

1903 Russian Arabian Horse Stud Book

**translation by Debra Walker,
c2004, Slavic Languages Department,
University of Washington, Seattle,
for Beth Minnich, Seattle, Washington**

INTRODUCTION¹

The Arabian horse studbook in Russia is divided into two parts.

1). Pureblooded Arabian horses of Bedouin extraction,² and 2). Thoroughbred³ Arabian horses plus the composition of the studs or of the stud sections⁴ of pure Arabian trend.⁵

The first part includes only horses of unquestionable Bedouin extraction that have retained their Arabian breed in all its purity - at any rate since the time of Mohammed. The allocation of Arabian horses of Bedouin extraction to a special section was brought about because of the following:

The purity⁶ of Arabian progenitors⁷ is a reliable guarantee of constancy in the transfer to the breed not only of their typical points and external build but - most importantly - of their internal qualities: energy, strength, endurance, and their few requirements⁸ concerning care and maintenance. On comparing the two separate representatives – the pureblooded Arabian horse and the Oriental⁹ horse of not fully known extraction – it is highly possible that the first will lose out according to height and general build in comparison with the second. However, judging them as progenitors and by deed, the first on experience demonstrates within it an immense degree of concentrated potential for the transfer of its quality of breed and in the display of unexpected strength and endurance. This may be explained by the fact that under meager nourishment and harsh maintenance, the Arabian horse preserves in its build only that which is essential for work, that inherent in its strength are the natural conditions of its homeland.¹⁰ These essentials – the internal

¹ Two references used: 1). Schiele, Erika. *The Arab Horse in Europe*. Alhambra, CA: Borden, 1970. and 2). Tweedie, W. *The Arabian Horse*. ? ,UK: 1894.

² Literally: “origin”

³ The Russian words *чистокровный* and *кровный* both mean “pureblooded/thoroughbred;” however, the former Russian term is the literal translation for “pureblooded” (purebred) and is used in this text to designate the purebred Arabian horse of known Bedouin extraction. The latter term *usually* designates a crossbred horse (in some places referred to as a “Thoroughbred,” in others as an “Eastern” or “Oriental” horse). *However*, *кровный* is also used in places to designate “purebred/pureblooded.” Consequently, I relying on context for meaning.

⁴ The choice here was “division,” section,” or “branch.” Elsewhere “branch” is designated (very unambiguously) by *ветвь*. I decided to use “section” for *отдель* because Schiele uses this nomenclature (see p. 236).

⁵ Bold type in the Russian text.

⁶ Literally: “purebloodedness”

⁷ Literally: “producers”(which presumably could be both sires and dams, but generally designates the former)

⁸ Literally: “demands”

⁹ Or “Eastern” horse

¹⁰ Namely - the harsh environment of the desert.

fire, the musculature, and the skeleton – are of the highest merit¹¹ in the world. With the smallest improvement in maintenance, the Arabian horse – taken at a young age – and its progeny will develop no less, no more than cultured breeds. Only these conditions can explain the influence of individual pure-blooded Arabian horses on the horse breeding of a whole country over the course of centuries – horses such as: Smetanka,¹² Shagya, Darley Arabian.¹³

By unanimous acknowledgement of all true connoisseurs of Bedouin horse-breeding in Europe, Syria, Egypt, and other countries adjoining Arabia, the present day Arabian horse has retained its unsullied purity only with the Anaze and Shommar¹⁴ nomadic Bedouins of northern Arabia and Mesopotamia, with certain of their allied tribes, and in a few localities of central Arabia (Nedzhd)¹⁵ where – incidentally – horse breeding has developed little and which is an area hardly accessible to Europeans.

The Anaze is divided into the following [tribes],¹⁶ sub-tribes and branches¹⁷: 1). Fedaan - sub-tribes: Shmeilat, Azhazhera, Kkhrissa, Russ, Mekhed, Dunagkheil, Ibi-Ernat; 2). Sebaa – sub-tribes: Gomussa, Ressalin (with its branch: Misrab), Duam, Mesakkha, Abadat, Moadzha (with its branches: Roffa, Utera, Umen, Bagd, Biao), Khebada, Ammarat; 3). Ibi-Khaddal; 4). Khesennei; 5). Uelled Ali (with its branch: Taiar); 6). Roala (with its branch: Ashadzhaa).

The Shommar is divided into the following sub-tribes: Dzherba, Khatba, Asslan, Saekkh, Aleian, Abde, Sheddadi, Gkhaet, Dzherat, Feddara, Amut, Affarit, Meniei, Sabit, Lakhebi, Sdeit, Khammar, Selga.

Tribes allied with Aeniza: Agkhedaat (with branches: Abu-Serai, Moali, Ueldi, Afuddli,) and others. Tribes allied with Shommar: Baggara, Khaddadin, etc... Various nomadic tribes: Beni Sokkhhkr, Agkhuetat, Sherarat, and others.

In the Nedzhd only the studs owned by kings (emirs) Khail (in Dzhebel Shommar) and Riada are well known. These studs are replenished by the acquisition of horses from the above mentioned Anaze and Shommar tribes and from the tribes of Dzhebel Shommar: Muteir, Oteiba, etc...

¹¹ Or “worth.”

¹² Schiele p. 235

¹³ Schiele p.27.

¹⁴ I have transliterated from the Russian. The English spelling (transliteration from Arabic?) taken from Tweedie (see p. 121) would be: Aeniza and Shammar.

¹⁵ In Tweedie = Najd. See p. 377

¹⁶ This word is not in the original Russian text, but there are three divisions/levels listed, not two. Note that Tweedie refers to “divisions,” not “tribes.”

¹⁷ I started out attempting to correlate the Russian names for the sub-tribes and branches with those of Tweedie (and thus use his spelling). However, it appears that the Russian groupings may be different from Tweedie’s. Consequently, I have merely transliterated the Russian spelling into English.

In cities and localities adjoining the Bedouin camps, namely: in Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Deir Ez Zawr,¹⁸ and Bagdad, individual blooded¹⁹ Arabian horses are often encountered - predominantly with an individual who has traded with the Bedouins. With these, and especially with horses acquired in Bagdad, one should proceed with caution since - in order to increase height – crossbreeding has occurred between Arabian sires and dams of unknown origin. Similar horses are bred in Bagdad – and called Bagdads - specially for the Indian market. Moreover, they are often sold with artificial documents or forged documents of attestation.

The purpose of the first part of the Russian Arabian horse studbook is to preserve in unsullied form the pureblooded Arabian horse as it was cultivated on the foundation of religious beliefs and everyday conditions in the Syrian desert and in Arabia by the nomadic Anaze and Shommar Bedouins who had migrated from the Nedzhd. The preservation of the pureblooded Arabian horse ensures the possibility of having a constant source – unique²⁰ in the world – of stud-horses for regeneration and improvement of profitable horse-breeding.

In the future, it is desirable that the composition and admission (with its verification²¹) of a record into the studbook of Arabian horses be guaranteed by a chief director fully acquainted with both the literature of Bedouin horse breeding and by having personally visited the major Anaze Bedouin tribes; namely: the Sebaa (Gomussa, Misrab, and others), the Fedaan, the Uelled-Ali, the Roala, and others.

The appraisal of the knowledgeable individual must take into account all presented evidence regarding the purebloodedness of the horse to be entered into the studbook and decide into which section of the book it should be entered. In the event of misunderstandings, the opinion of another connoisseur of Arabian horse breeding should be solicited.

For guidance of the studbook's compiler, the following are appended: A). the definition of exactly which horses are considered blooded²² Arabian horses, and also B). which require evidence as proof of undoubted blooded²³ origin. *The necessity of this and other knowledge occurs on every single occasion for the fullness of judgment.*²⁴

¹⁸ The Russian just states “Deir.” I am going by a map of the Middle East (see: <http://www.mideastweb.org/msyria.htm>), but may be mistaken.

¹⁹ Pure-blooded/pure-bred is not used here, just “blooded.” Therefore, “cross-bred” implied/indicated.

²⁰ Literally: “sole” or “only.”

²¹ Literally: “inspection” or “checking.”

²² The word used (КРОВНЫЙ) does not strictly mean “pureblooded” (see note #3 above), yet this is what is meant here.

²³ Ditto

²⁴ Italicized in the original Russian text.

A). Blooded Arabian horses of Bedouin origin are acknowledged²⁵ by:

- 1). Direct acquisition from the above-mentioned Anaze and Shommar Bedouins (plus their sub-tribes and branches) and in the Nedzhd.
- 2). Acquisition in localities adjoining the camps of the above-mentioned tribes, for example: in Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Deir,²⁶ but having been born in these tribes.
- 3). Having been born in or acquired from tribes other than those mentioned, for example: those allied with Anaze and Shommar, Beni, Sokkhkhr, Agkhuetat, and others - but only with undoubted proof²⁷ of purebred origin.
- 4). Being definitive descendents of horses from the former stud of the Egyptian Viceroy Abbas Pasha I, the major portion of which went to Ali-Pasha-Sherif, who sold it.
- 5). Having been born in localities adjoining Bedouin camps, but definite progeny of Bedouin horses. For example, horses born near Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and other cities, of inhabitants who are engaged in horse breeding.
- 6). Being offspring born in Russia from horses in the above-listed 5 categories.
- 7). Being horses from Mr. W. Blunt's stud farms: Sheikh-Obeid²⁸ in Egypt and Crabbet Park in England - because their horses are of undoubted Bedouin stock origin and because of the proprietor's perspective regarding pure Arabian stock.

B).²⁹ Evidence is required of definitive purebred origin for insertion of horses into the first part of the studbook:

1).³⁰ From the proprietors of horses that were acquired directly from the Anaze or Shommar Bedouins, the following is required: where - exactly – a horse was acquired and under what circumstances (inc. year, date, and location); who witnessed the acquisition, and in which year the horse was brought to Russia. To which generation of the Arabian breed and to which branch of this generation does the horse belong. *The above-mentioned information is compulsory for the right of inclusion in the first part of the studbook.*³¹

Then the following details are desired: from which sub-tribe of the main Bedouin tribes was the horse acquired, in which sub-tribe was it born, the name of the Bedouin who sold it, the name of his family, the name of his tribe's sheikh, the name of the chief sheikh of the whole tribe, to which generation and to which branch of that generation does the sire belong, and to which tribe does the sire belong or in which tribe was the sire born.

²⁵ Bolded in the Russian text.

²⁶ Again – presumably Deir Ez Zawr.

²⁷ Or “documentation.”

²⁸ I have transliterated directly from the Russian. Schiele spells the name: Sheikh Obeyd (see p. 41).

²⁹ Bolded in the Russian text.

³⁰ The Russian text is inconsistent here and uses a, b, etc... I have retained numbers as used in A).

³¹ Italicized in the Russian text.

2). From proprietors of horses acquired in the localities enumerated above in A). 2, or in general acquired from a second party rather than directly from the Bedouins, it is desirable - in addition to the information designated above - to have the following definitive proof of pure-bloodedness:³² how the horse or its sire and dam left the Bedouins, from exactly whom did the proprietor acquire the horse, and who attested to its pure-bloodedness.³³

Certificates of pedigree or attested documents may have meaning, but only in the event of a thorough checking of them by the individual or individuals who will be entrusted with the compiling of subsequent volumes of the studbook.

Information regarding origin of the sire and dam³⁴ - namely that enumerated in B) 1) above - is even more desirable for horses in B) 2).

3). For horses born in nomadic tribes other than in those enumerated for the Anaze and Shommar, it is necessary to know from which tribe, when, and how the horse was acquired; to which generation and branch thereof it belongs. The same information is required about the sire. It is also necessary to indicate the person from the tribe of acquisition who will corroborate the fidelity of the evidence.

Bear in mind that there exist Bedouin tribes that crossbreed horses with genuine proof of pure-bloodedness; the recognition of adequate proof will depend upon the individual appointed by the Government Stud.³⁵

4). For horses from the former stud of Abbas Pashi I, all information in # 1, 2, 3 is required.

5). This same information is required of horses in A). 5.

6). For horses born in Russia out of imported horses of Bedouin extraction, all of the above stipulated³⁶ evidence is required of the sire and dam.³⁷

7). For horses born in the studs of Mr. W. Blunt, stud documentation (either originals or copies) is required.

In view of the constant deception to which buyers of Arabian horses are subjected - buyers, who are unfamiliar or only marginally familiar with Bedouin horse-breeding and

³² See note # 24.

³³ Ditto

³⁴ The Russian literally states, "parents."

³⁵ Capitalized in the Russian text and literally translates as "Government Stud." However, as this is a 1903 text, the reference may be to the "Russian Crown Stud" (Schiele p. 236).

³⁶ This word is not in the Russian text, but I have added it for clarity.

³⁷ See note # 35.

local conditions – a careful checking of information is required with the objective of determining the plausibility of the given individual from whom the horse is obtained.

A survey of Arabian horse breeding in Europe.³⁸

Strictly speaking, the breeding of pureblooded Arabian horses did not exist in Europe before 1880. It is currently considered to have started at four stud farms: In England with Mr. W. Blunt, and – given the special sections³⁹ - in Russia with Count Stroganov, at the Derkulskaa government stud farm, and at the stud farm of Prince A. G. Shcherbatov.

As far as it is known, the Oriental⁴⁰ line⁴¹ in horse breeding was professionally carried out in Europe only by the following three studs, who referred to their horses as pure-blooded Arabians.

- 1). The Royal Wurttemberg stud, Scharnhausen, near Stuttgart.⁴²
- 2). The Royal Hungarian stud at Babolna.
- 3). In Slawuta, the Chrestowka stud of Prince Sanguszko.⁴³

Pure-blooded Arabian sires and dams were at the Scharnhausen stud during the following periods:

- a). In 1814 and in 1817, Baron Fechtig⁴⁴ brought from Damascus the sires Emir,⁴⁵ Mameluk, the “flawless white Tajar,”⁴⁶ the grey Bairactar⁴⁷ (both from the last⁴⁸ generation of Siglavy Gidran⁴⁹), and seven mares. Bairactar was in service at the stud

³⁸ Bolded in the Russian text.

³⁹ This is somewhat confusing, but I presume that certain stud farms had special sections that were devoted to the breeding of purebred Arabian horses.

⁴⁰ Cross-breeding is implied here. Also, the Russian states, “Eastern.”

⁴¹ The Russian literally means “trend” or “direction,” possibly “line” is a better term to use vis-à-vis horse breeding.

⁴² Schiele (p. 259-60) used for the correct spelling. Transliterating the Russian yielded “interesting” results (Russians “transliterate” the *sound* of a given name, not how it is spelled in the original language. Hence the confusion at times). Whenever possible, I will corroborate spelling and list the page number from Schiele. If this is not given, it means that I could not find the name (horse/person/place) and have merely transliterated from the Russian.

⁴³ Ditto. See Schiele p. 145

⁴⁴ Ditto. See Schiele p. 262

⁴⁵ Schiele p.260

⁴⁶ Schiele p. 179-180. Quotation marks used since description directly from Schiele.

⁴⁷ Schiele p. 183

⁴⁸ ie “most recent”

⁴⁹ Correlating this statement with Schiele (p. 183) – it makes no sense.

until 1838 and produced 7 stallions and 37 mares. His son, Amurath, was in service until 1850.

b). In 1819, Count Rzewuski⁵⁰ brought 8 stallions and 20 mares (Khasfura, Elkonda, Shakra, Murana,⁵¹ Dzheirana, and Abdululu) directly from the Bedouins.

c). In 1826, the English Consul Beker⁵² bought the chestnut stallion, Seglavi,⁵³ and the grey mare, Kaaba, in Aleppo.

d). In 1852, the equerry Von Hugel⁵⁴ brought the stallion, Hebdan⁵⁵, and two grey mares, Koheil Aguse and Saklavia,⁵⁶ from the stud of Abbas Pasha in Egypt.

e). In 1858, the grey stallion, El-Khami, was given as a present by the son of Abbas Pasha - Khami Pasha.

f). In 1861, the equerry Von Hugel bought at auction in Cairo the stallions Gadir,⁵⁷ Sadkhan, and the mares, Dagkhma, Dakheba, and Moregia from the former stud of Abbas Pasha.

In 1899, in the so-called blooded Arabian section of the stud there were – according to the information reported by the director of the stud, Mr. Franzeir - 3 stallions: 1). Dodri,⁵⁸ 2). Dzhei-lan⁵⁹ – brought from Constantinople, and 3). Suakim – imported,⁶⁰ and 10 mares.

In the Royal Hungarian stud at Babolna, there were – at different times – the following pureblooded Arabian sires and dams:

⁵⁰ Schiele p 142 - 145

⁵¹ Schiele p. 183

⁵² ? Baker?

⁵³ ? Siglavi?

⁵⁴ Schiele p. 264. Note also that I cannot render the “u” as “u umlaut.”

⁵⁵ Schiele p. 264. It is interesting to note that the Russian transliterates as “Khedban.”

⁵⁶ Schiele p. 264

⁵⁷ Schiele p. 264

⁵⁸ The Russian words after this horse’s name indicate that he is “of the stud.” I am not sure what this means – possibly that he was born there...

⁵⁹ ? Djeilan (Schiele p. 218)

⁶⁰ The Russian “ВЫВОДНЫЙ” appears after Suakim’s name. This word can mean either “that which is brought from” as in 2), or it can mean “breeding.” Is this horse a female? If so – it may mean that it was in foal (although another term “жерёбая” is usually used). If a male – it may mean that it was actively servicing/covering females. I am assuming that the horse was “brought from” ie imported.

a). In 1836, Major von Herbert⁶¹ brought out from the environs of Aleppo and Damascus 9 stallions and 5 mares.

b). In 1852, Major Gottschligg⁶² brought 6 stallions and 4 mares from Syria.

c). In 1858, Colonel von Brudermann⁶³ brought 14 stallions and 32 mares that he had personally bought mainly at the Bedouin camps of the Uelled-Ali, Roala, Beni-Sokkhkhr, and Sebaa.

The opinion of Colonel von Brudermann regarding the situation in the Arabian section at the Babolna stud has been preserved in the form of notes. In these, he reproaches the management of the stud for constantly digressing from a pureblooded line.⁶⁴

In 1870, the Babolna stud was given to the military⁶⁵ department of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture,⁶⁶ which detailed a commission for the rejection of all material that did not have pure Oriental lineage.

In 1876, Count Franz Zichy⁶⁷ brought 9 stallions from Syria for the regeneration of the bloodline; and in 1885, the secretary for the management of horse breeding, N. Lutsenbakher, brought 4 stallions and 5 mares.

In 1895, there were – in the so-called pureblood sections – 33 mares and the following stallions: O’Bajan, Gazlan I, Shagya XI, Chingiskhan, Gazlan II, Gazlan Shagya, and Segloui II.⁶⁸

The Chrestowka stud of Prince Sanguszko was founded in 1506. Horses were brought from Syria for the first time in 1798. After this, sires were repeatedly brought from the east, but most often without certificates attesting to the pure-bloodedness of their Bedouin origin. There are currently 8 stallions at the stud: Rueli, Sugloui-Dzhedran, Antar, Abu-Argub, Segloui-Masiad, Dervish – all actively covering females, Yussuf from the Babolna stud, Mazepa from this stud, and 57 mares.

In the proprietor’s opinion, at the stud there is not one horse whose origins are exclusively from an imported Arabian horse (including both imported stallions and mares). However, one may prove that the stud horses possess 66% to 85% pure Arabian blood.

⁶¹ Schiele p. 193

⁶² Schiele p. 198/200

⁶³ Schiele p. 199

⁶⁴ Schiele addresses this on p. 201

⁶⁵ Or “war”

⁶⁶ Schiele discusses this on p. 202

⁶⁷ Schiele p. 202

⁶⁸ Schiele notes a number of these on p. 202. Does Segloui = Siglavy?

However, in the opinion of Prince Sanguszko, that which one may say about the Chrestowka stud may also wholly apply to other studs of Arabian horses.

Apart from the indicated studs, pureblooded Arabs were obtained for the Royal Prussian stud at Neustadt⁶⁹ and for the French stud at Pompadour,⁷⁰ but were used for cross-breeding purposes.

In general, it should be recognized that up until Mr. W. Blunt established his stud at Crabbet Park in England in 1878, nowhere in Europe was there pureblooded Arabian horse breeding for the reason that Bedouin Arabian horse breeding was insufficiently known. At a stud, any horse that had been acquired in the east was called Arabian if it just clearly exhibited typical features.⁷¹ Up until Mr. Blunt, Colonel von Brudermann was the only one who paid attention to Bedouin horse breeding, but unfortunately, he was unable to implement his convictions in the system of management at Babolna.

The principles established with the founding of the Blunt stud at Crabbet Park were the following:

- 1). To preserve⁷² the Arabian horse from any mixing with English or any other breed and also from mixing with any questionable Oriental elements.
- 2). To use only stallions of the most choice blood at the stud; namely, those chosen for their dam's tribe in Arabia best known for its horses.
- 3). To not be carried away on any occasion by the desire to increase the natural height beyond the norm of Arabian horses used for breeding by means of selection or more nutritious feed. The normal height of Arabian horses used for breeding should be considered to be from 2 arshin, 1.5 vershok to 2 arshin, 2 vershok.⁷³
- 4). To exclude all horses that do not exhibit Arabian features despite their other individual qualities. This is because the aim of the stud is not to improve composition in accordance with European understanding, but to preserve Arabian horses as they have existed in their native land since time immemorial. This given the fact that now – even there – the Arabian horse is in decline thanks to a change in living conditions.

Mesaoud⁷⁴ is currently the predominant sire at the Blunt stud which has approximately 30 mares.

⁶⁹ Schiele 253

⁷⁰ Schiele 94

⁷¹ Literally: “expressions”

⁷² Namely – to preserve its purity and prevent it from mixing...

⁷³ If I have done the math correctly, this translates as: from 148.6 cm to 150.8 cm. A “hand” is given as equaling 10 cm, therefore... FYI: arshin = 71 cm, vershok = 4.4 cm

⁷⁴ Schiele p. 42

The stud of S. A. Stroganov, located near the station of Mineralnye Vody,⁷⁵ was founded in 1889. In establishing his stud, Stroganov had two objectives in mind: 1). The breeding of Arabian horses of undoubted origin,⁷⁶ and 2). To improve the horses of the Kabardian breed with Arabian blood.

In 1899, there were 9 stallions and 21 mares in the pureblooded section – this out of a total of 66 horses.

At the present time, there are 2 stallions and 9 mares in the section for Arabian horses of Bedouin origin at the Derkul'skii stud.

At the stud of Prince A. G. Shcherbatov, located near the village of Marevok, in the Voronezh province, there are 3 stallions used for breeding and 4 mares - all of Bedouin origin - whose progeny are expected to maintain full purity.

The horses of the Arabian sections at the studs of Count Stroganov at Derkul'skii, and of Prince Shcherbatov are included in this book.

⁷⁵ Literally: Mineral Waters

⁷⁶ ie pureblooded Arabians