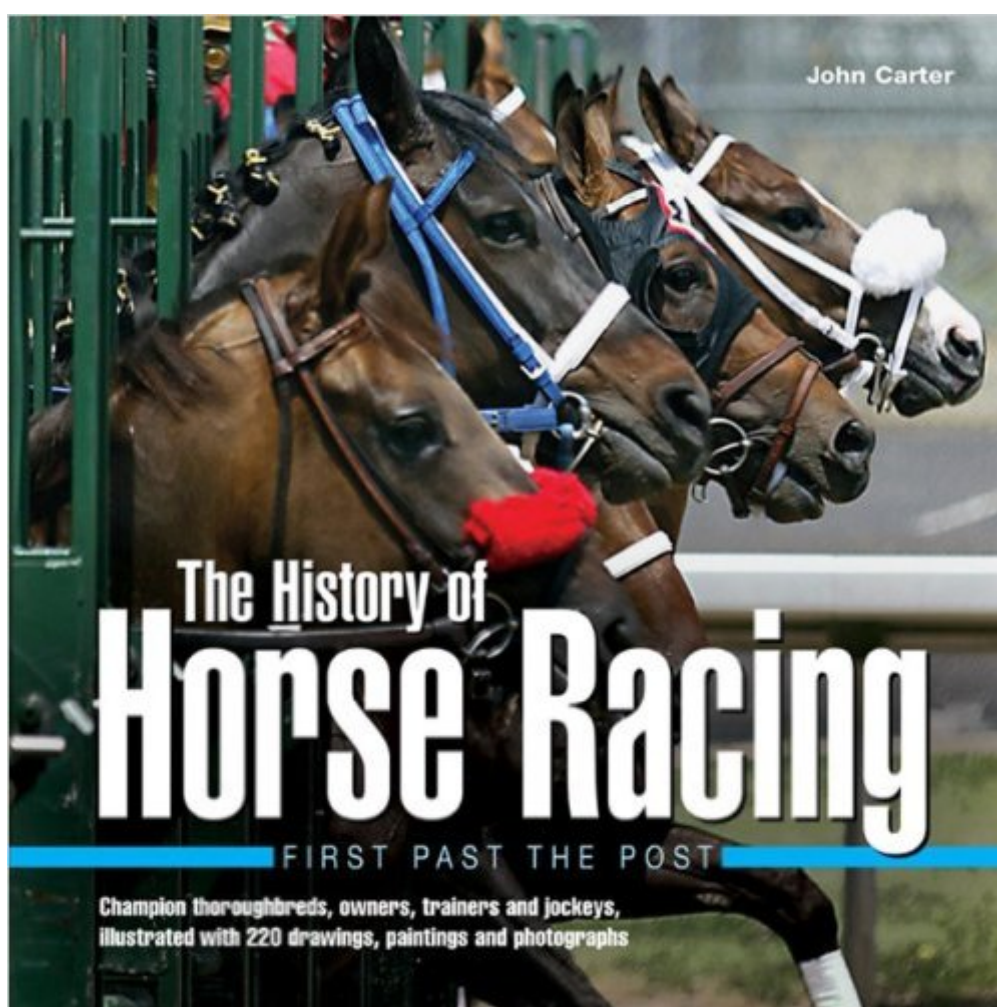


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# History Of Horse Racing: First Past The Post: Champion Thoroughbreds, Owners, Trainers And Jockeys, Illustrated With 220 Drawings, Paintings And Photographs



## Synopsis

An engrossing guide to the fascinating stories and facts of the horse-racing world, from the early days of the first races to the thrilling multi-spectator sport of today. Spectacularly illustrated with over 220 dramatic photographs of horses, signature race courses and personalities, as well as archive drawings and paintings.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book is broadly based, looking at the history of racing in Britain, Ireland, America, Australia, France and some other countries. With only 160 (albeit large) pages and plenty of great pictures occupying much of the space, it would be impossible for the author to explore the subject in any depth and he doesn't try. However, even though I've read a number of books on the subject, most of them focus mainly on Britain and Ireland, so even I was able to learn a few things. I'd never even heard of Eddie Arcaro, who I'm assured by the author and by an American friend is the best American jockey that ever lived. I'd always assumed that distinction belonged to either Steve Cauthen or Willie Shoemaker. I must read a book or more about American racing history, hopefully including harness and quarter horse racing, which only get a passing mention here. Based on what I know, most of the really famous American horses get a mention including Secretariat, Seabiscuit, Native Dancer, Man o' war, Lexington and Cigar, although John Henry is a notable omission. Because the book is unable to do more than give us an appreciation of the subject, a lot of great champions aren't even mentioned. Although Australia gets fair coverage, there is no mention of Black Caviar. Among British horses, Frankel is only briefly mentioned in the piece on Henry Cecil,

while the globe-trotting Ouija Board gets no mention at all. The horse most often compared to Frankel, Brigadier Gerard, also isn't mentioned at all, even though my all-time favourite, Mill Reef, gets two pages, including a superb head-on-shot of his Epsom Derby win with the other horses spread out behind him. The author notes that Mill Reef was second in the 2,000 Guineas but does not name the winner.

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