



ANN NORDÉN

INTERVIEW

by Simone Leo ■ photos by TuttoArabi archive

Purebred Arabian horses have been bred at Lönhult Arabian Stud since 1975.

At the farm that covers about 1.300 hectares of areable land for agriculture, the horses have access to vast pastures, winter paddocks and modern stalls.

Horses have been important in the lives of the Nordén family for generations.

Ann's husband William's ancestor Klas-Adam Ehrengrenat, who initiated the breeding of Swedish Warmbloods in

Sweden became Crown Equerry for HRH King Carl XIII and manager of the famous Flyinge Royal Stud.

Mrs Ann Nordén's family have a special connection to horses since her paternal grandfather helped members of the Royal family and Russian nobility to flee from Russia to Finland risking his life. Many times he had to save their horses that otherwise would have been killed.

He had the greatest admiration of these creatures who under horrible struggles saved their masters.

Ararat.

16th century stable
at Lönhult Estate.

Summer at Lönhult Estate.

Another special horse story is when Mrs Ann Nordén as a child was visiting a family farm in Finland near the Russian border.

She saw a tiny white old, very, very old looking mare. No one had ever seen such a beautiful horse before.

The story was that an old war veteran who had worked on the farm found his way back home, through the woods totally in the wild country between Finland and Russia (Soviet). He had found this thin mare somewhere and did not have heart to leave her to die.

So they walked their way back, for how long or from where

no one knew.

This thin dappled mare had something that the children thought was horrible. She had on her body the mark of an J and they thought that was something even the Russians had done.

The old man named her "Jalotar" "the most beautiful word in the Finnish language. It means "She who comes from the light".

Mrs Ann Nordén have never forgotten this first contact with the Arabian horse. She never forgot this mare.

Now one of the two children in the next generation,



Summer at Lönhult.



Charlotte Lewenhaupt is accepted as a Swedish National Judge which makes the family happy.

Lönhult Arabian Stud got its first big breakthrough with its stallion Ararat.

This pure Polish stallion (by Darfas) was Reserve World Junior Stallion at the World Cup in Stockholm 1990.

This prestigious title was followed by an even more prestigious one when the stallion Insh Allah was declared World Champion Junior Champion Stallion at the World Championships in Paris.

This Straight Egyptian stallion Insh Allah (by Ashbal

Al Rayyan and India SE) was sold in the same year to HRH Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Abdul Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

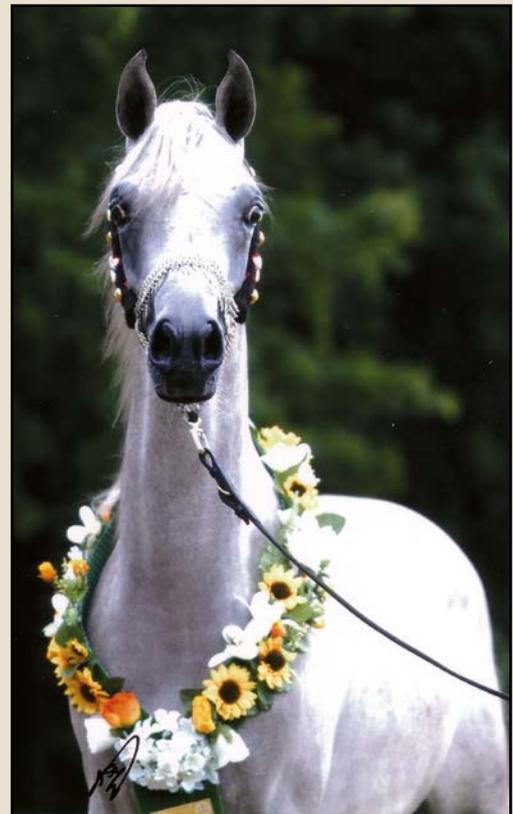
In 2005, after Insh Allah won the Middle Eastern Championship in Jordan, he was given to HRH King Abdulla II Bin Al Hussein Al Hashemi of Jordan by HRH Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Abdul Aziz Al Saud as a gift.

As an A – list ECAHO Judge Mrs Ann Nordén is one of the most important judges of Arabian horses , judging all over the world.

We spoke with Mrs Ann Nordén during the Abu Dhabi



Insh Allah photo by Jan Khan year 2003.



Fara and Charlotte highpoint score and Reserve Champion Mare Blommeröd Show 1992.

International Show where she had time to answer our questions.

Tutto Arabi: Which was the first show that you judged?

Ann Nordén: My first International Show was in Germany in Baden Baden and it was a fantastic and well organized show. It was a really special and positive experience.

TA: A new season started and it is full of appointments. Many shows will take place in Europe, America and Middle East. Will your presence as a judge be as assiduos

as it was last year?

AN: I already judged some shows in the Middle East. Shows I appreciate very much to judge. I plan not to judge so many shows this year but some shows are not so easy to refuse.

TA: For your point of view, what is the most difficult criteria to judge?

AN: For me it is a combination of all aspects that makes it both interesting and difficult.

You only have to have the "best horse" in mind and go for it.

TA: Some people think that there are not enough judges.



Mares at Lönhult Photo by Martin Larsson.



Insh Allah and dam India at Lönhult Estate.

Do you agree?

AN: No I do not. It is not the number but how to educate both new and old ones.

To give judges cards to all and every one will not solve anything.

TA: Can you tell us if the shows have changed over the last few years? If so what has changed?

AN: The pressure on the judges are much more serious today than say 10 years ago so what is needed is, except education a lot of backbone and a sincere wish to do right.

Maybe ECAHO should have an "Etical group" consisting of old judges and/or people with good standing and common sense.

I believe that judges as well as ringmasters and DCs should be not only protected by ECAHO but also looked after and checked if necessary.

Dear Anne, thank you very much for your time and I hope to see you soon again. □