

## *HISTORIC KENNELS*

### **BACK TO THE BEGINNING – some of the very first influential Griffon kennels**

**PART 2** – In the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century apart from Muriel Handley Spicer, three other kennels were to the fore: Mrs Whaley's Glenartneys; Miss Hall's Park Place and Miss Johnson's Sunnymedes. A significant dog during that time was Ch Glenartney Sport (see last issue). He sired two champions one of which became the first smooth champion G Pimpernel, but the male line from Sport ended with these two.



CH GLENARTNEY SPORT

Sport was one of four champions sired by the Belgian Ch Loustic, who also sired the famous Sparklets, a small red red rough (see last issue), an outstanding sire and at one time was said to be the sire of every winner in the Griffon classes! He sired Ch Nougat, owned by Miss Johnson before she acquired her Sunnymead prefix, Nougat was a great competitor of Sport, though Miss Cousens states "by all accounts he was not in the same league"



Sparklets was also the sire of three Park Place champions. Incidentally all seven of Miss Hall's Park Place champions were bitches, though she is recorded as the breeder of the above Ch Nougat (no prefix). Miss Hall stopped breeding and showing during the Great War years, though the other three breeders carried on well into the 1920s.

By the end of the first decade other kennels of note were coming into existence. Among them Castlehaven (the Misses Plunket) and Partridge Hill (Mrs Parker Rhodes and Miss Pepper), and soon after Mrs Barwell's Glenwoods, these three kennels produced the majority of the champions made up during the 20s and 30's.

The earliest of these were the Castlehavens whose first champion was C Flashlight.



Photo ]

] Tail,

**Three lovely Castlehaven youngsters  
L to R – Dream and Tails Up, both became champions  
and a rough son of Ch C Cocktail**

All the Glenwoods were named with a G, Glenwood Grig being one of the most notable, he sired four champions and had a lovely head as can be seen in the photo by Fall below:



*Photo., Thos. Fall.*

**GLENWOOD GRIG.**

But the most important Glenwood stud was Ch Gascon has he sired Irish Ch Victor of Babbacombe, who though bred here in 1940 by Miss Clay, went to Ireland. There were some good bitches in Ireland at the time including Partridge Hill Polonaise and she was one of the bitches mated to Victor, he sired four UK champions, three of which were largely responsible for re-establishing the breed after the depletion of the war years. Marjorie Cousens says of Victor "he was the most important dog in the history of the breed". From a line of Glenwood champions the leading line B came about.

The Partridge Hill kennel actually began in 1910, though their first champion P H Piccolo wasn't born until 1926, also Mabel Parker Rhodes was the author of 'The Cult Of The Griffon Bruxellois' which was published in that year (now quite a rare find). The book was aimed at the novice and had chapters on whelping, rearing and showing, it also included dogs at stud pedigrees and breeders adverts.



**L. to R.: PURCHASE OF PARTRIDGE HILL, PARTRIDGE HILL POWERFUL. AND PARTRIDGE HILL PRECIOUS (all champions).**



**Mabel Parker Rhodes from the frontispiece in her book with P H Parfait**

The kennel had nine champions in total spanning the mid 1920s until the mid 1940s, the last of which was the aforementioned Polonaise, born 1943 and sold to Ireland, she was allowed to return to Mrs Parker Rhodes, who sadly died soon



after, but she had been promised to Marjorie Cousens who had wanted a good brood bitch from the PH lines. Thus she became the foundation for the famous Seagry kennel which will appear in the next part of this series. In Tring, Hertfordshire there is a Natural History Museum, they have exhibits of stuffed dog breeds, one of which is a Griffon! It is Partridge Hill Posy, this was presented to the museum by Mrs Parker Rhodes in 1924.

The Castlehavens came to an end during WW2, but the last two kennels survived well into the 30's with Partridge Hill producing one champion made up after the war, P H Polonaise (see above).

A kennel also worth a mention from this era is Mrs Mitchells' Lavenderways, she bred the very first black and tan champion, Simon of L,

Though there were many other active breeders during the above era, many of them producing influential dogs, the breed owes much to a few ladies who kept the breed going, apart from Mrs Parker Rhodes there was Mrs Ionides (Vulcan), Mrs Bridle (Lalarookh) and Mrs Osbert Eyre (Barentha).

In the next issue - the kennels that came to the fore in the years following the war, including the famous Skibbereens.