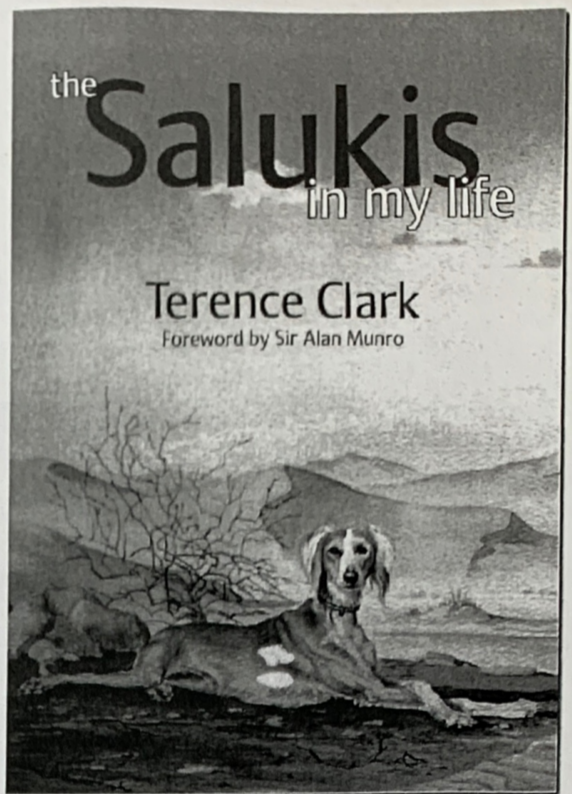


Book Review by Pip Buswell

By way of introduction to this extremely interesting and uniquely well informed author, I feel I really can do no better than to quote here what is written on the flyleaf of his recently published book "The Salukis in my Life". "Sir Terence Clark KBE CMG CVO joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1955. For much of his diplomatic career he was involved with the Middle East both in the region and at the Foreign Office. Having studied Arabic in Lebanon, he served in Bahrain, Jordan, Syria, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and briefly Libya. After a period in Europe, he returned to the region as Ambassador in Iraq in 1985, during the Iraq/Iran war, and to Oman in 1990, during the first Gulf War. Since leaving the Diplomatic Service he has kept up close connections with the Middle East and is at present Vice-President of the Anglo Omani Society and Chairman of the Friends of Basrah Museum. He is the author of several books and many articles on the history and politics of the region."

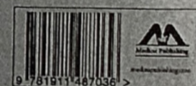
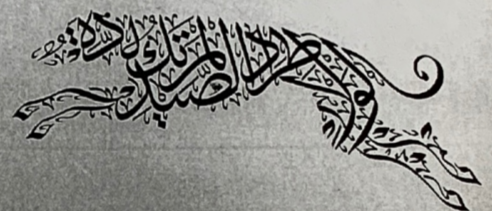
We who are endlessly interested in the Saluki are fortunate indeed to have Sir Terence as an up to date reporter from their many and varied Countries of Origin. What he tells us and what he describes to us is a very valuable addition to the body of information available from a previous generation of travellers and Arabists such as Wilfred Thesiger and Charles Doughty. His book is dense with description and detail as to how Salukis and their owners live and work together in the modern day Middle East and all written in language both lucid and light which is wonderfully easy to read. His craft has obviously been extremely well honed whilst writing many, many reports for the Foreign Office! The book is richly illustrated with photographs of Salukis taken by the author in the countries where he has worked and also those where he has travelled for his own interest, such as Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, China and Russia. Everywhere he went he took his camera and in many places he was also taking the opportunity to collect DNA samples for future research. By virtue of his working background and his long held interest in Salukis, Sir Terence was in receipt of invitations to go behind doors and to visit places deep in the countryside or the desert which would not be extended to the ordinary visitor. These invitations from men of all walks of life allowed him an intimate view of the profound and exceptional place the Saluki holds even today in Arab and Muslim society. On many occasions he was included in proceedings only because he was regarded as a trusted and honoured guest, making us particularly lucky to be able to watch and listen vicariously.

Sir Terence owned, coursed and bred Salukis for many years both in the Middle East and in England. His hounds graced the show ring a few times, they agreed to "play the game" of lure coursing and they coursed in England, Scotland, Portugal and Spain with much success. Added to this, his study of the breed in its many variations throughout the Arabian crescent and well beyond it has led to this book offering us all an expansive and thoroughly rounded viewpoint of the beautiful, hardy, wonderfully athletic and intelligent hound which we in the West call the Saluki or Gazelle Hound.



لَوْ طَرَفَ الصَّيْفَ أَنْزَلْنَا لَفَتَّ

Were it not for the chase, there would be no pleasure. (Anon)



There are signed copies available – £16.00 plus postage and packaging.

Contact the magazine editor for more details.