The founder of the HADBAN line in the Shagya-Arabian breed was the desert-bred grey **HADBAN or.ar.** (editor’s note: The abbreviation or.ar., which stands for “original arabian” is used in many texts and pedigrees indicating that the horse was born in the Arabian desert.) **HADBAN or.ar.**, bred by the El Sbaa Bedouin tribe was born in 1891 and was brought to Babolna by then-Commander Fadlallah el Hedad in 1897, where he stood at stud until 1902.
Hadban I (Hadban or.ar. x 24 Gazlan), born at Babolna in 1899, was sold to German Southwest Africa (now Namibia), where he sired over 300 offspring.

HADBAN’s son Hadban I’s quality was not immediately recognized due to the tendency of this line to mature late, and Hadban I was moved from Babolna to the Royal State Stallion Depot at Debrecen, and in 1910 he was sold and exported to Namibia in Africa.

Another son of HADBAN, Hadban II, was born in 1903. His dam was a Gazlan I daughter, 52 Gazlan I, whose tail female line traces to the English Thoroughbred mare 30 Maria xx. Hadban II stood at stud in Babolna from 1917 to 1920 and was moved to Debrecen in late 1920. While in Babolna in 1917, he sired a son out of 21 Hamdani Semri-2, who went to Romania in 1919, and eventually stood at the State Stud Farm at Radautz as Hadban III. (editor’s note: According to Erika Schiele in her 1967 book, The Arabian Horse in Europe, “...During the First World War the Babolna Stud was evacuated in the face of the Rumanian invasion of 1919, all except the mares that were heavy in foal or had just foaled. But the Rumanians took away all they could lay their hands on, comprising sixty-five brood mares, forty young stock, and thirty-eight weaned foals, as well as the twenty-six-year-old Siglavy Bagdady Sr.”) This stallion, Hadban III, stolen from Babolna by the Romanian Army, founded the HADBAN line in Romania, while the HADBAN sire line eventually disappeared in Hungary. Hadban III’s 1907 son out of the Radautz-bred purebred Arabian mare 265 Amurath-11, became Hadban IV, who became, for all practical purposes the progenitor of all further “HADBANS”.

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A stallion performance testing 4,000 meter race in Radautz in 1936 shows a son of Hadban IV (out of 4 Dahoman XIX) winning in 4.56 minutes. Brabinetz archive
Several HADBAN-line stallions also were significant outside Romania. For example Hadban XIII, a brown stallion born in 1960 out of 70 Shagya XXX-5, was born in Mangalia. According to Professor Ottescu this Hadban XIII measured 15.2 and was a strong and fertile stallion with a small head with a straight profile, a significant neck, good withers, and a strong back as well as a very broad and deep chest. One of his sons was the mighty white Hadban XIII-77, who stood at the Anglo-Arabian Stud Farm Jegalia, where he was known as “Halmieu”. Standing 16.1 hands, he was at the upper size limit for his breed. He was known as not only a good riding horse, but also as a very good carriage horse.

The very best son of Halmeu was the white “Serpas”, who has proven himself to be a prepotent stallion in Jegalia. He was known as the best dressage horse of his day in Romania. Hadban XIII-77 and his paternal half-brother Hadban XIII-38 made a well-matched driving pair. Their powerful matching trots were only eclipsed by Hadban XXII, whom we shall mention later in this article.

Another of Hadban XIII’s sons, the brown Hadban XX, out of 96 Koheilan XXI-9, also became chief stallion. Hadban XX was a well-respected stallion who became known particularly for producing fine daughters.

Hadban XIII’s grey paternal half-brother Hadban XXII, out of 86 Koheilan XXI-5 from the mare family VII in Radautz, was born in 1964 and is the main progenitor of the HADBAN sire line in Romania today. He was a strong stallion measuring over 15.3, who, at his performance test on the infamously hard ground of the Baragan Steppe was the superior winner under the rider as well as in front of the carriage. As a carriage horse he was unsurpassed, so much so that it was difficult to find a suitable match for him. He also proved to be an exquisite riding horse, and was featured in several movies. There was always a continuous quarrel amongst the actors and their doubles because they all wanted to ride only him! He had the bad luck to suffer a serious hoof injury and also was badly bitten by another stallion who accidentally got loose in the stable. He produced four approved sons in Jegalia which were used for both Shagya-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian breeding. Many of his daughters were exceptionally good performers, and some of these daughters were also used for Anglo-Arabian breeding.
Hadban XXII and his descendants are known for their willingness and firmness of character which is so typical of the Shagya-bred horses.
Hadban XXVII, by Hadban XXII and out of 162 Mersuch-66 was during his lifetime already known as one of the best Shagya-Arabian stallions in Romania. This liver chestnut stallion with no white markings was born in the fall of 1980 in Brebeni.

Measuring 16 hands tall, with a 20.5 cm. cannon, he was noble and appealing despite his big size, and had a great “stallion expression”. He had a broad and deep body, well-formed prominent withers, a good topline and a faultless foundation (i.e. legs). He was remarkable in appearance, with his sweeping, lightly springing trot. His rhythmic, ground-covering walk as well as his “flying” gallop fully answered the modern breeding aim. One could not overlook his exquisite character and his matching temperament. His strength and caliber are certainly traceable to the 10 members of the SHAGYA line going back to the 5th generation. He was used a great deal at stud in Brebeni, Slatina, and finally, in Radautz, and left behind mostly above-average descendants. Unfortunately, a strong colic put an end to his life way too early.

His son Hadban XXXIII, born in Brebeni and out of 214 Shagya LI-28 (whose dam line is the Babolna line of 52 O’Bajan Siglavy, or.ar., 1848) stood at the State Stud of Mangalia for a short time before he was exported to Germany in 1994 for his new owner Sabine Koerber. He was presented in Aachen in 1997 and impressed with his nobility and his strong shoulders as well as his dynamic movements and outstanding character. His performance ability has been convincingly proven by his successful completion of sixteen 50-mile endurance rides.
Another son of Hadban XXVII, and quite obviously his best, is the dark brown Harapnik, who was imported in utero from Radautz to Germany by Gaby Conradty in 1989. His dam Putna (born Koheilan XXIX-12) belongs to the Radautz mare family XXXVI/759 Moldauerin, and has proven herself to be a long-lived, useful and reliable using horse. (editor’s note: Putna’s dam, 173 Hadban XIII, was by the previously-described Hadban XIII, born in 1960 in Mangalia. Hadban XIII and Harapnik’s paternal grandsire Hadban XXII were both sons of Hadban XI, thus consolidating the blood of Hadban XI in the pedigree of Harapnik.)

Harapnik has very little purebred Arabian blood--in the 5th generation the only purebred Arabian is 19 Koheilan IV-17 from Babolna. Thus, Harapnik is a very welcome partner, even for mares with a high percentage of purebred Arabian blood. In 1993 Harapnik was on lease in lower Austria where, of his 8 foals, three sons were later approved as stallions and three mares became approved breeding mares. In Germany Harapnik passed the stallion performance test in Marbach with 107.61 points, placing fifth out of 24. He had especially high notes for character, temperament, performance capacity, and rideability.

Harapnik (Hadban XXVII x Koheilan XXIX-12)
Ingrid Zeunert photo
Standing 16 hands tall, with a 19 cm. cannon, he is a classical type of Shagya-Arabian according to Austrian ideals, and fulfills the breeding aim for this breed. So far he has one approved son in Germany. A few of the photos of his offspring in Austria which accompany this article illustrate the worth of this above-average sire. In 1996 Harapnik stood at stud in Czech Republic as Hadban I CZ, where his offspring proved very satisfactory.

Harapnik in Czech Republic. Due to the success of his Austrian-bred offspring, Austrian breeder Joseph Weiss leased Harapnik again in 2002. Peter Gorozdi photo. One of the mares bred was the Amos daughter Irahana-453, below, right, who was imported to the US in 2003 and produced the colt foal *Hadban USA, below, left, who was approved for breeding in 2009.
Sons and Daughters of Harapnik

A paternal half-sister of Harapnik, the stately black Hadban XXVI-34, out of 326 Hadban XXV-18, was born in Radautz in 1991. She went via the Hungarian stud farm Gyuerues into the possession of Peter Windrath of Italy. She belongs to the Radautz mare family XVIII, which was founded by “Stute 54”, born in 1820. In Italy she has had one colt and one filly, both of which are growthy and well-built and show great promise. In both cases the sire is Mersuch XIX-37, a noble black stallion born in Brebeni in 1987.

With the stallion Hadban XVI, we will conclude our article about the HADBAN line. This stallion, born in Mangalia in 1955, out of 136 Shagya XXVI-1 (from the mare family of 638 Moldauerin from the Bukowina Military Stud Farm, 1875) did not have offspring which futhered the sire line in Romania. His sire was Hadban VII, born in 1938 in Mangalia, who measured 15 hands with a 19.7 cm. cannon. Hadban XVI had a son born in Mangalia in 1969 who later came to Germany, where he was approved for breeding in 1973 and registered as Hadban XVI-8. He was a noble-appearing stallion,
but with his height of only 14.3 1/2 hands, he was not very impressive. His dam belonged to the Radautz mare family of XLIX, J Harmonia, 1796 Lipizza. Unfortunately, in Volume I of the German Studbook for Shagya Arabians there are several faults in his pedigree as written.

In April, 1992 Hadban XVI-8 produced the grey stallion Ramiro out of Resandra. His measurements of 15.3, with a 20 cm cannon, are probably due partly to having been raised with better nutrition than was available for his ancestors, as well as to a good knowledge of pedigrees by his breeder, along with some luck. On his dam’s side in the second, third and fourth row of ancestors are measurements of 15.3, 15.1, and 16 hands. These are members of the Radautz line of Shagya X. Experienced breeders know that size is not inherited from the parents alone. At the Marbach Stallion Performance Test Hadban XVI-8 had a score of 105.36 points. For temperament, character, willingness to perform, as well as jumping talent and scope he got 9 points. His breeder and owner is Irene Stassen. He has had numerous show successes including Reserve Championship in 1994 in Neustadt-Dosse and in 1999 in Stadl-Paura, as well as winning his class in 1996 in Babolna. In 1994 he was the winning stallion at the approval in Vechta, receiving gold. He is showing great talent in dressage and jumping under saddle and his foals are clearly taking after him, distinguishing themselves with good growth, caliber, correctness, nobleness, gaits, and character. His full sisters Hadba II, 1989, Rissala, 1994, and Rahwina, 1995, are all of similar high quality.

Hadban XVI-8, 1969 Mangalia by Hadban XVI, Mangalia and out of 328 Gazal VI-13, photographed at age 27.
“Blood Will Tell”--Evidence of In-depth Pedigree Study Resulting in Success:

The Shagya-Arabian Stallion Ramiro, by Hadban XVI-8 and out of Resanda by Radautz, has been successfully shown up to “class M” in dressage

(Editor’s note: While judging the International Championship Show for Shagya-Arabians in Babolna in 1996 I was quite impressed with Ramiro, and even more so with his full sister Hadba II. Of course I didn’t know who they were, their pedigrees, or even that they were related while judging the show, but I remember clearly that Hadba II was the mare at that show that really stood out in my mind as a real RIDING horse, and I told her owner/breeder that when presenting her with her ribbon. I was quite amazed when studying the pedigrees afterwards to see that these two individuals were the offspring of a stallion with a rather “unimpressive” photo in the German Studbook--and I was quite impressed with the expertise of the breeder to have had the wisdom to choose to breed her Radautz daughter to Hadban XVI-8!)