SONGS OF HORSES: AN ANTHOLOGY SELECTED AND ARRANGED

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649289134

Songs of horses: an anthology selected and arranged by Robert Frothingham

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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ROBERT FROTHINGHAM

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Trieste



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JOHN A. SEAVERNS

SONGS OF HORSES, AN ANTHOL-OGY SELECTED AND ARRANGED BY ROBERT FROTHINGHAM



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY THE RIVERSIDE PRESS CAMBRIDGE 1920

то

HENRY HERBERT KNIBBS

Rider of the high trails, equally at ease astride Pegasus or the Roan Cayuse.

" Since we deserve the name of friends, And thine effect so lives in me, A part of mine may live in thee And move thee on to noble ends."

R. F.

FOREWORD

SINCE the dawn of civilization the horse and the Muses have been boon companions in all the heroics of mythology and history. The Ancients regarded the horse as a being of divine origin, possessing supernatural power, and their creation of the Centaur — the only one of the fanciful monsters of antiquity to which any good traits were assigned — as one of their tutelary deities, was the direct result of their efforts to establish an indissoluble bond between themselves and their gods.

Neptune, to whom the creation of the horse was attributed, might be called the original patron of horse-racing. The horses which pulled his chariot over the ocean had brazen hoofs and golden manes, and where he drove, calm succeeded storm. The golden Chariot of the Sun that Phœbus drove in the heavens was drawn by three white horses, the gift of Neptune. Pegasus, the horse of the Muses, has always been exploited by the pcets of all modern languages — notably in Shakespeare's Henry IV, where Vernon describes Prince Henry as vaulting

"... with such ease into his seat As if an angel dropp'd down from the clouds To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus And witch the world with noble horsemanship."

FOREWORD

No less a personage than that husky brute of a Roman emperor, Caligula, honored his favorite horse Incitatus by appointing him a Roman Consul, much to the confusion of the dissipated dandies of his court, who considered it an unmerited "horse" on them. The versified story of this little incident will be found within.

The intimate identity of the horse with the life and literature of all peoples, since civilization began, has a most interesting scientific explanation as well. From the little five-toed Eohippus of Eocene times, through the four-toed and threetoed intermediate forms, down to his wonderful present-day development, the original species has never changed. Whatever his evolution during millions of years, the horse has always been a horse, and, according to our old friend Job, got a lot of satisfaction out of it; hence the "horse-laugh" see Job's statement inside. Indeed, the advance of the horse has been coincidental with that of man himself.

> "Said the little Eohippus: 'I'm going to be a horse, And on my middle finger-nails To run my earthly course.'"

"Giddap," little book.

New York September, 1920

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R. F.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE editor acknowledges his indebtedness to the following authors and publishers for the use of copyright poems:

Messrs. Angus & Robertson, Ltd., Sydney, N.S.W., for "Conroy's Gap," from The Man from Snowy River, by A. B. Paterson; and "The Riding Camel," from The Australian, and Other Verses, by Will H. Ogilvie.

Mr. Richard G. Badger for "Ridin'," "The Song of the Leather," and "The Legend of Boastful Bill," from Sun and Saddle Leather, by Badger Clark.

The Bobbs-Merrill Company for "The Kentucky Thoroughbred," from Biographical Edition of Complete Works of James Whitcomb Riley.

Messrs. George H. Doran Company for "Pardners," from Songs of the Workaday World, by Berton Braley.

Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co. and Rudyard Kipling for "The Ballad of East and West" and "The Undertaker's Horse," from Mr. Kipling's Collected Verse.

Messrs. Houghton Mifflin Company for "Largo," "Riders of the Stars," "Sunlight," and "That Roan Cayuse," from *Riders of the Stars*, by Henry Herbert Knibbs; "The Old-Timer," "The Pony Express," "The War-Horse Buyers," and "The Meeting," from *Out Where the West Begins*, by