

**COCK OF THE WALK,
QUI-QUI-RI-QUI! THE
LEGEND OF PANCHO
VILLA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649551361

Cock of the Walk, Qui-Qui-Ri-Qui! The Legend of Pancho Villa by Haldeen Braddy

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HALDEEN BRADY

**COCK OF THE WALK,
QUI-QUI-RI-QUI! THE
LEGEND OF
PANCHO VILLA**

Qui-qui-ri-qui!

Cock of the Walk

Qui-qui-ri-qui!

The Legend of
PANCHO VILLA

By Haldeen Braddy

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS
A L B U Q U E R Q U E 1 9 5 5



Qui-qui-ri-gul!

COPYRIGHT, 1955 • UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO PRESS • ALBUQUERQUE

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 55-9950

To My Mother

LENA ROUNDTREE BRADDY HARTSOOK

Preface

Pancho Villa has dominated my literary interest from the year 1935, when I moved from New York to Alpine, Texas. In Alpine, El Paso, Presidio, and other Texas-Mexico border towns I heard so many stirring tales about him that I visited shortly, in that same year, a few cities in Mexico, such as Chihuahua, Juárez, and Ojinaga. Again, in 1939, I traveled through the same border country. Much later, at El Paso in 1946 and thereafter, I interviewed people and visited battle scenes in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and traveled in the interior of Mexico to Mexico City itself, visiting such other famous historical sites as Parral and Torreón.

My study of Villa, often interrupted by other duties, has comprised about twenty years of work, for the career of this *hombre* of the hills always has been somewhere near the forefront of my mind. It took me a long time to write *Cock of the Walk*, because it underwent many revisions, and, of course, a much longer time to gather all the materials which are in it. Throughout these labors, it has been my ambition to write a book that will report the true Villa once and for all.

One of my main objectives has been to tell the story of Villa from beginning to end. My book thus differs sharply

from shorter books that report mainly on the Columbus Raid or, say, his relations with General Pershing, and equally sharply from movie versions that treat mainly of his lost treasures, or his imaginary return to Mexico as a deliverer. *Cock of the Walk* attempts to give adequate and proportional treatment to all phases of his career. I have sought to write not an episode or a series of incidents, as I did in my four or five published articles, but a full and well-rounded picture of the man.

Another of my objectives has been to present Villa as impartially as possible. It has been difficult to run a true course at all times, for many of the stories I have heard strikingly contradict each other. I have been obliged to act as a judge, to accept some reports and to reject others.

Villa made many enemies during his lifetime and was hard on foreigners living in his country. The Honorable Wellington Chew, now a prominent lawyer in El Paso, was expelled from Mexico as a child during Villa's persecution of the Chinese. Mrs. Alfred Jean Abel, now a well-known El Pasoan, was descended from the famous Italian family of the Visconti. As a little girl, she saw her father killed and his properties confiscated. On the other hand, a number of Americans had reason to like Villa. This group included General Scott and members of his staff as well as his one-time foreman, Jimmie Caldwell, now of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Still a third group, Americans again, viewed him without strong bias as a natural, if fierce, leader of the Revolution. These men include Messrs. George A. Brown, a retired United States Deputy Marshal, and Chester Choep, of the El Paso *Herald-Post*. To these personages and others, such as Charles Leland Sonnichsen, who led me to one story of gold and another of ghosts, I am much indebted. In the bibliography I have endeavored to

record yet other, more specific, obligations. I owe special thanks for help with revising the manuscript to my friend and colleague, Joseph Leach.

In my final appraisal, I have seen fit to pronounce Pancho Villa more cocky than bloodthirsty. The gorier escapades of that epoch were due to his hirelings, to Martin López or to Rodolfo Fierro, whom the famous author, Ambrose Bierce, referred to in his letters as El Matador Fierro. Thus I have not dwelled on some of the racier stories about Villa's treatment of Mrs. Wright and other ladies prior to and during the dark hour of his invasion of United States territory at Columbus, New Mexico. Though I should not wish to defend the cruel bandit that Villa finally became, I must confess that he was *mucho hombre*, that he was thoroughly masculine in loving the race track and cock fighting and at least understandable as a man in his virile passion for women. At his best, Pancho Villa was a peerless gamecock, crowing, to be sure, but always ready for a fight. Perhaps that is what he really was and what history will finally rate him.

HALDEEN BRADY

Paso del Norte, April 25, 1955