

*Balaton (Gazal VII x Babolna), a National Champion Shagya stallion, owned by Mrs. Ruth Pack, West Germany.*

## SHAGYAS: THE OTHER ARABIANS

BY BETTY FINKE

*"Crosswinds," a department inaugurated in the January issue, highlights the contribution made by the Arabian in establishing and improving other breeds. We encourage the submission of informative articles about the noteworthy accomplishments of Half-Arabians of all types for this monthly feature. For further information please call Darcy Hallberg, Department Editor, at (415) 856-0500.*

Since this department is called "Crosswinds" and is about part-Arabian breeds, I am not quite sure if Shagya-Arabians qualify for inclusion, but perhaps this article can help a little to solve the confusion about them. Shagya-Arabians are Arabian horses — not a cross like the Anglo-Arabian, or an Arabian-influenced light horse breed like the Trakehner. Instead they are a distinct subspecies of the Arabian horse, which since 1978 has been accepted by WAHO under the official name of "purebred Shagya-Arabians." It seems a pity that in many countries which have no Shagya registries, this fine and distinctive breed usually ends up being registered as Half-Arabian, or as Anglo-Arabian, neither of which classification is accurate.

While the term "Shagya-Arabian" is relatively new (in Europe, the breed was known simply as Arabian, as opposed to Purebred Arabian), the breed itself has a long tradition. It is difficult to pinpoint the exact year of its origin, as there was a long tradition in Eastern Europe of breeding imported Arabian stallions to local mares; in this respect the beginning of the breed resembles that of the Thoroughbred, although it developed along entirely different lines. The year 1789 is often named as the breed's "birth year," as that was the year Babolna Stud in Hungary, where it originated, was founded. For the sake of convenience, however, I'd like to start with the year 1836, as it marks the importation of Shagya DB, the breed's foundation stallion.

Shagya was a grey desertbred stallion foaled in 1830. Apparently, he was quite tall, around 16 hands. Just as Justin Morgan is for the Morgan breed, so too he is the Shagya-Arabian's common denominator — although there are many other sire lines, often identical with those of purebred Arabians, every Shagya-Arabian has the original Shagya DB in its pedigree, often many times. This does not mean, however, that every horse with Shagya DB in its pedigree is necessarily a Shagya-Arabian, as a Shagya-Arabian must trace *all* lines to the stud books of Babolna, Radautz and Topolcianky, in addition to having any amount of pure Arabian blood from other sources.

Although Shagya DB stood at Babolna for only three years, he founded a dynasty which quickly spread throughout Eastern Europe, to Radautz (Radowce) in Austria, Topolcianky in Czechoslovakia, and Kabijuk in Bulgaria. Horses were frequently exchanged between the stud farms, which makes for some confusion in pedigree research (for example, the Radautz Shagya II was a son of the Babolna Shagya X, whose other son stood as Shagya XVII at Mezohegyes and later returned to Babolna as Shagya VIII — and so on!), but this exchange helped to establish the breed throughout Eastern Europe.

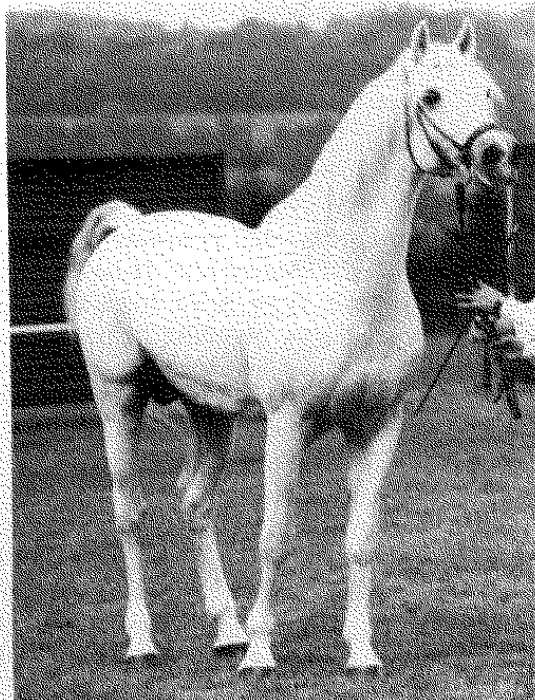
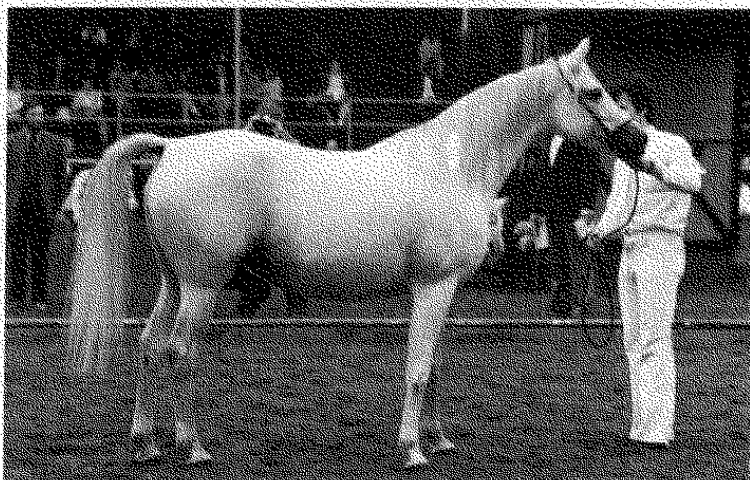
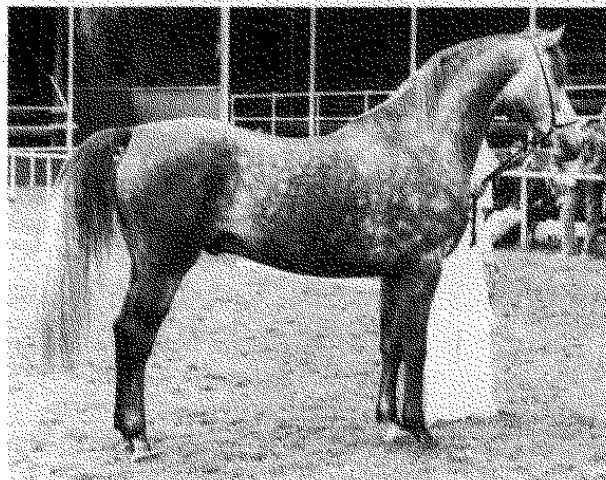
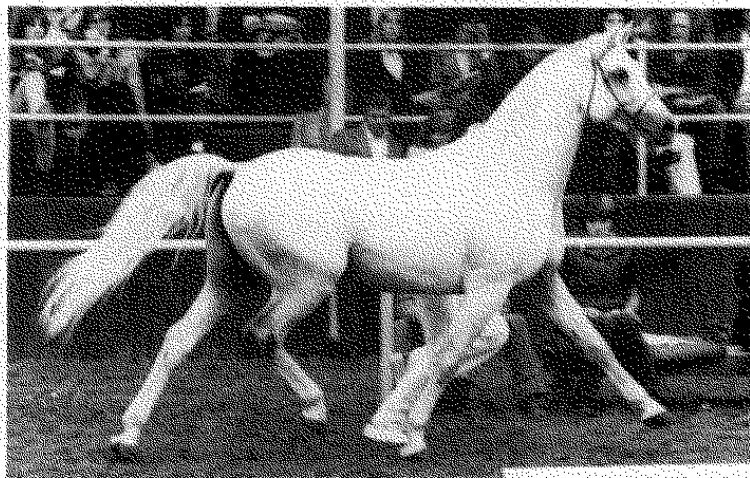
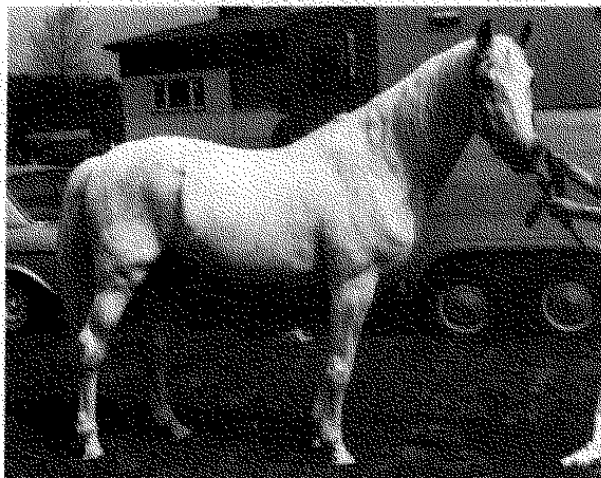
The principle was to cross Arabian stallions with local mares, who themselves were often largely of Arabian blood. Purebred mares were also used,

foremost among these being Tifle DB (1810), Semrie DB (1896), Adjuzo DB (1876), Schmed DB (1850), and Koheila DB (1881), several of which also founded purebred Arabian families. The resulting horses were (and still are) often indistinguishable from purebreds except on paper. The fact that they tended to be taller and to have more bone may be due partly to inbreeding to the tall Shagya DB, and partly to deliberate selection for these characteristics. Desertbred Arabians were constantly added, usually stallions. The most important of these foundation sires, in addition to Shagya DB himself, were Gazlan DB (1840), whose purebred son Gazlan (1864) came to Babolna in 1879 and founded the Gazal line; the black O'Bajan DB (1881); Siglavy Bagdady DB (1895); Mersuch DB (1898); and Koheilan Adjuzo DB (1880), who also founded the purebred sire line which includes \*Lotnik, \*Pietuszok, and the Russian sire Pomeranets. Other stallions, such as Jussuf and Kuhailan Zaid DB, were more influential through their daughters than through their sons. Purebred stallions were also added from other sources, most significantly Kemir 1905 (Souakim x Sylphide) from Weil, a full brother to Soldateska, the dam of the famous Marbach broodmare Jatta and of Landsknecht, the grandsire of Azraff.

All the above-mentioned sire lines are still in existence, although in time three proved to be more significant than the others: the lines of Shagya, O'Bajan, and Gazlan, the latter through his great-grandson Gazal (1898), a purebred well over 16 hands. The most important post-war sires at Babolna were representatives of these lines: the grey Shagya XXXVI (Shagya XXXII x 154 Shagya XXV), the black O'Bajan XIII (O'Bajan X x 242 Kuhailan Zaid, a purebred mare), and the grey Gazal VII (Gazal II x 129 Shagya XXV). Shagya XXXVI has some influence through two sons, Shagya XL and Shagya XLIV, but to a large extent it comes through his daughters; similarly, the black O'Bajan XIII is best known as a sire of high quality broodmares. This line is largely responsible for the relatively high percentage of black and brown Shagya-Arabians.

Perhaps the single most influential post-war sire was Gazal VII, foaled in 1944, a snow-white, 16-hand horse of faultless Arabian type who had an unparalleled influence on Shagya breeding in both Eastern and Western Europe. In Western Europe, Shagyas are bred and registered in West Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Denmark, the largest number of horses being in Germany. For some time the largest and leading Shagya breeder in Germany was Dr. A. Schmidt of the Schmidt-Ankum Stud, who imported a large number of mares and several other stallions along with Gazal VII himself at the age of 23. At this time Gazal VII was already established as a great sire; two of his sons, Gazal I and Gazal (often

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*Top left: Gazal I (Gazal VII x Olympia), owned by Baroness von Wrangel, at age 26.*

*Top right: Anakreon (Amor x Anka), owned by R. Kugel, was the Reserve National Champion Stallion in 1981 and 1982.*

*Middle left: Zoltan (Balaton x Zerline), owned by K. Bielenberg, was the Reserve National Champion Colt and winner of the stallion licensing in 1982.*

*Middle right: Pamina (Amor x Partita), owned by Mrs. Ruth Pack, was the 1982 National Champion Shagya Mare.*

*Lower left: Amor (Czardas x Anka), owned by Baroness von Wrangel, was the National Champion Stallion in 1979 and 1980 as well as being the leading sire of champions in 1982.*



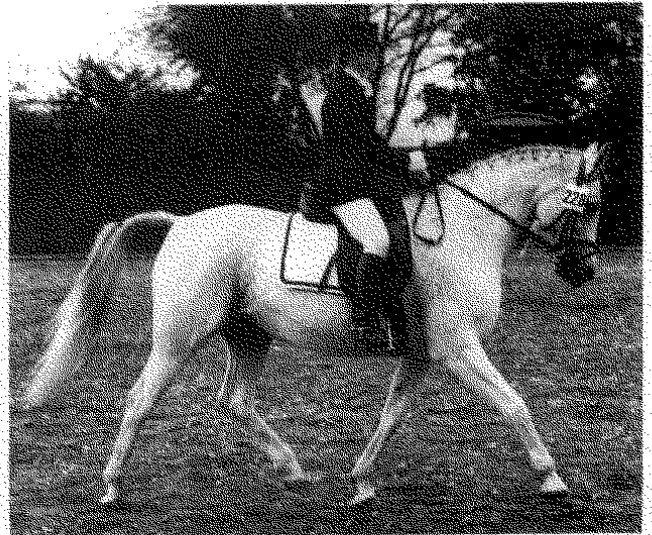
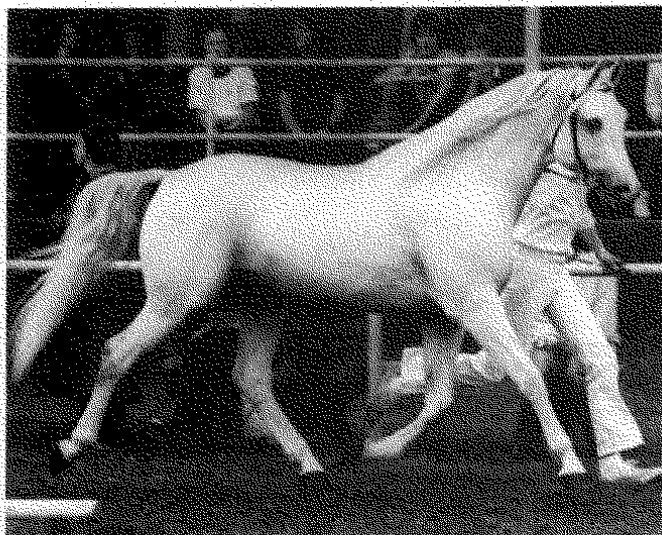
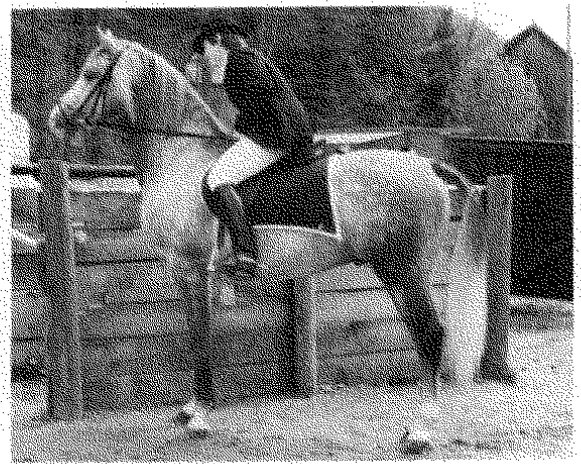
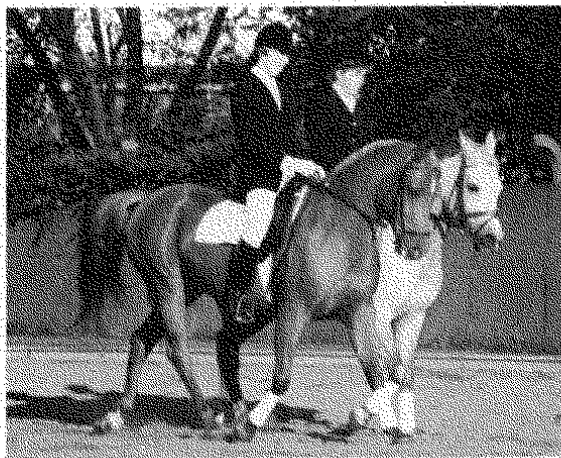
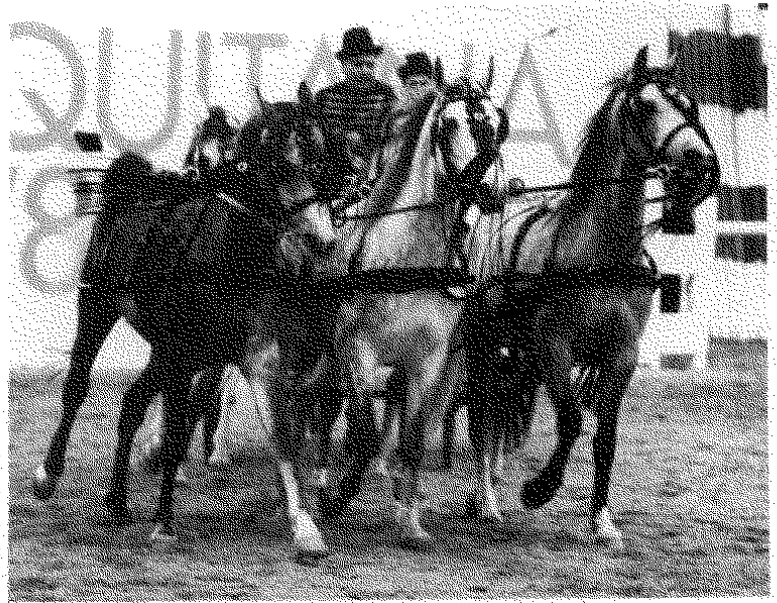
At right: Babolna mares at the 1981 Equitana (l to r): Ibn Galal-3, 111 Shagya XLV, and Farag I-7.

Middle left: Koheilan XXVI-9 (Koheilan XXVI x 258 Elsbaa II-1), the Reserve National Champion Mare in 1981, performing a pas de deux with her daughter Kassandra (grey), by the purebred Sindbad.

Middle right: Echnaton (Balaton x Eholi), a 1978 mare, was exported to Austria in 1982.

Lower left: Amos (Amor x Zunca), owned by F. Mueller, was named the 1982 National Champion Stallion.

Lower right: Olivia (Gazal VII x Odyssee), owned by A. Krieger, has been a many-times winner and National Champion of ridden classes.



known as "Gazal Ostfriesland," to distinguish him from the others), had already preceded him to Germany and were well-known sires themselves. Gazal VII quickly became the most important Shagya sire in Germany, where he lived to the age of 31. Today it is as difficult to find a Shagya-Arabian without Gazal VII blood in Germany as it is to find an Egyptian Arabian without Nazeer! Besides siring many important broodmares, Gazal VII also excelled as a sire of great stallions. Accordingly, three of the four most influential Shagya sires in Germany today are of his line.

First place among the modern Shagya sires must go to Amor (1971), who was not only twice National Champion Stallion, but is also currently the leading sire of champions. For example, last year at Aachen, *all* the Shagya Stallion and Mare Champions and Reserves were sired by him, as well as the Reserve National Champion Filly; additionally, the National Champion Colt was out of his daughter. Amor was bred by Dr. Schmidt and is by the Gazal VII son Czardas out of the Shagya XXXVI daughter Anka; thus combining in his pedigree the blood of two of the most important post-war Shagya sires. He resembles Gazal VII in that he is also 16 hands high, snow-white, and so typey he could put many purebreds to shame. He too is a super-sire. His most dramatic son so far is Anakreon, an equally tall and refined stallion who is the result of breeding Amor to his own dam Anka. Anakreon has been Reserve National Champion Stallion two years running, last year to another Amor son. Amor also had the singular distinction of being leased for a season to Piber, Austria, to add some Arabian refinement to the Lipizzaner breed, the first such infusion since the founding of the breed. He is owned by the Baroness von Wrangel of the Seehof Stud, another of Germany's more important Shagya studs. The Baroness also owns Gazal I (Gazal VII x Olympia), another of the leading sires, who is still hale, hearty and breeding at age 27.

Giving Amor a close race for the most popular Shagya stallion in Germany is Balaton (1971), like Gazal I, a son of Gazal VII out of an O'Bajan mare. Also a National Champion, Balaton was bred by Dr. Gramatzki, the head of the German Arabian Registry, and is owned by Mrs. Ruth Pack, who is currently the largest and most successful Shagya-Arabian breeder in Germany. Balaton represents the slightly heavier type of Shagya-Arabian with a less typey head than Amor. Of last year's National Champion Shagyas, the Champion Filly and the Reserve Champion Colt, Zoltan, were sired by him. Zoltan went on to be top Shagya stallion at the licensing later in the year, and is inbred to Gazal VII, his dam also being by that stallion. Another of Balaton's double Gazal VII sons, Echnaton, was also Champion Colt at Aachen in 1980, and has been exported to Austria. Balaton is also licensed for Trakehner mares, as is Amor.

Fourth among the most important Shagya sires in

Germany is Bajar (Suakim x Gazelle), the result of breeding full brother to full sister, and also a successful performance horse who has won jumping competitions. Bajar's son Perseus, out of an Amor daughter, was National Champion Colt last year. Bajar was bred by Anton ter Hazeborg and is owned by Manfred Hansen, both important names on the German Shagya scene. He is of the O'Bajan sire line, and carries 50% Polish Arabian blood through his granddam, Gama.

Although all Shagyas must trace to the original foundation stock of Babolna, Radautz and Topolcianky, any admixture of pure Arabian blood from any accepted source is also permissible, although opinions vary as to how much is advisable. During the '70s, Babolna itself added a significant new sire line to the breed, that of none other than Nazeer, through three stallions imported from Egypt: Ibn Galal (Galal x Mohga), Farag (\*Morafic x Bint Kateefa), and Ghalion (\*Morafic x Lubna), of whom Ibn Galal and Farag have proven to be most important for the Shagya breed (Ghalion was used more on purebreds). All three stallions are now in Germany and are being used in straight Egyptian breeding programs, but both Farag and Ibn Galal left a number of broodmares at Babolna as well as one son each, Farag II and Ibn Galal I, to carry on for them. Both are purebred, and Ibn Galal I is straight Egyptian.

The use of "new" Arabian blood has to be handled with caution, however, as the goal is not to breed an "imitation purebred." The ideal Shagya-Arabian is a riding horse of distinct Arabian type, but one that stands 16 hands or more (definitely not under 15 hands) and has plenty of bone. While on one hand, an occasional addition of new blood may be necessary to prevent the horses becoming too heavy, on the other hand their becoming too small and too fine has to be avoided too. If the type is lost, one might as well have any other light horse; if the substance is lost, one might as well have a purebred. The balance has to be carefully maintained, so that the distinctive character of the breed is not lost. It must be stressed again, however, that the Shagyas' inbred size and substance cannot be put down to the tiny amounts of non-Arabian blood added back in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Rather it is due to deliberate selection and quite probably to the influence of the original Shagya DB, to whom practically all Shagya-Arabians are linebred to some extent. In actual fact the Shagyas have as little non-Arabian blood, which is as far removed, as many WAHO-accepted purebreds; they have simply been selected for more size.

Two purebred sires who have been used with great success in Germany are the Polish \*Diem (Negatiw x Dimatra) and the well-known Russian performance stallion Neron (Sport x Nitochka). Both stallions are tall and strong without lacking type, and both have

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sired exceptional Shagyas. In fact \*Diem's son Gadar (out of a Gazal VII mare), bred and owned by Holger Ismer, and Neron's son Koyano (out of a Rumanian Koheilan Adjuze-line mare), bred and owned by Mrs. Neu, have achieved the impossible and beaten all other breeds at the stallion performance trials. It is certainly a feat for distinctly Arabian-type stallions to beat the bigger Hanoverians and Westfalians at their own game. Both stallions have also won halter awards; Koyano was Reserve Junior Champion Stallion at Aachen in 1981.

At this date, an international association of Shagya breeders has been formed and a stud book is being produced. Perhaps these efforts will help achieve more international recognition for this unique Arabian minority. The problem is perhaps that many owners of Shagya-Arabians outside the countries with Shagya registries simply don't know that their horses aren't just Half-Arabians, but instead belong to a breed with a long tradition behind it. Perhaps breeding Shagyas is partly a matter of keeping a tradition, as is breeding Trakehners, but it also serves a purpose: Shagya-Arabians are ideal for riders who like their horses to have height, size and plenty of bone, as well as distinctly Arabian type and character.

