

## An Appreciation of Percy Elliott

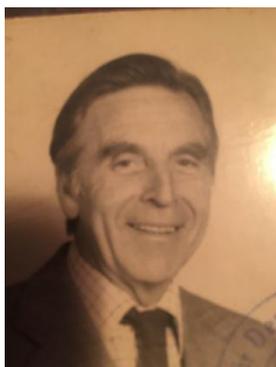
1921 - 2017



*Percy and Nem Elliott*

On Feb.24th we lost the doyen of the breed, Percy Elliott. He was born and lived in Barnsley in Yorkshire, where he lived with his family. He first kept Chows, then German Shepherd Dogs, which he bred under the prefix "Vikkas". A great Pigeon Fancier he also enjoyed considerable success in that sphere. One day, a young lady arrived by train to mate her bitch to Percy's dog, Yvosohn of Vikkas (by Ch Yvo of Ravenscar). The young lady, Monica Melusina Nem Crofton never left! They subsequently married, raised six children and bred GSDs, having moved into a new and larger home.

I first made their acquaintance in 1956 and never tired of listening to their talk of the breed. I would like to think they taught me a lot. I spent many hours at their house, discussing and arguing about the various aspects of the breed with both Nem and Percy. He used to stress that first and foremost, the certainly many of their dogs became active Police Dogs and Guide dogs for the Blind. Some of these dogs went on to become Working Trial Champions their dogs at the annual BAA officiated, they did not disgrace themselves, very often winning classes. Percy was a fully accredited SV judge, one of only 6 to attain that honour (there are only 2 left in this country). His services as a judge were sought all over the world, he was highly respected wherever he officiated.



He was also a breeder with foresight. After his first visit to the Seiger show he saw a more correct type than we had here at the time. Percy and Nem imported several dogs and bitches, who were instrumental in promoting this type and proved to be the backbone of many successful kennels. At the British Seiger Show in 2013 he was presented with the Valerie Egger award for services to the breed.

Although I had not seen him in his later years, he was THERE! Now he has gone, and will be sorely missed by the breed as a whole, by whom he will be long remembered. He will be missed by his devoted partner, Andrea and his children and grand children.

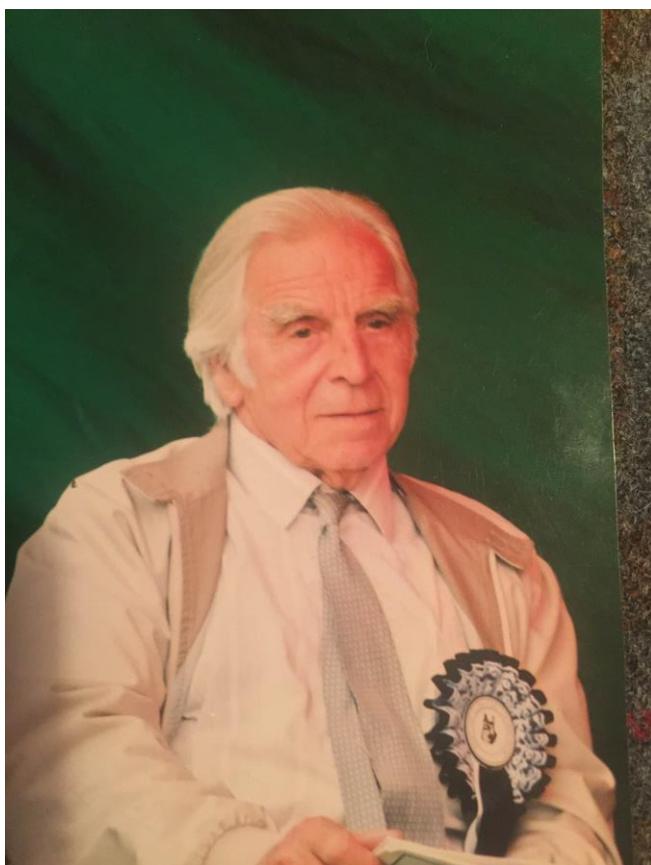
RIP Percy, my friend and mentor for so many years. *Molly Hunter*

## Percy Elliott

When a person reaches their late nineties it should not be a shock to others when they pass away but when I heard that Percy Elliott had died I was stunned. Percy Elliott was the first name in GSDs from the first day I came into the breed and I have always held him in high regard and with much affection.

Our first GSD bitch “Vikkas Soraya av Hvitsand”, litter sister to Police Dog Vikkas Saracen, was on breeding terms from Percy and his late wife “Nem” and in the fullness of time a bitch puppy from a litter to Adventurer of Brinton went back to them. The pup wasn’t much of a show proposition and was due to be sold but one of the Elliott children asked “can’t anyone keep a dog just because they LIKE it?”. I’ve thought about that remark a lot over the years; do we miss the best of our dogs because we are always looking for a future star for the show ring?

There are people in this breed who claim that it was Nem that had all the breed knowledge and acumen but, without wishing to detract from Nem in anyway, I found Percy to be equally wise. His articles to be found in old League handbooks and early issues of the GSD National Magazine are always worth re-reading and his lectures, like Nem’s, were equally worthwhile. It was Percy and Nem together that were responsible for the many wonderful GSDs bred in their joint affixes “Vikkas av Hvitsand” and after Nem’s tragic death, many more just carrying the affix “Vikkas”. Percy was a great family man, a lover of all livestock, and a talented Pigeon Fancier.



Percy was a respected Judge always looking out for the new-comer and gave our Connoisseur of Sheracyn his first CC at A.S.P.A.Ds. Shortly after that Percy & Nem asked to buy him but he was not for sale. We did, however, offer them a partnership although we did not intend that the dog would move to Barnsley. We were at a local Show when Percy walked in and announced that he had come to collect Connoisseur. Percy had travelled down from Barnsley by train to London and then by underground to the venue and planned to take the dog back the same way. We were totally embarrassed to tell Percy that the dog was staying with us, and he left without the dog, but he never held it against us. Many years later and after “TV” died, I went to Percy for another bitch, this time buying Vikkas Ulrica who bred me some lovely animals.

Percy was President of the GSD League, a great supporter of the GSD Breed Council, its Surveys, and Education scheme and also an SV Judge, respected all over the world. But for all his many important rôles in the breed he had totally approachable and had a great a great sense of

fun. At one Educational Working Party meeting he turned up with a terrier-type dog with which, he informed us, he had a pillow fight every night when they went to bed and his parrot "Elliott" spoke with an voice exactly like his and would shout at the dogs "will you be QUIET" .....and the dogs obeyed.

A sad coincidence, which nevertheless gave me a smile, was the fact that he died within days of George Woods. George would say that Percy was always claiming to be older whereas he (George) was the older. I don't know who actually had a few months over the other but maybe they are still arguing about it and George can definitely say that he was ahead of Percy by a couple of weeks. God Bless them both. *SMR*