WE'VE NAMED 35 U.S. National Champion Stallions since 1958 and heaped upon them all the adulation, glory, and honor the Arabian horse community can muster. A small number of horses in the entire population, yes, but worthy of a closer look because of the impact on the breed ensured by the title. With the exception of the 1958 National classes, all National Champion Stallions were chosen by judging teams, so many learned opinions are represented.

*Arabian Horse World* studied the 35 stallions in many ways. First, their sire lines. With 12 U.S. National Champion Stallions among his descendants, the Polish-bred stallion Skowronek (*Ibrahim x Jaskolka by Rymnik*) heads the sire line study. Five National Champion Stallions (Mujahid, Raffon, Khemosabi, Gai Parada, and Arn-ett Perlane) are through his son *Raseyn (x Rayya by rustem)*, four (Raciamson, Galizon, Hajababa, and Pett Jean) via his son *Raffles (x Rifaiya by Skowronek)*, and three (*Aramus, Gai Adventure, and *Muscat*) via his son Naseem (*x Nasra by Daoud*).

The sire line of Ofir (*Kuhailan-Haifi x Dziva by Abu Mlech*) is not far behind with ten representatives. Ofir is represented through his son Witrax (*x Makata by Fetysz*) by eight stallions: *Bask, Aladdinn, AAF Kasit, Strike, Almaden, Exceladdinn, MS Santana*, and *Echo Magnifico*; through his son Wielki Szlem (*x Elegantka by Bakszysz*) by one (*El Paso*); and through his son *Witez II (x Federacja by Burgas)* by one (Zarabo).

Next in line is the Nazeer sire line with six representatives: Ansata Ibn Sudan, Amurath Bandolero, *Marsianin, Padron, Ali Jamaal*, and *Simeen Shai*. The Zobeyni sire line (via Rijm and Mesaoud) has two representatives (Synbad and Count Bazy), and *Mirage* has two (Bay-Abi and Fame VF).

While the thrill of owning a U.S. National Champion Stallion is quite beyond compare, the thrill is compounded several times if the owner is also the breeder. Nine owners celebrated the exhilaration of breeder/owner victory: Bazy Tankersley of Al-Marah Arabians; for Count Bazy; Harian and Marge Moehlman of Moehlman's 3M Arabians for Zarabo; Daniel C. Gainey for Galizon (owned in partnership at the time of the win) and as the unofficial breeder (with a leased mare) for Gai Parada; Don and Judi Forbis, Ansata Arabian Stud, for Ansata Ibn Sudan; Dr. Bert and Ruth Husband of Haifa Arabians for Khemosabi; Ken and Donna Topp of Mystic Sands Arabians for MS Santana (owned in part at the time of the win); Robert and Pat Radmacher of Valhaven Farm for Fame VF (owned in part at the time of the win); Gary and Wanda Mirsch for Almaden; and Janow-Podlaski State Stud in Poland for *El Paso* (on lease to Lasma at the time of the win).

**BREEDING EVEN ONE NATIONAL WINNER**, let alone a National Champion, puts a bright feather in anyone’s one horseman cap. These breeders or breeding establishments added multiple feathers: the Buckley family of Cedarcell Arabians for Synbad and Hajababa; Daniel C. Gainey for Galizon and Gai-Adventure; Janow-Podlaski State Stud (Poland) for *Elkin* and *El Paso*; and Tersk Stud (USSR) for *Muscat* and *Marsianin*.

Of the ten imported stallions who wear National Champion Stallion titles, the Polish State Studs are
leading breeders with four, followed by Tersk Stud with two. Egypt, Australia, Holland, and Sweden each contributed one.


ABOUT THESE 35 NATIONAL CHAMPION STALLIONS... are they lovely ornaments, cover guys for Arabian Horse World, enshrined heroes, and little else? Here are some facts and figures to prove that they are far more significant. In volume, they’ve contributed 11,496 foals to the American population (through Volume 65 of the stud book), three of them (Khemosabi, *Aladdinn, and *Bask) splashing over into the four-digit figures. Kham heads the 1,000-plus group with 1,079, followed by *Aladdinn with 1,059 and *Bask (deceased) with 1,046. As of Volume 65 of the stud book, five stallions — *El Paso, *Muscat, *Marsianin, *Padron, and MS Santana — have 500 or more foals registered and published, putting them in the Arabian Horse World "Legacy Sire" elite; and ten, with 250 or more foals, are recognized as Arabian Horse World "Sires of Significance." They are: Synbad, Bay-Abi, Raffon, *Aramus, Ansata Ibn Sudan, Gai-Adventure, *Asadd, Gai Parada, Strike, and Fame VF.

In the quality column, these 35 U.S. National Champion Stallions are recognized as the sires of 554 winners of U.S. and Canadian National titles. Here, *Bask is far and away the leader of the pack with 194 sons and daughters with National titles. Khemosabi is next with 57, then *Aladdinn with 46, *Padron with 33, *Muscat with 32, and Bay-Abi with 25. The count of Nationals winners sired is not a fair test for either the very early National Champion Stallions (when few National titles were offered) or to recent U.S. National Champion Stallions. But of the 33 stallions whose first foals were old enough (three years) for Nationals competition, only two have no Nationals winning offspring.

What of the other contributors to the pedigrees of National Champion Stallions? Maternal grandsires are of interest of course as contributors of one-fourth of the genetic strength of the subject horses. Here the stallion Indraff (*Raseyn x *India by Raseem) is the hero as the maternal grandsire of three National Champion Stallions: Synbad, Raffon, and Count Bazy. Three maternal grandsires have two winners each: Amurath Sahib with *Bask and *Aramus, Ferzon with Galizon and Gai-Adventure, and Azraff with Petit Jean and Gai Parada.

In coat color, the bays lead the way with 16. Twelve greys have been named National Champion Stallions as have six chestnuts.

California and Minnesota each contributed four National Champion Stallions; Illinois breeders provided three, and Texas furnished two.

The National Champion Stallion title does favor the young. The honor has gone to four-year-olds ten times, to five-year-olds nine times, to six-year-olds five times, to seven-year-olds three times, to eight-year-olds five times, to nine-year-olds two times, and to a ten-year-old one time.

Only two National Champion Stallions have sired National Champion Stallions. *Aladdinn may never be challenged in his record of four National Champion Stallions sons, and *Bask sired one. In the history of the U.S. Nationals, only two stallions have sired more than one National Champion Stallion: *Aladdinn (as mentioned) and *Naborr, who gave us *Aramus and Gai Adventure.

**FOURTEEN STALLIONS** showed up for the first IAHA-sanctioned National Champion Stallion competition in 1958, a class held in conjunction with the Tenth Annual Colorado Arabian Horse Club Show at Estes Park, Colorado. They were there by invitation, the invitations limited to champions and reserves of specified shows in 1957 and early 1958. Owners paid a $25 entry fee for the process of being judged and ranked by Charles B. Team, Fort Worth, Texas (the first director of the Arabian horse program at the Kellogg Ranch after the ranch became the Cal Poly campus).

No plaques, no GBE-designed trophies, no floral collars for National Champions in 1958. Owners of National Champions — National Champion Mare competition also began in 1958 at the same show — received perpetual trophies to be returned the following year, but later were presented with wood sculptures of their champions for permanent keeping. No prize money in 1958, no Breeders Sweepstakes dollars . . . but pride, though, and plenty of it.

By 1958, more than 11,000 Arabians had been registered in the United States, more than five times the number registered only 20 years earlier. So the sanctioning of the two National Championships celebrated the growth of the breed, and it highlighted the versatility of the Arabian as National entries also exhibited in the performance divisions of the regular show.

Here are sketches of our 35 U.S. National Champion Stallions, followed by a more detailed look at some of these Arabian heroes. In the headings on the following pages, breeder addresses appear as of the foaling date of the stallion, and owner addresses are at the time of the National Championship. Totals of foals registered are as of Volume 65 of the Stud Book, and references to National wins are U.S. unless specified as Canadian.