

PADRONS MAHOGANY

(1986-2010)

by LINDA WHITE

Another significant sire has passed away. Padrone Mahogany (*Padrone x Hal Ane Versare, by Hal Thats Amore), one of the most compelling show champions of his era, died at Grand Arabians, Grand Rapids, Mich., his home since 1987. His impact was significant: 214 of his 403 purebred and Half-Arabian offspring earned 3,781 points, scoring in every division offered for Arabian horses. Halter championships accounted for the greatest totals, but his offspring also accumulated points in every performance division, from reining, dressage, informal combination, country pleasure, western and English pleasure, to park, working western, sport horse in hand and endurance. Few stallions can boast siring that breadth of versatility.

His own beauty, grace, quality and refinement reflected the exceptional individuals from whom he was descended. In the fashion of stallions whose looks point to their breeding, he dependably passed on his finest qualities year after year.

Grand Arabians owner Linda Mehney grew up with horses, and she began showing Arabians in 1982. On a visit to Midwest Training Centre in 1985, she saw and purchased Hal Mio Mi and bred her to *Padrone. On that visit Mehney saw Hal Ane Versare, also in foal to *Padrone for 1986, but passed on buying her. Hal Ane Versare delivered a colt, and when the colt was 2 days old, Bob Boggs sent the Mehneys a Polaroid of him with a note saying, "See what you missed?" Boggs showed the colt, Padrone Mahogany, to a junior championship as a yearling—and sent the Mehneys photos of the occasion. Boggs would later show him to a Canadian National Top Ten.

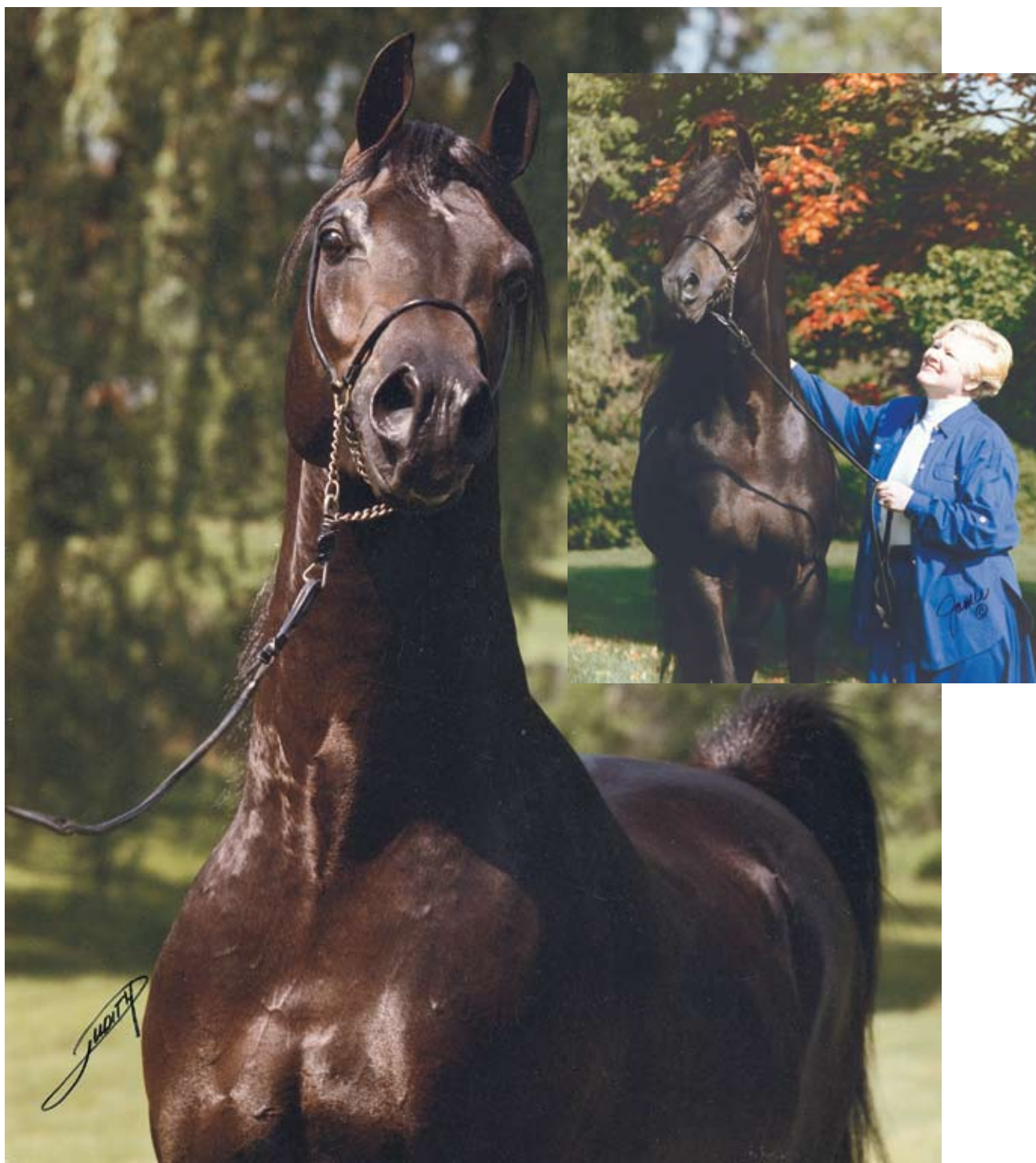
"I still have all those photos," says Mehney. "We bought Padrone Mahogany with three other couples in 1987 and sent him to Bob Battaglia, who showed him to English pleasure championships the only two times he was shown (in performance). After he returned here for the breeding season, I kept putting Bob off when he wanted me to send the horse back for the next season. 'I think he

has park in him!'" Battaglia told her, but Mehney kept putting Battaglia off, unwilling to let the horse leave the farm again.

"Poor Bob!" Mehney says. "He knew the horse could go much farther in performance, but we had been so successful selling breedings that we just couldn't do without him. I finally asked Bob, 'What about one of his children?' Something like 30 of his offspring won at the various Michigan futurities and also won the Get of Sire class at Scottsdale, against Bey Shah!" Mehney believes that 18 of Padrone Mahogany's foals were national winners.

The magnificent, mahogany bay stallion's dam, Hal Ane Versare, went to Grand Arabians in 1987, the same year the four couples bought her son. Six of her seven foals were national winners. Her 1992 Padrone Psyche son, GA Hal Psyche, was 1995 U.S. and Canadian National Champion Futurity Colt, and then 1997 and 1999 U.S. National Top Ten Stallion for Rojo Arabians, who had purchased him after his second 1995 national futurity win. Another of Hal Ane Versare's foals was exported unshown, first to the Netherlands, and later, to France. He sired 18 foals.

Back in Grand Rapids, Padrone Mahogany was siring champion after champion. Linda Mehney and Joy Hatten, trainer at Grand Arabians for the past 22 years, handled him themselves. "His personality was amazing!" Mehney explains. "He was a very knowing horse. He was so bright, and so kind, but a little spoiled; he always knew when you had a treat to give him, and if it started to rain while he was turned out, he would demand to be taken back indoors. If you were paying attention to another horse and not to him, when he thought you had ignored him long enough, he would start knocking on his stall door. How lucky we were to have him! We had so much fun! He taught me to be a student: taught me how to deal with a stallion, and caused me to take breeding courses at Colorado State, where I learned something new every year.



“He never let us down,” she adds. “Joy and I would handle collecting him, and Joy always presented him in hand. He allowed us to do anything with him. He was so tuned in! He was very placid and mild at home, or even away from home, but when it was show time—oh, boy! (I never knew who was having more fun, Joy or the horse.) He loved the whole scene. He and Joy even had a little routine they would do when people came to see

him. After the shows were over and all the people had left, Joy’s little Jack Russell, Annie, would take his lead line in her mouth and ‘lead’ him back to his stall—or turn-out pasture, unless it was raining, of course. He followed along, a few steps behind her, like a gentle little pet dog.

“He was the horse of a lifetime.” ■