



The Dressage Horse/Das Dressurpferd (English and German Edition)

By Harry Boldt



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An illustrated textbook for perfect performances in dressage. With two gold and two silver medals at both the Olympic Games and the World Championships, and with five gold, four silver and two bronze medals at European Championships, Harry Boldt was one of the greatest competitive dressage riders in the world for over two decades. Only very few riders have a comparable wealth of experience in both producing dressage horses and riding internationally. Harry Boldt passes on this experience in his book *The Dressage Horse*. Not only does he describe how the ideal training of a dressage horse up to the highest levels should progress, but he also, and more importantly, demonstrates which different training methods he himself has used, which methods suit which horses best, and how one can successfully re-school incorrectly-trained dressage horses. It is a practical book for the discerning rider, authored by a man who writes in the same way as he talks: simply and understandably. This is what sets his book apart from those by many other riding theorists. The text is complemented by a unique abundance of photographic and illustrative teaching material. The combination of photographs, illustrations and precise textual explanations is the most efficient method for conveying expert riding knowledge. On his Olympic and World Championship-winning horse Woyceck, the author demonstrates dressage movements to perfection. Rarely can one find, for example, pictures of such harmonious transitions between piaffe and passage or such straight and uphill flying changes as in this book. Photographic sequences with slow-motion pictures at the rate of nine shots per second break the dressage movements down into individual components that the human eye could not otherwise perceive. Next to these, numerous photomontages clearly demonstrate the movement processes in a single picture. A further teaching aid is provided by the diagrams accompanying each dressage movement. They explain precisely and chronologically the correct interaction of weight, leg and rein aids. The large didactic part of this book is complemented by an extensive documentation of the historical development of dressage riding and a report on the 1978 World Championships in Goodwood. These World Championships were the last major international outing of Harry Boldt as a dressage rider. Harry Boldt was assisted in the production of his book by the famous dressage riders Dr Reiner Klimke, Herbert Kuckluck, Dr h.c. Josef Neckermann, Herbert Rehbein, Dr Uwe Schulten-Baumer, Willi Schultheis, Gabriela Grillo and Maria Günther. They all portrayed many of the most famous German dressage horses of post-war times. For the new 2011 edition, many more top dressage horses have been added. Their

riders Klaus Balkenhol, Nadine Capellmann, Edward Gal, Anky van Grunsven, Anne Grethe Jensen, Margit Otto-Crepin, Ulla Salzgeber, Monica Theodorescu, Nicole Uphoff and Isabell Werth have remained faithful to the book's original style and described the temperament and character of the brightest stars of today's dressage, elucidating their strengths and weaknesses, quirks, difficulties in training, conformational and movement features, in addition to other interesting anecdotes. Willi Schultheis, who was the Germany national team coach at the time the first edition of this book was published, provided his private photo collection, contributed to the historic part of the book and commented on Boldt's final rides at the World Championships in Goodwood in 1978. This revised edition of The Dressage Horse by Harry Boldt is a modern, comprehensive textbook on dressage riding, and is a treasure trove even for those already knowledgeable about this magnificent sport.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Harry Boldt is one of the most successful dressage riders and trainers in the world. Born in the East Prussian town of Insterburg in 1930, Harry Boldt developed his love for equestrianism through his father, the renowned and highly successful trainer Heinrich Boldt, practically from when he was still in the cradle. Harry Boldt started his career in showjumping, where he rode successfully up to advanced level. Only later did he start to concentrate solely on dressage. At the start of the 1960s, he made his international breakthrough in this discipline and, up to 1979, he won a total of three titles at the German Dressage Championships. He secured seven individual and eight team medals at European and World Championships. At the Olympic Games in Tokyo, he picked up team gold and individual silver with his Westphalian gelding Remus. Twelve years later, at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, he once again won team gold and individual silver, partnering his Hanoverian gelding Woyceck. At the age of 50, Harry Boldt ended his own riding career and dedicated himself solely to the training of horses and riders. Between 1981 and 1996, he held the position of Team Trainer of the German National Dressage team. During his mandate as national team trainer, German dressage riders won the tremendous sum of 50 medals at European Championships, World Championships and Olympic Games; 31 of them were gold. Harry Boldt could therefore count himself amongst the most successful national team trainers in any sport. Boldt, who got to know legendary trainers such as Felix Bürkner, Richard Wätjen and Otto Lörke personally, was honoured for his extraordinary services to dressage by the German Equestrian Federation (FN) with the honorary title of Riding Master. In 1995, the FN bestowed him with the German Riding Cross in gold. Following the conclusion of his mandate as national team trainer for dressage, Harry Boldt emigrated to Australia. Harry Boldt remains in demand internationally as a coach and trainer.

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