

**IMPRESSIONS OF A CAT SHOW IN ARNHEM, HOLLAND,
AUG. 30, 1970
Evelyn Kionig**

Cat-show season in Europe is much the same time as in U.S.A., starting with a few shows in July and August. Some of the shows on the Continent follow the English procedure, others are different as was the one I saw in Holland. After having spent 9 weeks on the continent and in Scandinavia, I had planned to spend the (10th) week in Amsterdam, Holland, before going back to USA. Here I had the exciting experience of seeing the FELIKAT'S XXV International Championship Cat show in Arnhem, not too far from Amsterdam.



**Mrs. Kionig with Teddy-
Tar, her ASH male**

While in Norway I had the pleasure (thanks to Betty O'Brien) of meeting the President Fredrik C. Nordane and his wife Helen of the Norwegian Cat-Fanciers Federation NORAK. They breed Abyssinians and one of their cats, a Grand Champion, is doing very well in USA. They gave me all kinds of information including the cat-show in Arnhem and who to contact. In Amsterdam, I contacted a very nice couple who both spoke English, making it easier for me as my German is getting rusty and though I can understand some Flemish, I do not speak it. I spent a very pleasant evening with them in their home talking even cats and comparing notes regarding cats and other matters. They were breeders of Russian Blues and were showing some of their cats at the show.

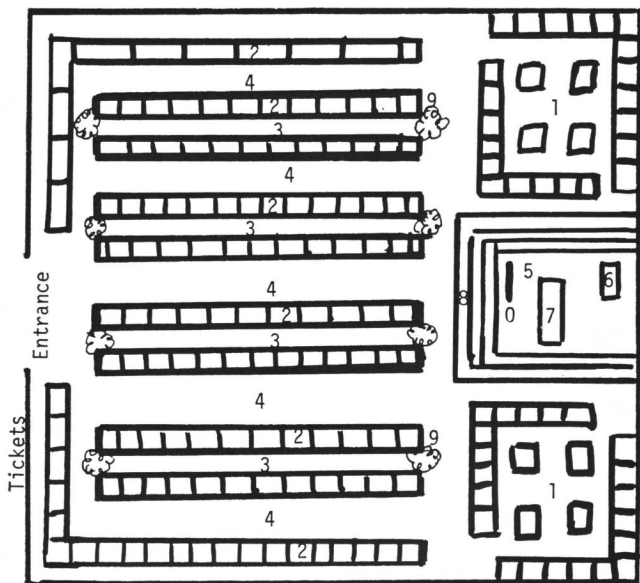
Also at the show they introduced me to people I had hoped to meet regarding exchange of trophies. Being a member of Marin County Cat Fanciers and since the club was celebrating its 20th anniversary we had planned on giving special prizes, so here was a good opportunity to talk to them.

Arnhem is about one hours ride by train from Amsterdam and not wishing to miss a thing at the show I got up early and took off for Arnhem Sunday, August 30, 1970. Arriving in Arnhem, a charming town, I walked from the train station for about 15 minutes to the AUDITORIUM MUSIS SACRUM, an old lovely looking building. A big sign outside showed the entrance to the showroom. I bought my admission ticket and a catalogue and walked in to an already busy and crowded hall. It was much like a big banquet room, about 60 x 70 feet in size with windows on one side of the room. At first it looked much like any show in USA, but I soon found out it was different in several ways. So eager, I did not know where to start first, but wanted to get a good look at all the cats. So after taking a quick look at the hall I

went to look at the show, cat by cat. The cats had passed the Vet. inspection and had been placed in the cages. Each cat was assigned to a single cage with a number outside and the same number on a string around its neck. The cats were placed by breed and catalogue number which indeed made them easier to find, if one were looking for a particular cat, breed or a person. Not many cages had a curtain, but some had covered up the cages with plastic as seen here. The cages were set up in double rows with a space of about two feet in between, this area for the exhibitors to sit and leaving the other wider aisle to the spectators. (See drawing).

DIAGRAM
OF
SHOWROOM

1. Judges Area
2. Exhibition Cages
3. Sitting area for Exhibitors
4. Spectators walking area.
5. Stage
6. Trophy Table
7. Committee Table
8. Stairs to Stage
9. Screening Plants
0. Posting Board for Show Results



A planter closed off the aisle where the exhibitors sat. At some shows in Europe the exhibitors have to leave the show-room after placing their cats in the cages. This depends much on the location of the judging area. The English shows have the judges go from cage to cage, but this show was different from the English and ours here in the U.S. We have at some shows tried to place the cats by breed, but the exhibitors showing more than one breed were not pleased with such arrangement. At this show I asked some of the exhibitors about it, but no one seemed too concerned. I later found out why. Very few exhibitors were present at first, mostly the ones with cats or kittens for sale. AND OH MY!!! I could have made some good buys. One thing was sure — one can buy the cats for much less when there, but then of course the trip to Europe costs a good deal. But comparing the prices they were high for the Europeans.

Looking at the cats I naturally compared them with the ones here in USA, especially the ones on the west coast where I live. Look-

ing at the type, color, eyecolor and the conditions, etc., and my opinion was, The Persians had very good types, small ears, very good eyecolor and most of them peakfaced. The coat color seemed quite different on some, such as the Blue-Creams, Torties and the Black Smokes. At first I was not sure what color they were supposed to be. Being a Black Smoke S.H. breeder, I know that the color can change quite a lot on some, it being summer would make some difference. The Blue-Creams had such light blue color that the cream looked almost red. The Torties seemed to have a somewhat faded black, still not really rusty or blue. The Smokes also very light in the black, but saw a little junior kitten I would have liked to take home with me. The Chinchillas were beautiful, not peakfaced and with hardly any shading or ticking. Big round eyes with lovely green color. The Shaded Silver is not seen or shown. Most of the solid-colored cats were very good, especially the Cream and the Blue and the White. A Blue-Cream though was Best Cat in the Show, so not all of them were discolored. The Cameos were few and listed under AOV, one of them came from a west coast breeder here. Persian Tabbies were shown. So was a Tortie with white, also Black with white which had to be a certain pattern.

But one great disappointment; hardly any of the Persian were groomed. To me it was as they came to the show in their "Day-dresses" and not their "Party-Dress." Had to think back to the lovely groomed cats I see on the west coast and from our magazines. The Himalayan is now considered Persian and most of them looked very good and much better groomed. They were shown in Seal and Blue Points. By the way, they are called Colour Points. The Heilige Birmanen, the Birman were also shown in Seal and Blue Points and about 12 of them in all. Now to the Shorthairs. The Siamese class was the biggest class of the shorthairs and looked somehow a little different than ours. But one great thing was outstanding about them — nearly all had the most fantastic deep blue eye color, unbelievable. In Norway, I saw a pet-stock Siamese with this color eyes and took a picture of it to show my friends. But one disappointment, very few had a good strong chin. Later after looking at the rest of the shorthairs I found this to be true on most of them. This seems to be such an important part about them here. The Abyssinians were outstanding with absolutely no tabby markings and lovely eyecolor. Both Ruddy and Red were shown. Of the Russian Blue few had the double coat we hear of, but then I have seen few here who have it. But my! did the British Blue not only have a lovely coat texture but also a lovely light blue coat color, with eyecolor nearly as copper as a Cream Persian. This breed, as they are larger than our Am. SH., have a very majestic look and it is a very popular cat in Europe and very highly rated. The Blue Shorthair was my first love and I am still breeding it; I was indeed tempted to take one along home with me. The French Chartreuse and the British Blue are now in Europe judged as one Breed in the same class. The European Shorthair is much like our Am. SH. They come in most colors like we have, but only very few were shown at this show. A lovely Black, a red Tabby and a classic and Mackerel brown Tabby. I was a

bit disappointed with so few shown, but I think from my investigations that we in USA have more serious or selective breeders. The Burmese were shown in brown (sable) and in a very light blue color, but I thought the type on both too close to Siamese type. Other short-hair; there were a few Havana Brown — and Siamese Tabby or Lynx Point and the Red Point. There was also quite a number of the Tortie Points. About six Rex were shown, both Cornish and Devon type.

There were 494 cats and kittens in all and about 212 exhibitors. With that many cats and only one day show, my big question was how was the judging done? Next I went to find out in the Judging Area where I watched from the stairs to the stage and had a good view.

There were two Judging Areas, one in each corner on either side of the stage (see drawing). Each area, about 12-15 feet square, with cages on all sides. Only 2 small openings for the stewards to enter and bring back the cats. Here I got the answer as to why the exhibitors did not seem to care where their cats were benched. They never carried their own cats to the judges. The stewards did it and in addition would wash the cages and hold the cats while being judged. Each judge had several stewards and also a secretary. No one else but the judges, secretaries and stewards were allowed inside the judging area. It was a busy place, the stewards going back and forth nearly all the time. The four judges, in each of the 2 areas, worked side by side, each at a small table. On each table a wash-bowl and a blue light (still not very good light in the room.) The judges and the secretaries wore white coats and the stewards heavy white plastic aprons and rubber gloves. About six cages were assigned to each judge. The judging started when the stewards had placed the cats in the cages in the judging area and the secretary called the numbers of the cats. Then the steward brought the cat out on the table for the judge and held on to it. Somehow the judge never held on the the cat alone, but seemed to examine them point by point. After each cat had been judged, the judge recorded the result in her (his) report book, then the secretary filled out a qualification card for each cat. These cards were signed both by the judge and the secretary, then turned over to the chief secretary, who sat at the committee table on the stage. She then recorded the result and the card was placed on the exhibitors cage for all to see. No ribbons were used, but some cages displayed rosettes from previous shows. The result on the card was in different colors, as for a different win. The judges, as here in the U.S., had no access to the catalog before or during the show. The class was judged in its entirety, but not in the order as here. The cats were judged only once and divided between the 8 judges officiating there. They came from the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Denmark, Germany and England. Since the cats are judged only once it takes them that much longer to become International Champions or International Premiers, Champions or Premiers and the breeder feels the cat has really accomplished something when they do receive it. Besides the local Cat club shows, there are about 12-15 International shows in Europe during show season.

The Awards. The classes and awards are set up somewhat different from ours and trophies are not kept; in addition are these; the Novice class is for cats of unknown ancestors. The cats must be 3 months or older and of course be up to the standard and reach the scoring of from "Excellent" to "Accepted," by at least 2 judges (L.H. or S.H.) before they can be registered in the record book of controlled or selective breeding.

In the finals 3 Best are picked from each class in the International Champions and International Premiers. Then the Best L.H. and Best S.H., Best L.H. and S.H. kitten, and Best L.H. and S.H. Premiers are chosen. These all usually get a Rosette and trophy. I found out that most of the rosettes are made in USA. A large board was set up in front at the stage showing the final result in addition to each separate win. Best of Breed, Best in Color Divisions and then the very final was announced over the speaker and the exhibitors, most of them back by this time, would walk up to the stage to receive their win. At some shows a banquet is arranged to give out the awards.

I stayed to the very end even after they started tearing down the cages, had to see how that was done too, and that part indeed looked much like it does at our shows here. I had enjoyed it immensely and would not miss another one.

I'd like to mention that most of the European Clubs are eager and pleased to hear from our clubs here, also to exchange trophies for their lovely Medals. At the 20th anniversary of Marin County Cat Fanciers we received about a dozen. Some Medals arrived late and will be awarded at the 20th annual show March 18-19, 1972, in San Rafael, Calif.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

I was born on a Sunday a.m. in August, a Leo, in New York of Norwegian parents. When about 2 years old my parents decided to make a trip back to Norway. (They stayed and never came back.) I stayed until after I finished school, which included 4 years of Beauty Culture, specializing in Hairstyling. I had always felt I belonged or USA belonged to me and since the feeling was strong I went back in 39, just 1½ months before the war. Lucky for me, but I did not hear from my mother or brother in 5 years. My father died sometime before I left. After 2 years working for a Czechoslovakian Hairstylist, who once was a private hair-dresser for Queen Mary of England, I was lucky to get a position working for Elizabeth Arden in midtown Manhattan. We moved to San Francisco, then moved from S. F., across the Golden Gate to Marin County, where I still live. It was here I had my first real contact with cats. The very first a Blue-Cream came crying out, (much too young, about 5-6 weeks) from a gully, to be on her own and cute enough to keep.

She grew up and mated. Had several blue S.H.'s later and got to wonder if they were a special kind or what. Through a petshop I got in contact with the Marin County Cat Fanciers who sent a couple of members over to see my cats. They told me I had lovely blue Domestic S.H. and were good enough to show. Of course I would love to show off my lovely Blue cats. One was Tulla, who was nearly two when she died two years ago. The other was Tullemor Tottsie, later a

triple champion and when she became a Premier she retired. This was in 61. She made a comeback about two years ago and at the age of twelve and thirteen did better than ever. Tottsie was my first cat to be bred selective, but since I could not find a Blue male I was advised to use a Black or a Black Smoke. So we chose the great El Rancho's Hercules, a Black Smoke. She had but one kitten, but it was all very exciting. It was a Blue male, Tulleemor (I had by then adopted and registered this name for my cattery), Titus Hercules, who later turned out to be as big as his name, and he made many top wins in the finals. My first selective breeding was in early 1959 and have since stuck to it to the best of my knowledge. I only breed my females once a year, for I don't want too many cats. I feel strongly they need lots of care and love. Also at the time I was showing Titus I showed a lovely Black Smoke female Tertitt Tullemore, from my first Blue female, Tiny Tulleemor; Tertitt was A.A. 3 years in a row.

I am presently on my second term, third year as president for Marin County Cat Fanciers, which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary; I have been a member since 1957, and have been show-manager for two shows for the club. I belong to the Showman's Club, American Shorthair West, from its start and the American Shorthair Cat Association — ASCA. The latter a co-starter with Mrs. T. W. Carriethers, Beth who was the instigator and it was she who suggested the name American Shorthair instead of Domestic and to distinguish the show cat and the selectively bred cat from the Domestic or HHP, not because it was an American cat, which we do not know for sure, since some think it came to USA with the first settlers. We wanted to be serious breeders and go forward as other breeders of other breeds, rather than breed to an unknown, just because it happened to be like the standard. Not knowing what is in the background how can one get a true answer to what one wants or hopes for, it is difficult enough to know when one breed selective. The idea is not to make it easy, but to make it right.

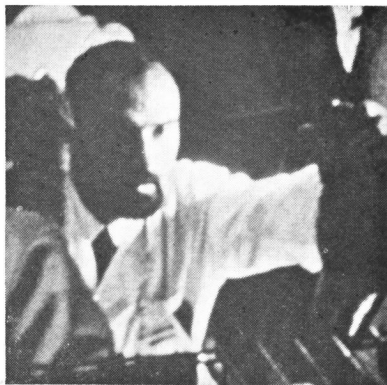
Besides being interested in cats I am very fond of animals and belong to the Humane Society of Marin and I am an active member of its Aux. The Marin County Cat Fanciers conduct classes in instruction and care of cats at the Humane Society, also the club donates its show profits to the Humane Society of Marin and have the last 10 years donated over \$5,000.

I also have been working at the local hospital, Marin General, for 17 years in October, 1971, as a volunteer, presently working with the mentally ill. Love dancing, swimming, playing bridge and gardening, etc. etc. — never have a dull moment.

Mrs. Arne Kionig, 121 Terrace Ave., Kentfield CA 94904. (415) 453-9493.



A LH Judge examining a Blue Persian kitten.



The SH Judge comparing two Burmese Cats.