

GRIFFON HISTORY - KENNELS FROM THE PAST -



Spotlight On: LALAROOKH

MRS DORIS BRIDLE

Mrs Bridle and her Lalarookh Griffons have always fascinated me, I have put some images of her dogs in Progress before and we also had an interesting article from Julie Wild, who had her first Griffons from Mrs Bridle (see Winter 2010 No.61)

I was prompted to tell the Lalarookh story by the following image that Joan Martyn said she had seen in the 2009 Dog World annual of their 1949 cover.:

It was in the late 1920s that Mrs Bridle fell for the charms of the Griffon and so founded her Lalarookh kennel situated in Weybridge, Surrey. Her interest was in breeding miniature Griffons and in obedience training them. Both of which she successfully achieved. Her foundation stud dog L Jolie a red rough at just over 4lb in weight, consistently sired small stock, he was quite successful in the show ring with many firsts at Ch shows and a CC. Wee Man, as he was known, was the sire of her one and only champion; L Gem, a red smooth born in 1935, Gem was owned by Lorna Countess Howe* of the famous Banchory kennel of Labradors, (who owned the very first dual Ch Labrador B Bolo!). The Countess was as



interested in obedience training the Griffons as Mrs Bridle, she so admired the brainy little Griffons and owned a number herself and was very particular about their training as much as she was with her Labradors! The Countess owned quite a few Lalarookhs in partnership with Mrs Bridle and indeed bred some herself with the Banchory affix. In some of the old Crufts catalogues the partnership was shown as Howe and Bridle.

After many years of careful and selective breeding and with many disappointments along the way, Mrs Bridle had produced a strain of miniatures which bred true to the type she wanted without any dwarfishness. At one time importing a bitch from the famous Belgian kennel of Mme Warzee - Wily Du Clos Des Orchidees. Her stock was much in demand here and overseas, especially America, where breeders were really keen to have the miniature Griffons. In or around 1950 Mrs Bridle took a small team of Lalarookhs out there to establish a branch in New York!

The . . .
**LALAROOKH
 MINIATURE
 GRIFFONS**
 Property of
Mrs. Doris Bridle
 Phone and Cables: Weymouth 1021



Good Morning Everybody!
**LALAROOKH FLAME (fbs.) and
 LALAROOKH PIQUENITO (fbs.)**

RED GATES
 WALTON LANE
 WEYBRIDGE; and
 NEW YORK, U.S.A.



Are we going for a walk?
LALAROOKH PIQUENITO, fbs.

THIS is the only kennel of Miniature Griffons in England and New York, and Mrs. Bridle, who started breeding Miniatures several years ago, can now hold her own in obedience classes.

A beautiful Brussels bitch, **Lalarookh Wily du Clos des Orchidees**, has recently been imported from Brussels, as Mrs. Bridle is a firm believer in introducing fresh blood into her kennels from time to time. This lovely bitch has recently produced a lovely litter by the well-known Miniature stud dog, **Lalarookh Scaramouche**.

None of the Lalarookhs are kept as kennel dogs; they are all brought up as house-pets under Mrs. Bridle's constant care and personal attention.

Lalarookh Cream Rouge, the obedience-trained Miniature Smooth Griffon, has had the honour this year of winning outright the Partridge Hill Fearless cup for best Smooth Griffon.

As the demand often exceeds the supply, it is advisable to book well in advance.

The kennel may be seen any time by appointment.

A. W. Fullwood.



**LALAROOKH WILY DU CLOS
 DES ORCHIDEES**

Photos, Theo. Fall.

The Lalarookhs had some success in showing, apart from L Jolie mentioned above, she had four other CC winners between 1932 and 1953 and this was a time when there were some very successful breeders and exhibitors around. Such as Mrs Parker Rhodes' Partridge Hill, Mrs Street's Skibbereens, Mrs Ionides' Vulcans, The Gregory's Gregtois amongst them. But of course she also excelled in obedience training her dogs and competed successfully with them as well., in fact they did compete in Crufts obedience classes. At one time the Griffon Bruxellois club included classes for miniatures, in the early days of the club the weight specified

was under 5 or 5.5 lbs. This crept up to under 7lbs in later years, I don't know when these weight classes ceased but the latest one I could find was in 1969, though I think they may have gone on for some time after that, perhaps someone knows or even remembers!

The two smooths shown on the cover of the DW annual are known as 'the twins' L Cream Rouge' and L Lipstick', they were identical in colour and weight (3.5 lbs) and became quite well known for their obedience displays, they are amongst the dogs shown below:



*Member Melvyn Radbourne tells me he remembers Tessa Gaines telling him about a Countess who took her Griffon hunting! He thinks it must have been Countess Howe!



Photo by] LORNA Countess Howe and CH. LALAROOKH GEM (Fall



Lorna Countess Howe with Gem and also out riding with a Griffon in her arms and a Labrador by her side

Mrs Bridle advertised extensively and there are so many wonderful ads to choose from, but I think the above cover the story of the Lalarookhs. The last dated advert I found was in 1966. I do wonder when she gave up breeding and, apart from Julie Wilde, whether there are any other Griffonites who do remember her ?

*I thought the affix was so unusual I wondered where it came from – so looked it up and discovered that was taken from the narrative poem **Lalla Rookh** by Thomas Moore, published in 1817.*

(My thanks to Melvyn for his help on research with the above.)