

The Moska Legacy

by *Ginny (Fagerlin) Baldwin*

When Sheila Varian and her mother, Wenonah, made a landmark decision to import three mares from Poland in 1961, no one guessed the impact these mares would make, not only as foundation mares for Varian Arabians, but also on the Arabian horse breed as a whole.

Today, *Ostroga, *Naganka and *Bachantka are household names in the vocabularies of Arabian horse breeders.

In 1969, the same eye that recognized the excellence of those three Polish mares saw quality in a young, two-year-old colt named Khemosabi. Sheila bred some of her best mares to him that year, including two Bay-Abi daughters: Bayanka and Baychatka. These two Bay-Abi daughters were full siblings out of the original Polish import *Bachantka. Bayanka produced the game-changing stallion, Kaiyoum, and Baychatka produced the mare Moska.

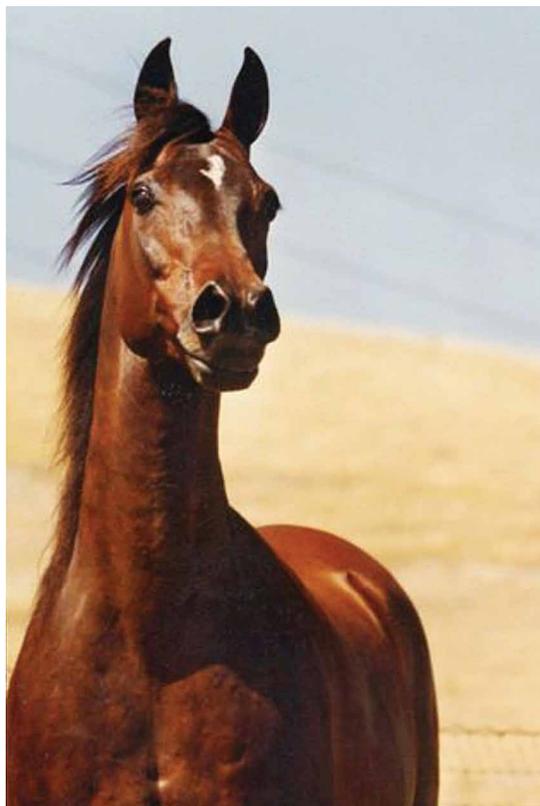
Varian Arabians' manager for over 30 years, Angela Alvarez, speaks of Moska's importance to the program: "The stallions Jullyen El Jamaal and Audacious PS were obtained to cover the Moska-bred mares. Autumn Fire and Moska were the two mares that changed the Varian program and, really, the world." Autumn Fire, among her other credentials, is the dam of the renowned breeding stallion, Afire Bey V.

Moska's story begins in the halls of the Polish state

studs. Her grandam, *Bachantka (Wielki Szlem x Balalajka), has been especially influential through her mare lines. *Bachantka had 15 foals, seven of which were mares, five were stallions, and three were geldings. *Bachantka's mare line influence is

evident in her legacy of producing *Arabian Horse World Aristocrat* daughters and their Aristocrat descendants, in addition to the long and broad production record of her female descendants through Moska.

Two daughters of *Bachantka are Aristocrat mares: Bayanka (1963) by Bay-Abi, with five champion progeny, and Balalinka (1968) by *Bask, with eight champion progeny. *Bachantka, an Aristocrat mare herself with six champion offspring, is a seven-eighths sister of *Bask and both are offspring of the important Polish mare Balalajka. Balalinka also has an Aristocrat daughter, Balashaklana V (1986) by *Sanadik El Shaklan, with four champions. Two other



MOSKA (Khemosabi x Baychatka)

daughters of *Bachantka produced Aristocrat daughters: Bachista V (1982) by Ariston produced an Aristocrat daughter with nine champions, Baychelsea V by Huckleberry Bey; Baychatka (1965) by Bay-Abi produced three Aristocrat daughters, Baychaska by *Bask, Pavane V by Khemosabi, and Moska by Khemosabi, with five, seven and eleven champion offspring, respectively.

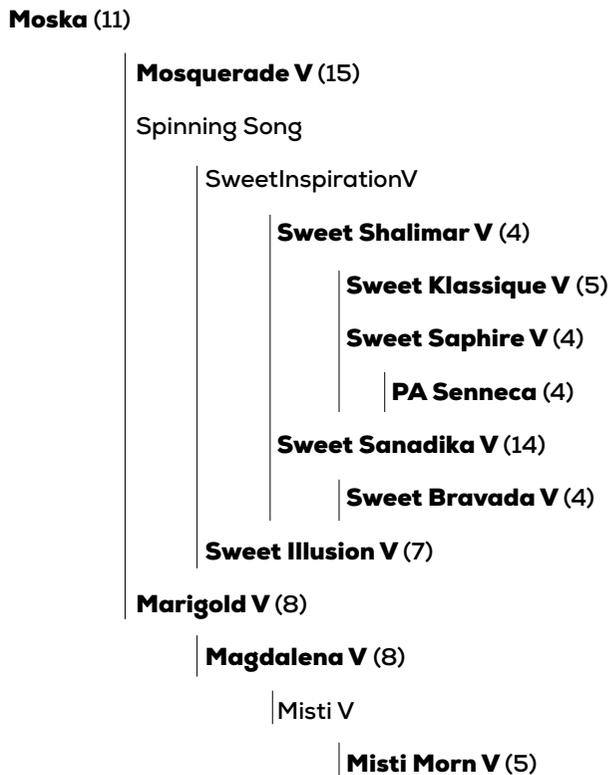
AHW ARISTOCRAT MARE LEGACY OF MOSKA

The Aristocrat mare lineage of Moska is striking as shown in Figure 1. Aristocrat mares are designated with bold print in the figure and the numbers of their champion offspring appear in parentheses. Moska, together with her eleven Aristocrat descendants, has produced a total of 89 champions. The Moska daughter, Mosquerade V, shares top billing on the Aristocrat mares list with Kaiynda Special by Kaiyoum who is a full “blood” brother to Moska. Each mare has produced 15 champions.

Moska had 16 foals – twelve mares, and four stallions. Eleven of her descendants are Aristocrat mares: two daughters, Mosquerade V and Marigold V, plus two granddaughters, two great-granddaughters, four great-great-granddaughters and one great-great-great-granddaughter. Moska herself is an Aristocrat mare with 11 champion offspring. Descendants of Moska have won at U.S. and Canadian Nationals, Youth Nationals, and Sport Horse Nationals as well as local and regional shows.

These champions represent nearly every conceivable discipline from halter to racing.

Figure 1. **MOSKA'S AHW ARISTOCRAT FAMILY**

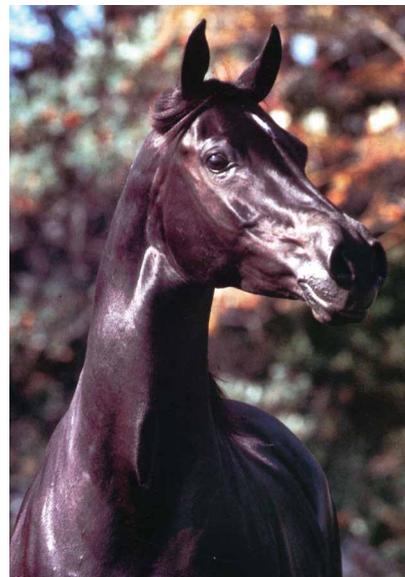
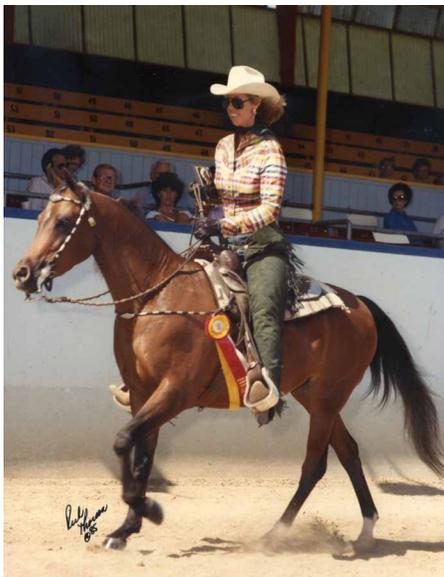


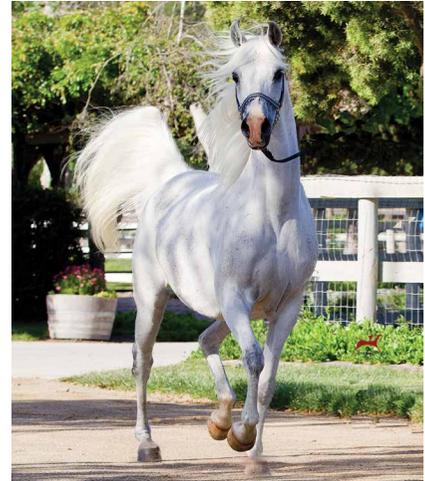
Names in **bold** are Aristocrats.

LEFT: **MOSQUERADE V** (Huckleberry Bey x Moska)

CENTER: **MARIGOLD V** (Bay El Bey x Moska)

RIGHT: **SPINNING SONG** (*Bask x Moska)





LEFT: **SWEET SANADIKA V** (*Sanadik El Shaklan x SweetInspirationV)

CENTER: **SWEET SIESTA V** (Desperado V x Sweet Shalimar V)

TOP RIGHT: **MISTI MORN V** (Audacious PS x Misti V)

BOTTOM RIGHT: **SWEET SHALIMAR V** (Ali Jamaal x SweetInspirationV)

All four of Moska's sons are champions, and two, Moonstone Bey V (by Bay El Bey) and Mosketan V (by Huckleberry Bey), have won at the national level and have descendants with multiple registered offspring.

Moska had foals by four stallions, *Bask (Spinning Song, her first foal), Bay El Bey (Bonnie Bey, Blossom Bey, Daisy Bey, Morning Rose V, Marigold V, Moonstone Bey V, and Moonstar Bey V), Huckleberry Bey (Mosquerade V, Mochaberry Bey V, Mosketan V, Mistletoe Bey V, Monarch Bey V, and Mexico V), and Desperado V (Mona Lisa V and Madonna V). All but one of Moska's 16 foals have registered foals.

Four descendants of Moska daughters produced well into the current decade, two of these for the Varian Arabian breeding program, Spinning Song and Marigold V. Spinning Song foaled seven fillies and four of these went on to produce, two for Varian Arabians. Six of Marigold V's foals were fillies and three of these produced foals for Varian Arabians, a fourth was sold and went on to produce for her new owners. All four Marigold daughters that produced have descendants into the current decade through female lineage. Her daughter, Morning Star V had seven foals. All were raced including Delphine, who had an impressive racing career before her first foal was born in 2011.

This lineage of Moska female descendants is illustrated



in Figure 2, which can be viewed online at <https://arabianhorseworld.com/the-moska-legacy-lineage-chart/>.

Numerous mares of Moska's female lineage are being used by other breeders to produce foals in the current decade, a total of 42. All of this is quite remarkable for a mare born less than five decades ago.

Major Mac V, the Varian stallion that was chosen by Sheila to carry on the lineage of Bay-Abi as a 6th-generation sire line descendant, carries the blood of Moska through her daughter, Marigold V, dam of Major Mac V's sire, Maclintock V.

A visit to the Varian Arabians farm is always an enlightening experience. Other successful breeding lines are present in the pastures and stallion barn as well. The opportunity to observe the female breeding line of "a once in a lifetime mare," according to Angela, through so many generations is an exceptional one. A visitor to Varian Arabians can closely follow and explore multiple generations of the Balalajka line through descendants of her great-granddaughter, Moska. 🐾