

## About Double Champion Joe, Jr.

Flushing Whip January 1956

Double Champion of America, Joe Jr. was the 603rd dog registered with the National American Kennel Club. He was the 70th Irish setter listed in the stud book that became the basis of the records of The American Kennel Club. He won his titles in the trials of the Tennessee Sportsmen's Club in 1877 and 1878. In 1879 he defeated the English setter immortal, Gladstone, in a two-day match race. He was by imported Elcho, NAKC 579 (English Kennel Club Stud Book), 5129, out of Buck Jr., NAKC 685. He was a nephew of the first American field titalist, Ch. of America Tom, who gained his honors in the first American championship stake in 1875. He was also a nephew of Brace Champion May who, with Double Champion Tom, won the American Brace Championship in 1875. Tom and May weren't registered, but as littermates of the registered Buck, Jr., they were, beyond question, registerable as Irish setters. That great litter by Hays Joe out of Buck included, in addition to Buck, Jr., winner and producer, Ch. May, Double Ch. Tom and Harry, an early Irish setter bench winner whose field qualities enabled him to place second to Ch. Tom in the 1875 championship.

Until the triumph of Champion Double Jay this past fall, these littermates and Joe, Jr., were the only Irish setters with field titles subject to FDSB recognition. Those early champions were all bred, trained and handled by George and M. C. Campbell. He gave each litter his careful attention.

Some careless historians have called them "native setters" as though this was some sort of a stigma. At that time, no matter his ability or the quality of his breeding; a dog was a "native setter" unless he or both his sire and his dam were bred in England or Ireland. The fad of the times was for imported dogs and the demand for British pedigrees amounted to Anglo mania. The prepotent Campbell strain and others then notable win until Otto Pohl took hold of the breed in the World War I era.