



Ch Delargy Tiara

Kennels. **Ch Delargy Tiara**, purchased by Hahndorf Kennels (Vic), had big wins in the mid 1970s at a series of Adelaide and Melbourne Royals, and Delargy stock is behind a number of other kennels throughout Australia.

Nevelder, Sondebar and Vita had an early start in NSW, profiting from imports, and Millewa (Vic) is now very successfully concentrating on MSHs. An up-to-date history would of course produce a large list of breeders and exhibitors of this popular variety in all States.

Miniature Long-haired Dachshunds.

The debut of this variety was also in 1950 when three Mornyvarna imports from England were brought in by Mrs Katie Olver who established Dachslein, the first MLH kennels in NSW and the most influential in the early development and popularity of Miniature Longs. In the later '50s, six or more further imports arrived at Dachslein Kennels including the well-known **Ch Mertynabbot Kind Sir** and **Ch Miss Candy of Arundover**, Best Opposite Sex at Melbourne Royal in 1957.

The other early NSW breeder was Windswept kennels, involved at one time or another in all Dachshund varieties, and which imported **Ch Phoebe Sagittary** and **Ch Valentina Sagittary** from England.



At the end of the day, the Dachshund Club focused its attention on the reason for it all - our beloved canines - when we rounded off the day with a wine and cheese spread and we drank to the health of Mrs Barbara Hill's grand veteran Ch Phoebe Sagittary (imp UK) on the eve of her 16th birthday. (Evan Mathieson)

From the early '60s Joy Elliott (Tremicha), Stan and Beth Wales (Jenthep) and Colin Simpson (Calrossie) were other busy NSW breeders in these active times for the variety. Joy Elliott influenced Victorian breeding when she sent a number of dogs to Longview (Vic) which had added Mini-Longs to their kennels and imported **Ferns Red Robin** and **Ferns Red Leaf** from New Zealand. Nita and Ray Rowley (Chipal) were busy in Victoria from around 1960, and the kennel continued with MLHs until Mrs Rowley died in Western Australia some 30 years later. We lived with them for a short time, and agree that they had the largest MLH kennel in Victoria. The Rowleys started with **Ch Dachslein Kewpie Doll**, imported **Minutist Romulus** in 1965,

exported a number to New Zealand, and frequently dominated the breed at Adelaide and Melbourne Royals in the early to mid '70s.

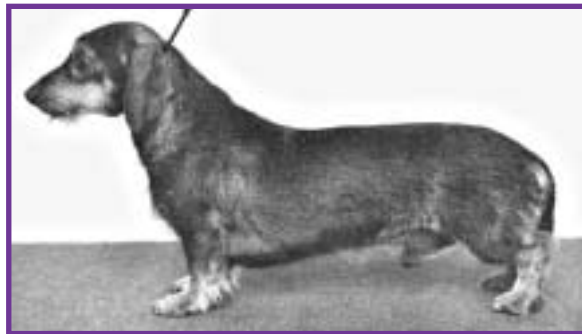
In Queensland Barbara Hill's Saint Barbara Kennels was also established in 1960. She obtained the import **Ch Phoebe Sagittary** from Windswept in 1966, and bred many champions until her retirement in the early '80s. I can only name Lanyon as an early South Australian MLH kennel (about 1968-1978) and Dacshoe in modern times. Ardmore was very active in Western Australia in the 1960s and Mornoble from the early '80s.

Several other kennels have obtained or used English imports over the years, and I can mention Rougelon, Sunkerran and Dakyvae from Victoria, Kerriwen, Graedon, Tambo and Artemus (NSW), Claratan (Qld) and Briala (ACT) which imported the first brindle MLH, **Ch Coleacre Crusader Lad**, into Australia. Such imports have had a big influence on the breed. As with the other varieties I do not have the date for an entirely up-to-date history of the breed.

Miniature Wire-haired Dachshunds

Historywise this variety is the "youngest" of the Dachshunds, but they might claim they are more numerous than the full-sized variety. The first MWH emerged in Victoria in 1962 when a Standard Wire-haired was mated with a Miniature Smooth-haired by Miss Aytoun (Ashintully) and Mrs Brimblecombe (Gradaus). Cross-mating of Dachshund varieties was permitted then, the progeny being registered in the "variety they most closely resemble." Not so today though.

Mrs Stait-Gardiner (NSW) received the first imports from England in 1964. These were Eng **Ch Johnnyville Justice** and **Tanglewood Tar Baby** and **Tanglewood Tarnette**.



Eng Ch Johnnyville Justice (imp UK)

Mr Roach from Newcastle brought in three more between 1965 and 1968. These included a bitch in whelp to an English Champion, **Culdees Phantom**, and **Eng Ch Culdees Ulric**. But unfortunately Mrs Stait-Gardiner and Mr Roach gave up breeding and their stock was lost to the breed. It was then left to Windswept Kennels and Eramosa Kennels (Vic) to carry on with the breed.

In the '70s and '80s, further imports gradually came to Australia, the first being **Little Drummer Boy of Cumtru** which Longview Kennels obtained when his English owner could not continue breeding after he arrived here. Marekberge Kennels commenced operating in 1972 with an import, **Ch Dalywhile of Cumtru**, and became a very successful MWH breeder in Victoria. In later years other breeders utilised the NZ stock (for example Rhondybob), and there was eventually the time when additional imports from Silvae, Drakesleat, Redenhall and other leading English kennels provided a good range of sires for dedicated breeders in the various States. Certainly the number of breeders of MWHs increased, and the standard improved considerably. But few have remained to carry the flag today, with the number in the show ring hardly justifying the work put in by former adherents.

Are Dachshunds better today?

You mean as far as type is concerned? The question is, how bad were they when they started in Australia? Well they may have been quite good for working purposes. Work? Yes they were worked in Europe and perhaps England in the 1800s. The pictures we have of the early Smooth-hairs in Australia in the



1880s show dogs with most exaggerated cabriole front legs with feet turned far out. Extra good for digging out otters. Not attractive for gaiting or stacking in the show ring.

Based on our recollections and photographs of the ordinary Dachshunds in the ring when we joined the dog world in 1959 the conformation changes from selective breeding for all varieties over the last 40 years or so have produced a sounder, more effective hound, front and rear, and with the three Ls we are looking for - long, low, and level! I suggest the greatest change for the Smooth and Long-hairs is the improvement in refinement, or - put another way - the reduction in the coarseness which was not uncommon when we started in the '60s, with an all-over elegance. Heads particularly are more refined and not as coarse as some once were; maybe we don't see so many overdeep briskets, and toplines have definitely improved for all varieties.

The earlier Miniatures often had unattractive heads with broad skulls and short forefaces, and were sometimes cut away under the eyes, which were often round and "poppy". Short rib-cages were common with the attendant ills, and hindquarters unsound. As with the "standard" varieties, heads have improved, and the imperfections mentioned above are rarely seen. Likewise bodily improvement has occurred, and the Miniatures hold their own with their bigger relations.

Where are they now?

In our early dog world life in the 1960s, Dachshunds comprised about 50 percent of the Hound Group at a show. This was not due to a smaller number of dogs than today in other Hound breeds. On the contrary there were usually more in number of the breeds - Afghan Hounds, Bassets, Beagles, Deerhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, perhaps others. We have memories of the Melbourne Royal Show or the Classic Dog Show in those days with some 60 Long-hairs, approaching that number of Min Long-hairs and Min Smooth-hairs, and definitely more than this for Smooth-hairs.

In 2001, Melbourne Royal had 28 Smooths, 33 Longs, 36 Min Smooths, 50 Min Longs. Sydney Royal had half this number with 16 Smooths, 17 Longs, 18 Min Smooths, 22 Min Longs. The Wires totalled 14 for both varieties at Melbourne, and 6 for Sydney.

As staunch Long-haired Dachshund people we are dismayed, as you other Dachshund people are, at the fall off in the popularity of our breed, although we see our currently favoured variety, Miniature Long-hairs, now leading the field in entries. Yes, this fall-off has occurred generally, everyone says, but one sees breeds including Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Jack Russell Terriers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets, Border Collies, Malamutes and Siberian Huskies with quite significant numbers in the ring. Like the exchange rate or the Australian dollar, will we ever get back to the old days?