

1927 Chow National Specialty- Judged by William Scriven of England -Mulfra Chows + family photos

In 1927, The Chow Chow Club of America National Specialty was most certainly a show that goes down in history as one of the clubs' most well attended and extravagant events, due to the invitation of the first Chow specialist judge to be invited from England; esteemed breeder of the celebrated Mulfra Chows, Mr. William Scriven.

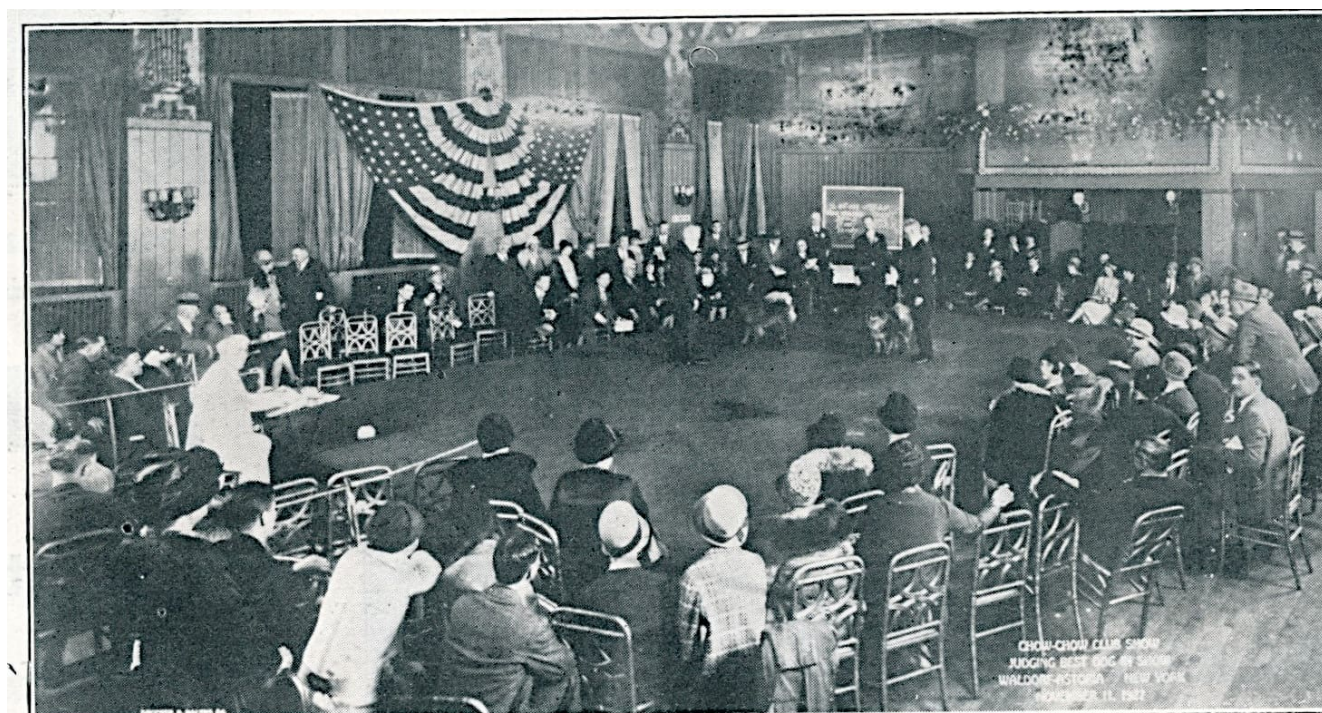


Photo., Drucker and Baltes Co., New York.

**MR. SCRIVEN JUDGING BEST IN SHOW AT THE CHOW CHOW CLUB'S SHOW AT THE
WALDORF ASTORIA, NEW YORK, U.S.A.**

Pictured above Mr. Scriven of England at age 78, judging The Chow Chow Club of America Specialty show on November 11, 1927 at the Waldorf Astoria, New York

The good fortune of the Celestial Chows must have been shining down upon the archive this week!!!! This article which I have been working on for months , began with only the photo above, discovered in an old dog magazine along with a couple of newspaper snippets below. A few days ago I received an email from Yvette Ferguson of The Chow Chow Club Inc., asking if I could assist the great grandson of the judge Mr. William Scriven , in identifying some of the people in his original photos from this same 1927 National Specialty!

THE FOLLOWING CHOW CLUB BANQUET AND SPECIALTY SHOW PHOTOS ARE FROM WOHLERT WOHLERS PRIVATE COLLECTION



ABOVE: this is a scan of the original photo, sent to me by Wohlert Wohlers . Below you will find my adjusted and enlarged version to help assist in identifying the faces in this historic image.

CLICK IMAGE BELOW TO VIEW MUCH LARGER

Photo is in a private collection and displayed with the kind permission of
Wohlert Wohlers who is William Scriven's great-grandson.

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A banquet given in honour of William Scriven of Bradford England on the occasion of judging the Chow Chow Club's Show of U.S. in New York. Nov-11th 1927.

A banquet given in honor of William Scriven of Bradford England on the
occasion of judging the Chow Chow Club's Show of U.S. in New York.
November 11th 1927



Wohlert sent me this cropped section of the banquet scan showing his great grandfather with an X above his head to indicate this was indeed William Scriven. I am fairly certain the man on the far left is the esteemed American breeder/judge/writer Eugene Byfield of Chino Kennels from the Chicago area .

Anxiously, I contacted the great-grandson Wohlert Wohlers for his kind permission to use these images in the archive and to find out any more details....The rest is....well....HISTORY. Wohlert tells me that if it weren't for the X placed above his great grandfather's image in the banquet photo, he may never have recognized him. The photos reveal many details about the show and Mr. Scriven that were previously unknown..... and all those familiar faces I feel I know personally through my research....this literally gave me goosebumps! I am working on identifying the people at the banquet and will update with my

findings in another post.



THE HANDWRITING ON THE PHOTO: William Scriven, Chow-Chow breeder and renowned author is seen here, aged 78, judging at the U.S. Chow-Chow Club- the first Englishman ever to be so honored. He paid his own expenses for the trip, although generously offered same saying "I've never taken a half-penny for judging. Its too late to start now!" (Felix Scriven his son)



**MR. SCRIVEN WITH RED JUDY,
the first of the "Mulfras."**

Red Judy, which was by Ch. Red Craze
ex Ang Kow, was born in June, 1903.

Mr. William Scriven with Red Judy 1903- [Click to article](#)

BELOW IS A WONDERFUL ACCOUNT OF THE SPECIALTY ENTRY AND
JUDGING, FROM AN ARTICLE IN DOG WORLD, MARCH 1935

Click highlighted names to see corresponding photos

"Mr. Scriven was invited to come to America and judge the Chow Chow Club of America Specialty Show which was held in New York on Armistice Day. He was given an entry of 147 (233 total entries). In the classes were many champions of record and many that later became champions.

In the Open Red class, were [Ch. Hong Kong King](#), [Ch Son of Min T'sing](#), [Ch. Heathen Chee Kee](#) and [Ch Ledgland's War Risk Insurance](#) and they were placed by Scriven in the order here named.

There was a Champion class and [Ch. Hop Toy](#), grandson of Ch. Carissa won that class. [Mrs. Neyhart](#) showed several other descendants of [Carissa](#), among them Sunny Jim II, a son of Ch Yuey.

But the highlight of the show was the senior puppy, Wendi Loo Sunlegh, a great-great-great grandson of Carissa who had been bred by Scriven 20 years earlier, in what was his first litter. This puppy, after great deliberation, was given the winner's ribbon over such acknowledged champions as Hong Kong King, Son of Min T'sing, Heathen Chee Kee, Ledgeland's War Risk Insurance and many more than twelve champions of equal note.

Those who saw the show that day later commented that Ch. Hong Kong King made a great bid for Supreme Honors. The scene was not new to him. He had been nosed out by [Ch. Brilliantine](#) there once before. He played the role in grand opera style, faultlessly shown by handler A.W. Brockway.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, the puppy Wendi Loo Sunlegh chose the low road, He played, he lay down, he tried to shake hands iwth the judge and did everything imaginable to defeat himself, but Scriven saw through it all and so the splendid pup took Winner, Best of Winners and Best of Breed.

George Ratcliffe, the novice, went home with a load of trophies, ribbons, gold and glory. And, as though to prove that he was no one-shot wonder, Ch. Wendi Loo Sunlegh came back otthe Armistice Day Show in November, 1934 and again carried away the Supreme Honors of the show."

BELOW IS THE YOUNG DOG MR. SCRIVEN GAVE BEST OF BREED TO OVER
TOP RANKED CHAMPIONS AT THE 1927 CHOW CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL
SPECIALTY WITH THE LARGEST ENTRY RECORDED OF 233 CHOWS. CH.
WENDI LOO SUNLEIGH ALSO WON THIS COVETED HONOR AGAIN AS A
SENIOR IN 1934 UNDER EQUALLY RESPECTED JUDGE CHARLES G. HOPTON
WITH AN ENTRY OF 101

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CH. WENDI LOO SUNLEIGH
1927 CHOW NATIONAL BEST OF BREED

BELOW IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WILLIAM SCRIVEN'S UPCOMING
JUDGING ASSIGNMENT FOR THE CHOW SPECIALTY IN AMERICA

English Authority Will Judge Chows

chowtaler.com

The seventh annual specialty show of the Chow Chow Club, to be held on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, should mark a turningpoint in the fortunes of that breed. Those who have the real interests of the chow at heart expect this to be accomplished through the arrival in this country to judge the show of William Scriven of Bradford, England, one of the greatest authorities on the Oriental dog.

There have been unfortunate differences among the chow fanciers that have hurt more than helped the breed. It has been difficult to get competent judges who were impervious to these differences. In Mr. Scriven the club has obtained not only one who knows the chow, as do few other people, but a man to whom all chow fanciers in this country can give hearty support.

Scriven is widely known in England, not only as a chow fancier but as a breeder of thoroughbred horses and cattle. He has bred more champion chows than any one else in England, and his opinion is so highly rated there that in September he judged chows at the annual English Kennel Club show at Crystal Palace, in London. There he had a tremendous entry, and it is up to every chow owner on this side of the Atlantic to see that he is given as good a turnout here.

The Chow Chow Club has done its part. More than \$1,500 in cash is being offered to be won outright, and there are a number of unusual features. One of them is a coast-to-coast trophy, consisting of a large sterling silver punch bowl and 12 goblets, valued at \$1,500. This will be given in a class in which any chow, bred by an exhibitor, may be entered regardless of its past performances or from what section of the country it comes. The portrait of each successive winner is to be put on the trophy in relief work, and it is to become the property of the first fancier to win it five times. Another unusual trophy is named the Breeders' Trophy, and is to go to the breeder of the best chow in the show.

chowtaler.com

Circa 1927

Chow National
Mrs Waller at the
Waldorf Astoria with
Sum Sweetie



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The ever stunning Mrs Virginia Waller (Messmore) with her equally lovely bitch "Sum Sweetie", photographed at this same

Specialty Show

BELOW ARE LINKS TO A FEW ARTICLES IN THE ARCHIVES FEATURING WILLIAM SCRIVEN'S "MULFRA" CHOWS . HIS DOGS WERE CONSISTENTLY BEAUTIFUL WITH OUTSTANDING BREED TYPE, BALANCE AND CORRECT EXPRESSION ACCORDING TO TOP BREEDERS AND WRITERS OF THE DAY. HIS BITCH CHAMPIONS WERE CONSIDERED SOME THE BEST IN THE WORLD. AN UPDATED ARTICLE COMING SOON ON THE MULFRA CHOW HISTORY.

1. [MULFRA ARTICLE-Chris Clucas Collection](#)
2. [MULFRA ARTICLE-Chris Clucas Collection](#)
3. [MULFRA ARTICLE-Chris Clucas Collection](#)
4. [ARTICLE 1930- OUR DOGS MAGAZINE- The Mulfra Kennel of Chows – William Scriven](#)