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Origins and development of THE IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE

by

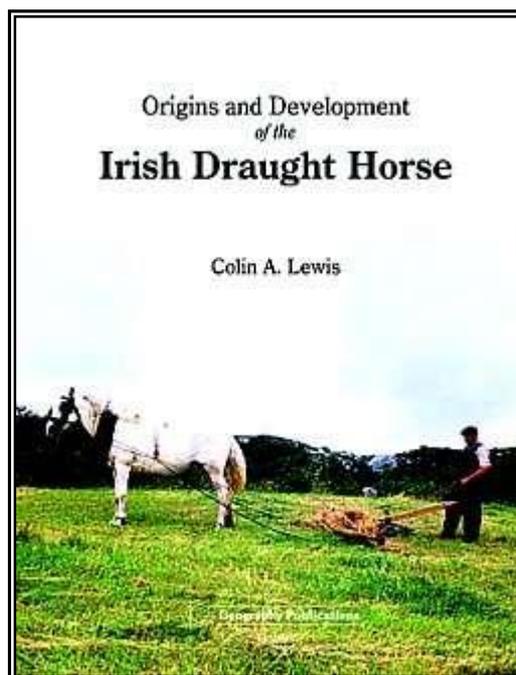
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Eight chapters, 66 Plates, 26 Figures and 3 Tables, References, Breed Standard, height conversion table, Index.

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Irish Draughts are essential foundation stock for the production of the non-thoroughbred Irish Sport horses that presently dominate many of the show jumping arenas and eventing courses of the world.

The development of the Irish Draught is traced from the seventeenth century, when the Irish Hobby was transformed into a warm blooded light draught horse. The fortunes of the evolving breed are followed as political, economic and social developments impacted upon horses and horse breeding. The future of the breed is assessed and blood lines and pedigrees are discussed. The importance of Irish Draught blood in the breeding of show jumpers is emphasised.

This is a book for all who are interested in Irish history, in the equine heritage of the country and in the development of a distinctive breed of fine horses. It should also appeal to those concerned with the historical and developing geography of animal breeds.

The author is Professor of Geography at Rhodes University in South Africa and a horseman who lived in Ireland for over two decades. His previous books include *Hunting in Ireland* and *Horse breeding in Ireland and the role of the Royal Dublin Society*.

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The Irish Draught horse is the national horse breed of Ireland which developed primarily for farm use. Today, they are especially popular for crossing with Thoroughbreds and warmbloods, producing the popular Irish Sport Horses (also called Irish Draught Sport Horses) which excel at the highest levels of eventing and show jumping. References to the Irish Draught date back as far as the 18th century. It is believed that the breed was developed when the then-common Irish Hobby was successively bred with Irish Draught Horse Studbook. Irish Sport Horse Studbook. Traditional Irish Horse Category ISH (TIH).Â Continuous Professional Development (CPD). Coach Insurance. List of Accredited Coaches.Â Irish Cob Horse Studbook Stallion inspections. Stallion inspections for the Irish Cob Studbook will be carried out annually in the spring and autumn.Â Stallions meeting the inspection requirements and are eligible for classification in the Main Section of the Irish Cob Studbook are awarded "Main Elite Stallion Class"™ status. Stallions that are not eligible for the Main Section can achieve classification in the Supplementary Elite/Supplementary Section of the Irish Cob Studbook. Being the national horse of Ireland, the Irish Draught Horse was actually developed as working breeds to be used in farms. This versatile horse is at present.Â The Spanish Andalusian was used too in the development of this breed because of its regal presence and free flowing gaits. The local draught mares were further crossed with the Scottish Clydesdales horses as well as the half bred and Thoroughbred horses along with touches of the Connemara pony blood to produce the present day Irish Draught horses. These horses fulfilled the Irish farmers'™ criteria of a docile but strong breed that would be able to work in the farm tediously, pull carts, tend animals and also be well-suited for riding and hunting.