



# Moments in Time

Some horses find their way to your heart and will stay there forever. One of those horses that I always will bring with me is the amazing stallion Parys (Tryptyk x Parma by Aswan). Parys was born at the Janów Podlaski State Stud in Poland on 7 March 1974. He went to the racetrack as a three-year old and raced for five years with 46 races (10xI, 4xII, 3xIII, 10xIV) and was named Polish Racehorse of the Year. Parys was also named 1984 Polish National Champion Stallion.

Words and photography by Anette Mattsson

Eventually, Parys was put into the stallion barn and selected to be one of the chief sires at Janów. Unfortunately, he only produced 10 offspring between 1983 and 1986 as he was intimidated by the other stallions in the stallion barn and did not feel comfortable breeding.

The following year, I was working at Beit El Kheil Arabians with Erik and Åsa Melander.

They were the previous owners of Parys' sire Tryptyk (Aquino x Tryncza by Trypolis), before they sold him to the USA in 1983. Because of this connection, Erik had knowledge about Parys and his achievements over the years. During a visit in the fall of 1987 to Janów, Erik made an agreement with Director Krzyształowicz to buy Parys with the hope that we would be able to make him breed mares again. Otherwise we would have the most beautiful "gelding" in the world!

Parys arrived to a cold and snowy Sweden right before New Year's Eve in 1987. He was the ultimate fairytale horse: snow white with black skin and huge black eyes, he had the sweetest temperament ever and everything just stopped when he showed off his amazing movement.

At that time we had three other stallions at Beit El Kheil – Etnograf (Engano x Etna by Faher), Karnawal (Etap x Kasta by Wielki Szlem) and Exodus (Cadyk x Ex Diara by Exelsjor) – and we had two barns at the farm. Etnograf was the undisputed king and had the big barn for himself and all his mares. He did not appreciate the arrival of Parys at all, as we moved Etnograf down to the smaller barn with the other stallions and all the youngsters. Our plan was to give Parys more self-esteem without any kind of competition from other stallions. So, he was

placed in the big barn and each afternoon, I walked him down the aisle and let him talk to the mares – only the friendly ones! Parys was a charmer like his sire and he did the same thing as Tryptyk, that when you walked up to them, they stuck their tongue out between their teeth. Parys loved attention and my favourite time of the day to spend with him was when I would stand in his stall and brush him; he would gently



hold the arm of my jacket with his teeth, happy to be there with me.

It was a very anxious time before the breeding season started as we did not know if the problems that he had suffered in Poland were still there. We had breeders from all over the world paying attention to the farm to see whether we would succeed or not. Parys bred his first mare in March and everything went like a dream. He never failed once and all the mares bred were in foal at the end of the season. Parys was happy and we were even happier to handle such an amazing horse on a daily basis.

As Parys had improved so much, we moved Karnawal to the big barn and he became Parys' best buddy. They stood opposite to each other and each time I brought one of them in or

out, they just had to say hello. Parys stuck his tongue out and Karnawal would play with it, both stallions extremely sweet and friendly; it was a lovely bond to see, especially between two breeding stallions. As they got on so well in the stables, we moved their pastures next to each other so that they could enjoy each other's company while they were outside too.

In May, we started to show train Parys and his first show in Sweden was the regional show in Karlshamn, where he had to qualify for the Swedish National Show. People were thrilled to see Parys and he was the unanimous Champion Stallion. Such a great weekend! The next show was the Swedish National Show at the prestigious Flyinge Stallion Depot, where the first Swedish National Show was held in 1966. Greg Hazlewood came to Sweden for the first time and he showed Parys to his National Championship title.

Parys did the long journey from Sweden down to Paris in December to be shown at the prestigious Salon du Cheval and it was a huge triumph for us all when he was named World Reserve Champion Stallion.

Parys arrived in Sweden on a cold winter's day in 1987 and one year later, we had all made such an impressive journey with him. Parys was a horse with a big heart and he would do anything for you. To have been a part of the journey that made him blossom is one of the best journeys that I have made. It was with great pride that we looked back at his success in the show-ring during the year while looking forward to seeing his foals come the following season. And the snow-white fairytale stallion was in my heart to stay forever... ❖

