

Beauty and Performance

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Words by Jenny Poijo



Robbie den Hartog senior (right), Ivana and Didier at the Duindigt Racetrack.

Ivana and Didier Thiévent live in Bözen, a little village halfway between Basel and Zurich in Switzerland. They have specialised in breeding Arabian horses of Russian/Crabbet lines for more than 20 years and have offspring from stallions such as Gips, Balaton, Karat, Kosmonaut, Versal and Pobeditel, just to name a few. It all began in 1977 when they bought Jasir as a yearling colt, a part-bred Arabian imported in utero from Hungary. Jasir became Ivana's ridden horse and together they won several competitions including the Swiss Reserve Championship

Fire. Jasir died in 2002 at the respectable age of 26 year old, but Scindian, who was born in 1978, is still alive. It is difficult to believe that he is 31 years old when you see him on the pasture with his little herd of five mares. Despite Ivana and Didier's interest in the Russian lines, their foundation mare Rishah was of Crabbet/Egyptian



31 year old Scindian (Shah Jehan x Winged Hour) with his five-year-old girlfriend Popitka (Pobeditel x Rishah).



Rishah (Rihan x Jezabel) placed fourth at 1988 European Championships.

in endurance riding in 1985. That year brought a double victory as Didier won the Swiss Championship title in endurance on Scindian (Shah Jehan x Winged Hour), their second gelding with distinguished Crabbet lines and whose female line traces back to the famous Silver

bloodlines. She was bought at the tender age of five days from Hans Hartmann in Reigoldswil and she spent her whole life with Ivana and Didier until her death in 2005 at the age of 21 year old. The dam of Rishah was Jezabel (Shah Jehan x Winged Hour), a full-sister to Scindian. Jezabel was also the dam of Jeridan, a full-brother of Rishah, who in 2006 was awarded the World Arab Horse Organization trophy in Switzerland. Rishah's sire Rihan (Aseel x Hakima), a very dry, desert-type straight Egyptian, was directly imported from El Zahraa Stud by Nayla Hayek of



Hanaya Arabians. Rishah was shown as a two year old for the first time in Frauenfeld, Switzerland, where she won her class and became National Reserve Junior Champion



Breeding stallion Bajkal (Balaton x Rishah).

Mare. That victory was followed by several other top placings and reserve champion titles. In 2006, Rishah was also posthumously awarded the title of Elite Mare by the Swiss Arabian Horse Society. She left eight foals



A head shot of the stallion Bajkal.

for the Thiévents, of which they kept three: Keshma by Kosmonaut; Bajkal by Balaton and Popitka by Pobeditel. Rishah's first foal was Rasheed Ibn Monzer, a chestnut colt born in 1998 by the straight Egyptian Monzer

(Mohawed x Fifi) and was followed by Nedjed in 1990, a second chestnut colt by the famous Russian stallion Neman (Nabeg x Nega), owned by Sylvia Garde-Ehlert. Both Rasheed and Nedjed were placed well at shows and are now easy to handle, much-loved family horses. Keshma was born in 1992, a chestnut mare by the Russian stallion Kosmonaut (Naftalin x Karinka), a top racing performer with fantastic movement. She was a class winner and National Junior Reserve Champion as well as a Gold Premium mare and she has the spectacular movement of her father Kosmonaut. She has competed successfully in dressage and in 2003, she qualified for the European Sports Championship in Austria, but unfortunately an injury put an end to her participation. To date, Keshma has had three foals: Nikita in 1998 by Nikel; Ghanim in 2005 by Gips; and Pushkin in 2006 by Pobeditel. Unfortunately Pushkin died as a yearling from a pasture accident, but Nikita, and especially Ghanim, are doing exceptionally well under saddle. Vizrah, Rishah's third son was born in 1994 and was sired by Versal (Naftalin x Pernataya) and is also chestnut.



Bajkal on the way to win a 70km endurance ride.

Vizrah and his owner Elisabeth Stöcklin are competing in endurance, dressage and show-jumping with excellent results. He won the Swiss Arabian Horse Society's Endurance Riding Cup in 2003 and twice passed the performance test in endurance. He was also Gold Premium colt at the National Stock Show in 1995 as well as a class winner and National Junior Champion Colt in 1996. He is truly an outstanding example of top versatility. In 1996 Bajkal, a gorgeous, very typey and charming colt was born. His sire is none other than the "stallion of the century" Balaton (Menes x Panagia) and Bajkal looks a lot like his famous father. He is one of those rare stallions that excels both under saddle and at shows and he has sired some top offspring. Bajkal is competing very successfully in endurance and at international shows and has achieved several wins and top placings. He has also been Gold Premium stallion at the National Stock Show four times. At the stallion licensing in 2007, he was registered with the highest average score of all presented stallions. Bajkal has sired some highly successful and



Crabbet/Russian feature

outstanding foals such as the lovely Balinka, a charismatic and typey mare with a very feminine expression. She has been Gold Premium mare four times with the highest scores at the National Stock Show and a class winner as well as International Reserve Senior Female



Baheera (Bajkal x Evelina).

Champion – and all this without a professional trainer! Rishah's second daughter Danajah by Dinar (Naftalin x Dulcinea) was born in 1997 and is a big chestnut filly of outstanding quality and substance. She, too, is a Gold Premium mare and was sold as a two-month-old



Graziella (Gips x Gwozdika).

filly to Marianne Christen, who is also the owner of the lovely Balinka. Danajah has competed in western riding with excellent results: four wins in open class western horsemanship and western pleasure in 2008 and she has qualified for this year's European Sport Championships in Stadl Paura, Austria. Rishah's last son is Kashan, a grey colt born in 2001 by Karat (Aromat x Kaluga). Karat, who now lives in England, is famous for his versatility as a top performance horse as well as being a successful show horse. Kashan is the only grey offspring of Rishah's and is owned by the Preiss family and with his 14-year-old rider Jessica Preiss, is following in the footsteps of his half-brothers Vizrah and Bajkal, having won



Evelina (Esplendor x Verba).

the Endurance Juniors Cup in 2008 and is a member of the Swiss Junior Endurance Team for 2009. Rishah's last daughter is Popitka by Pobeditel (Balaton x Pantomima by Naftalin) and was born in 2004. She is a big,

bold-moving performer with a look-at-me attitude and she will be retained at stud. She is doing very well under saddle and will hopefully be as successful as her brothers and sisters in endurance and dressage competitions. Ivana and Didier own two further outstanding Russian mares. In 1992, after three months of hard negotiations with the breeder KH Stickler, they bought Graziella as a five-month-old filly. She is by the European and Nations Cup Champion Gips (Mashuk x Polinezia) and out of Gwozdika (Murmansk x Kaluga) and she carries some of the most precious Russian bloodlines. Graziella is a dainty, exotic-looking dark chestnut mare with huge eyes and enormous movement and she is a winner and a champion mare. She has had five foals so far: Vulkan, a chestnut colt born in 1998 by Versal (Naftalin x Pernataya); Nizwa, a bay mare born in 2000 by Narym (Balaton x Nemara); and Baheer, a chestnut colt born in 2003 by Bajkal. Baheer and Nizwa were both awarded a gold medal at the National Stock Show. Graziella's fourth foal is the beautiful champion colt CG Graziell by Neboskreb (Balaton x Naminka), who was born in 2005 when Graziella was leased to Georgi Arabians in Germany. Graziella came home in 2006 in foal to the same stallion, but unfortunately the filly



Danajah (Dinar x Rishah) wins a blue ribbon.

died right after the birth. Her latest colt foal is Shir Khan, born in 2008 by Aja Shakakhan (FS Bengali x G

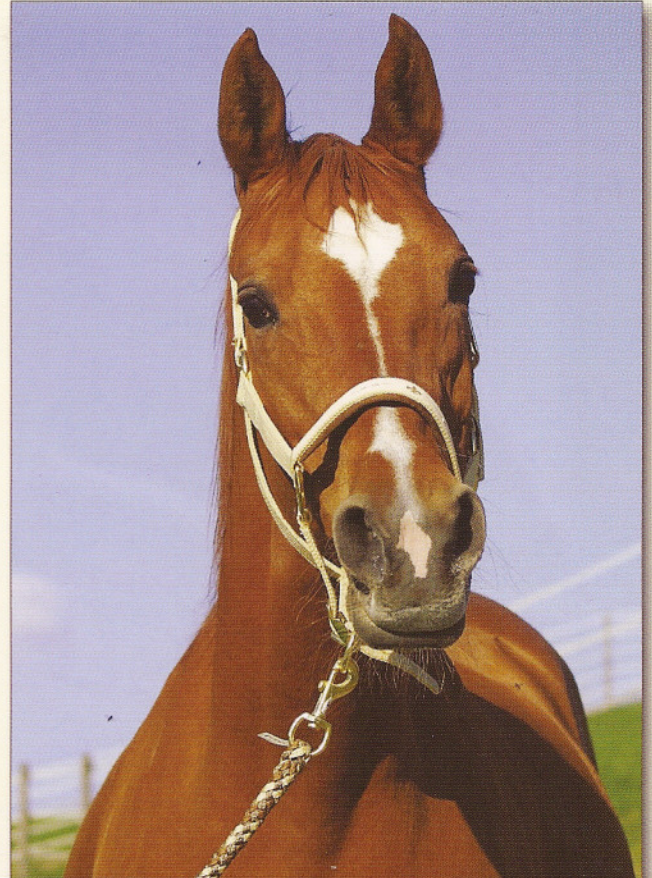


Shyamasri) and is an interesting combination of Russian (Kubinec) and Crabbet (Carmargue) lines. He is of outstanding quality with superb movement like his dam. In 1995, the Thiévents bought Evelina from the Tersk Holland Sale. She is an attractive bay mare born in 1992 at the Tersk Stud in Russia and she is by the Spanish stallion Esplendor (Ghadames x Esperanda) and out of the fabulous Verba (Murmansk x Pauza), one of the best broodmares at the Kossack Stud in the Netherlands. Evelina and Bajkal have produced three foals together: Balinka in



Kashan (Karat x Rishah) at an endurance ride.

2001; Besheer in 2004; and Baheera in 2006. Balinka has been very successful at shows and her full-brother Besheer, a Gold Premium colt, was also named one of the best foals of 2004 in Switzerland. It will be interesting to follow the ultra-typey Baheera; with such siblings, she certainly has something to live up to. In spite of some interesting sale offers, Baheera will be retained at the Thiévents stud. To Ivana and Didier, good conformation and movement in combination with Arabian type are very important and all of their horses are ridden. Their breeding philosophy is to use excellent mares out of solid dam lines and to mate them to top stallions that are, if possible, performance tested. Ivana and Didier are very satisfied with the results of combining the bloodlines of Naftalin and Balaton as they have found Arabian type and functionality such as beauty, performance, health, a wonderful character and an easy-to-handle temperament. Every year, Ivana and Didier travel to their friends Rob and



Keshma (Kosmonaut x Rishah).

Erny Den Hartog of the Kossack Stud in the Netherlands to give their opinion on the new crop of foals and to be present at the Tersk Holland Sale. They also help organise the importation of fresh and frozen semen from the



Shir Khan (Aja Shakakhan x Gaziella).

stallions of the Kossack Stud to Switzerland. At their home, animals are always their focus. Besides the horses, Ivana and Didier have some beautiful blue-eyed "sacred Burma" cats that are very quick to take a bite out of your toes if you are not careful!

They also have a few colourful Brahma chickens who wander around the farm. I have visited Ivana and Didier on several occasions and would like to thank them for their friendliness and hospitality. They are very down-to-earth, passionate people who have dedicated themselves to the Arabian horse and they are always ready to share their knowledge with others. ❖

