

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 4

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## JUDGING: BRITISH AND FOREIGN. BY THE EDITOR.

English judges who have officiated abroad have been both amused and annoyed at the manner in which judging is conducted at many Continental Shows, the system at which is very divergent, in some cases, from ours. And these remarks do not only apply to cat shows. Briefly, we should say that whereas here the aim of a Show is purely competitive, abroad it is more educative. Here, for instance, we may have a class containing say a dozen or more exhibits, five or so of which may be animals of really first-class quality. Of these, only one is labelled first-class, the others have to be content with third or even lesser qualifications. Now at the majority of these Continental Shows the judge would be expected to qualify these exhibits in such a manner that their first-class quality would become apparent. He might find three, for instance, of such excellent quality that they could hardly be regarded as being one of greater value (in points) than the others. They would all then be awarded a "First" qualification, with, perhaps, the notice "excellent," "vorzueglich," or the like. Perhaps the next two would also be of practically equal quality; these would receive a "Second" qualification, with the notice "very good." Others would receive, singly or in twos or threes, minor qualifications and descriptions in descending scale, such as "good," "fairly good," and so forth. There is no denying that this system has a higher educative value than the mere 1, 2, 3, r, and so forth. At the same time, it is rather trying to our judges, used only to our system. Mrs. Nathan, Miss Langston, and ourselves, to mention those who have judged abroad of late, have regarded the manner in which our awards have been tampered with, with very mixed feelings, and, personally, until a more uniform system be arrived at by international "entente" we think judges from this country should be instructed in the foreign system, and asked if they will judge by it, or, on the other hand, it should be assumed that an English judge will judge in English fashion, and this should be accepted.

One can understand that in countries where the

Fancy is yet in its infancy, every effort must be made by Show promoters to catch and retain those who seem in any degree interested, by ways and means which have long been obsolete here. When we judged in Vienna we hardly knew whether to laugh or be annoyed, when, on entering the Show on the second morning (having judged in the English fashion), we found two out of three of the unnoticed exhibits had their pens decorated with an "Ehrenpreis" (prize of honour) card, the cats thus signalled being in many cases absolutely devoid of the very slightest pretensions to exhibition form. This was obviously done, not for the sake of the cats, but of the owners, and while such a system may attract a few, it is certainly not educative, but, on the other hand, misleading. When judging S.H. in Paris a couple of years ago, we might in some circumstances have been amused, but as it was, suffering as we were from bronchitis and hardly able to stand, we were far from feeling amusement at finding that we were expected to form one of a jury of three (tres faciunt collegium) to sit in solemn conclave over classes mainly consisting of two or three cats each, and these largely of fourth or fifth-rate quality; and there we sat looking as wise as owls debating how many points should be allotted for tail, how many for eyes, ears, coat, and so forth, to a cat which would not get a C here.

The Société Centrale Féline, which, as we recently mentioned, is now completely separated from the Cat Club de France and the C.C. de Paris, informs us that they wish to conduct the Cat Fancy in France according to English methods and standards. The Secretary of the other Club tells us that he intends to institute single judging.

We believe Mrs. Nathan intends to officiate at both the February and the May Shows in Paris, to which we have also been invited, but certainly cannot go in February. Having visited the fixtures of the rival bodies, which seem to be bitterly opposed, Mrs. Nathan will in due course doubtless be in a position to tell us which seems likely to run matters in a manner conducive to the furtherance of the Cat Fancy on proper lines.

Our friend and "Duzbruder," Herr Gloessel, Secretary of the Austrian Club, is judging at Paris, next month, and we much regret that it will not be possible for us to meet him there.

## LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS CAMPBELL-FRASER. (Phone: Hendon 1019.)

With the coming Spring in view cats are changing hands, and purchases going ahead. Most of us are deciding in our minds that momentous question: "Our line of breeding for the year 1929." Some are breaking away from their old colours, or, I should rather say, adding a new one. Mrs. Oglethorpe is one of these, by no means forgetting her much loved blues, she has acquired that lovely white queen, Jasmine of Farnborough, from Mrs. Richardson. This queen won extremely well in her kittenhood, and as she has been sent to Ch. Hercules of Mayfield we shall look to see her progeny filling some of the waiting empty spaces on the Show Bench. Speaking on the subject of white Persians, I much admired Miss L'Estrange Walsh's Primrose Queen, who headed the first class for "golden-eyed whites" given at our Ch. Shows. Croydon is to be congratulated on taking a "sporting chance," and six entries seem to me to make a good bid for popularity. I had never seen a golden-eyed white before to my recollection, and was much attracted, but, of course, their eyes must be pure gold, just as the blue eye must be pure blue, to be the least beautiful, and breeders will have to exercise care and discretion not to mix the two varieties. The non-deafness amongst the golden-eyed is a great attraction.

Miss Georgie Barber had quite a field day in the black female Ch. Class at the C.C.C. Show on January 2nd, winning 1st and ch. with Gift of Ashford, by Ch. Soame Desert Chief, a well-grown puss, only just out of its kittenhood, and 2nd with Justine of Wellingtonborough, bred by Miss Balaam. Miss Barber, as a young exhibitor, must have returned home much delighted. She wrote to me a few days previous to the Show regarding show preparation for blacks. I can only hope some of the "fruit" was born of my hints.

Mrs. Broughton-Hawley tells me she has discovered a happier home for her large four-footed family of pets in her change of residence to Ravensdale Farm, Wadhurst. She herself is at present feeling rather isolated, and it is not to be wondered at, for much as one may love the wild, a new country home moved into in winter time requires courage, and again courage. I hope a cosy ingle-nook may soon be her reward.

Lad's Love o' The Coombe has left Miss Langhorne to join the Flick-a-Maroo Cattery, where he will make a pretty adjunct to those delightful blues. I wonder if many of my readers know Miss George's charming half-timbered home with its picturesque thatched roof and old-world garden? Lad's Love won recently at the Northern Show for his new owner.

Rather a nice inquiry came through the 'phone this morning as to whether visitors who are not members of the Club are allowed to be present at the S.C.C.C.?

On reply, the lady in question, who is keen on Siamese, has decided to be early enough to see the "judging."

A Brown Tabby Championship was the fortune of Miss Longley at Croydon. This boy, who rejoices in the name of Toby Starbrace, bred by her sister, Mrs. Gillingham, is, I believe, a grandson (on his maternal side) of Miss Longley's winner, Blue Robin, from whom he inherits his massive head. Like many of the brownies of the moment he lacks warmth of colouring, but will, nevertheless, be a valuable addition to the Stud with his other points.

In a primrose-coloured envelope, with the stamp head of "Washington," comes an unlooked-for, but none the less welcome Christmas card from our friend across the sea, "The Cat Courier." It holds a photo of the Siamese star, Mee-Zee of Salina, and the words, "Greetings from an all the year round friend." Very pretty, and most kindly. Thus our American cousins foster "peace and goodwill."

## DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

### "Kitties' Kalender for 1929."

- January—Jeunesse, to the fore.  
 February—Furnish your catty citadel.  
 March—Mr. and Mrs. Puss arrive.  
 April—A month of hope.  
 May—Much choosing of cosy corners.  
 June—Joy and expectancy surround us.  
 July—Just mother love.  
 August—A host of merriment.  
 September—Still play, near and far.  
 October—Other thoughts come wandering. Best in Show?  
 November—Nothing daunted! The flag is flying!  
 December—Deed surprising and delightful—Kitty's Won!

## SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

The General Meeting of the Siamese Cat Club will be held on January 30th, 1929, at 3 p.m., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C. Every member should have received a notice by now, but in case any have gone astray in the post, will you accept this as an invitation. This is an important meeting, and we do beg every member who can possibly manage it to attend.

The Club Balance Sheet is with the firm of Chartered Accountants who so kindly audit all the Club accounts. Directly they send us back the draft it will go to the printers with the Report of the Club for 1928, and should be in your hands in a few days' time. Both the Show and Club balance sheets are extremely satisfactory.

I am sure all members will be glad to hear that our Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Veley, is making slow but satisfactory recovery from her very severe illness.

P. WADE.

## VISIT.

January 7th.—Mrs. Oglethorpe's Ladye Fayre of The Court (Molly), by Milord o' Mendip, ex June Rose, to Owner's The Aristocrat of The Court.



## GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE ask our readers to note that for the present we are staying at Cleve Hall, Champion Hill, S.E. 5, and letters sent to our home address will be delayed. We can recommend this place to anyone wishing to stay in the suburbs for a few weeks, more or less. An old family mansion, standing in about 20 acres of grounds, it has been turned into an hotel where one is made quite at home, at very reasonable charges. Arrangements can easily be made with the management for one to keep cats or dogs—we have our cats with us, and other guests keep dogs or cats.

AFTER Galantuomo's sensational win at Croydon, no one need ever again say that a novice has no chance in the Cat Fancy. Personally, we were almost as pleased as Mrs. Burles, his owner, when this, our pick for the best S.H. cat, was awarded the prize for Best in Show over all the L.H. cracks.

AN unusual friendship is that of a stray kitten with that of a young three-parts grown wolf at the Zoo. It is to be hoped the wolf will always be kept in the same cage, or we can see a sudden end to poor kitty if she comes to visit her friend and finds another wolf or a hyena tenanted his cage. We had once a young wolf which had a large buck rabbit as play-fellow: another lived with a goat; a third was intimate chums with one of our hunters: and years ago a writer in "Our Cats" described our Happy Family of a Hairless Dog, a Beagle, seven Manx and Abyssinian cats, a bantam, and two guinea pigs, which all curled up before the kitchen fire in a motley heap, along with a white wolf.

THE General Meeting of the Siamese Cat Club is fixed for 30th inst.

Mrs. Broughton Hawley is enduring great torments in her new abode at Wadhurst, all her cats being saturated in smoky soot from unpleasant so-called "economical" patent grates. She is very elated over the success of a B.T. Shorthair, this being, perhaps, her favourite variety.

Miss Hill-Shaw, we believe, is acquiring from Somerset a red-tabby male Manx, which, if he remains in this country, will make a name for himself—we've seen him, and know.

IF anyone has a cat "off its food," let us heartily recommend Sherley's tonic quinine pills, which really work like a charm in restoring appetite. They are so small that if the cat will eat at all they can be given concealed in a tiny piece of meat. An improvement is often noticed after two doses.

MORE complaints of "losses" or theft of "Cat Gossip" in post. Readers really must help themselves by formal complaint at their Post Office when they do not receive their copy; it is always posted before 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

"CAT COURIER" records a two-faced kitten in Port Jervis, N.Y. Two-faced humans are not so rare as to be worthy of chronicle. In the same paper we

read of an "alley cat" so fond of her bath that she gets into the tub at regular hours, looks up at the tap and calls for the water to be turned on.—Miss Hydon writes of her visit to England last Autumn.—Milord and Milady of Henley, purchased from Lady Eardley Wilmot, have changed owners in New York.—"Cat Courier" frontispiece is of Mrs. Neil Barde's new imported smoke, shipped by Miss Evelyn Langston.

WE have so often animadverted on the culpable callousness of some provincial "Beaks," unworthy to sit on the Bench, that it is good to see that at Leeds a she-devil, calling itself a woman, who deliberately burnt and scalded a dog, has been sent to gaol and heavily fined. All honour to Mr. Marshall, the Leeds magistrate. As long as magistrates are chosen for political reasons or to truckle to Labour, so long may incapacity on the Bench be expected. Recently we saw in one week a man fined five shillings for beating a dog nearly to death and burying it still alive. The same fine was inflicted on a man who committed the crime of finding a dog injured by a motor car, taking it home and caring for it, but allowing two days to elapse before notifying his find to the police! Many "Beaks" think 5s. an adequate fine for grossly torturing a cat. It should be the business of the Leeds people to see that the woman above referred to can never again carry on her boarding-house in Leeds!

ENGLAND, once pre-eminent, seems slacking up in its animal protection efforts. The original protest of German doctors against vivisection, backed up by their Belgian colleagues, has not, as far as we know, had any parallel in this country. Australia has just produced laws controlling vivisection far in advance of those in this country, where vivisection, under a teetotal and puritanical Home Secretary, yearly increases at an alarming rate. The cat-lovers of other countries are taking far more interest in the lot of the common cat than is the case in this country, where apathy seems to be the guiding note in all matters but football!

Mrs. McLaren Morrison was telling us at Croydon about a murderous cat she owns, a real "killer," who only fights to kill, and will kill a queen with the same gusto as a male. He always gets a grip on the jugular vein. Some time ago a well-known Canadian author, writing in "Cat Gossip," told of the exploits of a cat called "Murderer," who would get cats from the surrounding ranches to run after him, when, suddenly stopping, he would seize upon the surprised pursuer and destroy him; but for a male cat to systematically kill females is something quite out of the ordinary. We believe when the Croydon tom-cats meet Galantuomo they usually give one horrified stare, and then "stand not upon the order of their going," but simply go! And small blame to them!

Mr. Yeates kindly writes: "I believe the last time a S.H. won Best in Show at a London Ch. Show was at

the S.C.C.C. in 1923, when Mr. Kuhnel's B.T., Jack, beat Mrs. Singleton's Dannyman of the Cottage. The judges were not unanimous, and the late Miss Frances Simpson would have nothing to do with the Brown Tabby because he had green eyes."

WE observe in a contemporary a reference to an escaped kitten at Croydon, which says the escape was "not as reported elsewhere." We do not know if this refers to **our** report of an escaped **Silver Tabby**, which was correct. This cat was apparently out all night, but was recaptured in our presence before we had handed in our slips, so that we were able to include it in the S.T. class, where it was 2nd.

WE were relieved to hear from Miss Hill-Shaw that we did give Ch. Evenmark her due at Croydon, the wrong entry having, it would seem, only been made in our section of the book, and not on the slips: hence our error when writing report.

REFERRING to Mrs. Cran's strictures on the nursing Siamese sent to Croydon, Miss Northcote writes: "The high standard you set of consideration for the feelings, physical and otherwise, of the creatures who cannot defend themselves, must have a good effect upon the thoughtless and those who only breed for gain. It is this tone throughout 'Cat Gossip' which makes it of such value, not only to the Fancy, but to the common cat and cat-lover."

### CAT CALLS.

(Publication of letters does not necessarily indicate that they represent our views.)

#### PRINCIPIA NON HOMINES.

Sir Claud Alexander's opening remarks in his letter published in your recent issue are quite uncalled for, and would insinuate (to put it mildly) that the Editor's note after my original letter was not a fact, whereas he quoted my exact words, which were made in perfect good faith, and I regret that Sir Claud's knowledge of the Cat Fancy is so poor that he thinks anyone writing under a nom de plume would refuse to divulge their identity. I refrained from using my own name in the hope that readers might realise that my grievance was not a personal one, but purely a matter of principle, and my choice of the nom de plume surely made that clear. I sincerely hoped that the personal element would not enter into the question, but it would appear that some people seem to prefer to put the Homines before the Principia. I hardly think my worst enemies would accuse me of "cattiness" or "old-fashioned conservatism," for I have always done my best to advocate **progression** in the Cat Fancy, but have repeatedly met with opposition. I am glad to see that Sir Claud fully agrees with me re the G.C. Rule, and if others in authority can do likewise my suggestion re G.C. Rule 29 may be carried out, and I shall feel fully repaid for having made myself somewhat unpopular in certain quarters.

E. SYDNEY WOODIWISS.

N.B.—I note that the S.C.C.C. Committee are not satisfied to make only one rule re judges and their wives, but have two, vide Show Rules No. 10 and 36 in their recently published Schedule.

### CROYDON SHOW.

Dear Editor.—May I, through "Cat Gossip," the paper so warmly appreciated by its subscribers, try to express some of the gratitude I feel to all those true friends of the C.C.C. who did so much to make our recent Show the success we wanted it to be, and, from the valued testimony of many, I believe it was. The judges were just splendid, and I heard no complaints, though I had qualms of conscience over the burden I

had placed on two of them. You being one! All the same, I think you must have shared my satisfaction over the record S.H. entry. Who says S.H. are "a frost" now?

It was delightful to see Mrs. Cran amongst us again, and we owe her a very special debt of gratitude for fulfilling her promise to judge, in spite of her recent serious illness. I think we look on her and you as our special property! I hope you don't mind?

To the twelve stewards, who so willingly and ably carried through their arduous labours, I am truly grateful, and to the Misses Perkins and Mrs. Elmslie (who kept the gate for so many hours), followed by Messrs. Peter and Guy Jepson and Pat Cooper. The gate realised £32 10s.

The hard work put in the night before the Show by Mrs. Burls, Mrs. Cates, Miss Richardson, and the Messrs. Jepson and Cooper, and also Mr. Cranton, cleaning pens, etc., and the members of the Committee, aided by Mrs. and the Misses Wooff penning the exhibits, deserve the gratitude we must all feel. The exhibits were well and carefully fed and tended by Mrs. Burls, Mrs. Free, Mrs. Buffard, and Mrs. Bolton.

Peter Alupka added greatly to the enjoyment of those who were privileged to hear him on the gramophone, and our thanks are again due to you, our kind Editor, for giving us the opportunity of hearing the Talking Cat. All who partook of luncheon and tea will, I feel sure, join with me in thanking very specially Mrs. Allen, who for six years has so kindly and unselfishly devoted each Show day to looking after the needs of our helpers and exhibitors. This year her work was most arduous, as we were short-handed, but Mrs. Whicher, Mrs. Brett, and Mrs. Wilkinson gave splendid help, and were assisted by the Misses Kent for tea.

One last word of thanks, it is one mingled with regret, which I am sure will be shared by all who know the valuable service he has for nine years rendered to the C.C.C. I allude to our Hon. Vet. Surgeon, Mr. Frank Wooff. It was not known by the majority of those who exhibited at Croydon that Mr. Wooff had,

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on the day previous to the Show, undergone an operation of a serious nature, and it was only because of his desire to keep faith with our Club that he at last prevailed on the surgeon to give him permission to be at his post on the evening of the 1st and the whole of January 2nd. A further and greater operation is to be performed next week. Let us all wish him safely through and long life.

I want to thank our good Chairman—he is such a brick and helped us all through—and the splendid members of the Committee, and all who by their loyalty and sympathy help

**The Hon. Secretary of the Croydon Cat Club.**

## THE FELINE TEMPERAMENT.

BY P. K. M. LEATHERDALE.

Certainly the Siamese cat has been a revelation to the world, teaching people to what heights of intelligence and devotion "a mere cat" can rise.

Although I am "a Siamese Cat Maniac" (according to my critics), I have gradually come to the conclusion that the feline temperament is independent of breed. Moreover, I have found that, contrary to popular belief, neutering does not render a cat stupid. (Hear, hear! Ed.)

Here are a few examples of cats I have known who were rich in temperament.

A black longhair neuter, huge and rough coated as a dog. He followed his mistress everywhere. She was a dressmaker, and often spent many hours at the houses of her customers. Her cat would always wait on the doorstep for her till she was ready for him to escort her home.

A shorthair Manx neuter who always shook hands with visitors. Another trick of his was to chase a pony round and round a field playing with his long tail. This cat was inconsolable whenever his mistress went out, and would follow her for long distances when he got the chance.

A tabby and white "half Persian" female who walked into the sea crying pitifully when her owner was bathing. She would sit up and beg for food like a dog.

A tabby shorthair female, ten years old, who used to go with her master to the Cathedral every day, continued to go and wait for him there every day long after his death.

My own beloved Surua, a tabby "half-Persian" female, displayed to perfection all those qualities described by Mr. Compton Mackenzie in his wireless talk on Siamese Cats. Courage—no dog was too big or fierce for her to drive from the garden yelping with fear as he saw her fluffy form flying through the air straight at him, all claws and teeth and shining tiger's eyes! Devotion to her owners—through all the "alarums and excursions" of house-hunting half over England she never thought of straying, but was always happy where we were, purred gratitude for all we did for her, even when she was in pain, would not begin to eat her food till we were there, would follow us from room to room with her young kittens, never happy unless she could be with us. Intelligence—she would allow her in-

jured eye and, later on, her broken leg, to be attended to, without trying to bite or scratch; she could climb or jump anywhere, light and swift as a bird, and she had the sense to have her kittens in the right place. Honesty—she could always be trusted with the most tempting food, and would never steal, even if accidentally shut into the larder. A sense of humour—she would retrieve a rolled up tape measure when it was thrown, she would take small objects from a table in her mouth and hide them under mats or furniture; she delighted to roll up doormats, and her fairy dancing was well worth watching, and she continued her kitten games all the seven years of her life.

A black and white cat here sits for hours on the master's back while he is gardening.

My dear Siamese queen, Little Puma, was suddenly taken to live among crowds of poultry, ducks, children, and a strange dog. She just followed me everywhere, guarded my room jealously against all the other animals, maintained an armed neutrality to all, but never harmed any, until at last the hens and ducks, seeing me carrying her food, would crowd and literally jostle my dignified Siamese cat, who behaved as if she were unaware of their presence, even when, on one occasion, she found a hen in her cat-house!

Mr. Compton Mackenzie did not mention the wonderful genius for maternal love possessed alike by Siamese and all other breeds of cat; nor did he mention the gift for accommodating themselves to circumstances which has made cats ideal pets everywhere. One would think, from what is written about Siamese that these cats required to have circumstances accommodated to them, but I have known Siamese which have endured all sorts of hardships and remained sweet-tempered under the most trying circumstances; some of these "delicate" cats have often stayed out all night, have roamed at will in all weathers, cared nothing for deep snow or pouring rain, ate what they liked, and kept fit.

Siamese, like other cats, become hardy with plenty of fresh air and exercise, are at their best when there is abundant sunshine, and take "pot luck" with their owners.

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So, whatever breed of cat takes your fancy, or even if you fall in love with a poor, despised mongrel cat of the streets, you may find that you have adopted a veritable gold mine of love, cleverness, and fun! The depth and variety of temperament which you can develop in your cat depends, not on its breed, but on its individual character—and on yours!

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE, Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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