski and stallion Etnodrone Psyche - both bred by Mr Stanislaw Redestowicz, but also progeny of WH Justice, bred and owned by Falborek Arabians including 2007 Polish National Reserve Junior Champion Stallion and 2007 Nations Cup Reserve Junior Champion Stallion - Altis and Reserve Champion Filly of Bialka*



**Laheeb**

photo by Shira Yeger

*Junior Spring Show - Wasa.*

**UL:** *Which other foreign stallions would you like to be used in Poland?*

**IZ:** *As I decided to withdrawn as an international judge two years ago, I have no opportunity to see the leading show stallions closer; however I watch what is happening on the world's breeding stage carefully. I would love to see some Spanish blood stallion to be used in Poland. Few years ago we have been negotiating the breeding stock exchanges with Yeguada Militar but it unfortunately failed due to vis major. I still have in mind some good El Shaklan grandson, I even have the favourite but I can not tell which one...*

**UL:** *Since about 10 years there is a strong Polish private breeding development. These breeders, in need for success, looks for the world's top sires every year, having probably many more possibilities of using various stallions than the state studs. Do you think that Polish private horses can be also an attractive offer for foreign buyers?*

**Psytadel**

photo by Aymar

*IZ: The use of the most expensive sires - doesn't mean the best ones, is not always a guarantee of success. It depends on many more conditions. Don't forget how big is a role of broodmare and her strain. This was so admired by the Beduin tribes that made mare's bosom a kind of sacrum. Besides, new born foal needs a proper care and conditions for its raise and development. Also the good knowledge of pedigrees of both parents and the simple breeder's intuition and luck should be mentioned. The answer, if the Polish private breeding could be attractive for foreign buyers I would answer - yes, if it wasn't yet - I'm sure it would be in the future. Many things will depend on Polish private horses' successes abroad as well as on the good way of marketing. But I would warn on the best breeding stock selling out. There is a long time needed for the breeding success and achievements and good breeder would never sell the good broodmare or he would do so only when she leaves the good (better) daughters at stud.*

**UL: How, in your opinion, the Polish breeding will be organized in the future and what will be the role of private and of the state studs?**

*IZ: Private and state studs coexisted and still keeps in many countries. There was a good co-operation between Janow Podlaski State Stud and Polish private studs between the first and second world's wars. Thanks to establishing the Pure bred breeding section in Janow Podlaski in 1918 Polish Arabian horse breeding arised very quickly after the Bolschevic's Revolution and first world's war. Private studs needed a longer period of time to re-establish their breeding stock but thanks to Janow Podlaski sires they achieved very good results as well. There are some female lines established by Polish private bred mares of mid-war time still existing. But it must be pointed out that the power of state stud is in the guarantee of existence and continuation of breeding program, having the genetic pool of good quality, the optimal selection and treatment methods and, of course, the experienced and carefully selected people directing the studs, where they spend usually most of their life. It's hard to forecast how the breeding organization will look like in the future. It will depend on Polish state administration - if it would keep this priceless genes pool and would create the good conditions for their existence. The breeding is only one - Polish, and all of the breeders - private as well as the state studs should have it in their minds. □*

**NOTE:**

*Isabella Pawelec - Zawadzka is world known authority of Arabian horse breeding, called "The First Lady of Polish Arabian horse breeding" without any exaggeration.*

**Professionally:** Graduated with MSc. degree of Animal Science at Warsaw Agricultural University, then the breeding inspector at the Polish state administrative boards of horse breeding, currently - a specialist at the Polish Arabian Stud Book (PASB) as well as the Member of WAHO Executive Committee. Since 1997 she is also the President of the Polish Arabian Horse Breeders Society, in March 2007 re-elected for the next 4 years term.

**Internationally:** In 2003-2007 she was the Vicepresident of European Conference of Arab Horse Organizations (ECAHO). Retired from long-time international A judge in 2007 she is still judging some national shows in Poland being inestimable breeding authority but also proactive member of Arabian horse related activities as the first Polish Arabian horse magazine as it's chief editor as well as the co-organizer and President of Organizing Committee of the first and only International B-show to be held in Poland through 2002-2003 in Poznan.

**Privately:** The former owner of Pure bred stallion Emon (Pers - Emoza / Ernal) bred by Bialka stud, that found his new happy home at Canary Islands (Tenerife) two years ago. She dreams of some spare time to write about and be closer to her beloved Arabian horses but ... the phone is still ringing!