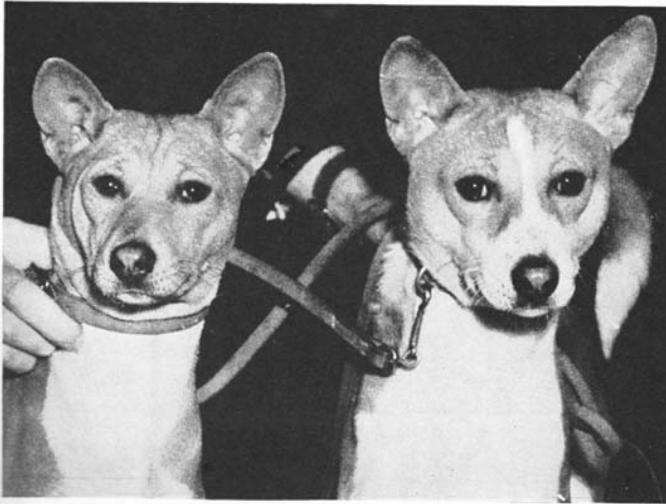


BERENGARIA BRINGS BARKLESS BUSH DOGS TO U. S.



Most interesting passengers landed by *S.S. Berengaria* in New York on Sept. 28 were the two dogs shown here. They are called Basenji dogs and are remarkable because they never bark. Most they ever achieve vocally is a low growl when angry and a thin, eerie whine when bored. "Basenji" means "bush dog." In its native Belgian Congo, the Basenji is a great

hunting dog. When hunting game, natives tie gounds to a Basenji's loin so they can follow its silent stalking. The dogs are 18 inches high, have short-haired chestnut coats with white markings. This pair, first imported to the U.S., was brought in by B. Hamilton Rogers (*below*) who expects them to thrive and, being barkless, become popular apartment-house pets.



Blean Imports 1937

"Life" © October 1937

Left cutting: Bakumba of Blean and either Rougie or Bashashi of Blean are shown on arrival in New York in 1937.

Bakumba of Blean is later registered with the American Kennel Club as:

Phemister's Bois
and becomes a part of the foundation of Basenjis in America



Cutting from New York Sun with notation October 1937

**From a letter
(seems to be by George Gilkey):**

“As noted above Mrs. Byron Rogers can be credited with being the first to establish the breed in America. Besides Boise she brought in a bitch puppy born to Bongo x Bokoto while in quarantine. This bitch was bred to Bois and a litter resulted. Unfortunately the litter and the dam died. Later he was acquired by Alex Phemister but was not in condition for breeding until late in 1942.”

**A Letter from
Mary McWain, Haku Kennels:**

“The oldest Basenji registered is Phemister’s Bois, date of birth being given as 1936.” (*Apparently there was no pedigree given in his registration.*)

“Nairobi (Bois x Phemister’s Naida) whelped 12/13/1942 also bred by Phemister’s but not bearing their name. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred King. Also Ruki, same litter owned by Eugene E. Scott.”

**In Veronica Tudor-Williams’s first edition of
Basenjis, The Barkless Dog writes:**

“When Mrs. Burn’s Basenjjs made such a sensation debut at Crufts in 1937, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Rogers, of New York City, became interested in the breed, and took three dogs back to the states in the S.S. Berengaria, September, 1937. They consisted of a bitch by Bongo ex Bokoto of Blean, another bitch by Bongo ex Bereke of Blean, and a native-bred dog which had not completed his quarantine in England. He was Bakuma of Blean, by Noko ex Coqui, bred by the Chief of the Donkessa, born July, 1936. Unfortunately both the bitches died about a year after their arrival in the States, and the dog was lost sight of after going to a pet home.”

“Mr. Phemister then acquired another native dog, said to have been owned at one time by the Byron Rogers. This dog appears to have been lost, but it is almost certain he was Bakuma of Blean, photographs of Bakuma and Bois being identical. He was re-registered with the American Kennel Club as Phemister’s Bois.”



BARKLESS BASENJIS

*You are cordially invited by
Mrs. Byron Rogers to inspect
them at their first public
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Advertisement in the Westminster catalog in 1938



*Phemister's Bois
in a photo while he was with the Phemisters*

**In October 1979, Veronica Tudor-Williams
writes in *The Basenji*:**

“The first old cutting (see page 1) is out of the ‘*New York Sun*,’ with a written-in date of October 1937. It shows Mr. Byron Rogers with Basashi of Blean (bitch) and the native import, Bakuma of Blean (dog), who is without doubt the dog later known as Phemister’s Bois. The markings are identical, and in one newspaper cutting “Bois” is written in above the dog.”