

Fourteenth-century engravers, 18th-century painters and yesterday's photographers all show us dogs as seen through their eyes. Their work is an enlightening way to follow the development of breeds and how they were seen in the eyes of the artist.

In The Eyes Of The Artist...

THE BORDER COLLIE

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THE BORDER COLLIE

Perpetual Motion

At the end of the 16th century, Dr. John Caius described in *Treatise on Englishe Dogges* the working style of various sheepdogs. Their style of driving sheep was more or less the same as that of today's working Border Collies. With hand signals and a shrill whistle, the shepherd directed his dog to where he wanted his flock to go.

In both the 20th and 21st centuries, many breeds became unemployed, but in Britain – from the Borders between England and Scotland to the Hebrides – people can still enjoy the sight of large flocks of sheep driven by Border Collies. Upwards and downwards, over the hilltops, down again, to the farm and the sheep fold. Perpetual motion through the ages...



Map of the Borders, between England and Scotland. The Border Collie was developed here.

British Artists

At the beginning of the 19th century, England had many different sheepdogs, not only Border collies, but also Scotch collies, Highland collies, Old Welsh Grey sheepdogs, Smithfield sheepdogs, Welsh hillmen, Cumberland sheepdogs, Dorset blues, Welsh black-and-tan sheepdogs, bobtailed sheepdogs, etc. From the mid-19th century, an abundance of different sheepdog types was used by farmers to drive their cattle and sheep. One of these



A beautiful engraving of a working sheepdog.

types that is still known today – the Border collie – derives its name from the Borders and from a black-headed sheep with black legs: the coalley or black-faced sheep. According to the *Agricultural Dictionary* (1743), the dogs

A Border Collie approaches the sheep cautiously. He does not bark when working and uses a kind of still hunt. His flashing movement reminds one of a ballet dancer in a difficult pas de deux.

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that drove and tended the flocks were called coalleys-dogs or coally-dogs.

Smooth-Coated Colley

Many dog books from the mid-19th century contain breed descriptions, but it has to be said that the authors frequently quoted each other and re-used illustrations.

Old British dog books are illustrated with engravings, drawings and paintings by some of the best English artists who made true-to-nature images of many breeds, including sheepdog breeds.

In 1800, Thomas Bewick wrote about the shepherd dog in his *A General History of Quadrupeds*: "This useful animal, ever faithful to his charge, reigns at the head of the flock; where he is better heard, and more attended to, than even the voice of the shepherd. Safety, order, and discipline are the fruits of his vigilance and activity."

Published between 1830 and 1840, the *Naturalist's Library*, edited by Scottish naturalist Sir William Jardine, includes an engraving titled *The Shepherd's, or Sheepdog*. The dog has a tricolor coat, half-erect ears and is slightly higher on leg than today's Border Collie.

In William Youatt's *The Dog*, published in 1845, only two small drawings support the text. Youatt used the word "sheep-dog" when writing about the shepherd's dog, saying "colley" was the Highland term. Two drawings show us a Scotch Sheep-Dog and an English Sheep-Dog.

The colley described in Hugh Dalziel's *British Dogs* (1881) is illustrated with engravings of a rough-coated colley and a smooth-coated colley.

Rawdon B. Lee's *History and Description of the Modern Dogs of Great Britain*



Robert Mitchell Meadow's *Shepherd in a Storm with a Dog and Sheep* (1802) after Richard Westall



The Shepherd's Dog in Thomas Bewick's book A General History of Quadrupeds (1800)



In his book *The Dog* (1845) William Youatt differentiated between *The Scotch-Sheepdog* and *The English-Sheepdog*. The difference still exists today.



From Hugh Dalziel's book *British Dogs* (1881). Today's Border Collie has a more abundant coat.

and Ireland: *Non-Sporting Division* was published in 1894, illustrated by Arthur Wardle and R.H. Moore. Lee mentioned The English Club's Standard and The Scottish Club's Standard. Wardle illustrated the chapters *The Collie or Sheep Dog* and *The Smooth-Coated Sheep Dog*.



Border Collie Sweep, a grandson of Old Hemp, by John Emms (1844-1912). Sweep won the ISDS championship twice.

Hundes (Dog Breeds). Beckmann wrote that the Collie's shoulder height was 22 inches.

Working sheepdogs competed at the first recorded sheepdog trial, at Bala (Wales), in 1873. Breeders selected for intelligence, stamina, skills, and a strong 'eye' – an intense stare to control the sheep.

Old Hemp

The 1860 dog show in Newcastle-on-Tyne had classes for sheepdogs; five were entered under the name "Scotch Sheepdog." First prize went to a bitch that was described as "pure scotch bitch." In 1871, two male sheepdogs – Old Mac and Old Cockie – were entered in a Birmingham Dog Society show.

Old Hemp (1893-1903), a tricolor male, is considered to be the foundation of the present Border Collie. Bred by Adam Telfer from Northumberland, he was described as an intelligent, quiet black-and-white sheepdog weighing about 44 pounds.

The International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS) was founded in 1906; their goal was to promote interest in sheepdogs. In the same year, the ISDS organized its first sheepdog trial. Long before the breed was recognized by The Kennel Club and the FCI, working Borders were being entered in the ISDS stud book. The name "Border Collie" seems to have been coined by Mr. J. Reidt, secretary of the ISDS.

No. 1 in the ISDS stud book is the bitch Old Maid; Old Hemp is No. 6. "Old" had nothing to do with age; it was used to

THE GREAT ISDS SHEEPDOG HANDLERS Adam Telfer & Family



Adam Telfer, a sheepdog handler and local celebrity from Northumberland, was Old Hemp's breeder.

In 1895, German Ludwig Beckmann depicted "the longhaired Collie Champion Eclipse" in *Die Rassen des*



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Mark Hayton and his champion Border Collies (ca. 1935). The cups were won at sheepdog trials. (Photographer unknown)



Pat, Spot, Peter and their owner, Mark Hayton, waiting for their turn in the sheepdog trials in Bramhope, West Yorkshire, 1936



Long-haired Collie Ch. Eclipse by Ludwig Beckmann was published in Die Rassen des Hundes, 1895.

distinguish Borders with the same name. Affixes and prefixes were not customary.

The Border Collie Club of Great Britain was recognized by The Kennel Club in 1976. The first CCs were awarded in 1982.



Perpetual motion through the ages. Border Collies driving sheep on the Isle of Skye. (Photo: Eva Maria Krämer)

Super Intelligent

The Border Collie is a member of the large group of sheepdogs—long-haired, rough-coated and smooth—in a variety of colors and sizes. Super intelligence, loyalty, agility, inquisitiveness, will to please and an inexhaustible energy are their



Border Collie working a flock (Photo: Eva Maria Krämer)



From Vero Shaw's Illustrated Book of the Dog published by Cassell. Smooth-coated and rough-coated sheepdogs (1890)

assets, but these good points can be their weak points as well. In the absence of physical and mental challenges, these friendly, loyal and intelligent dogs can become neurotic, destructive demolishers of your home and garden. A Border Collie needs work to do. They must have an outlet.

Apart from herding sheep in trials, suitable sports include agility, flyball, obedience, Freestyle... activities that more or less replace working with sheep.

Sheepdogs in America

Sheepdogs arrived in North America during the 1800s with imported livestock. Scottish shepherds such as William Millar and Sam Stoddart helped to spread the use of Border Collies from coast to coast, popularizing the dogs among farmers, and teaching them how to use the sheepdogs' skills on sheep and cattle. Farm collies became common in the northern United States, and three varieties became breeds in America: the McNab (California, 1858), the English Shepherd (East Coast and Midwest, 1890s) and the Australian Shepherd (California, early 20th century). The

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first American sheepdog trial was held in Philadelphia in 1888.

Grand Old Man

Arthur Allen (1904-96), a founder of the Northern American Sheepdog Society (NASDS) in 1940, was a well-known sheepdog trialer whose many British-import Border Collies also performed in rodeos and on television. He made his dog 'Spot', winner of the ISDS International Supreme Championship and imported by Allen in 1923, posthumously No. 1 in the NASDS studbook. The largest Border Collie registry in the U.S. is now the American Border Collie Association (ABCA).



Arthur Allen and his dogs Nicky and Rock.

Arthur Allen was an expert, articulate dog man who knew both the 19th-century stock dog and the modern Border Collie. As he wrote in his book *A Lifetime with the Working Collie: Their Training and History*, "[the 19th-century dogs] were large and more stern than the Border Collie of today and were used for working all kinds of livestock. A descendant of these dogs that my Father owned was Old Cast and was so stern a dog that you never could pet him, but was as reliable and faithful in his work as any dog he ever owned."

The breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1995, a year before "the grand old man of sheepdog trailing in the United States" (bordercolliemuseum.org) passed away.



Photo from the first ISDS National Sheepdog Trial in 1922.

The first American breed standard was based on the U.K. standard, but an entirely re-written one was published in 2004.



In September 2015, a memorial was unveiled in West Woodburn, Northumberland, in memory of Adam Telfer and his Border Collies. Telfer is seen as "the father of the modern Border Collie."

Compared to other shepherd breed standards, the American Border Collie standard is short and simple. Although the coat color of a Border is mostly black and white or red/brown and white, according to the standard a variety of colors is permissible, but white should never predominate.

Show Type vs. Working Type

The Border Collie Society of America (BCSA), started in 1990 in Kentucky, grew quickly during the mid-1990s; today it has more than 500 members. Since 1996, the BCSA has been the breed's AKC parent club. The American Border Collie Association (ABCA) promotes and supports the working Border Collie. It is a member-owned registry with more than 9,000 members.

Today, the Border Collie is recognized worldwide by the American Kennel Club, Canadian Kennel Club, Australian National Kennel Council, FCI, The Kennel Club, Raad van Beheer (Netherlands), the Scandinavian kennel clubs, etc., to name a few.

Although Border Collies have been bred all over the world solely for working ability, the breed is now well-known at dog shows, obedience and agility trials, and as a companion dog.

The Border Collie is a good example of a breed that shows big differences in show and working type. Some are of the opinion that a show Border Collie is not a proper Border Collie, being too short in body, and having an abundant coat. There are many opinions about it on the Internet, but this is not the place to repeat the arguments.



What's learnt in the cradle lasts 'til the tomb.

Further Information

More information (a selection):
americanbordercollie.org
bordercolliesociety.com
bordercolliemuseum.org
bordercollielclub.com (Great Britain)