

# **Hunting & Hounds: Essential Reading List by Alastair Jackson**

## **SIX ESSENTIAL BOOKS**

### **THOUGHTS ON HUNTING, by Peter Beckford (1740 – 1811)**

This is the keystone of the arch in a foxhunter's library. A highly educated man, this Dorset Squire wrote the first realistic guide to the breeding, care and handling of foxhounds in the field. There are many editions and much of his basic advice is still relevant.

### **RONNIE WALLACE – A MANUAL OF FOXHUNTING, edited by Michael Clayton.**

Published in 2003 by Swan Hill Press.

Collective interviews on all aspects of hunting, containing a mine of information, which Ronnie Wallace, the most influential foxhunter of his day, gave over many years.

### **FOXHUNTING, by the Duke of Beaufort.**

Published in 1980 by David and Charles.

A beautifully illustrated textbook on foxhunting, based on his own Hunt, by the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort.

### **RYCROFT ON HOUNDS, HUNTING AND COUNTRY, compiled by J.F.Scharnburg.**

Printed in 2001 by Derrydale Press, U.S.A.

The fascinating views of the brilliant, if somewhat unorthodox, hound breeder, Sir Newton Rycroft.

**A HUNTSMAN'S LOG BOOK, by Isaac Bell.**

Published in 1947 by Eyre and Spottiswoode.

A unique collection of tales and reminiscences by the legendary Master, huntsman and hound breeder, 'Ikey' Bell. Although largely historical, there are many gems of information to be gleaned from this entertaining book.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES, by Michael Clayton.**

Second edition published in 2005 by Swan Hill Press.

A history of foxhunting throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century with a detailed account of the battle to save the sport from banning legislation, culminating in the Hunting Act 2004.

**FURTHER IMPORTANT READING.**

**EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A HUNTSMAN, by Tom Smith.**

First published in 1838, and by Edward Arnold in 1921.

One of the classic hunting textbooks, including Tom Smith's patent "All Round my Hat" cast.

**A SHORT HISTORY OF FOXHUNTING, by Jackson and Clayton.**

Published in 2013 by Merlin Unwin Books – available from the publisher.

An easy to read and entertaining, up to date, history of our sport, from the very start to the present day, showing how foxhunting has survived and flourished through centuries of change to the benefit of the fox and it's environment.

**THE BOOK OF THE FOXHOUND, by Daphne Moore.**

Published in 1964 by J.A.Allen and Co.

FOXHOUNDS, by Daphne Moore.

Published in 1981 by B.T.Batsford Ltd.

These are both important books on the development of the modern foxhound by one of the greatest experts on hound pedigrees of our time. The first book contains the best list of hound names to be found anywhere and is invaluable to those naming litters.

**FOXIANA, by Isaac Bell.**

Published in 1929 by Country Life.

A collection of amusing tales by the immortal "Ikey" Bell, which all have a lesson to be learnt by huntsmen and hound breeders.

**HUNTING THE FOX, by Lord Willoughby de Broke.**

Published in 1920 and 1925 by Constable.

Another classic foxhunting book with outstanding chapters on the handling of hounds in the field, much of which is still relevant.

**LIFE OF FRANK FREEMAN, HUNTSMAN, by Guy Paget.**

Published in 1948 and 1949 by Alfred Tacey Ltd.

There is much to be learnt from the life and methods of one of the greatest huntsmen ever.

**PETERBOROUGH ROYAL FOXHOUND SHOW, by Michael Clayton.**

Published in 2006 by Quiller Publishing Ltd.

This well illustrated history of the premier foxhound show in the world also charts the development of the foxhound as a breed and contains many amusing tales of the characters involved.