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***** If Northern American aficionados have demonstrated their attraction to the Pure Spanish Horse in the twentieth century by importing, raising and showing this beautiful animal, think how powerful the attraction is in Latin America where language, culture, and custom link so many horsemen to Mother Spain.

Pura Raza Española Comes to Latin America

by Terry Waechter

***** DEVELOPMENT

Impediments such as import embargos, bouts of African Sleeping Sickness, and the high cost of travel, shipping and quarantine requirements have not deterred Mexican, Central and South American horse lovers from acquiring P.R.E. Horses from Spain.

As a result, there are quite a number of premier breeders south of the United States border. Most countries host well established and large P.R.E. horse shows where these breeders vie on a yearly basis for national honors. Mexico and Costa Rica are sites that come to mind where Americans have partaken of the marvelous hospitality and excitement provided by Latin hosts. These countries are eager to demonstrate their love for the P.R.E. horse and their successful breeding programs.





◆◆◆◆◆ RESULT

The national horse of Mexico is the Azteca, which skillfully combines the blood of the P.R.E. Horse and the American Quarter Horse. Spanish horses have always been favored in Mexico and the P.R.E. was the foundation of this new breed.

The way the P.R.E. horse was made available for this effort makes a fascinating story. The wealthy Domecq family, Spanish makers of fine sherry and other spirits, sent part of the family to Mexico to establish their business there. The Domecq product line was very successful. A white P.R.E. stallion was used on the bottles to market the sherry and wine the family sold. As a gesture to the Mexican population, pure P.R.E. stallions were made available for breeding to indigenous mares. This practice led to the establishment of the Azteca.

El caballo Azteca—the Azteca horse—was developed in Mexico through the combined efforts of Casa Pedro Domecq (particularly Antonio Ariza Cañadilla), Centro de Reproduccion Caballar Domecq, Asociacion Mexicana de Criadores de Caballos de Raza Azteca, and La Secretaria de Agricultura y Recursos Hidraulicos. These organizations have been responsible in Mexico and, until recently, in the rest of the world for maintaining breed standards and the course of the future development of the breed.

◆◆◆◆◆ CONCLUSION

Today the whole of the Southern Hemisphere share the privilege of owning P.R.E. Horses. Each year, citizens of North America and Latin America travel north or south simply to see their neighbor's stock. Horses are imported and exported across the borders, aficionados visit shows, farms and haciendas hoping to see or acquire yet another beautiful Spanish horse. The sight of these beauties transcends differences in language and cultures as horse-lovers are drawn together by this Spanish treasure.

In the new year, after SICAB and the winter holidays have passed and our attention once more turns to things “horsey”. There will be more information about our fellow breeders south of the border via at least one more Origin/Origen article. Until then, adios until 2007.

“The most common view is that Latin America includes territories in the America where Spanish or Portuguese prevail: Mexico and most of Central America, South America, and (per land area and population) the Caribbean.”
(Wikipedia)



ORGANIZATIONS

Full descriptions of the many organizations that support the P.R.E. Horse in Latin America can be found on the Foundation for the Pure Spanish Horse Website under the PRE Tab: International Contacts. Two of the larger ones are:

Federación Internacional de Criadores de Caballos de Pura Raza Española (FICCE) International Federation of Breeders of the Pure Spanish Horse

Chaired by our own Barbara Currie

(Current member associations: Europe: Spain (ANCCE), Switzerland, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy. The Americas: Mexico, Guatemala, USA, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras. South Pacific: New Zealand, Australia. A member with voice but no vote: Jefatura de Criaballar. Other national associations may apply for recognition and membership.)

Federación Americana de Criadores de Caballos de Pura Raza Española (FACCE) American Federation of Breeders of the Pure Spanish Horse

Chaired by Señora Doña Laura Collado Sobrado, Presidenta

(Current member associations: Costa Rica, Mexico, USA, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Ecuador, El Salvador, Canada. Other American nations may make application for membership.)

Almost every country has its own individual organization as well. Our website provides contact information for all these organizations.