

Mackay-Smith, Alexander. *The Colonial Quarter Race Horse*. Richmond, Virginia: Helen Kleberg Groves, 1983. Pp. xxxiii, 328. Photos, illustrations, notes, bibliography, appendices, index. \$100.00 (cloth).

Alexander Mackay-Smith, author of at least seven previous books on his two favorite topics, foxhunting and race horses, is Editor Emeritus of the weekly *The Chronicle of the Horse* and founder and Chairman of the Board of the National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Virginia. He is a respected and knowledgeable horseman which is evidenced by the cooperation he received in compiling the vast amount of information contained in the book. Mackay-Smith enjoyed the use of books and sporting journals long out of print, many of which are only available in private collections. He also effectively utilized rare and valuable prints and paintings from the best public and private collections in the United States as well as Canada, Great Britain, and Ireland. The acquaintances made by Mackay-Smith over years of involvement in horse-related activities coupled with his vast knowledge of the history of field sports, make him the perfect person for writing a book about *The Colonial Quarter Race Horse*.

The book is very attractive and appealing with beautiful type, generous margins, and a layout conducive to enjoying and understanding the material. Illustrations are presented in both color and black and white and are joined by numerous excellent reproductions of original maps, charts, pedigrees, letters, and advertisements which add immeasurably to the quality and beauty of the contents. Helen Kleberg Groves, daughter of the late Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen Campbell Kleberg of the King Ranch, Kingsville, Texas, was the publisher of the book. Her father founded the American Quarter Horse Association in 1940 and developed the famous King Ranch strain of Quarter Horses. The last two articles in the appendix outline Kleberg's breeding program and the goals toward which it was directed. Mrs. Groves provides a nice introduction to the book where she reminisces about her parents, their love of horses, and the King Ranch. Robert M. Denhardt, author of *The Quarter Horse* (1941), *The Horse of the Americas* (1947), *Quarter Horses, A Story of Two Centuries* (1967), *The King Ranch Quarter Horses* (1970), and *The Quarter Running Horse, America's Oldest Breed* (1979) among several others, writes a very approving and complimentary foreword.

Mackay-Smith writes his story in fifteen chapters equally divided between

three major chronological parts-Part I, 1611-1745; Part II, 1745-1783; and Part III, Colonial Quarter Race Horse Strains in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Additional information, which does not fit so nicely in the scheme of chapters, is provided in an extensive appendix. Here, we find articles on racing in Ireland in the Middle Ages and in England and Italy during the 15th and 16th centuries, "18th Century Quarter Racing in England, 1769-1791" by P. R. Sayward, pacing standardbred harness race horses, the Edgar quarter running horse pedigrees, and Chickasaw Indian horses and the ancestry of colonial quarter horses. Each chapter is followed by footnotes and the book concludes with a very helpful bibliography and separate subject and general indexes. The indexes, with their detail, completeness, and accuracy, compiled by Mrs. Robert R. Williams, make using the publication as a book of reference very rewarding.

The author presents with skill this exciting era of American sport when Quarter Horse racing was the only organized sport. Convincingly, Mackay-Smith explains that the Quarter Horse is the world's oldest breed of race horse as well as America's oldest breed of horse and only native breed of running race horse. He also elaborates on the influence of the colonial Quarter Race Horse strains on the Thoroughbred, the Plantation Saddle Horse, the Standardbred, the American Saddlebred, and the Tennessee Walking Horse. Intertwined in the narrative are the contributions of the individuals that played key roles in the development of the Quarter Horse as well as detailed accounts of native and imported stock, stud books, and pedigrees.

*The Colonial Quarter Race Horse* is a good book for every owner, rider, or admirer of the Quarter Horse since it, like all good history, provides the reader with an understanding, appreciation, and respect for what has gone before-a significant perspective for the present. The long and eventful history of the breed is also crucial for scholars of equestrianism as well as the general sport historian since it provides the documentation for America's first organized sport. Racing over a quarter mile course was a form of public entertainment during colonial times and has maintained its popularity and appeal into the present. Mackay-Smith has done much to enrich our comprehension of this interesting and long-lived breed of horse.

University of Washington

Jack W. Berryman