

**AKC Gazette**  
**April 1946**  
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BACK in the "Gay Nineties" the only major dog show in America was the Westminster Kennel Club's annual event held at the old Madison Square Garden in New York City. For the first ten or 15 years the Bulldog entry was a more or less indifferent collection entered by scattered breeders, generally running from five to ten exhibits in all. But in 1891 the newly formed Bulldog Club of America backed the show in an organized fashion. The Club offered the unheard of total of 16 cups, medals, and cash prizes for the breed and the Bulldog entry jumped to 51, several times the number of specimens of our breed ever before exhibited at a single dog show. And so began the heyday for our breed-a boom which continued to mount until 1904 when Bulldogs led the entries at all important shows in the country.

Among the many beautiful trophies offered at this first specialty show of the newly founded Bulldog Club were two unusually beautiful silver cups. The first, a sterling silver mug standing about eight inches high, was called the Sawyer Cup. The other, a sterling silver cup mounted upon a silver base and standing about 14 inches high, was called the Parke Cup, re-named the following year, "The Grand Trophy." Both cups were outstanding examples of the silver smith's art at its finest. The Grand Trophy had mounted on its base two beautiful solid silver Bulldogs, which were a study in perfection.

Many of the leading Bulldogs of early American dog shows won these two cups and their names, as annual winners, are engraved on the trophies today, together with the names of the dogs' owners. The first winner of the Grand Trophy in 1891 was the newly imported English champion, "Harper." The importation of this great dog during the previous year had caused a sensation in Bulldog circles and at the time of his arrival in America had been given considerable attention in the press. Other winners of the cup in succeeding years included such great ones as the famous imported bitch Ch. Saleni, a brindle in the over 40 lb. class which did a great deal of winning both in England and America.

Another winner was Ch. His Lordship, which at the time of his exportation to America was England's leading Bulldog. A brindle lightweight, His Lordship swept all competition before him in this country and had little difficulty in making his American title. Ch. Lord Yarmouth and the great bitch Glenwood Queen were other winners of the cups.

In 1901, Richard Croker's newly imported Ch. Rodney Stone, the first Bulldog ever to command a price of \$5000., won the Grand Trophy. The great Ch. La Roche won the cup in 1905 and repeated the win in 1906. In 1913, Strathway Prince Albert, only Bulldog ever to win best in show at Westminster, won the cup and returned to win it again both in 1914 and 1915.

Some years ago, these two famous cups, bearing the names of so many pillars of the breed, were taken out of competition, and today they remain in the club as permanent memorials of the famous Bulldog fanciers of bygone days. The cups are placed on exhibition annually at the banquet of the Bulldog Club of America.

The Bulldog Club of America has recently been presented with another very famous and historical Bulldog trophy. This cup is known as The Deal Trophy which was originally offered many years ago by the famed Tammany boss, Richard Croker, and bearing the name of his well-known Deal Kennels. A beautiful sterling silver bowl, mounted on a large base upon which stand models of three Bulldogs, the Deal Trophy has long been in the possession of the noted Bulldog fancier and all-around judge, Charles G. Hopton, who won it permanently with his famous Ch. L'Ambassadeur, only Bulldog ever bred in America to go to England and make its championship in that country.

Mr. Hopton has very generously given this famous cup to the Bulldog Club of America. Renamed The Rodney Trophy, in honor of Mr. Hopton's noted Rodney Kennels, this grand cup will once again be offered in competition at forthcoming shows, by the Bulldog Club of America. We plan at a later date to publish a picture of this great trophy together with details as to the manner in which it will be offered in competition.

The board of governors wishes to welcome the many new members who have recently joined the Parent Club from all over the United States. Once again the Bulldog Club of America is becoming truly national in scope and we hope at some future date to number among our members all the leading Bulldog fanciers in the country. The many membership applications being received daily are most encouraging to all of us who are working to bring the Club back to its former leading position in Bulldog affairs.

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