

CHOW DOG- A MYSTICAL SYMBOL IN THE MUSICA DRUG SCANDAL



MRS DONALD (CAROL) COSTER & CHOW
WIDOW OF MASQUERADING DRUG HEAD

Fascinating..FASCINATING...I sound like Mr. Spock on

Startrek...but I'll say it again...FASCINATING!!!

It all started with my research on an original 1938 photo in my personal collection of Mrs. Donald Coster posing with one of her chows. The photo states on the back it was "taken some time ago". It also refers to her as a widow of the masquerading drug head Musica.



MR. DONALD COSTER/MUSICA WITH ONE
OF HIS CHOWS IN THE 1930'S

GAME ON!!!!...Now as my research got deeper...this information below became the JACKPOT of all jackpots as" Emmy-winning producer Robert Kalm presents the forgotten and unbelievable American story that only he could tell from a decade of research, a lifetime of family stories, and the original sources handed down to him.

Pieced together from the relatives, the corporation, the press, and the law, no one ever told the true story because no one ever had the full story. Filmed on location in New York, Connecticut, California, and Canada.”



THERE ARE MANY IMAGES OF THE COSTERS/MUSICA WITH THEIR CHOWS
IN THIS TRAILER BELOW WHICH ROBERT SO KINDLY GAVE ME
PERMISSION TO SHARE WITH MY CHOW AUDIENCE. THIS IS A “MUST
SEE” DOCUMENTARY FOR ANY CHOW HISTORY BUFF...OR ANYONE FOR THAT
MATTER!!

**WHO IS
MUSICA
THE DOCUMENTARY
IN PRODUCTION FOR 2014**

CLICK THIS BANNER TO READ EVEN MORE ABOUT THE MUSICA SAGA



And it doesn't stop here. This news clipping I unearthed was new to Robert so I sent him both this and my image of Mrs Coster for his own research.

'Chow Dog' a Mystic Symbol In Life of the Musicas

By The United Press

NEW YORK, Dec. 17—Chow dogs and letters about chow dogs appeared so frequently today in the affairs of the Musica family that investigators believed that the word "chow" had some symbolic meaning, perhaps supplying a code word for their communications about smuggling.

At the Fairfield, Conn., mansion of Philip Musica, alias F. Donald Coster, president of McKesson and Robbins, Inc., who killed himself yesterday, a chow had the run of the estate.

A ferocious chow greeted policemen who went to the home of Arthur Musica, alias George Ver-nard, a brother of the president and an official of the company, to arrest him in connection with the firm's eighteen million dollar short-age.

At the home of a sister, Maria, in Westbury, N. Y., there were two chows.

Stenographer Supports Mystery

At Mount Vernon, N. Y., where Coster-Musica at one time operated a little hair tonic business and made such a profit that Wall Street financiers backed him in the gi-

was arrested here in 1929 as a fugitive from Chicago, where he was wanted for passing a worthless check, and in Pittsburgh in 1934 for Boston police.

Cantor was arrested after he was recognized as a spectator at hearings conducted by Atty. Gen. John J. Bennett Jr. into the McKesson and Robbins case. Connecticut State Troopers attending the hearing recognized him. They said the Stratford warrant was in connection with a "phony stock deal."

Coster Married In New York

By The United Press

NEW YORK, Dec. 17—Police said today that Mrs. Carol Jerome Cos-

PITTSBURG PRESS
DEC. 17 1938

gantic wholesale drugs corporation, John R. Mosca disclosed that when he worked as a stenographer for Coster-Musica in 1924 and 1925, most of the letters dictated to him were about chows.

The letters were mostly to persons in England, Mr. Mosca said, and he could not see any sense in them. He decided that Coster-Musica was "a bit eccentric."

Federal and state investigators, convinced now that nothing Coster-Musica did was without a definite purpose, believed that "chow dogs" might provide the answer to how he made such vast profits with such a little hair tonic plant. The years 1924 and 1925 were prohibition years. Coster-Musica used lots of alcohol in his tonic.

'Chow' May Have Meant Alcohol

He had the necessary permits to deal in alcohol by virtue of his business, and he apparently had agents in Europe who had aided him in a one million dollar bank draft swindle with a human hair company that put him in jail in 1913.

The suggestion was that "chow dog" meant alcohol, and that Coster-Musica imported it from Europe to avoid arousing suspicion by buying too much on the domestic markets. His plant would have been an ideal place to store it.

From what was known of the thoroughness with which he operated, it was believed that he might have bought chow dogs for himself and relatives to give the appearance that he was a chow fancier in case his letters were intercepted and seemed suspicious.

PITTSBURG PRESS
DEC. 17 1938



A photo of Mrs Coster and her family with a litter of chow puppies and adult

Below is another clipping I found but seem to have misplaced the credit which I will add later. Mention of 2 dozen chows the Coster's owned

Wanting to be closer to his factory—and farther away from anyone in New York who could possibly identify him—Coster moved with his wife to Fairfield in 1926. They bought a stately eighteen-room mansion on Mill Plain Road that was modeled after an Italian villa with stucco walls and a terracotta tile roof. They decorated it in “a heavy, bourgeois manner,” according to the *New Yorker*, including one room made to resemble “a sultan’s bedchamber.” It was nestled on a well-manicured seven-acre parcel and was also home to two dozen chows, a Saint Bernard, a sheep, and a parrot named Ricky.

BELOW IS AN AKC RECORD OF ONE OF THEIR DOGS ENTERED IN THE
STUD BOOK

NoteCarol is using her last name from a previous marriage
as the breeder's name

The American Kennel Gazette and Stud Book - Volume 34 - Page 1060



books.google.com/books?id=Kr5YAAAAYAAJ

1922 - Read

By Pusa of Amwell out of Kowa Juni, by **Chow** Chung Yot out of Wyndham's Beauty, by Chud- leigh Lion out of Chudleigh FEE CUM'S H'SUAN (344,660)— Frank D. **Coster**, 460 Throop Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. Breeder, Carol E. Hubbard.

And oh my...look at who shows up as Fee Cum's H'suan's father
None other than the famous black chow from Virginia Waller of
the Sum Kennels

CH. HOK-LO-FOO PICTURED BELOW

Happy Chin (343,623).
FEE CUM'S H'SUAN (344,660)—Frank D. Coster, 460 Throop Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. Breeder, Carol E. Hubbard, 2439 Myrtle Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. Whelped Feb. 12, 1922. Black. By Hok-Lo-Foo (248,409, Vol. XXXV) out of **Fee** Cum's Girl (309,843, Vol. XXXVIII).



A very rare original photo in my personal collection. This was taken at the Westminster Kennel Club show in 1919 after Virginia Waller breeder/owner won the breed with her stunning black dog.

MORE THAN JUST A DREAM HOUSE

HERE IS "F. DONALD COSTER", DRUG FIRM EXECUTIVE, WHO WAS REVEALED JUST BEFORE HIS SUICIDE, DEC. 16, AS AN AROH SWINDLER AND EX-CONVICT WHOSE REAL NAME WAS PHILIP MUSICA. THIS PHOTO BY THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS SHOWS THIS JEKYL AND HYDE CHARACTER IN HIS MORE OPULENT ROLE AS "COSTER", WITH HIS ARISTOCRATIC CHOW DOG, IN THE SUN ROOM OF HIS PALATIAL HOME AT FAIRFIELD CONN.

Circa 1938 Donald Coster aka Philip Musica

Musica and his wife bred many beautiful chows and there was a theory that the word "chow" was a code word in part of his drug operation.

The full story is at my archive ChowTales.com

This is an original 1938 Press photo in my private collection



ABOVE IS AN ORIGINAL PHOTO I ACQUIRED JANUARY 2021