

The Saint Fancier

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Asia Thought Birthplace of St. Bernards

Club Editor Writes
Brief History
Of Breed

By LeRoy E. Fess

Many hypotheses have been advanced to account for the origin of the St. Bernard dog, but definite proof to substantiate any one of them seems to be lacking. When one has gathered all available information on the subject, however, he is led to the following probability:

That the breed originated from the heavy Molosser type that was brought back from Asia by conquering Roman armies, and which, later, in the dawn of the Christian era, was introduced into Helvetia (Switzerland) during two different invasions.

When St. Bernard de Menton founded his famous Hospice in the Swiss Alps, in the year 980, it is probable that the **Talbund**, a descendant of the Roman Molosser, was by that time a well-established breed in the Alpine valleys.

Dogs at Hospice

Just when dogs first were brought to the Hospice is another debatable question, as, unfortunately, in the 16th century the Hospice was destroyed by fire, and, later, a large part of the Hospice archives again was lost. In what remains there is nothing to be found of when, whither or whence the dogs first were brought to the Great St. Bernard pass.

The prior, Erw. Ch. Lugon, asserts that according to his examination of the archives, the Hospice was still without the dogs in the first part of the 16th century. Earlier records mention nothing about such animals, and it was not until 1707 that the first notation concerning them was made.

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CLUB AUTHORITY NAMES PUPPY MOST PROMISING SAINT SHOWN



BERND v. WALDECK

By Arthur Hesser

In this year's Saint Bernard showing at Westminster, the rough puppy class had one of the finest dogs - eleven month old Bernd v. Waldeck. From my ringside seat I was looking forward to the showing of the mature dogs, but this youngster arrested everyone's attention from the beginning.

He is a perfectly proportioned sound dog with a beautiful head, fine mask, dark eye, and is in every respect worthy of his great father. Gait, build—in short, all his points are correct. He is, of course, still young; he lacks the size and "the flesh on his ribs" that time will no doubt bring him. The black spots on his muzzle are, perhaps, the single objection, but these are without much importance. (His father does not have them nor did his grand father)

Bernd v. Waldeck

Bernd was the most promising Saint Bernard in the show, and his breeder, Mr. Forbriger, is to be congratulated on him. The other dog which appeared in this class, Beauty of Vindobona, was no competition at all.

In the rough novice dog class there were two close competitors—Schweizer Bub

v. Waldeck and Chhota's Son of Donnie, both good average Saint Bernards of medium size. Taking everything into consideration, I should have preferred Chhota's Son of Donnie, although I believe Schweizer Bub v. Waldeck's potentialities are such that in another year he may be superior. Hercuven St. Hillary, placing second, was inferior. His gait was poor, his legs awkward and he was generally untrue to type.

American-bred Dogs

The rough American-bred dogs brought a poor lot, one practically as bad as the other. Despite all his faults, I should have preferred Carlo XII, because in such bad company the best groomed dog should probably take the honors. I have seen Carlo at many shows and his owner is to be complimented on the fine care she gives him. Hopefully, Mrs. Parkas who keeps her dog in such good condition, will some day own a really fine Saint Bernard. The other three dogs of this group were of English type. I found them decidedly unsound. The worst of them was Hercuven Superbus, one of those monstrosities too often imposed upon us in shows of the last ten years. His was

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Club to Hold First Classic In 25 Years

Specialty Show at
Morris and Essex
On May 25

Sterling silver cups and other trophies, donated by officers, governors and members of the St. Bernard Club of America and valued at several hundred dollars, plus a generous offering of cash prizes, will be awarded at the Club's first specialty show in 25 years, to be held on Saturday, May 25, at Madison, New Jersey, in connection with the annual one-day, outdoor classic of the Morris & Essex Kennel club.

Mrs. Eleanor J. Dalton of Stamford, Conn., secretary-treasurer of the Club, is to be the judge. Mrs. Dalton rates as the outstanding judge of the breed in America, and has placed the big dogs at Westminster and Chicago, as well as in Boston and in many of the other big show rings. She judges in accordance with the International standard, which many of the old-line judges are either unable to do or are refusing to do, in spite of the Club's efforts to have the Standard upheld.

1935 Annual Meeting

The St. Bernard Club of America held its third annual meeting since the re-organization in the Hotel Victoria, New York City, on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 12, 1935. The following were present: President Joseph H. Fleischli; Vice Presidents Paul R. Forbriger and William Gartner; Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor J. Dalton; Governors Arthur Hesser and Mrs. T. E. L. Kemp, and these members: Fred Bradshaw, Irwin Cohn, Mr. and Mrs. F. Clay Backhout, Mrs. Pearl Huggins, Mrs. Paul R. Forbriger, Miss Eleanor E. Dalton, and Eric Dalton, the Club's AKC delegate.

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