

Tahawi Horses

JANUARY—JUNE 2014

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

*Marabit
Al Tahawiya*
Organization of Bedouin Culture,
Traditions, and the Asil Arabian Horse

THE TAHAWI BLOODLINES:

- A main source of the Straight Egyptians as research has proven.
- Were already recognized by the EAO in 1968 before establishing the WAHO.
- Enjoy high level of authentication as Asil Arabians of verified desert origins.
- By the turn of the century became extremely rare and on the brink of extinction.

The EAO Recognition, A Long Overdue Step!

October 2013, after a year and half of negotiations and examinations, the Egyptian Agricultural Organization (EAO) the custodian of the Egyptian Arabian Horse passed a board decision to establish a new registry under the name of **The Asil Bedouin Egyptian Arabian Horses**.



Farida, a natural Bedouin beauty, now on the EAO list.

After three years of extensive research in cooperation with international organizations and experts, including mtDNA tests, the Tahawies submitted a 200+ pages file to the EAO in May 2012 requesting official registration of ten mares and one stallion, all what had remained of their centuries-old breeding heritage.

Miraculously enough, the registered horses represent seven of the rarest and most respectable desert strains including Kuheila Tamria, K. Jeathniya, K. Kharassa, K. Nawwaqiya, K. Khellawiya, Hamdaniya Semriya, and Saqlawiya Jadraniya, a precious gene reserve to add to Egypt's national exquisite gene pool. Thanks to the EAO for the historical decision.



Bushra, K. Jeathniya, a unique strain on the EAO list.



Mayssa and Farida, K. Nawwaqiya, two Asil Bedouin mares at quite old age finally receiving a long waited recognition.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Adham, the Last Tahawi Stallion	2
Two Centuries of Breeding	2
Asil Horses, Falcons, and Salukis	2
Horse Tribal Certificates, A Rediscovered Treasure	3
The EAO 1968 General Stud-book	3
A New Hope is Born, A Kuheilan Tamri	3
The International Support to the Tahawi Preservation Efforts	4

Tahawi Horses are Al Khamsa Horses of Interest



Edouard al-Dahadah, Al Khamsa Organization, examining some century-old Tahawi horse certificates.

Al Khamsa org. in the US maintains their prestigious and highly respected roster of Asil horses of verified desert origins, a status not enjoyed by default by all WAHO horses.

In 2011 as a result of a major research project launched in 2009 in cooperation with the Tahawi tribe, Al Khamsa added the three WAHO-recognized Tahawi mares Fulla, Futna and Bint Barakat to its roster.

Another historical outcome was declaring all what had remained of the Asil Tahawi horses as horses of interest in 2011. Two years later a proposal was submitted in 2013 to officially list them on the roster. Key members participated in the research included *Jeanne Craver*, ex- Al Khamsa chairman, *Edouard al-Dahadah* ex-chairman of the preservation task force, and *Joe Ferris* prominent expert and accomplished writer.

Adham, the Last Tahawi Stallion

Adham, 1994, Shweiman Sabbah by Rammah x Bint Astro, tracing from dam side to the Shweimat Sabbah of Mohammed Bey Mejalli al-Tahawi in the 1920s, and from sire side to the famous race horse Golden Arrow imported to Egypt from Iraq in the 1950s by Ahmed About Pasha .



Adham which was bred by Shaikh Ibrahim Abdullah Saoud al-Tahawi, son of the great breeder Abdullah Saoud al-Tahawi was a typical example of a desert-bred Tahawi stallion with its conformation and powerful structure. The dam line traces to the famous marbat (stud) of Shweiman Sabbah of Anazah. The dam Bint Astro was by al-Sabr Taiyeb by the famous EAO-Tahawi stallion Marshall of Ahmed Hamza by Amlam x Bint Fulla, The sire Rammah is by Metro who is by Golden Arrow x Karima.

Golden Arrow raced in three countries (Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt) and was used for breeding in Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia where it produced its WAHO-recognized descendants. Karima is a half sister to the three WAHO-recognized Tahawi mares of Ahmed Hamza by Ibn Barakat.

Adham was the last 100% Tahawi-bred stallion available today. Adham sadly passed away in Nov 2013 leaving no get to mark a new episode in the tragic story of the Tahawi breeding heritage that largely went extinct.



Adham, Shweiman Sabbah at age 18

Two Centuries of Breeding



Mohammed Bey Mejalli with the Saqlawiya Sheafiya, 1920s, dam of the RAS horse Nasr

The Tahawies have strong presence in Egypt's modern history since Mohammed Ali's conquests in Syria and Arabia. Lady Anne Blunt in the Journals and Correspondence narrates her visits to them since the 1880s. The First Attempt shows more encounters and acquisitions by her of Tahawi horses. Priceless tribal certificates document their acquisitions since the turn of the 20th century. The

Tahawi's breeding records go back to as early as 1875. More sources include the Jockey Club calendars and the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) records. Many foundation horses appeared to be of Tahawi origin such as Sabbah, Nasr, Gamal el-Din, Malouma...etc. More recent accounts include Judith Forbis in Hamdan Stables, the EAO's 1968 GSB, and Bernd Radtke work in the 1980s.

Prince Mohammed Ali Tawfiq, Crown Prince and one of Egypt's iconic breeders



"... I feel I owe these few words of praise to these people, for those who love horses and sport must appreciate all they are doing to keep the qualities and reputation of the Arab and Bedouin Horses"

~ About the Tahawies in his book "Breeding Purebred Arab Horses"

Asil Horses, Falcons, and Salukis ...

The Legendary Bedouin Triangle!

Camels, Arabian horses, Saluki hounds are species that emerged from the desert and their qualities were largely shaped by its life conditions. Falcon is another species that comes from the high mountains of Europe and central Asia, but became by passage a permanent guest in the tents of the Bedouin Sheikhs. Although Camel was a vital

component in the Bedouin live as main vehicle of transportation and primary source of food, but looking beyond life necessities, the three other creatures were the more luxurious elements owned by the elite Sheikhs of Arabia. A Bedouin Sheikh in a hunting trip riding his asil mare, carrying a trained falcon on his arm and followed by

Saluki hounds was a legendary scene that symbolized the majesty of the desert life. One of these scenes was described by Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria in his book "Travels in the East" after his encounter with the Tahawies in Salihia desert, Egypt in the 1880s.



One of the Tahawi hunting trips in the early 20th century

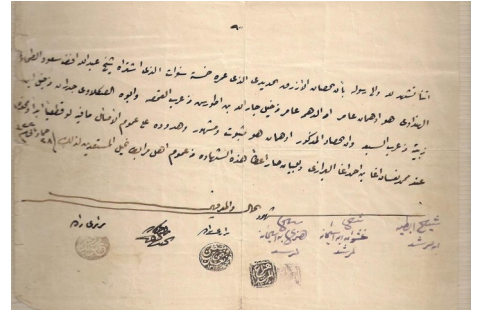
Horse Tribal Certificates, A Rediscovered Treasure

“One of the most authenticated group of horses in the Arabian breed”
~ Edouard al-Dahdah

A common tradition that reflects the sacredness nature of the purity of blood of the Arabian Horse to the Bedouin people is the horse tribal certificates. When ownership is transferred, the first owner furnishes the new proud one with a detailed certificate sealed by multiple witnesses to testify horse Asil status and list its pedigree. The witnesses are not ordinary tribe members but rather its Sheikhs along with those who are involved in breeding the subject horse. The testimony is made in the strongest possible religious affirmative words.

The Tahawies own a treasure trove of certificates that carry the seals of some of the most notable breeders and Sheikhs of Arabia over the past century.

One of the priceless certificates that added to our modern collective knowledge is the certificate of Dahman Amer of Sheikh Abdullah Saoud al-Tahawi dated 1904 that added two more generations to the pedigrees of thousands of registered Arabians and helped verifying their desert origin.



The certificate of Dahman Abdullah Saoud, great grand sire of the three WAHO-accepted Tahawi mares of Hamdan Stables

The EAO 1968 General Studbook ...

A Lost Dream!

Shaikh Soliman Eliwal Tahawi one of the key breeders in the GSB



By the 1930s Egypt’s national wealth of the Arabian Horse outnumbered those in its homeland of Arabia. The Egyptian royal family since the time of Abbas Pasha I acquired hundreds of fine Arabians. Lady Anne Blunt established its famous stud at Sheikh Obeyd near Cairo. The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) collected its basic herd and started breeding. The Jockey Club members were competing in acquiring the best Arabians. In parallel the Tahawies were busy in their extraordinary acquisition and breeding Job with an estimate of 3000 Arabians in the 1940s!

Since the 1930s, Egypt’s ministry of agriculture persistently worked on an ambitious project to register Egypt’s national wealth of Arabian horses. The effort was cultivated later in 1968 by issuing the General Stud Book (GSB) Part I with 1143 purebred Arabians.

Shortly after the establishment of the WAHO in 1972, the EAO mysteriously decided to confine Egypt’s participation in the WAHO to the horses of the state-owned stud and abandon the GSB project abolishing a long waited dream and sending a priceless great heritage to vain!



The front page of the EAO’s 1968 GSB. Introduction written by Dr. Amin Zaher

A New Hope Born, A Kuheilan Tamri ...

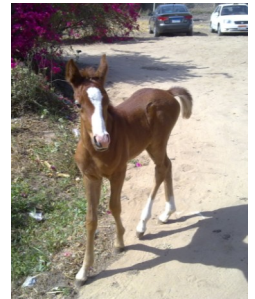


Bint Delingat, Kuheila Tamria

The Kuheilan Tamri (or Thamri) strain is one of the fine strains of Anazah tribe in the Arabian desert. It is believed to be extinct already today in modern breeding of Asil Arabians all over the world. This half EAO mare by Delingat Akhnatoon out of the Tahawi mare Bint Ammoura is the last Asil Tamriya mare with the Tahawies and hence the last in the whole world, we believe.

Her direct grand dam Ammoura was one of the EAO 1968 GSB horses by the great Tahawi race horse of the 1940s Ibn Damas. The whole line traces to the Tamriya of Quwetia Smeda al-Tahawi imported from Anazah in 1925.

In the spring of 2013 a new hope was born, the first Tahawi foal in many years by Molouky Hamdan.



The newly born Kuhilan Tamri foal

Marabit Al Tahawiya, Pursuing the Bedouin Traditions

Over the past thirty years several Tahawi individuals volunteered to document the centuries-old rich Bedouin heritage of their tribe and country that was dissolving amid the rapid social and economic changes of the post-1952 Egypt. Only in the past few years these efforts took more rigorous and organized forms with the important milestone of launching the Tahawi website in 2008. From 2009 to 2013 more successes were achieved by three Tahawi volunteers in documenting the Tahawi history and recognizing their Bedouin horses by the local and international organizations. It became increasingly important to establish a legal entity to look after the preservation and breeding efforts of the Tahawies and provide a hub for international support and cooperation. Here came the idea of *Marabit Al Tahawiya* organization. Our main goal is not only to chronicle for Egypt's wealth of Bedouin traditions but also to preserve and revive these traditions on the ground.



Organization of Bedouin Culture, Traditions, and the Asil Arabian Horse

مؤسسة مرايبت الطحاوية للبحان
العربي والتراث الثقافي البدوي

Marabit Al Tahawiya

Phone: +20 111 55-972-11

E-mail: y_ghanim@hotmail.com

www.eltahawysaoud.com

[Facebook.com/TahawiHorses](https://www.facebook.com/TahawiHorses)

The International Support to the Tahawi Preservation Efforts



In Service to the
Bedouin Horse Since 1975

Al Khamsa

A not-for-profit organization established in 1975 in the US. The name *Al Khamsa* was chosen as a term with historical significance to the Bedouin Arabian Horse. In their definition of the Asil Arabian they state that an Arabian horse is: "... that can reasonably be assumed to descend entirely from Bedouin Arabian horses bred by horse-breeding Bedouin tribes of the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula without admixture from sources unacceptable to *Al Khamsa*."

Two organizations play important role in serving the authentic Asil Arabian. They set their own definition of what stands as Asil to help preserving its ancient pure blood as delivered to us by its people, the Nomadic Arabs of Arabia called in Arabic *al-Badu* and known in English as *Bedouin*.

The two organizations provided great support to the Tahawi preservation efforts and recognized their modern Arabians as Asil as per the two organizations' definitions.



Asil Club

An international association for the preservation and rearing of the Asil Arabian horse founded in 1974 in Germany. The Asil Club defines the Asil Arabian as follows:

"The ASIL ARABIAN is a horse whose pedigree is exclusively based on Bedouin breeding of the Arabian peninsula, without any crossbreeding with non-Arabian horses at any time. The word "asil" (Arabic, pronounced: asseel) means pure, true, noble and genuine."

"Out of firm conviction we strongly plead for the acceptance of this valuable gene pool whose preservation is vital to the breeding of purebred Arab horses, particularly of Asil-Egyptian and Asil-Arabian horses"

~ Dr. George W. Olms, Asil Club President, in a letter to the EAO, April 2012