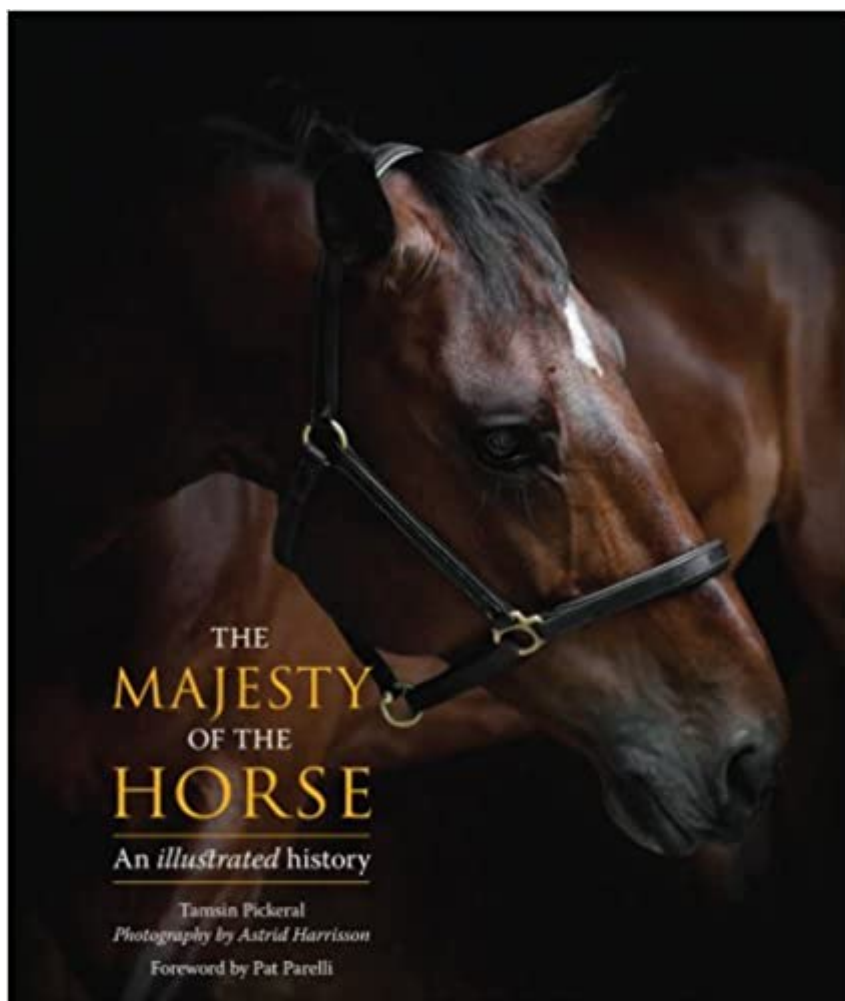


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# The Majesty Of The Horse: An Illustrated History



## Synopsis

Horses have played a central role in human societies for millennia, and this magnificently written and beautifully illustrated volume celebrates that long, eventful history. It pays homage not only to the physical splendor of the horse--its grace, beauty, strength, and adaptability--but also to its remarkable diversity. Equestrian specialist Tamsin Pickeral traces the evolution of many different horse breeds from the dawn of written history to the present day. Separate chapters are devoted to--

- The Ancient World-- the nomadic horse peoples of the Eurasian steppes, the Gotland Pony, used by the Goths as chariot horses, the Camargue, an ancient working breed that was taken into Spain by the Romans, and many more
- From the East-- Mongolian stocks, the influence of Ghengis Khan, the introduction of polo, the spread of the Arabian horse breed, and more
- The War Horse-- the rise of the heavy cavalry horse, Charles Martel and the influence of the Crusades on horse breeding, the Spanish and Portuguese originators of horse-riding cowboys, the horse in the Napoleonic wars, and more
- The New World-- the horse's arrival in South America, brought in by the Spanish, and the subsequent development of American breeds
- Racing Hunting and Sports Horses-- Racing thoroughbreds, Irish hunters, Holsteins, Australian breeds, and more
- Harness Horses, Carriage Driving, and Trotting-- the development of horses mainly used today for show and skill work, and German Oldenburg carriage horses, now widely used in riding competitions
- Agriculture and Industry-- The transformation of war horses into widely varied breeds that were developed for working the land, working in mines, serving as police horses, and more

Magnificent color photos by distinguished equine photographer Astrid Harrisson are complemented with reproductions of equine artworks from around the world--a total of 400 beautiful illustrations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Both writer Pickeral and photographer Harrison have a background in art and a love of horses. This lovely illustrated volume is more than a coffee-table book. Pickeral and Harrison traveled across the world to research and photograph more than 80 breeds of horses—some common, some rare. The book shares little-known facts that explain the survival of horses in difficult environments; e.g., the purpose of the thick hairs that grow along the upper lips of Kazakh horses is to sift sand from the grass before they eat it, and the double coats of Exmoor ponies help them survive harsh winters. This volume is highly recommended for horse lovers, animal lovers, and art lovers.”  
—Patsy E. Gray, *Library Journal*, January 01, 2012

(back cover) Award-winning horse photographer Astrid Harrison and equestrian expert Tamsin Pickeral spent a year combing the world in search of the best examples of more than eighty diverse horse breeds. This book is the result of their ambitious project: a fascinating read accompanied by sensitive and striking photography. Discover the vital role that the magnificent horse has played throughout history, from plow horse to racehorse. Trace the development of the most striking and significant breeds, and learn intriguing tales about breeds that are now almost forgotten. Sumptuously illustrated throughout, this unique book was written and produced for everyone who loves horses.

(front flap) Written as a glorious celebration of this noblest of animals, *The Majesty of the Horse* explores the sheer beauty and grandeur of horses, revealing the central role they have played in human societies throughout the world and across the ages. The book also showcases equine photographer Astrid Harrison’s amazing portraiture and stunning images of horses in motion, with pictures that capture the essence of many different breeds. This lavish book pays homage not only to the physical splendor of the horse—its grace, strength, and extraordinary adaptability—but also to the animal’s remarkable diversity. Equestrian specialist Tamsin Pickeral traces the evolution of the most significant and fascinating breeds, among them, the tiny, fiery Caspian, a native of the Caspian Sea’s south shore; the proud Thoroughbred; the genetically pure Icelandic Pony; the heroic Shire horse; and many others. For millennia, horses have enabled humankind to work the land effectively, travel across vast territories, go to war, and ride for sport and pleasure. Open this richly illustrated book and you’ll discover the stories behind more than eighty breeds, including the world’s oldest known horse breeds, workhorses bred for specific tasks, horses bred for specific sports, and still other horses bred to suit specific environments. With

evocative text and photos of exceptional quality, *The Majesty of the Horse* is an essential volume for everyone who loves horses. (back flap) Tasmin Pickeral, horse expert and art historian, grew up surrounded by horses in the English countryside, where she developed a continuing passion for these magnificent animals, their history, and their relationship with human beings. She has lived both in Europe and North America, working with horses, tending to their care, health, and management. A widely published author, she has written several books on animal themes. Astrid Harrison has many years of experience working as a graphic designer, photographer, and creative director. She began photographing horses in 2008 while working on a ranch in Argentina, and has since traveled widely in Europe, the Americas, India, Africa, China, and Australia, capturing award-winning photos of equine subjects. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Behind this book! More than a beautiful coffee table book, with its exquisite photographs and short breed descriptions, it is a must for any horse lover. A painless way, also, by the way, to learn some history, as she explains and describes the evolution of each breed's background. And again, lest I wasn't clear, the achingly beautiful photographs of one of the most divine creatures on earth.

What a wonderful collection of beautiful horses. What I love most about this book is the chronological research and divided sections on the different types of horses. I have loved and adored horses all my life, but I learned so much in just the first 30 minutes of reading my new book when it arrived. It's a nice size too, looks lovely on a coffee table or desk. Horses are the best friends and constant companions of human beings, how blessed are we to have them whether they are in the wild or with us. As the unforgettable Diana Vreeland of *Vogue* and *Harpers Bizarre* once said..to see true elegance look at a thoroughbred race horse! They really are poetry in motion. Thank you Ms Pickeral.

The photographs are what make this book. The text lists breeds and describes their characteristics. But the photographs are sensational. The horses are photographed more as art than illustration. Gorgeous views of heads, eyes, muscles, movement. These are not the usual mane flying, galloping over the meadows shots: they are much more sensitive and somehow more intimate than the usual romantic horse pictures. Anyone who loves horses will be thrilled by these pictures. Can't explain it--you have to see them. Well produced, too. A perfect coffee table book for horse aficionados.

awesome book, high quality pictures and the book is large

My daughter-in-law loved this book.

Beautiful book! And there couldn't be a more astoundingly beautiful subject than the horses of the world. Beautifully done! Just happen to be a bit partial to the rare breed starting on page 198- the CURLY HORSE! Yep, those are our beauties proudly representing this wonderful breed! See more at [three-feathers.com](http://three-feathers.com)! Very nice book for a gift or a coffee table at home!!

BEAUTIFUL coffee table book with exquisite photographs made perfect due to excellent and fascinating history of each breed. Especially noteworthy are its in depth discussions of rare and extinct breeds.. To be enjoyed for its art and its scholarship... Wonderful find.

A great book with the history of some breeds of horses I have never even heard of. Excellent read for the equine enthusiast !!

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