<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKOWRONEK PASB/GSB</th>
<th>Desert Bred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBRAHIM DB/PASB G, 1898</td>
<td>Desert Bred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAFITTE DB</td>
<td>Desert Bred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G, 1908</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KORZEZ PASB</td>
<td>Chrestowka Stud, 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GONTA (1855) PASB</td>
<td>Chrestowka Stud, 1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAMA PASB</td>
<td>Slawuta Stud, 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KÒCHEJLAN-ABU-ARQUB</td>
<td>DB/PASB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARAMBA DB/PASB</td>
<td>Desert Bred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERCLE PASB</td>
<td>Chrestowka Stud, 1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEGŁAWI-ARDZEBI DB/PASB G</td>
<td>Desert Bred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KRYTKA II PASB</td>
<td>Chrestowka Stud, 1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GONTA PASB</td>
<td>Chrestowka Stud, 1844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELADA PASB</td>
<td>Sławuta, 1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JASKOLKA PASB G, Satanow Stud, 1891</td>
<td>Desert Bred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DERWSZ DB/PASB G</td>
<td>Desert Bred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPOPEJA PASB</td>
<td>Satanow Stud, 1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIRA PASB</td>
<td>Satanow Stud, 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBEJAN-MACIUK PASB</td>
<td>Satanow Stud, 1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBEJAN-SKREBNY PASB</td>
<td>G, Rozwadowski Stud, 1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROXOLANA PASB</td>
<td>Satanow Stud, 1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATANOW PASB</td>
<td>ISKANDER BASZA PASB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G, Sławuta Stud, 1851</td>
<td>ZOZULA PASB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KREOLKA PASB</td>
<td>Chrestowka Stud, 1858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Arabian stallion SKOWRONEK was foaled almost 75 years ago, was at stud only nine years, and sired just 47 purebred foals, but he must be considered one of the most influential stallions in the breed. He was bred in Poland, but was never bred to a Polish-bred mare. His destiny was tied to the whim of an American millionaire on a hunting holiday at a nobleman’s estate in Poland. He barely escaped the certain obscurity of being sold as a five-year-old to the Cossacks as a military mount. First used as an artist’s model, he then became a hack for an English solicitor. Finally, at age 11, he sired his first foals.

The ability of his descendants to win championships and to sire and produce champions on a continuing basis has brought world-wide acclaim to the SKOWRONEK line. Buyers and breeders in 1982 eagerly seek his bloodlines, and counting crosses to SKOWRONEK in a pedigree is an enduring and reassuring exercise.

POLAND

SKOWRONEK’s origins go back to the royal houses of Poland and the establishment of the earliest studs in that country. Prince Hieronumus Sanguszko (1743-1812) founded Slawuta Stud in 1791 in Volhynia, an area southeast of Kiev on the Dnieper River. The stud consisted of about 400 horses, but when the prince died in 1812, much of the stud was lost. The Prince’s son, Eustachy-Erazm (1768-1845), gradually rebuilt Slawuta, bringing in stock from the desert. When Eustachy-Erazm died in 1845, three-fourths of the stud went to his son Roman (Roman the Elder) and one-fourth to Roman’s daughter Maria Klementyna, who married Alfred Potocki in 1851 and brought with her the lordship of Antoniny as a dowry. The Potockis lived at Satanow Stud on the Zbrucz River, south of Slawuta Stud. Count Roman died in 1881, and more of the Slawuta/Satanow Stud came to the Potockis. Later, Alfred’s son Count Joseph, his wife, and their sons Joseph, Jr., and Roman became the owners of the stock (about 100 horses) and in 1883 established Antoniny Stud about 40 miles from the original Slawuta Stud.

Antoniny was truly a nobleman’s property and encompassed more than 100,000 acres of forests, lakes, and farms. The Antoniny horses roamed the large pastures in this beautiful setting. The pastures were hilly and the soil was hard and never boggy. Grass was tall and abundant and considered very choice for the horses. The Potocki home was a large country house situated in a lovely park setting designed by an English landscape artist about 1800. Stables and a riding school were near the home; the central stud buildings consisting of long rows of stalls and paddocks were about a half mile from the home. A 1,000-acre oak forest adjoined the stables area, and the Antoniny farms (55 in all) were beyond the forest.

Count Joseph was a serious horse breeder, and he continually sought new blood for Antoniny. In 1882, he purchased PHARAOH, a desert-bred bay stallion, from Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt who had taken him to England in 1879. Later, he imported from India the desertbred stallion OBEJAN SZARK VEL EUCLID, who had been a race winner. In 1907, the desertbred stallion IBRAHIM came to ANTONINY. Joseph Potocki, Jr., wrote this report on the purchase of IBRAHIM:

My father, who was at that time searching for a high-class Arab stallion, received through his agents information that several Arabian horses had actually been obtained from the desert and were on their way, via Constantinople, across the Black Sea to Odessa. He immediately sent an expert representative there and within a few days IBRAHIM was purchased with a few other stallions of lesser quality.

IBRAHIM was eight years old when he came to Antoniny. Joseph Potocki, Jr., described him as “outstanding in looks with a small head and a coat, mane, and exceptionally long white tail that were silky to an extent which I do not remember in any other horse.” At Antoniny, IBRAHIM was ridden every day by his stud groom, Semen, but was never hunted or driven. The Potockis did not ride him, but visited him daily and appreciated his intelligence and almost human behavior. Count Roman Potocki remembered that IBRAHIM enjoyed treats from the family members, especially sugar and cherries.

One of the best mares at Antoniny was bred to IBRAHIM the year he arrived there. She was JASKOLKA, a grey mare foaled at Satanow Stud in 1891. Joseph Potocki, Jr., described JASKOLKA:

JASKOLKA was of the best Arab blood of the Sanguszko studs and my father considered her one of his outstanding mares. It was characteristic for her to be always among the “leaders” of the stud twice a day, morning and afternoon, from the buildings to a lovely oak grove with hilly pastures, ideal grazing grounds.
Top: SKOWRONEK.

Lower left: Walter Winans, the American millionaire living in England, who bought SKOWRONEK from Count Roman Potocki of Owczyny Stud, Poland, for 1,500 rubles in 1913.

Lower right: Lady Wentworth, daughter of Lady Anne and Wilfrid Biant, bought SKOWRONEK from Mr. H.V.M. Clark in 1920. Here are Lady Wentworth and SKOWRONEK in 1926.
JASKOLKA’s sire was RYMNİK (Kortez x Hama), a grey stallion bred at Chrestowka Stud in 1876; he was of the SEGLAWI-ARDZEBI sire line. EPOPEJA, a grey mare foaled at Satanow in 1875, was the dam of JASKOLKA. She was by DERWISZ, a desertbred stallion taken to Poland by the Potockis in 1861; her family line was ILENECKA.

The result of the IBRAHIM-JASKOLKA mating was a 1908 colt, remembered by Roman Potocki as a grey, supremely handsome, highly-bred individual. The colt was named SKOWRONEK, the Polish work for “lark.” This was in keeping with the Antoniny custom of relating foals’ names to the name of the dam. JASKOLKA’s name means “swallow.”

In addition to horse breeding and farming, Count Joseph Potocki had an intense interest in zoology. Soon after the turn of the century, he designed Pilawin, a 12,000-acre deer park on the Antoniny land where many species of European and exotic animals lived in comparative freedom. Pilawin attracted the interest of tourists and of Polish and foreign naturalists. Among the animals at Pilawin were European bison called aurochs. The first three aurochs came from the Russian Imperial Estate of Gatchina near St. Petersburg in 1903. They multiplied quickly and by 1913 their number had more than doubled. However, the population was threatened by the old aurochs bull who had become vicious and began killing the young bullocks to eliminate his competition for the herd. Count Roman Potocki recalls the events of spring, 1913:

The director of Pilawin, chief forester Romulad Sokalski, approached my father in the spring of 1913 with a request to have the old bull destroyed, which was agreed upon. This happened two years after I passed my school-leaving examinations. At first, my father wished that I should shoot the bull, but later instructed me to wait and wrote to the well-known firm Carl Hagenbach in Hamburg.

(This firm traded in live wild animals; they also supplied various specimens to Pilawin.) At the same time, the bison earmarked for shooting was separated from the herd. Soon an urgent telegram from Hagenbach reached us: “Do not kill the bull. Letter follows.”

Within a few days a letter arrived from Hagenbach, explaining that Walter Winans, an American millionaire living in England, wished to shoot the bull and was willing to pay 1,500 pounds sterling for the privilege. Winans was considered an authority on firearms, and won the world championship with the hunting rifle. The Potocki family immediately accepted the offer, and the date was set for early autumn. Chief Forester Sokalski began organizing the shoot to include much pomp and ceremony.

Winans arrived at Antoniny early in October in full splendor with his entourage of groom, secretary, press reporter, and film cameraman. The hunt proceeded as planned with hundreds of beaters and much loud hunting-horn blowing. Predictably, Mr. Winans shot the old aurochs, had his trophy and the thrill he bought, and was then invited to the Potocki home where the entire family received him. The glorious fall weather of Poland held, and the following day Winans joined the family in hare-hunting on horseback with hounds. Winans did not ride in the hunt, but instead accompanied the family in a britzka drawn by four beautifully-moving grey geldings. Winans watched the progress of the hunt with interest, especially the work of the hounds and the horses, but was most impressed with the grey four-in-hand. The greys were sired by the Antoniny Arabian stallion SUDAN (who had been sold to Spain) and were out of Antoniny farm mares. They were driven by the famed coachman Wincenty Grzybowski. The whole package — geldings, britzka, harness, and coachmen — was a graduation gift to Count Roman two years earlier.

As the day went on, Winans decided he would like to own the package and began negotiating with young Count Roman. The two soon reached agreement on the horses (2,000 rubles) and took a little longer on the britzka and the fine ballgoull Ukrainian brass-studded harness, but the deal fell through when Winans wanted to take the coachman to England with him. Count Roman was not willing to part with his driver at any price.

At this point, Winans had only a few hours at Antoniny before his scheduled departure for England. He was quite put off by the failure to make a deal on the greys, but he and Count Roman talked and they walked through the stable area. Winans was curious about three young Arabians in box stalls and was told they were being readied for a commission of Kuban Cossacks expected shortly. Winans quickly asked the price (1,500 rubles each or about 150 pounds sterling). The first horse in the stable was SKOWRONEK. Winans studied him for a few moments. Then, without even having him led out of the stable, he said, “I’ll take him.” So SKOWRONEK did not go to the Caucasus as scheduled, but went instead to England, almost as Winans’ consolation gift to himself for not getting the four-in-hand. And for one tenth of the price of shooting the old aurochs bull!
ENGLAND

Winans lived at Surrenden Park in Kent, where he pursued his many artistic and sporting interests. He raised horses of several breeds, but especially liked trotting horses. He drove in races himself and did much to popularize the American trotter in England. He was also a sculptor of renown and when he saw SKOWRONEK at Antoniny, his thought was to purchase him as a model for a bronze. The resulting work of art was exhibited at the Royal Academy and was owned by the late H.V. Musgrave Clark of Courthouse Stud.

On September 29, 1915, SKOWRONEK was transferred to the ownership of Mr. W. Webb-Ware, according to the records of Weatherby and Sons of the General Stud Book of England. Mr. Webb-Ware was Walter Winans' solicitor, and is reported to have used SKOWRONEK as a hack.

SKOWRONEK next went to the ownership of Mr. H.V. Musgrave Clark, then living at Lindays, Ingatestone, Essex. Mr. Clark was a close friend of Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt and based his breeding program on information gathered by the Blunts in their travels to the desert. In 1900, he established Courthouse Stud with four Arab mares. In a letter dated November 1976, Clark related his recollection of the purchase of SKOWRONEK:

An old stud groom of mine was touring Surrey one day to see what he could find out about any Arab horses, and he discovered SKOWRONEK in a straw yard eating cabbage leaves, and so he told me about him on his return home. I bought him as soon as possible.

Mr. Clark insists that he bought SKOWRONEK directly from Walter Winans who was a good friend, so the transfer to Mr. Webb-Ware may have been a legal formality of some sort.

Whatever, SKOWRONEK was thus rescued from the obscurity of the straw yard and in 1919 at Courthouse had his first chance at stud and in the show ring. His first foals were FASIHA, a grey mare foaled in 1920, out of the Crabbet-bred FELUKA (Mesaoud x Ferida); and NAAMAN, a grey colt foaled in 1920, out of NESSIMA (Rijm x Narghileh), also bred at Crabbet. NAAMAN died in 1921.

Clark entered SKOWRONEK in the Newmarket show in March 1919 where he placed third to DOLATSCHER (described as "late Arab") and *NUREDDIN II (Rijm x Narghileh). In the stallion class at the Ranelagh Show in June that year, he again placed third. *NUREDDIN II was first and YAKOOT (Zoowar x Husn-u-Gul) was second.

SKOWRONEK’s show career continued in 1920.
with a second place in the London Show, with CROSBIE, a desertbred stallion, first. SKOWRONEK was reserve champion of the show. It was undoubtedly at one of these shows that SKOWRONEK caught the eye of Lady Wentworth, daughter of Wilfrid and Lady Anne Blunt. Lady Wentworth had just become the sole owner of Crabbet Stud in Sussex, after a long legal battle with her father. The late Lady Anne Lytton (Lady Wentworth's daughter) furnished her recollections of Lady Wentworth’s first awareness of SKOWRONEK:

I first set eyes on SKOWRONEK at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and at that time the other white horse CROSBIE was being shown, who was rather coarse-limbed and not in my opinion at all attractive. SKOWRONEK just took one’s breath away; he seemed to possess a sort of ethereal, fairy-like quality with his unbelievable silvery white, exquisite head, perfect carriage of tail, and those impressive quarters. Notwithstanding his magical beauty, there was also great strength in limbs and build. I exclaimed on his wonderful appearance and was instantly silenced by my mother. No one was to guess that she had even noticed him, and I was not to be overheard singing his praises. But from then on I was always looking for him at this and other shows. It must have been like falling in love. From then on no other horse seemed to matter.

Lady Wentworth’s first glimpse of SKOWRONEK must have revived some childhood memories of the days spent with her parents at their Sheykh Obeyd Stud near Cairo and of their visits to Ali Pasha Sherif’s stables. Her impressions of two stallions there are recorded in her book, The Crabbet Arabian Stud:

Fixed in my memory were the immense black gazelle eyes, the gossamer quality of the silver manes and tails floating in the wind, the crested arch of neck and tail, and the sparkling fire of carriage as they danced by in a glittering sunlit kaleidoscope of white and silver, blue and red, the green acacia trees festooned with gold pods making a jewelled picture never forgotten.

When Lady Wentworth saw SKOWRONEK, she felt that here was the ideal white horse for which she had begged her mother to search during her travels in Arabia. From a more practical standpoint, she needed an outcross stallion for the Crabbet mares. When Lady Anne Lytton was asked how SKOWRONEK was acquired, she responded:

How did my mother acquire SKOWRONEK? In a most unscrupulous way. She knew a young American called Charles Haydon who was rather an adventurer, and she employed his services to purchase SKOWRONEK from Mr. Musgrave Clark and gave him carte blanche to get him any how and also 1,000 pounds in cash, which was a big sum in those days. He accordingly went to Mr. Clark and spun him a yarn to the effect that he had just been to Crabbet and had bought some mares because he wanted to start a ranch in America and that he had his heart on this white stallion. Mr. Clark didn’t want to sell him, but his newly wedded wife with whom he was very much in love persuaded him to let this young man have his wish. So Charles Haydon produced the money in cash and paid him on the spot. Within a day or so arrangements were made for transporting the horse, and he was taken to the station to be boxed. To Mr. Clark’s dismay, the address on the train horsebox was “Lady Wentworth, Crabbet Park.” He had been tricked, and this has rankled for years. Incidentally, this man Charles Haydon double-crossed my mother and had to be paid off to avoid a lawsuit! That comes of dealing with crooks!

Lady Wentworth provides a more benign account of the purchase of SKOWRONEK in a letter to an American breeder dated July 20, 1954:

Mr. Clark did not bring SKOWRONEK to England and only owned him for about 12 months in 1919. He was imported by Mr. Walter Winans for polo and not bred from and having had an accident was eventually sold as a hack and passed from hand to hand, being owned for five years by W. Webb-Ware as a saddle horse, and it was from Mr. Webb-Ware that Mr. Clark bought him and sold him again to an American agent who was in England trying to buy Arabs from W. Blunt during the lawsuit following Lady Anne’s death. When I won the lawsuit, the American was recalled and left SKOWRONEK behind with the rest of the horses when they were returned to Crabbet by order of the courts.

Lady Wentworth presented similar accounts of the transaction in The Authentic Arabian and in The Crabbet Arabian Stud. Mr. Clark confirms Lady Anne Lytton’s version.

CRABBET STUD

A month after Lady Wentworth first saw SKOWRONEK at the Islington Show, he was at Crabbet.
On July 6, 1920, Count Joseph Potocki, Jr. (then with the Polish Embassy in London), certified SKOWRONEK's pedigree for Weatherby and Sons so that SKOWRONEK might be registered in the General Stud Book. Count Joseph's certification included the statement that SKOWRONEK was bred at Antonyy and was of pure Arab origin and that he was "now the property of Lady Wentworth of Crabbet Park." SKOWRONEK's height is listed as 14.2. In a pedigree furnished to H.V.M. Clark in 1919, Count Joseph listed SKOWRONEK's markings as a pink stripe on the nose and a white front fetlock.

Lady Anne Lytton recalled SKOWRONEK's first year at Crabbet:

Needless to say, when he eventually arrived at Crabbet, I was overjoyed. How it actually came about I was never told at the time. Who was I to ask questions? All that mattered was that he had become part of the stud. Never before had I seen an Arab with such a curve to his neck, though his crest was not heavy. He was the long-looked-for outcross for the inbred mares, and that first year he was put to all the mares, and if I remember correctly they were all in foal. Every one was grey, and they all seemed to inherit the curved neck and very small dished head.

Lady Wentworth recalled the impact of the purchase of SKOWRONEK less poetically in The Crabbet Arabian Stud:

With the monopoly of SKOWRONEK as a sire I founded a completely new dynasty, and with the amalgamation of the Blunt importations the Stud was raised to a standard of world celebrity never before achieved.

Six Crabbet mares produced SKOWRONEK foals in 1921. The foals were NUDRAT, out of NADRA, sold in utero to Kenya; RANGOOD, a grey colt out of RISH (Nejran x Rabla); *RASWAN 607, a grey colt out of RIM (*Astraled 238 x Ridaa); REVENGE, a grey colt out of RIYALA (*Astraled 238 x Ridaa); *ROSSANA 598, a grey filly out of ROSE OF HIND (Rejeb x Rose Diamond); and SERIYA, a grey filly out of SOMRA (Daoud x Siwa). The six 1922 SKOWRONEK foals included the colt NASEEM out of NASRA (Daoud x Nefisa); the grey filly *RAIDA out of RABLA (Mesaoud x Rosemary); and *RIYALA 815 out of RISLA (*Berk 343 x Risala). Eight SKOWRONEK foals were born in 1923, including two for outside breeders. At Crabbet the 1923 foals included the colt *RASEYN 597 out of RAYYA (Rustem x Riada) and the filly *RIMINI 973 out of RIM. Three SKOWRONEK foals were registered for 1924; six were foaled in 1925, including *INCORONATA out of NISREEN (*Nureddin II 974 x Nasra). The 1926 crop included *RAFFLES 952 out of the SKOWRONEK daughter *RIFAL. There were six SKOWRONEK foals in 1927, and three in 1928, including *CRABBET SURA out of SARDHANA (*Nureddin II 974 x Selima). SKOWRONEK's last foals were born in 1929, and there were only two. A listing of all of SKOWRONEK's known purebred foals appears at the end of this article.

Lady Wentworth put SKOWRONEK back in the show ring in 1921. In February, he was second to the Crabbet stallion RASIM (Feysul x Risala) and then took first place at the London Show in 1921 and also won a special prize for the best stallion or colt. He was first at the Royal Agricultural Show at Cambridge in July 1922 and there received a gold medal for the best stallion. At that same show, his son NASEEM won a gold medal for the best foal. In the London Show in March 1923, SKOWRONEK took second to RASIM and was reserve champion to RASIM. A SKOWRONEK son, *RASWAN, won the reserve special prize for the best colt or filly, and the SKOWRONEK daughter FASHA (bred by Mr. Clark) was reserve filly in this class. At the 1923 Royal Agricultural Show at Newcastle, a SKOWRONEK son, GREY SHEIKH, out of SOLEYMA (Daoud x Siwa), won a "Commended" rating. At the 1924 London Show, SKOWRONEK's daughter *RAIDA was third in a class of Arab colts and fillies. As the SKOWRONEK sons and daughters were noticed in the show ring, SKOWRONEK became known through their placings as well as his own.

Obviously, Lady Wentworth knew what she had. SKOWRONEK lived a quiet life, was frequently photographed by Lady Wentworth for her books and magazine articles, and was treasured by the Crabbet Stud staff. Cecil Covey, who was at Crabbet since 1926 and who inherited Crabbet Stud from Lady Wentworth, remembers:

SKOWRONEK was kept in one of six stables situated near Crabbet House. Lady Wentworth kept six of her choice Arabian stallions in these stables, as they were just a minute's walk from the house.

Lady Wentworth turned down several offers to purchase SKOWRONEK. In 1926, she was offered 45,000 guineas by an agent for a person referred to only as "his excellency" in Baghdad. H.V.M. Clark wrote to W.R. Brown of Maynesboro Stud in New Hampshire in 1928 that Lady Wentworth had refused 5,000 pounds sterling for SKOWRONEK when he was an old horse. Lady Wentworth was a skilled negotiator, and she did not hesitate to use
On July 6, 1920, Count Joseph Potocki, Jr. (then with the Polish Embassy in London), certified SKOWRONEK’s pedigree for Weatherby and Sons so that SKOWRONEK might be registered in the General Stud Book. Count Joseph’s certification included the statement that SKOWRONEK was bred at Antoniny and was of pure Arab origin and that he was “now the property of Lady Wentworth of Crabbet Park.” SKOWRONEK’s height is listed as 14.2. In a pedigree furnished to H.V.M. Clark in 1919, Count Joseph listed SKOWRONEK’s markings as a pink stripe on the nose and a white front fetlock.

Lady Anne Lytton recalled SKOWRONEK’s first year at Crabbet:

Needless to say, when he eventually arrived at Crabbet, I was overjoyed. How it actually came about I was never told at the time. Who was I to ask questions? All that mattered was that he had become part of the stud. Never before had I seen an Arab with such a curve to his neck, though his crest was not heavy. He was the long-looked-for outcross for the inbred mares, and that first year he was put to all the mares, and if I remember correctly they were all in foal. Every one was grey, and they all seemed to inherit the curved neck and very small dished head.

Lady Wentworth recalled the impact of the purchase of SKOWRONEK less poetically in The Crabbet Arabian Stud:

With the monopoly of SKOWRONEK as a sire I founded a completely new dynasty, and with the amalgamation of the Blunt importations the Stud was raised to a standard of world celebrity never before achieved.

Six Crabbet mares produced SKOWRONEK foals in 1921. The foals were NUDRAT, out of NADRA, sold in utero to Kenya; RANGOOD, a grey colt out of RISH (Nejran x Rabla); *RASWAN 607, a grey colt out of RIM (*Astrale 238 x Ridaa); REVENGE, a grey colt out of RIYALA (*Astrale 238 x Ridaa); *ROSSANA 598, a grey filly out of ROSE OF HIND (Rejeb x Rose Diamond); and SERIYA, a grey filly out of SOMRA (Daoud x Siwa). The six 1922 SKOWRONEK foals included the colt NASEEM out of NASRA (Daoud x Nefisa); the grey filly *RAIDA out of RABLA (Mesaoud x Rosemary); and *RIFALA 815 out of RISLSA (*Berk 343 x Risala). Eight SKOWRONEK foals were born in 1923, including two for outside breeders. At Crabbet the 1923 foals included the colt *RASEYN 597 out of RAYYAH (Rustem x Riada) and the filly *RIMINI 973 out of RIM. Three SKOWRONEK foals were registered for 1924; six were foaled in 1925, including INCORONATA out of NISEEN (*Nureddin II 974 x Nasra). The 1926 crop included RAFFLES 952 out of the SKOWRONEK daughter RIFALA. There were six SKOWRONEK foals in 1927, and three in 1928, including CRABBET SURA out of SARDHANA (*Nureddin II 974 x Selima). SKOWRONEK’s last foals were born in 1929, and there were only two. A listing of all of SKOWRONEK’s known purebred foals appears at the end of this article.

Lady Wentworth put SKOWRONEK back in the show ring in 1921. In February, he was second to the Crabbet stallion RASIM (Peyshul x Risala) and then took first place at the London Show in 1921 and also won a special prize for the best stallion or colt. He was first at the Royal Agricultural Show at Cambridge in July 1922 and there received a gold medal for the best stallion. At that same show, his son NASEMM won a gold medal for the best foal. In the London Show in March 1923, SKOWRONEK took second to RASIM and was reserve champion to RASIM. A SKOWRONEK son, RASWAN, won the reserve special prize for the best colt or filly, and the SKOWRONEK daughter FASIHA (bred by Mr. Clark) was reserve filly in this class. At the 1923 Royal Agricultural Show at Newcastle, a SKOWRONEK son, GREY SHEIKH, out of SOLEYMA (Daoud x Siwa), won a “Commended” rating. At the 1924 London Show, SKOWRONEK’s daughter RAIDA was third in a class of Arab colts and fillies. As the SKOWRONEK sons and daughters were noticed in the show ring, SKOWRONEK became known through their placings as well as his own.

Obviously, Lady Wentworth knew what she had. SKOWRONEK lived a quiet life, was frequently photographed by Lady Wentworth for her books and magazine articles, and was treasured by the Crabbet Stud staff. Cecil Covey, who was at Crabbet since 1926 and who inherited Crabbet Stud from Lady Wentworth, remembers:

SKOWRONEK was kept in one of six stables situated near Crabbet House. Lady Wentworth kept six of her choice Arabian stallions in these stables, as they were just a minute’s walk from the house.

Lady Wentworth turned down several offers to purchase SKOWRONEK. In 1926, she was offered 45,000 guineas by an agent for a person referred to only as “his excellency” in Baghdad. H.V.M. Clark wrote to W.R. Brown of Maynesboro Stud in New Hampshire in 1928 that Lady Wentworth had refused 5,000 pounds sterling for SKOWRONEK when he was an old horse. Lady Wentworth was a skilled negotiator, and she did not hesitate to use
SKOWRONEK and his get in her international dealings. In 1926, she offered SKOWRONEK to W.K. Kellogg when she hoped Mr. Kellogg would endow Crabbet Stud, and she reportedly enticed some South American breeders with the thought that she might trade him for some stallions there.

As the quality of the SKOWRONEK get became known, the fame of Crabbet Stud grew accordingly, and SKOWRONEK sons and daughters were coveted by breeders all over the world. SKOWRONEK served very few mares outside the Crabbet Stud, so most prospective buyers had to approach Crabbet to acquire SKOWRONEK blood.

The first successful purchaser was W.K. Kellogg of Battle Creek, Michigan, and Pomona, California, who, through his agent Carl Schmidt (later Carl Raswan), purchased *RASEYN, *RASWAN, *RAIDA, and *ROSSANA in 1926. *RASWAN was injured and had to be destroyed shortly after his arrival in the United States, but *RASEYN went on to found a sire line noted for performance ability. In 1928, Roger A. Selby of Portsmouth, Ohio, imported the SKOWRONEK daughter *RIFALA. She is known for her son IMAGE (by *Mirage 790) who founded a sire line in the United States; her daughter RAGALO and her son RIFAGE (both by *Mirage), the latter becoming an important sire at the Van Vleet Stud in Colorado; and her son PHANTOM (by Image). Her best-known son, however, is *RAFFLES, imported by Mr. Selby in 1932.

The Crabbet mare SARDHANA was sold to Poland in 1928 when she was in foal to SKOWRONEK. Her foal UADYAH was not used for purebred breeding in Poland. Eight SKOWRONEK sons and daughters were exported in 1930: the stallion AJEEB to Babolna Stud in Hungary, the stallion NAHRAWAN and the mare RISHWA to Brazil, and the five SKOWRONEK daughters JAILLA, NAMIRA, NASIEEDA, REYNA, and SHELIFA to the Duke of Veragua in Spain. In 1933, Mr. Selby imported the mare *RIMINI. In 1935, the mare NASIRIEH (out of Nisreen) was purchased by Mrs. A.D. MacLean for her Fenwick Stud at Yan Yean, Victoria, Australia. The Russian government purchased 19 mares and six stallions for the Tersk Stud in 1936, including NAASEEM and NASIFA. In the same year, Mr. Kellogg purchased *INCORONATA 1200 and *CRABBE SURA 1199. A SKOWRONEK son, REGISTAN, was sold to Mr. T.G.B. Trouncer, a Scot living in Egypt in the 1930s.

SKOWRONEK’s last foals were born in 1929, and he apparently died that year. One report suggests that he was kicked by a mare and had to be put down. He had laminitis, so that may have been a factor. Lady Wentworth presented his skull and his hide to the British Museum in London.

The continuing influence of SKOWRONEK in America will be presented in a separate article scheduled for an upcoming issue. Included will be an assessment of the influence of the SKOWRONEK sons and daughters imported directly to this country in present-day breeding programs, as well as the impact of other of his lines that have come to the U.S. from other countries.
AIESHA (x Astola)
Grey mare, 1927
Bred by Crabbet
AJEEB (x Alfarouse)
Grey stallion, 1925
Bred by Mrs. G.A.L. Vaughn-Williams
Exported to Babolna Stud in 1930
AKABAH (x Amida)
Chestnut mare, 1922
Bred by S.G. Hough
ALMULID (x Alfarouse)
Grey stallion, 1923
Bred by Mrs. G.A.L. Vaughn-Williams
*CRABBEET SURA 1199 (x Sardhana)
Grey mare, 1928
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. for the Kellogg Ranch, 1936
FADLALLA (x Rayya)
Grey stallion, 1927
Bred by Col. J. Hamilton Leigh
FASIHA (x Feluka)
Grey mare, 1920
Bred by H.V.M. Clark
GREY SHEIKH (x Soleyma)
Grey stallion, 1920
Owned by Mr. Ruxton
HUSEYNI (HUSSEINI) (x Harbieh, also known as Hanna)
Grey stallion, 1924
Bred by Miss M.C.E. Lyon
*INCORONATA 1200 (x Nisreen)
Grey mare, 1925
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. by W.K. Kellogg in 1936
IRAM (formerly FEITH DHOMNUIL) (x Rudeyna)
Grey stallion, 1923
Bred by Col. J. Hamilton Leigh
JALILA (also called Rama) (x *Rasima 606)
Grey mare, 1922
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Duke of Veragua in Spain in 1930
KING CYRUS (x Kibla)
Grey stallion, 1923
Bred by Crabbet
MEJIDIL (x Mejamieh)
Grey stallion, 1921
Bred by Brig. Gen. F.F. Lance
NAAMAN (x Nessima)
Grey stallion, 1920
Bred by H.V.M. Clark
NAAMAN died in 1921
NAHRAWAN (x Nessima)
Grey stallion, 1926
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Brazil in 1930
NAMIRA (x Nessima)
Grey mare, 1928
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Duke of Veragua in Spain in 1930
NASEEM (x Nasra)
Grey stallion, 1922
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Russia in 1936
NASIEWA (x Nasra)
Grey mare, 1927
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Duke of Veragua in Spain in 1930
NASIFA (x Nasra)
Grey mare, 1924
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Russia in 1936
NASIRIEH (x Nisreen)
Grey mare, 1923
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Australia
NAX (x Nessima)
Grey stallion, 1923
Bred by Crabbet
NAXINA (x Nessima)
Grey mare, 1927
Bred by Crabbet
NAZIRI (x Nasra)
Grey stallion, 1925
Bred by Crabbet
NIRAN (x Nashisha)
Grey stallion, 1925
Bred by Crabbet
NUDRAT (x Nadra)
Stallion, 1921
Bred by Crabbet, sold in utero to Kenya
*RAFFLES 952 (x *Rifala 815)
Grey stallion, 1926
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. by Roger A. Selby in 1932
*RAIDA 600 (also known as Rabun) (x Rabla)
Grey mare, 1922
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. by W.K. Kellogg in 1926
RANGON (also called Rissk) (x Rish)
Grey stallion, 1921
Bred by Crabbet
*RASEYN 597 (x Rayya)
Grey stallion, 1923
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. by W.K. Kellogg in 1926
*RASWAN 607 (x Rim)
Grey stallion, 1921
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. by W.K. Kellogg in 1926
REGISTAN (x Riz)
Grey stallion, 1927
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Egypt
REVENGE (x Riyala)
Grey stallion, 1921
Bred by Crabbet
REYNA (x Rissla)
Grey mare, 1925
Bred by Crabbet, sold to the Duke of Veragua in Spain in 1930
*RIFALA 815 (x Rissla)
Grey mare, 1922
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. by Roger A. Selby in 1928
*RIMINI 973 (x Rim)
Grey mare, 1923
Bred by Crabbet
Imported to the U.S.A. by Roger A. Selby in 1933
RISHWA (x Rishafa)
Grey mare, 1928
Bred by Crabbet, sold to Brazil in 1930
RISSAAL (x Rissla)
Grey stallion, 1923
Bred by Crabbet
RIZIANA (x Riz)
Grey mare, 1929
Bred by Crabbet
ROSE OF THE SEA
Grey mare, 1927
Bred by Crabbet
*ROSSANA 598 (x Rose of Hind)
Grey mare, 1921
Imported to the U.S.A. by W.K. Kellogg in 1926
ROTHA (x Rayya)
Dark brown mare, 1925
Bred by Col. J. Hamilton Leigh
ROTHA died in 1926
RUFYEFAN (x *Rifla 601)
Grey stallion, 1924
Bred by Crabbet
RUSKOV (x Rueyda)
Grey stallion, 1920
Bred by S.W. Lewis
SERIYA (x Somra)
Grey mare, 1921
Bred by Crabbet
SHELIFA (x Selima)
Grey mare, 1922
Bred by Crabbet, sold to the Duke of Veragua in Spain in 1930
UADYAH (x Sardhana)
Grey mare, 1929
Bred by Crabbet, sold in utero to Poland in 1928