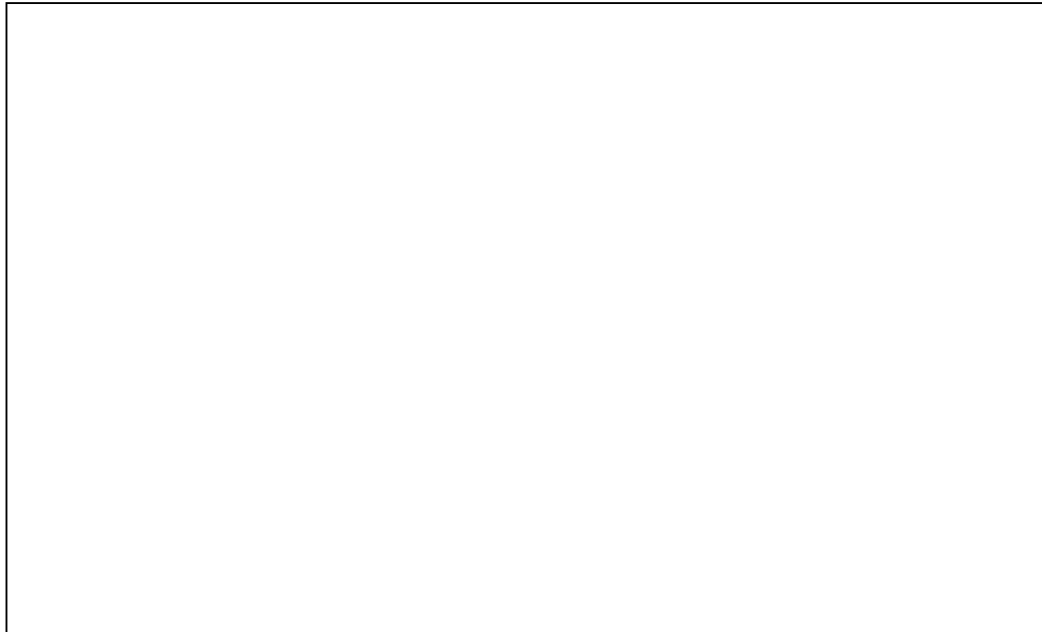


# **The Chilean Horse**

**America's Oldest Registered Cowhorse**



**One of the Rare Stock Horses that is a TRUE Breed**

**Volume I**

**Randall Ray Arms**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND GRATITUDES

This book was made possible because a very special friend, Dr. Manuel Valenzuela, was kind enough to take the time and interest to introduce me to this wonderful breed. When I saw the lack of literature that existed about the Chilean Horse, it was another dear friend Liliana Solari that urged me to actually begin the writing process. Had my life not come across these two extraordinary people, perhaps all this would never have happened and I thank Lili especially for having the foresight to think it was a valuable idea, while believing that I was capable of making it a reality. I doubt she ever imagined it would turn out to be such complex endeavor, but then again, her real gift in life is more about intuitively knowing what is worth doing, than it is worrying about how to get the end results.

I also would like to thank Gustavo Braun for lending me and later permitting me to copy his precious original version of Uldaricio Prado's 1914 masterpiece, *El Caballo Chileno 1541 a 1914 Estudio Zootécnico e Histórico Hípico*. Gustavo was one of the few people I met in the Chilean Thoroughbred industry that had a real appreciation for the Chilean Horse, as he was a past board member of the Chilean Rodeo Federation. I have tried in vain to get an original edition of this book Gustavo so graciously entrusted me with, but it is no longer in print. If I ever obtain one it will surely become my most treasured literary possession, but for now, my affection is limited to the over-manipulated photocopied version I have on my shelves.

I am especially indebted to another wonderful person, Dr. José Luis Pinochet. I respect and admire him as both a fine member of society and as a conscientious professional. He has given of himself generously to the Chilean Horse industry and to my way of thinking his many contributions have not been valued as much as they deserve. José Luis' wonderfully endowed memory for historical and genealogical details about the breed have been heaven sent. The complete collection of all the stud book volumes, as well as all the annuals of the Chilean Horse Breeders Association, the Federation of Chilean Horse Breeders and the Chilean Rodeo Federation he made available to me, were invaluable in the research for this book. His collection of slides of famous rodeo horses taken in the days when professional photographers still did not see the potential of this market also provided some important illustrations. The countless trips we made to visit breeders that readily received me in their homes because of their friendship with José Luis were priceless. Most likely, it was our professional commonalities that planted the seed of our acquaintance. However, what flowered was an exceptional friendship during the countless days and nights spent in his home. There, I not only received the hospitality of his loving wife Gabriela, but also the acceptance as one of the close-knit Pinochet family that includes four enthusiastic young adults with the vitality of their mother and the bigheartedness of their dad.

I certainly must thank the patience and perseverance of my editor Conor Fortune in helping me improve a literary work that suffered the consequences of my bicultural upbringing. Even my adult life has lacked enough cultural definition to make me competent in both languages I claimed to be fluent in. Conor has an open-minded international vision of the world as a result of having spent adult years of his life in Spain and Argentina. The fact that this came after having acquired a proficient grasp of the journalistic field using the English language, helped him to decipher my written intentions and express them with a clearer and more polished end result.

I am happy to express my gratitude to a Chilean abroad, Angelica Rivadeniera-Whelan, resident of Tucson, Arizona. We have established a wonderful internet friendship, while never having met personally. What initiated as a simple inquiry about the breed of horse she had a childhood recollection of while living in her country of origin, soon became a passionate revival of her Chilean roots with the turn of every page of my text. I sent my first manuscript to many people, but no one read it more meticulously than she. Her corrections and suggestions in both English and Spanish were positive additions, but it was her unceasing list of questions that contributed the most in pointing out where my writing could be improved. By far, the greatest value of "Angel's" intervention was letting me know what she did not understand, as this helped me make the book clearer for the readers that did not benefit from my level of expertise in the subject. No less important was her thrilling commentaries after every chapter, which I had to

constantly remind myself were not representative of the average reader, but which just the same, offered me the adrenaline rush to surge ahead in the never-ending task of finishing the book.

The other persons I have not met personally for whom I feel a great deal of appreciation are the authors of some very influential books in my quest to find answers regarding the subject in hand. In the course of this book, I will repeatedly express the utmost respect for Uldaricio Prado whose complete writing about the Chilean Horse in 1914 permitted his country to constantly receive the praises for such an objective scientific and historical analysis about a breed in an era when so few of them existed. He was truly a man ahead of his time. In much the same manner I feel Chile and I are also very much indebted to the personal and published efforts of Eduardo Porte Fernandez, whose book *Evaluación Técnica del Caballo Criollo Chileno* is a marvelous tribute to the field of Animal Science and places Chile in a class by itself insofar as a technical evaluation of a stock horse breed. I dare say most of the breeders around the world still don't value the worth that such a collection of scientific data offers to the progress of horse breeding, and Chileans are no exception. Nonetheless, my hat goes off to Don "Lalo" whom I have had the pleasure of meeting and befriending towards the end of this writing, and he lived up to all expectations.

Although my readings about the Andalusian (P.R.E) horse distanced me from their importance in the formation of the breeds of the Americas and even more so from the type of genes that were selected in the Chilean Horse, this viewpoint was largely made possible because of the thorough research in the wonderful works of Juan Carlos Altamirano. Both his *Historia y Origen del Caballo Español* and *El Caballo Español: La Evolución de su Morfología* are highly recommended books to anyone interested in horses of Iberian origin. Although Mr. Altamirano shows some minor disagreements with certain conclusions made by Silvia Loch in her classic book entitled *The Royal Horse of Europe*, it too is a marvelous reading experience that no Iberian horse fan should deny themselves.

In the palaeontological study of the horse I felt very fortunate having read Stephen Budiansky's *The Nature of Horses*, and if I have not mentioned him more in my text it has been so as to not be overly redundant. His ability to research such a technical field and make clear conclusions for the layman is something I hope to do as well someday. Other valuable sources in this field were the many web pages provided by Deb Bennett in her *Equine Studies Institute*. She introduced me to words I never knew existed but yet in having read them, enriched areas that needed more definition. This gifted author and illustrator is also responsible for a very valuable book entitled *Conquerors* that has been undersold when one thinks of the wealth of information it provides serious equine enthusiasts. I read this book after having completed the majority of my manuscript and found it interesting to compare notes because I too was fascinated by Dr. Bennett's main source *Caballos de América* by Ángel Cabrera, which I had read before starting my own book. I was able to include some crucial terms and ideas that Dr. Bennett points out in her excellent book, and perhaps had I read it earlier, her influence in my writings would have been greater. Still, my approval for her contribution to the literary world of horses would have me highly recommend all she offers to willing readers.

As the bibliography of this book will attest to, there is a long list of authors that have influenced my knowledge and thought regarding this subject matter. I would entice all Chilean Horse lovers to freely consider reading any of the books, articles and web pages I have listed at the end of each Volume. Certainly, some authors have influenced me more than others, but all of them have contributed to the mental database that permitted me to sit down and begin to write about this subject, and for their indirect contribution to this project, I give thanks.

I cannot think of expressing appreciations without referring to the Chilean Horse per se. In my manner of thinking, this is not only giving recognition to a marvelous breed that has overwhelmed my energies and emotions, but I think those feelings are also merited by the early breeders that were responsible for the formation of this peerless equine variety. I have mentioned eight breeders over time that had a special impact on the breed before and after its formal registry, but certainly there are many more, further back in history whose identities have been lost over time. It saddens me that we don't know more about the credits that deserve to be mentioned in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their names may have fallen into obscurity, but I hope

their spirit lives on in this book that tries to carry on the grandeur of this breed into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

No matter what I accomplish with the written word, nothing I do in life will provide me with a greater sense of satisfaction than having been partly responsible for bringing my son Rory and my daughter Rochelle into this world. Although their tremendous merits as outstanding members of society are more a product of the solid examples they received from their mother, as well as their own intellectual and emotional capacity to prioritize the things that really matter in life, I hope they know that they will never cease to be the reason for my existence. Their entrance into my life has given me all the motivation I need to try and do more each day in hopes of compensating the love they have blessed me with.

Perhaps one of the great frustrations of being a contemporary author is learning how much value is placed on every minute contribution that illustrates or enhances the propagation of knowledge. Sincerely this material world we live in irks me and I would like to think that knowledge as well as the pleasure of the arts should be available to everybody searching for their satisfaction. Originally I thought that all the years and personal funds that I have invested in this project would offer me some sort of income that could offset the lack of a pension fund my lifelong globetrotting has denied me. However, the more I saw price tags put on everything I hoped would make this a more didactic piece of literature the more I became convinced that for however long it was possible I wanted to make this book available to anybody that had the intellectual curiosity. A two volume book with this many illustrations would be a three figure purchase with expensive shipping fees that many people could not afford. In reality, my motivation has always been do to justice to the breed by informing the world about it. So I came to the decision that initially I would make this book available to everybody by providing it in a digital version that would continually be updated and perfected with the feedback of ongoing history and the interested feedback of readers.

In choosing to make this book a digital offering on my web site I must give special recognition to my son Rory as a pivotal person in making that possible. His profound understanding of the informative field always amazed me. Turning this book into .pdf files that are available to any interested party is the merit of my talented son that has also done an outstanding job of helping me make an extremely detailed breed web site known as [www.chileanhorse.com](http://www.chileanhorse.com)

Lastly, I am deeply indebted to my last spouse "Romy". Unfortunately a bout with cancer worked its way into our relationship as she asked to face her troubled world without me by her side. I must admit she has done it superbly and now looks to be in remission. Nevertheless, while writing much of this book she showed the patience of Job over a period of five years when I spent innumerable solitary hours in front of the computer, seemingly oblivious to the world with my nose buried in books. Alone, she "manned the fort" for countless days while I was away from home chasing down information or contacts that were needed to complete the objectives I set for this mission. No doubt she would have preferred that I had a more prestigious and remunerated occupation, but she kept those thoughts to herself, silently letting me pursue an obsessive dream that only an intellectual horse lover could understand. As a renowned archaeologist of northern Chile, an intellect she definitely is, but a horse lover, she is not. So, Romy comprehending my needs was surely a greater contribution than those that identified with my cause. In essence, it is a cherished sign of love and how could that not merit being included in a list of thank yous. I never imagined nor ever desired to reach the end of this lengthy project without her, but I hope that in some manner having brought this to completion honors the love that drove me to make her proud.

**Full page picture**

## DEDICATION

A very wise person once told me that in his life time every man should “have a child, plant a tree and write a book”. While spending my first 16 years as a professional farm manager with this incredible man I accomplished two out of the three objectives. Now over 35 years later, having finally completed the task, I admittedly feel a deeper understanding of how valuable these accomplishments have been in permitting me to experience the transcending responsibilities that are felt by the perceptive side of mankind.

During my 16 years in Panama I came to love Don Fernando Eleta Almarán as a second father. Incredibly, he took a rambunctious, impatient, somewhat rebellious young University of Kentucky graduate who had relocated to the humid highlands of the tropics and polished him into a dedicated, enthusiastic, analytical and goal-oriented farm manager with a much lower dose of all those qualities I had to learn to subdue in my personality. However, the most important lesson he taught me about life was that no matter how keen we are about our interests -- and we both shared the incredible passion for horses -- what really mattered most in life were PEOPLE. The horses were just the one of the many conduits we use to obtain the happiness we achieve alongside other special people that walked that path with us.

Don Fernando is an outstanding man in many regards. A gifted scholar, he obtained a Degree of Political Philosophy from Stanford University and a Structural Engineering Degree from MIT and an Honorary Law Degree from Yankton College. As a dynamic entrepreneur, he has too many accolades to mention, but starting the first radio station, TV station and international airline in his native Panama are just some of them. He has been an impeccable politician that abstained from belonging to a political party, but proudly served his country as Minister of Finance and Secretary of State. In the latter post he played a vital role in the negotiations with the U.S. on the Panama Canal Treaties. As Thoroughbred horse breeder for 59 years, his Haras Cerro Punta has been the dominating force of the \$250,000 Caribbean Classic Stakes. He is known in international circles in the many fields he has mastered and yet in my mind his greatest attribute lies in his deep humanitarian convictions.

As his young farm manager, nothing I asked for in order to permit our workers live in comfort and dignity was ever turned down. This man that has sat beside world leaders, military top brass, personalities of the sport and entertainment world and some of the wealthiest people in commercial endeavors was equally at ease sitting beside the Native American night watchman of his Thoroughbred farm. His respect, interest and attention for people of all social levels, is always genuine. It was with this common concern about social justice in economically viable societies that permits the pursuit of meaningful happiness that sealed a very special friendship for us that has endured until this day and will be within me as long as I live.

To this great human being that has helped me ask so many of the right questions in pursuit of my own happiness, I dedicate this book.



Don Fernando Eleta Almarán

## Full page picture