

KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE???

THE POM READER VISITS

HADLEIGH

P O M E R A N I A N S

MR. KAZ IGARASHI and the late MRS. GLADYS DYKE

Since its founding in the 1940's the Hadleigh Kennel has become synonymous with excellence in Pomeranians. Following her death earlier this year the British Dog World magazine hailed Hadleigh founder Mrs. Gladys Dyke, as "one of Britain's most brilliantly successful breeders of all time." During the 1960s, Mrs. Dyke formed a close personal relationship with Mr. Kaz Igarashi of Japan. It was because of this relationship that she entrusted her most important breeding dogs to Mr. Igarashi who continues the Hadleigh traditions to this day.

In his own right, Mr. Igarashi has become one of Japan's most respected all breed and Best in Show judges and has judged at many dog shows all over the world. He is considered the leader among the Pomeranian breeders of Japan. In the following interview, Mr. Igarashi shares some of the history of the Hadleigh Kennel with us and tells some of his insights into the guiding principles of Hadleigh's founder, Gladys Dyke.

It is perhaps fitting that this article will appear a few short months after Mrs. Dyke's death, February 9, 1997. Some of you may remember that is the day the APC National was held in New York. I remember I was organizing my thoughts for this article and Mrs. Dyke was foremost in my mind as it is she who has most influenced my efforts to breed Pomeranians. The lessons I have learned from her and the memories we have shared will always be a precious part of me.

Following her death, the British publication, Dog World printed an article about Mrs. Dyke. An excerpt from that article follows:

"Gladys Dyke who died on Sunday at the age of 93, was one of Britain's most brilliantly successful breeders of all time.

"Concentrating entirely on one breed, the Pomeranian, she produced over nearly 50 years, a succession of almost identical dogs and bitches of such exquisite type that her affix, Hadleigh, became synonymous with the breed to a degree which has seldom if ever been matched in any

type of dog.

"To the 'man on the street', the image of the breed was a Hadleigh; a small, orange showy, short-backed, profusely coated, beautifully trimmed dog as epitomized in the many (perhaps occasionally idealized) Fall photographs of the kennel's famous show stars.

"From 1948 to 1984, Mrs. Dyke made up 73 British champions and won 472 Challenge Certificates (CCs). The vast majority of these were homebred and she bred four more champions for other people.

"Among them was a continuous line of ten generations of homebred champions from (beginning with) Ch. Hadleigh Brilliant Flame, made up in 1950, to Ch. Hadleigh Flamboyant Star (1983), an achievement which it is believed has been exceeded only by Osman Sameja's Ozmilion Yorkshire Terriers. Many of them won toy groups and a few went even further.

"Mrs. Dyke bought her first Pom, Easney Madcap, in 1938, and by the time shows resumed after the war, was in a strong position, making up her first three champions in 1948, all three of them winning groups that year.

"It is difficult to pick out just a few of the kennel's best known dogs. Among

them must be Bonny Boy, sire of five of the earliest Hadleigh champions; Ch. Hadleigh Brilliant Flame; his daughter, Ch. Sweet Lady, winner of three groups and two RBIS, who went on to produce seven champions, an astonishing record for a toy breed; Ch. Pixietown Serenade of Hadleigh, an outcross dog who was RBIS at Crufts 1960; Ch. Hadleigh My Cherrie of Rosebert, a BIS winner; Ch. Little Gent of Hadleigh, sire of nine champions; Ch. Hadleigh Little Aristocrat, sire of eight (champions); Ch. Hadleigh Starlight and his famous children, the brother and sister Chs. Shining Star (winner of 34 CCs, the then record) and Ch. Honey Puff (31 CCs), the latter Pup of the Year in 1975 when they were third and fifth respectively in the Top Dogs table for all breeds.

"Many of today's Pomeranian exhibitors will not have had the privilege of seeing the Hadleigh greats at close quarters, and their understanding of the breed is, I am sure, the poorer for that. To those of us who did, we will never forget the pleasure of seeing one Hadleigh after another dominating the toy group. The Hadleighs were the Rolls Royce's of Pomeranians."

As you can no doubt tell from this acclaim, Mrs. Dyke was a very special person who achieved remarkable fame within the dog world for the excellent quality of her Pomeranians. I wish Pomeranian lovers throughout the world could have known her as I did so they could truly appreciate the wonderful person she was.

The Hadleigh kennel was founded on dogs from the Zanow, Shamrock and Passfeld kennels of Great Britain.

One of the historic old British kennels is the Shamrock kennel, founded by Mrs. Morton Smith. This kennel had a long history of breeding nice Pomeranians of mainly deep red orange color with excellent stand-off coat, sound structure and happy character. From the many fine dogs bred by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Dyke chose Ch. Shamrock Choir Boy to breed to her bitches.

From the Passfeld blood line, Mrs. Dyke purchased and finished a puppy, Ch.



Mr. Kaz Igarashi



The great Pom breeder, Mrs. Gladys Dyke

Pixietown Serenade of Hadleigh. This dog won Reserve Best in show at Crufts in 1960 and was later exported to the U.S. where he won the Toy Group at Westminster.

From the Zanow kennel, Mrs. Dyke used Ch. Zambo of Zanow, considered to be one of the founders of modern type Pomeranians. This dog was one of the major contributors to the Hadleigh line.

One cannot achieve the kind of success Mrs. Dyke realized without the close cooperation of friends and fellow breeders. One of these persons was Mrs. Bruter, founder of the Zanow kennel. Another was Morrell kennel founder Mr. Tom Gasscoin. Mr. Gasscoin was a leader among British Pomeranian breeders of that era. One of the most famous Morrell Pomeranians was Debonair of Morrell.

Interestingly, Tom Gasscoin married Mrs. Bruter's daughter.

Mrs. Dyke had an incredible sense about how to combine traits to achieve her vision of what the Pom should be. She had a keen eye and could tell even at an early age which puppies had the qualities she desired. And she held the very unique perspective that even though two dog's pedigrees were identical, if they were different type dogs, she didn't consider it inbreeding.

Another important belief she held was that a bitch's quality is very important to the breeding of high quality offspring. And she always bred for quality, not quantity.

Among the more important contributors to the Hadleigh line from Mrs. Dyke's own breeding is Ch. Hadleigh Brilliant Flame, a very stylish, little showman with beautiful proportions. As a foundation stud dog, he produced many nice dogs, including Ch. Sweet Lady of Hadleigh, winner of three groups and two Reserve Best In Show. She herself produced 7 British champions, an astonishing record for a Toy breed. Mrs. Dyke knew the importance and influence that bitches contribute to their offspring. One of the principle factors of her success with Hadleigh Pomeranians was the high quality of her bitches. Through "The Magnificent Bitch" Sweet Lady, Brilliant Flame contributed a tremendous influence to the later generations of Hadleigh breeding.

During the 1950s, Mrs. Dyke produced many beautiful Pomeranians by carefully breeding Ch. Zambo of Zanow, Ch. Shamrock Choir Boy and Ch. Pixietown Serenade of Hadleigh and Ch. Hadleigh Brilliant Flame with bitches from her own breeding and it was from this beginning that Hadleigh realized its first "Golden Age."

Another important Hadleigh dog was Ch. Littlegent of Hadleigh, sire of nine champions. His strengths were fabulous coat, beautiful manly face, excellent proportions, short back, and more. He was representative of the modern English Pomeranians. Among his get, Ch. Hadleigh Little Aristocrat was a very prominent dog, sire of 8 British champions. One of Aristocrat's sons, Ch. Little Model of Hadleigh inherited his sire's modern type-gorgeous head, muscular body molded over excellent bone structure and good movement. Aristocrat was also a Reserve Best In Show winner.

The second "Golden Age" of Hadleigh was ushered in by Ch. Hadleigh Starlight, son of Little Model. He produced many nice offspring, most notably Ch. Hadleigh Shining Star, winner of 34 CCs, a record at that time, and Ch. Honey Puff of Hadleigh, winner of 31 CCs and Pup of the Year in 1975. These two finished 1975 as the number 3 and 5 ranked dogs respectively in the Top Dogs table for all breeds. Another of Starlight's notable offspring was Ch. Hadleigh Pride of the Stars. Together with Shining Star, he was sent to me in Japan. Their influence had a dramatic impact on the quality of Pomeranians in Japan.

My friendship with Mrs. Dyke began in the 1960's. I had been trying to purchase a Hadleigh dog through an importer for some time but was told that Mrs. Dyke was very selective and careful to whom she sold her lovely dogs. Even for Britons, it was difficult to acquire Hadleigh stock. I was advised to begin corresponding with



Ch. Hadleigh Brilliant Flame



Top left: top winning bitch, top dam Eng. Ch. Sweet Lady of Hadleigh

Top right: Eng. & Japan Ch. Daim os Sushimot at Sygals, son of Hadleigh Happy Days. Top winning Pom in England 1982, 56 BBs, Breed record holder. Japanese bred dog.

Above: BIS Eng. Ch. Hadleigh Shining Star, winner of 34 CCs, a record at the time

Right: an 8-week-old Hadleigh pup, bred by Mr. Igarashi

Bottom left: Eng. Ch. Little Model of Hadleigh; this dog changed Mr. Igarashi's image of the ideal Pomeranian

Bottom center: the Japanese bred bitch, Eng. Ch. Cream Puff of Hakodate Mackawa, BOB at Crafts, daughter of Ch. Hadleigh Pride of the Stars

Bottom right: Ch. Littlegent of Hadleigh

Opposite page: typical Hadleigh pups





Mrs. Dyke so we could get to know more about me and my intentions with respect to Pomeranians.

While Mrs. Dyke and I were getting acquainted through our correspondence, I was able to purchase Pomeranians from the Andersley and Ringland kennels of Great Britain. Mrs. Anderson of Andersley kennel was a friend of Mrs. Dyke. Knowing how keen I was to acquire a Hadleigh dog, she recommended me to Mrs. Dyke and in 1963, I was finally able to acquire my first Hadleigh Pomeranian, Kesterel of Hadleigh.

In 1965, when I was 23, I paid my first visit to the Hadleigh kennel and Mrs. Dyke and continued to visit her through the years. It was during these visits that she taught me many things about Pomeranians, her breeding philosophy, what to look for in Poms, and of the history of Hadleigh.

During my visits, we visited dog shows together and occasionally, she would permit me to handle some of her most famous Pomeranians in the show ring, including Ch. Hadleigh Shining Star. She even allowed me to show her dogs at Crufts. When I found my name listed in the show catalog as agent, it is hard to describe the excitement and special feelings I had. It was so thoughtful of her to extend this kindness and honor to me. I was very moved that she showed such confidence in me considering my age and foreign birth. Together we shared many exciting moments and lessons which formed a tapestry of memories which I shall cherish today.

One of my greatest personal moments was when my Pomeranian Ch. Sweet Dreams of Aurum won Best of Breed over Mrs. Dykes Silver Jem of Hadleigh and then went on to win Best in Toy Group at Crufts in 1966.

Among the valuable lessons Mrs. Dyke taught me was one very basic concept. She told me, "whenever you have doubts about what to do with respect to Pomeranians, reread the breed standard." And she also told me to always remember that Pomeranians were a Nordic breed—the dog's features, the shape and placement of the ears, eyes, skull, muzzle, neck, bone structure, coat texture, movement and anything else that contributes to the

dog's appearance and deportment, must be consistent with the environment and purpose for which they were bred.

When I think back about what it is that makes the Hadleigh dogs world famous, I remember Mrs. Dyke told me more than once why she was so careful and selective about which dog she sent to whom. She always wanted to send a very good dog to the new owner because she wanted the new owner to feel something special about Hadleigh whenever they looked at their dog. Those dogs were the cornerstone of the Hadleigh reputation all over the world. Those dogs made Hadleigh kennel world famous. They were the personal ambassadors of the Hadleigh kennel. I was very moved by this and will never forget it.

From Mrs. Dyke, I learned many such valuable lessons and when faced with a decision, have asked myself, "what would Mrs. Dyke do?" At times, I may have exercised my own individuality based upon my tastes and feelings, but I have tried to remain true to the founding principles I learned from Mrs. Dyke.

During the 1980s, Mrs. Dyke began finding it difficult to continue breeding Pomeranians because of her age. I sent two Japanese-bred Hadleigh Pomeranian bitches sired by my Ch. Hadleigh Pride of the Stars to Mrs. Dyke. She showed those two girls in England and won many shows with them. Their names were Ch. Cream Puff of Hakodate Mackawa who won Best of Breed at Crufts in 1982, and Ch. Pride Nana of Azalea Sally who won 13 CCs and Best in Show at the Pomeranian National Specialty of England.

I sent another Japanese-bred Pomeranian to Sygal Kennel in England. That dog was a son of my Japanese Ch. Hadleigh Happy Days. He became Ch. Daim of Sushimoto at Sygals, the top winning Pomeranian in England in 1982. He won 56 CCs breaking the previous record of 34 CCs set by Ch. Hadleigh Shining Star.

By 1985, Mrs. Dyke had sent me all her most important stud dogs and bitches so that I could continue the Hadleigh breeding in Japan. Such was our relationship that she asked me to continue to use the Hadleigh affix with the certain knowledge that I would do my best to live up to the Hadleigh principles and quality standards.

When I assumed the responsibility to continue the Hadleigh tradition from Mrs. Dyke, I made a commitment to protect and honor and reputation of Hadleigh and to keep Mrs. Dyke's dream and principles alive in Hadleigh Poms. It has become my mission. ■

