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THE LLEWELLIN ASSOCIATION

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Mrs. Drenda King, Editor
Alfred O. King, Sr., Publisher

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Alfred King
27 Gapview Rd.
Conway, AR 72032

Attn: The Llewllin Association

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THE LAVERACK SETTER INTRODUCED in RUSSIA

BY: Alfred O. King, Sr.

The Russian hierarchy during the period of 1840 to the revolution in 1917 (it is interesting to note here that in talking with Dr. Slava that he refers to "before the revolution" and "after the revolution" in the discussion of varied matters) were on a level comparable to that of England and other European Countries. In common were the classes of people; the titled, the merchants, and the commoners. The upper class of Russians were just as much world travelers as in any other country. In my research concerning early Kennel Club records in England I have hit dead-ends with the statement, "Shown at this or that show and sold to an unknown buyer". In this Russian book I found the unknown buyers of the exact dogs named. You as association members are the first people in the United States to read this information.

By permission of the Russian Kennel Club I will present to you the established history/opinions of those in authority.

The first book written concerning Setters in Russia is titled: "HUNTING DOGS", by L. P. Sabaneev. First published in 1896 this book contains the complete histories on all breeds of hunting dogs in existence at that time. Coincidentally, 1896 was the year of the first Field Trial held in America. At the time of the writing of Mr. Laverack's book it had only been 13 years since the first English Dog Show. As you will see in



these writings the Russian Setter development was parallel to that of England.

This book is still the standard of all Russian breeds and was reprinted in 1993 by the Russian Kennel Club and is still held to be the standard by which breeds comply. In this writing we will only cover the development of the early Russian Setters.

HUNTING DOGS begins the documentation of English Setters by quoting exact listings and descriptions of the strains listed in Edward Laverack's book of 1872 titled "The Setter". The Russians, in common with the rest of the world, consider these documented strains and their histories to be "law". In this writing I will pick up after these entries are completed and Sabaneev begins with his information and opinions. For the sake of space



ON THE COVER

As promised in last issue, this issue covers more on the Russian Laverack Setter.

I will leave out the color and composition descriptions of the early discontinued strains by the use of a series of periods (....).

"The history of the first setters in Russia is very interesting. Thanks to old Russian hunters S. V. Pensky and P. A. Kvasnikov the time when setters were brought to Russia is known exactly. The first Setters were brought to Saint-Petersburg by the rich Petersburg Englishmen Kogun, the owner of the former English Store, Pearland, and Hamilton. Pearland and Hamilton served in the Russian Army even though they still had estates in the Northern of England and quite often they brought dogs from there.

In 1843 and 1844 two setters were brought from England by Kogun.... In 1845 and 1846 in Saint Petersburg there were already quite a few English dogs..... In 1847 Pearland brought two very beautiful setters (white without spots with black eyes and black noses) as a gift for the prince Mikhail Pavlovich. These dogs were exchanged for the horse that cost 2000 Rubles.... From these dogs the famous Petersburg hunter I. A. Serebryakov, the new strain originated.... They were famous before the 80's." You will often see the phrase before the 80's in this book. This is the time period in which all prior breeds were discontinued with the advent of the superior Lavarack & Llewellyn Setters; all other strains were considered "impured". In 1891 the Russian Kennel Club was recognized by the English Kennel Club as having pure English Setters which Russia considered to be Laverack-Llewellyns. Any dog registered in either Club could be registered in the other. I am simply inserting this at this point so you will have a better understanding on the first reading.

In Russia the black setters could be found very rarely and weren't appreciated at all because the black strain was considered to be vulgar.

"Very important roles in the spreading of the English gun-dogs played I. A. Serebryakov and the family of Vaksels. Serebryakov being a friend of Pearland always had very good pointers and setters. Most dogs brought by Pearland belonged to Serebryakov. He constantly had a lot of dogs. Actually, he had the first kennel in Russia.... Another famous hunter V. N. Vaksel for the first time brought setters and pointers to Moscow and spread them. Besides Vaksel's setters, at the end of the 40's and beginning of 50's, the black setters with spots of count Zubov, red ones of F. V. Perlov and white ones of S. V. Pensky were very famous. All of them came from the Pearland's setters. They had a good scent, were smart, durable, long lived. That's why they were bred longer than the others. They were the best among the modern setters whose scent got worse very quickly and that were not long lived enough. The leftovers of this famous breed, probably, still exist, however not as the pure ones." 'Not as the pure ones', as we continue, you will often see phrases like this repeated. It will become evident purity is the most important factor in Russian breeding. The Russians considered the Laveracks to be pure bred English Setters (although by this time the inbred faults became evi-

Рис. 51.
Том оф Браунфельс принца Сольмса
(от Там О'Шантер и Daisy)



Whelped 1880 - Tom 100% Laverack & Daisy 85% Laverack - #6130

dent). At first they did not approve of the Llewellyn crosses (Laverack - Duke - Rhoebe - Dan, who was out of Duke & Rhoebe). These were accepted after they proved to descend from the old pure bred strains listed in Laverack's book "The Setter". The Russian breeding program developed their own crosses within these lines. (In America a controversy developed concerning dogs being registered as Llewellyns that were not actually bred by Mr. Llewellyn personally - but were bred with the exact same line crosses.) After these dogs proved themselves to be consistent they were accepted and registered just as they were in America and England.

Mr. Sabaneev continues by listing a great number of dogs and strains and with detailed differences in and the failings of the various strains. I tell you this in order for you to understand the desire and persistence which the sportsmen of Russia exhibited in the search for the suitable gun-dog. This time period by the way corresponds with the efforts of Mr. Laverack in the development of his breed. With each description he closes by statements such as, "and soon disappeared." "In spite of the training, setters still had their old habits. It was impossible to make them make the bird fly up so the hunter could shoot it in the air." "It would now be very interesting to find any descendants and restore this race again.""was very good for hunting, even though it didn't have a good scent." "The dogs of the Serebryako Kennel were exposed to diseases." It is also interesting to note that when a strain proved inadequate it was discarded totally.

"Most setters of the 40's and 50's were crossed with pointers. Beginning with V. N. Vaksel, all Russian hunters probably wanted to breed a new strain (something in between pointer and setter) that would be suitable for the Russian climate more. But because of the lack of experience, all their efforts were useless. The only thing that they got out of that is that the pointers got more hair and became more durable. Such droppers almost prevailed in the 50's and 60's. At the same time so called 'Country Setters' appeared. They had the admixture of the blood of the 'watch-dog' that could be found in the turned up tail. However, these dogs satisfied their owners. In the 60's, the setters, mostly impured ones, were spread everywhere in Russia and replaced many old gun dogs.

They were considered to be superior to pointers that were spreading much slower, and mostly in the South. The hunters still brought from England the new producers called English, Irish and Gordon Setters."

"The Laverack came to Russia much later — in the 80's. Actually, the national breeding of the English gun dogs started in Russia not more than 15 years ago (1884), and before that time most setters were impured."

THE ENGLISH SETTER

"In the middle of the XIX Century, all setters, not only in Europe, were considered to be the English Setter. Even in the Great Britain, the setters were distinguished only because of the different lords' kennels. It is known that in each kennel its own strain was bred that was different by the color and shape from the others.... These English setters didn't have much in common with the modern English setter that looks more like the Laveracks.... In Russia the black setters could be found very rarely and weren't appreciated at all because the black strain was considered to be vulgar."

At this point Mr. Sabaneav draws his own conclusions as to

proved spaniels", like Laverack says. Of course, it's hard to explain why spaniels have a dish face, low set ears, and a lot of hair, especially in the tail. The Newfoundland, also, increased the height of these setting dogs. Besides, the ancestors of the Laveracks had an admixture of the spotted black setters that were the ancestors of the modern Gordons.

From old times, in Cumberland there were setters that looked like the Laveracks. So, there was not any need to breed the strain from the one brace of the dogs. In this case, Laverack agreed with many breeders and hunters that didn't like somebody else's' producers in their kennels. The fate of all pure blooded breeds is well-known: they acquire certain types, come into fashion for a short time, and then die out of diseases. Not many survived dogs are used as the pure dog form improving of the kennels of not very smart owners.

Actually Laverack showed lack of knowledge as well as most lords of the first half of the XIX Century. But our ancestors always were against on outcross, probably, Laverack had the whole theory based on the strengthening of the qualities by crossing very close relatives — brothers and sisters.

Laverack said, — "There appears to be a law in nature we don't understand. How is it Buffaloes in the prairies of North America, and the herds of wild animals in the South of Africa, in

"The Laverack came to Russia much later — in the 80's. Actually, the national breeding of the English gun dogs started in Russia not more than 15 years ago (1884), and before that time most setters were impured."

the origin of the English Setter. He refers to a variety of writers, descriptions, crosses and suppositions which adds to the Spaniel/Pointer, color, admixture subject covered in my book, "THE LLEWELLYN SETTER, Origin and Historical Development". Again there is not enough space in this writing to cover this.

AND again bare in mind that this is one man's opinion. That it was written in this time period AND is from an heretofore unknown authority; is of the most interest to me. Various opinions concerning Mr. Laverack's practices were covered in my book, from many sources, over an extended period of time.

We already know that the Laverack strain was considered ended at this point in time. It is amazing that today's Show Laveracks are often termed "pure Laveracks". BUT that is another story.

In relation to Mr. Laverack's breeding practices Mr. Sabaneav continues with this analysis (keep in mind that this is written at the time of the degeneration in England of the PURE Laveracks from the best in the field to a dying strain), "*Laverack was maybe right saying that the setter came out of the cross of Spaniel and pointer. But he contradicts himself by saying that the setters are dying because of the out-breeding and not keeping pure blood. Also, even though Laverack wanted to breed the dogs of a Spaniel's type, he chose the blue beltons but not the dark brown strain that was so typical of a spaniel. (R. Lee thinks that the dark brown setters are the most suitable or the field. work. For example, the dogs of the Baron Doveridge had the excellent scent and endurance, although they weren't beautiful).*

However, even the pure strains of the setters weren't just "im-

fact, everything reproduces their own species, with unerring and marked characteristics, with ever crossing. Crossing, or cross-bred animals, will never produce, to a certainty, uniformity of race."

This quote shows Laverack's lack of knowledge of zoology, and his theory is absolutely ridiculous. Probably, Laverack just wanted to say that inter-crossing of the close relatives is a quite usual thing. That can refer to some rare animals but not to the heard animals. It's known that dogs propagate very quickly, and in three years, one easily can have more than 10 females and enough male dogs that are not close relatives with the first brace of dogs. Breeding of a new strain can't be connected with trading. All English Lords and Russian Counts understand it very well, and that is why sale of the dogs was considered to be a disgrace. So, they were either given as a gift or destroyed.

The Laveracks' history and their pedigrees are not known well enough. Laverack deliberately did not mention many significant facts talking about not very important things. From his book, it is hard to understand if the Blue Belton was an independent breed or they were bred by some other hunters whom Laverack mentions as dead by the 1872. It is known that the Laverack's breed came out of the Blue Beltons of the pastor Harrison from Carlisle, Ponto and Old Moll acquired in 1825. The breed of the Blue Beltons was considered to be the breed of setters with black spots and marbles that from the mixture of black and white hair got the bluish color. From the description the Blue Beltons looked like the dark brown setters from, the Edmond Castle. They were bred by Harrison in purity during 35 years. Analyzing the pedigrees in the books of Laverack and Danziel one will doubt in purity of the Harrison



dogs, how long this Laveracks had existed and if their pedigrees are exact at all. From these pedigrees, one also can find one of the main Laverack's secrets of breeding that Laverack never mentioned and explain the reason of dying of the breed.

From the Fred's II pedigree, it is known that the ancestors of the Laverack Ponto and Old Moll weren't the Blue Beltons. Ponto was black and gray, and Old Moll was silver gray. From this brace of dogs black sons and grandsons, red daughters and granddaughters, and black with spots great grandsons were born. The real Blue Belton (Sting) was born only in the 6th generation. In the beginning there was an outcross of 5 - 6 different strains. It proves the impurity of the ancestors and a bad selection of producers.

From the Dash II pedigree that was the first Laverack written in the English Genealogy Book (#1341) in the 60's, it is known that he belongs just to the 6th generation. Since 1825 during 40 years, there should be not less than 10-15 generations but not 6. (At this

point let me add that (1) perhaps dogs did not then live as long as they do now, (I cannot find in any writing the average life span of a setter of this time period. (2) I do know that the Russians do not breed from older stock. Personally, I believe both the Sire and Dam pass on learned qualities to their offspring; and the older they are the wiser they become. I believe the consistent breeding of these older dogs enhances the line. (3) In a 40 year time span of this day it IS possible to obtain 6 or even 4 generations if a dogs health is fully maintained. Of course

today's standard of dog health was surely not the norm in the time period of this writing. — I add this at this point as a reminder that any writing of this type, including mine, is opinion and not indisputable fact.) So, either in the pedigree several generations were left out or in all generations, the old producers were crossed or the breed has been bred not from 1825 but 10 - 15 years later. The Laveracks' pedigrees before the 60's (before they started to be written in the Stud Book) are very doubtful because it is very hard to distinguish enormous quantity of Dashes, Rocks, Belles, Molls, and Jets without any indications. Besides, the name Jet, Laverack gave not only female dogs, but male dogs too.

From the Dash III pedigree it is known that its' grandfather from the father side Sting and grandmother from the mother side Belle were descendants of brothers and sisters crossed four generations. It means that mother and father, grandmother and grandfather, great grandmother and great-grandfather of Sting and Belle were brothers and sisters.

Such inter-crossing contradicts well-known laws that Laverack just ignored. For strengthening certain qualities of the breed it is allowed to cross father and daughter, grandfather and granddaughter, mother and son, grandmother and grandson, but not brother and sister. That is the reason of dying of the Laveracks. They would have died out even earlier if in the 40's Laverack hadn't added the blood of the dark brown setters from the Edmond Castle

to his breed. From his letter to Mr. Rothwell in 1874, it is known that the blood of the dark brown setters was added 30 years ago and that the puppies looked like their grandfather - Pride of the Border - that was also dark brown. However, in the Count Harwood pedigree written by Dalziel, Pride of the Border was the son of Dash II (#1341) and Belle II - descendants of Ponto and Moll. As you may notice here the Russian Kennel Club considered the addition of the Chestnut dog Pride of the Border to be an outcross strain and impure. This is why even today, you will not find any Chestnut dogs in Russia. From the very beginning they would not allow the registration of impure blood. To eliminate the Chestnut color they would discard any dog that produced a Chestnut pup. After several generations of elimination they totally eradicated the Chestnut color. They do have the burnt orange color that some in America mistakenly call Chestnut. In the Setter Chestnut is a very dark reddish brown color, called Liver in the Pointer breed.



From another Laverack letter to Rothwell it is known that he - "the stubborn gentleman from Manchester", as Idestone called Lavarack - made sure that his theory of inter-breeding is wrong when he lost almost all his dogs that died from diseases. Only Prince and Cora that couldn't produce anymore survived.

So, Lavarack being already the old person, could see here his breed that he had been creating for 50 years was dying out. Even the marble strain, so typical for the Laveracks, proves their dying.

There are two reasons for that. The first Blue Belton blue-marbled, Sting came out of 4 crosses of brothers and sisters of the black strain. Such black-marble strain is typical only for prued Foxhounds. Finally, it is very typical for the died out breed of Russian Foxhounds that is also known as different-eyed.

The Laveracks' shortcomings were discussed many times by famous dog breeders from the beginning of their existence. The most famous opponents of the blue marbles setters were Idestone, the author of the book, *THE DOG*; and Stonehenge, the editor of the journal *FIELD*. He was a very gifted and well-educated person who studied zootechnics not in the kennels or from hunters. His works about dogs are considered to be classic, and his description of the breeds are very precise.

Stonehenge was always against the pure Laverack shape: bent knees, too broad chest, and slanting shoulders — qualities that thanks to him, disappeared more or less with Laverack's death. Stonehenge also didn't approve that they had an excessive quantity of hair, and heavy, long, and unmovable tails. Really, earlier, most of Laveracks had a sweeping tail and never move it (modern Laveracks have much more active tail). Stonehenge said that the dog that moves its tail has a better nose than the one that has an unmovable tail like a wolf or a fox.

It may seem weird, but there is no doubt that there is a connection between tail and scent because the dog always moves its

tail whenever it feels something — horror, pleasure, hostility. The dogs tail is its barometer. However, Stonehenge didn't take into account that too heavy tail can't be active, especially for a running dog. That is why the faster a gun dog runs, the less active tail it has. Some German gun-dogs and Spaniels - Bassets have so active tail that it is necessary to cut it. The pointers don't need this operation because their tail is muscular and doesn't have much hair. So, the pure Laverack's tail is not active because it's too long and too heavy. Probably, the Laveracks have this shortcoming because their ancestors had a blood of Newfoundland. (The Laveracks had not only the dark brown setters from the Edmond Castle but the ones from the Narworth Castle that had a blood of a Newfoundland. The pure blooded Laveracks of this type was shown at the Moscow exhibition by E. D. Artynov.)

However, the original strain and shape of the Laveracks, their endurance and good field qualities made a sensation at the exhibitions and in the Field Trials. The Laveracks came into fashion very quickly and became very expensive. They were in fashion in England 15 - 20 years ago, until the end of the 70's, with the death of Laverack. By that time, their shortcomings were revealed and they started dying.

The Laverack got much smaller. There were exposed to many diseases, were hard to raise, didn't live much, and ate a lot. Laverack says the truth by calling them, "the best eaters in the world." However, the fact that they ate so much proves the weakness of their organism.

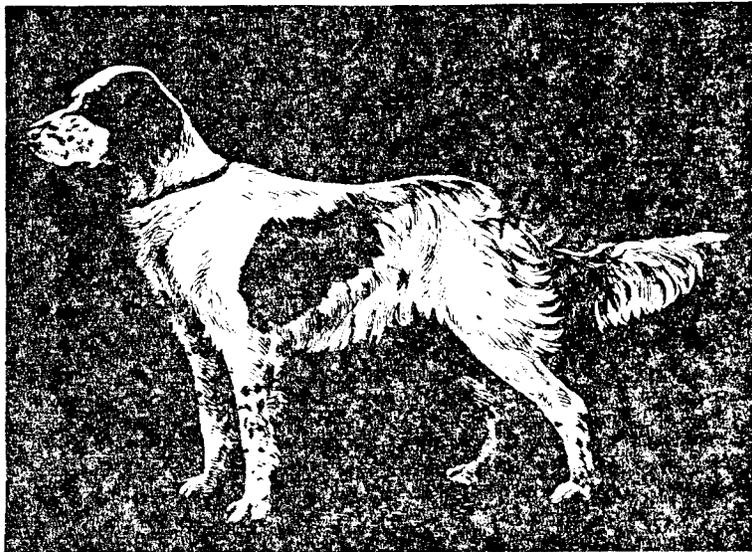
Besides, all pure Laveracks were very irritable and had bad dispositions. They were afraid of the gun shots. Sometimes they even run back to hunter instead of getting the bird.

However, many English setters from the different kennels were crossed with the Laveracks. Such out-crosses improved their appearance and scenting. The pure Laverack became very rare, and not many breeders had them. One of the breeders was Robinson, who inherited the Laverack's kennel. (Laverack died in 1877, and Robinson, who was his distant relative, inherited his kennel. After Laverack's death only 5 dogs were left: Blue Prince, Blue Rock, Yellow Cora, Blue Belle and Nellie (or Blue Cora) the last two were sisters. According to Lee, Prince, Belle and Nellie were sold by Laverack to Bowers for 100 pounds. So, Robinson got only 2 dogs — Blue Rock and Cora. Nothing is known about the Laveracks of Bowers). In the report of the 1889 Olympia exhibition, the judge Shirley says that 2 pure Laveracks of Mr. Robinson were "The example of degeneration". The fact that the best Laveracks were sent to America also contributed to their degeneration in Europe.

The Field Trials also brought a lot of disappointment in the Laveracks. The half pure dogs were faster than the pure ones because they were lighter. From these light and improved Laveracks the most famous are Llewellyn Setters. However they can't be called an independent breed and even an independent strain because they

don't have a distinctive original shape. Such impured Laveracks can be found in many kennels. The Llewellyn Setters especially were famous for their prizes in the Field Trials. Purcell Llewellyn started breeding setters only since 1870. Before that, according to R. Lee, he had black with spots and Irish setters that didn't bring him satisfaction. He got 4 pure dogs from Laverack — three dogs from Old Blue Dash (1341) and Moll III (black with spots) and one from Dash and Lill. Later, he got the female Daisy from Garth and bred several famous pure Laveracks that got prizes at many exhibitions — Princess, Fantom, and Petrol.)

However, he couldn't keep the breed in purity and had to add the blood of Dan that was the winner of many field trials and it's sister Dora of the Manchester breeder Statter. That's why the Llewellyn setters are sometimes called Dan Setters. (The term 'Dan Setters' was used in Russia for many years.) They were lighter and taller than the Laveracks; however, among them quite a few typical heavy dog could be found. The Llewellyn Setter is a setter



with a blood of the Laverack and having Dan's type. Most of them were tri-colored (black with spots) — strain that could be found in both the pure Laveracks and the Statter Setters that earlier had a blood of Gordons. That's why the point of view that Llewellyn added the blood of the modern Gordons to his dogs is not based on anything. Besides, Gordons were always considered to be worse than setters in the field, so they couldn't make Setters lighter.

It is interesting to note that in Mr. Sabaneev's writing the name Llewellyn is spelt two dif-

ferent ways. The personal name is spelt Llewellyn. The name of the breed is spelt Llewellyn. This is I'm afraid America's fault.

Crossing his dogs with the Statter Setters, Llewellyn strengthened the organism of the pure Laveracks. The Llewellyn Setters were much easier to raise, they were not exposed to diseases so much, and they had a very nice disposition. But their main advantages were a very good shape, strong thighs, (the Laveracks' thighs were weaker), and an excellent scent. That's why the Llewellyn Setters started to get prizes at the exhibitions and in the Field trials. In the 80's, they came into fashion completely in both Great Britain and America and were considered to be superior to the Laveracks. Nowadays, they are not shown at the exhibitions anymore but still win in the field trials. (In the Field Trial of the Kennel Club in April of 1894, the two Llewellyn dogs (Rosa Wind'em and Jessie Wind'em) got the second prize and one dog (Daphne) got the first prize in the Trial for the setters of all ages.)

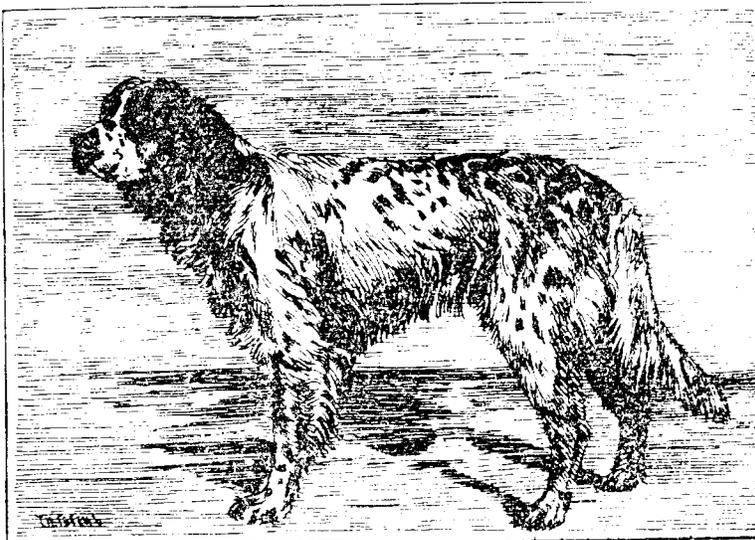
The Llewellyn dogs weren't different from the half pure Laveracks of the other breeders — Statter, Armstrong, etc. Their success is determined only by a very good selection of producers. (We are talking about the origination of the Llewellyn Setter according to E. D. Artynor that wrote the work about them. However, Randon Lee doesn't say anything about Dan. He thought



that the Llewellyn Setters came from the cross of the pure Laveracks with Old Slut of the Vincent Corbert and Rhoebe of Statter. But Stonehenge calls the Llewellyn Setters the Dan Laveracks because according to him they come from the cross of Dan or his sister with the pure Laveracks). After Llewellyn everybody started breeding light setters with a nice appearance. The modern English Setters (The Modern English Setters referred to here are the Llewellyn crosses - Laveracks mixed with Duke - Rhoebe outcross blood) are much more elegant than the Laveracks of the 70's. Their chest got smaller, shoulders and knees are more straight, they have less hair, and the hair is straight.

In the field the main thing that was needed was swiftness. But at the exhibitions, the secondary quality — appearance — was superior to the dogs' field qualities. The main things were pretty head, nice hair, and a fashionable color. Recently, the blue-marbles dogs were in fashion, so all black and yellow setters didn't get any prizes. The consumers demanded the blue marbles so the breeders started breeding them. Now the Blue Beltons are going out of fashion, and yellow setters got fashionable.

The different demands to the English Setter at the exhibitions, in the fields, and the hunters' demands caused their separation on exhibition dogs and field dogs. The common level of the English Setters raised in the kennels got worse a lot. The exhibition dogs have only a nice appearance and nobody cared about their other qualities. So, it's not a surprise that such dogs don't have a good scent and are exposed to the different diseases and afraid of the gun shot. The winners of the Field Trials don't have a nice appearance. (The



Russian Kennel Club demands both field and conformation approval.)

Lowe blames the Kennel Club in reckless outcross of the Laveracks and their dying. After Laverack's death some mistakes in the pedigrees of his dogs were found. It was proved that sometimes, Laverack added the blood of some Northern strains to his dogs. That's why, the Kennel Club announced that the Laveracks couldn't be considered to be the pure-blooded setters. And the breeders trying to improve them, started crossing them with the other setters that had a questionable origin.

Lowe says that Laverack knew that it would happen and told Lort in 1873 that such out-crosses would cause degeneration of the breed (Laverack's) because only the English breed (setters other than his) was crossed with the Shepherds, Gordons, Spaniels, and Retrievers so much. Laverack told Lowe that he added the blood of the old Northern breeds to his dogs, but just a little. He selected not the half pured producers but the ones that already had a little admixture of some other breed's blood.

The main rule of the zootechnics says that in order to achieve the desirable results, it is necessary to keep one side pure-blooded. If one crosses the impure animals, he/she will get the unexpected results. Most modern breeders do not follow this rule. So, no

wonder that at the exhibitions there are some setters that "have a head of the Clumber, feet of the Retriever, colored like a Terrier, and look like a Shepherd."

From the book of Lee, we know that the breeders of the English Setters don't limit themselves just with crossing impure Laveracks with the English Setters of questionable origin. They purposely started adding the blood of the other setter breeds to their dogs in order to improve their Field qualities. At the National Field Trial of 1892, Dash, that came from the Gordon of the Lord Caudor and the English Setter, got the first prize. Dash had a very good scent and the fine field qualities. Stonehenge said that the Laveracks lacked these qualities. So, Lee supposes, that the Gordon's blood can improve them a lot.

Another very famous dog (the winner of the Field Trials of 1891 and 1892) Fred of the doctor Wood, had the head of the Irish setter. Even though Fred was a very fast going dog, it wasn't powerful and died pretty soon (1892).

Now, let's examine the qualities of the breed as they were described by Stonehenge, Laverack, Vero Sho, Hugh Dalziel, Rawdon Lee, and the English Setter Club. The head is long; the skull has a shape of an oval. According to Stonehenge, Sho, and Dalziel, the skull is narrower between the ears. According to Dalziel, it's develop[developed more in the front, and the head is not so thick as the Pointer's are. Stonehenge says that the English Setter skull is something in between of the Spaniel's skull and the Pointers skull.

The face is moderately broad and quite long. The jaws are long and straight. The teeth are strong and white. Nose large and expanded at the nostrils. The nose is black or brown (depends on the dog's color).

Eyes are bright, kind, expressive, brown. Laverack liked big, intelligent, dark brown eyes in his dogs. Vero Sho says that small "pig-like" eyes is a very bad quality. Stonehenge says that eyes should be very dark; however, Dalziel admits that Yellow Beltons can have yellow eyes.

Ears are moderately long, set low. Their upper part is covered with a silky hair. According to Laverack, long ears are better than short ones. They also should be thin. The low set ears give the setter's head its roundness. According to Vero Sho and the Kennel Club, ears shouldn't be big. According to Stonehenge, the setter's ears are short than the Pointer's, but they look longer because they are covered with a two inches long silky hair. Dalziel adds that the ear's skin is thin and soft.

Neck is long and muscular. It's slightly bent at the head and expanded near the shoulders. Stonehenge says that the English Setter's neck is shaped not like the Pointer's (it is not bent so much). It is also very soft and thin.

Shoulders are slanting. Laverack didn't like the straight shoul-

ders in his dogs. According to Vero Sho and the Kennel Club, shoulders should be long, muscular and active.

Body is Moderately long, The back is straight and short. The chest is deep with well bent ribs. The back ribs should be long. Laverack liked deep and broad chest in his dogs. In his opinion, the dogs with narrow chest are not endurable. Stonehenge says that they were too heavy dogs. He prefers slightly narrow, moderately deep chest with low set back ribs. In his opinion, all that gives them an opportunity to run fast.

Thighs are well bent and long. Legs are straight and muscular. According to Stonehenge, the front legs are straight and strong.

From these light and improved Laveracks the most famous are Llewellyn Setters. However they can't be called an independent breed and even an independent strain because they don't have a distinctive original shape That's why the Llewellyn setters are sometimes called Dan Setters.

Foot looks like the rabbit's one. Stonehenge and Laverack liked the rabbit-like feet in the English Setter. Foot also should be thick and stiff. However, Dalziel and Webber say that the cat-like foot is better.

Tail should be set on the same level with the back. It is not very long and bent like a sword. There is no hair at the beginning of the tail. It get longer in the middle and disappears at the end. The hair on the tail should be soft, shiny, silky, slightly wavy, but not curly. Dalziel notices that many modern setters have a sweeping tail and often, it is too long. The old Laveracks had a fox tail (unmoveable). Laverack appreciated it very much. Stonehenge and the other English judges had a different opinion.

Hair is slightly wavy, long, and silky. Color can be black, yellow, dark brown, or tri-colored. The smaller the spots are, the better. Recently, the Blue Beltons were fashionable. Now, Yellow Marbles and Lemon Beltons are coming into fashion. White, black, and red strains are not appreciated anymore.

The male's height is 23 - 25 inches, the females are 1 - 1.5 inches lower.

Much of this information is opinion. Some of that opinion is based on facts concerning the Laverack and Llewellyn dogs revealed in this book that has never been presented in the English writings. Overall I was very happy to find this information and hope you enjoyed it as well.

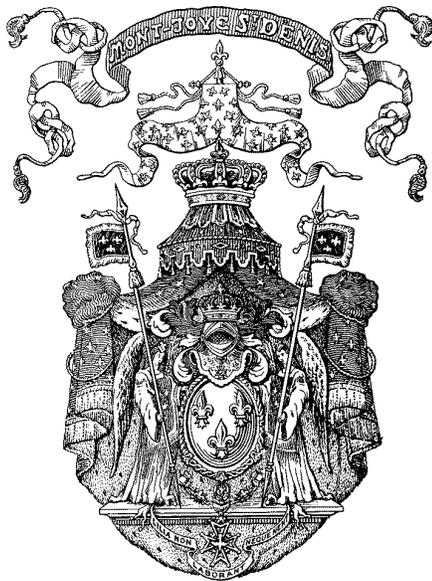
This is only about a tenth of the information on the English Setter contained in this book. Because of the space allowed I have only selected the section pertaining to the Laverack Setter.

No matter the failings of Laverack line, without a doubt, except for the efforts of Edward Laverack we would not know the English Setter of today. Mr. Laverack did produce the best of his

day. He was a man of middle class, without much education. The fact remains that without the base of the Laverack Setter and the attention it brought to the entire world no one can guess what might have developed. Certainly at that time there was nothing in comparison. The fact is that no other single individual other than R. L. Purcell Llewellyn made any lasting effect on the overall breed of the English Setter as the world knows it today. A few bred in the same direction that Llewellyn took. The idea was not his alone. BUT Llewellyn was the only one who maintained the breeding; (1st) with a sufficient amount of dogs (he bred by the hundreds), (2nd) for an extended period of time sufficient to work through any problem that might arise, (3rd) was an educated man, (4th) had wealth to support his eccentricity.

Today there is no known English Setter in existence without either the blood of the Llewellyn or the Laverack.

The Russian breeding program is the best in the world because of its restrictions. Their setters are among the purest and most uniform to the breed because of the fact that without this uniformity they are not given registration papers. 



"RUSSIAN VIDEO"

On our trip to Russia we were surprised at the freedom we had to do what we wanted to do. I was allowed to film anything I wanted to. I have footage of the Russian Kennel Club, also the museum that contained all the birds and animals stuffed and on display in their natural habitat. (Similar to our game and fish museums). Some footage of their dogs recopied from old 8 mm film (poor quality but interesting footage), also footage of Moscow.

I thought this might be of interest to some of you. The Llewellyn Association is offering this film for \$8.00 + 1.50 postage. Proceeds go to promoting the Llewellyn Setter.