



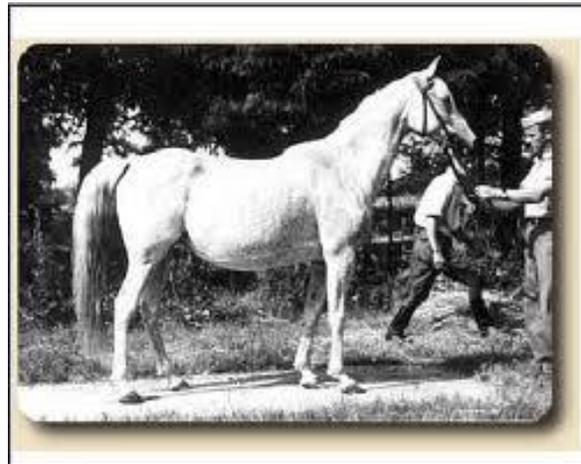
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## **THE LEGACY OF \*SABELLINA PASB**

by Carl Fudge - Sturgeon Creek Arabians

*For about 10 years beginning in the early 1990s, Sturgeon Creek Arabians was active in Arabian racing, and sent some horses to various North American tracks holding Arabian race meets. This article was drafted at the start of Sturgeon Creek Arabians' involvement in Arabian racing.*

*A version of this article was first published in the March-April 1993 issue of Arabian Finish Line magazine and subsequently in the Canadian Arabian News. The version provided below has been modified slightly to correct a few errors of content and style, and to provide context for when the article was written. No attempt has been made to update the content of the article to discuss the many horses, since the article was written originally, that have added to the enduring legacy of \*SABELLINA PASB.*



The quest to breed a better Thoroughbred race horse has caused volumes to be written in the 200 years since the creation of the General Stud Book. Many of the principles pertaining to breeding Thoroughbreds can be used to breed Arabian race horses. In the later 19th century breeding theorists started to shift their focus from the contribution of the stallion to the contribution of the dam, in the transmission of racing ability from one generation to the next.

No new genes are created by breeding. So, to produce a superior Arabian race horse, one must begin with superior genetic material. Polish breeders have long used the rigors of race training together with superior racing ability as objective criteria to identify outstanding individuals to breed on. The Poles have concluded that racing ability is a characteristic highly influenced by the dam. \*SABELLINA 2/7(5-1-1)D+O+2 came from a family renowned in Poland for its racing ability.

\*SABELLINA traces to the Mlecha dam line through the Lysa family. Lysa had three daughters used in Polish breeding: MABRUCHA 2/9(2-0-3)Oaks. SAFTA 3/23(5-4-4) and \*IWONKA III.



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\*IWONKA III is best known through BALALAJKA (dam of ARFA), BANDOLA 2/23(4-7-7), BANIO 3/25(5-6-5) and \*BASK++ (all by WITRAZ); \*BACHANTKA 2/15(0-1-3) (Wielki Szlem), and BEJ ASSAN 7/51(20-9-9)2xAP+10 (El Haifi). \*BASK++ was a respectable racer. ARFA and BANDOLA were both good racers, and their offspring excelled on the race track and in the show ring.

ARFA produced ALMIFAR 4/22(6-9-1), sire of \*SASANKA mentioned below, and 3 broodmares: \*ARWISTAWA 2/15(4-4-5)2 (Geyran), \*HARFA 3/13(4-4-2)O+1 (Omar II) and \*ABHAZJA /9(6-3-0)O+2 (Omar II). \*ABHAZJA was the dam of \*ARRA (\*Bandos) 2/12(6-3-2)D+O+AP+2.

BANDOLA produced Oaks winner \*BEATRICE 2/12(4-0-3)Oaks (\*Pietuszk) and \*BANDOS 2/12(3-0-3) (Negatiw). Among \*BANDOS' many get were \*ARRA (note the close inbreeding of full sisters Arfa and Bandola) and \*PEPTON 2/16(11-4-0)AP+8 an excellent racer and sire of stakes winners.

MABRUCHA won the 1932 Polish Oaks but few of her descendants have been used in Polish breeding. Her full sister, SAFTA, was also a successful racer and her line descends through SABDA who did not race. SABDA's three most influential daughters were: SALWA 2/13(1-4-4) (1945), \*SAKWA 1/2(1-0-0), and \*SABELLINA (1954). SALWA is best known as the dam of \*SZARZA 1/7(0-1-3) and the dam of AMERIGO, the sire of KHEMOSABI+++. \*SAKWA produced \*SIELANKA and SEKWANA 1/8(0-2-2), dam of \*SET 1/8(1-1-2) and \*SEKSTANS 4/30(4-8-3). \*SAKWA and \*SABELLINA were full sisters, both sired by COMET's sire ABU AFAS 2/13(4-3-4).

In Poland, special fillies are kept at the race track only long enough to prove their ability before being returned to the breeding farms. Thus, \*SAKWA has only two starts, winning one. Her sister, \*SABELLINA had seven starts, and four of her five wins were in stakes races including the Derby and the Oaks. \*SABELLINA finished in the money in all seven races. With her athletic ability proven, \*SABELLINA retired to the broodmare barn and produced 10 foals in Poland, seven by the WIELKI SZLEM son, CZORT.

\*SABELLINA passed her great racing ability on with great consistency. Her get won 12 stakes races in Poland. During the 27 years from 1958 to 1984, \*SABELLINA, her get, grand-get and great grand-get dominated the three races which comprise the Triple Crown of Polish racing, winning 15 times or 20%. This was achieved despite the exportation of \*SABELLINA's best-known son, \*SAMBOR, before he could win one of these races.

In total, \*SABELLINA produced sixteen foals. Many of these were also prepotent for racing ability. Her best producing daughters were SANTA and \*SALA, both by CZORT. SANTA won six of nine starts including the Derby, the Oaks and two other stakes. SANTA passed her great abilities on to her sons SANOS 2/13(6-4-0)D+4 and SANTOS 3/18(5-1-2)1 (Negatiw) and to her daughter \*SASANKA who won the Polish Triple Crown plus four stakes races before being exported to the United States. \*SASANKA (Almifar) produced \*SARENKA 2/12(7-3-2)D+3 (\*Tryptyk), \*STOKROTKA 2/5(0-3-0) (\*Bandos), SASZETKA 2/11(6-5-0)D+O+2 (Engano), \*SANNA 2/12(6-4-1)O+3 (Wist), \*SAWANNA 1/4(1-2-1) (\*Namiet), \*AH RHAPSODYN BLUE 1/15(3-6-1)Oaks & 1985 Three-Year-Old Filly of the Year (Wist), AH SINGULARITY 3/21(7-2-1) (\*Pesniar), and her last foal



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MONARCH 3/21(18-2-0)D+12 (\*WIKING), winner of the US Derby, Armand Hammer, 1991 Horse of the Year, and all-time leading Arabian money earner. \*SABELLINA had a filly in Poland, SAFARI, who did not race.

\*SABELLINA's daughter \*SALA 2/17(6-9-2)1 produced the Criterium winner SAMARRA (Arragon) but is best known in the United States as the dam of SZALKA 1/7(0-3-2) (\*Eleuzis). \*SZALKA produced NF PROOF 4/22(14-5-1)D+8, winner of the US Derby and eight stakes races and was twice named Horse of the Year.

\*SABELLINA's most successful racing offspring were sired by the WIELKI SZLEM son CZORT. The success of this nick resulted from in-breeding to the WIELKI SZLEM in \*SABELLINA's pedigree using the breeding technique known as "balanced breeding".

When John and Ruth Simms of Scottsdale, Arizona, imported \*SABELLINA at the age of 15, she came to the United States in foal once more to CZORT. This breeding produced the grey colt \*SABSON 2/5(2-0-1).

In the U.S., \*SABELLINA was bred to \*BASK++ five times. These offspring were line-bred to LYSA 4x4 through the dams. One of these was the well-known stallion EW SABASK who earned show wins in English Pleasure and Park. Another mating produced EW SABASKA++, 1974 U.S. National Reserve Champion Futurity Filly and 1975 Scottsdale Champion Mare. Unfortunately, these \*BASK++ offspring did not have the same opportunity to show their ability on the race track as did their half siblings by CZORT.

\*SABELLINA's best known son \*SAMBOR 3/14(6-4-1)NC created his own racing dynasty through his many offspring, including SAMTYR. Both \*SAMBOR and SAMTYR were named U.S. National Champion Race Horse. Another \*SAMBOR son, SIR WM TRYCZAM, won the first IAHA Derby. There are many successful North American Arabian race horses that carry SAMTYR or \*SAMBOR blood. In all likelihood, \*SAMBOR and SAMTYR will be joined at the top of the sire list by the \*SABELLINA great grand-son MONARCH AH (\*Wiking x \*Sasanka) who has proven his racing ability and is just starting his career at stud. MONARCH AH represents the successful blending of \*WIKING (Etap x \*Wilma by \*Pietuszk) with a \*SABELLINA granddaughter (\*Sasanka).

Although \*SABELLINA was born nearly 40 years ago, this great mare's legacy is still evident today. A critic might point to the racing abilities of the stallions to which her progeny were bred and argue that these stallions were responsible for the result. However, the consistency of racing ability in horses possessing this mare's blood, passing through at least four generations with so many different stallions involved, should be conclusive proof that exceptional racing ability exists in the \*SABELLINA family and that this characteristic is highly inheritable.