

CATEGORIES OF INQUIRY

Out of the Desert: The Diaspora of the Arabian Horse

The last significant importation of asil Arabian horses from the Middle East to the West occurred in the late-mid 20th century (1958-88). Recollections of these horses and the people involved are now fading from memory. In this category of inquiry, we ask those closely associated with the events, locations, personalities, and horses of the post-1958 period to share their personal recollections and insights.

Breeding: Theory, Practice, Critical Issues

Theories of and approaches to breeding, as well as breeding practices themselves, have evolved over time. In this category, we seek to document that development and provide an opportunity for a description of lessons learned and suggestions for the future.

Preservation: Motives and Historical Framework, Structure, Strategies, Future Directions

From its beginning, the Preservation Movement has been multi-faceted. In some cases, the focus has been on horses of a single period. In others, the shared interest may have been horses from a given source or a common importer. Organizing principles for the effort have varied considerably; some have been drawn from Bedouin tradition, while others look to models prevalent in the management of domestic livestock in general. In this category of inquiry, we invite discussion of the development and evolution of Preservation as a movement and how it has affected the direction in which the horse has been bred and used.

In the Public Eye: Showing, Working, Racing, and Other Activities

In the Arabian Peninsula, as in Egypt and so in the West, breeding has been closely linked to some form of public demonstration. Whether on the desert raid or a Cairo racetrack, in the show arena or a Texas round-up, the Desert Arabian has always had some work to do. In this category, we focus the interview on horses and people who have been involved in a variety of uses for the Desert Arabian.

Management, Marketing, and Promotion

Change is ubiquitous. In economics, demographics, technology, little remains constant. Most breeders are faced with continuing concern for the financial management of their farms. In this category we learn about the practical side of equine management, drawing from the experience of breeders and owners whose personal histories span the last few decades.