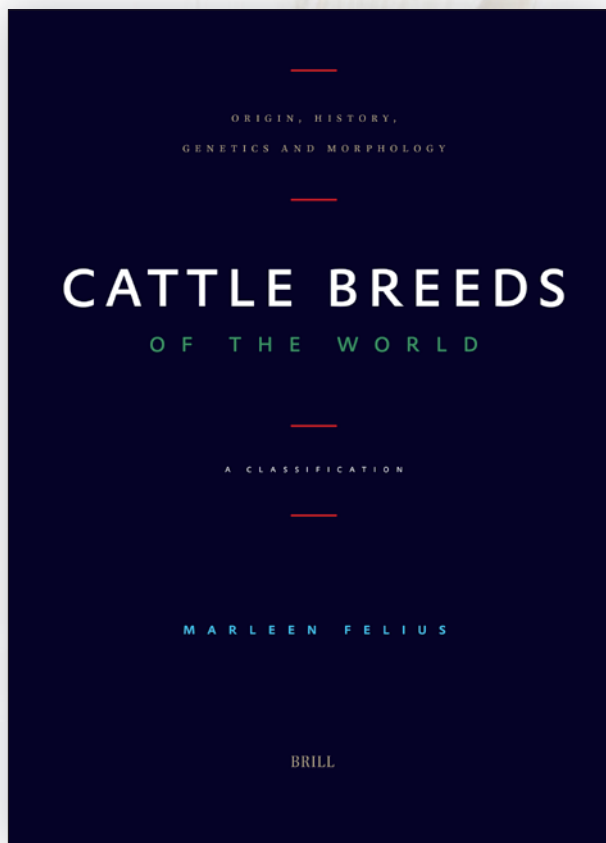


Cattle Breeds of the World

A Classification

Marleen Felius



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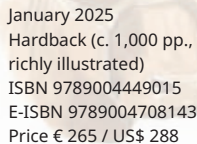
The origin and evolution of cattle breeds was long explained only by historical sources, with questionable reliability. In recent years genetic and molecular data have become available that shed new light on this, revealing how, from neolithic times, breeds emerged by migratory movements and mutual influencing of gene pools. But while molecular breed characterization is now rapidly advancing, phenotypic characterization remains under-explored.

This publication presents a classification of around 1,000 cattle breeds based on geographical and historical data and morphology. Males and females of every breed are portrayed by the author in water colour and to scale. The illustrations are positioned next to each breed's description, completing the overall image.

Readership: This beautiful and comprehensive book will thrill all those interested in or working with cattle: farmers, breeders, scholars, students as well as the animal and art-loving layman. It will be useful as a reference book for research institutes, specialized libraries and in particular for associations concerned with the conservation of vanishing breeds.

A visual artist internationally famed for her cattle paintings, **Marleen Felius** is also a renowned expert on cattle morphology and breed history. Her immense knowledge is laid down in numerous publications including *Cattle Breeds, an Encyclopedia* (1995) and *On the Breeds of Cattle* (PhD Thesis, 2016).



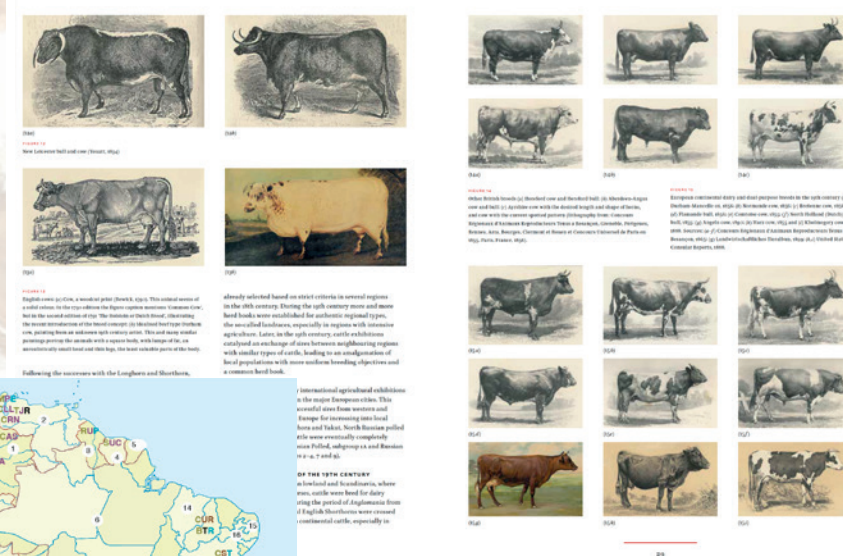


A Classification

Thirty years have passed since *Cattle Breeds – an Encyclopedia* (1995) was published. Subsequently many cattle breeds have changed according to type, use, status, and numbers of animals. Numerous native, locally adapted breeds, as well as newly developed high productive ones, which were not yet recognized in the 1990s are described in the 2025 edition.

In the first chapter the recent data on domestication of the aurochs (*Bos primigenius*) and the early dispersal of cattle are briefly described, followed by cattle history. In the next chapters explicit attention is given to the rise of breeds. The regions of their origin are indicated on 37 detailed geographic maps. Over 1,000 breeds are classified in seventeen breed groups, while many local varieties are described in detail. Lost breeds, predecessors and landraces are included as well. Moreover, to show whether important current breeds underwent morphological changes their earlier types are portrayed as well.

The cows and bulls of almost all these populations are illustrated with some 2,400 watercolours, of which three quarters have not been published before.



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