



THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE

14 YEARS OF CHRCYNNO-PALACE STUD

In June of 2014 the Poles celebrated the 25th anniversary of regaining freedom. It is also an important date for the Polish private Arabian horse breeders – during the communism era it was forbidden for common citizens to keep Arabians. That's why Polish private breeding was reborn not before the 90s.



Krzysztof Poszepczyński,
the owner of Chrcynno-Palace Stud,
the host of the meeting



photos: Krzysztof Dużyński

Let's recall that the first mentions about Arabian horses on Polish grounds come from as early as the 16th century. However the documented beginning of their presence in Poland is considered 1778, when Crown Grand Hetman, Franciszek Ksawery Branicki (1729–1819) established a stud in the Szamrajówka khutor, part of the Biała Cerkiew estates in the Ukraine. The line of Szamrajówka, a mare born around 1810, is active in Poland until this day – her representative is for instance the famous Pianissima. As we have already wrote several times, it were the horses from private breedings that formed the foundations of the

successes of modern horses from the Polish state studs. Today this tradition is continued by the state studs – Janów Podlaski, Michałów and Białka – as well as private studs. The 14 year old Chrcynno-Palace Stud is one of the largest studs established in Poland after the political changes of the 90s. The property, located in the Mazovia region, in a picturesque spot near Nasielsk, is owned by the Poszepczyński family. On the occasion of their anniversary the breeders from Chrcynno decided to combine the past with the future and invited representatives of private breeders, state stud breeders and the descendants of family clans that rendered great services



Echo Aurora

Alicja Poszepczyńska atop Galahad



Chaos Persefona

Alicja Poszepczyńska with Gaja Sechmet



Psyche Ares

photos: Sylwia Ilendia

for Polish breeding in the distant past – the Krasiński, Potocki and Czartoryski clans – to their stud on May 17th.

“Where did the idea of such a gathering come from? Ever since we began breeding Arabian horses in Chrcynno, we wanted to reference the many year tradition that our country boasts in this field”, said the host, Krzysztof Poszepczyński. “Last year we celebrated the 235th anniversary of Polish Arabian horse breeding. We believe that 235 years is reason enough to commemorate and promote Polish breeding abroad. We decided to organize today’s meeting in order to become more aware that the continuity of the tradition that we refer to has not been broken and despite historical catastrophes that have rolled over Polish breeding, the memory remains strong. Let’s hope it will continue, also thanks to our present guests”.

“For all of us”, he said upon welcoming guests, “Arabian horse breeding is something more than just a field associated with agriculture or animal husbandry. It is something more than just analyzing a horse’s conformation and even more than its role as a man’s companion in sports or recreation. As you very well know, but there will be no harm in reminding, the Arabian horse is a significant part of Polish history and culture. Arabian horses are present in our paintings and literature over the centuries. They make up – though it may sound a bit high-toned – a part of our national heritage. But they are also a part of family memories, valuable keepsakes. This is in regard to the past. However Arabians are also present in our dreams, and this concerns the future. Let’s not be ashamed of wanting to breed horses that will stand out at shows,

in sports, at the race track. In these efforts we will be constantly referring to tradition, because the breeders of old had exactly the same things in mind”.

Without all doubt it is true that the admiration for the beauty, nature and abilities of these wonderful creatures brings people together, people that would probably not have met otherwise. In Poland Arabians are bred as a hobby by people of various professions, among them businessmen, doctors, policemen, priests, journalists, farmers. For some people, like Alicja Poszepczyńska, breeding is a profession. Today Chrcynno-Palace, after 14 years of existence, is one of the most known and decorated studs: 50 horses, 8 World Top Ten titles from Paris, 14 gold medals, 6 awards for best Polish breeder, 3 Best in Show titles, 2 Best Breeder trophies, 1 Best Handler (for Alicja Poszepczyńska) and the Classic EC Cup (All-Round) won during the European Sport Championships.

In order to compete in quality private breeders work hard, referring to the legacy of their great ancestors. And it seems that Polish private Arabian horse breeding stands a good chance at being fully restored. Marek Potocki, a grandson of Count Józef Potocki of Antoniny (the home of the famous Skowronek) told polskiaraby.com: “The state by definition guarantees a stability, which the private breeders cannot give, because often the next generation does not want to continue their fathers’ work. But everything depends on the kind of state and the kind of system. Under normal conditions the state, for example in England, Canada or the US, honors private property. In systems such as Nazism or communism everything is destroyed. I hope that it will never happen in Poland again”, he summed up. 📌