

# CAT · GOSSIP

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First Edited by H. C. BROOKE

Edited by E. K. WAKEFORD

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## LONG-HAIR LORE.

By Mrs. M. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE (Tel.: Wimbledon 2889).

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness;  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core.

Keats.

We spent the last day of September in the New Forest, and on our way home called to see a miniature Zoo at Passford Farm, near Lymington. Passford Farm is a historic house 300 years old, very picturesque, with thatched roof and oak beams, which will appeal to all beauty lovers. From here can be seen the famous Buckland Rings (an old Anglo-Saxon encampment), with views of the New Forest. Below the farm, and through the woodland, is a delightful lake and waterfall, where aquatic birds of many varieties disport themselves. The miniature Zoo is a vast attraction, and contains many interesting varieties of birds and animals from all over the world. Monkeys, dogs, rabbits, and birds of wonderful plumage are to be found here, and all are kept in perfect condition and are beautifully housed. What appealed to me more than anything was a litter of Blue Persian kittens by Idol of Hadley, ex Miss Todd's Susane. How I longed to bring them away with me. But they were quite happy there in the sunshine, so I left them, hoping they would go to some one who would love and appreciate them. I have been reading about Gilbert White, who was a great student and lover of Nature.

He was a simple man, living in the country which he loved above all, the Wessex Country. In the church where he worshipped is a tablet to his memory representing St. Francis and the birds, whilst in the churchyard is a magnificent yew tree, under which is buried the village trumpeter, whose call still goes forth to summon the friends of Gilbert White to pay homage to a great man's memory. He calls himself "an outdoor naturalist, one that takes his observations from the subject itself, not from the writings of others." He had a great love of all animals, and writes about them with sympathy and understanding. He gives an instance of a great friendship which sprang up between a hen and a horse, who were the only pets kept by him at one

period of his life, and who lived an isolated life in a lonely orchard, where they saw no one but each other. Gradually a great friendship sprang up between these two, who were always together. The wolf would approach the horse and rub round his legs, whilst the horse would step carefully not to injure his little friend.

Mrs. Kennaway writes to say that all her cats are well, though all have lost their coats. Colin, the cream male she showed at Thame, has gone to a new home, and a little brown tabby male so captivated another purchaser that she had to let him go in spite of her intention to keep him for show. Lady Eardley-Wilmot writes to say she is to spend a holiday at Shoreham, and that she may visit Portsmouth Show, where I am sure she will receive a very hearty welcome.

The schedule of the Fourteenth Championship Cat Show of the Newbury Cat Club, to be again held in the Corn Exchange, Reading, under the capable direction of Mrs. Fosbery, the active hon. secretary and show manager, should now be in the hands of intending exhibitors, and I am sure we are all looking forward with pleasure and excitement to this, the first Championship Show of the season. There is an excellent classification, though I was sorry to see only one class assigned to white cats (which includes males and females), but I suppose this is on account of the extreme rarity of the species. Until Jasmine came to me I had always thought white cats were extremely delicate, but since she was introduced into the home I have found that, in her case at all events, she is of a more hardy variety than my blues, and her kittens, which I expected to be as fragile as little bundles of thistledown, are the hardiest kittens I have ever bred. Having proved this myself, I was interested to discover also that white cats are blessed with a power to resist cold, which is not given to others. Jasmine, until she came to me, had always lived out of doors, and I, thinking how happy she would be as a house pet, thought I would keep her as such. However, she did not get on nearly so well indoors, and now has her own house (which she loves, by the way) in a cool greenhouse, and enjoys her daily romps in the garden, and in the house, too, where we allow her her full liberty for a certain period each day when the rest of the family is safely installed in the nursery.

Jasmine herself being of such a lovely type, I expected her kittens to be just as perfect, and when they were babies I had never seen anything so lovely, and I wrote and spoke about them with the greatest enthusiasm. Judge of my disappointment then when they suddenly became most plain and ordinary in appearance, yet still with those glorious china blue eyes! I never had the heart to show them to visitors, and, indeed, thought of boarding them out altogether! To my amazement they suddenly began to improve in every way, in shape, type, and build, and soon I expect them to become as lovely as their little mother. But I am not going to have them "on view" until they have at least partially fulfilled my idea of what they should be, so Echo and Narcissus will remain in the nursery until their beauty is a thing of note. And why not? They are more than happy in their peaceful environment, and romp and play games to their hearts' content.

I am so glad to hear from Mr. and Mrs. Yeates that Princess Una is perfectly happy in her new home, that her new owners are very fond of her, and that she has not given them any trouble whatsoever. From Berkeley Place I hear all is well, too. The Aristocrat is very good just now, and plays about the house and garden like a kitten. A few days ago he climbed the balcony into a bedroom, where he rolled about on the bed in delight, and begged not to be sent away!

### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

ALTHOUGH entries for Reading Championship Show will have been sent off before these notes appear, it is still not too late to offer to guarantee classes. The loss on one or two classes is comparatively trifling, but if the whole burden falls on the Club, it amounts to quite a considerable sum, so that this is a most practical way in which exhibitors can help the breeds in which they are interested. Show managers are usually prepared to face a loss on some of the less popular classes, but it often happens that these classes disappear from the schedule next year. We ourselves, for instance, are sorry to note that there is only one class for Russians, but it is really not to be wondered at, considering how few Russians generally appear at Reading.

THIS week Croydon Championship Show, to be held on November 13th, is being advertised in our columns for the first time, and we hope that those who are thinking of exhibiting will immediately write for schedules and information, so that Miss Hill Shaw may not be too seriously overworked at the last moment. It is too much to hope that she will not be overworked at all, as the weeks before the Show are always a most strenuous time for her, but at least she may be spared the trouble of sending out shoals of schedules to people who have only realised that

they want them about two days before entries close. Croydon Show is always one of the most important and enjoyable events of the season, and this year it is expected that all records will be broken, especially in the S.H. classes. We know several little Russians who are counting off the days on their desk calendars ("dear, dear, only a month before the show, and my eyes haven't turned green yet"), and there are probably scores of other kittens, both L.H. and S.H., who are doing just the same.

It has been pointed out to us that in our report on Thame Show we never even mentioned the cat who was best in show. This was certainly not meant as a slur on that very beautiful young cat, Lady Kerdley-Wilmot's October Glory of Henley, who on this occasion made a most successful debut, competing against well-known cats much older than himself. We admired him very much indeed at the Show, and fully intended to say so at some length, but we had to work very late that night on some copy urgently wanted for Press, and when we wrote the Thame report early next morning felt anything but intelligent. We hope that we shall meet October Glory again at later shows, when we shall not omit to do him full justice.

SIAMESE fanciers will be particularly interested to note that Mrs. Cran's new book, "Wind Harps," has just been published by Herbert Jenkins. We have not yet read it, so we do not know whether her Siamese play an important part, but we hope to review it very soon in "Cat Gossip." We have read one page—the page at which it happened to be open in the publisher's window—and that was all about pigeons, we think, though we shall not know for certain until our own copy arrives. Guessing at the contents of a book from a single page is almost as difficult as reconstructing a prehistoric animal from two bones, as some learned people seem able to do.

HAS any one heard that somewhere in North London a party annoyed by cat-concerts in his garden is said to have made an artificial cat, covered with a real skin, and fitted out with electric attachments causing its eyes to shine, caps to explode, and a ghastly noise to proceed from its inside? The current was set in motion when the figure was roughly touched. On the first evening a "tom" and his lady loves appeared: after some language the tom attacked the figure, and set it working. In half a minute the garden was empty, and for a month no more cats appeared. Well "si non e vero"!

THE common saying that a cat always falls on its feet is contradicted by a veterinary surgeon writing in "Die Katze," who states he is frequently called in to treat cats which have fallen off window sills on which they have gone to sleep, and finds that they suffer from injured noses, broken front teeth, and fractured jaws—from which it appears that they often fall on their heads.



## SIAMESE CAT CLUB, 1929.

## REPORT OF ADULT CLASSES.

No doubt some one with a ready pen will write a full account of the Show, if I can manage a lucid account of the Adult Classes I had the honour to judge. It was a fairly stiff job, but my very capable and hard-worked stewards (one so good with the exhibits, another a perfect genius at remembering numbers and locations, and a third who ran hither and thither with queries and messages) somehow got me through in good time. Ever so many thanks to them. By the time I got to the Teams and Progenies, I was very thankful of help from "the table," and kind Major Woodiwiss helped me out. He seems equal to answering many questions on many subjects all at the same time. The exhibits behaved beautifully, only one swore at me (I'm afraid more of their owners did that). What a joy it was to handle so many superb creatures, and when I read the catalogue next day I realised from their famous names what a privilege I had been granted in being asked to judge the S.C.C. Show of 1929.

OPEN MALE ADULTS (13 entries).—1 and champion, Mrs. Billing's Hum (Guffin); 2, Miss Williams' Maeltomis; 3, Mrs. Duncan Hindley's Prestwick Mata Biru; extra 3, Mrs. Preston's Biaw; r, Mrs. Harvey's Valentino of Petaling; v h c, Mrs. Maturin's Southampton Prince Sapphire; h c, Mrs. Veley's Chula Luk of the Forest. A strong class indeed. Led by a novice, a handsome youth of good old stock. His pale coat was beautiful to touch—deep points, good eyes, and true wedge head. Rather a youthful chubbiness of cheek when in repose, but at this moment of expectancy that did not show. The 2nd and 3rd are beautiful sons of Ch. Simzo.

OPEN FEMALE ADULT (21 entries).—1 and champion, Mr. Wicking's Fairlight Gipsy; 2, Mrs. Baker's Koti; extra 2, Mrs. Wade's Vilo; 3, Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Permata Kechil; extra 3, Mrs. Weir's Happy Go Lucky; r, Miss Dixon's Aouda; v h c, Mrs. Hallam's Prestwick Purda; h c, Mrs. Wood's Ssuma. What a class! Every one worthy of a prize, and much more intriguing than the males. It took some heartrending weeding out, and our committee had generously stretched the prizes to their utmost by giving an extra 3rd and 2nd. Mr. Wicking's beautiful queen is too well known to need further eulogies, and has already been described in the Press as a full champion. Best congratulations to that very lovely lady and her proud owner! The second, Koti, is a superb specimen of the blue-pointed type—coat as smooth as a mouse, eyes clear, straight, and blue—and above all, the wonderful clean-cut wedge head. Mrs. Wade's Vilo ran her very close, and won her place, though very young to compete here, by her strict adherence to all the typical Siamese points. I have marked the two thirds as "grand head and eyes a wee bit dark" and "a nice thing" respectively. It was nice to meet a rather old-fashioned lady, sired by Chepping Giles; also Mrs. Ward's sweet Annett. I marked her "true to type" in my book, but did not recognise her in the least. Another little typish lady was Mrs. French's Dido. Her only fault, on deep searchings, was caused by a few white hairs in her mask. Being very keen on the wedge head, I marked three wonderfully good examples in this class, namely, Koti, Vilo, and Dido—may their type increase.

## SOME NOTES ON THE SPECIALS.

Fortified by a good lunch and the good news of general satisfaction in high quarters at the open awards, especially at the full championship gained by Fairlight Gipsy, who now fell heirless to so many specials, I tackled the huge list—73 specials to be awarded. Most of the wins came automatically from the class awards. First prize winners only—and the secretaries of the various clubs sort out many others. In some cases there was much running up and down, and to and fro (not that

one could "run" much, the room was getting quite crowded). How I wished I was competing for these most attractive specials, especially the Worcester china, given by Miss Norrie, won outright, and a proof of goodwill to the S.C.C. It is good to belong to such a successful club, and our leaders may well be proud of all they have done to bring us up to this point—may they go on and prosper. "Nothing succeeds like success." But to return to our specials. Having loaded Mr. Wickings, Mrs. Billing, Dr. Ayley, Mrs. Hindley, Mrs. Harvey, etc., with cups galore, we come to the lesser fry. Fortunately the light (for the Philbeach Hall) was good, but coats and eyes were taken to the windows for examination. Mrs. Wade's little Vilo made the most of her chances, and even in the shade of her pen, as I heard remarked, "her eyes are like sapphires"—so she came in for eye-colour wins. I was struck by many good examples of wonderful eye colour among the queens, and wonder what Mrs. Basnett has to say about this year's kittens in this respect. Does it prove that the blueness improves with years and good feeding, and is a sign of good digestion? Not romantic, but I think so. I never despair of a pale-eyed kitten, if it is a healthy and greedy one. The most difficult find was the "sloping Oriental eyes." So many cats asleep have this slope, but on awakening, no—they are straight and round. The thing was to find a cat asleep, and mark it down before it awoke. We had quite a merry hunt, and after many false alarms Chara Mana was caught napping and carried off the prize. I was glad—she really deserves it. What a pity there were so few veterans, to make dear old Sabias' conquest more worthy of her steel. Age had it here. The neuters were a lovely lot—all fat and comely—with the exception of Miss Schooling's babe with an old name, who won a coveted Worcester china special, being "entirely free from coarseness" (I can hardly imagine a coarse Siamese?) There was a card for each. I marked them thus in my book: 44, good; 45, rather pale mask; 46, very nice; 47, lovely coat; 48, perfect; 49, gem. Now their owners can identify them. I am sure they are all adored pets. The comfortable brood queens were headed by the sloping-eyed sleeping lady, Chara Mana, who carried off the Britannia Cup II. Then we come to the three great studs—all well known as sires of winners, past, present, and future, and, of course, judged by their progeny in the pens, and for once not over-shadowed by the still greater stud—seven times champion Bonzo—who sat in state, aloof from judges, in his far corner, where you fought and trampled down the slip searchers to get a peep at "the great Panjandrum himself with his prize cards on top." He was well worth the struggle.

M. L. ELLABY.

## COMPETITION RESULT.

The "Cat Gossip" special offered to the subscriber winning most points at the S.C.C. Show has been won easily by Dr. Ayley, who showed one cat and three kittens, and scored 78 points—eight 1sts, two 2nds, and two 3rds. In addition to these prizes, Halesworth Mazo was awarded 11 specials, Halesworth Manzo four specials, Halesworth Bona one special, and Chara Mana three specials. Dr. Ayley is certainly to be congratulated on a very fortunate day, and on the ownership of such a beautiful group of Siamese.

## THE BILL FOR THE TAXATION AND PROTECTION OF CATS.

Errata: For Lamb, read Lumb; for sincerity, read necessity; for Home, read House (Central Clearing House); for Ronald, read Robert.

## A CRITICISM.

(Sequel to "A Suggestion," p. 223.)

I have on several occasions expressed my conviction that Professor Schwangart has right on his side when up against "Fancy" tenets—for instance, when he advocates breeding for the beautiful golden eye in Whites instead of for the beautiful but degenerate blue. But there are many points in which I can by no means see eye to eye with the Professor. Had he confined his remarks to the Natural History side of the question, I should have had nothing to say. But he has in the "Tier-Boerse," the official organ of some of the German Cat Clubs, published, on behalf of the Dresden "Bund fuer Katzensucht und Katzenschutz (League for Cat Breeding and Cat Protection),\* a series of Standards so divergent from ours, that they are open to criticism. After all, it is in this country that Show Cats have been brought to their present standard of excellence, and surely the object of a Standard is to describe and demand the highest possible degree of excellence, not to cater for faulty specimens—though naturally in the case of rare or not yet fully developed varieties a judge may look with lenient eye on such. It would take up too much space to go through every item. Professor Schwangart defines as separate varieties the **Marbled** and the **Tiger-striped**, in the various colour varieties of "Tabbies." Here I am in accord theoretically, but in practice it would scarcely be possible to cater for such separately at Shows. He further classifies the "Grey-tiger-stripe," which, scientifically correct, would never be likely to find favour with fanciers, nor will such of "wild cat coloration," though scientifically of importance. He also, in many varieties, differentiates between the Slender and the Massive forms. The Slender he considers to coincide with the original Egyptian form, as shown in statuettes, etc., which are always graceful, and of what we call "Foreign" type. The Massive, which is what we call "British" type, I believe not to be so much due to the European Wild Cat's (*F. silvestris*) influence, but rather to a change produced by domestication and to a certain amount perhaps by selective breeding, frequently done without direct intention.

Why provide for so-called "Peach-coloured" specimens, described as "between orange and yellow"? Surely these, from a Show point of view, are merely inferior? In Silver tabbies, the standard says "eyes greenish." Why not demand perfection, and say emerald green? In Blacks it allows for a white star on chest, though this is admitted to be a defect. Then why allow it at all, a Standard should ask the best. A black with white star is not truly a Black.

\*Note how German Clubs combine the Fancy with the Humanitarian side of the Cat question, the latter being quite ignored by English Clubs!

Rubric "Stumpy's": Here I am, of course, quite against the Professor. He would admit Stump-tailed cats "if and when the portion of tail contains at least 10 vertebrae!!!, and has no knot or twist: such with still shorter tails, quite tailless, or crook-tails, we exclude entirely." This leaves me gasping, the more so as the high hindquarters and rabbit-like action of the Manx is then denounced. Now if the Professor wished to exclude **all** these cats as abnormal, I could understand it: but in heaven's name why admit such a thing as a cat with a two-thirds tail and exclude such as really do show remarkable characteristics. A cat with ten tail joints is neither one thing or the other: the Manx and Malay cats do look to be "something different," and we **know** that the Malays have existed as a separate and defined race for far over 200 years. And do we not find a rather abnormal length of hind leg and curious gait in another feline form—the Lynxes?

The proposed distinction between "German Longhair" and Persians seems to me much of the nature of the elsewhere proposed distinction between Persians and Angoras, both of which are calculated to provide asylum for weedy lanky Longhairs.

"Zebra-cats" are our "Mackerels." One name is as good as another. The Professor evidently admires these, so did Louis Wain, and so do I. What is handsomer than a really good S.H. Mackerel? Why do we blindly neglect them?

Referring to the Nubians (Abyssinian) as representative of a wild race (*f. ocreata*), it is said "no scale of points can be given." I fail to see why.

I am quite at one with the Professor when he hits the latest German tendency to classify most breeds as "noble breeds," to the entire exclusion of European S.H.—a narrow and ill-considered injustice!\*\* with the following words: "As always in my publications and in my exhibition practice I nowhere draw a line between 'Breedy Cats' and 'House Cats' (Rasse-Katzen und Haus-Katzen). Our native S.H. exhibits 'breed,' just as does his ancestor, the Ancient Egyptian—just as much as do Longhair and Siamese. And these are 'House Cats,' just as much as our own and the ancient S.H. Whether a cat is 'breedy' or not depends solely upon whether it possesses the breed-characteristic of the particular L.H. or S.H. variety to which it belongs."

The Professor also condemns the modern fad in

\*\*And one which should be fought tooth and nail by the many in Germany who are working to raise the status of the cat in the mind of the public—including our confrere of "Unsere Katze." For the cat of the public is and must be the S.H.—and if the public sees them treated with contempt by Shows it will think still less of them: but if it sees that a S.H. cat may be valuable and capable of winning prizes just as much as a L.H. or Siamese, it will be regarded with more respect.

Germany of confining the description "Persian" to the Blues. Considering how L.H. has been interbred, whatever their original habitat, I think our system of classing all L.H. simply as such far the best. Any other system is bound to lead to muddle, kittens from one and the same litter, but showing different characteristics, coming under different headings, as Persians, Angoras, and German L.H. Which is absurd.

There is much of interest and worthy of serious thought in the Professor's articles: but, looking at it purely from the Fancier's point of view, there is much I disagree with, and one thing is quite certain, it will most decidedly NOT be helpful towards consolidating the standards of Show cats internationally so that they may be judged on the same lines in all countries where a Cat Fancy exists!

H. C. B.

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