



Members of the Royal Family at Balmoral with one of Her Majesty The Queen's Dorgis.

Photo: Camera Press

Dogs on the Royal Hearths

by David Hancock

DOWN the years, the close association of successive generations of our Royal Family with dogs has been very evident; you are much more likely to find a family photograph of them in which their dogs feature prominently than otherwise. This long connection has been with both companion dogs and working dogs, as the dogs of the present Royal Family exemplify today. Not surprisingly, Royal patronage has led to certain breeds being made popular, with the Corgi being the most notable example. From

being a little-known Welsh cattle herder to being appreciated throughout much of the world as a bustling energetic little canine character is almost entirely due to Royal interest in the breed in England.

Corgi Heritage

King George VI, when Duke of York, bought the original Royal Corgi in 1933 after seeing and admiring a friend's Corgi. This first Corgi was the celebrated Dookie, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi from the well-known Rozavel Kennels in Surrey.

Three years later the King acquired another one, this time a bitch called Jane who had puppies on Christmas Eve 1936. Two of this litter, Crackers and Carol, were kept and Princess Elizabeth grew up with these dogs and was enchanted by their spirited companionship. In 1944, Princess Elizabeth was given a Corgi of her own, a bitch, Susan, from kennels in Cambridgeshire.

The Queen has subsequently bred from Susan and other bitches, using stud dogs from outside, and now owns Corgis which