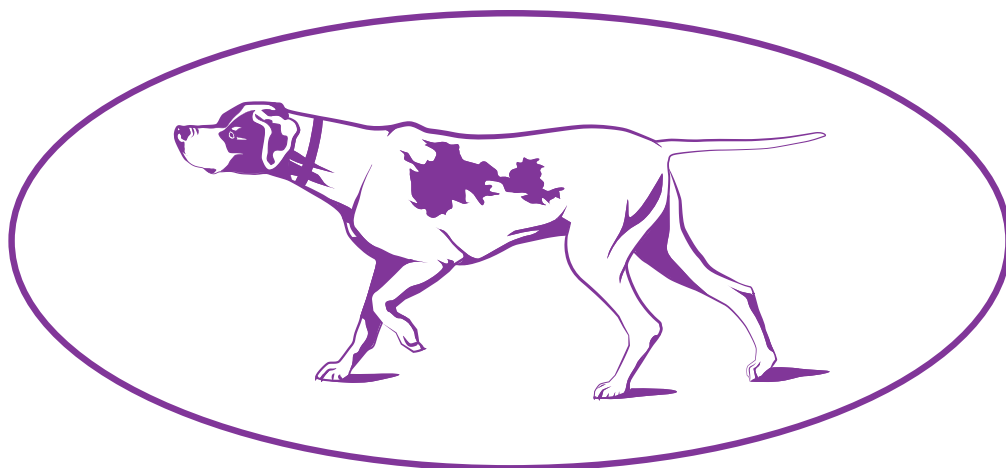


“Best in Show” Past Winners at Westminster VIRTUAL TOUR

The AKC Museum of the Dog has a long association with the Westminster Kennel Club and its annual dog show. It is safe to say that without the WKC’s support through fiscal contributions and donation of artworks the Museum as we know it would not be here. Indeed, a number of Westminster’s prominent members were instrumental in the very founding of the museum. It is with this relationship in mind, the AKC Museum of the Dog presents a special exhibition of representations of past Best in Show winners in its collection.

This exhibition highlights the works of art featuring Best in Show winners that are in the collections of the American Kennel Club and the Museum of the Dog. Twelve winners are highlighted in total, ranging from 1910 to 1987. Four champions are even depicted twice! Breeds included are **Airedale, Bedlington, English Pointer, Fox Terrier, Poodle, Boxer, German Shepherd Dog, Doberman Pinscher, and Sealyham.**

The exhibition also includes trophies won by Best in Show winners and other important objects related to dog show history.





William Mackarness
Ch. Sabine Rarebit

Bronze

1917

Fox Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club

1910

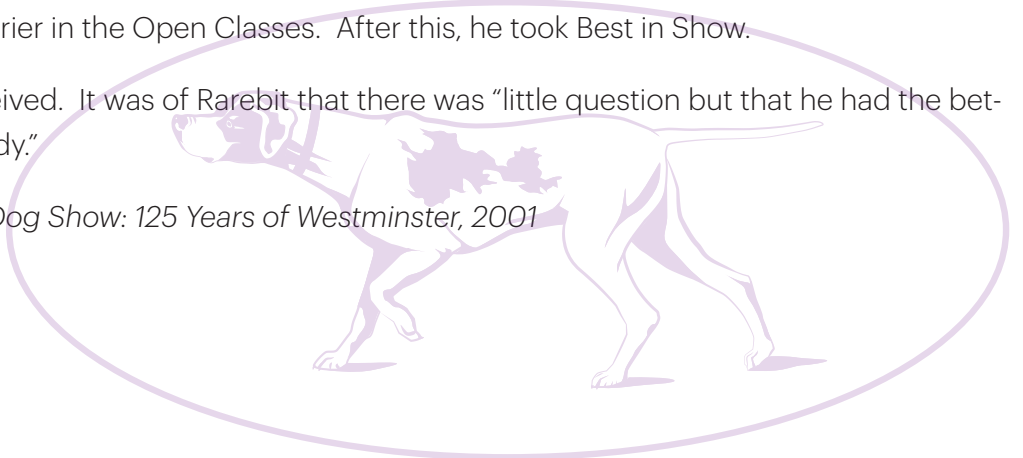
Warren Remedy was just over four years old, and there were those who thought she “would again come through the judging” to be Best in Show for the fourth time. But at least two dogs outclassed her.

First, she took second in the Open Bitch class to Sabine Fernie of Sabine Kennels in Orange, Texas.

The Sabine Fernie was beaten by kennelmate Sabine Rarebit for the Grand Challenge Cup for Best Fox Terrier. Sabine Rarebit also took special prizes for Best Smooth Fox Terrier of the Year and Best American- or Canadian-bred Smooth Fox Terrier in the Open Classes. After this, he took Best in Show.

The final decision was well received. It was of Rarebit that there was “little question but that he had the better of the argument with Remedy.”

Text from William F. Stifel, *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001*



Phillip Eustace Stretton
Ch. Boxwood Barkentine and Boxwood Bashful

Oil on canvas

1922

Airedale Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club



1922

“First, last, and best of all,” said the Times, this year’s show would be remembered for its victor. Boxwood Barkentine was an Airedale Terrier that “went from the novice class to Best in Show, from canine obscurity to the throne of American dogdom.” The called him

An upstanding dog with an active eye in a square head, a black saddle, chest deep and muscular;

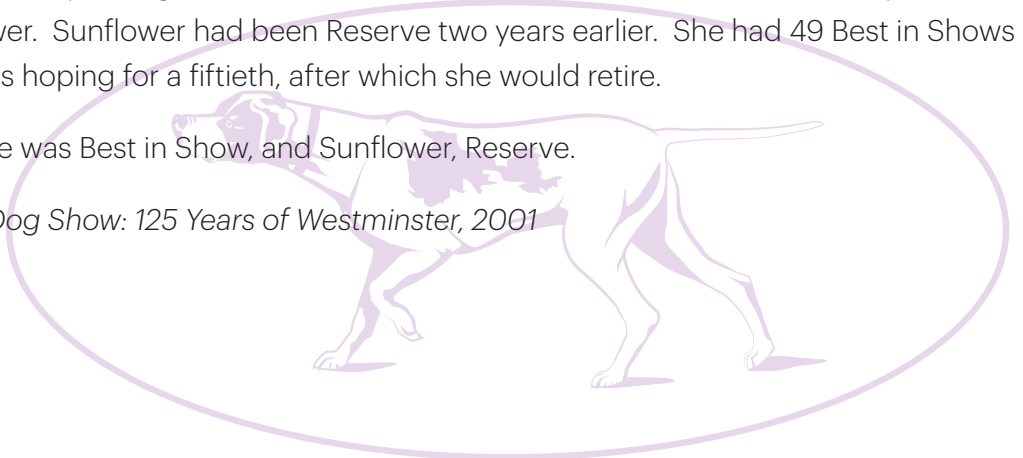
hindquarters of power, and tail stiff enough to hang your hat on.

Owned by Frederic C. Hood, Barkentine entered the show almost unnoticed. There were cheers when he took Best of Breed over the winner of the Airedale specialty show of just a few days before. The paper called the other dog, with a touch of irony, one of the “the imported wonders of the dog world.”

Barkentine, who hailed from Boston, “seemed insatiable in the matter of blue ribbons.” After winning Best of Breed and the group, he was designated Best of American-Bred in Show, and then went into the ring for Best in Show with 15 competitors. Quickly enough, the field was narrowed to two, Barkentine and a Greyhound bitch. Ch. Landsdowne Sunflower. Sunflower had been Reserve two years earlier. She had 49 Best in Shows to her credit, and her owner was hoping for a fiftieth, after which she would retire.

Alas, it was not to be. Barkentine was Best in Show, and Sunflower, Reserve.

Text from William F. Stifel, *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001*



Gilman Low
Ch. Barberrymill Bootlegger

Oil on canvas

1924

Sealyham Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club

1924

This year's winner was Ch. Barberrymill Bootlegger. He was named for what some wit surely thought of a "Man's Other Best Friend" – which is to say, a discreet source of alcohol. Prohibition had begun in 1920 and would go on for 10 more years. And note Bootlegger's competition, with names like Tom Collins, Home Brew and Egg Nog.



Sealyhams, first shown in England in 1903, were not registered by AKC until 1911. A year later they made their Westminster debut with three entered, of which the American Field said, in toto, "they looked enough alike to say that they were one breed." By 1924, there were 30 entered.

This was the first Westminster held under the new rules for group and Best in Show judging. The five group winners competed for Best in Show – a Cocker, a German Shepherd, a Peke, a Chow, and the Sealy. The five were quickly winnowed down to two, Bootlegger and the Shepherd, Dolf Von Duternbrook, who was Champion of Germany in 1919 and of Austria in 1920.

Paul E. Lockwood in the Gazette said the Shepherd was "a master of showmanship and waited coldly, confidently, for the decision." In contrast, the American-bred Bootlegger was "a Massachusetts Yankee of backwoods stock." If the Shepherd gaited with "arrogance," the terrier followed handler Joseph Thompson as though "trotting over a pasture."



Bootlegger "comes very close to perfection," opined Walter H. Reeves, who judged Best together with Norman Swire. He "is beautifully built, teems with type and moves like a piece of machinery."

Text from William F. Stifel, *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster*, 2001

William G. Schnelle
Ch. Barberrymill Bootlegger

Oil on canvas

20th century

Sealyham Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club

Lillian Cheviot

Ch. Pinegrade Scotia Swell and

Ch. Pinegrade's Perfection

Oil on canvas

1927

Sealyham Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club,

Gift of Mrs. Schults Dougherty and Miss Shults

1927

Bryan Field's opening words in the Times were as follows:

"A Sealyham Terrier out-swanked all the blue-bloods of dogdom and trundled out of the show ring with the Westminster crown title – but nonetheless securely fastened – over one eye."

The people, said Field, were "overwhelmingly pro-Perfection." He was impressed that spectators, who didn't know whether Sealyham was the name of a dog, a tapestry or a breakfast food, came to the same conclusion as the experts. He found the breed an amusing oddity. They had very short forelegs and much longer hind legs. He said they didn't walk; they waddled.

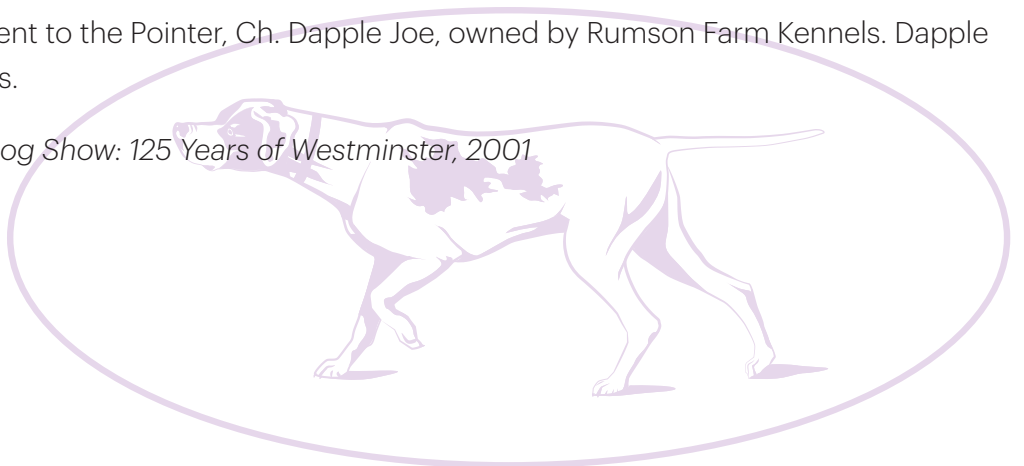


Then came the authoritative voice of the American Field. They had seen Perfection take Best in Show at the Sesquicentennial Bench show in Philadelphia the previous fall. They described her as "an unusually sound and typical Sealyham...whose superb condition and splendid ring manners appealed to all."

All agreed that no small share of the glory belonged to her handler, Percy Roberts. He had handled a dog to Best in Show at Westminster just a year earlier. He would eventually take four dogs to that top honor.

Best American-Bred in Show went to the Pointer, Ch. Dapple Joe, owned by Rumson Farm Kennels. Dapple Joe had many field trial victories.

Text from William F. Stifel *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001*



Reuben Ward Binks

Ch. Nancolleth Markable

Watercolor and gouache on paper

1934

Pointer

Collection of the American Kennel Club

1932



This was the first time that Mrs. Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge scaled the heights at Westminster and the second time in 25 years that the award was taken by a pointer.

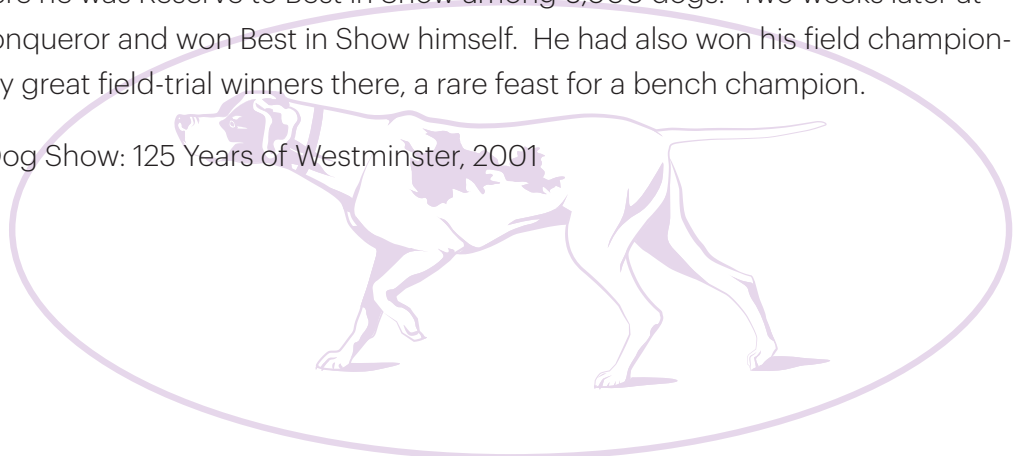
The victory of this lemon and white male was extremely popular. The Pointer that won in 1925 was Governor Moscow, which Arthur Frederick Jones of the Gazette said posed like a "carven image." Nancolleth Markable was a different animal. He fixed his gaze on the judge upon entering the ring and from then on hardly looked elsewhere.

The crowd loved him. "He seemed to throw out a magnetic force that drew your eyes to him," said Jones.

During the final examination, there was a great outburst of applause. The dog spun around, giving the crowd a sweeping look, and then turned his attention back to the business at hand. They cheered again when he bound forward as his handler, McClure Halley, advanced to receive the rosette.

Shooting men considered him one of the greatest Pointers to come across the water in years. He made his debut at Cruft's in London, where he was Reserve to Best in Show among 6,000 dogs. Two weeks later at Manchester, he defeated his conqueror and won Best in Show himself. He had also won his field championship in England, defeating many great field-trial winners there, a rare feast for a bench champion.

Text from William F. Stifel *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster*, 2001



Mildred Megargee

Ch. Flornell Spicy Bit of Halleston

Oil on canvasboard

20th Century

Wire Fox Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club

1934

During the judging of Best in Show, Spicy Bit slipped her lead and headed for the exit, the first recorded instance of a contender trying to desert the grand finale. But she was quickly apprehended and brought back.

There were 146 Wires on the bench. They were judged by Russell H. Johnson, Jr., president of the American Kennel Club. Bit was hound-marked bitch with a tan head. Henry Ilsley of the Times called her "a superb bit of terrier-dom."

Percy Roberts, her handler, had imported her from England. She made her American debut

at the Fox Terrier specialty show the Sunday before Westminster. She did not win there but took the breed at the Garden. In the group, she won in a field of 15, which Ilsley said included "the cream of the homebreds and the greatest of the imported specimens."

In the final class, the six contenders were all from other countries: one from Canada, one from Switzerland and the rest from England.

Spicy Bit was the third dog Percy Roberts had guided to the top at the Garden. The earlier occasions were in 1926 and 1927. He would handle a fourth winner in 1937, and in 1967, as an all-breed judge, would come back to judge Best in Show himself.

Best American-Bred in Show was the black Cocker Spaniel, Ch. The Great My Own, owned by Leonard J. Buck.

Text from William F. Stifel, *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001*





Maud Earl
Ch. Nunsoe Duc de la Terrace of Blakeen

Oil on board

1935

Poodle

Collection of the

American Kennel Club

1935

There was a playful streak in him.

Nunsoe Duc de la terrace of Blakeen came from Switzerland and was a champion there as well as in France, England and America. For all that, he was distracted in the final class by a squeaky dog toy in the hand of the Sealyham's handler. The Duke wanted to take possession of it. Mrs. Hoyt, his owner-handler, received permission from the judge to move, and as she led him to a new spot, he made a graceful dive for the Sealyham. The least stopped him in midair. He took his place obediently then away from trouble.

One observer called the Duke "superbly beautiful...correctly headed, amazingly coated, perfectly conditioned, and close coupled...an eye-catcher." Another said he was "the most striking poodle that has ever been brought to the U.S." A third claimed the only fault to be found with his was that "he was not home-bred."

It was the dog's 12th show in the U.S. and his 12th Best of Breed, his 10th group and his fifth Best in Show. It was also the first time that a woman carried off Westminster's top award. It would not happen again until 1956.



Best American-Bred in Show was Mrs. Cheever Porter's Irish Setter, Milson O'Boy, handle by Harry Hartnett.

Text from William F. Stifel *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001*

June Harrah
Ch. Nunsoe Duc de la Terrace of Blakeen

Bronze

20th century

Poodle

Gift of Frank T. Sabella



Clarence C. Fawcett

Ch. Hetherington Model Rhythm

Pastel on paper

1953

Wire Fox Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club



1946

This was the one-day-show- when New York City was closed down by a tugboat strike, the Westminster miraculously ran through its entire two-day schedule on what would otherwise have been the show's second day.

The winner was Wire Fox Terrier bitch, Ch. Hetherington Model Rhythm, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thons H. Carruthers and handled by Jake Terhune. An American-bred, she automatically won the James Mortimer trophy. She and one of her offspring also took Best Brace in Show.

According to Kingsley Childs of the Times, the decision irked many spectators who favored the Afghan, Ali Khyber, or the

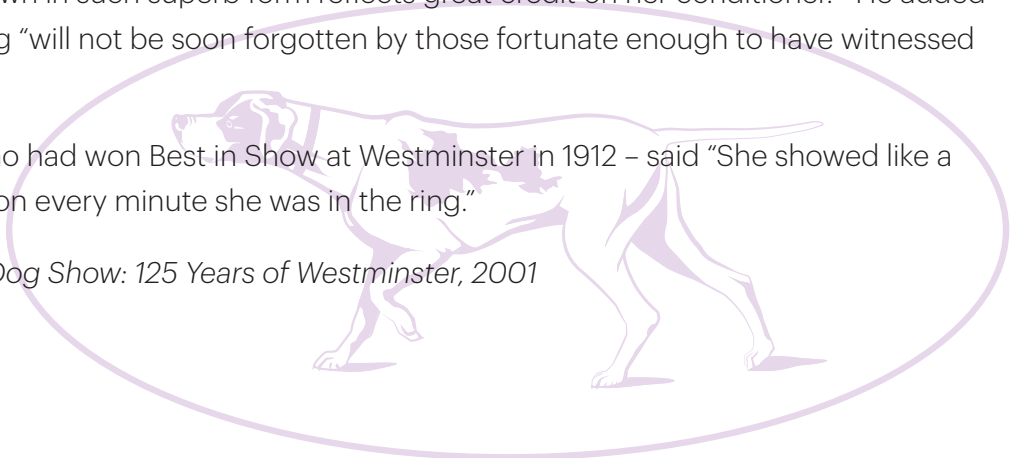
Boxer that had been Best American-Bred in Show in 1944.

Gus Bock of the Newark Evening News touched on Model Rhythm's age, noting that one of her sons had won Best of Variety at Westminster in 1944, and that in 1945 one of her daughters had done the same. "It remained," he said, "for 'Mama' to win Best in Show."

William Kendrick, in Popular Dogs, also noted the bitch's age. "The fact," he wrote, "that a six-and-one-half year old terrier could be put down in such superb form reflects great credit on her conditioner." He added that her performance in the ring "will not be soon forgotten by those fortunate enough to have witnessed (it)."

William Wolcott, the judge - who had won Best in Show at Westminster in 1912 - said "She showed like a queen and asked for the decision every minute she was in the ring."

Text from William F. Stifel, *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster*, 2001



Royal Doulton - Peggy Davies, designer
Ch. Warlord of Mazelaine

Porcelain
1952-1985
Boxer

Gift of the estate of Glen Twiford

1947

After trying for three years, the Boxer Ch. Warlord of Mazelaine won Best in Show at the Garden. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Kettles and handled by Nate Levine, he was the first Boxer to attain the honor.

The choice, made by David Wagstaff, met with hearty approval. Warlord had been Best American-Bred in Show. In 1946, he took the Working Group but went no further. In the breed this year, he won in the show's biggest class, 154 Boxers. He had done plenty of other winning. It was his 68th breed ribbon. The group win at Westminster would be his 25th, and the Best in Show, his 12th.

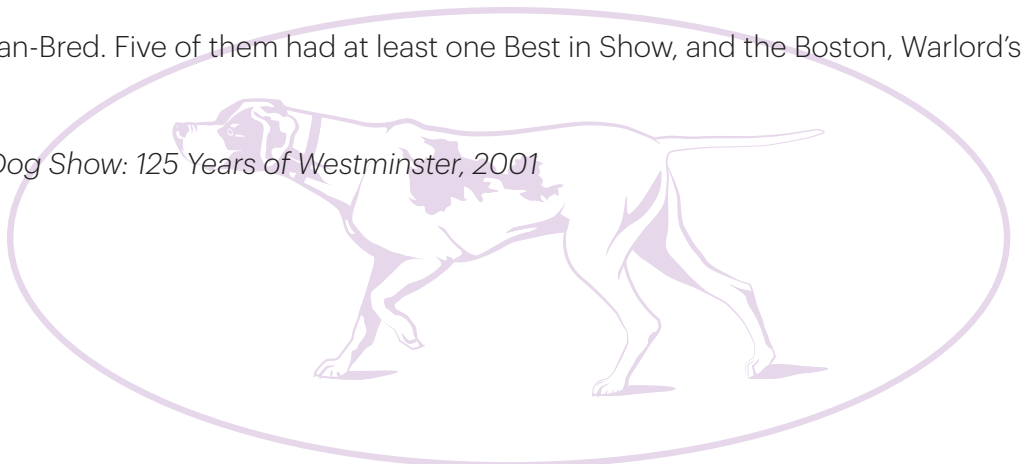


The dog, which John Rendell in the Times described as a "sturdy statuesque Boxer, fawn, with a white chest and a good black mask," won the favor of the spectators, too, as was testified by the strength of the applause that burst out whenever Wagstaff stepped before him.

Wagstaff later said he had had "a hard choice" between the Boxer and the Boston Terrier, Ch. Mighty Sweet Regardless. "The Boston impressed me very much," he said, "but the Boxer was best tonight. Perhaps tomorrow the Boston would have the better of it."

All six contenders were American-Bred. Five of them had at least one Best in Show, and the Boston, Warlord's closest contender, had 22.

Text from William F. Stifel, *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001*



Marjorie Walker
Ch. Rock Ridge Night Rocket

Pastel on canvas

1954

Bedlington Terrier

Collection of the American Kennel Club



1948

It was the first time a Bedlington had taken so much as a group first at the Garden, let alone Best in Show.

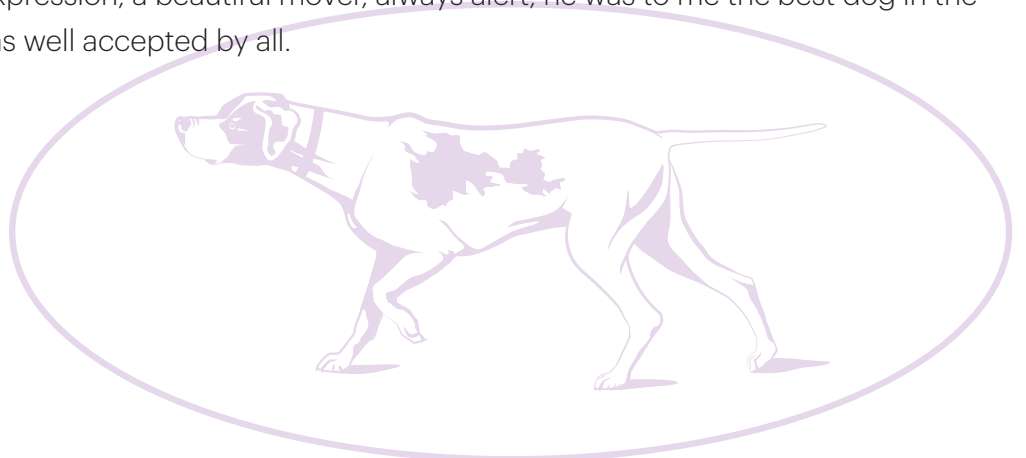
The winner was Ch. Rock Ridge Night Rocket, owned by Mr. and Mrs. William A. Rockefeller. The dog's half dozen other top awards included Best in Show at Morris and Essex, which he had won the previous May at the age of 14 months.

R.C. Howard, in *Popular Dogs*, called the dog's record a triumph not just for Night Rocket but also for the dog's handler, Anthony Neary. Neary was "the Man from Bedlington." For 35 years, starting long before taking charge of Rock Ridge Kennels,

Neary and his wife Anna, had been working for "these game little dogs."

The Gazette said the Nearys lent encouragement to anyone who took the slightest interest in the "deceptively mild-looking Terrier that looked so much like a lamb that it had become the butt of many jokes." The Nearys had long recognized the breed's true worth, carrying, as they knew it did, "the purest terrier spirit." Best in Show at the Garden seemed to justify his endless work.

Dr. Milbank took 15 minutes to make his choice. His comment afterwards: "With the narrowest of skulls, the most perfect of coats, grand expression, a beautiful mover, always alert, he was to me the best dog in the ring." Night Rocket's victory was well accepted by all.



T. Tashira

Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest

Oil on board

1957

Boxer

Collection of the American Kennel Club, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. R.C. Harris and The American Boxer Club

1951

Boxers had now taken Westminster's highest award for the third time in five years. This latest winner was a two-year-old from California, Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest.

He was owned by Dr. and Mrs. Raphael C. Harris of Santa Ana and handled by Nate Levine, who had handled Westminster's first Best-in-Show Boxer in 1947. The Boxer who had won in 1949 was among the dogs Bang Away defeated this year.

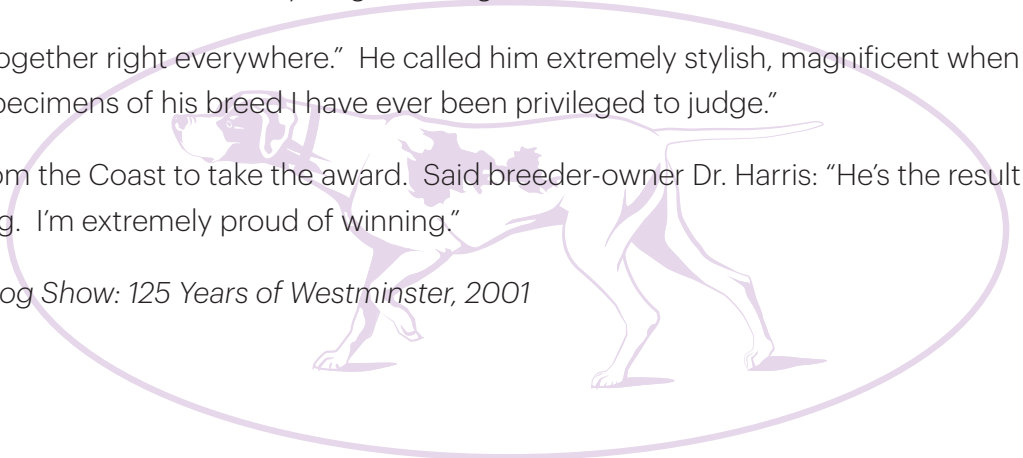
William Kendrick reported in *Popular Dogs* that Bang Away seemed playful, always ready for a game with a ball that Levine carried. He was "razor-keen." He "tended to break into a gallop." He was a dog with "superb thrust and propulsion in movement." Kendrick called him "a handful."

But, as John Rendel recorded in the *Times*, there was no playfulness before W. Ross Proctor in the final class. Bang Away was "all business, moving beautifully with his characteristically long-reaching strides."

Proctor said the dog was "put together right everywhere." He called him extremely stylish, magnificent when moving, and "one of the best specimens of his breed I have ever been privileged to judge."

Bang Away was the first dog from the Coast to take the award. Said breeder-owner Dr. Harris: "He's the result of 10 years of constant breeding. I'm extremely proud of winning."

Text from William F. Stifel *The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001*



Royal Doulton - Peggy Davies, designer
Ch. Rancho Dobe's Storm

Porcelain

1955-1985

Doberman Pinscher

Gift of the estate of Glen Twiford

1952, 1953



It was the winner's 13th show: His catalog number was 13. And 13 years earlier, his great grandsire had taken Best in Show at the Garden. So much for unlucky numbers.

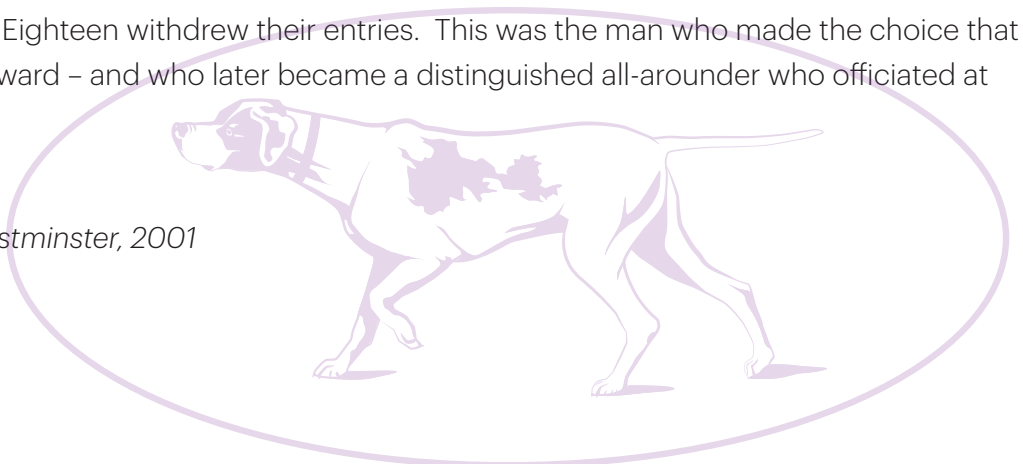
Ch. Rancho Dobe's Storm, who was also Best American-Bred in Show, was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Len Carey. The breeders had given them pick of the litter when he was two months old. A year later, after his ring debut, he went to the top six out of 12 times out. Said Mrs. Carey: "He loves shows but always is anxious to get home to his own bed - which he generously shares with our son, Jeff."

John Rendel of the Times said Storm held one's attention just by standing still. He stared "as though hypnotized, straight at his handler who knelt before him."

Judge Joseph P. Sims called Storm one of the greatest showmen he had ever seen. The dog moved with even, flowing strides, without flaw, hesitation or distraction. "I couldn't get away from him tonight," said Sims. "He is in perfect condition - I might say pluperfect condition."

Dobermans were originally assigned to William Kendrick, who fell ill and was replaced by Henry Stoecker. Many exhibitors protested that Stoecker, who had specialized in Poodles as a professional handler, was not qualified to judge Dobermans. Eighteen withdrew their entries. This was the man who made the choice that started Storm toward the top award - and who later became a distinguished all-arounder who officiated at Westminster on 15 occasions.

Text from William F. Stifel,
The Dog Show: 125 Years of Westminster, 2001





**Henry Stull
Styx**

Oil on canvas

1886

Poodle

Collection of the American Kennel Club

Shown at Westminster in 1890, before “The Show” Styx was the number one Poodle that year. Originally from Brussels, he was thought to have garnered a first prize in every American show he was entered in.



**Dominick & Haff Silversmiths
Team Match Shooting Pitcher,
Westminster Kennel Club vs.
Staten Island Club**

Sterling Silver

1881

Gift of the Westminster Kennel Club





**Meriden Silver Plate Co.
Eastern Field Trials Trophy
Won by Sensation**

Sterling Silver
1880

Gift of the Westminster Kennel Club



**Whiting Manufacturing Co.
1884 NY Bench Show Vase
Won by Bang Bang**

Sterling Silver
1884

Gift of the Westminster Kennel Club



Arty challenge: Congratulations, your dog has won a trophy! Look at the above trophies - what do you like about them? Then, design your own trophy for your dog!

Submit your artwork on our website through our artwork submission page, and it will be featured on the @mod_communitywall Instagram page!



The AKC Museum of the Dog is a place where you can learn more about your own canine family members and honor the undeniable impact they have on our lives. We just celebrated our first year in the New York City location and we are so grateful for the support we have received from residents of the City and visitors around the world. We're continuing our commitment to provide excellent programming, activities and exhibitions centered around our fine subject, the dog, to our supporters and followers during this time of unprecedented crisis in our nation's history.

Our digital channels will serve as places to connect with our collection and our community until we can welcome you to our galleries in person again. Be sure to explore the MOD website (<https://museumofthedog.org/>) and social media profiles ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)) where you'll be able to see live programs, download art activities for the family, and take virtual tours of our exhibitions past and present. We've already been able to show past exhibitions to new audiences in other countries, and discovered new artists through submissions of our downloaded breed coloring sheets to the [@MOD Community](#) Instagram profile!

Arts and cultural institutions have been hit hard by the pandemic and give some of the greatest pleasure to those who understand their important role in society at times like these. Your love of dogs and appreciation for the way they have been recorded and artistically displayed throughout history is why we appeal to you today. It is with **your** support that our programs and educational content are made possible and made accessible beyond our walls. **Won't you consider supporting us today?** Whether through an [annual membership](#), or a [one-time donation](#), all gifts, large or small, are greatly appreciated. Your generosity will help sustain our beloved institution through this difficult time and will also support the growth of online content that will bring comfort and inspiration to our community now and in the future.

Give to honor your canine friends! With your help, we can continue to introduce and remind the public of the many ways in which dogs enrich our lives, especially during times of crisis. We thank you in advance and look forward to thanking you in person once our doors open again.

Thank you for virtually touring "Best in Show: Past Winners at Westminster"! Complete Arty's Challenges and submit them on our website at www.museumofthedog.org

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