The format for this year's seminar will be the theme "18 Months of Preparation." This of course pertains to the Arabian mare from her selection to the foaling process and neonatal management. Dr. J. Warren Evans and his Associate Dr. Webb from Texas A & M University will be presenting the breeding seminar, which will include several audience participation sessions. We are fortunate to have these two experts in equine reproduction for our seminar, and Linda and I know you will enjoy their presentations and learn some valuable information regarding the reproductive physiology of the Arabian mare.

During the weekend we will also be presenting a number of our Spanish bred Arabians in a unique fashion. The pedigrees for the horses presented are in your notebook, please keep these handy during the presentation, as this will help you understand our breeding philosophy and some of the results of specific breeding selections. The Q.B. Arabians will be presented by dam lines, so that you can better relate to the consistency and quality which we have achieved through various forms of linebreeding and outcrossing.

There will also be a silent auction of selected Arabians. Bid cards have been included in your seminar notebook. The prices on a number of the sale horses have been reduced significantly, hopefully this will be appreciated as this sale will provide an opportunity to purchase some of the highest quality Spanish bred Arabians at prices substantially below future market value.

If you feel this type of seminar is a valuable educational tool, we ask that you encourage other breeders to attend in future years. Linda and I want to provide extra-ordinary educational opportunities, and it is our intention to continue to provide seminars involving experts in various equine fields such as: Spanish Arabians, Arabian horse industry, veterinary medicine, training, and judging the Arabian horse.

Please let us know if you enjoyed this weekend's topic, as well as the idea of an annual seminar.

Sincerely,

Gary and Linda Rickson
THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SPANISH ARABIAN

BY DR. GARY E. ERICKSON

In the breeding business, the individual horse contains the genetic material that will determine the extent of his contribution to the breed. Breeding in the Spanish Tradition is essentially a program that has developed through the application of established breeding principles accompanied by intelligent selective procedures. The breeder must be aware that the extent of his success in breeding is directly related to the quality of the genes present in his foundation stock, and therefore it is essential that we understand the historical significance of the Spanish Arabian.

Superior bloodstock represents centuries upon centuries of searching, study, sacrifice and dedication. What you will learn and see this weekend just didn't happen in the last decade. Selected through the centuries by hard work, scanty food and harsh climate, the Arabian horse was the deciding factor in the Moslem wars or conquest. The exceptional quality of the Arabian breed was therefore well respected in Spain prior to the founding of the Royal Study in 1820.

The Spanish stud book is one of the oldest and most complete in the world; having its first entries in the year 1847. Strict rules were necessary due to the Moslem invasion of Spain and the potential confusion between the Barb horse, the Andalusian horse, and the purebred Arabian.

The stud book is in the hands of the Ministry of War, as the horses were considered a war machine, and the state controlled all war related activities.
The Spanish government was constantly looking for Arabians of extreme quality and a commission was formed giving authority to various equine experts to seek out exceptional Arabian horses around the world. By the 1920's the Yeguada Militar's Arabian bloodstock was equivalent to the best in the world.

There is no one origin of Arabian horses that can be credited for the evolution of the Spanish Arabians. These Arabians are the result of the selection of the best European and desert strains available at the turn of the century. However, the pedigrees of the present day Spanish Arabians are descendants of Arabs who originated from the following areas:

1) Desert bred
2) Polish bred
3) Egyptian bred
4) English bred

Several horses of significance in Spanish history are:

POLISH IMPORTS

VAN DYCK (Vasco de Gama X Hela) - was bought in Bialocerkiew. He became a living legend in Spain and Poland. In fact, in the booklets edited by Ammex, the official agency for import and export of Polish livestock, Van Dyck is listed first even preceding Ibrahim, Skowronek's sire. However, fate was not kind to Van Dyck and from his 140 sons, not one of his grandsons carried on his name. In the pedigrees of Spanish Arabians today Van Dyck can only be found in the female lines.
URSUS (Dagman-Amireh D.B. X Gagar) - A magnificent bay stallion large in body but refined and typey was born at the stud farm of the Countess Branitzkaya in Poland. He was purchased in 1912 for a phenomenal sum of 60,000 pesetas. Because of this large expenditure the Minister of War was forced to resign and the entire Spanish government was reorganized. It can be said that early in his life Ursus was responsible for substantially affecting the political structure of the Spanish government!

However, as Ursus also sired one of the two main sire lines of the Spanish Arabian horse in Spain he proved his worth. He has left many excellent descendants to carry on his heritage. One son in particular became one of the great stallions in Spanish Arabian history, Gandhy (Ursus X Gomara).

Gandhy's dam, Gomara, had an interesting pedigree as she was by Alfange and out of Babilonia both of whom were first generation of imported Egyptian stallions Sabat El Heir and Korosko.

NOWIK (Sultan X Yantcharka) - Was a stallion imported in 1908 from Poland. Again his descendants can only be found through female lines as his male produce were requisitioned during the Spanish Civil War and were lost. Several of his daughters were brought to the United States in the first U.S. import of Spanish Arabians by Mr. and Mrs. Draper in 1934.

ORNIS (Ibrahim X Sikora) - Ornis was a very interesting Polish stallion imported into Spain. Ibrahim was also the sire of Skowronek and
therefore Ornis and Skowronek were at least half brothers. Even more interesting is the fact that Sikora, Ornis's dam was a daughter of Skowronek's dam Jaskolka, which made Ornis a 3/4 brother to one of the most famous of all Arabian stallions, Skowronek. Skowronek so overwhelms all other lines from his sire Ibrahim history has obscured the fact that Ibrahim did leave other lines of descent. *Naborr had three lines to Ibrahim through three different sources. Many Spanish Arabians trace to Skowronek, those which have Ornis as well have the rarest of distinction of all in that they trace to Jaskolka through two different sources.

ORIENT IMPORTS - Most of the imports from the East were from Egypt. However, one stallion that became a Spanish legend was from Bagdad.

SEANDERICH (DESERT BRED) - this stallion was born in 1902 in Bagdad, and imported into Spain in 1908. Seanderich sired the second major sire line of the Spanish Arabian horse. He was said to have produced a type of horse with an easily distinguishable style, and one that bred true to his type generation after generation. Through his son Ilustre, came Congo the only undefeated race horse in Spain. Congo has had great influence on Spanish Arabian breeding. Through Congo's son Zancudo many quality Arabians were produced including Galero, Jaguay, and Hacho. Through a second line from Seanderich came his son Eco, who sired Barquillo, who has been described as a desert horse in type. Barquillo was the result of crossing a Polish import to Seanderich from the Orient. This proved to be a very successful cross.
ENGLISH IMPORTS

The significance of the Arabians imported from England is due primarily to the foresight of one man, the Duke of Veragua (Cristobal Colon), who was the last male descendant of Christopher Columbus. After carefully analyzing what Arabian stock was available in the 1920's the Duke decided that England contained the bloodstock most suitable as a cross to the Arabians he had already acquired in Spain. From 1927 to 1930 the Duke imported three stallions and thirteen mares. The most famous of this group included five Skowronek daughters, a treasure that has never been equaled in Arabian history. The names of these mares were:

Reyna (Skowronek X Rissla)
Jalila (Skowronek X Rasima)
Sheifa (Skowronek X Selima)
Nasieda (Skowronek X Nasra)
Namira (Skowronek X Nessima)

Also from England came the stallion Razada (Shazada X Ranya) who was named the champion of all breeds in the Spanish National Show of 1930, and who became a very important Spanish herd sire.

These five Skowronek daughters and the stallion Razada together with horses purchased in Spain were the foundation of the Duke's stud.

SPANISH CIVIL WAR

In 1931 the Government of Spain came under the control of the republic. One of the first acts of this government was to dispossess all the Spanish grandees of their land. Subsequently the Spanish Civil War erupted and the Duke of Veragua was killed at his stud during the end of the Civil War.
Again a quirk of fate changed the course of the Arabian horse in Spain. When the Duke was killed by the communists, his estate at Valjuanete was literally destroyed and many of his stud records destroyed by fire. Earlier in the Civil War the government had confiscated many stallions including most of the Duke's. The real disaster is that the majority of these stallions were killed during the war and lost to posterity. Fortunately this was not the case with the mares of Valjuanete. The mares at the stud were taken by the army and kept in safe keeping until the end of the Civil War. However, another peculiar event took place with these Arabian mares who by this time had foals at their side; before anyone from Valjuanete could identify the horses, the foals were weaned. This resulted in the inability to accurately identify which mares foaled specific weanlings. It appears that only two stallions were kept with the mares at Valjuanete, Razada the English stallion and Sirio III of Polish origin.

The army kept the fillies and elected to breed from them due to their quality and known background. However due to the confusion of their parentage they were each given a name with the prefix Vera to identify the fillies as those born during the Civil War and weaned prior to proper identification. In pedigrees, the mares and the prefix Vera, e.g. Veracruz, Veranda, Verapay, etc. are the mares which were weaned without specific identification.

This is a historically significant fact as the Vera mares have had a tremendous influence on the breeding program of the Yeguada Militar and thus on Arabian breeding in Spain, since the military owned stallions are used almost exclusively. It was also the Vera mares and lack of individual identity that held up the American Registry's acceptance of Spanish Arabians as a whole. As there was no question that the Vera
mares were of the finest breeding, even though their individual parentage was not recorded, it seems proper that today they are accepted by all Arab breeding countries.

LA YEGUADA MILITAR

In Spanish, the term "Yeguada" means broodmare band or stud. The word militar notes the fact that it is a government run department.

In Spain there are seven stallion depots run by the military. The Arabian stud is in the heart of horse breeding country near Jerez de la Frontera in the South of Spain.

The best of the best are selected as herd sires and will cover the government's Arabian mares at the Yeguada several kilometers away. The remaining stallions are leased to private breeders, and those not requested are sent to the villages around Andalucia for breeding to mares of local mare owners.

Traditionally almost all private breeders in Spain have utilized the stallions from the military depots over the centuries. This fact more than any other has provided a stabilizing effect on Arabian breeding in Spain.

In over fifty years of breeding Armenians in Spain, a small group of high quality Armenians have been bred under the direction of the Spanish government. Private breeders during this time have almost exclusively utilized the government's stallions to breed their mares. This linebreeding has definitely resulted in a genetically homogenous herd, more so than any other breeding program throughout the world. During this fifty plus years there was little if any additional new genetic material added, making the Spanish herd a closed breeding group for
over half a century.

This astounding quirk of fate has developed an Arabian horse that is type specific, and in most cases should be an unusually predictable (prepotent) breeding animal. The Spanish Arabs' superior breeding qualities are not due to the linebreeding alone. The fact that the quality of the herd was among the highest in the world and that breeding was accompanied by a consistent selection to a uniform type has resulted in a tremendous interest in these Arabians from knowledgeable breeders around the world.

The small quantity of Arabians in Spain has been a tradition as the Arabian has had to compete in popularity with the national breed, the Andalusian. The Yeguada Military has usually kept a small number of mares, somewhere around 30 to 40. Another very interesting aspect of the Yeguada is that they very seldom sell any mares and almost never sell a stallion.

In addition, those horses sold by the Government of Spain are usually only made available to the breeders in Spain. This fact makes it impossible for a foreign breeder to purchase military stock unless they are quite old and then only if they have previously been purchased by a breeder in Spain. Practically, the Spanish Arabian breeding stock is therefore purchased by foreign breeders from the private breeders in Spain.

PRIVATE ARABIAN BREEDERS IN SPAIN

The Arabian Horse Breeder's Society in Spain was founded in the early 1970's and its chief functions included providing a means of communication among private breeders, and organizing the Spanish National Arabian Show. This annual show is much like our United States National Show in that breeders from all of Spain compete. It is unlike
our Nationals in that there are few requirements of prior qualification. In 1970 there were 18 private breeders in Spain. Most of these stud farms had been in existence for decades. Since 1970 the number of private breeders in Spain has approximately doubled. An important consideration in the breeding philosophies of the private breeders in Spain is that they were guided by one ideal; to produce the best possible Arabian. The commercial aspect of marketing Arabian horses is only a recent phenomenon, one that has always been of secondary importance to the Spanish breeder. In addition, maintaining a breeding farm in Spain is very costly and is an activity pursued by few. Most Arabian breeders in Spain maintain a ruthless culling procedure in that only the best horses are kept for breeding purposes. Conception rates have also added to the small number of Arabians in Spain. The conception rate of mares in Spain is very low compared to United States figures due to the more severe environmental conditions, breeding practices and techniques, and the fact that many mares are not bred on an annual basis.

THE PASSING OF AN ERA IN SPANISH ARABIAN BREEDING

Presently, breeding of the Arabian in Spain is changing. In the last five years we have witnessed the passing of an era in Spanish breeding! Many of the great sires of our time have died and their places have yet to be filled by younger stallions. In 1982 the top Arabian stallions in Spain were:

1) Galero by Zancudo (Congo X Yaima) and out of Zalema (Congo X Galatife) was one of the best producing sires. This line is well known for its refined progeny, athletic action, and consistently fine Arabian characteristics.
2) Jacio by Tabal (Congo X Hilandera) and out of Teorica (Barquillo X Galatife) was an extremely refined and beautiful stallion. Jacio's sire was extensively used and produced outstanding foals, especially in the female line. His dam is one of the most impressive mares bred by the Yeguada Militar.

3) Garbo by Orive (Barquillo X Galatife) and out of Baldosa (Maquillo X Habladuria) was well known to produce very typy and beautiful Arabians, especially mares.

4) Dandi II by Congo (Ilustre X Triana) and out of Galatife (Gandhy X Veracruz). Both Dandi II's sire and dam are very important Arabians in Spanish history. Dandi II's progeny are elegant, well developed horses with exquisite heads and long necks.

5) Kadi by Tabal (Congo X Hilandera) and out of Teorica (Barquillo X Galatife) is a full brother to Jacio and is also an excellent producer of quality Arabians.

I mention these stallions because history has dealt a cruel blow to breeding of Spanish Arabians. In less than two years all but one of the above major stallions have died. This unfortunate set of circumstances has left a huge void in the Arabian breeding program in Spain, and only time will tell how quickly Arabian breeding in Spain can recuperate. In the meantime, the quality descendants of these contemporary stallions have been highly treasured as the genetic material necessary to continue breeding in the Spanish tradition.

In summary, the herd isolation of the Spanish Arabian has resulted in a highly concentrated genetic pool due to the linebreeding practices inherent in the propagation of a small representative herd. Quality and not quantity has been the tradition for Arabian breeding in Spain.
The scarcity of the Spanish Arabian has made it a very valuable commodity in the Arabian breeding industry. Outside of the Yeguada Militar, and a few private breeders in Spain, the top quality Spanish Arabians are in the United States. These circumstances have placed a tremendous responsibility upon the American breeder of Spanish Arabians as it is our obligation to maintain the old bloodlines and continue to upgrade the quality of the Spanish Arabian through intelligent breeding techniques and philosophies.