

John Fulton Short

Prepared by Joy McNulty and edited by the Basenji University

John Fulton Short was born in Philadelphia on May 22, 1932. It is reported that he was excited by bull fighting as a boy. He studied both painting and bull fighting with a scholarship in Mexico. He moved to Spain where he was well known as he was only the second American to be recognized as a professional bullfighter. He was also known as a great artist because for years he did the larger poster advertisements for the most famous bullfight events in Spain. Many of his paintings are in the museum of Seville, Spain. There is also a collection of his work in the Yale University Art Library, the Sports Illustrated Library and the Kennedy Library.



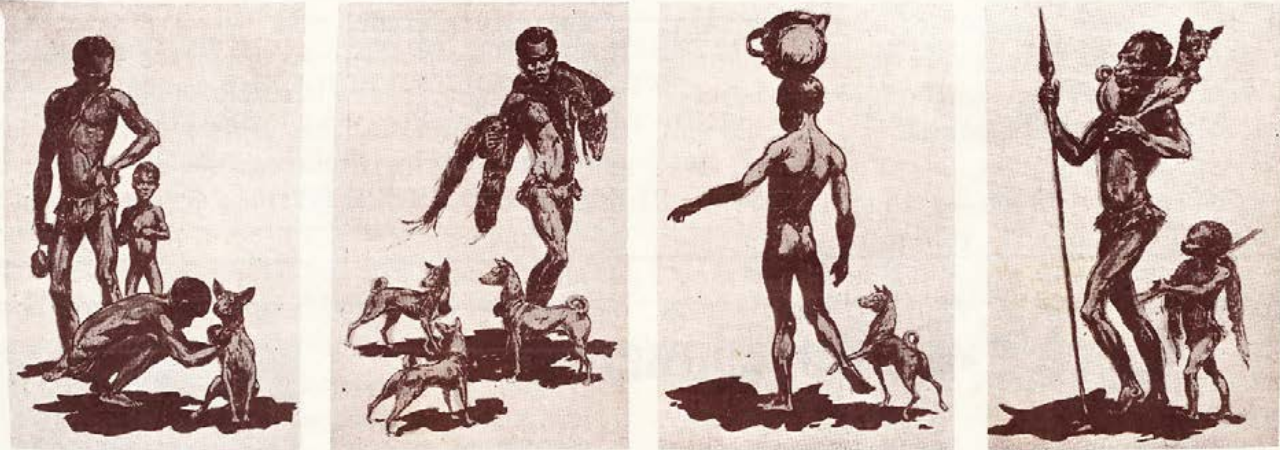
He was acquainted with Ernest Hemingway who was a patron. John did art work for James Michener's book, "Miracle in Seville." John Fulton Short was an author himself writing a book on bull fighting. He did not use Short in his name in Spain as it was too difficult to pronounce in Spanish. His credits also include being a stand-in for Peter O'Toole in the movie "Lawrence of Arabia."



Photo by Laurie and Bryan Gregory

But how did he end up making lithograph prints of basenjis? Joy reports the information she has gathered indicates that John was in California with his friend Robert Vavra. Robert is a basenji owner, artist, and a Lifetime Member of BCOA which appreciates his book "Canis Basenji." When Joy spoke to Robert, he said at one time when they were on Robert's ranch in California that John was a little short of funds, so he used Robert's basenji as a model. John had seen the basenjis in one of

the African tribes and he knew their part in the life of the people there. These 4 lithographs were the result. Joy has been told that the brown and "reddish" tone colorings were placed on the lithographs by hand. They were only advertised in The Basenji. Joy contacted Robert to get his information and to inquire about the originals. Robert didn't know where they were but hoped that someone who appreciated had them hanging in their home in Spain.

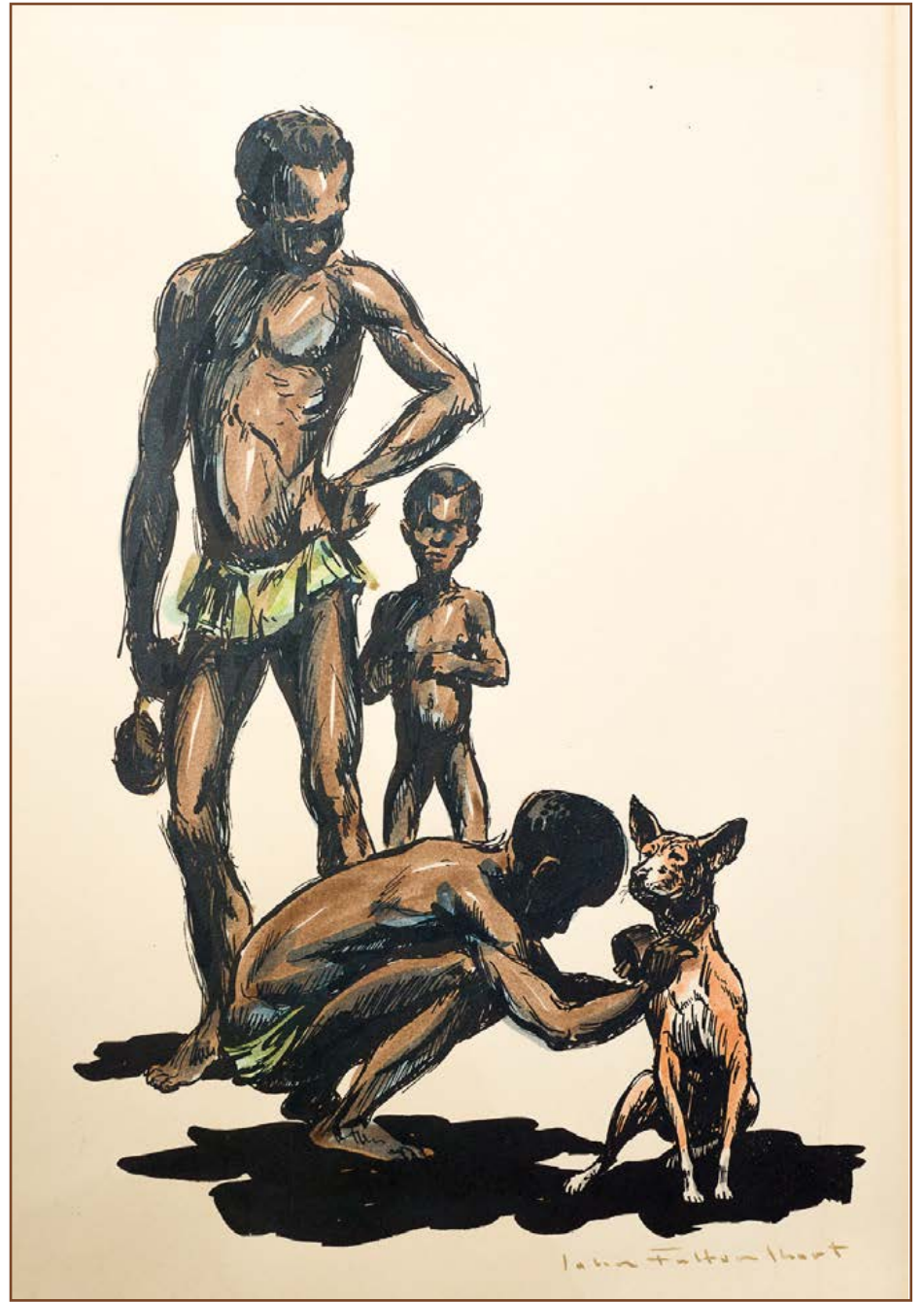
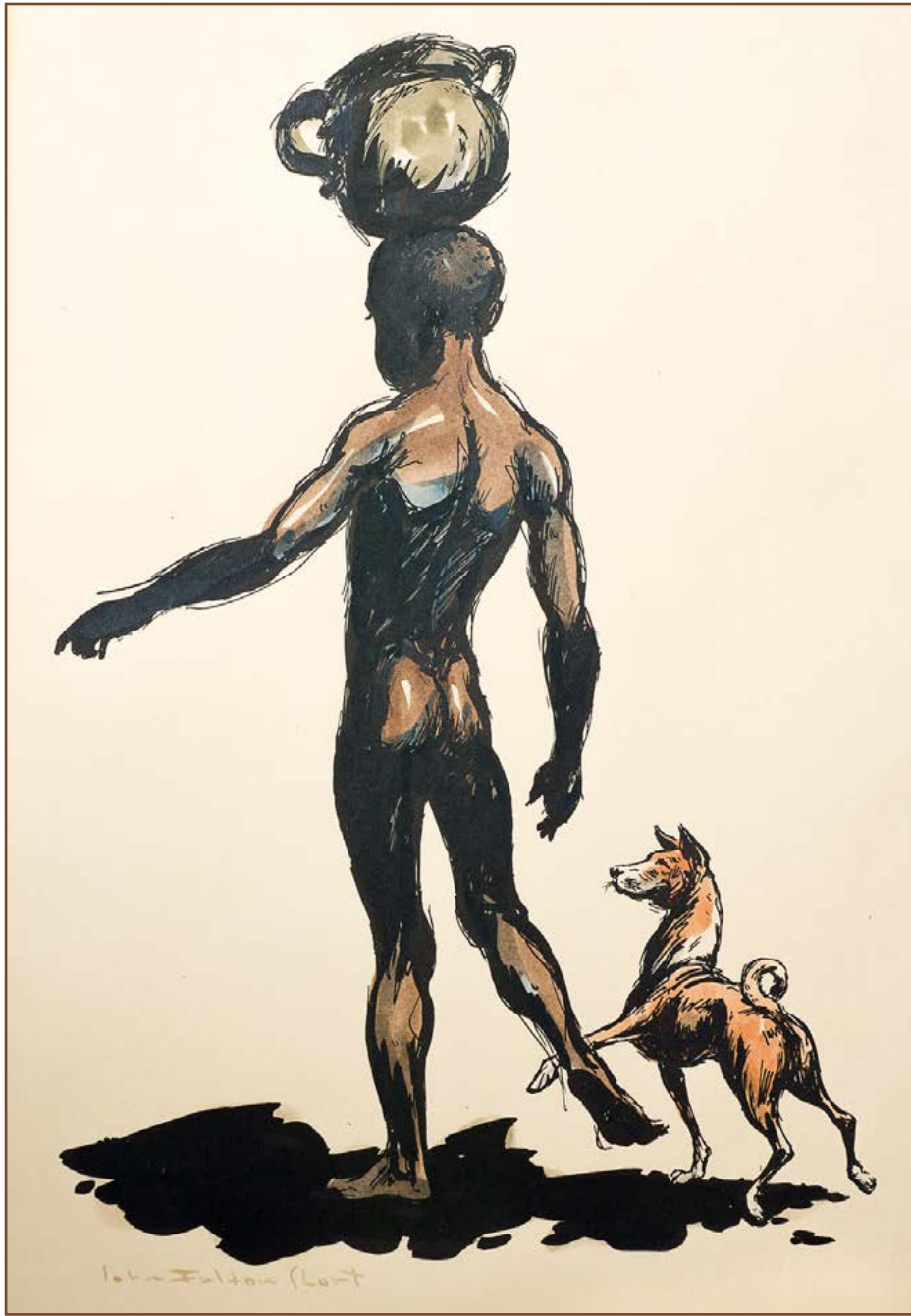


FOUR LITHOGRAPHS by John Fulton
SUBJECT, the basenji, hunting dog of the Congo.
REPRODUCED on rich white stock, measuring approximately
14 by 20 inches, in full color, hand illuminated.

Sold in sets of four - \$20.00

ORDER FROM:
John Fulton
c/o VAVRA
1737 Grove Road
El Cajon, California

This advertisement appeared in The Basenji in 1964.
Just 100 sets of the 4 lithographs were produced. Joy's own set of the prints is number 17.



Photos by Laurie and Bryan Gregory

Perhaps to add to the mystery, another story reported from Bob Vavra was that John had a girlfriend with a basenji and she persuaded him to make the original drawings.

Bryan Gregory has reported that Bob Vavra believed that although 100 prints were made only about 35 were colored with green and red water colors and sold in response to the one advertisement. The signature was made from a mixture of the colors for his signature in brown. Some sets have the signature completely faded away now along with the green paint.

He died in Seville, Spain on February 33, 1998 from heart failure. Joy believe he is buried there but I was unable to verify that.

Two of the lithographs appeared on the covers on the BCOA Bulletin – July/August 1965 and September/October 1965.

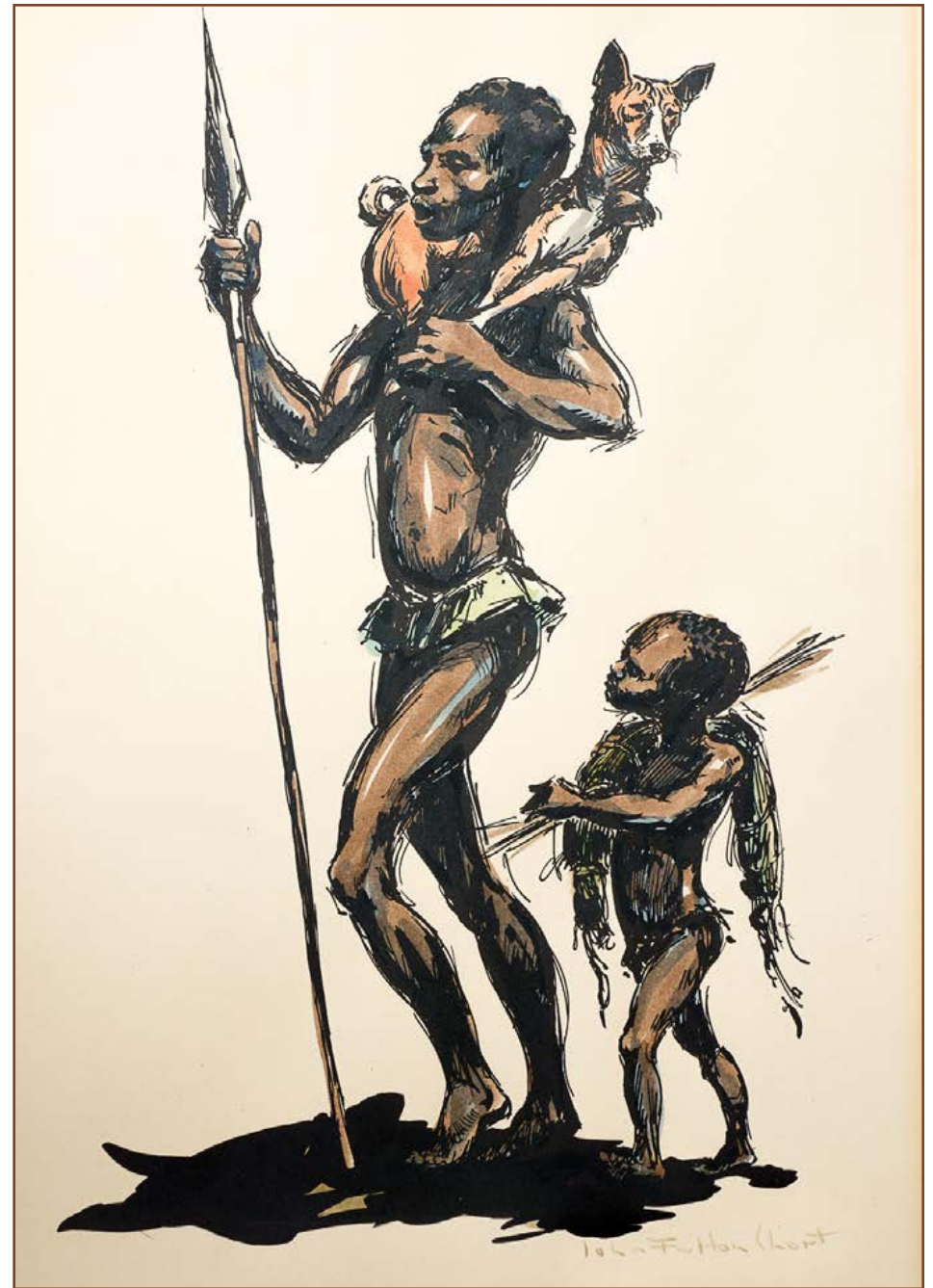
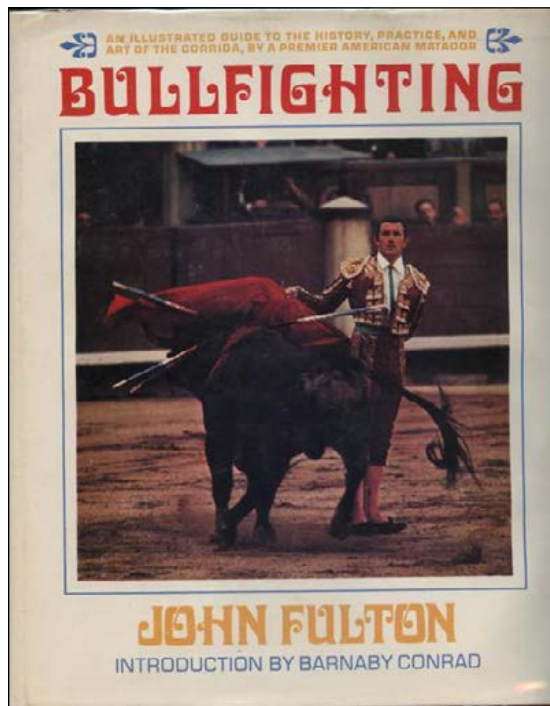


Photo by Laurie and Bryan Gregory