

HISTORIC KENNELS

THE HON. MRS NELLIE IONIDES – VULCAN GRIFFONS

Born Nellie Samuels in 1883, her father Marcus (later Viscount Bearsted) founded the Shell Group of Companies. In 1926, then the Hon. Mrs Basil Levy, she acquired the remaining part of Orleans House in Twickenham. Most of this historic old house had been demolished but the Octagon (an ornate building originally built in 1720), its adjacent wings and a stable block remained and she saved it from demolition. Her kennels were established there and she started with Griffons, importing many from Belgium and France in the early days, housing as many as 40 Griffons. Later in that decade, and now the Hon Mrs. Ionides (her husband Basil was a famous architect) the kennels were described as 'perhaps the largest kennel of Griffons in the world'. She employed a kennel manager and a number of staff to look after the dogs and their puppies. The dogs had a wing of the house to themselves and it was described by the canine journalist Ella Withers as a perfect dogs' paradise!



VULCAN RIN-TIN-TIN

VULCAN RIN TIN TIN (b 1925)– ONE OF THE EARLY HOME BRED STUD DOGS

Mrs Ionides had a preference for the black Griffons and intended to focus mainly on that colour in her breeding programme, but she also bred many reds too and a few black and tans. In the early days the Vulcans were not exhibited a great deal as she concentrated on importing some good stock to work with, including champions, some of

these are shown below, including two lovely photos of the lady herself.



BELGIAN CH'S VULCAN SATAN B/TAN SMOOTH AND KETJE RED SMOOTH WITH V JOFFRE RED ROUGH

No Vulcan champions were ever produced, although Vulcan Varro a black rough won 2 CCs, one in 1937 and then took the DCC and BOB at Crufts in 1938 (that year and there were ten Vulcans entered!), sadly he died young. Then with the advent of war all showing was curtailed and Mrs Ionides never really proved the true worth of her Griffons. Although VulcanVenusia, a red rough, was the dam of Partridge Hill Polonaise who became the first post war champion bitch. Polonaise was also the foundation bitch of the Seagry kennel, but before that she produced Skibbereen Brandan, who sired the famous Ch Skibbereen Victor of Campfield, one of the top winning dogs of his day with 21 CCs and BOB at Crufts twice 1952 and 55. So the Vulcans certainly had some influence on the breed.

By now Mrs Ionides was showing an interest in other breeds including Cairn

Terriers, Sealyhams but particularly poodles, she added some from the Nunsoe kennels, the top breeders at that time, and eventually bought all of the Nunsoes and moved to Buxted Park, an 18th century house, which her husband had bought and remodelled during the 1930s. Eventually the poodles took over all her interest and I am sure many of you will have heard of the Vulcan Champagne Poodles. A kennel name which still exists today. Mrs Ionides died in 1962.



‘VULCAN VARRO’

(Readers may remember Mrs Ionides appeared in one of the instalments of ‘Going To The Dogs’)



VULCAN NON NON NANETTE, VULCAN TAMBOUR, VULCAN MANON AND VULCAN BINETTE.

MRS IONIDES WITH SOME OF HER EARLY IMPORTS



1. Fall. THE HON. MRS. IONIDES WITH SOME BROOD BITCHES. *Copyright.*

TAKEN IN THE DOGS' 'PLAYGROUND'