



Dahhmany Bagdady (D.S.) by Wahhabit out of Tisrina B at 8 years old. Photo: (left) Éva Király

**The sireline of Siglavý Bagdady \***

**Siglavý Bagdady (O.A.)**  
white/grey 1895.

out of a Saklavý Gidrán by a Siglavý bred by the Anazeh Rualla tribe. Imported to Bábolna by M. Fadlallah El Hedad in 1902.

Stand at Bábolna Stud 1902-1919

↓  
**Siglavý Bagdady II**

grey, 1908. Bred by Bábolna out of 216 Semri O.A.

Stand at Bábolna Stud 1923-1930

↓  
**Siglavý Bagdady IV**

grey, 1928. Bred by Bábolna out of 16 Kismet-1. by Kismet O.A.

Stand at Bábolna Stud 1934-1942

↓  
**Siglavý Bagdady V**

grey, 1939. Bred by Bábolna out of 207 Kuhaylan Zaid by Kuhaylan Zaid O.A.

Stand at Bábolna Stud 1946-1955

↓  
**Siglavý Bagdady VI**

grey, 1949. Bred by Bábolna out of 250 Kuhailan Haifi I by Kuhailan Haifi I (Tajar)

Stand in Bábolna 1964 -1967, 1968- 1975 U.Nyegaard in Denmark, at Martin Ehman, Sweden 1975- 1978.

↓  
**Wahhabit**

Chestnut, 1977.

out of Delicate Air by Laertes bred by Martin Ehman, Sweden His last owner: Franz Theiler, Austria

↓  
**Dahhmany Bagdady**

grey 2001.

out of Tisrina B by Salaa El Dine bred by László Király, Hungary

\* Only the Al Khamsa/Asil Club accepted horses

**Dahhmany Bagdady**  
(Wahhabit x Tisrina B)

Colonel Zoltan Kickinger, Hussar officer-in-command of the Esterházy Regiment: „Gazsi” (Dahhmany Bagdady), (is) a wonderful character. Teachable, ready to fulfil any duty. He attested the best talents of an Arabian in motion picture battle scenes and shows. Fearless, always ready to prove. His forte is his heart and velocity”

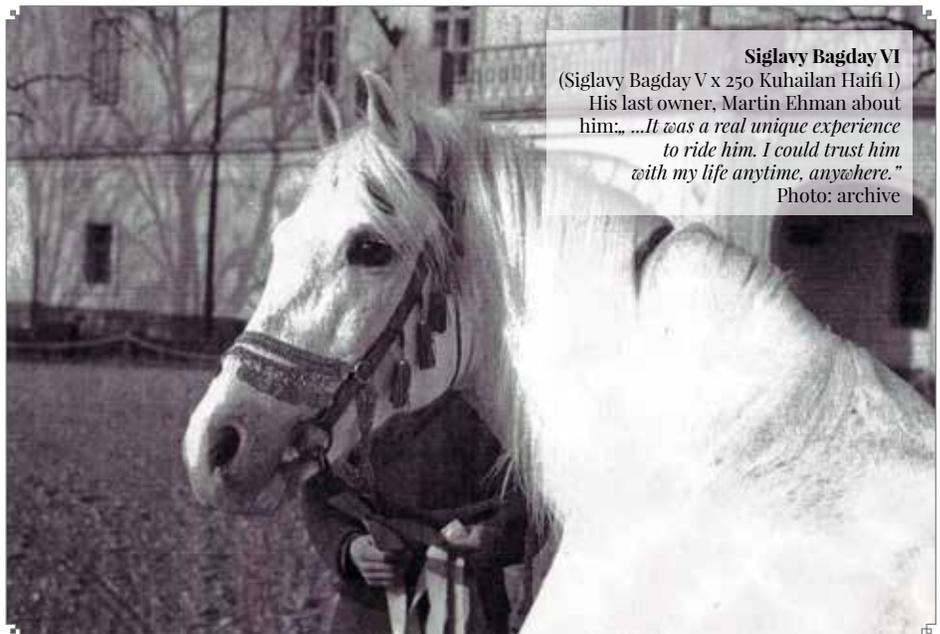
Photo: L. Király



**Siglavý Bagdady VI**  
(Siglavý Bagdady V x 250 Kuhailan Haifi I)

His last owner, Martin Ehman about him: „...It was a real unique experience to ride him. I could trust him with my life anytime, anywhere.”

Photo: archive



# The Breed Needs Sire Lines, Too

## My story about the Siglavý Baġdady sire line and Arabian horses

by László Király

*I have become committed to Arabian horses as an adult. For years, I was only watching these wonderful creatures from a safe distance, but I could not escape from their elegant stride and ethereal beauty. Not even today. My involvement has gotten deeper when I learned about the incredibly rich cultural history of the breed. My fate has been sealed ...*

### I started out as a Shagya breeder

Due to the political changes of the early 1990s, citizens were free to establish civil associations. Breeders' associations were formed one after the other. I was lucky enough to become a founder of the Hungarian Arabian Horse Breeders' Association, and with 50 fellow members I participated in the statutory meeting with utmost pleasure.

I started out as a Shagya breeder. By virtue of their pedigree, the first mares I chose were closer to purebred Arabians in appearance. Even though I used top sires, I liked their progeny less and less as time went by, because they did not represent the type that I had got to like in the Arabian breed. The purpose of breeding Shagya is clear: achieving Arabian characters and features, but in a more massive scale. While breeding Shagya, height is essential, but it does influence physiognomy, even in cases when we reach back to the girder, that is the purebred Arabian after 3 or 4 generations, as Tibor Pettkó Szandtner suggested.

Shagya is a great and very useful breed; it is not a waste of time to deal with it. Mainly because of the years I spent with them, I came to understand the significance of genealogy. Now I very firmly believe that the beaming, radiant and primal might that stole my heart, the breed that

was able to shape the horsebreeds of the world, can survive in a single way — in pure blood.

### Quest

I delved deep in the study of Bábolna Arabian horses and pedigrees in general, and I wanted to learn more and more. I ended up with a library full of literature, and I spent as much time with the subject as life would allow me. Eventually, I decided to purchase a mare, the one that I envisioned. The more original, the more archaic, the purer the better.

### Seherezade

I came across many old photos with ante-World War II Bábolna Arabians, the ones I really liked, but it was impossible to find one. There were two Asil mares in the stud, however, from the family of **25 Amurath Sahib**. They were 225 Seherezade B and 205 Farag II-2. Their ancestress, 60 Adjuze was foaled in 1876 and was bred by the Anazeh El Sbaa tribe. She was imported to Hungary by Mihály Fadlallah El Hedad in 1885. One must note, that the above mentioned two mares descended from Egyptian sire lines, but from the breeding point of view, I did not find it problematic.

Twenty years ago, Bábolna had a great number of noble and pure Egyptian Arabian horses, but I did not choose my mare from them. I picked 225 Seherezade B on purpose, because she was one of the two mares from whom I hoped the realisation of my breeding principles. As a matter of fact, I saw that the stud did not aim to produce Asil progeny out of them.

I believed that these two horses and this family are part of the treasure which I wanted to save at its purest possible form. I looked upon the task as a mission.

When picking the family, I was very happy to see that the sire of 25 Amurath Sahib brings with her the Weil/Marbach gene-stock, one of the oldest pure-bred Arabian studs in Europe.

I was enchanted by the elegance, the gentleness and the daintiness of Seherezade that well overshadowed her few shortcomings. Since she already had a beautiful 3 years old daughter by the Polish Eukalptus, she was considered dispensable and so sold to me.

### Wahhabit

If I had had my way, I would have bred one of the *asil* stallions of the original imported lines with my mare, Seherezade, but it was widely believed that there was not a single one left of them. One day, however, I came across a volume of *Desert Legacy, in search of Syria's Arabian Horses* by Jens Sannek and Bernd Löwenherz, in which I found an encouraging photo. The caption said:



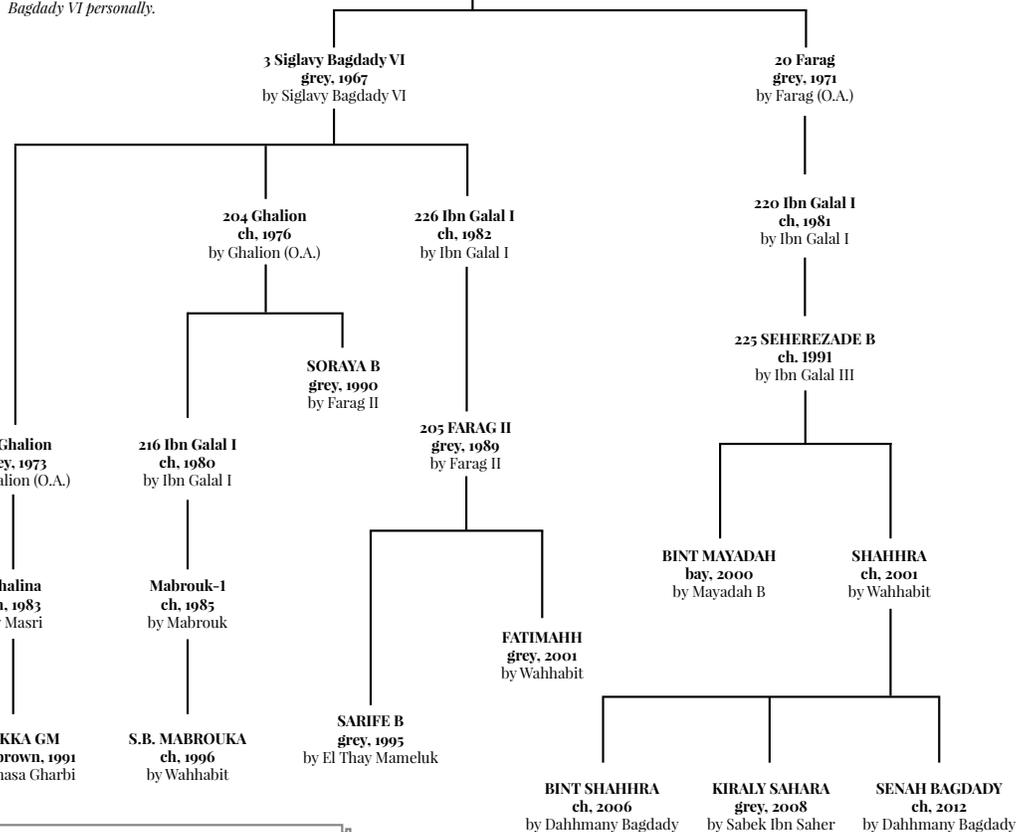
225 Seherezade B (K.A.) by Ibn Galal III out of 220 Ibn Galal I. Photo: T.Rombauer



**25 Amurath Sahib**  
(Amurath Sahib x 221 Kuhaylan Zaid)

The Photo is from the collection of Mr. Ernő Váci, who led the horse-breeding in Babolna between 1965-1973. He knew both horses, 25 Amurath Sahib and Siglavy Bagdady VI personally.

**25 AMURATH SAHIB**  
grey, 1952  
by Amurath Sahib



The table contains only the direct ancestors of the horses in my breeding program, and does not include all descendants.

**The damline of (60) Adjuze O.A. (1876)\***



\* only the Asil Club / Al Khamsa accepted horses

**60 Adjuze O.A. (1876)**  
A Kuhaylat al - Adjuze, bred by the Anazeh El Sbaa tribe. Her whole (hypothetical) strain name is Kuhaylat al-Adjuze al- Shaykhah. Imported by Fadlallah El Hedad from the Desert to Babolna in 1885. The Number „ 60“ in her name was given in Babolna as a broodmare.

“Wahhabit (1977) a Kuhaylan Krush stallion from the old Austro-Hungarian sire line (!), and of the mare family of the Syrian imports of Homer Davenport, consequently he is related to the Syrian Asil Arabians. The Owner: Mr. Franz Theiler of Graz, Austria” This stallion turned out to be the only *asil* son of the Bábolna-born **Siglavy Bagdady VI**.

The founder of the sireline, **Siglavy Bagdady**, was a pure in the strain Saqlavy bred by the Rualla Anazeh tribe and imported also by Fadlallah El Hedad after an expedition in 1902. This sire line is one of the few Asil lines in the West and should be the subject of separate study.

I must admit that Wahhabit was not a real eye-catcher. I was very well aware of the fact that looks cannot be a disadvantage in breeding though. Especially not for me, since I was not looking for a show-horse, but rather a more archaic type that resembles the desert-type. Aesthetic objections had to be disregarded anyway, because saving of the sire line was only possible by this stallion. On the other hand, I heard many praising words from people who had known his sire, Siglavy Bagdady VI — as well mentioning his relatively large head, short neck and pigment flaws. His movement, stride, forceful trot and beautiful, dark, fiery eyes were nevertheless complemented. I hoped to gain all these by his son.

Wahhabit was foaled in Sweden by Martin Ehmann, the last owner of Siglavy Bagdady VI. His dam, **Delicate Air** (Laertes x June), was bred by Charles Craver in the United States. Franz Theiler encouraged me and shared a letter from Charles Craver in which he greeted him on the

occasion of purchasing Wahhabit. He mentioned that Delicate Air was sold to Martin Ehman upon the suggestion of the late Carl Raswan, in order to have a purebred desert Arabian mate for the last pure-bred Hungarian stallion.

I quote from Martin Ehman’s evaluation on Siglavy Bagdady VI in one of Ingrid Zeunert’s “Shagya Araber” volumes: “It is extremely hard to find such a stallion these days, I can only use superlatives of his inner values, not to mention his stride. It was a real unique experience to ride him, I could trust him with my life anytime, anywhere.”

**A sire line and a mare family**

I wanted to establish a broad genetic basis, so I continued the search in the respect of sire lines and mare families, but with no success. My last hope was the 74 Tifle line, I soon came to realise though that there were no Asil offspring left in the United States from the Bábolna horses that found a new home there after World War II. It is a great pity, because 240 Koheilan VIII-5 and 231 Kuhaylan Zaid-8 were very close to my objective.

I had to face the fact that I can only use one sire line (Siglavy Bagdady O.A. 1895) and one mare family (60 Adjuze O.A. 1876). I did hope to find their progeny and start my breeding program with them. In my objective, I stated that by using the high content of the elegant Egyptian blood my aim will only focus in gene preservation, rather than re-establishing one single type.

One should note that the progenitors of the imported Egyptian stock was selected and bred by Tibor Pettkó Szandtner. These horses were not the ultimate show-pieces of our days. I should add that in due course, I was planning to acquire an original Arabian stallion to enrich the gene pool of my stock.

### A wide world

Very shortly after I learned of its existence, I joined the Asil Club. It was pleasing to know that I am not the only one obsessed. The publications of the Club have meant a world to me.

I had the opportunity to exchange words with Dr. Olms at the Essen Equitana in 1999. He was really happy to have a Hungarian member. He was somewhat restrained in connection with Wahhabit, but he did welcome my efforts in re-establishing the old Bábolna mare family. All in all, there I had the Siglavy Bagdady sire line and the 60. Adjuze mare family.

### ...and set off the avalanche

I started to catalogue all horses that were still alive.

Franz Theiler, the owner of Wahhabit was happy to have my two mares covered. Seherezade was in my possession, and I had **205 Farag II-2** on a lease. I was praying to get a colt, and finally my wish was granted. Not once, but twice! A grey and a chestnut colt.

Unfortunately, the 205 Farag II-2 foal died in pneumonia, but the chestnut one seemed to be thriving. Dr. Walter Hecker examined the colt and saw no reason why he would not be able to become a sire in the future. I was really happy that a new Siglavy Bagdady stallion would be standing in Hungary in the centenary of the import of Siglavy Bagdady (1902-2002). But it never happened. When the colt was six months old, I wanted to take some photos of him and his dam. While taking the pictures the groom scared the foal who bumped into a barrier and fractured his leg. He had to be euthanised.



*Bint Mayadah (K.A.) by Mayadah B out of 225 Seherezade B.  
Photo: Éva Király*

After the shock I skipped a year with Wahhabit and I had Seherezade visit a Bábolna Asil stallion, **Mayadah B** (Nasir x 235 Jamil). Mayadah B was a good-looking, dark bay stallion from the Ibn Rabdan line which I had wanted to try for a long time. He turned out to be a good choice. His filly, **Bint Mayadah**, out of Seherezade was very close to my breeding objectives, with her speed, fiery temperament, elegant bay color and with a cannon circumference of 7.87 inches (20 cm).

I lost some momentum with Wahhabit, but I did not surrender. I purchased 205 Farag II-2 and leased two Dahmah Shahwanayah mares. **241 Tisrina B** (Salaa El Dine x 211 Zohair) came from the purebred Egyptian Tamria family. I chose her because I expected her to refine the not so elegant appearance of the sire. I picked **245 Ibn Galal I** (Ibn Galal I x 210 Farag II), because through her sire she bore the blood of 25 Amurath Sahib in 12.5%. All four of them was covered by Wahhabit and after a while they all returned pregnant.

### Dahhmany Bagdady

It was a period full of anticipation. The foals arrived in 2001, three fillies and a colt, the latter out of Tisrina B. I named him Dahhmany Bagdady (Wahhabit x 241 Tisrina B by Salaa El Dine) to pay tribute to the original Siglavy Bagdady sire line and the mare family of his dam. Out of Seherezade, 205 Farag II-2, and 245 Ibn Galal I, we had fillies.

In the meanwhile Wahhabit started a slow decline. The owner preserved some sperm, but the motility of the substance was not adequate. After many futile inseminations we finally gave up. I offered to purchase the stallion in order to try to cover my mares naturally, by pasture breeding, but due to his progressing illness (Cushing's Syndrome), it never happened.

Dahhmany became the last "silk thread", consequently the existence of the sire line depended solely on him. He became a typical Siglavy Bagdady progeny. He inherited and perpetuated some unfavorable features of the appearance of his sire and grandsire, but fortunately their great nature, too. I can boldly declare this fact after the birthing and raising of many of his descendants. They are honest steeds with great stamina and endurance horses, all of them are known for their fighting spirit.



*205 Farag II-2 (K.A.) by Farag II out of 226 Ibn Galal I. Photo: Éva Király*

Dahhmany was raised on the pastures of Bábolna National Stud along with other colts. He started his first season in 2005 and covered 25 Seherezade B, 205 Farag II-2, Bint Mayadah, *Shahbra*, *Fatimabb* and *Dahhma*. The last three are half sisters to him. Out of his crop it was **Abdul Wahhab** (out of Bint Mayadah) who looked rather promising. His only flaw was his short height. I sold him, but I wish I had not. Mating with half-siblings served the purpose of the preservation of the Siglavy Bagdady sire line. I would have been really happy if the result had come closer to my objectives, but it never did. In spite of that I tried half-sibling matings again.

The measurements of Dahhmany in his age of 5 were as follows:  
 by stick – 59.44 inches (151 cm) (14.85 hands)  
 by tape – 62.59 inches (159 cm)  
 girth – 68.89 inches (175 cm)  
 cannon circumference – 7.48 inches (19 cm)

He has participated in numerous endurance competitions, and has qualified also to the 2009 Junior Endurance World Championship in Bábolna, a competition of 23 nations. Dahhmany was very likely to become the member of the bronze-medal team, but his rider suffered an injury and consequently lost a considerable amount of time. Despite all this, the couple completed the 75-mile-event (120 km), but in the end Dahhmany was disqualified due to lameness.

Thereafter Dahhmany received classical training from Zoltan Kickinger in Loretto, Austria, he was also a hussar horse in the Esterházy Regiment, he participated in open-air opera shows, and took a role as a stunt horse in many motion film productions. His riders all praised his calmness and reliability.

He stood in my breeding establishment in 2013 for the last time.



*S.B. Mabrouka (K.A.), alias Siglavy Bagdady Mabrouka by Wahhabit and out of Mabrouk-1, was bred by Franz Theiler in Austria. Photo: Éva Király*



*Dahhmany Bagdady colts. Photo: Éva Király*



*Shahbra (K.A.) by Wahhabit out of 225 Seherezade B. Photo: Éva Király*

## Adventures

In order to enrich the gene-stock of my mares, I also have used other stallions with the hope that I will be able to use Siglavy Bagdady stallions on my future mares. One of them was **Sabek Ibn Saher** (Saher x Sandara by Gharib) whose sire and dam are Asil progenies of the Murana I mare family from Weil. I also used **Farag II-3**, **El Aziz** (Salaa el Dine x 20 Abbas Pasha I) and **Halim Shah I** (Ansata Halim Shah x 214 Ibn Galal I). [Besides that, the black **Feysul El Hamza** (Flaxmans Roufas x El Hamza) sired some remarkable foals. The latter is recognised by the Asil Club, but not by Al Khamsa, because of Bint Kareema.]

The 60 Adjuz blood lives through the progeny of 25 Amurath Sahib in two families. One of them is **20 Farag** (Farag x 25 Amurath Sahib /full sister to **Farag II** stallion) who is related to Seherezade. The other is **3 Siglavy Bagdady VI** (Siglavy Bagdady VI x 25 Amurath Sahib) whose progeny, **Sarife B** (El Thay Mameluk x 205 Farag II-2) and **Soraya B** (Farag II x 204 Ghalion) became broodmares in my breeding establishment. I imported old **Shakka GM** (Hamasa Gharbi x Ghalina out of 30 Ghalion) who belongs to the latter family from Germany. She arrived with a foal, but she remained empty in the future, which I felt very sorry about.

I have had nice results with the mating of Dahhmany Bagdady and **S.B. Mabrouka** (Wahhabit x Mabrouk-1 out of 216 Ibn Galal I). The mare was generously donated to me by Karli Hemmer who saw my ambitions as a breeder. Karli Hemmer is a Shagya breeder in Austria, and also a true fan of the Bábolna Asil lines.



*Sarife B (K.A.) by El Thay Mameluk out of 205 Farag II. Photo: Éva Király*

## Ghalion-6

Ghalion-6 (Ghalion x 25 Amurath Sahib), the chestnut colt was foaled in Bábolna in 1973 and he could very well have participated in my breeding program, since through his dam, 25 Amurath Sahib, he was 50% of the old Bábolna Arabians.

The outstanding endurance horse was exported to Austria and later to Germany, where sperm was taken from him. One portion got into my possession after many adventurous turns, but most of it was wasted during unsuccessful inseminations.

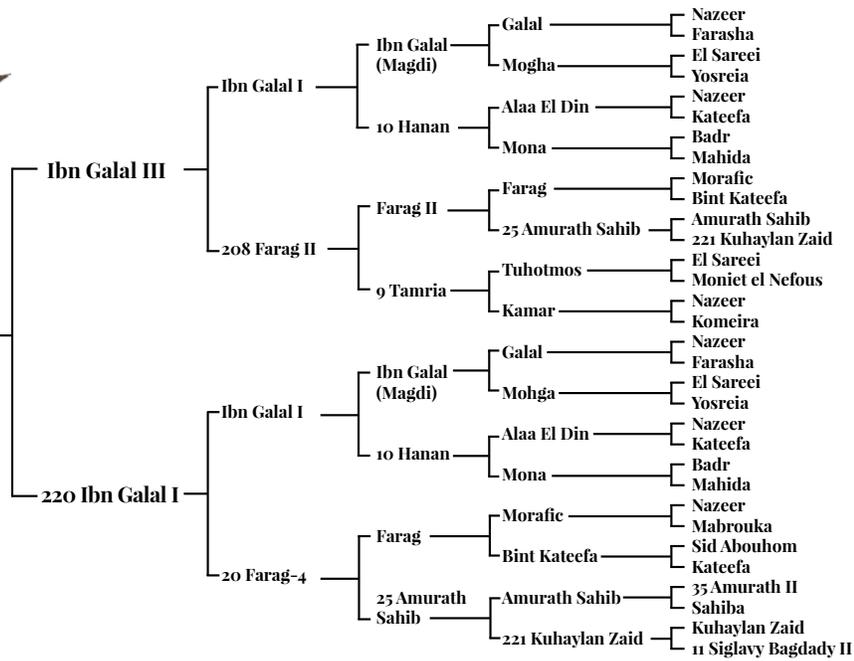
We did have a beautiful filly by Ghalion-6, out of Bint Mayadah, but she died after two days. After many attempts, we had an embryo by Ghalion-6 in Soraya B, who also carried 50% Bábolna blood, but following the successful implantation the recipient mare aborted it. I ended the experiment and kept the substance for times to come.



*Ghalion-6 (K.A.) by Ghalion out of 25 Amurath Sahib. Photo: E. Escher.*



**225 Scherezade B**  
1991. Bábolna  
out of the damline  
of 60 Adjuze (O.A.)



**225 Scherezade B**  
Photo : T. Rombauer



**Ibn Galal III.**  
Photo: I.N. DuMont



**220 Ibn Galal I.**  
Photo: E. Escher

### A window to the world of Asil Arabians

I had been breeding for 10 years when I have discovered Edouard Al-Dahdah's blog, *Daughters of the Wind*. This platform opened a window to the world to me, part of which I already knew through the Asil Club, that is, among others the wonderful world of Asil breeding in America. It was through the blog that I came to know that Al Khamsa registered the progenitors of 25 Amurath Sahib and Siglavly Bagdady VI., hence recognising their still living Asil progeny.

### Epilogue

The objective of my breeding program was gene preservation. I have managed to prove though that the Bábolna Asil Arabians are superb and enduring steeds, and consequently they are worthy for equestrian purposes.

Since I sold many of my horses (due to unfortunate circumstances beyond my control), among the new owners I cannot really see the continuation of the program yet, I can only trust that my efforts were not in vain. More *asil* Dahhmany Bagdady offspring went abroad. Most of them are mares and fillies, but among them also a colt. Fortunately, there are some more 60 Adjuze progeny in Europe apart from those that I bred. With all these, there are more hope for the preservation of the mare family and the sire line ... and Dahhmany is still alive, he is only 17...



*Saraly El Shahin (H.S.) by Ansata Aly Jamil out of Saree.*

I envisage the program now. Upon the advice of Mauvy, I should like to involve a desert stallion. Maybe a Hamdani stallion of Ibn Ghurab if that lived through the war..... because I believe, the breed needs new sire lines.

- László Király



*Soraya B (K.A.) by Farag II out of 204 Ghalion. Photo: Éva Király*

In order to keep Asil Arabians — among them the Bábolna lines — for future generations, the population must be safeguarded in its most original form possible, in pure blood, and maintaining the possibility of the entailment of its remarkable features, I think. A very good care needs to be taken of the mare families and the sire lines in order to maintain the genetic diversity as well. This effort of *asil* breeders worldwide may encourage and give opportunity for Shagya- and other breeders to use it as a resource in their breeding activities after a few generations. Just like Major General Tibor Pett-kó Szandtner, the saviour of the Egyptian Arabians, had suggested.

### New Adventures

In the past years, my attention turned towards the Egyptian lines, such as the damline of my mare, Saraly El Shahin, who is a direct Asil descendant of Abbas Pasha's Hamdani Semri mare, Selma [AP]. Saraly is one of the cornerstones of my next program.

I shall carry on using different, but pure resources. I am not entirely persuaded that I shall only be using pure Egyptian stallions, since Saraly is nothing of the sort, either. I dare think that the progeny of Siglavy Bagdady and/or 60 Adjuzé shall be part of the program. Why not, indeed?

On the other hand, I am convinced that such isolated populations as the "Straight Egyptian" should be open to the idea of outbreeding and authentic resources. I assume, it is only a question of time.

Photo: C. Waiditschka



*Editor: Mr. Király's Hungarian breeding program is unfamiliar to most of us in North America, but it should not be, as it has much to offer in the way of proven bloodlines. Mr. Király has selected horses of Egyptian, Davenport, old Babólna (Hungary) and old Weil (Germany) breeding and has combined them with an eye toward Bedouin type and athletic ability. It should be "Code Red" in Europe as it is here, where this Code Red filly was born in 2018, of primarily Egyptian lines, with a touch of Sa'ud and Davenport, and a precious line to the Weil mare Sahmet.*

*Left: 2018 filly by Cesare out of Halimah CW. Karin Floyd owner. See p. 28.*