

# FROM THE POLISH MOUNTAINS TO THE DESERT OF QATAR

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Qatar Int. Show, 2013

photo: Henrike Hörmann

**MATEUSZ JAWORSKI** – a DC member, ringmaster – tells us about his path in life which is closely associated with Arabian horses. Despite his young age he has already travelled half the world – all in connection with his passion, which have always been Arabian horses.

## POLAND: FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO JANÓW PODLASKI

I come from the Sudetes mountains region, a town located 800 km from Janów Podlaski. But from childhood horses were my passion, mainly Arabians. I went to a riding school, read articles by Zenon Lipowicz and Jerzy "George"

Zbyszewski. As a 14 year old boy I won one of the prizes in an nationwide junior literature contest in Międzyrzecz Podlaski. When I found out that Międzyrzecz lies near Janów, I figured that it is a great occasion to visit the place I knew from books and photographs. It was a great adventure, since we hitch-hiked with my mom across

Poland. With the diploma under my belt we checked in at the Janów stud. And in the evening we found our way by coincidence to the only still open place – to the gallery of a painter of landscapes, a graduate of Warsaw's Academy of Fine Arts, Maciej Falkiewicz, who beside his studio and guest house also had horses, goats, hens... He treated his guests to goat milk, told stories. A very colorful persona, part of Warsaw's artistic bohemian group. Where I came

photo: Adam Trochimiuł



Bug River, Janów Podlaski, 2005

photo: Ewa Imielska-Hebda



Ringmaster at the Arabia-Polska Horse Festival (Poland), 2014

from such people were not common, so I was very impressed by him. He persuaded me to spend the summertime at his place – I would be able to hone my riding skills and would work for my keep by taking care of his bloodstock. I also discovered that there were plans to open an equine science technical college in Janów Podlaski. I enrolled into the first year of the newly opened school. And so I moved from the mountains to Janów for almost 3 years! I lived at Falkiewicz's home, helping him out. I was often late for school and everyone laughed that it was because of the goats that I had to milk in the morning. Maciej had a very good influence on me.

It was a period when my sensitivity was forming, when I searched for people I would look up to, goals in life. He taught me many things, how to change a tire, how to see different shades of white in the sky and on canvas. Whereas in school I learned about Arabians. I liked **Pęta** by Visbaden very much, the dam of Pogrom. I was always surprised that a mare with a racing pedigree gives good produce with various sires. I rode on **Pinga** when she was in racing



Ezzain Arabians, Kuwait, 2012

photo: Abdullah Al-Mesha



With Irina Stigler, Menton 2014

photo: Henrike Hörmann

training. But the most unforgettable moments were the ones when we rode with Maciej to the shore of the Bug River in the evening to watch the sunset, often on horseback and waded on them in the river. Maciej painted and I took photographs. We had picnics with friends, with dogs chasing around us. Simple pleasures. Thanks to him I had a chance to meet people who I wouldn't have met otherwise – an older generation of artists, among them the superb painter, Professor Ludwik Maciąg and sculptor Anna Dębska. We spent weekends together and rode horses. Both are no longer with us. It is not true that people are replaceable, those two are not.

## BELGIUM: FROM PODLASIE TO DARBY FARM

I met Johanna Ullström at Janów when she came to present horses at the Janów sales. During my journalist studies I became a DC member and began to travel a lot. Our business contacts became closer. I finally went to her stud for a working vacation and because we were both happy with this collaboration, after a yearly scholarship at La Sapienza University in Rome I decided to spend another



At Darby Farm, enjoying special moments with the mare Unic All JP (Lutetia Arabians)

year at Darby Farm, a beautiful place, one of the most picturesque spots that I had ever seen – natural grass, no unnecessary luxuries, but with everything that horses need. Here I jumped right into show life – almost every week we went to a European show. I observed the organization on shows in various countries, compared and learned. I am very happy that I had a chance to work with stallions. I rode, among others, on **Rohara Baccara** by Magnum Psyche, **Mambo** by Khidar, **TF Afrikhan** Shah by Botswana. I was very impressed by World Champion, broodmatron and a great lady, **ZT Sharuby** from Al Shaqab. Working with horses everyday teaches you a lot – I found out firsthand about their behavior, their health problems, their nutrition needs, farrier work and why so many leg flaws are a result of poorly conformed hooves, as well as their neglect. This knowledge is very useful in every field associated with horses – when writing about them, judging, buying and selling, conditioning for shows or even taking photographs. I served a lot of functions during shows. I had to shave horses, put on their make-up, later give them a little scare, taking care not to damage my large camera with the huge lens hanging on my neck. After a year of my stay Johanna published a beautiful album

about her training center, where the majority of the photographs were taken by me. What did I learn from Johanna? Definitely working in a group, patience during working with horses and that we need to treat them as partners. Today everyone speaks about Arabians in regard to their beauty forgetting that they also have personalities, so different from each other.



At Almeshal Arabians, Kuwait, 2012. With the mare RT Neda (Alhomaidhi Stud), from the left: Mr. Abdullah Alkhaledi, Mr. Faisal Alhomaidhi, Mateusz Jaworski, Dr. Abdullah Al-Meshal

## QATAR: FROM DARBY FARM TO AL SHAQAB

When I was a DC member, I travelled a lot and met such people as Barbara Pfistner, Vivian Reisel, Nils Ismer, Phill Jenkins. I even had a chance to work at the Al Khalediah Festival in Saudi Arabia and during a large show in Ahwaz, Iran and every next journey was a new experience and a lesson. Not a only a lesson in work for an ECAHO representative, but also a life lesson. I was probably the youngest or one of the youngest official people on the ECAHO list. Soon after I went to Qatar to work at the office of the office of the director of Al Shaqab, Fahad Saad Al Qahtani. I also worked with Ali Al Misnad, owner of Al Zobara, who was at the time the advisor of Al Shaqab. And so from the north of Europe I found myself on the desert. At Al Shaqab I had the chance to get to know one of the most important breeding programs in the world and have everyday contact with many title show champions. I often visited **Pilar**, out of sentiment for Janów and Polish horses, very valued in that part of the world. I liked the beautiful **Miss El Power JQ** and the dam of Kahil Al Shaqab and Wadee Al Shaqab – **OFW Mishaahl**. A mare that I would like to take back with me to Poland was **Shamah Al Shaqab** by Marwan Al Shaqab. I remember

with great fondness meetings with breeding advisor Abdulla Al Kuwari, with whom we often walked through the stables in the morning, looking at mares and foals. Abdulla is a walking stud book, he knows all the Egyptian lines, pedigrees, can tell great stories and has a wonderful eye for horses. For me it was not only pleasant, but very educational. In Al Zobara I was impressed by **Sultan Al Zobara**. When I saw him for the first time, he was just a yearling, who looked very fine. Brown, among a cloud of desert dust, he seemed out of this world. I have the satisfaction that I was able to acquire for Al Zobara several very valuable mares, including **Sophie El Power JQ** (a full sister to the breathtaking Miss El Power JQ), **Fanny Carol** by El Nabila B, the Polish-Russian **Warina El Shams** by Wagner. I intended to bring a different line than the very strongly represented Marwan and Gazal. Ali trusted me very much, for which I am very grateful. He treated me like his son. And what do I most remember from my stay in Qatar? Perhaps the desert and hunting with falcons. The evening escapades in the powerful Land Cruiser and Lexus cars, driving at great speed over the stones and sands when the falcons hunted pigeons and seagulls – that could only be experienced there.

### THE NEXT STOP?

The doors are open. For now I will stay in Europe, Poland is always the place where I return to most eagerly. I am cooperating with several Polish breeders and with the quickly growing Stigler Stud in Italy, I am running my own company operating in the financial industry, which gives me a sense of independence. It is said that if someone survives ringmastering in Egypt or Iran, then he will make it everywhere. Maintaining conduct and order was a huge challenge when there are several hundred horses and just a couple professional handlers. The others are simply grooms who not necessarily want to listen to the orders of DC members and ringmasters. The military and police are very helpful, because some of the owners not satisfied with the results of their horses can pull out a gun and behave aggressively. Sometimes the judges are led out escorted by police... Cold blood and nerves of steel are necessary, both when working at shows and everyday in the stable. I have a feeling that sooner or later I will again find my way to the Middle East, because I have a fondness and great respect for those people. 🇸🇦



In Saudi Arabia with the mare Psyche Kreuzza (Chrcynno-Palace Stud)

photo: Johanna Ullström