

A Trip Down Memory Lane

I was recently discussing Smooth Haired Dachshunds with friends and debating the merits of various dogs and their contribution to the breed when we realised how few breeders and exhibitors of today have even seen photographs of many of the great dogs of the past.

This prompted me to delve into my archives and retrieve old photographs of dogs that may be long forgotten but contributed to the development of the breed.

The first Smooth Dachshund was imported in 1885 by F Detmold and apparently was rather different in type to modern dogs.

Beilby in his book "The Dog in Australasia" in describing the new imports stated: "The one drawback to this breed in my opinion is their extraordinary crooked legs"

I do not think that he was impressed!

The Smooth Dachshund gained respectability in 1948 when Ch Barkesvale Merry Boy (imp UK) owned by Miss Mitchell won Best Exhibit in Show at Sydney Royal. (a feat that no other Dachshund has been able to achieve).

Photographs of dogs in the '40s are difficult to find, however I was able to find one of Will Crostin (a leading breeder and judge of this era) with Shirley Anne of Salford and Ch Black Simon of Cradley (imp NZ), owned by Mrs Fitzgerald.



Shirley Anne of Salford and Ch Black Simon of Cradley (imp NZ)



A golden era was to commence for Dachshunds with the importation of Ch Silvae Query in 1951 by W Johnson. (see page 42, last month). Query was a very dominant sire and whilst there may have been better show winners than him most breeders agree that he laid the foundations for the breed as we know it today. There were a large number of dogs imported in the '50s and the following dogs are worthy of mention for their contribution to the development of the breed.

Ch Annesley Baccarat (imp NZ) (below) was imported in 1954 by Windswept Kennels and sired many quality litters.



Ch Annesley Baccarat (imp NZ)

Peter & Ruth Simon imported Ch Selwood Seremony (imp UK) in 1955 along with the bitch Ch Serenade of Roding (imp UK) and they won many Best Exhibit in Show awards. (see page 28 this issue).

Ch Silvae Keepsake (imp UK) also arrived in 1955, imported by Nillbua Kennels and he was also a BIS winner but more importantly was also to prove an excellent sire, particularly when mated to Query stock.



Ch Silvae Keepsake (imp UK)

Ch Dachswan Phantom (imp UK) was imported in 1957 by F d'Harty and later joined Dubrovnik kennels where he was to become one of the greatest sires that we have ever had in this country. (see page 64 last month).

Phantom did not have the best of show temperaments however his stock was to dominate the '60s with Ch Leura Liberace winning 103 Best in Show awards. (see page 50 last month). I must also mention Liberace's litter brother, Ch Leura Danilo owned by Frank Hoyle who lived in his shadow however I feel that if Tommy Knight had kept Danilo and not Liberace the roles would have been reversed. They were both excellent dogs.

Another outstanding dog to arrive in 1957 was Ch Ashdown Peaker (imp UK) imported by Mrs Martin of South Australia.

Ch Womack Wright Royal Show arrived in 1963 joining Rhonda Phillips at Lohengrin Kennels. (see page 56 last month). He won Best Exhibit in Show at Melbourne Royal in 1966 and along with Phantom was to dominate the 60s as a sire. His show record was not as impressive because Liberace with 103 Best in Show awards did not leave many shows for other dogs to win. (see page 50 last month).

Liberace so dominated the show scene in the '60s that most breeders stopped showing dogs and only showed their bitches. There was one dog (his name escapes me) won 49 reserve challenges including 2 Royal Shows, and never gained his title. 1965 Ch Silvae Defender (imp UK) joined the Lightfoots in New Zealand and also sired litters in Australia. (see page 64 last month).

Lorris of Dunlewey (imp UK) and Ch Longreach Simon (imp UK) were imported by Windswept Kennels, however I felt that they were under utilised by breeders and whilst they produced some lovely stock at Windswept their potential value to the breed was not appreciated.



Lorris of Dunlewey (imp UK) and Ch Longreach Simon (imp UK)



The '70s were an era where homebred dogs dominated with only one significant import Eng & Aust Ch Limberin Light Laughter imported in 1975 by Bill Hardie.



Eng & Aust Ch Limberin Light Laughter

The two leading NSW dogs of this era were Ch Drofneq Dagobert owned by John Genford (see page 64 last month) and Ch Nillbua Wanderlust owned by Val Morris.

The 70s saw the emergence of Millewa Kennels owned by Joy & Tom Clarkson of Victoria. This kennel was to dominate the show scene with lovely dogs such as Ch Millewa Monarch, Ch Millewa Black Onyx, Ch Millewa Gold Dollar and Millewa Gold Sovereign. These dogs were all multiple BIS Winners.

Millewa Kennels also dominated the Show



Ch Millewa Black Onyx, and (below) Ch Millewa Gold Dollar



scene in the '80s with the emphasis on homebred dogs rather than imports.

John Genford and Gwen Armstrong imported Drofneq Dunkledorf (iid UK) in 1984.

Hampdach Dignatry (imp UK) was imported by J Neal in 1985 and Ch Hampdach Royal Parade (imp UK) was imported by R Philp & J Neal in 1988.

The most influential import of this era was Aust & NZ Ch Windycorner Good Life (imp NZ) imported by the Bower family. He was a BIS winner and produced quality stock.



Aust & NZ Ch Windycorner Good Life (imp NZ) and below Grand Ch Nicholyev Good N Tough



The leading dog of the '90s was Grand Ch Nicholyev Good N Tough owned by Bower & Kelly. He won 8 BIS and 10 RUBIS and has so far sired 6 champions.

Ch Nasus James Garner was another BIS winner owned by Sue Rose, along with her Grand Ch Nasus Sam Neil.



Ch Nasus James Garner

B Diver and J Ireland imported Black Dragon of Yatesbury (imp UK) in 1991, Evening Herald of Yatesbury (imp UK) in 1992 and the bitch Am Ch Gleishorback Tuefelchen (imp USA) in 1994.

Chris Brell imported Roleta Share a Dream (imp UK) in 1994.

Mark & Justine Yardley imported Ch Lauralee High & Mighty (imp UK) and he was the leading sire of this era producing BIS winners. He particularly sired lovely bitches that are still winning today.

I have not been able to mention all dogs and there are many fine dogs that with time and space could have been mentioned but this has been a snapshot of Smooth Dachshunds in Australia since the 40s most of whom I have seen in the flesh and actually had my hands on.

Who has been the best? I will leave this up to you to argue however, I must say that in their day they were outstanding dogs and surely that is all that counts.

Robin Hill.

and some more S/S Dachshunds of note



Ch Sundown Commodore



Ch Meldorf Miranda



Ch Windswept Hot Canary



Ch Ardmore Skipper