



Holiday Books And Gifts For The Horse Lover

by DEBRA GINSBURG

Horse Racing History

***The 10 Best Kentucky Derbies* by the Staff and Correspondents of *The Blood-Horse* (Lexington, KY: Eclipse Press, 2005) 200 pages, Hardcover, \$24.95**

The first in what should be a series of Kentucky Derby books that follow in the tradition of the late Jim Bolus' multi-book series about the "greatest two minutes in sports." Contributors for this volume include Tracy Gantz, former managing editor of *The Thoroughbred of California*, and freelancer Craig Harzmann, a familiar name to present-day readers of the *California Thoroughbred*. Since the 10 Derbies featured here are all so special, it must have been extremely difficult for the panel of experts to pick these from 130 runnings.



***The Most Glorious Crown: The Story of America's Triple Crown Thoroughbreds from Sir Barton to Affirmed* by Marvin Drager: (Chicago, Ill: Triumph Books, 2005) 284 pages, Hardcover, \$29.95**

First published in 1975, shortly after Secretariat's Triple Crown triumph, this book has been revised and expanded to include Seattle Slew, Affirmed and all the near-misses through Smarty Jones last year. Comes with a DVD of The History Channel's highly acclaimed horse racing documentary, *Win, Place or Show*.

***Bold Ruler* (Thoroughbred Legends Series #24) by Edward L. Bowen (Lexington, KY: Eclipse Press, 2005) 192 pages, Hardcover, \$24.95**

Horse Care

***Horse Housekeeping: Everything You Need To Know To Keep A Horse At Home* by Margaret and Michael Korda (New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers, 2005) 207 pages, Hardcover, \$26.95**

***Horses for Dummies* by Audrey Pavia with Janice Posnikoff DVM (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing Inc., 2005) 365 pages, Paperback, \$21.99**

Personal Accounts

***Josie and Her Iron Horses* by Rosemary Anderson Taggart (Portland, OR: Inkwat Press, 2004) 157 pages, Paperback (Hardcover edition available soon), \$24.95**

Rosemary Taggart's biography of her mother not only chronicles a colorful era in California racing, but it's a superb history of life in Southern California in the early 20th century. Josie Anderson was only 16 years old when she received her trainer's license to train her own stable of Thoroughbreds, becoming one of the first women to make such a breakthrough in a sport that was almost entirely dominated by men. Taggart has a great feel for history and her collection of rare vintage photographs even enhances her words.



***The Licorice Daughter: My Year with Ruffian* by Lyn Lifshin (Huntsville, TX: Review Press, 2005) 113 pages, Paperback, \$14.95 (signed copies available for \$19.00)**

A great collection of poetry that pays tribute to the life and death of the great Ruffian.

***Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of A Horse and A Man Who Changed the World* by Mim Eichler Rivas (New York, NY: William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers 2005) 334 pages, Hardcover, \$25.95**

While the horse featured here was not a Thoroughbred, it is a fascinating account of a highly intelligent equine who learned to spell and count. As a spokes animal for the fledgling humane society movement in America, Jim Key had an exhibit hall at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and traveled all over the country to show off his rare talents to children and presidents alike.

***Race Day: A Spot on the Rail with Max Watman* (Chicago, IL: Ivan R. Dee, 2005) 252 pages, Hardcover, \$24.95**

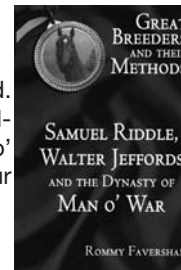
***Horseplayers: Life at the Track* by Ted McClelland (Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press Inc., 2005) 263 pages, Hardcover, \$24.95**

Breeding & Conformation

***Great Breeders and their Methods: Samuel Riddle, Walter Jeffords and the Dynasty of Man o' War* by Rommy Faversham (Neenah, WI: The Russell Meerdink Company Ltd, 2005) 176 pages, Hardcover, \$27.95**

This is one of the most fascinating accounts of Big Red's racing and stud career I've ever read. Pedigree expert Rommy Faversham successfully debunks many of the myths and untruths surrounding the great horse's owner, Samuel D. Riddle. One of which was that he didn't mismanage Man o' War's stud career at all. Man o' War's sire line has actually seen a recent revival, kept alive by four stallions that have strong ties to California: Cee's Tizzy, Tiznow, Bertrando and Officer.

***The Horse Conformation Handbook* by Heather Smith Thomas (North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing, 2005) 387 pages, Paperback, \$22.95**



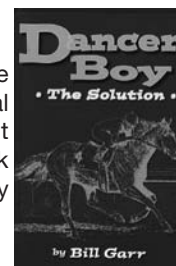
Betting/Handicapping

***Betting on Horse Racing for Dummies* by Richard Eng (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing Inc., 2005) 362 pages, Paperback, \$19.99**

Fiction

***Dancer Boy: The Solution* by Bill Garr (Sierra Madre, CA: Bill Garr, 2005), 314 pages, Hardcover, \$19.95**

Sure to evoke comparisons to the current theatrical film *Dreamer*, a teenage girl takes over the care and training of a rogue colt and helps him realize his potential. Written several years ago by local racing radio personality Bill Garr, the original manuscript sat on Howard Koch's desk at Paramount Studios for a year and a half crying for a movie to be made. Following Koch's death, Garr took back the script and this is the book that resulted. It has all the ingredients to make a memorable family film.



***Dead Heat* by William Murray (Lexington, KY: Eclipse Press, 2005) 288 pages, Hardcover, \$24.95**

Published posthumously, Murray's final horse racing mystery tells of a trainer down on his luck who mentors a promising young female jockey. Will remind readers of the 2004 hit movie *Million Dollar Baby*.

***Royal Heist* by Lynda La Plante (New York, NY: Ballantine Books, An Imprint of the Random House Publishing Group, 2005) 438 pages, Paperback, \$6.99**

Written by a Thoroughbred owner herself, this delightful mystery is about a former jewel thief who reinvents himself as a horse owner and attempts to win the Epsom Derby—with surprising results.

Stocking Stuffers

***Belmont Park: A Century of Champions* by Richard Stone Reeves and text by Edward L. Bowen (Lexington, KY: Eclipse Press, 2005) 192 pages, Hardcover, \$60**

Celebrating Belmont Park's 100th anniversary, this is the final collection of paintings from one of the greatest equine artists of all time who passed away just a few months ago.

***2006 Thoroughbred Times Racing Almanac* (Irvine, CA: BowTie Press, 2005) 958 pages, Paperback, \$19.95**

***After the Finish Line: The Race to End Horse Slaughter in America* by Bill Heller (Irvine, CA: BowTie Press, 2005) 183 pages, Paperback, \$16.95**

***On the Muscle: Portrait of a Thoroughbred Racing Stable* (Littlerock, CA: Pony Highway Productions, 2005) DVD available through www.ponyhighway.com, \$30**

This fascinating three-hour DVD is the end result of a year that documentary filmmakers Bill Yahraus and Robin Rosenthal spent with Hall of Fame trainer Richard Mandella and it was well worth the wait. Many of the behind-the-scenes details were eye-opening educational experiences even for this writer, as several of the horses went from being unheralded maidens to stakes stars. There is even an epilogue, filmed at Santa Anita Park on Breeders' Cup Day 2003, when Mandella-trained runners won four of the races, including Pleasantly Perfect's upset in the \$4 million Classic. The trainer's excitement and expressions as Breeders' Cup Day unfolded for him was particularly priceless.

