



THE *Egyptian Arabian* HORSE

The
PYRAMID
SOCIETY





HISTORY & MYSTIQUE

The sands of time hide the origins of the Arabian horse. Born somewhere in the deserts of inner Arabia, Jordan may claim him. Iraqis insist the Bedouin tribal families of the Mesopotamian valley and its surrounds gave him a home. Saudi Arabia in its arid isolation, where only the hardiest and very best of horses remained to pass on their inheritance, lays its claim, as well.

In ancient days, the horses of Egypt's New Kingdom brought fame and honor to the mighty pharaohs who bred them and used them to conquer vast empires. Equine reliefs are engraved on the walls of palaces in Luxor, and historians speak of horses kept by the thousands in the stables of the Queen of Sheba in Yemen. Historians even tell that the first Arabian was ridden by Ismail, the son of Abraham.

The Prophet Mohammed honored the horse as a gift from the Creator and required that his followers cherish and protect it as a member of the household. Their beauty, courage, pride, and speed elevated these royally bred creatures to celebratory and godlike status. So famous did they become that even wise King Solomon was said to have "brought horses out of Egypt."

Handed down in tales and poems recited around campfires in the desert night, the romance and admiration for the ethereal but athletic horse of the windswept desert reach far back into the dawn of history and carry their magic into our lives today...

NOBILITY & TYPE

The legendary horses of the desert were well known in Egypt; extremely rare and seldom for sale, only the noble classes of society could obtain them. They valued a horse of fine type and ardently collected the most beautiful ones, establishing a legacy as a "dry, desert-type horse."

When in 1805 Mohammed Ali became the Pasha of Cairo, the stage was set to build the finest Arabian horse breeding program Egypt had ever experienced. Eventually,



PHOTO BY VALERIE CLUNKENBEARD

"HE IS A PERFECT ANIMAL," NOTED MAJOR R. D. UPTON, WHO TRAVELED TO THE ARABIAN DESERT IN 1875. "THERE IS A BALANCE AND HARMONY THROUGHOUT HIS FRAME THAT IS NOT SEEN IN ANY OTHER HORSE ... THE QUINTESSENCE OF ALL GOOD QUALITIES, IN A COMPACT FORM."

drawn from the heart of the desert, over 1,100 spectacular animals were stabled at Shoubra, Mohammed Ali's luxurious country estate, the most ethereal, royal equine collection in the world.

Abbas Pasha, grandson of Mohammed Ali, also collected his own horses, and through various connections with the house of Al-Saud and other powerful Bedouin tribes, he obtained more of the finest horses Arabia and its environs had to offer. Housed in palaces, his horses became legendary worldwide, said to rival those of King Solomon!

Driven to assure the purity of his desertbred herd, all the horses that



PHOTO BY SUZANNE

Abbas Pasha, Mohammed Ali, and Ibrahim Pasha had acquired were fully authenticated from trustworthy Bedouin sources. Later, when Abbas became Viceroy, the collection of oral

Bedouin histories was compiled into a book, which was eventually found and translated by Gulsun Sherif and Judith Forbis, and published in 1993 as "The Abbas Pasha Manuscript."

A purebred Arabian horse, the Egyptian Arabian is literally a "breed within a breed." Certain bloodlines, as authenticated by Abbas Pasha and further defined by The Pyramid Society, form the nucleus of this specific group — valued through the ages as the "archetype" of classic refinement — bred for centuries to concentrate the distinguishing qualities known throughout the Arabian horse world as "Arabian type..."

VERSATILITY & REFINEMENT

The Bedouin knew the Arabian as the ideal instrument of war: swift, responsive, agile, and enduring, with courage, loyalty, and the ability to withstand privation. Over time, horsemen around the world recognized the Arabian horses' value and introduced the blood of fiery desertbred Arabians for thriftiness, speed, endurance, responsiveness, and refined beauty to native stock.

Today the Arabian is known as the foundation of all light breeds of horses. Although the Egyptian Arabian represents only a small percentage of the breed, the echo of its rich history of triumph over extreme conditions persists today, producing a range of attributes not commonly found in one breed. These much-admired treasures from the desert are internationally sought after for their success across a variety of disciplines in the showing, both in North America and worldwide...



Endurance

Their flared nostrils hint at the incredible lung capacity and stamina that account for top finishes at 25-, 50-, and 100-mile rides!



Performance

Their agility shines through in Hunter and Western pleasure competitions; their intelligence and skillful footwork in driving and reining events!



Racing

They have right of claim as the original racehorse, running head-to-head today against thoroughbreds in shorter distance races.

BEAUTY & COMPANIONSHIP

The Egyptian Arabian, the most beautiful of all breeds, is endowed with grace, agility, stamina, and intelligence, making it a perfect horse for competition and an ideal companion for a caring owner.

Whether you are still entranced by Walter Farley's mythic Black Stallion, or find your spirit soaring at the sight of a colt high-stepping in a sunlit field ...

Whether you count yourself among the stewards of an historic tradition, or want to introduce your children to healthy discipline and responsibility ...

Whether you are a sales professional or a farmer, an accountant or an artist, a young mother or a retired executive ...

Whether you long for your first gentle mare, or yearn to invest in a most noble breeding stallion ...

The Egyptian Arabian horse will fulfill every dream, and more!

Enter upon the enduring legacy and present adventure of this magnificent steed. Experience personal satisfaction, pride of ownership and the joy of new friends and relationships. The horse with an unrivaled history is within your reach ...



YOUR *passion* IS OUR *purpose*

The Pyramid Society was founded in 1969 by a handful of breeders in North America who were determined to protect the heritage of the Egyptian Arabian horse. Although any claim that today's Egyptian horse derives its magnetic power from the ancient pharaohs of Egypt or from the awesome presence of the pyramids is purely legendary, The Pyramid Society continues forward in its mission to promote, preserve, and

perpetuate the magic and mystery, romance and history of the Straight Egyptian Arabian: the premier source of classic Arabian type in the world.

The Pyramid Society proudly serves as an international catalyst to bring the Egyptian Arabian horse community together, most notably through its annual Egyptian Event — the world's largest showcase for the Egyptian Arabian horse — held the first week of June each year at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. Make plans now to come, share, and learn: encounter

the extraordinary Egyptian Arabian, meet our passionate members, and discover why "it's more than just a horse show; it's an Event!"

The next member of The Pyramid Society may be a curious spectator, a brand-new owner, an established breeder, an ardent supporter or a dedicated partner ... and perhaps it's you! Call, email, or visit us online *today* to learn more about the many benefits of Pyramid Society membership.



The
PYRAMID
SOCIETY



Membership benefit details and forms available at:

www.PyramidSociety.org

Phone: 859-231-0771

E-mail: info@PyramidSociety.org



On the cover: *Al Adeed Al Shaqab (Ansata Halim Shah x Sundar Alisayyah), World Champion Straight Egyptian Stallion