

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## LONG-HAIR LORE AND WEEKLY GOSSIP.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

Royalty has ever been the champion of the cat, as long ago as the 10th century, by an Edict of Howel the Good, a Welsh Prince of those days, anyone who stole or killed a cat which guarded the King's granary was to forfeit an ewe with its fleece and its lamb, or as much wheat as would form a pile sufficient to cover the cat when held up by the tail, with its nose touching the ground. These fines or punishments of old days were weighty ones, present-day magistrates pray read, mark, and learn.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Cat Protection League, I was glad to learn the Society is widening its bounds, and establishing new working centres. The magic lantern slides of cat studies shown to the school children by Mrs. Avery much interested me, for what the child learns the adult remembers, and the roughness of children with animals is more than often mere thoughtlessness. I was pleased to see Mr. Ernest Bell, the Treasurer, looking so well; he has done much in the cause of suffering animals, and is, incidentally, a resident of Hendon.

Miss Hotson is busy among her pets, and working on line breeding to obtain again some of those handsome brown tabbies of the days of yore. Madcap II. has presented her with a nice brown tabby female kitten by Ch. Garb. Mascot, and Mollie Malone, that veteran lady, daughter of Ch. Surprise Packet, who was grandson to that Grand B.T., Ch. Brayfort Victor, is soon making a nest for the babes of Guards Brigade. I believe Brayfort Victor also shows in Mollie Malone's pedigree, so Miss Hotson seems out for success. If Miss Hotson's health will permit, I have asked her to write us an article on "Are the Brownies worth reviving?" So readers must watch for her reply.

Sir Sidney Eardley-Wilmot, in "An Admiral's Memories," tells an abundance of cheery stories. One of the best concerns Lord Beatty's "cat"

squadron of battle cruisers, and a visit of the late Queen Alexandra to the Tiger, which was in the squadron. Her Majesty desired to go over this fine vessel, so she went on board and made a lengthy inspection of her. Having completed it she expressed her admiration. While she was resting in the Captain's cabin he told her they were of the "cat" class. She asked him if there were any more "cats?" "Yes, your Majesty," he replied without thinking, "there are the Queen Mary and the Princess Royal." I wish that some member of the R.N. would give us further information on these "fighting cats," and the reason why the synonym "Cat" was bestowed upon them?

Re the question in a previous issue, Miss Grayton, of Yorkshire, says she formerly possessed a cat who carried her tail on her back exactly as does a squirrel—tightly right up her spine, especially so when running. As she grew out of kittenhood this cat would put her tail down occasionally, but never when in rapid motion. Thus we have heard of several cats of this "ilk," which must evidently be a freak of Nature, or a "throw back" to some unknown ancestry.

Mrs. Furniss was judge at the Prescott (Lancs) Show this week. For some time this cat lover, through illness, has been debarred from showing her pets, but that immense red tabby, Ch. Rutland Reddy, will long be remembered, and Mrs. Furniss owned, to my mind, one of the sweetest of torties, named Wallflower.

Speaking of reds and torties, we hope Mrs. S. E. Tomlinson will have some of her kittens to show at Kensington in July. She still has, I believe, that nice brood queen, Lady Maythorpe, who only requires a splash or two of warmer colouring to dispute with the best.

The Eton and Harrow match, at Lords, is tempting Mrs. Kennaway to desert leafy Dorset and spend a short time in Town. She leaves behind her at Stephen's Plot, Spetisbury, two young tortoiseshell and white queens, new acquisitions, and most promis-

ing—Bobby Dazzle, with one T. and W. daughter, and three litters of brown tabbies by Ch. Garb. Mascot. The latter Mrs. Kennaway hopes will help to fill the Autumn brown tabby classes. Beside the above, I hear Anemone and Rose Ann are both busy mothering kittens, but, unfortunately, Poppy's family, by Cream Conqueror, arrived too soon on the scene, and Poppy is only now pulling round.

Will the subscriber who was kind enough to give me many useful hints send me the recipe for making "nettle broth," which she tells me is so useful and beneficial to our pets—cooling their blood and getting rid of hair balls.

Our American cousins no doubt are familiar with the "cat-bird," but to many of us the name itself is quite unknown. He is a thrush-like bird, passing the Winter in the Southern States, and migrating Northward in Spring. His length is about 9 inches, upper surface blackish gray or slate colour, paler beneath. The cat-bird is allied to the mocking-bird, and has considerable power of mimicry. When annoyed its note is like the "mew" of the cat.

#### THE DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Next week a few hints relative to pets and their Summer treatment, and later, near the Kensington Kitten Show perhaps, some explanations regarding terms in schedules—what to remember and what to avoid.

Ellinor Davenport Adams wrote many books, including "A Queen Among Girls," "A Girl of Today," "The Disagreeable Duke," and others. Those who have found pleasure in her works will delight in the following verses from her pen:—

#### SYNOPSIS.

[Cara Carissima, even when a tiny thing, was devoted to Silver King Tommy, a silver tabby neuter, whom she would follow like a little shadow, preferring his capricious temper to the gentler language of Prince Pearl. Her sons divided, but never deflected her life-long selfless love.]

#### CARA'S SONG.

Cara sings—

In glorious coat of silken sheen,  
Set out with broad black bands,  
High on the fence, with noble mien,  
My love, King Thomas, stands;  
Oh, how my spirit swells with pride,  
My heart with love beats high;  
What Queen of all the world beside  
Owns such a King as I?  
They brought to me a Pearly Prince,  
Mild were his eyes of blue,  
And gently strove they to convince  
Here is the Prince for you.  
King Tom, you know, you cannot wed,  
A bachelor is he;  
And so, your maiden heart, why give  
Where you no bride may be?

Ha, ha, I laughed, in silken sheen,  
Set out with broad black bands,  
High on the fence, with gallant mien,  
My love, King Thomas, stands;  
Ah! how my spirit swells with pride  
My heart with joy beats high;  
For well I know, if he be there,  
No danger can come nigh!

Nay, nay, they said, forsake King Tom,  
Him of the roving eye!  
North, South, East, West, his eagle glance  
Seeks the foe endlessly!  
See how the gentle Pearly Prince  
In courtly fashion woo's;  
High-bred, in coat of snowy silk,  
He bends and humbly sues!

Oh, sweeter far than princely smile  
I'd have a Royal scowl!  
And softer than a simpering tongue  
To me a Monarch's growl!  
How shines his coat of silver sheen,  
How gleams his bold green eye!  
In all the world what favoured Queen  
Owns such a King as I!

\* \* \* \* \*

I gave, to please my mother dear,  
My hand, but not my heart,  
For nothing ever thought or planned  
Me from my King could part.  
I turned me from that silken coat,  
I scorned those eyes of blue,  
And sought again my Royal love,  
To whom my heart beat true.

\* \* \* \* \*

What are these balls of softest down  
That hold me in my nest?  
These tiny heads, so sweet and round  
That cuddle at my breast?  
How pure each coat of snowy white,  
How blue each dewy eye,  
What mother blest in all the world  
Owns two such babes as I!  
Oh height, oh depth of ecstasy,  
Oh wonder born of love!  
Oh priceless joy of motherhood,  
All maiden bliss above!

In glorious coat of silken sheen,  
Set out with broad black bands,  
High on the fence, with royal mien,  
My love, King Thomas, stands;  
Oh, how my spirit swells with pride,  
My heart with joy beats high!  
What mother blest, all earth beside,  
Owns two such sons as I!

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For the above beautiful poem we are indebted to the kindness of Mrs. Ballingall, sister of the authoress, and "Cat Gossip" tenders her sincere thanks.

#### IMPORTANT PURCHASES.

Daphne of Coryton, that lovely red self Persian, who closed her winning kitten career last season, has now become the property of Mrs. Cattermole, who intends taking up colour breeding. Azure of Hadley, whose mother, Veeney, Miss Greta King's brood queen, is well known on the show bench, is also a recent asset.



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## SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY P. WADE.

Last week I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of one of our new members, Miss Hume, of Finchley. She has a very lovely queen, called Goblin, which she bought from Miss Stent, bred the same way as that beautiful little lady, Herself. Goblin is the proud mother of one of the best litters of five that I have seen for a very long time. I was extremely interested to see these kittens, as they are sired by Mrs. Calvert's Champion Tai Long, and are the first of his that I have seen. If these can be taken as a fair sample Ch. Tai Long is, indeed, a valuable asset to the Siamese world. The kits were ten weeks old, very big and strong, nice pale coats, good shaped heads, but **what eyes** four of them have! Great big violet blue eyes—really the most wonderful colour. Miss Hume is selling the lot, and cheaply, too. I trust they go to fanciers, for unless they "go off" considerably they should certainly do well at this year's shows.

The following is some interesting news very kindly sent me by that most successful and well known breeder and exhibitor, Mrs. Ellaby: "My news is scarce. Both my queens have disappointed me, and I shall have nothing to show in July. Princess Cleo evidently thought she had done her duty by having two bumper families last year, and has taken a rest. However, Ch. Bonzo's owner has kindly allowed me

a second visit, and her ladyship looks more promising, besides being in rude and sleek health. Poor little Bello was not well enough to mate with Mrs. Bassett's Flying Gentleman. Instead of mating her that kind owner nursed her on a hot bottle until an abscess broke and her pain subsided, and then brought her home by road. Now this little lady is getting quite lively and well, and sings all day long in a pleasant way. My neuter, The Street Boy, is the only other Siamese I have now—a very small and three-cornered family. My very dear Moth has gone to Mrs. Triefus (Hampstead), who was simply determined to have him when she read in 'Cat Gossip' that he was left on my hands. She required a kitten with very light coat, very blue eyes, and a stainless character. He must not tease the babies, or tear the silk curtains, or eat the canaries! As I could not promise the three latter qualifications, he went on the condition that he was to be returned at the end of a week if not suitable. I secretly hoped he would eat the babies, or do something dreadful, but, alas! when I 'phoned to ask how he was getting on the reply was: 'Everybody loves him!' I hope to have him for the holidays. His brother, Horley King, has been here for three weeks while his adoring owners were away from home. He is a fine big chap, with perfect manners and health, though he nearly died after the C.P. Show. He thoroughly enjoyed his visit, and thought all time wasted not spent in the garden, and Miss Oakley is very pleased with the results of his country holiday."

## PRESCOT SHOW, MAY 24, 1928.

The Prescott Agricultural Show was held in delightful weather, and was a most successful event. I was delighted very much with the most beautiful exhibits in the Cat and Kitten Section; also I feel greatly indebted to my steward, Mrs. Gradwell, in the way the exhibits were handled; in fact, everyone was so very kind to me. I was glad to meet so many real cat lovers there, including Mrs. Elliot, Miss Wrench, Miss Lowe, Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Jarvis, Mrs. Danby, Miss Buckley, Miss Eastwood, Mr. Hough, and Mr. Kuhnel. Entries were very good considering, and quality was A 1, especially the kitten class under six months, which, I am pleased to say, needed some separating at last. I felt, indeed, the six-weeks-old baby kits must have something more done for them. I am delighted to say two of our rabbit stewards came forward and granted me the help I required in giving me an extra second and an extra third; I felt then I could not really do them justice. Now for my classes.

Blue Long-hair Adult, male (6 entries)—1st, Mrs. Strizaker (beautiful and taking exhibit, grand head, eye, and bone, penned in A1 condition); 2nd, Miss Roby (another good one); 3rd, Miss Lowe (fine massive cat, but not quite in as good a coat as the others); reserve, G. Bolton; v h c, Mrs. Sharrock. Long-hair Adult, female (8)—Grand class, headed by a most beautiful queen of Mrs. Beaven's (I was much taken up with this exhibit, she won 1st easily and the Society's Silver Spoon for Best Female in Show); 2nd, Mrs. Danby's (rather darker than 1st, but has most lovely eyes, penned in nice condition); 3rd, Mrs. Jarvis (I was sorry I could not place this queen higher on the day, as she had a cold in her eye, which spoilt her chances); reserve, Miss Eastwood; v h c, Mrs. Bremner. Long-hair Adult, any colour, male—1st and 2nd, Miss Lowe (a beautiful red is Sunset, and rightly named, he won the Society's Silver Spoon for Best Male in Show); 2nd, a lovely cream, beautiful head, and eyes, and expression); 3rd, another cream, White Lips, Mrs. Bremner. Long-hair Adult, any colour, female—Only one, but a good black when in coat; I gave her first; she belongs to Mrs. Jarvis. Long-hair Kittens, under 6 months (9)—G. Bolton, 1st and 2nd very nice kittens, lovely eyes); 3rd, Miss Buckley. I got an extra 2nd and 3rd granted me in this class, as it was hard luck for six-weeks-old kittens to compete in this class; all three belonged to Miss Buckley. If they have luck to live will make a name for themselves, reserve, G. Bolton; extra reserve, Miss Eastwood; v h c, Miss Howarth. Short-hair Adult, male or female (6)—Headed by a most beautiful white female, rightly named Sweet lady (she won 1st and 2s. 6d. special, given by Mr. Beaven, of 1, Tilney Street, Park Lane, London, and deserved it; owner, Mr. Hough); 2nd, J. T. Parkinson, red tabby (could have been shown in much cleaner condition); 3rd, another red tabby, one of the best on our show bench, Ch. Clayton Masher, but spoilt his chances on the day in being rather cross (Mr. Hough owner); reserve and v h c, Mr. Kuhnel, red female and silver tabby (the silver was too blurred for my liking). Short-hair Kittens, under six months (only two)—1st, R. Kuhnel, red tabby (markings are not too good either on back or sides); 3rd, P. Wedgwood (mackerel stripe, rather nice household cat. I do hope all the animals got home safely, and especially the baby kits.

MRS. FURNISS.



CAT GOSSIP

## THE GODDESS OF THE FELINE TRIBE.

Many readers we know will be interested in the above photo of a beautiful ancient Egyptian Cat statuette in bronze. This dates from the period of the 18th Dynasty, that is to say it is about three thousand five hundred years old. It was the property of the well-known West End firm of antiquarians and silversmiths, Messrs. Spink and Son, to whom we are indebted for the photo. The statuette is 14½ inches high.

Everyone knows that the cat was sacred to the Goddess Bast, Bubastis, or Pasht, whose chief centre of worship was the city of Bubastis (the Pi-beseth of Ezekiel). The Greeks identified this goddess with Artemis, thus her rock-hewn temple near Beni-hassan was known as Speos Artemidos, The Cave of Artemis. It was at Beni-Hassan that was situated the Cats' Cemetery, containing millions of cat mummies, one of which we exhibited at Croydon Cat Show a year ago. The remains of the Temple of Bast show it to have been about 500 feet long. It was built of the finest red granite, and surrounded by a sacred enclosure about 600 feet square, beyond which was a larger enclosure, 900 by 1,200 feet, containing a canal, a grove of trees, and a lake. The Greek historian, Herodotus, gave a very excellent and detailed description of the abode of the Cat Goddess, remarking:— "Other temples may be grander and have cost more, but that of Bubastis is the most attractive to the

eye. . . . Except the entrance, the whole layout is an island. . . . The artificial channels from the Nile surround the building; these channels are a hundred feet in width, and shaded by trees. The gateway is sixty feet high. . . . The temple stands in the centre of the city, and is visible from every side. . . . A grove of magnificent trees surrounds the shrine of the deity."

In another place the Feast of Bast is described as one of the most popular in Egypt. Crowds of both sexes came sailing in boats along the Nile, provided with musical instruments which they played, whilst others sang and clapped their hands in time. Passing other towns on the banks of the river they approached the shore, and the women called upon those residing in these places and abused them. On arriving at Bubastis great feasting and celebrations were the order of the day, and it was said that more wine was then consumed than at any other festival during the year. (Is this why "Beachcomber" conceived the idea that cat-lovers are "illustrious drinkers"?)

The Goddess Bast formed one of the Triad of Memphis; Ptah (identified by the Greeks with Hephaestus)—the personification of fire; his spouse Pasht, the lion- or cat-headed, the avenger of crimes, and their offspring, Month, the Sun-god.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE,

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