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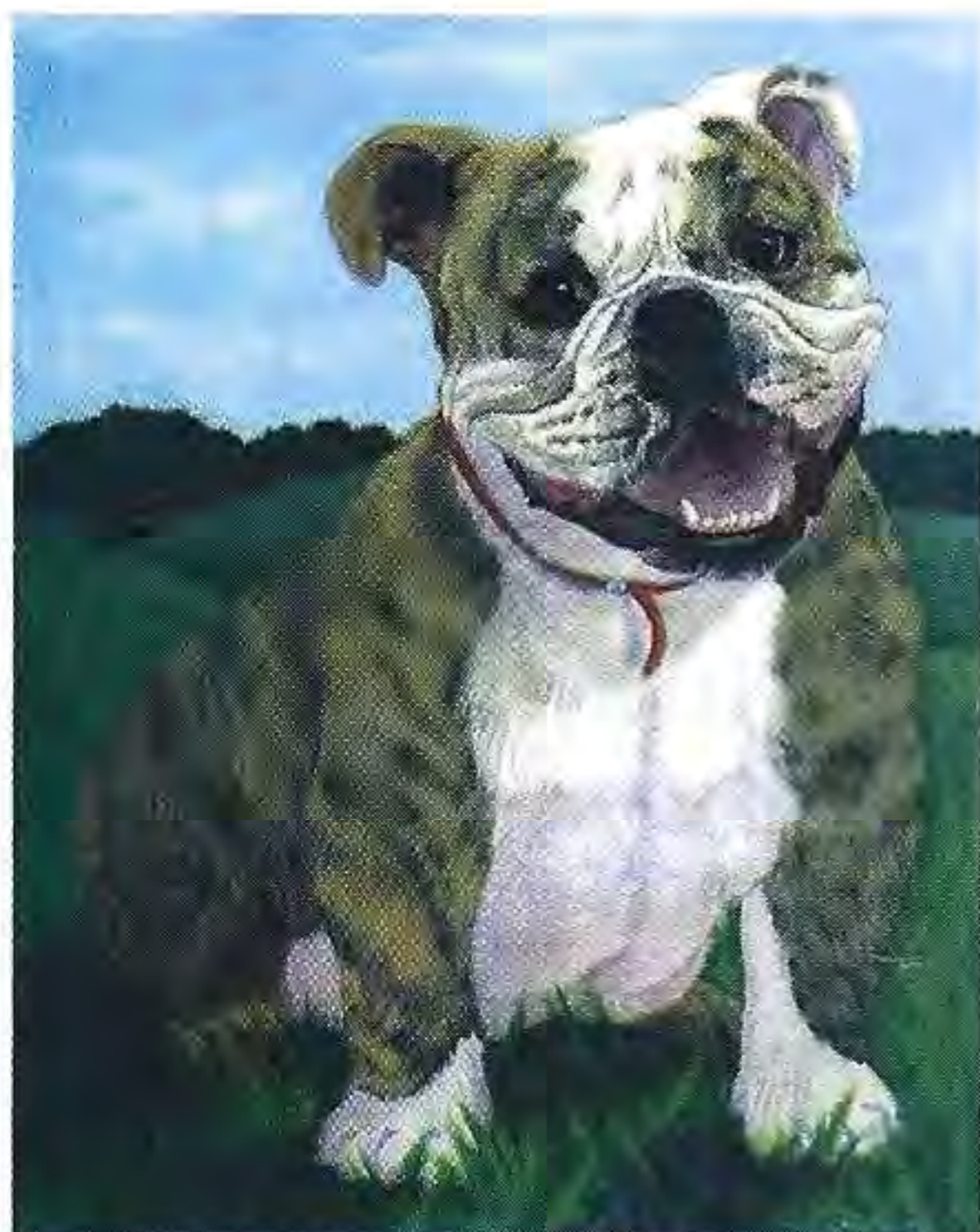
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PAINTED PET PORTRAITS

BY ERICA WOLF



Don't be sheepish about protecting your

illuminating Value

Pampered Pooch Portrait Art

The development of the purebred dog can be traced through British paintings that date back to the early 19th century.

By Martine M. White ASA, AAA

The fascinating aspect of the history of dog painting provides the viewer witness to the evolution of a particular breed they may fancy. In fact, you may not even recognize the 19th Century version of your best friend, for example, the modern Pomeranian is a mere petite version of it's 19th century predecessor.

The development of the purebred dog can be traced through British paintings that date back to the early 19th century. Although distinct dog breeds were recognized in 18th Century England, it was not until the 19th Century that an interest developed in categorizing breeds and subsequently treatises on individual dogs began to appear. Arising out of this interest of promoting and developing individual breeds, the first multiple breed dog show took place in 1859 in Newcastle. As a result, the popularity of dog shows blossomed throughout England as more breeds were defined and dog clubs were formed. To ensure the purity of dog breeds, criteria and standards were developed and recognized guides were

Pampered Pooch Portrait Art



Victorian Dog Portrait

Victorian pure-bred dog owners were predominantly from the upper classes just as mixed breeds or mongrels were associated with the common folk. Dog ownership even provided a way of distinguishing oneself as a member of the upper class. Queen Victoria, the quintessential nineteenth century animal lover, set the stage for commissioning and collecting dog paintings and encouraged countless others to follow her lead.

Chronicling one's pet in the form of portraiture paralleled the development of breed standards. Therefore, not surprisingly, dog owners and breeders took great pride in the outstanding characteristics of their dog, enough to have them 'sit-stay' for a commissioned portrait. While sporting dog paintings focused on dog performance in the field, pure-breed dog portraits focused on aesthetics and breed characteristics. Likewise, similar to a photograph, a painted pooch portrait became an enduring memento of a beloved family member.

Following the traditions in Britain



Although Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait, is best known for his animal portraits in this venue, many other talented painters emerged including George Earl, John Emms and Arthur Wardle.

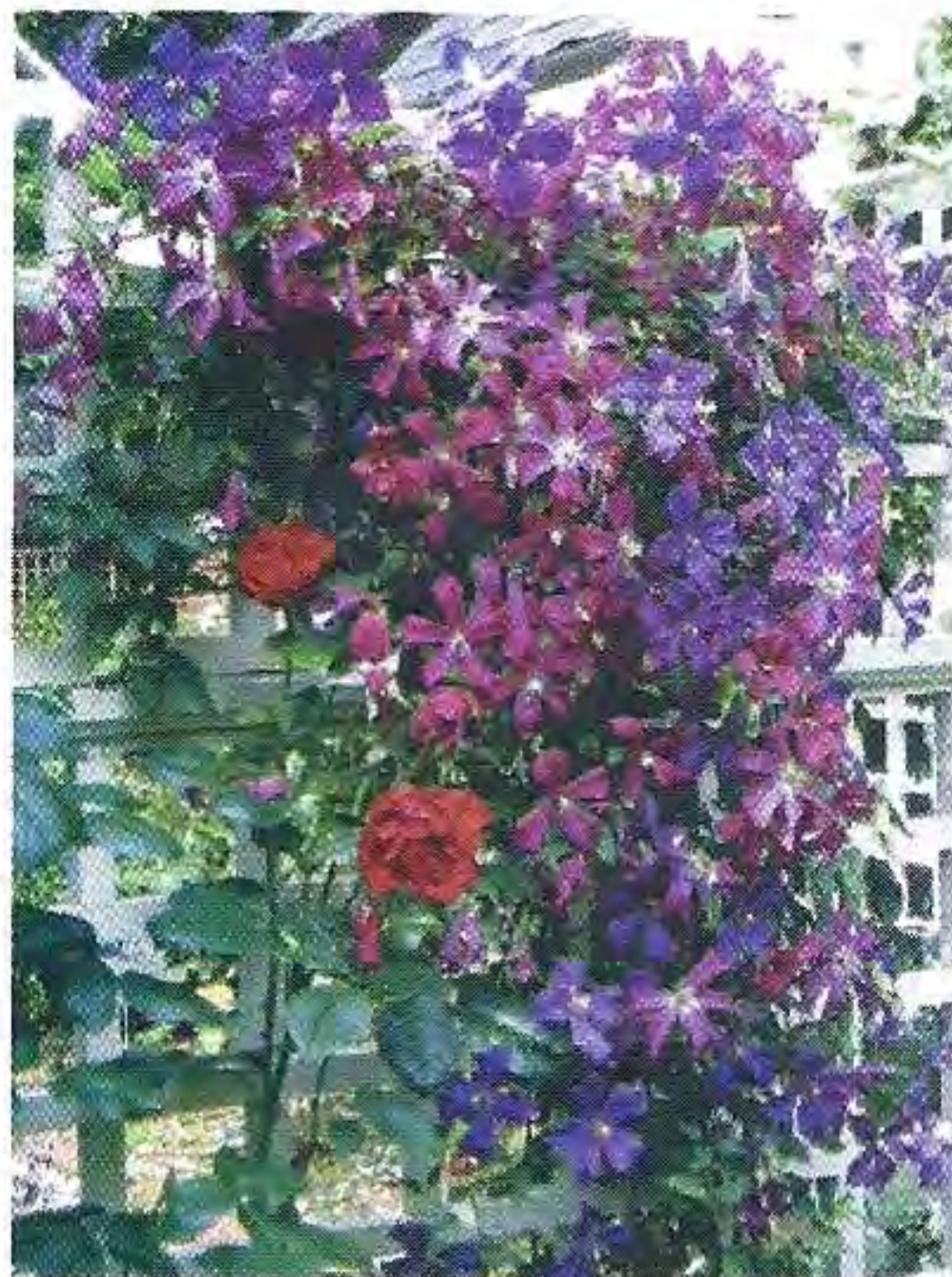
Today, there are over one-hundred and fifty dog breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club, each with their own distinct physical characteristics and temperament to match just about any perspective dog owner's personality and lifestyle. But if you happen to shy away from the domestic responsibility's of dog ownership you can always choose to collect dog art. The market for dog art is a specialized but growing field. In fact, over the last twenty years there has been a tremendous surge of interest in this genre, confirmed by the \$800,000 that changed hands at the Bonham's New York Dog Art Sale this past February. Attendees milling about with their show dogs and viewing paintings is a typical sight at the auction preview that coincides with the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

Likewise, Christie's New York inaugural Dog Sale achieved the highest total ever in the Dog Art category with the sale totaling over 2 million. The highlight of the sale included Thomas Blinks "Waiting for the Guns" a 1894



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Larry Terricone in his Basking Ridge home.

oil on canvas which at \$564,000 doubled the previous record. The very rare portrait by John Singer Sargent's "Pointy" brought \$432,000, over five times the presale estimate. However, this past sale did not surpass the exist-

ing record of \$590,400 paid for "A Bold Bluff" one of two C.M. Coolidge "Dogs Playing Poker" paintings that sold at Doyle's New York in February of 2005. Cassius Marcellus Coolidge created the oil painting along with sixteen other paintings in 1903 for the St. Paul, Minnesota advertising firm Brown & Bigelow.

The authority on 19th Century dog art, William Secord, owner of Secord Gallery off Madison Avenue in New York attests to the heightened interest in canine-themed works of art. As founder of the Dog Museum of America, Secord confirmed that dog paintings by certain artists, including Thomas Blinks, Arthur Wardle and John Emms have tripled in value.

Just ask Larry Terricone of Basking Ridge, an AKC judge for over fifteen years and a longtime collector and connoisseur of dog art. As long as he could

remember "if it had a dog in it" he had to have it. And the vast array of canine-themed art in his collection ranging from chalkware bulldogs and bronze Bichons to highly valued works on canvas is something to howl about. Whether it's a hound or a terrier the dog's personality traits and characteristics are how Larry judges a portrait. One of his favorite paintings is a Victorian portrait of a dog whose questionable parentage does not obscure the noble quality of a wise dog who commands your attention (and who probably shared the bed with his owner). A mid 19th century painting by James Wheeler, (1820-1885) situated above the fireplace depicts a wonderful head study of Fox Hounds who were notorious for large litters. Fox Hounds that displayed good hunting abilities were individually selected at a young age and marked by the "cut-ear" to

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hunt with the pack. Putting disposition aside, while viewing a quality dog portrait Larry even has the ability to identify a dame from a sire. Throughout the hunt for dog art, Larry's favorite shopping venues include auction houses, tag sales and fine art galleries. What initiated as a hobby and affection for 'mans best friend' transpired into a dog art consulting specialty which Larry now offers to a wide network of breeders and handlers throughout the dog world.

Reasonable prices can still be found for dog art and this may be one of the underlining factors contributing to a collectors devotion to dog paintings or perhaps this could be the result of a new trend in art. So whether you are in the market for a charming pet portrait or perhaps a silver dog collar from the pampered pooches of the late Duke and Duchess of Windsor, it may be the right time to consider investing in canine-themed works of art. Remember, not all "doggie bags" are alike - some may even have investment potential.

Martine White, of *Bernards Appraisal Associates*, in Basking Ridge, NJ, is a Senior Certified Appraiser of Antiques & Decorative Arts with the American Society of Appraisers and the Appraisers Association of America. Ms. White has been appraising property in the metropolitan area since 1988. Martine and her associates specialize in appraising antique furniture, silver, paintings, decorative art, and Oriental rugs.

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Martine White will be the featured appraiser at the Pottersville Antique Show & Sale. shopping venues include auction houses, tag sales and fine art galleries. What initiated as a hobby and affection for 'mans best friend' transpired into a dog art consulting specialty which Larry

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