

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

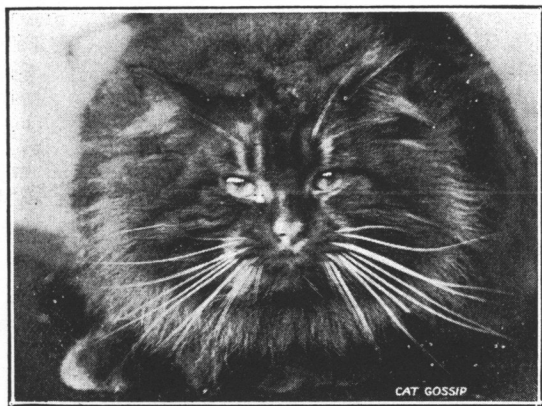
Phone: Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 39

AUGUST 31st, 1927

Price 3d., post free



MISS E. M. HILL'S RED STUD, "WHATMER."

MISS HILL may well be proud of having bred such a grand cat as is Whatmer, whose portrait appears above. A son of Ch. Shazada, ex Ch. Princess Salyana, he bids fair to do all honour to his illustrious breeding. Though not yet 2½ years old, he has already three firsts, a Challenge Certificate, and other good prizes to his credit, including the Brown and Wilson Silver Cup for best L.H. male in Show and Breeders' Silver Cup, both won at Kentish Town last January.

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAL.

Miss Fitzwilliam writes: "I was interested in the remarks in 'Cat Gossip' about animals selecting their mates. My Semiramis for three years never bred at all, refusing to let any cat come near her, though I sent her several times to stud cats. Then she took a fancy to a great ugly tabby, a family of three blacks and a grey resulting. She was especially fond of the grey. Once again the same thing occurred, and this time I had the grey and two blacks destroyed. She was so disgusted at losing the grey kit that she hardly looked at the remaining black one. She fed it perfunctorily, and would not sit with it, so after a few days I had it put away too, and she never bothered to look for it. Since then she has proved an excellent and devoted mother, but I had

to buy Brian de Listinoise to get her accustomed to him, or I should never have got any Siamese kits, I am sure." Another little lesson for queen owners who are always ready to blame the stud! Miss Fitzwilliam fears that the kitten advertised in "Cat Gossip" will be terribly missed by both her mother and elder sister, as they are quite inseparable. It always seems to us so sad when one is forced to break up these affectionate family groups.

Mrs. French (Horsham) has four nice kittens by Bonzo out of an imported chocolate queen given by a Siamese as his most precious treasure. Four of the infants are snowy white and two café au lait, three with very decided kinks. It is hoped they will be seen at The Show (of which, by the way, an advertisement appears elsewhere). Mrs. French is bringing up three baby parrots, whose mother flew away when they were three days old. They are fed every three hours, and have a hot-water bottle renewed at the same time. One of them dances with joy all the time he is eating off the spoon. They are fed on Ovaltine rusks, and never attempt to eat out of turn. They are now 5½ weeks, so we hope Mrs. French will rear them successfully; we think it very rare for baby parrots to be reared thus.

We shall publish a full report of the Siamese Show, by the judges, Mrs. Bassett and Mrs. Wade, in our issue of September 28th. Please note entries close September 5th.

Mrs. Hindley is leaving for Switzerland to-day, but hopes (avalanches and landslides permitting) to be back in time for the show. Mrs. Charles Fitzgerald, who is returning to Sidmouth after having spent several months in Ireland, is very distressed at having had her Siamese stolen, apparently by trippers from Dublin. It is, of course, Mr. A. Percival who is to be referee at the Club Show, not Mrs., as stated by a printer's error.

Gossip of the Week.

WE mentioned recently that L. G. M., the well-known "Zoo" writer of the "Daily Mail," had published in that paper an appeal to anyone possessing information as to the legendary (?) Drop-Eared Chinese Cat to reveal it. A Worthing correspondent wrote:—"The Drop-Eared Cat is not extinct; there

is a fine specimen to be seen in Worthing." We wrote for information, and the owner of the cat, Mrs. Drage, informs us that it is a British cat, about thirteen months old. Its ears have always been the same since she first had it as a young kitten. The ears are not very long, but the tips appear exactly in line with the top of the base of the ear. This would appear then to be a kind of freak, of a sort we have not seen before; and it would seem probable that the Chinese Drop-Eared Cats were not a distinct species or variety, but very possibly a strain of cats, inheriting a similar peculiarity, just in the manner, for instance, of Miss Oldfield Howey's polydactyle cats. These may have been noticed by an early traveller; and the strain probably became extinct a long time ago. We shall hope to learn in due course if this cat produces any with similar peculiarities. The fact that Miss "Joan Conquest," the well-known novelist, observed a mural painting in a Buddhist Temple in North China, depicting a feline animal with similar ears, in no way invalidates this theory, and the artist may have seen cats of this strain, and been struck by their appearance. Domestication produces great changes on the ears of some animals, notably the dog and the rabbit; it would be interesting to know if this specimen is the fore-runner of a race of cats to be evolved with hanging ears. The cat, domesticated for over 4,000 years, has as yet undergone the minimum of modification. We are pleased to learn that Madame Pereyrol is delighted with three cream kittens by Budge of Hanley, ex Vanity Fair o' the Coombe, which she purchased from Miss Langhorne (Chard) through the medium of "Cat Gossip."

SANDY KITTEN SHOW, 1927.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

A quick run, by a fine service of trains, from King's Cross, brings us to the quaint village of Sandy, with its thatched cottages and pine woods. The River Ivar runs at the lower end of the Park, kindly lent for the Show by Mrs. Graves, whose beautiful Georgian house overlooks the merry scenes, and a merry scene it was yesterday, notwithstanding St. Swithin's damping influences! The sun shone later in the day, as a reward to those who had so bravely arranged everything for the comfort of exhibitors. The marquees were simply magnificent, and the varied exhibits most interesting. Mr. F. W. Western was here, there, and everywhere, very proud of the bumper entry, due to his own hard work and his many willing friends and workers. This Show was the 54th held at Sandy, and boasted an increase of 812 entries over and above last year. Alas! that I should have to admit that "we" of the Cat Fancy were the only laggards! Always asking for a Summer Show, why do we not support it when given? One of our very best judges—an enormous airy tent—clean new pens—fresh woodwork, with charming surroundings—the inner man catered for, what could we want more? Are we too hard to please?

exhibitors and friends of the Fancy who did attend the Show, at any rate made up their minds that if it was their first visit to Sandy it should not be their last.

The exhibits, numbering 33, that did find their way to Sandy, were of a premier quality. That picture L.H. blue kitten whom I mentioned in last issue, Colneside Carol's Fairy, Carol's first siring from Mrs. Bateman's Nona, gained the coveted honour of best kitten in the Show, and it was delightful to see the pleasure of her owner, Mrs. Bazeley, who reminded us all that Fairy is a granddaughter of her special pet, Ch. Billy, whom in colour and shape she much resembles. The best S.H. kitten fell to Mrs. F. W. Western's Rosa, a lovely tortie and white, of brilliant colouring and well distributed patches. She and Tossie looked like two beautifully executed pieces of patchwork—vivid and wonderful; personally, I like Tossie best. During the day the cat tent was a great attraction to visitors, and I hope many will adopt the Fancy. Our little paper, "Cat Gossip," was very popular, and obtained some fresh subscribers. One lady, owning a handsome smoke queen, hopes to start breeding from a good sire in the near future.

We request readers kindly remember, in perusing the following awards that "Special Prizes" are confined to the various clubs' members only, so that results and nomenclature are somewhat misleading to novices. My advice is join the clubs if you wish to win their trophies.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Sandy Silver Medal—Mrs. Yeend, Mab of Bredon. B.P.C.S. Silver Ch. Cup, Best Blue Male Kitten—Mrs. Yeend, Ray of Bredon. B.P.C.S. Silver Ch. Cup, Best Blue Female Kitten—Mrs. Bazeley, Colneside Carol's Fairy. Siamese Cat Club's Bronze Medal, Best Kitten—Misses M. and N. Webb, Misty Moon of Morton. M.C.C. Club Special, for Best Male—Ray of Bredon. Ditto, Best Female—Mab of Bredon. Black and White C.C. Silver Spoon, Best Black Kitten—Mrs. Sidney Evans, Heathside Sunny. N.C.C. Silver Spoon, Best L.H.—Mrs. Bazeley, Carol's Fairy. Ditto, S.H.—Mrs. Western, Rosa. Southern C.C.C. Silver Coffee Spoon, Best L.H. Kitten—Carol's Fairy. Short Hair C.S. Silver Spoon, Best S.H. Bred by Exhibitor—Mrs. Western, Rosa. Croydon C.S. Spoon, Best Reserve S.H. Kitten—Misses Webb, Misty Morn. Chin, and S.S.S. Spoon, Best Female Kitten—Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Day Dream.

L.H. CLASSIFICATION.

Judge: Miss Langston.

BLACK M. OR F.—1, Mrs. Sidney Evans, Heathside Sunny; 2, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Hendon Black Giulia; 3, Mrs. Kennaway, Garb. Lulu. WHITE M. OR F.—No entry. BLUE MALE—1, Mrs. Yeend, Ray of Bredon; 2, Miss J. B. Langton, Warder; 3, Mr. Freeman, Balburnie; r, Mrs. M. Spencer, Caerdydd. BLUE MALE—1, Mrs. Bazeley, Colneside Carol's Fairy; 2, Mrs. Yeend, Pixie of Bredon; 3, Miss J. B. Langton, Weigelia; r, Mrs. Spencer, Cairios. BLUE BREEDERS—1, Warder; 2, Pixie; 3, Weigelia; r, Mr. F. Wickings-Smith, Arabella Bink. BLUE NOVICE—1, Carol's Fairy; 2, Ray; 3, Warder; r, Pixie. BLUE PAIRS—1, Langton; 2, Spencer. RED TABBY—No entries. TORTIE OR TORTIE AND WHITE, M. OR F.—1, Mrs. Kennaway, Garb. Moth; 2, Mrs. Western, Razdaz. CREAM, M. OR F.—1, Mrs. Yeend, Mab of Bredon; 2, Mrs. Yeend, Mirza of Bredon; 3, Mrs. Kennaway, Garb. Spray; r, Mrs. Yeend, Monty of Bredon. CHIN, MALE—No entries. CHIN, FEMALE—1, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Day Dream; 2, Langherne Belle; 3, Langherne Mollie; r, Mrs. Sharman, Zoe of Coryton. A.O.C.—Cancelled. A.C. BREEDERS, ex BLUE, M. OR F.—1, Day Dream;

2, Belle; 3, Mirza; r, Mollie. A.C. NOVICE, ex BLUE, M. OR F.—1, Mab; 2, Day Dream; 3, Mollie; r, Giulia. A.C. LIMIT, M. OR F.—1, Mab; 2, Day Dream; 3, Balburnie; r, Razdaz. A.C. OPEN—1, Mab; 2, Day Dream; 3, Balburnie; r, Razdaz.

SHORTHAIR CLASSIFICATION.

SIAMESE, M. OR F.—1, Misses Webb, Misty Moon of Morton; 2, Mrs. Johnson, Marshgate Blo'm; 3, Mrs. Johnson, Marshgate Bonzo. A.O.C., OPEN, M. OR F.—1, Mrs. Western, Rosa; 2, Tossie. A.V. KITTEN, L. OR S.H.—1, Mab; 2, Day Dream; 3, Ray; r, Razdaz. A.V. L.H.—1, Mab; 2, Day Dream; 3, Pixie; r, Balburnie. A.V. S.H.—1, Rosa; 2, Tossie.

CATS AND JOURNALISTS.

By F. E. LEANING.

There is no doubt that a special bond of affection exists between people who write and cats. Quite apart from the many famous authors who are familiar to us as possessing them as pets and friends, most cat-lovers will have noticed how frequently we meet with anecdotes, or paragraphs of news, or short essays, or letters from readers in the general press which turn out cat news of some sort. Sometimes they have a whole column or more, as in the famous case a year or two ago when some pigeons were killed. The law decided that though the cat was a domestic animal, it was also wild, and could not be restrained in one place, like a dog. That cat was "mentioned in despatches," and the Editor of the "Sunday Express" himself wrote on him. Many a journalist of established reputation has done the like.

Mr. Michael Joseph wrote a short story on "Smoochie"; "Punch" has had cat poems which were not humorous, but tender and graceful; Mr. Peter Simple, of the "Morning Post," gets in some nice catty anecdote, such as that about Valentine, the son of Poppet, or Binks, son of Fluffy, who help their mothers with the kittens. Just lately there have been several home-finding cats which walk long distances, in his column; but it really began with the cat in the "Evening Standard," which walked back fifteen miles to its home, when given away.

Then the number of cat-lovers is shown by all those letters from the general public about their cats. One writes of his cat's intelligence, another of her cat's kindness to a starving friend, a third to say that he has a nut-eating cat, a fourth speaks of his cat's age, and immediately we hear of all the old cats in England whose proud owners will not let their own be out-shown. The number of famous or less than famous people whose pictures appear with their cats in their arms or at their sides is astonishing. The magazines especially devoted to animals give cats, now, a far larger share of attention than thirty years ago. I have seen a dozen charming cat biographies in a very few volumes of the "Animal's Friend" and "Animal World."

The fact is, the cat has plenty of idiosyncrasies, and with intellectual people who really love them and draw them out, they outshine dogs in many ways.



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In conclusion I should like to mention the treatment of the cat by journalists who run the children's corner in some papers. There is a surprising amount of charm and talent shown in the "Peter and Pit-pat" series of drawings of the black and white kittens in one. In another the verses are delicious. The "Moonmist Man" writes thus in "Bill's Farm":—

Now Bill has also got one cat,
For, on the farm, there is one rat
Who nibbles up the horse's oats
And bites the whiskers off the goats.
Bill often tells the cat to try
To catch him, but the cat says: "Why!
That big brown rat's my greatest friend."

In the "Evening Standard" (where Peter and Pit Pat play) there was a tiny poem called "Tootums," which has fairly haunted me, and I must really do it justice by including it. It is by E. L. R.

The Fairy Queen has a fairy cat,
With a coat of bluish grey,
And a fairy has to comb it out
And brush it every day.
The fairies all share the combing,
And they're usually in the wars,
For Tootums, although a fairy cat,
Has very unfairy claws!

[Note by Ed.—We are pained to observe no mention of "Beachcomber," of the "Daily Express," in the above!]

THE CAT IN HERALDRY.

Translated by the Editor from the French of
"Notre Ami le Chat" (P. Mégnin).

The cat, if but comparatively rarely, takes its place amongst the remarkable collection of animals which we find portrayed in heraldry. An old French writer on heraldic matters relates the following fable. At the moment of the creation of the world, the sun and the moon wished to rival each other in peopling the world with animals. The sun, great and fiery, created the lion, handsome, full of fire and nobility. The moon, seeing the other gods admiring the fine work of the sun, caused a cat to appear out of the earth, which, however, was as inferior in courage and beauty as is she herself inferior to her sire. This caused ridicule and indignation—ridicule on the part of the witnesses, and indignation on the part of the sun, who, annoyed at the moon presuming to attempt to put herself on a level with him, created, in contempt, a mouse. And, as her sex will never own itself to have lost, made her look still more ridiculous by the production of the most ridiculous animal of all—the monkey—which caused unbounded laughter. The moon, the red mounting like fire into her face, as when she threatens us with a storm or a terrific wind, in a final effort to avenge herself upon the sun, caused an eternal hatred to arise between the monkey and the lion, and the cat and the mouse. Hence the only advantage which we have from the cat.

In his work "La Vraie et Parfaite Science des

Armoiries" (another old French writer), Palliot says that the Romans often made use of the cat in their banners and ensigns. The company of soldiery, Ordinis Augusti, who marched under a colonel of infantry, bore a green cat on white or silver ground. Another company, called the Felices Seniories, displayed half a cat, red upon a pink shield. A third feline shield, displaying a cat with one eye and one ear visible, was borne by the Alpine troops.

The leopards which the Normans transmitted in their coat-of-arms to the English, were probably cats in the first place. For the Suevi, the Vandals, and the Alani, who also bore sable cats, the cat was symbolic of liberty.

The Burgundians displayed a cat in their arms. Clothilde, wife of King Clovis, bore on gold a sable cat killing a rat.

The old Germany house of Katzen bore a silver cat holding a house, on azure field.

The Neapolitan lord of the House of Della Gatta displayed a silver cat on azure.

The Limousin family, La Chetardie, bore two silver cats, one above the other, on azure.

Many other instances could be cited from the arms of European families. But in proportion, as one leaves the Middle Ages behind, the cat comes to signify independence. A cat was the sign of the Venetian printers, des Sessa, in the 16th century. The first French Republic added the cat to its banner, placing it at the side of the Statue of Liberty. Prudhon, the Republican painter, composed a curious allegory of the Constitution: Wisdom, represented by Minerva and associated with Law and Liberty. Behind Law, children leading a lion and a lamb coupled together. Liberty held a pike surmounted by a Phrygian cap; at her feet a cat was sitting.

The reign of the cat ended with that of the Republic; it degenerated then to the symbol of perfidy. The frontispiece of an old work, "Les Crimes des Papes," showed at the feet of the Pope a cat, as emblem of treason and hypocrisy.

The cat then, when displayed at all, was mostly found acting, not as the sign of noble houses, but as that of shopkeepers and tradesmen, the cat in boots becoming a favourite sign of the bootmaking guild.

Note.—We described in a previous number that the old English inn sign, Cat and Fiddle, was a corruption of the French chat fidèle (faithful cat).

BIRTHS.

August 3rd.—Mrs. Brambald's **Yuki**, five kittens;
August 13th.—Mrs. Hindley's **Ch. Prestwick Perak**, five male kittens; both by Mrs. Hindley's **Simzo**.
August 20th.—Miss H. Hill-Shaw's **Lady Golden Eyes**, two male kittens by Mrs. Wade's **John of Bedale**.
August 17th.—Miss M. Hobbs' **Spring Daffodil**, six kittens by Mrs. Basnett **Croham Boi-Bois** (Siamese).
August 21st.—Miss A. Tussaud's **Chakrilu**, six kittens by Mrs. Basnett's **Croham Boi-Bois**.
August 25th.—Miss Leatherdale's **Little Puma**, four kittens by Miss Busted's **Jimbois** (Siamese).
August 15th.—Miss Jones' **Dinky Blue Girlie**, three lovely kits by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Phantis**.

WHAT READERS SAY.

"Renewing my subscription must thank you for the interesting and varied items you place before the Fancy, who are indebted to you for supplying a long-felt want."—(Mrs.) B. Roberts, Formby.

"It is just such articles as yours, dealing with the character and lore of cats, which mark the great difference between 'Cat Gossip' and other papers!" (Misses) Prichard and Norrie.

"Miss Hotson likes the paper very much."

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ADVERTISEMENTS. Displayed Adverts., Stud or others, **3/6** per inch, cash, up to 4 insertions: 4 to 13 insertions **3/4** inch: 13 and upwards **2/9** inch. Standing Advs. of Cat Clubs, 35 words, **2/6.** Sales, Wants, &c., **1d.** per word, minimum **1/6.**

PORTRAITS. Cats standing at Stud (not less than 5 insertions) can have their portraits published for the price of block and postage. Block becomes property of owner. Portrait may be repeated within the year for inclusive fee of **One Guinea.** For Cats not advertised at Stud the Portrait Fee with Block will be **2/1-**

All Correspondence to be sent to the Editor, H. C. BROOKE, BISHOP'S HULL, TAUNTON.

Assist. Editor, London Agency and Book Reviews: M. Sheridan-Jones, 11, Tunley Road, London, S.W. 17.

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SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

The ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW of the above Club will be held at PHILBEACH GARDENS HALL, EARL'S COURT, S.W., on WEDNESDAY, September 21st. Doors open 12.30 o'clock. Admission 2/-; to View Judging, 10 o'clock, 2/- extra.

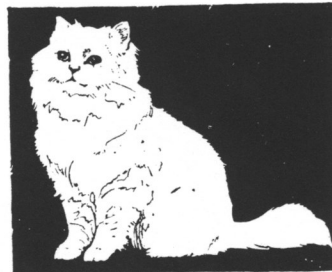
The Adult Classes will be judged by Mrs. Bassett, and the Kittens by Mrs. Wade. The Show closes at 6.30 p.m. Anyone wishing for extra Schedules, kindly apply to me. The Entries Close Sept. 5th. Any alteration or information necessary for Exhibitors will be published in "Cat Gossip" and "Fur and Feather." Please Note.—E. C. BUSTEED (Hon. Sec.), 20, Queensway, Hanworth.

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WHATMER.

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