Scotties as Inspiration:
Actors, Actresses and Authors Owned by Scotties

By Dr. Vandra L. Huber©

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."

Grocho Marx

A variety of famous authors have owned Scottish Terriers through the years. Perhaps the most famous is author Rudyard Kipling who wrote numerous poems as well as books about dogs and Scottish Terriers in particular. His most famous is “Thy Servant a Dog” which was illustrated by famed artist Marguerite Kirmse and published in 1930. The book contains three tales told from the perspective of Boots, son of Kildonan Brogue, champion reserve. Beatrix Potter is best known as the author of Peter Rabbit. But she also loved her Scottish Terrier Sandy.

The Power of a Dog

Rudyard Kipling

There is sorrow enough in the natural way
From men and women to fill our day;
And when we are certain of sorrow in store,
Why do we always arrange for more?
Brothers and Sisters, I bid you beware
Of giving your heart to a dog to tear.

Buy a pup and your money will buy
Love unflinching that cannot lie--
Perfect passion and worship fed
By a kick in the ribs or a pat on the head.
Nevertheless it is hardly fair
To risk your heart for a dog to tear.

When the fourteen years which Nature permits
Are closing in asthma, or tumour, or fits,
And the vet's unspoken prescription runs
To lethal chambers or loaded guns,
Then you will find—it's your own affair--
But...you've given your heart for a dog to tear.

When the body that lived at your single will,
With its whimper of welcome, is stilled (how still!);
When the spirit that answered your every mood
Is gone--wherever it goes--for good,
You will discover how much you care,
And will give your heart for the dog to tear.

We've sorrow enough in the natural way,
When it comes to burying Christian clay.
Our loves are not given, but only lent,
At compound interest of cent per cent.
Though it is not always the case, I believe,
That the longer we've kept 'em, the more do we grieve:
For, when debts are payable, right or wrong,
A short-time loan is as bad as a long--
So why in Heaven (before we are there)
Should we give our hearts to a dog to tear?

E.B White

Another notable writer enamored of wee Scots was E.B. White, author of the classic children’s book, Charlotte’s Web. White dearly loved his Scottie. On his wedding day, he could not find a babysitter to watch his Scottie. Rather than cancel the wedding, the Scot came to church and stood proudly in the wedding line. White is quoted as saying:

"A really companionable and indispensable dog is an accident of nature. You can't get it by breeding for it, and you can't buy it with money. It just happens along."

Dorothy Parker

Noted New Yorker columnist, playwright, author and poetess, Dorothy Parker was born on August 22, 1893 in New Jersey of a Scottish mother and Jewish father. A city girl, Parker could be seen often walking the sidewalks of New York and Central Park with her beloved Scottish Terrier Daisy.

During the dreadful McCarthy area of communist fear, Parker was quoted as saying:

"Listen. I can't even get my dog to stay down. Do I look to you like someone who could overthrow the government?"

One of Parker’s poems tends to capture the true character of the Scottish Terrier.

Verse for a Certain Dog

Such glorious faith as fills your limpid eyes,
Dear little friend of mine, I never knew.
All-innocent are you, and yet all-wise.
(For Heaven's sake, stop worrying that shoe!)  
You look about, and all you see is fair;  
This mighty globe was made for you alone.  
Of all the thunderous ages, you're the heir.  
(Get off the pillow with that dirty bone!)

A skeptic world you face with steady gaze;  
High in young pride you hold your noble head,  
Gaily you meet the rush of roaring days.  
(Must you eat puppy biscuit on the bed?)  
Lancelike your courage, gleaming swift and strong,  
Yours the white rapture of a winged soul,  
Yours is a spirit like a Mayday song.  
(God help you, if you break the goldfish bowl!)

"Whatever is, is good" - your gracious creed.  
You wear your joy of living like a crown.  
Love lights your simplest act, your every deed.  
(Drop it, I tell you- put that kitten down!)  
You are God's kindliest gift of all - a friend.  
Your shining loyalty unflecked by doubt,  
You ask but leave to follow to the end.  
(Couldn't you wait until I took you out?)

--- Dorothy Parker

Actors, Actresses and Scots

Scottish Terriers became quite the rage among the Hollywood set. Tough guy, comedians, supporting actors as well as superstars of the era owned Scottish Terriers.

Actress Shirley Temple

Born in 1928, Shirley Temple was easily the most popular and famous child star of all time. She got her start in the movies at the age of three and soon progressed to super stardom making 60 movie appearances. A dog lover, one of her childhood pets was a Scottish Terrier named Corky. Corky was gift to the Shirley Temple. As in the photo shot shown here, Scotties (sometimes her own) were often used as props in studio snapshots.

In later years, Shirley Temple Black served the United States under four presidents. A staunch Republican, Richard Nixon appointed her United States Representative to the United Nations in 1969. For Gerald Ford, she was Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana and later the first woman White House Chief of Protocol. For Ronald Reagan, she worked as a foreign affairs officer with the State Department. She concluded her diplomatic career, as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia under George Bush.
Betty Davis

Another star of the 30s possessed by a Scottish Terrier was Betty Davis. Playing upon the actress’ as well as the breed’s popularity, Screenplay magazine held a contest in 1932 to name her new Scottie puppy. A puzzle was even made up in their honor. Davis is shown here in this publicity shot with a puppy.

Joan Crawford

Joan Crawford was first pictured with a Scottish terrier in 1932. Over the years, she even was featured in advertisements in which they held a contest to name her Scottish terrier. Playing upon the actress’ as well as the breed’s popularity, Screenplay magazine held a contest in 1932 to name her new Scottie puppy. A puzzle was even made up in their honor. Crawford is shown here in this publicity shot with a puppy that may be a Scottish terrier or perhaps a cairn. While Crawford loved Scotties, she appeared to also favor poodles. Joan had poodles named Cliquot, Camille, and Chiffon. In her later years she also had a shi-tzu which was named Princess Lotus Blossum.

Crawford shared her love of dogs with many of her fans. She appeared on the covers of various magazines with her poodles. When she was married to Franchot Tone, the couple had two dachshunds, Pubschen and Baby (better known as Stinky). Crawford also gave her friend, the famous early playwright Lynn Riggs a Scottish Terrier whom he named Baron. Riggs wrote more than 15 plays and was also a published Poet.

Humphrey Bogart

Tough guy Humphrey Bogart stands in stark contrast to dimpled darling Shirley Temple. However, he shared her love of the breed. The star of Casablanca, The African Queen and Kane Mutiny, owned two Scottish Terriers. While little is known, one diehard was purportedly named Sluggy. In this 1940 picture, Bogart is shown inspecting his gun collection as two of his Scotties watch – wide-eyed.
Vera Ellen

With the president as well as the commander in chief of the European theater both owning Scottish Terriers, the popularity of the breed was at its peak during World War II. Taking advantage of the breed’s popularity and photogenic quality, Scottish Terriers were often used as props in studio shots of. Warner Studios maintained their own kennels with many notable breeds (wire fox terriers, German shepherd and of course Scottish Terriers). Whiskers the Scottie played Fala in Princess O’Rourke. Pictured right is actress Vera Ellen in a studio promotional shot. They make a stately marching trio.

Dorothy Lamour

Dorothy Lamour is best known for being the straight woman in all of the Bing Crosby and Bob Hope’s “On the Road” movies. Recalling what it was like to work with the two comedians, Lamour notes, “I felt like a wonderful sandwich, a slice of white bread between two slices of ham." Her film career spanned from 1936 to 1949 with various television and cameo roles in films after that. She is also known for wearing the exotic sarongs Lamour did not grow up with dogs. In fact, it wasn’t until the death of her second husband, William Howard Ross III in 1978 that she got a dog. The loss of “her Bill” hit her tremendously, but her step-son decided that she ought to have a dog to take care of. Of her dog Coco Lamour wrote,

"I've shocked friends when I told them I have a new boyfriend and then bring out a photo of that little dog,"--the Scottish terrier enriched her life.

Julie Andrews

More recently, actresses Julie Andrews, Liza Minnelli, and purportedly Ali McGraw shared their hearts with Scottish Terriers. Julie Andrews is particularly fond of wheatens. She got her first wheaten from Lois Bolding, Boldmere Scotties. Ch. Boldmere’s Surf’s Up, call name Duffy, is out of this author’s Intl. Am. Can. Ch. McVan’s Sandman. Duffy spent most of his time at the estate of Andrews and her husband Blake Edwards. However, Julie was so fond of the dog that twice she had her chef fly with Duffy to Switzerland so he could spend the Christmas holidays with the couple. To keep Duffy company, Blake Edwards, the producer husband of Andrews acquired a second scottie from a New York pet shop. Unfortunately, this Scottie died very young. Duffy outlived his buddy and died at the age of 12. Julie Andrews currently is without a Scottie.
Scottie Cited in Liza Minnelli’s Divorce

Liza Minnelli was devoted to her Scottie lass Lilly. Lilly traveled everywhere with the singer-actress. When Minnelli was touring with Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis in 1989, Swedish officials demanded that Lilly be quarantined for four months. Not wishing to be parted from her Scottie, Liza spirited her off to Paris on a private jet. Lilly caused more trouble in 1996, when Liza who has had both hips replaced was walking her. Lilly got spooked by a taxi, darted, wrapped the lead around Liza’s legs causing her to fall. It took several weeks for the actress to recover. One can picture Lilly in bed with her mistress licking it all better.

Liza’s beloved Scottish Terrier Lilly died 2003. The dog’s death is partially blamed for the break-up of Liza and her husband David Gest after a one year marriage. Gest publicly declared that he "loved" Lilly. But others claim he had no patience for the aged canine. This infuriated Minnelli. When he and Minnelli were on tour in Europe, he arranged to have Lilly put down. According to the couple's spokesman, Warren Cowan, "The dog was 15 years old! She had a huge tumor and a heart murmur. She was rushed to the vet, but she ended up dying. Liza misses her terribly." Whether Cowan was brave for helping the aged canine cross the rainbow bridge, or the scapegoat for the natural closure of Lilly’s life cycle, it is not known. However, divorce proceedings began shortly thereafter.

Sally Struthers

Sally Struthers who played Gloria on the popular All in the Family television sitcom, is owned by a Scottish Terrier named Bob. Struthers is relatively new to Scottish Terrier ownership, acquiring her first Scottie in her 50s. In a recent article, this baby boomer noted,

"I'm Scottish myself and I'd always wanted a Scotty, but until recently all the dogs I'd lived with were larger breeds, like Labs and Newfoundlands. I named Bob after my father, who was a general practice doctor. It's fun walking with him and just saying, 'Come on, Bob!'"

In addition to owning Bob, Struthers now is an avid collector of Scottish Terrier memorabilia. An avid collector of many things, she has Scotty pillows, Scotty figurines scattered throughout the house, an apron with Scotty dogs all over it, and about a half-dozen stuffed Scotties. "One's so real looking it's scary," she said. Sally added Scotty dogs have been popular as a collectible since the days of FDR's Scotty, Fala.

Since starring as Meathead’s wife Gloria, Struthers has appeared in a variety of roles including a reoccurring role in Gilmore girls. Recently she has appeared in the live musical the Full Monty. According to the Beaver County times, Struthers is so shy she even jumps behind the shower curtain when Bob pokes his head in the bathroom. One has got to wonder, how Struthers is
dealing with playing a role in the musical the Full Monty. Maybe her next Scottie will be named Monty.

### Other Stars Owning Scotties

Other notables of the period who are reported to own Scottish Terriers included: Ida Lupino and Edward; actor Bert Lahr and Barry; Charles Boyer; Rue McClanahan and Harrod; Anne Southern and Doonie; Lorraine Day and Butch; Walter Pidgeon; Lionel Barrymore and Johnny; and John Barrymore and possibly Anne Shirley. Betty Hutton’s Scottish Terrier was reported to howl any time she sang. Dustin Hoffman (actor), Marlo Thomas (actress), and Jane Wyman (actress) also owned Scottish Terriers. Ali McGraw has owned a scottish terrier named Amtrak.

---

2 Excerpted from an online biography of Lynn Riggs. [http://members.cox.net/lynn.riggs/LynnRiggs.htm](http://members.cox.net/lynn.riggs/LynnRiggs.htm) Accessed December 3, 2007.

4 Ken Hall. 2007. What’s Boomer Sally Struthers Doing Now. [Modern Senior Living](http://modernseniorliving.com). Online article accessed on December 3, 2007 at [Active Celebrity Seniors - Sally Struthers](http://activcelebrityseniors.com).