



The Brazilian Mangalarga Marchador

The Mangalarga Marchador: another chapter in our 'Breeds of the World' series.

By Jean Llewellyn

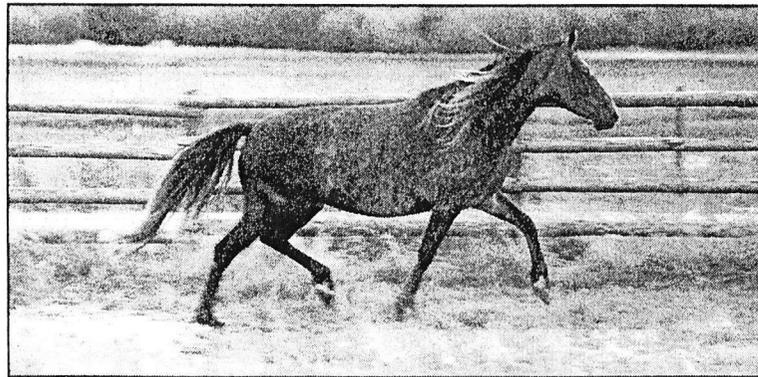
Visitors to the Spruce Meadows Masters last September, especially fans of the breed presentations and demonstrations, were fascinated by a new 'baroque' face among the regulars, appearing for the first time in Canada; the Mangalarga Marchador from Brazil. These horses were presented by Tresa Smith and Tia Nelson of the Lazy T Ranch in Boulder, Montana, and their very uniqueness warranted a spot on Global Television's breakfast show.

Breed Profile

"The most popular and widespread horse in Brazil is the Mangalarga Marchador, which was developed in 1740. João Francisco of Portugal settled in Brazil, in Bacpendi, south of Minas, acquiring the lands which gave origin to the hacienda Campo Alegre, from which the Marchador horses began to emerge. Francisco adopted the surname Junqueira to designate his native city. One of his twelve children, Gabriel Francisco Junqueira, the baron of Alfenas, is credited with the expansion and development of the breed. He was the representative of Minas to the Portuguese crown. His friend, Dom Pedro I (1798-1834), Emperor of

march, a four-beat lateral gait. Unlike the Peruvian Paso, the Mangalarga Marchador exhibits no termino in its gait.

In 1949, the first breeders association was officially founded in Belo Horizonte—the Associação dos Criadores do Cavalo Marchador da Raca Mangalarga. The formation of an association was the long-held aspiration of breeders at that time. Most felt the need to organize, to set standards for conformation and marketing, and to distinguish the Mangalarga Marchador definitively from other breeds, principally with regard to its gait. Name changes occurred in 1967 and 1984, and the group is now called (translated) the Brazilian Association of the Mangalarga Marchador Horse. In



1989, after breeders had been organized for 40 years, the associated numbered around 6,000 members responsible for breeding stock numbering over 150,000 horses.

The Mangalarga Marchador is a beautiful horse, exhibiting

ably the purest surviving remnant of that breed. No other breeds have been crossed into the Mangalarga Marchador.

This breed is splendid for working cattle, as are most horses of Spanish descent. The general appearance of the Mangalarga

Marcha Batida: legs moving in a diagonal four-beat sequence, also with moments of triple hoof support. Although in some ways similar, this gait differs from the trot (suspended moment with no hoof support), because the horse maintains ground contact. The longer and more frequent the moments of triple hoof support, the more comfortable the gait. Although different entirely, this movement allows the horse to be taught to trot easily.

Marchador is characterized by medium structure, strong and well proportioned, with agility, vigour, and soundness. The breed is light, with fine, smooth skin. The coat is smooth and silky. This horse has an active but very docile tempera-

American countries, which have shown great interest in its exportation. This is without doubt one of the most outstanding horse breeds in the world."

Endurance

In 1994, two 60-year-old Brazilian men completed an 8,694 mile trail ride to prove the stamina of the Mangalarga Marchador. For 18 months they rode all day and rested at night, all with the same horses. This was a challenge for the breed, and a feat recorded in *The Guinness Book of World Records*.

Lazy T Ranch

The Mangalarga Marchadors of Montana are from the Tabatinga family; a line known for its endurance, stamina, and athletic ability. Two of their horses: Tabatinga Rota and Tabatinga Jobim, come direction from Tabatinga, the ranch of Raul and Najla Junqueira. Raul Junqueira is a descendent of Baron Gabriel Francisco Junqueira, who founded the Marchador breed in Brazil in 1812. Their other horses, also from the same family, came from the

neighbouring ranches, Fazenda Santarem and Fazenda Santa Maria. These ranches are located in the heartland of the Marchador breeding country from which they originated.

The Lazy T Ranch is a working cattle ranch outside of Boulder, Montana, between Helena and Bozeman. They are using their Marchadors to work cattle on the ranch, in difficult mountain terrain. Always keen to promote this unique breed, they invite anyone to visit their horses or request a video. At this stage, they liken themselves to a 'designer trunk show' or car showroom, as breeding of Marchadors is relatively new to North America. Exquisite example items can be viewed, and progeny ordered and/or purchased from specific bloodlines via an embryo transplant program in which breeders are participating. Lazy T will also connect you to other breeders in either North America or Brazil.

(Breed profile reproduced courtesy of: *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds*, by Bonnie L. Hendricks, published in 1996 by University of Oklahoma Press.)



Brazil and son of João VI of Portugal, gave him an Alter Real stallion named Sublime.

Sublime was the descendant of two horses brought from the breeding farm Coudelaria Alter do Chão (located in Alem Tejo, Portugal) by Dom João VI during the invasion of the Iberian Peninsula by Napoleonic troops. In Brazil, Sublime was crossed with mares of the hacienda Campo Alegre, which were Spanish Jennets, Criollos, and Andalusians. It is apparent in the Mangalarga Marchador breed that most of the Spanish horses used at the hacienda to launch the breed were the famous Spanish Jennet, known to be a fast, smooth ambler. The cross of Sublime to the hacienda mares produced the first animals with the basic characteristics of the present-day

Mangalarga Marchador horse: docility and smooth gaits, with a cadenced, rhythmic gait called the march batida or marcha picada. The horses had endurance and rusticity. The first herd of such offspring were called 'Sublime' horses.

The origin of the name Mangalarga comes from the hacienda Mangalarga, located in Paty do Alferes. They acquired stock from the hacienda Camp Alegre and awakened interest among local ranchers, who began to go to Sul de Minas to buy Mangalarga horses. The breed soon gained popularity, spreading throughout Brazil. In the era of travel by horseback, there was nothing better than an animal that had endurance but did not cause discomfort to the rider. The comfort of the Mangalarga resulted from their characteristic gait, the

Marcha Picada: four-beat gait characterized by lateral leg movements, with the sequence of the hoofs being: right near, right front, left rear, left front – the hind foot touching the ground a fraction of a second before the front foot. The continuous tripoee hoof support and the overreach of the hind hoof makes the gait very smooth. This differs from the "pace" which is exclusively lateral movement of the limbs where two legs on the same side (foreleg and hind leg) hit the ground at the same time, resulting in only half of the horse's body mass being supported in any one stride. At extended speed, the head and body lifts to create a "planing" sensation that makes you feel like you aren't moving!

and smooth, a gait in which the horse moves its feet alternately both laterally and diagonally, with movements in which three feet can be seen hitting the ground at the same time. If the horse is "marching" on level ground at a normal rhythm, the tracks of the two hind feet will cover or pass slightly beyond the tracks of the front feet. When the horse places the feet diagonally, with moments of triple support, the gait is called the marcha batida. If the horse moves the feet laterally and separately, and also has moments of triple support, it is called the marcha picada. The reason for so much emphasis on the "marcha" is that this gait is unique in the world. Horses neither trots nor paces, naturally moving from the smooth marching gait into a canter. The famous Spanish Jennets have now died out, and the Mangalarga Marchador is proba-

ble, with a large, flat forehead tapering to a small, find muzzle; straight profile; and large, dark eyes which are set wide apart. The ears are proportional to the head, mobile, parallel, and erect, with the tips turned inward. The mouth is of medium width and sensitive to the bit. The arched, well-muscled neck, is well set, the mane is thin, fine, and silky. The withers are well defined, high and prominent; the chest is deep, long and muscular; the back is medium length, straight and muscular; the loins are short, straight and well proportioned. If the distance from the back to the loins is of lesser or equal distance to the length of the croup, it is a sign that the horse possesses excellent conformation. The hind quarters are symmetrical and well-proportioned, and the legs are muscular on both the outside and inside, long, and straight, with short cannons. The pasterns are strong and sloping.

Mangalarga Marchador horses are docile—and are therefore suitable for and often ridden by children—rustic, with good endurance. Training of this breed is facilitated by its intelligence, and uses are virtually unlimited. In work with cattle, in sport, in functional trials, or in cross-country horsemanship, the Marchador is outstanding and is obtaining excellent results in comparison with other breeds.

The Mangalarga Marchador is making a contribution to the economics of Brazil, confirming its slogan: "The horse without frontiers. Markets for the breed have also opened in the US, Italy, Spain, Germany, and various Latin

Horse Breeders and Owners Conference

Alberta Horse Breeders and Owners Conference, organized by the Horse Industry Section of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and the Horse Industry Association of Alberta is being held on January 9, 10, and 11, 2004 at the Capri Centre in Red Deer.

"Each year, the conference features excellent speakers who present information on current topics and issues that Albertans in the equine industry will be interested in. This year, an impressive line-up of speakers will make presentations on research findings, marketing information, and training ideas and techniques."

Conference presenters for 2004 include:

- **Dr. Claire Card**, Saskatoon, SK – Improving Reproductive Efficiency;
- **Philip Haugen**, Weatherford, Oklahoma – Round Pen Reasoning;
- **Dr. Lori Warren**, Fort Collins, Colorado – Conquering 'Mount Manure';
- **Ester Schwab**, Edmonton – Home on the Range: A Review of Recent Law Regarding Fencing, Trespass, and Liability Issues;
- **Joy Ripley**, Calgary – Societal Changes in Animal Welfare;
- **Muffy Knox**, Keoma – What to Expect From Riding Lessons;
- **Dr. Hilary Clayton**, East Lansing, Michigan – Locomotion and Performance of the Athletic Horse – Footing and Shoeing;
- **Dr. Nancy Loving**, Boulder, Colorado – Heat Stress and the Equine Athlete;
- **Dr. Jon Foreman**, Urbana, Illinois – Do Thyroid Disorders in Horses Really Exist? Medication, Rules, and the Well-being of the Horse;
- **Jim McCrae**, Aldergrove, BC – Safety in the Back Country;
- **Dr. Jeff Goodwin**, Moscow, Idaho – Getting Young People Involved in the Industry;
- **Roger Daly**, Aubry, Texas – Fitting Horses For Sale.

Conference registration is \$85 per person. For more information about the 2004 conference, contact the Horse Industry Association of Alberta at (403) 948 8521, e-mail: horseind@spots.ca or Horse Industry Section in Airdrie at (403) 948 8538. Government numbers are toll free by dialing 310-0000 first.