Apso Diary

Elizabeth Luck

Selected Preview

Four extracts spanning 1891-1970

Selected pages from the full book

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Part 1: 1891 & on

With 2,000 dogs of thirty-six breeds, *Crufts Greatest Dog Show* held at the Royal Agricultural Hall in London, England, is undoubtedly a highlight. However, another show taking place in China must be no less remarkable. Although a report in the Shanghai press states that *'the miscellaneous class didn't include many curiosities',* it concludes with the striking observation that *'there was a Singapore monkey in the same cage as a small and self-possessed dog'.*

A number of interesting breeds feature, including Russian poodles and three varieties of pug - German, Pekinese and Japanese. Some thirty years after the earlier references to Shantung terriers, Mrs Little's dog Jack receives fourth place in the class for this type. He travels quite considerably with his mistress throughout China and beyond, and we are fortunate to have her compelling account of these journeys and a later photograph.[44]

'*We were a party of 17, including our little Szechuan pony, and the dog Jack, a most important member of the cortège, for as he is a long-haired Shantung terrier, a kind unknown in the West of China, where he passes for that mythical animal, so often depicted on Temples, the Lion Dog, we rely upon him to keep the crowds in good humour, and occupy their minds with that puzzling question, "Has he got eyes or not?" a question never quite settled in any place before we pass on to another'.*

> 1891. October 29th. Civil & Military Gazette. For Sale. Tibetan Terriers, splendid watch Dogs. For particulars, apply to 'SINALCO' care of Manager. Lahore.[45]

Undertaking a six-week journey through the Sikkim Himalayas in **1892**, another lady writer and traveller, Florence Donaldson, treks with her husband, local guides and two dogs. She writes that one of these dogs is brought over by traders as a tiny puppy: *'He was about the size and colour of a Dandie Dinmont. His black coat, soft as cat's fur, was marked something like a tabby's, while his short paws and curly tail were tipped with cream'.* Later, she explains: *'Tibetans never travel without a small watchdog, and, knowing the demand for pretty puppies, they often bring one along with them for sale in Kalimpong or Darjeeling. It was in this way that "Tuko" had been purchased and named after the pass we were on. Our acquaintances told us there were many dogs like him in Llassa'.*

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[44] 1891. The North China Herald and Supreme Court and Consular Gazette, Shanghai. 27th September. Vol. 47, no. 1269.

[45] 1891. The Civil and Military Gazette [Lahore, India] 29th October. p. 8.

She continues to describe an incident during the trek when Tuko is discovered missing: *'The dog was in the monastery, and would not come; no one dare touch him. My husband went back, and found him sitting by the big drums, and could only get him away by tying a string to his collar and dragging him off. Whether the little animal was really frightened at the strange noises he had heard all the morning, or whether some recollections of his infancy made him keep guard over the drums, we could not tell'*. Returning to England a few years later, Tuko is entered in a dog show held at Crystal Palace. Mrs Donaldson notes: *'The learned judges of canine beauty were non-plussed, and refused to believe that he was a pure-bred Tibetan dog'*.[46]

Another traveller in the area is the 7th Earl of Dunmore. A politician, explorer, author and artist, he keeps a diary recording his experiences through Kashmir and western Tibet. He writes: '*Trench gave me a Lhasa (Tibetan) dog - such a little beauty! I have named her Hlamo, which is Tibetan for goddess. At present she is but a round ball of fluffy hair, with a most comical little face and the sweetest little tail imaginable, which curls right over her back. She is only two months old'*. Some months later, on visiting Hemis Monastery in Ladakh, he describes meeting the Skootchok, the monastery's founder: '*He is a very intelligent looking child of eight years old, and was brought here from Lhasa (where he was born), about eight or nine months ago. He was dressed in a red conical cap, lined with yellow silk, and a yellow silk dress trimmed with fur; on our entrance into his sanctum, he was sitting cross-legged on his throne, playing with a Lhasa terrier, something like a Skye'*.[47]

In Yorkshire, England, the Honourable Miss Alice Henrietta Antoinette Evelina de Worms, later Mrs Boyer Warner, inherits Kepwick Park following her husband's death. The grand house is said to be filled with curios from all parts of the world whilst, she is described as a great cat and dog fancier. We know at this time she owned and exhibited (among others), King Charles, Pomeranians and Maltese but, her interest in rare foreign dogs is soon to be piqued.

Widowed for one year, she marries David McLaren Morrison, a well-known merchant in Calcutta, India. His career allows them to travel frequently across China and Northern India where she appears to further indulge her passion for collecting unusual animals.[48]

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[46] 1892. The Englishman [England]. From a Lady Correspondent on the Sikkim Hills. V. From Ramtek to Marta. 3rd February. p. 5.

[47] 1893. Murray. C. A. The Pamirs; Being a narrative of a year's expedition on horseback and on foot throughout Kashmir, Western Tibet, Chinese Tatar and Russian Central Asia. Vol. 1. p. 42.

[48] 1896. Mrs McLaren Morrison. Our Portrait Gallery. Ladies' Kennel Journal. XXXII. Notable Dogs of the Year. p. 455.

The report on Crufts **1894** in the Kennel Gazette in March has Mrs McLaren Morrison winning the Team, Breeders and Special Competitions in Foreign Dogs with her group of seven.[49] The Aquarium Toy Dog Show the following month had quite an atmosphere. '*The Toys seemed to appreciate the great talent of Mr J Mortimer Dudman, whose marvellous rendering of several very difficult organ pieces evoked the applause of all who had the fortune to be present whilst he played. In the Toy spaniels, Mr Berrie patiently worked away, having only a bottle of ginger-beer and an Abernethy biscuit for refreshment*'.[50]

An interesting class for spectators at this show must have been *Foreign Dogs*. It consisted of the odd mix of Mr Schmidt's Rampur Hound (Indian sighthound), Mrs McLaren Morrison's Yezo and her liver and white Corean *(sic)* spaniel called Wings.

Reacting to the growing interest among women in show dogs, the Ladies' Kennel Association is founded. A bold response to the Kennel Club (an exclusively male organisation at the time), Mrs McLaren Morrison plays an important role in the new group. As a well-known society figure, her attendance at dog shows and activities around her dog fancy pursuits are frequently chronicled in newspapers and magazines. Helping Mrs McLaren Morrison with her growing menagerie is a specialist kennel man named Succo. Known as the Oriental Keeper, he appears in photos with a turbaned head, preparing her exhibits.

One of these dogs is the aforementioned Yezo, described as a remarkable Thibet spaniel, and originally registered as a Japanese spaniel. Images exist of this dog and of others of a similar type, but with scant registration details and a propensity to give dogs the same or related names, it is difficult to determine with certainty which dog is actually which.

> 1895. May. Ladies' Kennel Journal. Mrs McLaren Morrison of Kepwick Park, Northallerton is a founder member of the Ladies' Kennel Association, and a most liberal and enthusiastic supporter of Dog Shows, where her kennel is always in the front ranks and takes away the leading prizes. We are indebted to her love of the dog and her occasional residence abroad for the introduction into England of many, very many choice specimens of foreign dogs.[51]

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[49] 1894. The Kennel Gazette [England]. March. p. 63.

[50] 1894. Dogs Magazine [England]. 5th May.

[51] 1895. The Ladies' Kennel Journal [England]. May. p. 438.

Fluent in the Tibetan language, John Claude White is our next individual of interest. He has been the British Political Officer in Sikkim since 1889 and meeting with Tibetan officials, part of his remit is to manage relations with Tibet and Bhutan. The 12th Dalai Lama had died at the age of twenty after just three years as leader. Westerners widely believe that Dalai Lamas were all-powerful and autocratic rulers, but through illness, interference or death, they had little opportunity to make any impact for more than 100 years. It is only now in **1895** that the 13th assumes his role as spiritual and political authority in Tibet - just as it becomes the object of political intrusion known as the *Great Game.*

Perhaps as a diversion to the challenging political dealings, Claude White is said to be keeping *'a fine kennel of dogs'*. They frequently appear in his photographs, and he writes of them in his diaries: *'It was while on the next day's march that I had the misfortune to lose my little Tibetan spaniel Nari, who had been my companion on many wanderings in Sikhim, in Khambajong, and in Lhasa. Just as we were commencing lunch by the Tang-chhu, which we had crossed by the Ratsowok bridge, the little chap gave a sigh, fell on his side, and expired, I suppose from heart disease, as not five minutes before he had been chasing a pariah dog.*

These Tibetan spaniels are delightful little dogs, and great pets of my wife's. The first one, Thibet, came into her possession at the end of the Sikhim Expedition (c.1890), a puppy, which one of the telegraph signallers had bought from a Tibetan mule-driver, and ever since, we have never been without some of them, though Tibbie, alas!, died many years ago; but his descendants have come to England, and I hope may have many years before them. They are dainty little creatures, with beautiful silky coats of black fluffy hair, and feathery tails curled on their backs, yet full of pluck, game enough to kill rats, and the three who accompanied me to Lhasa, little Nari among the number, used to run daily for miles over the great Tibetan plain, hunting for marmots, hares, anything that came in their way'.[52]

> 1895. August 10th. The Field. The Ladies' Kennel Journal. This novel magazine has now well entered on the second volume, and appears to continue its excellent and distinctive features. There is quite an interesting and original article on "The Bhutan Dog or Tibetan Terrier," apparently written by one who has known similar dogs in India and on her borders. The text is evidently an animal which has recently been exhibited in this country by Mrs McLaren Morrison, and which has generally been considered by "fanciers" to be a half-bred Skye or Scottish terrier - at any rate, it resembles what such an animal would be. We should like to see a few more dogs of similar appearance before coming to the conclusion that they are a distinct variety.[53]

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[52] 1909. White. J Claude. Sikhim and Bhutan - 21 Years on North East Frontier. pp. 153 - 154.

[53] 1895. The Field [England]. The Ladies' Kennel Journal. 10th August. p. 263.

Part 7: 1934 & on

1934. January 26th. Morpeth Herald and Reporter. Tail Wagger Chats. The Dogs of Tibet. My mind happens to be running on Tibetan breeds, because of a request just received from an influential businessman in Norway to tell him what I could about several of them. By a strange coincidence, no sooner had I finished dictating a reply than a letter was delivered from Sweden begging for similar information.[470]

A piece for the Daily Herald offers an interesting take on the origins of Madame Arline's dog Llhama. Explaining that he is to be entered at Crufts, the writer adds: *'To judge by his looks, he would take first prize at any flower show - he is an Asiatic dog, with a face like a chrysanthemum'*. A warning follows, *'Anyone found in unlawful possession of this breed was put to death or reprimanded in some similar manner'*. Their scarcity is put down to there being only one female in every half-dozen litters, and regarding their name, *'The alternative of Tibetan Lion Dog is considered a rather idealistic title and another, even less appropriate - Tibetan Wolf Hound'*. The author of this piece concludes, *'Since Llhama is only about two feet in length, with a decidedly underslung chassis, one can only conclude that wolves in Tibet are neither big nor bad'*.[471] Incidentally, Llama's owner - Madame Arline is a well-known beauty specialist in Kensington, London and no doubt very good with presentation.

1934. February 8th Daily Telegraph. Full Benches at Crufts Show. Officially speaking, the Kennel Club show may be the most important of all shows, but Cruft's is a name to conjure with, and there is an 'Auld Lang Syne' feeling about it which draws the same people whether they are exhibiting or not every year…This year there is said to be three miles of benching…Apsos have made a good show; these little dogs from Thibet, their real name being 'Rapso' which means 'goat-like' as their long hair gives them rather the appearance of the small thibetan goat. They have an entry of 19. They are not entirely new, but their admirers are 'pushing' them this year. There are also Thibetan Spaniels and Lhassa Terriers.[472]

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[470] 1934. Morpeth Herald and Reporter [England]. The Dogs of Tibet. By Philokuon. 26th January. p. 5.

[471] 1934. Daily Herald [England]. Hughes. S. 2nd February. p. 6.

[472] 1934. The Daily Telegraph [England]. Vincent. K. 8th February.

The Crufts schedule of **1934** provides three options for our exhibitors; Any Other Variety Not Otherwise Scheduled, Tibetan Terriers and Apsos. Mrs McLaren Morrison sticks to what she knows and enters in AOV with her Lhassa Terriers and competes against a Finsk (Finnish Spitz) bred by Mrs Bailey. Dr Greig's sister, Miss Daisy, is the only exhibitor in the Tibetan Terriers, but faces more competition in the Tibetan Spaniels from Mrs E. M. Brownlees who is taking up the breed.



Mrs Ingmire's Langtru, c. 1934.‡

There are thirteen Apso entries. The Bailey breeding is represented by their own Drenjong Taktru, Droma and Litsi but also by Captain G. A. Nevill's Zizi,[473] Lady Freda's Changtru, the Wild sisters' Satru and Sona, the Dudleys' Lamo[474] and Langtru,[475] the latter being owned by Mrs May Ingmire.

Mrs Bailey enters Lugu,[476] bred by Nevill. The remaining exhibits are Aislaby Kalimpong Singhi, now in the ownership of Mrs Bromley; Madame Arline's Taiping;[477] and Joss,[478] exhibited by Mrs Geoghegan. Prior to being imported to England, Joss is kept by Miss Hubble in Kasuli, India for six months and is used at stud.

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[473] Zizi. D. Born 20th March 1926. Owned by Capt. Nevill. Bred by Mrs Bailey. By Sentru x Apso.

[474] Lamo. B. Born 9th November 1932. Owned & bred by Mrs Dudley. By Tsitru x Drenjong Droma.

[475] Langtru. D. Born 9 January 1933. Owned by Mrs M. Ingmire. Bred by Mrs Dudley. By Lhasa x Litsi.

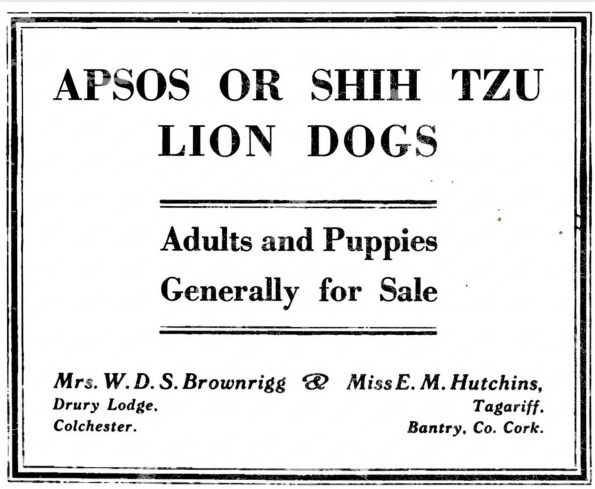
[476] Lugu. B. Born 25th December 1932. Owned by Mrs Bailey. Bred by Capt. Nevill. By Zizi x Nima.

[477] Taiping. D. Born 27 April 1933. Bred by Mr E. M. Hutchins. By Lung Fu Ssu x Tai Tai.

[478] Joss. (Imp. India). D. Date of birth, pedigree and breeder unknown.

Judging is Mrs Hayes' husband, the Major, and he chooses Drenjong Droma as the winning bitch of whom he says: *Nice type, not in best coat; good golden colour, typical head though lacking in furnishings; placed on type.* Zizi is Best Dog and described as, *'Just sufficient type, with good condition of coat and good head furnishings'.*

Although not exhibiting, Mrs Brownrigg and Miss Hutchins make their presence known with a prominently placed advertisement in the catalogue. An application is being put forward to change the title of the *Apso and Lion Dog Club* to *Shih Tzu (Tibetan Lion Dog) Club.*



Crufts catalogue advert 1934.

1934. February 27th. Evening News (London). The Duchess's New Pet. A Tibetan Lion Dog. The Duchess of York is to get a new fashion in toy dogs this summer. She has bought a small Tibetan Lion dog, one of the most unusual-looking animals ever seen in this country. Until three or four years ago, there were no dogs of this breed here, but now that the Duchess has shown her interest to the extent of buying one from a kennel in Norway, it is likely that a number of women will also be anxious to do so.[479]

The Duchess of York is gifted a dog from Queen Maud of Norway. Bred by Mrs Kaufmann, the dog is named Choo Choo.[480] Later, a Shih Tzu breed specialist describes him as having: *'More of an Apso face and his bite was overshot, but he proved very fashionable as a stud due to the Royal connection'.*[481]

[479] 1934. Evening News, London [England]. 27th February. p. 3.

[480] Choo Choo. D. Born 12th May 1933. Owned by Duchess of York. Bred by Mrs Kaufmann. By Aidzo x Schauder.

[481] 1985. Original letter from Mrs Widdrington to author. 20th March.‡

The Crufts critique is unusually long and causes considerable discussion amongst exhibitors as Major Hayes writes: '*I will preface these notes by disclaiming any personal observation in Tibet itself, never having been further than the frontiers of Sikkim and Bhutan. My opinions are based on examination of many dogs and piecing together information from Tibetans, Sikkimese, and Bhutanese who were kind enough to answer queries, and from Europeans who have been in Tibet'.*[482]

As some doubt apparently exists as to what the Apso should be like, Major Hayes explains: '*I decided before entering the ring to go right out for type, without beating about the bush as to details…What I was looking for was what I have always understood the Apso to be - that is the name applied to the sought after, golden-coloured Lhassa dog (not the miniature.) In body-shape not unlike a Border Terrier, but slightly longer perhaps; head shape, muzzle etc., very like the Border - indeed, skull slightly narrower even'.* He notes the distinctive coat in both texture and undercoat: '*The head furnishings in the form of the heavily feathered dark ear tips, the beard of the dogs predominant, and the colour there heavily tinged with black (this latter feature is not always found, but is very desirable) and there are the fine, long whiskers on either side of the muzzle. The long head-hair over the face, the whole combining to give the appearance of the head of an Old English Sheep-dog, of a beautiful colour and even more heavily coated'.*

In addition to this, he draws attention to the distinctive feature of the tail: *'this should be screwed over the back, the tighter the better and covered with long hair. The most typical would curl almost twice round the finger. In dogs born and bred in the country I have always noticed a peculiar kink at the tip of the tail. I ignored this latter, of course, as I do not know its origin, or perhaps cause. I also did not stress the golden colour, as this is not fixed or understood. As in colour, it can vary, and with haphazard Oriental ways the results can be imagined, though I gathered that the more well-to-do Tibetans do mate their dogs for colour quite a lot'.*

On meeting the dogs in the ring, Major Hayes looks them over and sees as the complete combination of characteristics he wants to be found in one dog. *'The two dogs of best type were utterly out of coat. The best typed dog in the ring was an old dog, out of coat, and not in very good condition'.* The oldest dog present is the Dudleys' Lhasa, at well over ten years of age. The Major continues, *'The winner was not so good in body type or face, but was in good coat and condition, had head furnishings and correct tail. There were also one or two dogs and bitches lower down in the placings who would have been higher if there had been a fixed standard; when there is one, a dog in bad coat will have little or no chance, as so much will depend on coat'.*

The emphasis on coat suggests that he is referring to the *Lhassa and Tibetan Terrier Association of India Standard of Points,* which recommends an allocation of 20 points to coat, 20 to symmetry and character, 15 for head, 10 for front, 15 for body, 10 for tail, and 10 for the hindquarters.

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[482] 1934. Our Dogs. Hayes. G. The Apso's, Tibetan Spaniels and Tibetan Terriers at Crufts. 16th February. p. 474.

Part 13: 1965 & on

The theme of Crufts **1965** is the export market, with the aim of attracting foreign buyers. A special lounge is created where breeders and buyers can meet and deals can be arranged over a drink. Kennel Club staff and a veterinary surgeon examine exhibits intended for export: *'The cost of such being borne by the Show Committee. Export documents will be issued, where possible, within a few days following the close of the show.'*[1034]

Verles Tom Tru[1035] wins the class of eighteen strong novices under judge Mr B. Siggers. A well-respected judge, he considers some of the breed in Britain '*a bit big with a long noses'*.[1036] Brackenbury Gunga Din of Verles, aged six years, wins Best of Breed and as championship status is restored, is awarded his first Challenge Certificate. Coming reserve to Gunga Din is Verles Yangdup of Cheska. Mons. Clément writes from France to his owner, Mrs Thursby stating *'your dog is the ONLY REAL Lhassa who was at Crufts'*[1037] and offers to provide information about the dogs in Europe for the book she is working on.

At Westminster, from the fifteen dogs entered, Mr F. J. Landgraf selects Ch. Americal's Torma Lu,[1038] owned by Mrs Benitez, as Best Lhasa Apso. He goes on to be placed fourth in the Group.

> 1965. March. Canberra Times. Dalai Lama appeals. New Delhi. The exiled Dalai Lama of Tibet appealed yesterday to the world to rescue his Chinese occupied Himalayan nation. The Dalai Lama, who lives at Dharmsala, in north-west India, made the appeal in a statement issued to mark the sixth anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising against Communist China.[1039]
>
> *'In the name of humanity I call upon all the peoples of the world to come to the rescue of the unfortunate and unhappy people of Tibet.'*

[1034] 1965. Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News [UK]. Dogs for Export. By J.A. Taylor. 1st February. p. 126.

[1035] Tom Tru. D. Owned & bred by Mr & Mrs D. Hesketh-Williams. By Ramblersholt Rham x Verles Dhomtuk.

[1036] 1966. Original letter from Mrs Thursby to Mrs Stillman dated 6th January.‡

[1037] 1965. Original letter from Mons. André Clément to Mrs Thursby dated 12th March.‡

[1038] Torma Lu. D. Born 12th August 1959. Owned by Mrs Benitez. Bred by Mrs Stillman. By Ch. Hamilton Chang-Tang x Ch. Hamilton Torma.

[1039] 1965. Canberra Times [Australia]. 12th March. p. 10.



Jordanian Droma c.1965‡

Mrs Anne Matthews runs a successful boarding kennels and has been a breeder of Basset Hounds (and other breeds) for several years in England. Aware of a recent litter from Jordanian Droma[1040] and sired by Gunga Din, Mrs Matthews buys her first Lhasa Apso - Tungwei of Coburg[1041] to start her breeding programme. A young man, Paul Stanton, assists her at the Hardacre Kennels and at the same time, is introduced to the world of dog showing.

The international movement of dogs is increasing. Travel between Denmark, Sweden, France, Belgium and Germany, and with the United States, remains comparatively straightforward, allowing a more active exchange of breeding stock. In contrast, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand maintain strict quarantine regulations as rabies-free nations. Entry is restricted by extended periods of confinement (up to six months), limiting the importation of new bloodlines. Breeders favour sales and exhibition within continental Europe and between Europe and the United States, avoiding the delays and expense of quarantine. Mrs Mewis Van Der Ryck is one such breeder. Using the prefix Shaggy Wonder, she is based in Belgium with her foundation stock from Brackenbury and the Hamilton line via Americal. She now imports American Ch. Orleans Golden Puppet,[1042] a dog bred by Dorothy Kendall. A professional handler and owner of the Orlane's Kennels (miniature schnauzers), Mrs Kendall produced this litter after acquiring Everglo's Spark of Gold[1043] and Kai Sang's Flame[1044] from Mrs Fowler.

[1040] Jordanian Droma. B. Born 3rd January 1963. Bred by Miss Harding. By Ch. Brackenbury Gunga Din of Verles x Tango Of Gold.

[1041] Tungwei. B. Born 6th October 1964. Owned by Mrs A Matthews. Bred by Miss Harding. By Brackenbury Kyi x Jordanian Droma.

[1042] Golden Puppet. D. Owned by Mrs Mewis Van Der Ryck. Bred by Mrs Kendall. By Everglo Spark of Gold x Kai Sang's Flame of Everglo.

[1043] Spark of Gold. D. Born 23rd May 1963. Owned by Mrs Kendall. Bred by Mrs Fowler. By Ch. Kai Sang's Clown of Everglo x Tibetan Cookie of Everglo.

[1044] Flame. D. Owned by Mrs Kendall. By Ch. Kai Sang's Clown of Everglo x Hamilton Norden.

In Sweden Mrs Marianne Baurne, already established in Tibetan breeds imports three dogs from England - Cheska Yang Tru,[1045] Drywall Tansi,[1046] and Brackenbury Lhamo. Soon, her Krysant kennels include Shaggy Wonder Pen-Ming and Montsveag Cholmari Chumbi. With others such as Barbro Sabel (Sweden), Dr Mary Täuber of the Vom Polata kennels and Herr Klaus Miebach (Federal Republic of German), plans are made to establish the Internationaler Klub für Tibetische Hunderassen (International Club for Tibetan Dog Breeds) as a central hub.

A medical condition, referred to as *'water drinkers',* is being discussed more frequently, and soon the breed is diagnosed with cases of diabetes insipidus in the United States and Germany. Mrs Stillman has one such case and, along with a prevalence of *'poor uneven teeth'*, hopes an English dog might prove useful. She curtails her breeding and imports a pup from Mrs Hesketh-Williams named Jeb,[1047] but as he matures, it becomes clear that the dental issues are not isolated to a particular line. She describes his head as terrier-like and, *'very different from any Lhasa that ever came from Hamilton Farms'.*[1048] Mrs Stillman has already assisted in finding an American bred puppy for Dr Cleménts; Lico's Djesi-La.[1049] Recognising her knowledge, both Mrs Thursby and Mlle Dupont turn to her for similar help.

The much-anticipated paperback on the breed by the Chenoworths is released - *How to Raise and Train a Lhasa Apso.* While many are pleased to have a modern breed-specific book, some are concerned by the leggy Apso featured on the cover said to have been bred by Mrs Stillman and sold specifically as a pet puppy. There is also talk of *'some very ambiguous references to Apso dogs from China'.*[1050]



Cover of *How to Raise and Train a Lhasa Apso.* 1965.[1051]

[1045] Yang Tru. D. Owned by Mrs M. Baurne. Bred by Mrs F. Sefton. By Ch. Yangdup of Cheska x Ramblersholt Sik Tru

[1046] Tansi. B. Born 13th September 1965. Owned by Mrs M. Baurne. Bred by Mrs H. J. Langdale. By Ch. Verles Tom Tru x Brackenbury Diki La.

[1047] No further details found.

[1048] Original letter from Mrs Stillman to Mrs Thursby. Undated.‡

[1049] Licos Djesi La. D. Owned by Dr Cleménts. Bred by Mrs Licos. By Licos Omorfo-La x Dama's Lu Country Fair.

[1050] Original letter from Mrs Bailey to Mrs Thursby. Undated.‡

[1051] 1964. Chenoworth. P & T. 1965. How to Raise and Train a Lhasa Apso. Cover image by Louise van de Meid.*

Hoping to correct misconceptions, and encouraged by fellow enthusiasts keen to dispel myths surrounding the Tibetan breeds, Mrs Thursby sets out to write her own handbook.[1052] She sends her draft notes to Mr Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, the naturalist and author of books on wildlife, cats and dogs, requesting his comments.

Her introductory letter reads: *'I have completely ignored some of the wilder claims and theories that have spread around…There are several types of domesticated dog emanating from Tibet, and the task of sorting them out is not helped by the fact that the Tibetans have never bred selectively or bothered very much to perpetuate any particular type. Consequently, the types have mixed indiscriminately over the years. However, some definite "breeds" have evolved'.*[1053]

> 1965. July 20th. Letter. From Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald. Thank you for your letter and for letting me see your very interesting 'Notes on Tibetan Dogs'…I would, if I may, like to congratulate you. Most of the handbooks I see usually bear scant relationship to the historical truth, and some, in that respect, indulge in the wildest fantasy. Your notes are as accurate, historically, as they can be. I too, have seen a reference to 800BC. There is no evidence to support this, and I am quite sure that none will ever be found. I think that you are quite right in suggesting that the Tibetan Spaniel is not an original Tibetan breed and also that you're are right in suggesting that it is a recent manufacture. In fact, I think this is jolly good. Jolly good all the way through.[1054]

A debate of a different kind is taking place in Canada. With dogs like the Roberts' Teako of Abbotsford (now an American and Canadian champion) beating Poodles and Chows in the United States Non-Sporting Group, and Dandie Dinmonts and Westies in the Terrier Group in Canada, four exhibitors petition the Canadian Kennel Club Board in September to move the breed. The Secretary informs the signatories that, *'On a previous occasion, the Board had considered such a proposal and decided that the Lhasa Apso would remain in Group 4, and that at the present time no consideration is being given to transferring the breed to another Group'.*[1055]

> 1965. December. West Sussex County Times. Pets. A puppy that will fit into your Christmas stocking from 10gns, cash or easy monthly payments - including inoculation against distemper - Tibetan Apsos *(lists 15 other breeds).* Balcombe Road, Crawley. Telephone Pound Hill 2369 or call in any day including Sunday from 10 a.m - 7p.m.[1056]

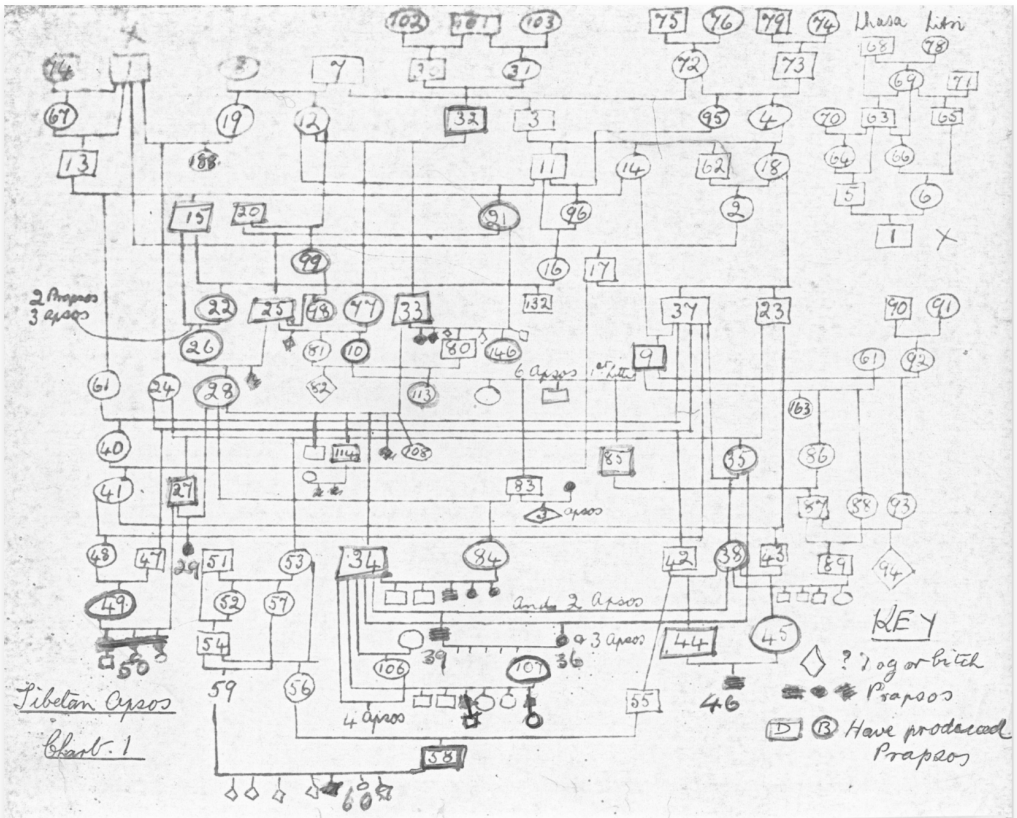
[1052] 1965. Original letter from Mrs Stillman to Mrs Thursby dated 2nd December.‡

[1053] 1964. Original letter from Mrs Thursby to Brian Vesey-FitzGerald. Undated.‡

[1054] 1965. Original letter from Brian Vesey-FitsGerald to Mrs Thursby dated 20th July.‡

[1055] 1965. Dogs in Canada. Kennel & Bench. Board Meeting held 29th September. p. 3.

[1056] 1965. West Sussex County Times [UK]



" " " 28 - 3 dogs, 1 stillborn, 1 died, 1 good Apso

29 " " 104 - 4 dogs, all died except 1 (too young to say)
" " " 33 - 3 dogs, 1 bitch, 1 Prapso . First dog No. 34 2nd dog sen Germary, 3rd dog has thrown 2 Prapsos in 30 to daughter of 25. The bitch, No. 108, has had 23 pups to 25 and 32, all Apsos.

12 mated to 20 - 2 Apsoc
" " " 11 twice - 3 Apsos
" " " 23 (her grandson who produced the first Prapso) - 4 Apsos

32 mated to 98 (by 25) 3 Apsos, 3 Prapsos
" " " 99 (by ~~7 ex 98~~) 30% Prapsos (25 and 77 produced the first Prapso
" " " 12 and 77 - All Apsos

77 mated to 25 - 1st and 2nd litters - 50% Prapsos (including first one)
" " " 9 - 1st litter 6 Apsos

Co-operative Hereditary Abnormalities Research Team documentation - Prapso occurrences, 1970‡

Part 14: 1970 & on

One topic gaining interest is inheritance patterns. Although access to pedigrees is still limited (one would have to ask another breeder to handwrite a copy and post it), the desire to analyse bloodlines is growing. This marks a continuation of the discussions about 'pure lines', and hidden traits that had begun to surface in the previous decade. Seeking greater understanding of the Prapsos, Mrs Beard engages the services of geneticists at the Co-operative Hereditary Abnormalities Research Team (CHART). Their advice to breeders is not to cull or hide these dogs, but instead to record any occurrences, have them neutered, and sell them as pets.

Similar coat-type variations are also being reported within the Shih Tzu breed. In its early generations, both in the United States and Europe, breeders occasionally saw a *'throwback'* to a Tibetan Spaniel type, along with other variations with differing coat growth.[1130] Speculation about the cause of the gene responsible continues, with one Shih Tzu breeder suggesting, *'Given that Prapsos pop up so readily all over the place, it could hardly be recessive unless the breed is much more inbred than I thought it was'.*[1131]

Mrs Cohen provides more information for Mrs Sefton reporting that puppies sired by Rham Tru the previous year are *'definitely Tibetan Spaniel type now they have grown up'*. She notes that the Cuttings *'kept very quiet about what they had',* and after thirty years, there is little chance of finding out now.[1132]

To this, Mrs Roberts (Abbotsford) adds that she and a friend visited Hamilton Farm and were told that three breeds had been introduced there to correct faults. This reportedly included a pug, used to broaden very snipey noses. An owner of several Hamilton dogs backs this up, recalling seeing a pug there used to correct loose tail carriage. The other two breeds said to have been used at Hamilton Farm are Tibetan Terriers, to give straighter legs, and Maltese, to give pigment - but this resulted in tiny teeth.[1133]

[1130] 1984. Our Dogs. The Shih Tzu. 11th October. p. 20.

[1131] 1970. Original letter from Mrs Brownlee to Mrs Sefton dated 5th January.‡

[1132] 1970. Original letter from Mrs Beard to Mrs Sefton dated 12th January.‡

[1133] Letter from Ruth Deck to Barbara T. Undated.‡

Three charts are provided by the geneticist, showing the exact breeding of all known Prapsos along with the carriers. *'The pattern is still the same - tracing back along the same lines to the same dogs'.*[1134] The request from CHART to Mrs Beard in Australia is to mate the two Sherry type Prapso bitches to Horace: *'It should tell you whether the Sherry type is connected with the out and out Prapso gene. If they were all a mixture of Horace and Sherry type Prapsos, then it obviously is connected. If they were all Apsos, even if poor ones, then I'd say there is no connection with the Prapso gene. If there were some of each, it would point to imperfect penetrance or interaction'.*[1135]

Support to carry out this testing is on its way as Mrs Sefton arrives in Australia from England, but with heightened fear of rabies, the importation of dogs is suspended. This leaves her with no option but to disperse her dogs amongst family and friends. Her book *The Lhasa Apso* is published and in it, she reiterates her view: *'There is, one important point to make: to suppose a link between Lhasa Apso and Buddhism does not in any way imply that the little dog is a 'holy' or 'sacred' dog, or was worshipped in any way, or held in any kind of religious awe. There is not historical evidence to suggest it, and nothing in the Tibetan form of Buddhism that would imply it. However there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to suggest the Apso Seng Kyi was held in a special place of affection for Tibetans, in as much as the lamb is a special symbol for the Christian. I would suggest it as no more, no less, than that'.*[1136]

In the United Kingdom, the Tibetan Apso Club (renamed from the original Lhasa Apso Club in 1935), now reverts to its original name, and the breed Standard is being revised. Mrs Bailey later writes, *'It was really quite absurd ever to have changed it as they have been known all over the world as Lhasa Apsos ever since I brought my original ones from Tibet in 1928'.*

In September, Judy de Casembroot judges the first Championship Show under the new name and Lady Freda Valentine judges the Open class where she makes Saluq Annapurna Quapito (now known as Brioche) Best in Show.

1134 1970. Percival. D. Co-operative Hereditary Abnormalities Research Team. Kent.

1135 1970. Original letter from Dorothy Percival (CHART) to Mrs Beard. 14th January.‡

1136 1970. The Lhasa Apso. Sefton. F. p. 4.

A panel of five judges, all of whom had owned and bred dogs in Tibet, meet for the first time to record their views in New Delhi. Joining them is Lobsang Lhalungpa, a Tibetan scholar and broadcaster with first-hand knowledge of the country's dogs. Together with the members of the Apso Show Committee, they agree upon and record the points of the various breeds of Tibetan dogs. '*There are five types of pet dog - Apso, Jemtse Apso (known elsewhere as Tibetan Spaniel), Ursu Apso, Goh-khi (a tiny dog with a sleek body known as sleeve dog) and Gyaki - the Pekinese. There is no such thing as a 'prayer dog' despite the popular notion abroad. The breed know as Shihtzu to outsiders is actually of Apso class…Abroad Apsos seem to be called Lhasa Apsos although we never call them that in Tibet. The most prized Apsos are those that have small bodies with long soft coats, broad faces, short muzzles and legs full of hair, carrying a heavy tail well curled over the back. Regarding colours white is considered the best especially if the hair is silky, next preferred is parti-coloured followed by all-black. It would be wrong to say that Tibetans prefer golden colour above others'.*[1137]

These New Delhi discussions are part of a wider network of Tibetan dog enthusiasts across India, with breeders, judges, and owners often moving between major show centres such as Calcutta, Poona, and Darjeeling. An interesting four-year-old import arrives in the United Kingdom named Burdyck Chan Champa[1138]. A bitch from Poona, she is said to have been born in a monastery in Kalimpong. Both sire and daughter are registered with the Indian Kennel Club. Owned by recently retired Mr and Mrs Stanley Chandler of the British Diplomatic Service, Champa serves as their guard dog and evidently a great rat-catcher during their time in India.[1139]

> 1970. November 13th. Dundee Courier. From Tibet. Mrs. Robertson is one of only three Lhasa Apso breeders in Scotland. The Apso is a Tibetan breed and comparatively new to Britain. "Legend has it that they were put into the wool packs on the yaks to ward off robbers! I find them a fascinating breed," Mrs. Robertson says. "They've a gay, assertive nature, with a tremendous sense of fun." A few weeks ago, Mrs. Robertson sent three Apsos to Canada. "We always keep in touch with the people who buy our puppies and so, through our dogs, we've friends all over the world," she said.[1140]

[1137] 1970. A Brief Account of Tibetan Dogs. The Apso Committee. New Delhi. India.

[1138] Burdyck Chan Champa. B. Born 16th October 1966. Owned by Mrs M. L. Chandler. Bred by Mr B. H. Stickell. By Spotty x Scadalas.

[1139] 1982. Lhasa Apso Booklet [England]. Burdyck. p. 23.

[1140] 1970. Dundee Courier [Scotland]. The Doggy Aristocrats. 13th November. p. 3.