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Polo



Synopsis

Polo, once princes pastime, is today practised by professional players all over the world. Few people could equal Susan Barrantes as regards the knowledge of this sport. Married to Hector Barrantes, outstanding polo player of his generation, she had a direct contact with such a fascinating world for many years. Through her texts, she narrates the evolution of polo practices in Asia, Europe and the Americas, focusing especially on Argentina, source of the best players and ponies in the world. She further reveals the valuable anonymous work that helps support glamorous polo. A prologue by HRH Prince of Wales precedes Juan Carlos Harriot's introduction. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a marvelous coffee table book about a very old sport. The librarian at the New York Society Library left this massive volume on a desk in the stacks when I called and asked for something "unusual". She knows that something totally new, especially if well written and with lots of photos, will give me hours of pleasure. As this fine book did. And then, just today, the following came in from the "New Historian" blog: "Eight polo sticks and three leather balls discovered in the Yanghai Tombs in northwestern China have been dated back between 2,400 and 2,800 years, potentially pushing back the origins of the game that is famed for being the sport of the elite around the world. The first mentions of Chinese polo in writing date from the period of the Han Dynasty, between 202 BCE and 221 CE. Although the balls found in the Yanghai Tombs have a design similar to others found in the tomb of a Han ruler in the Gansu province, also in northwestern China, they seem to be significantly

older. So far, historians and archaeologists have been unable to accurately date the origin of the sport."The three balls are made of sheepskin and are stuffed with leather and wool. The sticks, with their long handles, resemble in shape and design the polo sticks featured in paintings from a much later Chinese dynasty, the Tang Dynasty from 618-907 CE. Similar polo sticks have been excavated from the Astana Tombs, located near the Yanghai Tombs, also in Turpan. The Yanghai Tombs are a major archaeological site in China, with some of the graves there dating back 3,000 years. It has been the object of research for almost fifty years now, yielding a wealth of artefacts and information about life in the region."The 54,000 sq.

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