

**THE BOOK OF DOGS: AN  
INTIMATE STUDY OF  
MANKIND'S BEST FRIEND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649433735

The Book of Dogs: An Intimate Study of Mankind's Best Friend by Louis Agassiz Fuertes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES**

**THE BOOK OF DOGS: AN  
INTIMATE STUDY OF  
MANKIND'S BEST FRIEND**



# THE BOOK OF DOGS

AN INTIMATE STUDY OF MANKIND'S BEST FRIEND



BY  
LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES  
AND OTHERS

Illustrated with 73 Natural Color Portraits from Original  
Paintings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
U. S. A.

1: 200118

Z 97.1.11-1



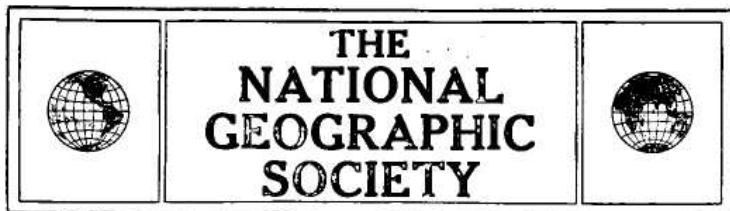
From the collection  
Lawrence H. ...

---

COPYRIGHT, 1919  
BY THE  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

---

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
PRESS OF JUDD & DETWEILER, INC.



## MANKIND'S BEST FRIEND

Companion of His Solitude, Advance Guard in the Hunt,  
and Ally of the Trenches

BY ERNEST HAROLD BAYNES

WHEN the intellectual gulf began to widen, in the author's fancy, the man stood on one side and the rest of the animals on the other. The man looked upward at the sky, and all the other animals walked off, each about his own business. "All," did I say? All but one! The little dog sat on the very edge of the widening gulf, ears cocked, tail moving, and watching the man. Then he rose to his feet, trembling. "I want to go to him," he whined, and crouched as if to leap.

The pig grunted and went on rooting in the ground; the sheep nibbled a tussock of grass; the cow chewed her cud in calm indifference. It was none of their business whether he went or stayed.

"Don't try *that* jump," said the friendly horse; "you can't possibly make it; I couldn't do that myself."

"Oh, let him try it," sneered the cat; "he'll break his silly neck and serve him right."

But the dog heard none of them; his eyes were on the man, and he danced on the edge of the gulf and yelped. And the man heard him and looked across and saw what he wished to do.

"Come!" shouted the man.

"I'm coming," yelped the dog.

And then he gathered himself and leaped. But the gulf was very wide—almost too wide for a little dog. Only his brave forepaws struck the farther edge of the chasm, and there he hung without a whimper, looking straight into the eyes of the man. And then there came to the man a strange feeling he had never had before, and he smiled, stooped and lifted the dog firmly and placed him by his side, where he has been ever since. And this was the very beginning of the movement which, ages later, led to the foundation of the first humane society. And the dog went frantic with joy and gratitude, pledged his loyalty to the man, and he has never broken his pledge.

### THE BEGINNINGS OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN DOGS AND MEN

The dog is the oldest friend man has among the animals—very much the oldest. Compared with him the cat and the horse are new acquaintances. Probably we shall never know when the friendship began, but the bones of dogs lying side by side with the bones of primitive men tend to show that it was in very, very remote times.

And perhaps in the beginning of their acquaintanceship they were not friends; probably not. Probably primitive man



British official photograph, from Associated Illustration Agencies, Ltd.

MESSENGER DOGS BILLETED BEHIND THE FRONT-LINE TRENCHES

"Quarters fit for a dog rather than a human being" once was an opprobrious description; but many an infantryman in the world war would have felt as "comfy as a king" if his rest billet had been as clean, as dry, and as sanitary as these kennels, where messenger dogs were tended with the greatest care in order that they might be in perfect physical condition when called upon to carry a message, upon the delivery of which might depend the success of an offensive (see pages 17, 55, and 73).

had to fight the wild dogs as he doubtless had to fight all the other wild animals he came in contact with.

And no mean foes would these wild dogs prove themselves. Their speed, strength, courage, and ferocity, coupled with their probable habit of fighting in packs, must have made them very formidable enemies to unarmed men, no matter how strong the latter may have been. Doubtless in those early days the encounters would often end in favor of the dogs, and the man would go down and be torn to pieces by the overwhelming pack.

But the man had two arms and prehensile fingers and toes, and so could climb trees which the dogs could not, and probably he often escaped his canine enemies in this way. We can imagine him, out of breath and badly bitten, perhaps, sitting up in a tree gazing fearfully at the leaping dogs below, and wondering when he would be able to descend to get some food.

Perhaps it was while sitting thus that some great prehistoric genius conceived the idea that by means of a branch broken from the tree he sat in he could strike the dogs without descending to the ground. And perhaps he carried out this idea, drove the dogs away yelping, and the next day leaped into fame as the inventor of the club, the original "big stick."

HOW THE DOG'S RESPECT FOR MAN GREW

And somewhat later, when the dogs had learned to dodge the blows of the club, to snatch it out of the hands of the man, perhaps, we can believe that another great genius came along and proved that by





British official photograph, by Associated Illustration Agencies, Ltd.

#### A CANINE COURIER OF THE GREAT WAR

This dog as a dispatch-bearer is three and a third times as efficient as a man, for in three minutes it will deliver to local headquarters the message being written by the officer, whereas a human courier would require ten minutes to make the trip. Only one man is allowed to feed this dog—its keeper at headquarters. Soldiers are not allowed to pet the animal, as its affection for its keeper must be undivided.

means of a stone, skilfully hurled, dogs could be killed before they were near enough to bite. And here began the art of throwing missiles at an enemy, which has culminated in the invention of great guns which hurl projectiles for 60 miles.

Under such convincing tutelage, no doubt the dogs gradually came to have a great and healthy respect for man, the one mysterious creature who could fight them with something more formidable than his teeth and claws, and while they were still at a distance, where they could not use their own. Perhaps there came to be a mutual respect. Both of these powerful races were largely carnivorous and hunted for a living.

Sometimes when the man was hunting, probably the dogs would follow at a respectful distance, and when he had made his kill with a club or a stone, or later

with a spear, they would clean up the parts of the carcass which he did not carry off.

Sometimes perhaps the dogs would run down and bring to bay some dangerous quarry which would have been too fleet for the man, and while they were circling about trying to avoid the death which was sure to come to some of them before the rest could break their fast, the man would come up and with his crude weapons kill their enemy, take what he needed for his own use, and yet leave them an ample feast. And because they were useful to one another in this way, we can easily imagine that the man and the dog would gradually form a sort of partnership in the chase.

Again, when man lived in caves he was doubtless an untidy, not to say filthy, creature, who after feeding would toss



Photograph by Associated Illustration Agencies, Ltd.

#### A PHIDIPPIDES OF MODERN WARFARE

Like the famous Greek athlete who ran from Athens to Sparta to summon aid in the repulse of Persian invaders, this dog scurries over shell holes and mined areas, wriggles through barbed wire, and braves an artillery barrage to carry a vital message to headquarters when telephone wires have been shot away and communicating trenches have been made impassable for men (see pages 17 and 73).

the bones and other refuse just outside his home, until the place looked like the outside of a fox burrow when the hunting is good.

Wild dogs when they had been unsuccessful in the chase, perhaps, and consequently hungry, would be attracted by the odor of this waste food and would come and carry it off. They would come furtively at first, but as they found they were not molested they would come boldly, and by thus disposing of refuse that would otherwise become offensive even to primitive man they performed a service in exchange for benefits received.

In this way man would become used to, and would even encourage the presence of, dogs in the vicinity of his home.

Then, with so many wild dogs living near by, it is certain that occasionally their dens would be found by the man and the puppies carried home to amuse

the children. Such puppies would grow up with little fear of their human hosts, and by their playful, friendly ways would probably win for themselves at least tolerance, if not actual affection, and dogs would become a recognized part of the household.

The puppies of these dogs would be a little tamer than their parents, and those of the next generation a little tamer still, until some of them became so domesticated as to have no thought of ever returning to the wild state.

#### SHARING MAN'S COMFORTS

When fire was invented or discovered, no doubt such dogs shared with man its comforts and its protection, and this may have strengthened their determination to throw in their lot with the mysterious beings who could create such comfort and protection for them.



Official photograph taken on the British front in France

## "TAKING HIS MESSAGE TO GARCIA"

While the soldier in the world war was actuated by motives of patriotism, the main-spring of the dog's service in the great conflict was dauntless fidelity to its master. Neither hazards of terrain nor of battle could stop the dumb courier when bearing a message from the front-line trenches to the keeper in the rear. The illustration shows a British war messenger dog in the front area swimming across a canal to reach his master and deliver a message.

Sooner or later man would discover that certain individual dogs were swifter or stronger than their fellows and therefore more useful in the hunt. These would be encouraged to accompany him; the others would be left at home. The less useful dogs would gradually be eliminated—driven away from the home or killed—and the swifter, stronger dogs retained. We can imagine that this process of weeding out might continue until a distinct breed of hunting dogs was developed.

As dogs were required for other purposes—for guarding property, or even for household pets—other qualities might be encouraged and other breeds evolved.

The varieties produced in different regions would be likely to differ from one another partly by reason of the difference in the wild forms from which they sprang, partly because of the difference

in the lines along which they were developed.

In the inevitable intercourse between peoples from different regions there would surely be an exchange of dogs, accidental or otherwise, and the result would be new varieties which in the course of ages and under widely varying conditions, including finally selective breeding, might eventually produce the many widely differing breeds we see today.

## THE ANCESTORS OF OUR DOMESTIC DOG

Have you ever been to a dog show? I mean a big one like the Westminster Kennel Club show in New York, with 3,000 dogs on the benches and over a hundred different breeds represented? If you have, perhaps you have been impressed, as I have been, with the marvelous variety of forms to be seen.