

# **The Bulldog Club of America**

## **1930 – 1944**

### **by Edna R. Secor**

**1930**, according to John Collins, Secretary, was “a very successful year both from a sporting as well as a financial standpoint.” The Specialty Show was held in Buffalo, New York, and plans were made to hold the 1931 Specialty in conjunction with the Morris and Essex Show. Mr. Collins reported eight “good strong bulldog clubs” which had helped the breed, and registrations had increased to 1202 for the year. On the Board of governors at that time were Mr. J. Hampton Baumgartner, still an active judge and bulldog enthusiast today, and Mr. George Haas, a member of Division I at the present time. Among those joining in 1930 was Mr. John R. Oeis, well-known bulldogger in the Philadelphia area. Total membership at that time was about 55 members.

In 1931 permission was denied the Pacific Coast Bulldog Club to apply for membership in the American Kennel Club, the Board adhering to its previous policy and stating “that the policy of the A.K.C. was to have only one Specialty Club of each breed as a member club.” Also in 1931 the Bulldog Club of Northern California was organized with headquarters in San Francisco, The Specialty Show was held again at the Morris and Essex Show and in 1933 was held in Chicago under the auspices of the Chicago Bulldog Club. A suggestion was made to reduce the annual dues to \$5.00 and members were asked to express an opinion.

A Parade of Champions was approved with certificates to be awarded each champion, provided five or more dogs participated

in such a parade.

In 1934, Mr. Collins resigned as Secretary and Dr. Joseph Taferner was elected to take his place. Mr. Hugh McCroden was a member of the Board. Other familiar names appearing on a 1935 membership list are Dr. & Mrs. Cabot of Brooklyn, Ferd Kramer of Chicago, Mr. Ben Mathews of New Orleans, R. Sparkes of Toronto and Mr. & Mrs. Trimpi of South Orange, N. J.

In 1935, a picture of “Roseville Blaze” and an article on the history of the Bulldog by Dr. Taferner was furnished the AKC for their next edition of “Pure Bred Dogs.” Mr. Oels was campaigning for the addition of a “breeders’ class” – a mission finally accomplished a few years ago in the “Bred By Exhibitor Class.” Discussions took place on classes for stud and their get, bitches and their progeny, and for the Club to print a preferred list of judges – all of which have materialized over the years. (The first record of the stud dog and brood-bitch classes is at a sanction match in 1937). Investigation in 1935 into the cost of holding an independent Specialty Show proved that it would be too costly and the idea was abandoned.

In 1937, Mr. Collins was again elected Secretary and also Delegate to the AKC. Mr. Edward I. Pratt’s name appears as a member of the first time. In 1938, the membership had dropped to 33 and of these only 15 were paid up. At almost every meeting, they discussed ways of increasing the membership, even to requiring the presidents of new Specialty Clubs to become members of the parent club. By 1940, the total membership was 31 with only 17 of those not delinquent.

During these years, about the only activity, aside from two or three meetings of the Board of Governors, an annual meeting, and an occasional Match Show, was the annual Specialty held for the most part with the Morris and Essex Show. The show in 1940 celebrated the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On June 2 of that year, Mr. Geo. Hammond, who had been President of the Club since 1928, passed away, and Mr. John Collins was elected to take his place. Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks was elected Secretary. At this time also Mr. Kramer offered an idea for the reorganization of the BCA making it a "Club of Clubs and possibly some individual members." The Club members would be the 19 other bulldog clubs in the U.S. Nothing further was apparently done concerning this idea.

On May 1, 1941, our present Delegate to the AKC, Mr. S. Quintana, became a member of the club. Also in 1941 the Grand Trophy and the Sawyer Cup were permanently retired, never to be placed in competition, to be held as stationary Club property. They have been on exhibition in the East several times at annual dinners and are at present in a vault in a bank. The cost of keeping them polished and presentable for exhibition was so great that their exhibition was discontinued.

In 1942, several meetings of the Board were held, and due to apparent disagreement over the legality of the so-called annual meeting and due to war conditions, it was resolved that "this Club will not attempt to hold dog shows, nor any meeting unless actually necessary and waive the collection of dues, including dues for the current fiscal year, for the duration of the war or until such time as the members or the members through the Board of Governors shall decide that that Club shall become active again."