

**1895 TIMECAPSULE – CH. T'IEN
– History's first red
Champion bitch – In Tring
Museum**



CH. T'IEN

CH. T' IEN HISTORICAL INFO

- English Champion Ch. T'ien (FEMALE)
- Date of Birth: May 4, 1895 England
- Died August 1903 – she was donated as a taxidermy exhibit to the Tring Museum in London demonstrating an outstanding chow bitch of the day
- Registration number: KCSB 1720A
- Bright orange red with white skirts and tail
- 17" at withers and 40 lbs.
- Sire: **SINGAPORE BOY (Chinese import shaded red like T'ien – by Chow out of Sing according to AKC stud book)**
- Dam: **Lady Beaconsfield (Chinese import black rough)**
- Breeder: England Mrs. Woodcock
- Owner in England: Miss Ella Casella
- **Ch. T'ien was the first red bitch champion in England**
- Winner of 12 Championship certificates
- T'ien was voted by The Chow Club membership as one of the top most "typical" chows of the day. Included in the short list was Chow VIII who the first standard was designed after.

Below find a 1908 article describing Ch. T'ien by Miss Casella herself.



MISS CASELLA

**With Yung Chang, Chelsea Pensioner,
and The Little Stranger**

The following is Miss Ella Casella's description of her old favourite, whose death she deeply deplored :—

Ch. *T'ien* was bred from *Singapore Boy* ex *Lady Beaconsfield*, by Mrs. Woodcock, and born in May 1895. She was a bright orange-red colour, with white skirts and tail; stood 17 inches at shoulder, and weighed under 40 lbs. She was remarkably cobby and short-backed for her sex, with a head and skull like a dog's; excellent expression and type; eyes dark brown; ears well-placed and correctly carried; tail curling over the right side; very good legs and feet and plenty of bone. Her coat, when in full bloom, was very thick, straight and dense, but she went out of coat three times every year. She might have been improved with smaller eyes, but hers were not objectionably large, and were deep set and had the characteristic Chow look. She was less lightly built than the photograph suggests. Ch. *T'ien* was

the winner of twelve championships, besides numerous other prizes.

FIG. 15.



CHINESE DOG, OR 'CHOW-CHOW.'

To face p. 30.

After her death in 1903, beautiful T'ien was donated by Miss Casella to the British Museum of Natural History. This is T'ien's photo in the museum record books from 1908. T'ien died in 1903. Below are the entries of 2 of Miss Casella's chows in the museum catalog. She felt strongly that these high quality chows should be seen for generations to come as an example of what they "used to be like". What a visionary this woman was and according to many articles I've read.....a well loved and respected breeder. She resided in an apartment in London near Hyde Park and could only have one or two chows at a time.

‘Chow-Chow.’ Near akin to the Eskimo is the Chinese breed known in this country as ‘Chow-Chow,’ a ‘Pigeon-English’ term meaning to eat, in allusion to the fact that these Dogs are commonly used for food in China. The first specimen is a male Black Chow-Chow, which was born in March 1892, and died February, 1902. This dog (K.C.S.B., No. 37,905, fig. 15), which was the winner of 6 first and several second prizes and medals, was bred in France by M. Waldeck-Rousseau, and presented by Miss Casella in 1902. The Red Chow-Chow is represented in the collection by the head of Champion ‘T’ien,’ a female (K.C.S.B., No. 1720A), born in England, May, 1895, which died in August, 1903, and was presented by the breeder, Miss Casella, in the same year.

Sheep Dog. The old English (Bob-tailed) Sheep-dog is a breed which appears to be of great antiquity, and remarkable for the fact that a considerable proportion of the pups are born

Below are 3 photos I’ve collected over the years of Ching Foo who was the other dog also donated by Miss Casella to the museum after his death in 1902. The first photo is Ching Foo when he was still alive. The second 2 photos are very old museum postcards of him in the exhibit. As morbid as this may seem to us today, these dogs being preserved for the future was a common way to record important details about famous animals in Victorian times that a photo simply could not capture.

I have contacted the museum and they are helping me identify all of the chow specimens in their collection



CHING FOO



Circa 1902 Postcard in the private collection of Sandra Miller



Both Ching Foo and a Samoyed together in the exhibit at the

Tring Museum date unknown