

# AKC Gazette Column August 2008 —

All of our non-native breeds are influenced to some degree by dogs that breeders choose to import. While Bedlingtons have never had the continual “Imported dog du jour” like Wires and Lakelands, our breed has been impacted and influenced over the years by some wonderful imports that breeders have fortuitously brought to our shores.

We will again call on our Breeders of Distinction for a framework of discussion. These are breeders so honored by our parent club that have documented 20 or more AKC Champions to their credit.

Our Charter Breeder of Distinction was Constance Willemssen who presided over Rowanoaks Kennels, Registered for over six and a half decades, with her father, Col. P.V.G. Mitchell. Their first import from Great Britain was Tarragona Of Rowanoaks who was whelped July 7, 1936. In those days, new owners were permitted to rename the dog, hence their affix is on him. Tarragona, combined with another import of theirs, a bitch named Ch. J’Blue Surprise Des Orties, and her brother Ch. J,Chance It Des Orties, provided the foundation to produce Ch. Rock Ridge Night Rocket, still considered one of our greatest, and the only Bedlington to be a Best In Show winner at Westminster. His influence remains strong in our breed. Actually, Tarragona appears as 3 of his 4 Great Grand-Sires in his pedigree, and both are all time top producing sires.

In the early ‘70s, Joker vom Bannwald was imported from East Germany by Roger Widener and Jack Denst, but was managed by and lived out his life with Bob Bull, former parent club Secretary and Breeder of Distinction. Joker provided the foundation for many successful breeding programs including Bull’s Binker Hill line and he was an all time top producer with 21 Champions to his credit.

Nancy and Norm Rappaport brought some wonderful dogs home from their tour of duty in Germany in the early ‘80’s that have served their Starcastle breeding program well with several generations of notable Champions that qualified the whole family as Breeders of Distinction. They certainly benefitted by actually living the dogs’ country of origin.

More recently, Linda Freeman has imported dogs from Great Britain from the influential Rathrigg kennel and Sweden from Isotops, that has put several dominant dogs in the Winners’ circle at our Specialties. Her Champion Isotop’s Storm Warning is the first Swedish import to become an all time top producer in this country. Linda’s successful Chelsea Blue line has been developed from worthy dogs from both countries. One of Linda’s imports, Ch. Rathrigg Saxon

## Our Imports - Impact and Influence

Written by AKC Gazette Columnist

Lucy Heyman

19402 Kuykendahl Road, Spring, TX 77379

[laheyman@elkincarillon.com](mailto:laheyman@elkincarillon.com)

Ruler was used by Sandy Miles to develop a generation of non-carriers of Copper Toxicosis in her Sandon line and she expresses great satisfaction with the results. A current top winner and a multiple Specialty winning dog, Ch. Devonshire’s Don’t Think Twice bred and owned by Breeder of Distinction, Harriett Whitbred, is line-bred to Saxon Ruler. Our discussion would not be complete without paying tribute



English import CH Rathrigg Saxon Ruler

to the English Foggyfurze Bedlingtons. While none of them were directly imported by one of our Breeders of Distinction, they have had a significant impact on our breed. The last one, Ch. Foggyfurze Fandango was an inbred to the prepotent English Ch. Foggyfurze Fan Fare. Many of our contemporary breeding programs have been very positively influenced by linebreeding to Fandango. I know my own produced the top producing dam of all time Ch. Carillon Salsa Serendipity from the incorporation of this dog in my pedigrees and a recent top winner Ch. Sangeo Farscape, CD, RA, AX, AXJ, OF also hails back to him as well as our top agility dog Ch. MACH 4 Serendipity Heartbreaker, ME.