

# Andalusian Afficionados

by Tina Barnett-Tucker

## No. 2 CAMPBELL LENNIE

Campbell Lennie was a Full Member of the original Society from the mid-1980s, and is a past Committee Member. His career has been in writing and editing — in television, books, magazines and advertising — in London, Glasgow and in Edinburgh, where he now lives. He is also greatly interested in horse and animal art and illustration, and his work includes a biography of the Victorian animal painter Sir Edwin Landseer. He has always had a deep affection both for Spain and the Spanish Horse.

### Q1. Where and when did you see your first Andalusian?

As an infant I was taken to the great Bertram Mills Circus and remember being agog at a spectacular Andalusian stallion called Brillante ridden by the fine Spanish "high school" rider Arturo Manzano. The Danish-based Schumann circus family also rode quality Andalusians in Britain, a tradition continued by the Smarts and Chipperfields. The circus has taken a lot of stick in recent years, but the people who first brought the breed to international attention were circus people.

### Q2. How and when did you first become directly involved with the breed?

There were few public horse-shows in Spain in the 'Fifties and 'Sixties, but a twin-fascination with the Spring ferias and with rejoneo or mounted bullfighting fired my interest. In the old days there were many good Andalusians in the ring. Many of today's horses are predominantly Anglo in blood — they may be faster but they tend to take more knocks from the artificially-blunted horns, not being as bull-wise as the

traditional Andalusians always were.

### Q3. Is the Spanish Horse your main equestrian interest?

The Spanish Horse and the traditional pursuits associated with it have certainly been my main interest in the horse line for quite a few decades.

### Q4. Is there one Andalusian who has had a particular influence upon you?

In the early days I was much attracted by Angel Peralta's Terry-bred bay stallion Ruisenor. His studbook-title was Nervioso II, obviously not a propitious name for a horse destined to face bulls. He was handsome without being 'flash', both an elegantly versatile 'high-school' horse (his lanzadas were a marvel) and a very effective caballo-torero. Peralta brought him to Wembley Arena in the early 'Sixties along with a talented grey called Airoso and their exhibitions of rejoneo and other movements — 'dressage at the gallop' — were much enjoyed. Ruisenor was later acquired by an admirer Mrs. Dickson Wright and stood for a time in the New Forest — a brave try, but he was obviously a couple of decades before his time. I've seen many Spanish horses since of superior conformation, but everything about that little bay said 'Class'.

### Q5. What has been the highlight of your involvement with the breed?

The obvious highlight has been watching the spectacular growth in popularity of the breed in Spain and worldwide. When I first



Angel Peralta on Ruisenor

travelled in Andalucia mules were everywhere and horses seldom seen. Now country and district shows and exhibitions featuring the breed seem to be growing by the year. Let's hope it's a boom that won't have a bust!

### Q6. What was your first contact with the Association in this country?

I think I first read about the British Andalusian Horse Society in the mid-Eighties in a horsey magazine, and was surprised and delighted to realise that there were several others in Britain as discerning — or as crazy — as I was.

### Q7. Are you in touch with other PRE associations other than the BAPSH?

I don't maintain present contacts with other such breed societies.

### Q8. Do you think that the emphasis of breeders has changed in

**relation to the new disciplines being undertaken by the Spanish Horse?**

It concerns me that the vast majority of Spanish studs are of recent origin, and that this could cause a certain imbalance and lack of continuity. Encouraged by equestrian bodies and magazines whose main interest is show-jumping, eventing, endurance riding, etc., there is much talk of the development of the breed as a 'sporting horse'. Already we see a tendency towards 'sub-species'. The famous 'Sherry Horses' of the past like Descarado II and Nevado III were equally impressive under saddle or between the traces — today we can see narrow and shallow-bodied 'carriage-bred' animals obviously unsuited to riding. As for increasing the breed's versatility — I've seen Spanish Horses fight bulls, cut-out cattle, adroitly assist in 'pursuit and overthrow', win Doma Vaquera contests, take part in superb garrocha displays, perform unrivalled pirouettes, elevated movements and airs above the ground, bravely perform a host of show and cinematic stunts and switch without blinking from saddle-work to equally

perfect carriage-performance. How much more versatility do some people want?

**Q9. What are your views on cross-breeding the Andalusian within Spain?**

Of course cross-breeding with the Arab and the Anglo is already irreversible fait accompli in Spain. The mounted bullfighting, doma vaquera and accoso y derribo (pursuit and overthrow) disciplines are already dominated by the 'three-blood' crosses, coincidentally the three races which have themselves been the three greatest breed 'improvers' in history. Provided the fountain-head, the PRE, is well protected, and a weather-eye is kept out for

Anglo, Araby or other tendencies within the breed itself, some experimentation probably does little harm — though past crosses with Bretons, Hackneys, etc. were merely silly.

**Q10. What do you think the future holds for the Spanish Horse?**

My main concern, as previously mentioned, would be the new breeders who want to adapt the breed to meet 'new challenges'. If a Spanish Horse is to perform the world's greatest extended trot, or to spread out over Badminton or Hickstead, his conformation will have to be radically altered. At the risk of sounding old-fashioned, my hope for the future would be that the traditional Spanish breeders win out over some of the nouveau lot who are probably already planning the 21st Century Super-Sports Model.

*Many thanks to Campbell Lennie for taking the time and trouble to answer the questions and for the excellent photographs, including our wonderful back cover illustration.*

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*Left:  
A photograph of one of Campbell Lennie's wonderful illustrations of Spanish Horses titled 'Working Out'*

