

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Phone : Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 28

JUNE 15th. 1927

Price 3d., post free

## LONGHAIR LORE AND WEEKLY GOSSIP.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

THE following interesting news has just come to hand from the Bredon Cattery:—Binkie and Rosebud of Bredon have been sold to a German Fancier for breeding and showing. Yveen had five kits to Lady Willmot's Barry Prince Blue, but four were open-eyed, and although a male is just alive it is doubtful if he will live; a very good female, however, survives. Ch. Meg has presented her owner with three cream kittens (one dead), all males, sire Binkie; and Mrs. Yeend is hoping that Miss Muffet is in kitten to Ch. Endymion of the Balcony. There is a nice tortoiseshell kitten, a daughter of Binkie's, and Mrs. Yeend is expecting the pick of a litter from a Brown Tabby Queen by the same stud. From another of his litters by Norma, Mrs. Richardson's queen, Mrs. Yeend is also having a kitten. Three blue kittens, bought from Mrs. Morrison, by Love-a-Duck, and a Buzz-Buzz queen (Yveen's dam) will keep the Bredon Cattery lively.

Smokes and Whites are still so scarce in the Fancy that it is pleasant to glean items concerning them, and Mrs. Spencer Smith is a welcome contributor to both colours:—“Concerning Ch. Raccoon, he sired his first family a few weeks ago, by a black queen, consisting of two smokes and two black kittens; unfortunately, due to the mother being five days over her time, two were born dead, and two died soon after. September Smoke, a sister of Ch. Raccoon, is a very nice family of five by Ch. Tarzan. A Blair Athol queen has some fine kittens by Mercury of Pensford, of a beautiful light blue, and Snookums (Raccoon's mother) has a fine litter by Simeon of Westfield. White Lilac has a family of four beautiful white kits with blue eyes, sired by Beauty of Mayfield; these last ought to be an useful addition to L.H. Whites. Ch. Tiger Lily of Wolborough has the distinguished record of having won her three Championships at three consecutive shows; she was bred by Miss E. M. Hill, sire Ch. Shazada, ex Ch. Princess Salyana, and is a red tabby of unusual warmth of colour. Tiger Lily has now three fine kittens by Devonshire Cream of Wolborough, Mrs. Green's stud, which she bought last year from Mrs. Neate. In the litter are two broad-headed cream females and one

dark red tabby male. Zeresh, by Ronnie of Hawkhurst, ex Peri-Zadeh, Mrs. Green's other queen, has three kittens by the same sire; of her two daughters by a former litter, sired by Ch. Billy Bumpet, Mrs. Green is hoping to place one on the show bench during the coming season. Wolborough, Newton Abbot, being somewhat out of the beaten track, Mrs. Green, who is quite an enthusiast, hopes to see the Fancy blossom into greater prominence in the South-West of England. We warmly endorse her wish, and remind all that it is we Fanciers who must help the Fancy by circulating interest in it amongst our friends.

## COMING CATS.

### No. 2. WHITE L.H. KITTENS.

Mrs. Richardson, Jasmine of Farnborough; Mrs. Reynolds Sams, Snow Queen of Runnymede; Miss Wally, Poudre Gras; Mrs. Averell, White Sheik; Mrs. Brunton, Narcissus of Dunesk; Miss Wally, Poudretta.

Of the above, Jasmine of Farnborough took premier honours at Newbury, Croydon, N.C.C., and S.C.C.C.; Snow Queen of Runnymede at the M.C.C. Both will be heard of again. I was glad to see in each of these kittens a great improvement in texture of coat. It seems a pity neither were males. The sire of Snow Queen was Powder Puff of Runnymede, of the old Minley strain.

Miss L'Estrange Walsh was much missed in the show world last season, her Whites all being absent.

As in Blacks, there is much room in White classes, both kittens and adults. Surely our only “blue-eyed” L.H. ought to appeal!

Mr. Yeates is the Hon. Sec. of the Black and White Club, and will, I am sure, welcome new members. The Club holds a number of Challenge Trophies.

### Next Week: No. 3. Blue L.H. Kittens.

Which owner holds the record of possessing the greatest number of “Living L.H. Champions?” I fancy Mrs. Yeates and Miss Evelyn Langston tie, with three apiece.

Mr. H. J. Aubrey is hoping to influence the M.C.C. to hold their 1928 Ch. Show in Bristol. This will be of benefit to our West of England Fanciers, and

he further hopes that they will do all they can to make the Show a thorough success.

Miss Bea M. Woods, of New Orleans, writes enthusiastically about the manner in which Messrs. Van Oppen shipped to her a Blue Persian from Miss Evelyn Langston. She says:—"I cannot sufficiently thank Messrs. Van Oppen for their manner of handling her. The journey had absolutely no effect on her spirits or health, as she stepped forth as though she had just been in the crate for a nap. I ascribe her good condition to the fact that her crate was kept in such sanitary condition."

MRS. OGLETHORPE is pleased to hear that the kitten, Twilight, she sold to the Maharajah of Kothapur has won prizes at Delhi and Calcutta. This was sister to the lovely Thistledown, and by Milord o' Mendip, ex Dewdrop of the Court. The two sisters were so alike that Mrs. Oglethorpe could hardly "tell t'other from which." Perdita is now due to have her first litter by Simeon of Westfield.

"OF THE MAKING OF books there is no end," and we hear that Mr. A. Bary-Saunders, now in Berlin, is contemplating a small illustrated work on cats, for which he will require some representative portraits.

### AN INDIAN CAT LEGEND.

(Discovered and translated by Fréret, of l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.)

AN Indian King, named Salangham, had at his Court a Brahmin and a Penitent, both celebrated for their virtue, which caused a rivalry between them leading to constant disputes. In the course of one of these arguments before the King the Brahmin declared one day that his virtue was pleasing to the god Parabaravaraston, a deity of the first class, by whose aid he could at will transport himself into one of the seven Heavens. The Penitent accepted the challenge, and the King, appointed arbiter, directed the Brahmin to penetrate the Heaven of Devendiren, and to bring thence a flower of the tree Parisadam, the mere scent of which confers immortality. The Brahmin saluted the King and took his leave, the whole Court expecting him to lose his wager, the Heaven of Devendiren being well known to be inaccessible to mortals. It is the dwelling-place of forty-eight million goddesses, who have for spouses twenty-four million gods, Devendiren being the chief; and the flower, Parisadam, of which he is very jealous, is the chief delight of this Heaven. The Penitent was dilating on these difficulties, and anticipating with joy the failure of his rival, when the Brahmin re-appeared with the sacred flower; he was received with homage by King and Court, but the Penitent refused this homage, saying that the King and Court were too easily pleased, and that he could, if he wished, send his Cat thither, confident that it would be received by Devendiren with distinction. Speaking thus, he sum-

moned his Cat Patripatan, and whispering in his ear, the Cat disappeared in the clouds to the wonder of the beholders, and entering the Heaven of Devendiren was received in the arms of the god with a thousand caresses.

So far the Penitent had succeeded admirably, but he now received a check, for the favourite goddess of Devendiren, smitten with love for Patripatan, would on no account agree to the departure of the Cat. This latter having explained the state of things to Devendiren, the god supported him, explaining how the absence of the Cat would reflect upon and affront the Penitent. The goddess refused to listen, and the best Devendiren could do was to obtain her promise to return the Cat to earth after a few centuries.

King Salangham meantime awaited with impatience the return of the Cat; the Penitent alone remained unmoved, and they waited for three centuries without inconvenience beyond that of suspense, for the Penitent, by the power of his goodness, prevented old age from attacking the witnesses. At the end of this period the sky suddenly became brilliant, and in the cloud of a thousand colours appeared a throne formed of the flowers of Devendiren.

The Cat was seated in majesty upon this throne, and on arriving near the King presented the Monarch with an entire branch bearing the flowers of Parisadam. The whole Court shouted "Victory." The Penitent was congratulated, but the Brahmin disputed his triumph, representing that the virtue of the Penitent was not to be given credit for this success, it being known how favourable were Devendiren and his favourite goddess to the Cats, so that without doubt half the credit was due solely to the Cat Patripatan. The King, on considering this argument, dared not decide between the Brahmin and the Penitent, but all united in admiration for Patripatan, and ever after this illustrious Cat was one of the chiefest ornaments of the Court, and supped every evening on the shoulder of the Monarch.

(Translated from the French by H. C. B.)

### BIRTHS.

May 31st.—Mrs. Carew-Cox's Abyssinian Empress Zaudita, three kittens by Owner's Ras Isis.

June 9th.—Major E. S. Woodiwiss's Woodroffe Juliana, 3 kittens by Mrs. H. Basnett's Croham Bois Bois.

May 28.—Miss Langton's Weemena, 4 fine kittens (2 blue males, 2 black females) by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's Hendon Eastbury Boglie.

### VISIT.

June 9th.—Mrs. Hindley's Ch. Prestwick Perak to Owner's Simzo.

### DEATH.

May 29th, 1927.—Miss Busted's imported queen, Georgette, of pneumonia.

## CATS IN THE SEVENTIES.

By MISS NANCY RICHARDSON.

How many people remember Gordon Stables to-day, I wonder? Schoolboys perhaps, as some of his numerous stories are again and again reprinted at Christmastime. Some of us who had elder brothers or younger uncles will remember him in the "Boys' Own Paper," where he ran an instructive "Answers to Correspondence" on pets. How well I remember one piece of excellent advice: "Get your pet's home all ready before getting your pet."

But this is merely introductory to the fact that he wrote a little handbook, called "The Domestic Cat," also a larger book on the same subject. My copy of the first has the date 1876 written in it.

Times change, and we with them; and especially when it comes to cats. What would we lovers of Manx and Siamese think of this dictum to-day? "There are other odd cats, such as the Manx or tailless cat, the hybrid, the six-clawed cat, and some curiously coloured animals . . . these have no right to have classes of their own, any more than black-and-tan Newfoundlands, or kittens with eight legs"! We have altered a little since 1876!

On classification for shows he gives the following hints:

- I. Long-haired cats, any colour, male or female.
- II. Short-haired black, and black and white, and white.

III. Short-haired tabbies, any colour.

IV. S.H. tortoiseshell and tortoise and white.

V. Anomalous, as Manx, etc.

What a Paradise for the short-hair lover, but I think short-hairs were better and more regarded in those days.

Gordon Stables give a chapter to each colour of S.H. cats, and a scale of points for each, with varying qualities of pelage for each colour, varying sizes of ears, and also some have 15 points for size, and some colours only five, and so on, with varying shapes of head and nose to each colour. What a time the judges must have had. He was a judge himself, I believe.

All long-haired cats he classes in a lump as Asiatic. Blue and whites are the smallest, then blacks, and then tabbies—which last, he says, were of an immense size, and especially mentions a tabby belonging to Troppman, a distinguished murderer! The head should be small, round and sweet, expression kind and loving. Ears with aural tuft, slightly bent downwards and forwards. He thinks long-haired cats make far nicer pets. They are extremely affectionate and loving, so beautiful and cleanly. "You can seldom pick up a good kitten at a show under one pound sterling." Oh, good Dr. Gordon Stables, could you only re-visit the Crystal Palace in this year of grace, 1927!

On feeding. Porridge and milk the staple food.

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On diseases. He is sound and sensible enough, but to my mind encourages the amateur to take too much upon himself. Gordon Stables was a naval surgeon, so could operate and dose with some knowledge.

In this chapter he gives two words of warning in italics: "Never ask a veterinary surgeon about your cat"; "If you want your pussy killed or tormented to death, go to a chemist."

Even nowadays, when knowledge of cats is more advanced, there is still truth in these sayings. We know there are brilliant exceptions, but in the experience of many of us, how few in number. G. S. says of veterinary surgeons in general that their knowledge of cat diseases is nil (i.e., in the 'seventies).

He gives many little stories of cats proving their intelligence, their great love of master or mistress. One he vouches for, where a tortoiseshell cat brought her ailing master, a Scotch ploughman, a freshly-killed rabbit, or a bird, and these she brought until he was well, and then brought no more. Cats were badly treated and despised by the majority in those far-off days, and Gordon Stables does all he can to show how loving and worthy of our love and care is our friend the cat.

He has a chapter on breeding and rearing for show, and a terrible chapter on cruelty to cats. Things are a little better to-day, we must admit, but, alas, cruelty is still with us, and very often through sheer ignorance and lack of imagination.

I would advise any "Cat Gossiper" who sees a little white book, "The Domestic Cat," on the 3d. box at the second-hand bookstall, to spend the few coppers, and read what this true lover of our friends had to say about them and their ways.

"May not the time come, in the distant future, when a larger variety of feline animals shall become fashionable—when domesticated tigers, tame lions, or pet ocelots shall be the rage? If so, that will, indeed, be the millennium for cats!" I think this last sentence will please our Editor?

### CAT CALLS.

THE EDITOR, "CAT GOSSIP."

IN answer to Miss Busted's inquiry re Angora Blue, I would like to say that an "Angora Blue" is only the Blue Persian. In America Persians are still frequently called Angoras, and until fairly recently "lay" folk called them Angoras in this country. When my mother married the late Countess of Portsmouth gave her an "Angora" which she had bred. My mother told me that this was a dark Chinchilla, and a very big and long-coated animal.

EVELYN LANGSTON.

## THE AMERICAN BOB-TAIL CAT. A MYSTERY.

### IS IT IDENTICAL WITH THE MANX?

THE American bob-tail cat is by no means to be confounded with the "bobcat,"\* often mentioned in Western literature, including, if I remember rightly, in one of Mark Twain's inimitable stories. The latter is the little American lynx, and very frequently tamed. The American bob-tail cat appears to be something of a mystery. It will be observed that one of the legends explanatory of its presence attributes it to the escape from a shipwreck of two Manx cats. Now, one of the theories which have been propounded to explain the existence of the Manx cat, was that they were the descendants of some cats which escaped from a Spanish ship, wrecked on "Spanish Rock," after the destruction of the Armada. These progenitors of the Manx might well have been descendants of the Malay cat; and in my article in January, on this curious animal, the cousin of the lordly Siamese, I mentioned a theory which has been advanced to account for its caudal abnormalities. It does, however, to my mind, seem rather improbable that America should owe its tailless cats to shipwrecked Manx, and the Isle of Man owe its tailless cats to shipwrecked Malays! Once this might be quite feasible, but hardly twice, the coincidence seems to me too remarkable. Miss Helen Brown, former editor of "The Cat Review," has kindly collected for me some correspondence bearing on the subject, which, I think, may well be quoted in extenso.

#### From "Cat Review," January, 1925:

"A curious and interesting case of American bob-tail or, if we may apply the name, American Manx cats, has been under our observation for twenty years. No one knows how the first one, a large tabby and white cat, came to be without a tail. Some people insisted that it had been hurt in a door, but its home family said, not so. Others said that it had Manx blood, but no one knew of any Manx cat having been in that part of the country. Others said that its mother must have mated with a rabbit, and certainly there were plenty of rabbits around, but this is thought to be impossible. The cat had many litters of kittens, some with tails, some with half tails, and some with none; a mixture in each litter, but never a male without a tail.

(To be continued.)

\* The bobcat is a small species of Lynx, often kept as a pet.—Ed.

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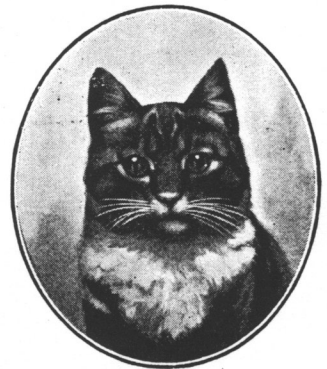
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