

The Bulldog Club of America

1945 – 1955

by Edna R. Secor

A Specialty Show was held in 1945 with the Westminster Show. Several meetings were held in 1945, culminating in the resignation of Mr. Collins as President, and finally on October 30 a group met, elected officers and made plans to revive the Club. Match Shows were resumed and monthly meetings of the Board were held for many months. We can thank Mr. Page, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Blaisdell, Mr. Horne and Mr. Pratt for rebuilding the BCA during this period as they contributed freely of their time and efforts to do so. Within four months, the membership grew from 13 to 30. The Rodney Trophy, donated by Mr. Hopton “for the best bulldog, bred, owned, and shown by a member of the BCA. and to be won three times at the annual show with a different dog before becoming the property of the exhibitor”, was accepted and put into competition in the 1946 Specialty Show. It might be of interest to note that this trophy was originally given to the BCA by Richard Croker and was won by Mr. Hopton. It cost \$750.

In 1946, the Board of Governors invited each Specialty Club to appoint a representative in the New York area to attend its meetings. Also, approval was granted to the Bulldog Club of New England to apply for AKC membership. The first note of a proposed Bulldog Year Book was in 1946, the proposal being made by Mr. Lockett.

Dues were reduced to \$5.00 annually instead of \$10. Copies of the Bulldog Standard were printed for distribution to members and

clubs. In 1947 the first of many delightful dinners for the bulldoggers was held at Bernardsville, N.J., following the Morris and Essex Show. Mr. John Collins was made an Honorary Member of the Club. The BCA Medallion trophy, first made up by Tom Hayden – the BCA banner, thanks to Bertha Quintana's efforts – independent Specialty Show with over 100 entries – 109 members – beginning of a study of reorganization – all these represent the progress 1947.

In 1948, awards of Sterling Silver bulldog medals were made to all members owning bulldogs, which had completed their championships during the past year. The high light of 1949 was the Specialty Show held in Indianapolis.

In 1948, Mr. Livingston made the first report for the Reorganization Committee, which Committee worked tirelessly to draw up a revised Constitution and By-Laws that would be acceptable to both the AKC and the members of BCA. At the beginning of 1950 the revised Constitution and By-Laws, after approval by the AKC was submitted to our members for approval and was declared effective on February 13, 1950. Within a few months, the newly created seven divisions had scheduled organization meetings and elected Divisional officers. The Executive Committee, from Division I for the first three years, held frequent meetings, considered all proposals submitted from all sections of the country, and with the approval of the Council, carried out several projects, e.g. the questionnaire on bulldog judging and the compilation of a "National List of Judges;" the purchase for resale to members of a BCA Decal; the acceptance of Specialty; the Yearbook; the BCA Reporter and others.

The question was asked by many during the reorganization period, “What is the BCA going to do for us?” If I may be permitted to express a personal opinion, I think we should rather ask, “What can we do for the BCA and for the bulldogs?” Many loyal members from the time the Bulldog Club of America was organized have given freely of their time and resources to further the aims of our Constitution. I could not possibly name all who deserve plaudits for their efforts to build a sound, united, national club, but I know that all, including myself, have not regretted our efforts if we feel that progress has been made. We sincerely hope that the next 65 years will show continual progress.

In studying the minutes of the Club for the three installments of history, it is most interesting to note the similarity of problems, suggestions for improvement, discussions on how to increase membership methods of handling disagreements between individuals and between clubs, throughout the years. I feel that in the last five years, many important things talked about for years, but never undertaken, have been accomplished. We hope that future Executive Committees will continue to explore new fields and that all members will keep in mind forever our objectives as stated in the Constitution:

1. To maintain a standard of excellence for the guidance of breeders, owners and judges.
2. To improve the breed through encouragement of effort directed towards approach to, or attainment of, the degree of excellence set forth in the standard of the bulldog breed.
3. To stimulate interest in competitive public showings of bulldogs.

4. To further the interests of the Breed.
5. To work for the general good of breeders, owners, and exhibitors of bulldogs.