



BOXER QUARTERLY



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**MILLIE GAME OF CHANCE
AT GLENAULD**

see page 7



LESLEY WITH ALESSANDRO AND AGO

Great impression

Alessandro Tasso's Boxer kennel "del Colle dell'Infinito" is certainly one of the most successful and well-known kennels, not just in Italy, but in all of Europe. The Del Colle dell'Infinito kennel first came to my attention in 1991 when I saw the great



THE GREAT OLIMPIA DEL COLLE DELL'INFINITO

Olimpia, Tera and Thomas at the German Jahressieger Show in Kehlheim. These dogs made a great impression on me, but little did I know then that only two years later a mutual friend would be helping me with the regulations to buy Faustino, an Olimpia son and that now, nine years later, I would have, as well as Faustino, a Tasso daughter and another young male, who although not bred at Del Colle dell'Infinito, is entirely of these bloodlines.

Self studying

It was in 1995, at the Camporosso dell'Asse in Bologna, when Faustino finally became mine and I first met Alessandro Tasso in person. He is a kind and generous man whose love for and interest in the Boxer cannot be doubted. I have since visited the kennel several times and have spent pleasant hours in the sunshine, looking at dogs and discussing their breeding.

Over dinner at night the Boxer talk continued, although not too easily, as Alessandro does not speak English. When I first met him, my Italian was very basic but it is now much better. However, I am still studying, because I would love to be able to talk to Alessandro in depth. There is so much to learn from him.



THOMAS DEL COLLE DELL'INFINITO

When showing you a dog, he is quick to point out and discuss the dog's faults with you, as well as his virtues, unlike so many breeders. His knowledge of pedigree and of dogs from the past is phenomenal.

Overbreeds

Alessandro's interest in the science of breeding animals is long established. He was brought up in the country where this interest grew. While his contemporaries were enjoying themselves his interest was in observing and noting the results of breedings between farmers' various crossbreeds! Alessandro saw a Boxer for the first time in 1971, although at this point it was simply a dog with a strange, squashed face with which he fell in love. This interest in the Boxer lay dormant until 1973 when it surfaced again with a strong desire to own one of these dogs with the squashed face and human expression.

The story of the Del Colle dell' Infinito Boxers

by Lesley Boyle

Excellent producers

It was in 1973 that Alessandro attended his first show, and he realised then that breeding was something which had to be taken seriously. As his interest deepened he formed his own ideas about the right way to proceed, which he has followed firmly ever since - namely to breed always with the Standard firmly in mind and not to follow fashion, and to plan each mating carefully, avoiding the commissioning of faults. That this planning has been successful is clearly demonstrated by the following history of the Del Colle dell'Infinito kennel and it is apparent in the dogs themselves. All dogs from this kennel show an evenness of type not often seen and both dogs and breeders are renowned for their ability as discernant, excellent producers.

A pupil


In 1973 Alessandro obtained his first "real" Boxer and soon began for him a very important association, as a pupil of Dr. Tommaso Bossi, owner of the "Val di Senio" kennel, who until



TASSO DEL COLLE DELL'INFINITO

his death recently, was a charismatic figure in the Italian Boxer world. Seven years of hard work followed, learning the characteristics of the breed and studying the requirements of the Boxer Standard, before attending his first German Boxer Club Jahressieger Show, as a spectator. One of his favourite pieces of reading is the "Movement of the Dog" by Bennett and Gendron, which he is said to know by heart!

Our first son

His first two litters were born in 1983. In Italy this is the minimum number of litters an aspiring breeder must produce before he can have a kennel name. The name of the Kennel "del Colle dell'Infinito" means "the hill of the Infinite". This derives from the name of Giacomo Leopardi's best known poem "L'Infinito". Leopardi was one of Italy's most famous poets and was born in 

Recenti, the small town where Alessandro lives. The town is built on a hill near the coast and it is said that Leopardie found his inspiration for "L'Inferno" while sitting on the hillside looking out to sea. Ever since, the hill has been called "Il Colle dell'Inferno".

Continues

In the middle of a conversation in February 1985, Alessandro looked his back Bellanova, who was by Uffizi della Val di Senio out of Mariana della Val di Senio, into his car, and about eight days Bellanova told his name slowly he attacked the 1300 kilometers that separated him and the real dog of his choice, Ch. Bruno v.d. Morsbach, in the north of Germany. From this meeting came Tito del Colle dell'Inferno who was born in April 1985. This tall, refined, dark brindle male who became a Champion would form the cornerstone of his kennel. Tito died in 1991 and was under an olive tree which Alessandro planted at his home in Tito's honor.

Launch

In 1988 Ch. Quintadecimo del Colle dell'Inferno (Ch. Bruno v.d. Morsbach's

Grand

It was then in 1988 that Alessandro bred his second great dog, Ch. Olimpia del Colle dell'Inferno. Olimpia (by Tito out of Louisa della Val di Senio) was the first dog I saw from Alessandro's kennel, and I will never forget the impression he made on me. With his beautiful head with that lovely Boxer expression, his free ground covering movement and his "look at me" attitude, he truly was a world class dog. He impressed everyone who saw him, and his appearance in the ring was greeted with applause. Olimpia died in January 2000 and, like Tito, her name is still live at the kennel. He will always be remembered for his presence and the character of his line.

Significant representatives

In 1989 after many persistent requests Alessandro sent dogs overseas for the first time. There are now well-known dogs of his breeding on every Continent and most countries, including Scotland! Today there is an European country which doesn't have a number of significant representatives of the kennel. This was also the year that Ch. Ripa

was born. She was by Ch. Miso v.d. Tanslick ex Ch. Florida del Colle dell'Inferno and she is remembered for her powerful elegance in the ring. She was also an Airtex Champion. Perhaps more importantly, Ch. Debra (by Ch. Miso v.d. Goldpalle ex Lucia del Colle dell'Inferno) and Ch. Gracia (Olimpia ex Alicia del Colle dell'Inferno) were also born in this year. These two Champion bristles were not only phenotypically excellent, but subsequently proved to be excellent producers.

Influence

In 1990 Ch. Tack (by Miso out of Ch. Florida) was born. Tack was also World Youth Champion and an Airtex Champion. He spent the first part of his life in Italy, then he



Ch. Tito del Colle dell'Inferno
A true sire in Europe

went to Germany, followed by Spain, finally returning to Italy. In each country he was bred to excellent bristles and his influence can be clearly seen in these countries today. Also in 1990 Ch. Playa and Ch. Pamela were born. These were two sires again by Ch. Miso v.d. Goldpalle but out of Uffizi del Colle dell'Inferno. They were everywhere and also proved to be excellent producers. 1991 saw the birth of Ch. Fritz (still sired to Florida) by Olimpia out of Flaps. She was Jahresvieger and first in show at the German Boxer Club Jahresvieger Show.

Every side

Two years later Ch. David (Ch. Tack del Colle dell'Inferno x Ch. Playa del Colle dell'Inferno) came along, and followed a career similar to Tack, living in the same countries. David has won many titles, including World Champion.



Famous with Ch. Tito del Colle dell'Inferno

Louisa della Val di Senio had excellent wins not only in the show ring but also in Working competitions. His full sister Ch. Query was the starting point for Bruno here in Italy. 1987 is remembered for the litter named with the letter "U" (by Ch. Tito del Colle dell'Inferno x Louisa della Val di Senio, Champions Florida, Frezza and most of all Fritz) one of the most beautiful heads from the kennel gained largely from the four corners of the world. Also in the same year came Ch. Nissa (Ch. Miso v.d. Goldpalle x Uffizi del Colle dell'Inferno) unsurpassable because of her expression and her character in the breed.



Ch. Gracia del Colle dell'Inferno — proved to be an excellent producer



Ch. Fritz — Jahressieger and Best in Show at the German Boxer Club Jahresvieger Show





Ch. Doro del Colto alla Boveria

In 1994 Ch. Gauria won Arden and Ch. Totto was born. Totto is by Ch. Bino v al Cottaquello out of Gato del Colto dell'Infante. He has won practically every title it is possible for a Boxer to win. 1995 saw the arrival of Ch. Basso (Lido del Colto dell'Infante) ex Ch. Gauria del Colto dell'Infante and a year later it was the turn of Champion Zio, Gatto, Falso and the lovely baby Ufo.

More victories

In about 17 years of breeding, Alessandro has won many, many victories, including three German Bundesjugger titles, four World Champions, three European Champions, 12 Italian Champions, 10 Italian Club Champions,

13 Arden Champions (the highest number awarded to Boxers) and 14 International titles. Things are now reversed. His contacts with Germany in the beginning, in order to see their Woodlines, are now less frequent, because the situation has varied around. Today more Boxer lovers and breeders from Germany visit Alessandro's kennel in order to take home the Woodlines and experience.

High on the list

I recently asked Alessandro for the latest update to the number of Champions he has bred and the answer is more than 100. Of these, he says that his most exciting wins came in Valencia, Spain when he won the World Champion title and Best in Show with Tock. He also has very fond memories of Arden when it was held in Italy when he made up three Champions on the same day: Falso, Tock and Olimpia. His two International titles with Nino and Olimpia are also high on the list and he was thrilled when Nino was best Youth champion. Another exciting win was when Tito was the working class at a International and became the first Boxer born and bred in Italy to become a German Champion.

Without doubt

With such a choice I really wanted to ask him which of his dogs is his favorite. His answer? Without doubt, Olimpia. The next question I



Basso

asked was what was his feeling about the state of the breed at the moment? He replied saying that at this moment we are seeing the complete ruin of the breed, that there are no serious breeders now who have the maintenance and improvement of the breed according to the Standard as their priority. Following on from this view, I then asked what advice would he give to someone starting out in Boxers. He said that it is most important that they study the Standard until they have a full understanding of it, and they should insist on their studs the type of Boxer from the '70's.



Ch. Basso



Ch. Olmo



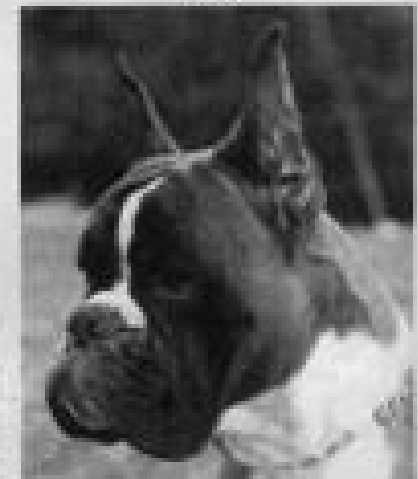
Ado



Head stud of Totto



Ch. Tito



Ch. Totto — about every title possible



CH. FRED



CH. VITAPADO



LEFT Ch. Ace awarded at Anice 2000

Alessandro Tavano himself. I feel very privileged to have met and become a friend of this man, who must surely be one of the "greats" of world of Boxer breeders.



to the beginning of the '90's and try to follow that type. Deciding to read the current debate, I wondered whether he thought that Italy would ever be as exciting as ducking? He certainly hopes not, but if it does happen he will breed Bulldogs!

Privileged

I have just returned from the Italian Compagnia dell'Anno Show, where Ago del

Collo dell'Inferno (Buen sub. Sembrach) was the male Champion of the year. Another very memorable moment for the breed at the show was when Alessandro entered the ring with Ch. David del Collo dell'Inferno during the parade of Famous Stud Dogs. Together they made their circuit of the ring to great applause, demonstrating the popularity not just of the Breed of Del Collo dell'Inferno, but also of

The Italian Boxer Club

held its most important show at Rome's York, Biscette. The venue was an extremely attractive old "torre", the dogs were set in an inner courtyard surrounded by old buildings. This venue is well known for its beauty and has been the setting for many films. Betty McDonald and I had arrived in Bologna the night before and driven to our hotel in Savigno, a small town very near the show. The show had its usual huge entry - 373 dogs this year. If you want to see excellent Boxers on parade this is the show to visit.

For the first day the weather was hot, but there was quite a cool breeze. One of the men I was a little chilly. On this first day only the young dogs are judged. The judges were Gi Rosato (3-6 months), W 12 months, 12-18 months female Richard F. Mirand (the same age classification female dogs), F. Ciani (three months) and G. Giorgio (three dogs). Junior Compagnia dell'Anno (from the 9-12 month class) Female male was Tago della Calabrone; Junior Compagnia dell'Anno (from the 12-18 month class) female male was Andrea di Val dei Nebbi; Junior Compagnia dell'Anno (from the 12-18 month class) Female female, Calabrone female; and finally, Junior Compagnia dell'Anno (from the 12-18 month class) female female was the simply named Dory.

In the evening we all attended the dinner. As I said earlier, there had been a cool breeze all day and after the sun had set it was cold. As we were eating in an open-sided (although covered) building, we were freezing. The only people who looked warm were the food! As far as the food went, the best and the better. It was such a difference from last year. Then we were in beautiful, warm, flowered meadows, with round tables set for 60, with silver candleholders, excellent food and porcelain plates (compared to this year's paper ones).

The second day was sunny and much warmer. This is the main day of the show when the adults and Champions are judged. The panel of judges was the same as the previous day. There were two female male Champions of the Year and two female

male Champions, due to the number of entries. They were Ago del Collo dell'Inferno and Nick del Nettuno for the female and Sabbi della Muga and Neri della Talpa for the males. The female Junior Compagnia dell'Anno was Virginia della Talpa and the female female Compagnia dell'Anno was Silvia della Talpa.

The CAC's were awarded to Ferra Male New degli Scrovegni, female Male Cristiano d'Inzella, Ferra Female Daniela d'Inzella and female Female Giorgio dell'Oraggio. The best male was Pablo 11 de la Yebra and the best female was Daniela d'Inzella.

I always find the finale rather confusing, trying to sort out who is challenging for what in the huge ring. For example, the Champions don't compete against those who have not yet finished their titles. That is why Best Dog and Best Bitch, although sometimes winners, are not the Champions of the Year.

I have attended Shows in quite a few countries, but this is my favorite by far. I'm already looking forward to next year!

Lesley E. Bosh



Ch. Ace and Ch. Collo dell'Inferno at the recent Italian Boxer Club Show