

The First Egyptian Arabian

World Champion



Dr. Nasr Marei and his winning Mare Gelgelah Al Badeia

Last December all eyes were on Paris - the "city of lights" where all the finest Arabian horses gathered from vast ends of the world to compete for one of the most prestigious titles in the equestrian world, the "World Champion". This year's star was Egypt's very own **Gelgelah Al Badeia** (Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia), bred by **Dr. Nasr Marei**, who took Europe by storm, winning all competitions throughout the continent, ending this year's season by becoming the **2003 World Champion**, thus being the first Egyptian Arabian mare to attain this most prestigious and sought after title in the world of all equestrian competitions. In her road towards this distinguished title she had won several European Championship titles, including "The European Championship Mare" in Verona, Italy. She has been initially trained in Egypt and actually won two times championships in the breeders Association show and left to her training center in Germany on April 2002.

On interviewing Dr. Marei, he was very proud of his seven years old mare and of its impressive performance during the last season. Moreover, Dr. Marei, was asked to give us his opinion on how could a horse breeder improve his/her horses' status, in which he responded by saying that in order for a breeder to develop a more refined eye with which s/he could evaluate his/her horses and breeding program as a whole, s/he must participate in as much shows as possible, especially in international ones.

I'm sure a lot of the members of the Egyptian horse lover world have asked themselves time and time again why has there been minimal foreign participation in Egyptian horse shows, Dr. Marei gave us the answer, which was due to the fact that foreign (especially European) breeders are constantly occupied with the shows taking place on their side of the world, adding to that the high expense of transporting their horses to Egypt.

Dr. Marei's love for horses is an inherited gift, passed on to all members of the Marei family by his grandfather, the initiator of the Arabian horse breeding program in their family. Dr. Marei believes that the sole motive for breeding horses should be the love for horses; without waiting for any form of materialistic reward in return, as that will cease to happen.

Coming to the end of our interview with one of the most prominent horse breeders of our time, Dr. Marei gave us his

own personal insight on how to improve and enhance the Arabian breeding industry in Egypt; all successful breeders like himself should try to pass on their expertise and experience to the newly rising horse breeders, hence enabling them to start off where they have already reached.

Finally, Horse Times would like to congratulate Dr. Nasr Marei and his wonderful mare Gelgelah Al Badeia on this immense achievement, wishing them even more success with each passing year ■



Gelgelah Al Badeia (Imperial Madori x Anhar Albadeia)