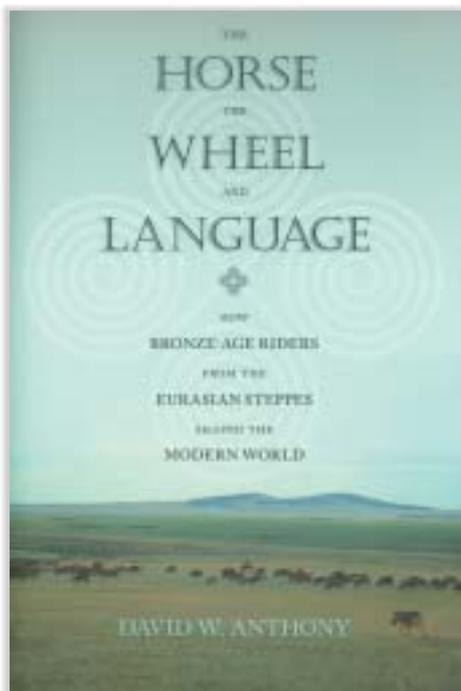


three great reads

By Zak Pence

There's nothing like a good book to whisk you away. Leave your cares behind and fall into the pages of a good read and let the world pass you by. We have rounded up three great new books for the next time you reach for something to curl up with, take to the beach or just kick back and while away the hours.



The Horse, the Wheel and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World

By David Anthony
Princeton University Press: \$35 • 566 pages

While many might shy away from typical history books, *The Horse, the Wheel and Language: How Bronze-Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World* is a fascinating look at the relationship between humans and horses.

Primarily, this is a book about linguistics, modern Western languages and their corresponding cultures. The long-standing theory has been that nearly half the world's population speaks languages derived from a single linguistic source known as Proto-Indo-European (PIE). But scholars have long debated the source of this ancient tongue.

But Anthony believes he has solved the puzzle, and enthusiastically shares his discovery process. His concise narrative writing lures you into the world of PIE studies. His determination to discover provides a source of energy to fuel the reader's interest. You'll travel through ancient burial grounds and dwellings, and rummage through prehistoric landfills looking for clues. Then, using information gathered from dozens of experts, Anthony pieces together a plausible conclusion.

Anthony's extensive knowledge helps lead him to discovering that horses played a major role in the developing and spreading of PIE culture throughout much of the world. Horse lovers will be fascinated by the horse's contribution to language and linguistics enthusiasts will simply enjoy the mental fodder.

Olympic Equestrian: A Century of International Horse Sport

By Jennifer O. Bryant
Eclipse Press: \$26.95 • 270 pages

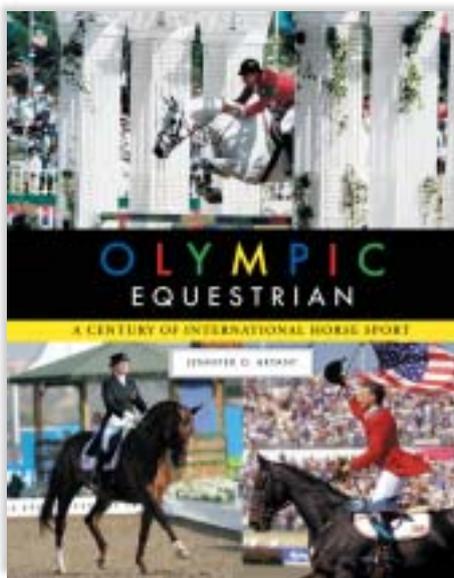
Olympic Equestrian: *A Century of International Horse Sport* is an updated version of Jennifer O. Bryant's 2000 release. This revised 2008 edition highlights and chronicles the world's most celebrated equestrian athletes (both horse and human) from the 1912 Stockholm Games to the 2004 Athens Games.

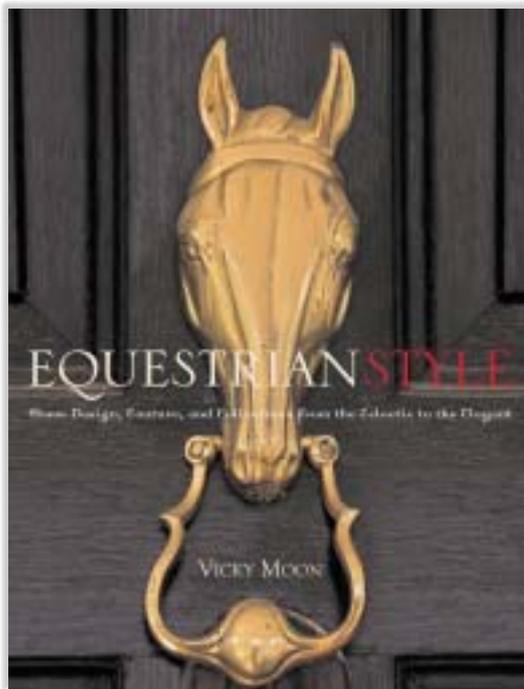
Bryant, an avid rider and editor of *USDF Connection*, keeps her book from reading too much like a history text by incorporating behind-the-scenes anecdotes from key players in Olympic equestrian history.

There's a wide variety of information packed with coverage of many Olympic legends. She chronicles their personal strengths and struggles, while remembering the relationships each had with their beloved mounts.

The book ends with a look into the future of Olympic equestrian sports. She brings up an excellent point that planning equestrian sport, for the simple fact it is the only Olympic event that incorporate the use of an animal, is an enormous challenge—and expensive.

Olympic Equestrian is an interesting read, thorough enough to educate, while feeling right at home on the coffee table. All-in-all it does an excellent job on chronicling the complicated story behind the Games.





Equestrian Style

By Vicky Moon

Clarkson Potter (Random House): \$65 • 256 pages

Vicky Moon has spent over two decades documenting the lifestyles of equestrians and their passionate love of their sport. Her latest book, *Equestrian Style*, widens its net and peers into the lives of a large cross-section. It is in the way that they live and how they choose to surround themselves—turning their horse pursuits into a rich tapestry reflected in their homes' décor—that Moon captures their essence. From the mansion foyer to the mud room, these doyens of style and horse culture open their homes. The reader is the clear benefactor with an open-door invitation to glimpse at an at-home lifestyle that some may be familiar with and some may feel completely uninitiated. In each abode you enter and chapter you read, you find someone's ability to bring a bit of the stable, polo match, track, horse or "equine chic" into practically every corner of their world.

The author examines not only the fashions of those in the sporting culture, but tastes in art, home furnishings, entertaining and living. In doing so, Moon creates a lush and detailed portrait through her writing and use of hundreds of perfectly selected photographs.

The focus of *Equestrian Style* roves from the polo fields to the Thoroughbred racetracks to the show rings and beyond. Each chapter glides effortlessly across the various facets of the horse world, all the while showing the equine tie that binds them all together.

From the more famous names to the more socially reserved (or revered), the reader meets a multitude of fascinating equestrians from across the spectrum of horse-related sport. Unique personal stories, family sagas, special interests and peaks at the hearts of some fill the pages, while the thoughtfully laid-out pages of photos enrich their stories and serve as a visual treat.

Equestrian Style is excellent for anyone enchanted by the beauty and spectacle of equine sport and an inspiration for other horse lovers to allow their love of the equine to be reflected in their own homes.