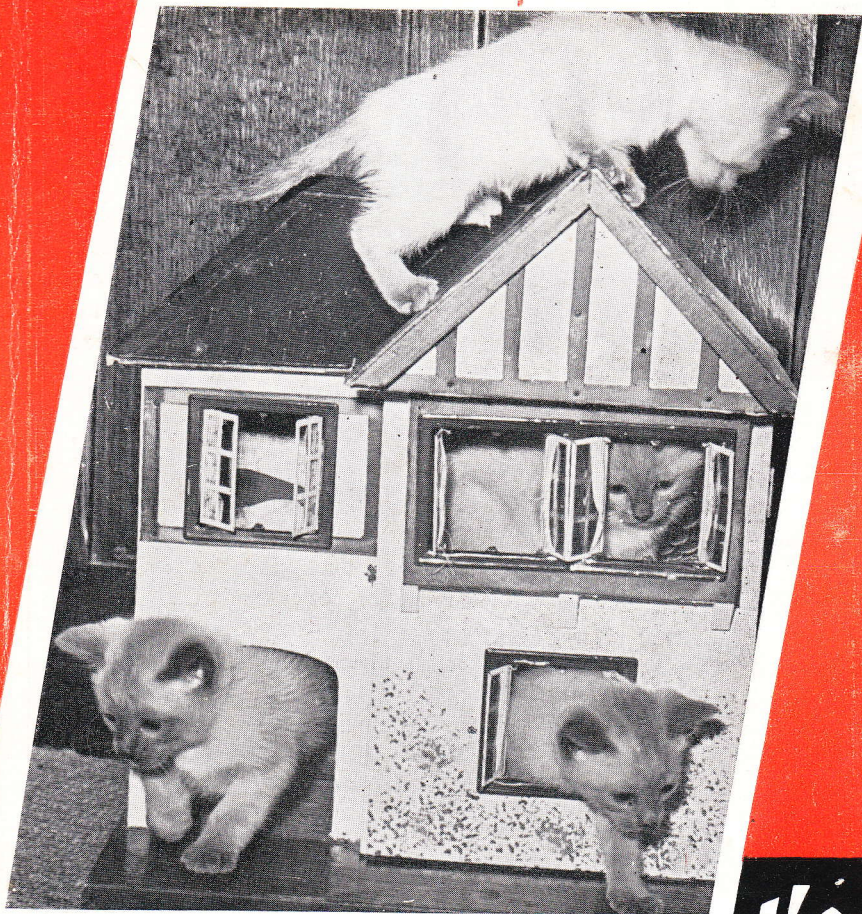


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



DECEMBER 1950

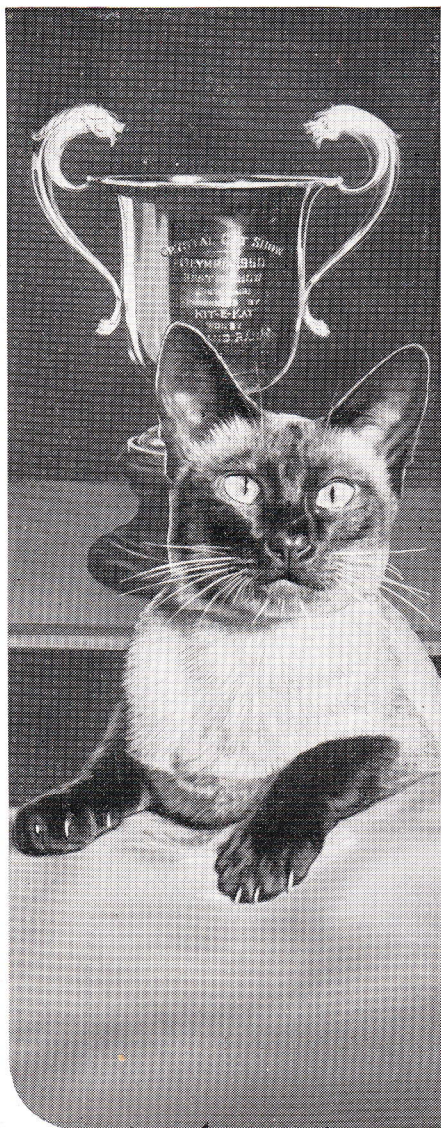
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SEASONAL FEATURES & PICTURES

Another lovely cat who loves
KIT-E-KAT

*Trophy winner
 thrives on*

**'the complete
 cat food'**



TAI-LAND RĂNĂT carried off the Kit-E-Kat Cup at Olympia for the best short-haired cat. Miss Calvert Jones of Bures, Suffolk, who bred this perfect Siamese says "Tai-Land Rănăt revels in Kit-E-Kat and will eat all I can give her. I have 20 cats and kittens, and they all love it, so I keep a good supply in the house. Kit-E-Kat is so very convenient."

Not only champions but all sorts of cats owe their bright eyes, glossy coats and vitamin vitality to Kit-E-Kat.

Has *your* cat tried this tasty, balanced food? Get a tin to-day — cooked ready to serve, 10½d.



Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

Published every month with the best-possible features and illustrations and circulated to Cat Lovers of every kind throughout the world. Our editorial purpose is:

- (1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management;
- (2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats;
- (3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats;
- (4) to act as a link of friendship and common interest between cat lovers in different parts of the world.

VOL. 2 No. 12

DECEMBER 1950

Managing Editor :

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW
4 CARLTON MANSIONS
CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9



Design & photograph by Mrs. V. E. Major

Cover picture (by Associated Press) shows a Siamese litter having fun in a doll's house. Breeder is Mrs. Harrap of Eastbourne

THE CAT BY THE FIRE

A BLAZING fire, a warm rug, candles lit and curtains drawn, the kettle on for tea, and finally, the cat before you, attracting your attention—it is a scene which everyone likes. The cat purrs, as if it applauded our consideration, and gently moves its tail. What an odd expression of the power to be irritable and the will to be pleased there is in its face, as it looks up at us! Now she proceeds to clean herself all over, having a just sense of the demands of her elegant person, beginning judiciously with her paws, and fetching amazing tongues at her hind-hips. Anon, she scratches her neck with a foot of rapid delight, leaning her head towards it, and shutting her eyes half to accommodate the action of the skin, and half to enjoy the luxury. She then rewards her paws with a few more touches—look at the action of her head and neck, how pleasing it is, the ears pointed forward, and the neck gently arching to and fro. Finally, she gives a sneeze, and another twist of mouth and whiskers, and then, curling her tail towards her front claws, settles herself on her hind quarters in an attitude of bland meditation.

These seasonal and observant lines by Leigh Hunt are reprinted from the little booklet "In Praise of Cats," published by Frederick Muller Ltd.



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MISS KIT WILSON asks you to consider

The British Cat

None is better qualified than our contributor to write about the British Shorthair cat, its background, its rise to popularity and, alas ! its decline in popularity. Miss Wilson, former Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, has vast experience as legislator, judge, show promoter and author. Her interesting survey will appear in two instalments.

BRITAIN is the home of the Cat Fancy and like the settlers of old our feline pioneers have left these shores to lay the foundations of catteries all over the world. Even to-day, when it seems fashionable to belittle this country of ours, the British bred cat is eagerly sought after, and many of our best specimens are leaving their native heath to bring currency to Britain. The Standard of Points laid down by our specialist clubs is universal.

For something like sixty years cat shows have been held at one time or another in most of the principal towns in England and Scotland. For fifty years specialist and district cat clubs have been in existence and for forty years these clubs have held shows under common standards and rules.

In 1951, the Festival of Britain will be held, its chief centre being London, and thousands of visitors will be coming from all parts of the world. The cream of Britain's arts and crafts, industrial skill and commercial assets will be displayed, added to which we are told the promoters are going into the show business in a big way. It would seem appropriate, therefore, that standing as we are on the threshold of such a gigantic

British enterprise, we should consider the British cat!

What is the British cat? Like John Bull, he is square and solid. In colour he varies, but in type he is exactly the same, whatever his colour. His head is round, eyes full and bold, body cobby, limbs straight, strong and sturdy, tail short, thick and straight, and his coat is short and glossy.

He can be either of the Tabby varieties (brown, red or silver) ; he can be a self colour (black, white, blue or cream). He can be of the Tortoiseshell varieties, tortie and white or blue cream. In the old days of shows the British cat could also be a Magpie (marked like a Dutch rabbit), a spotted or a mackerel Tabby. Alas! the latter have completely departed from the modern show but there is no reason why they should not be revived.

While not decrying the svelte foreign beauty or the flowing loveliness of the Longhaired varieties, there is little to compare with the compact solidarity and the glossy short coat of the perfect Britisher. Why, then, has he practically disappeared from the show bench of to-day? For many reasons, chief of them being that the British Shorthair does not command the same high price as the Persian, Abyssinian or Siamese.



The cafre or Egyptian wild cat—is he “ the parent stock of all domestic cats ” ?

Secondly, I think, because the British cat is very apt to be called the common or alley cat ; thirdly, very possibly, because being here he is regarded as part of the fauna of the country, and as such is not valued. For this same reason the orchid is rated as of higher value than the rose.

In 1886, when the first cat show was held, Harrison Weir, whose idea it was, was laughed to scorn. Yet so enthusiastic was he over his idea that he persuaded the Crystal Palace authorities to let him hold the show there, and those who laughed very soon learned that what to them had been a great joke was, in fact, a most popular event ; so popular, in fact, that the show became an annual fixture.

It must be remembered that at these early shows there were no standards of points, and the exhibits were in all probability judged very much in the same

way that our judges to-day judge a pet show. Although much has been written about these early shows it is impossible to find out how the judges were selected and, being selected, how they set about their task. Yet these judges must have been far-sighted. They must have foreseen that some of the exhibits were potential breed starters, for in 1901 the Shorthaired Cat Society was formed and, once formed, one of its first tasks was to draw up a standard of points for the Shorthaired varieties which, with only very slight alteration, is still used to-day.

From what parent stock did the British Shorthair spring? Certainly not from the wild cat, whose only resemblance to the domestic cat is structure and form. There is, I think, no doubt that the first domestic cats to reach these shores came by ship with the traders from the East, prob-

ably by the Phoenicians or the Romans, and from the North by the Vikings.

It is a well-known fact that all these travellers had cats. Those coming from the East were of the tabby varieties, which would, I think, go to show that they were from the parent stock of the Egyptian cat. Those coming from the North were in most cases blue and had a thick water-proof coat as a protection against the icy winters of those regions.

It is an established fact that blue shorthaired cats inhabited Scandinavia long before the Viking days. These cats can be found to this day wherever the Vikings blazed a trail. As proof of this, it is interesting to quote from "Les Races des Chats," written in 1926 by a Frenchman, Dr. Jumaud, who based his remarks on the works of an early French scientist, Prof. Cornevin, of Lyons.

Brought by Boat

Jumaud says this: "Where a cat is he (that is the blue cat) has been taken, and following up the old trade routes where he has been taken you will find him. The Himalayas, Japan, Afghanistan, and Siberia claim him. Russia, Sweden, Norway and Denmark possess him. He is found in England as the imported Russian and the occasional colour sport among English breeds. Cats are from tradition as much a *sine-qua-non* on a ship as the crew. The first ships were little boats, where he wasn't needed for rats but was part of the cargo. The Vikings took him to Iceland and also brought him to Britain."

No doubt here Jumaud was describing the Russian cat, but

interbreeding between the Russian and the British has by now set a standard whereby the svelte body, the wedge head and the grass-green eyes of the Russian has been bred out. Breeders of this fascinating variety are, in fact, constantly in a dilemma to breed out the British characteristics. There is, I think, no doubt that the parent stock of all domestic cats is the caffre, or Egyptian wild cat. This cat is easily domesticated, whereas the domestication of the Highland wild cat, which is native to this country, has never been accomplished. Kittens, if taken away even before their eyes are open, always remain untameable savages.

A Breeder's Problem

While describing him as a tabby, the Egyptian cat was not marked like the tabbies of to-day, but he was clearly barred on his legs, head and tummy. Even to-day, thousands of years since the fall of the Egyptian Empire, those tabby markings of the original stock are constantly making their appearance, and breeders, especially of the self varieties, have an uphill struggle to eradicate them. Even in the most perfect specimens they have a way of showing themselves, thus rendering the animal useless for the show pen, and in some ways a doubtful breeder.

So much for the origin of the British Shorthair. Much could be written about it, and it makes an absorbing study.

[Next month Miss Wilson will write about the best-known British Shorthair cats of the past and some of the enthusiastic breeders of the past and present.]

We called her Tigger

By E. LADSON

BUT surely Tigger—the “strange and Bouncy Tigger,” creation of A. A. Milne in “The House at Pooh Corner”—was a gentleman? He was, but *our* Tigger was a little black lady, who turned out to have so many of his special characteristics that she couldn’t possibly be called anything else.

In the first place, when she was a tiny, black, quite ordinary kitten, with a quite ordinary, though tentative, name (for kittens, given time, usually name themselves), she developed a passion for malt extract. Now malt extract, if you remember, was the only food that poor breakfastless Tigger found he liked, and it so excited him that he nearly swallowed the spoon! So did our kit. And watching her, someone remarked with a reminiscent twinkle: “So *that’s* what Tiggers like!” But the name hadn’t stuck yet.

Later, the bounces began. She bounced like a rubber ball, on stiff legs, three or four times in succession; she crouched and bounced with her ridiculous triangular tail erect, wicked eyes gleaming intently; she seemed to fill the room—to be everywhere at once. The words came irresistibly to mind:—

“But whatever his weight in pounds,
shillings and ounces,

He always seems bigger because of
his bounces.

Yes—she was certainly *like* Tigger!

Older and more adventurous, she discovered the garden—and the trees. But although she would make bold attempts to climb, she never mastered the art of coming down backwards, and usually had to be rescued, mewling piteously, from her precarious clinging to the trunk. Well, of course, as we remembered, “Tiggers don’t climb trees.” The resemblance was striking!

Later—much later—came what might have been tragedy. Tigger disappeared. The whole household mourned, for a fortnight went by without news of her, and we gave her up for lost. Then one morning, early astir, my mother went down to the kitchen, and there outside on the window-sill was the missing one, thin, wretched, almost too weak to walk.

With her little remaining strength she had somehow clambered up to wait at the window which meant life and comfort to her till someone came to open it. The family was joyfully awakened with the news, and Tigger, comforted with warm milk and much caressing, slowly became herself again.

What had happened during that fortnight we never knew. We had her back and all was well, for, as we ought to have remembered, and now happily reminded each other, “Tiggers *never* get lost!”

The frolicsome kitten on the opposite page is one of the many delightful photographs by Ylla in the new book “O, Said the Squirrel,” which will most certainly be popular among children of all ages. Every page carries a photographic gem, and although the star performer of the piece is a squirrel, cats and kittens are cast in strong supporting rôles. Pictures are linked together by a story told by M. Wise Brown. (*The Harvill Press, Ltd. 7s. 6d.*)

A page for the proletarian puss No. 9



A LITTLE OF THAT FESTIVE FEELING ! (See caption opposite)

More Questions & Answers

Influence of the Queen

By ALBERT C. JUDE

Our popular contributor on the fascinating subject of animal genetics sustains the growing interest in the scientific aspects of cat breeding with this third instalment in a fine new series. Readers are invited to submit their simple problems to Mr. Jude who will be pleased to answer them for the general interest in ensuing issues.

IS it true to say that the stud has greater influence than the queen on the quality of the progeny?

The answer is "No." He will probably serve many queens, thus stamping his likeness over a greater number of kittens. That most certainly is a very good reason why a male intended for stud should be as near perfect as possible, particularly—may I add?—for the factors of health and reproduction. If the number of males and females used was equal, there would be no question of "greater influence."

On the other hand, because so many queens are served, they, by reason of their numbers, must be an influence in a Fancy, and so must be selected with equal care.

In making out the case for the queen let us consider it this way. Every female is born with the germs of life inside her body. She carries enough germs to suffice for the whole of her breeding career. For instance, a hen will on an average carry 600 germs. The eggs in a good strain may be produced in the first 18 months or so, but normally will be produced over a period of four, five, or even six years, although the larger proportion will be laid during the first year or two. The case of the fowl is an easily understood example

of the principles which apply to the hereditary and generative functions of the animal kingdom, with one very important exception.

The development of the germ of the female is carried inside the animal. Fertilisation takes place and the embryo is developed in the body of the female and is born more or less fully developed. During the whole of the cycle the germ of the next generation is developed, cradled and brought to a living being inside the female. From the time the germ is fertilised the embryo or youngster is attached to the body, and feeding and drawing all its sustenance for development from its parent.

So the female has the task of carrying its share of unfertilised ova for a new generation, but once these ova are fertilised they must carry the actual young, as well as providing them with the sustenance for their growth. So from this aspect alone, surely we can see how very important is the female line in breeding for type and quality.

Do cats see in the dark?

No; cats cannot see in complete darkness. The exposed portion of the human eye is protected by two movable folds of skin—the eyelids

These folds are connected by a very delicate transparent layer which is closely adherent to the eyeball. This is known as the conjunctiva. Inflammation of this membrane is known as a blood-shot eye.

Eye Construction

There are three layers forming the wall of the eyeball, the outer of which continues over the whole surface. All the layers are pierced at the back to allow the optic nerve to pass through. The outside layer is protective, and over the front of the eye it is transparent and is known as the cornea. The rest of this front layer is the "white" of the eye. The second layer is known as the choroid. It contains a network of blood vessels. The layer is missing under the cornea, but a circular fold extends inwards a little way behind the cornea. This fold is known as the iris. It is pigmented and gives the colour of the eye.

An aperture in the centre of the fold allows light to pass into the eyeball and is known as the pupil. The iris contains muscles which allow the size of the pupil to alter. The

amount of alteration possible is relatively small. It alters according to the brightness of the light. The lens is situated just inside the iris. The innermost coat of the eyeball is known as the retina.

Light Reflected

In the case of some vertebrates there is an additional development in the eyeball layers. On the outer layer of the choroid there is a silvery layer containing calcic crystals which extends on to the outer surface of the iris giving this a silvery appearance. In some mammals such as the cat, the side of the choroid towards the retina develops a layer with a metallic lustre. This reflects light, and is the cause of the eyes of the cat shining at night. This glow is caused by some light entering the eye and being reflected to the observer. The muscles cause the pupils of a cat's eyes to contract in a bright light to the narrow slit we know so well.

No animal can really see in the dark, but in the darkness of the night there is always *some* light, and a cat's eyes can pick up enough light to enable it to find its way about.

Readers who wish to submit questions for Mr. Jude to answer in this series of articles may address him c/o OUR CATS Magazine. All letters received will be treated in strict confidence and the source of the question will not be divulged by our contributor.—Editor.



RETURN AGAIN WHITTINGTON'S CAT (concluded from page 18)

William Walworth, who slew Wat Tyler when he threatened the king, and the other, of course, is Richard Whittington, enshrined in English hearts not for his riches nor his generosity, but for his human weakness shared by so many citizens—his

affection for a little black and white cat.

Was he really a genuine cat lover or merely a man who owed his first rise in fortune to a cat and never forgot to be grateful? I think he was both; but one thing was certain—puss was there.



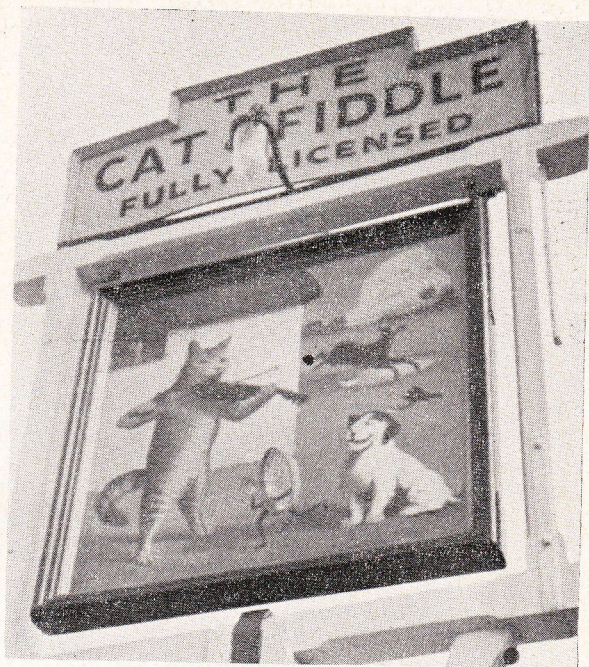
The Natal Mercury

AN INFANT PRODIGY

At a successful match show staged in Durban by the Natal Cat Club, the Best in Show award went to six months old SMOKEY, who is seen here in the arms of his mistress, Mrs. H. R. Buchanan, of Westville. The show was the second promotion of this young and enthusiastic Club.

La Chat Fidèle

By TOBY



Inn sign at Hinton Admiral, New Forest, painted by Ralph Ellis, R.A., 1949.

THE first reference I have met to a cat appearing on an inn sign occurs in an early number (538) of the "Spectator." It is written in the manner of the time by some hypochondriac peculiarly allergic to cats: "As I was going through a street of London, where I never had been till then, I felt a general clamp and faintness all over me, which I could not tell how to account for, till I chanced to cast my eyes upwards and found that I was passing under a signpost on which the picture of a cat was hung."

It is possible that the cat in question emanated from a heraldic device and may have represented the crest of the Muncaster family, a Lake District title which is now extinct. The true description was "A cat-a-mountain (wild

cat) passant, gardent, proper," and one or two such signs exist still in the North. Many others, however, may have been some early artist's interpretation of another member of the cat family, such as the leopard or the tiger, sometimes known as the Mad Cat or Red Cat.

An amusing anecdote is told about a particular "Red Coat," this time in Holland, in the year 1853. The sign was erected in The Hague by a certain Frenchman, M. Bertrand, who had left his native country, having been mixed up in some conspiracy against Mazarin. Arrived at The Hague, he opened a cutler's shop and put up a double sign, representing on the one side a red cat, on the other a portrait of his Eminence Cardinal Mazarin in his red gown and complete with

bristling moustache. Underneath he wrote, "Aux deux méchantes bêtes" (the two obnoxious animals). Holland, however, was at peace with France at the time, and so the Burgomaster, afraid of offending the French ambassador, requested Bertrand to alter his sign. Mazarin's face was then painted out and another red cat put in its place.

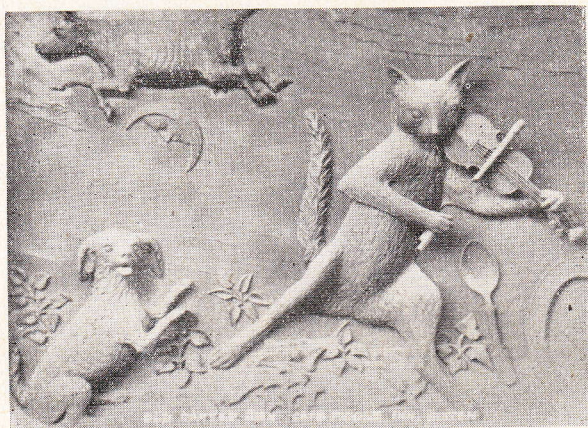
We see a similarly conscious ambiguity in modern signs per-

ally accompanied elsewhere by this somewhat naive verse:—

"The lion is strong, the cat is vicious,

My ale is strong, and so is my liquors."

The "Cat and Fiddle" is a sign that will impinge on both the past and present aspects of this subject, for, though various examples can be seen to-day, the sign has been attributed with many derivations of the past.



The fiddling cat portrayed in an old carved sign at the Cat and Fiddle Inn, Hinton.

petuated in the "Nag's Head" at Hastings, showing a woman's head in a scold's muzzle!

Corruptions of mediaeval inn signs were common at the time of the Reformation, and the "Catherine Wheel" to "Cat and Wheel" was a good example. Though often since reverted, one instance of the "Cat and Wheel" remains at Bristol on an inn rebuilt in 1900, and which retained a replica of the original figure at the corner of the building.

The "Cat and Lion," once seen upon an inn at Stockport, was probably intended to portray a Lion and Tiger, and occasion-

We do know that a Frenchman called his house after his favourite cat, "Mignonette, La Chat Fidèle," but the popular theory of historians is that the origin comes from one Caton fidèle, a Protestant in the reign of Queen Mary, famous for his defence of Calais. On the other hand, we find in 1589 a record that there existed "Henry Carr, signe of the Catte and Fidle in the Old Change," and formerly there was a sign at Norwich which showed a cat playing on a fiddle with a number of mice dancing around.

Another school of thought claims corruption from the phrase

Catherine Fidelis, or the faithful Katherine of King Henry VIII, but we can find little evidence to substantiate the pleasing thought. More likely than them all is the more obvious and simple explanation of the nursery rhyme:—

“Hey diddle diddle,
The Cat and the Fiddle,”

and so on.

And this is how we shall meet the sign when we discuss present-day examples of the cat upon the sign in the next instalment.

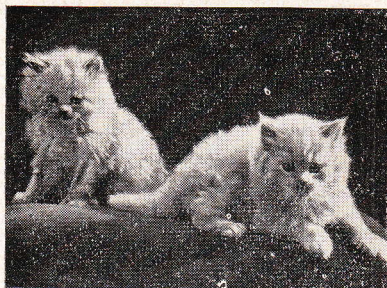
MINNIE'S NO MOUSER!

Here is a new angle on the cat-and-mouse game. The details have been kindly supplied by a New Zealand reader in the form of a cutting from his local newspaper, “The Dominion.”

Believe it or not—and the newspaper account is backed up by a picture—there is a cat called Minnie on the Wellington waterfront who has a mouse for a playmate. Scores of people have gone unbelievably to the wharf shed where Minnie lives, under the care of Mr. Booth, a plant attendant. They have watched the cat and mouse at play and have gone away convinced. When the mouse is released from a large tin in which it lives, it scampers across the floor and stands on its hind legs in a corner, like a boxer waiting for the gong. Then the fun begins. For ten minutes on end onlookers are treated to the amazing sight of a scrap of grey fur playing tag with a huge black and white adversary. Minnie is never rough and not a claw is seen.

There are many broad grins when Minnie tries to wash the mouse. As soon as her tongue goes to work the mouse fastens its teeth on her nose and hangs on. It doesn't like being washed! Minnie protests vocally but even then makes no attempt to injure her playmate.

Mr. Booth says that when Minnie has kittens it will be interesting to see how they react to mice. It is not a case of Minnie being too well fed, he adds. Another cat stole Minnie's rations one day and she had to go hungry. She later played with the mouse in the usual way in spite of her empty stomach.



ROUGEMONT CARMEN & ROUGEMONT BORIS at five weeks old

Mrs. A. Classe, of Southbrook Cottage, Starcross, South Devon, owner-breeder of the well-known Rougemont Persians, writes:

“I have used Kit-zyme since it first came on the market and the coats of my queens have improved tremendously in length and texture and their general condition is excellent.

I enclose a picture of two kits from my first litter by Crowdecote Misty Moonbeam taken when they were five weeks old; the blue-cream Rougemont Carmen took second prize in her Class at the Kensington Kitten Club Show in July and she has now a beautiful and long flowing coat of fine silken texture. She has her Kit zyme regularly—as does her mother—and her babies will follow the same routine when they are born!”

KIT-ZYME will benefit your cat too

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—
NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

VETERINARY YEAST

Promotes resistance to:

LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT,
LOSS OF APPETITE,
SKIN TROUBLES.

50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-.
KIT-ZYME is sold by Boots, and most
Pet Stores.

If any difficulty in obtaining, write to:—

PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD.,
PARK ROYAL ROAD, LONDON, N.W.10

Literature free on request

NOTTS. & DERBYS. CAT CLUB

SIXTH ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

will be held on

Monday, 8th January, 1951

in the

Victoria Baths Hall, Nottingham

Schedules and particulars from the Show Manager :

J. F. BARKER, SYLVAN HOUSE, 49 CHURCH STREET
ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CAT CLUB

CHAMPIONSHIP ALL BREED SHOW

Monday, 29th January, 1951

*Do not miss the Last Show of the Season
to be held at*

Lime Grove Hall, Shepherds Bush, W.12

Club Fees :

Entrance Fee 2s. 6d. Annual Subscription 7s. 6d.
Life Membership 5 Gns.

Further details from the Show Manager :

MRS. K. R. WILLIAMS, 92 CHILTERN ROAD
SUTTON, SURREY · Telephone : Vigilant 1389

Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature and so to join in the useful exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Letters should be concise and deal preferably with items of general interest.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

A few days ago I brought home a 10 weeks old Siamese kitten. It has splendid promise and a good pedigree. But I am finding it impossible to effect an introduction between her and my 3 years old Scotch collie type dog. I feel so discouraged by the intense enmity shown on both sides that I am reluctantly thinking about disposing of the kitten.

The kitten spits and swears and becomes a ferocious bundle of fur and claws, whilst the dog struggles hysterically to get at the provocative "fair game." What on earth am I to do? Is the position hopeless? Is there any known method to effect an introduction? I would be very grateful to receive any advice you may have to give.

Mr. A. W. B.,
Aylesford, Kent.

This particular problem has now been resolved, but the views of readers would doubtless be interesting and useful to have on record.—Editor.

NEW AUSTRALIAN CLUB

I am sure your readers will be interested to hear that we Siamese enthusiasts of New South Wales have recently formed our own Club. We are now functioning happily under the title of the Southern Cross Siamese Cat Club. Our President is Mr. Miles, of Meadow Bank, Sydney, a very highly esteemed fancier of long standing, and our Secretary is Mr. Duffy, of Hawthorne Parade, Haberfield, another well-known and experi-

enced officer in cat and dog affairs. I myself have undertaken to act as Publicity Officer and we have been fortunate in enrolling our latest arrivals from the Old Country, Capt. and Mrs. Corbett, who have brought with them two very nice Siamese specimens which are sure to be valuable in the breeding-up programme which began last year. Our thoughts now are centred on the important item of our first show.

I would like to send Christmas Greetings to my old friends at home and also Greetings to the Fancy as a whole from all members of the Southern Cross Siamese Cat Club, and, of course, not forgetting to add my own good wishes for another year of prosperity to OUR CATS.

Mrs. F. B. Donmall,
Liverpool, N.S.W., Australia.

A THANK YOU FROM U.S.A.

My recent trip to England was planned to take in the Olympia Show and it was the highlight of my trip to London. Since I have arrived back home, I have described it many times to friends and members of our Cat Fancy. I was most surprised when told of the number of paid admissions. Even California can't equal the Olympia record and they do things in a big way over here.

The most often asked question by fellow club members is, "How do their cats compare with ours?" Not being a Longhair fancier, I am not qualified to give an opinion, but I

have said that I have never seen so many gorgeous Blues under one roof and I was sorely tempted to become a Blue fancier if I could have brought back a couple of those outstanding kittens with me.

As it was, I brought home two lovely Manx, and one of them, a brown tabby male, 11 months old, named Jurby, took Best Foreign Shorthair Opposite Sex at the October Shorthair Specialty Show promoted by the Penn. State Club in Philadelphia.

Will you please put a "Thank you!" in your next issue to all the kind people who helped to make my visit a never-to-be-forgotten occasion?

Mrs. Betty O. Youngman,

Harvey Cedars, N.J., U.S.A.

About that letter you were going to send us. Why not sit down and write it NOW? This is YOUR feature. Please help to keep it going.

A NOVEL SHOW

THE Bexhill Cat Club held their second annual Cat Picture Show last month. It is believed that last year's event was the first show of its kind anywhere in England.

The Show is run as much as possible along the lines of a live cat show, the judging being done on the points of the cat as seen from the photograph. Photographs were submitted beforehand so that by the day of exhibition all had been judged and the prizes were distributed during the afternoon.

There were 23 classes (writes Mrs. K. L. Regan, Hon. Show Secretary of the Club) and several "gymkhana" classes were included as well

as the usual breed and best cat classes. Forty-five owners sent in pictures of nearly eighty cats of all sorts, and over two hundred photographs were judged. One of the most successful cats was Prince Blue Boy, a handsome Blue Longhair neuter belonging to Mrs. C. B. Aby, of Bexhill. He won 1st in Longhairs and was Best Pedigree Cat in Show, Best Pedigree Cat (Bexhill) in Show and Best Male or Neuter in Show. Mrs. V. E. Major's Abyssinian Brunswycke Cheri was 1st in pedigree Shorthairs and her Adrah Cyldor won 3rd in Pedigree Kittens and also was voted by the general public to be most popular cat (the winning photograph of him was reproduced on the cover of OUR CATS in May this year). Mrs. I. M. Donovan's Concordia Loo was 2nd in the Siamese class to Mrs. R. Hodgson's Anna, a nice young female of Prestwick strain.

In addition to the photographs for competition, many were sent along for exhibition only.

A Good Gate

Over 250 people passed through the gate during the afternoon. They heard an interesting talk from Mr. E. Keith-Robinson, Secretary of Our Dumb Friends' League. He put forward very strongly his opinion that the taxation of household cats would give them a status in the public mind that could not be achieved in any other way. The mere payment of money to the Government for the cat would make the more careless individuals put a higher value on their cats' comfort.

Judges for the event were Mrs. C. Tomlinson, Miss M. C. Gold, Miss E. Skelton, Mrs. W. Scott, Miss E. M. Lewis, Miss M. Creed and Mrs. S. Ingall.

[A photograph of Prince Blue Boy, the outstanding winner at this Show, appears on page 20.]

Return again — Whittington's Cat!

By CHERRY CALVERT JONES

IT always seems a little sad when modern iconoclasm drags down a popular idol. Miss Speed, in the January issue of this magazine, attempted to disprove the existence of Dick Whittington's cat, a nursery friend of some five hundred years' standing. I hope in this article to be able to restore puss to her master's side.

Here, then, are the historical facts of Whittington's life as they dovetail into the traditional story.

Richard Whittington was the youngest son of Sir Richard Whittington of Pauntley in Gloucestershire. In the year of the birth of his last child the unfortunate gentleman was made outlaw. He died two years later, leaving a widow and three small sons to be supported on the meagre earnings of a small estate.

To provide for the young Richard, Dame Whittington apprenticed him to the great merchant prince, Alderman Sir John Fitzwarren, a West Country man, who came from the same part of Devon as her own family. So, when Dick was about 13, he was sent to London. Once arrived there, he served his seven years' apprenticeship and in due course managed to set up in business on his own.

Dick prospered, married his master's daughter Alice (and the merchant princes looked high for their daughters' husbands!)... He endowed a hospital and a school. He also rebuilt Newgate Gaol and finally,

when King Henry Vth borrowed £60,000 from him, he invited the King to a sumptuous feast at which he cast the bonds for the loan upon a fire of rare spice woods. When he died he had been three times Lord Mayor of London.

That is the Whittington of history. Now, how does the traditional tale of Whittington and his Cat fit in?

According to this, "Richard was a poor boy who came to London to make his fortune." Correct; his family was certainly not rich.

"He was ill-treated and bullied and on one occasion ran away, only to turn back on hearing the prophetic and encouraging chimes of Bow bells. At Fitzwarren's he was lodged in a rat-infested garret." Perfectly possible. Cockney ways would have been strange to him and it was not likely that he saw more of his master than the newest junior assistant at Harrods sees of the general manager, except that he ate at his table below the salt.

"So he bought a cat with his one silver penny" (worth about 2s. 4d.). However good a trader he later became, Dick was certainly done over his first deal. She was a queen, though I've no doubt the individual who pocketed the penny swore himself black in the face she was a tom.

"The cat killed off all the rats and then, as subsequent events were to reveal, went off and mated." If cats were so rare as it has been suggested, it is a wonder she ever found a mate!

"Dick was told to dispose of his cat." She and her boy friend had probably been yowling under the Alderman's window half the night.

"The Alderman was then dispatching a ship to Zanzibar to trade with the natives, and as his retainers were always allowed a little private flutter on these occasions, Dick ventured his all—the cat." Short of killing his pet this was the only means of getting rid of her. It is also possible that he had heard from the sailors that brought the imported silks and velvets to the shop that Zanzibar was badly off for cats.

Cat Made a God

"The ship sailed, the cat promptly kitted and the sentimental mariners let her keep the lot. By the time they made port the kittens were half-grown and able to help their parent make a clean sweep of the Sultan's plague of rats. The grateful monarch kept the kits and returned their mother to Dick with a substantial reward, after which he never looked back and always kept a cat."

Perfectly possible, you see. The simple rule of supply and demand coupled with beginner's luck, which between them have made so many fortunes. Domestic cats are not to be found everywhere. In one of Edgar Wallace's stories the natives kidnapped a missionary's pussy and made her a god.

It is stated that the story of Whittington's cat is not to be found in any contemporary history of the great man. But there is no such history. His life must be laboriously traced through musty latin records ending with his will.

When Estrake's 1590 portrait appeared in print there was an outcry that the skull beneath Whittington's hand should have been a cat, and it

had to be altered at once. And those who protested were adult Elizabethans not likely to be concerned with fairy tales but anxious for the traditions of their city.

There used to hang in Mercer's Hall another portrait of Whittington, and at his hand is a smug black and white cat. The picture is dated 1536. After his death, Sir Richard's executors pulled down and rebuilt Newgate Gaol, and on an outer column of the gateway stood the figure of Liberty with a cat lying at her feet. Above the main gate was a statue of Sir Richard with his cat beside him. Newgate was destroyed in the Great Fire, but it is described by reliable authorities.

An Interesting Link

Once there stood in Crutched Friars an old mansion which was demolished in 1861. Cats' heads were on the knockers and were carved upon the ceilings so naturally that they seemed to follow you. Tradition says the house had belonged to Richard Whittington.

The next piece of evidence was found far from his beloved Chepe. In Gloucester, the family of an older Whittington brother owned a house until the middle of the 15th century. In 1563 there was found a stone on which is carved a boy with a cat in his arms. Experts say it is 15th century work, which looks very much as if the Whittington family wished themselves to perpetuate the cat story. The carving is now in the Guildhall Museum.

It sheds an interesting light on our national character that of all the substantial citizens who were Lord Mayors of London throughout the centuries, the names of only two are generally remembered. One is

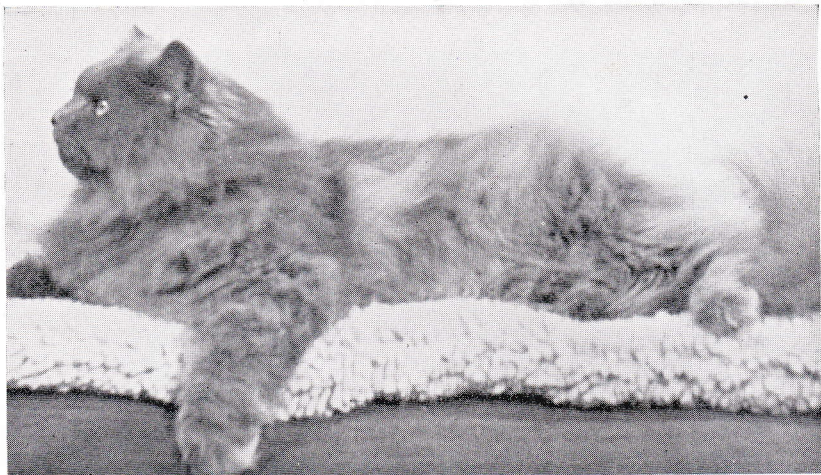
(Continued on page 9)



Sport & General

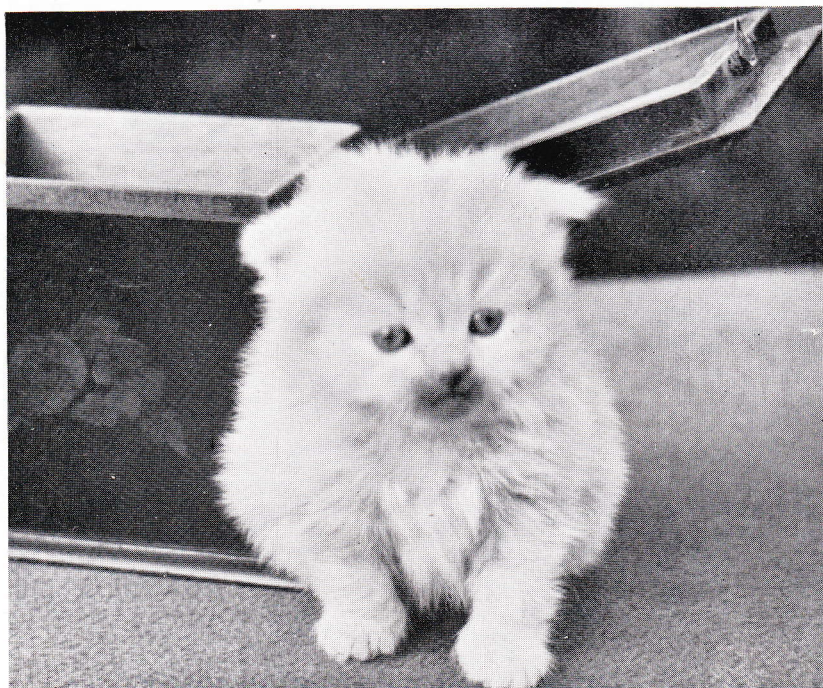
WHICH WOULD YOU PICK FOR CHRISTMAS ?

Our guess is that the little fellow in the front row (fourth from the right) would be the popular choice. In any case, few would fail to agree that this is one of the outstanding litter pictures of the year. Yes, they are one litter and they made their debut at the Croydon Cat Club Show last month. Breeder is Mrs. M. Turney, of Forest Green, Berks, who had to resort to hand feeding in order to rear this remarkable Chinchilla family of 5 males and 4 females.



Marina

This photograph of PRINCE BLUE BOY, handsome Blue Longhair neuter belonging to Mrs. C. B. Aby, of Bexhill, was an outstanding exhibit at the Cat Picture Show of the Bexhill Cat Club. A report of this unusual and successful event appears on page 14.



James R. B. Wardle

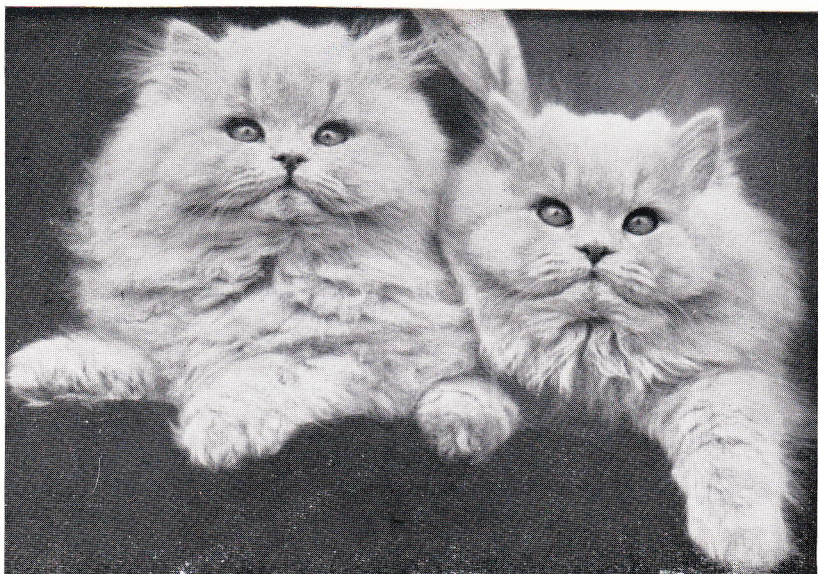
"Coal? I haven't seen any!" says 4 weeks old Cream Longhair DONNA-CHAI DH SGHEAN DHU (Walverdene Major ex Danehurst Water Gipsy). Owner-breeder is Mrs. D. Robertson, of Fairlie, Ayrshire.



These are four of a fine litter of six Blue Longhair kittens bred by Mrs. D. H. Harrington-Harvard from Ch. Oxleys Peter John and Stanforth Dauntless Lady. One of them, Trenton Victoria, was Best Longhaired Kitten at the recent Croydon Cat Club Show.



Bars and stripes ! This delightful exhibit of five Silver Tabbies was taken at a Toronto show. Breeder, Miss S. Grace Hinckcliffe, has specialised in this lovely variety since 1936. Her cattery includes two Double Champions and four Champions and her many successes at Canadian and American shows include a Best Shorthair in Show—a notable achievement.



Presenting BAYHORNE VENUS and BAYHORNE EROS, Blue Longhair kittens of quality and appeal bred by Mrs. Dulcie Benbow, Little Hereford, Ludlow, Salop. Sire is Champion Baralan Boy Blue and the dam Snab Silver Sue.



Photo by the Australian Women's Weekly

Remember the story in our September and October issues of the four little Siamese babies who made the long journey by sea to Melbourne, Australia? Here they are, safely out of quarantine and happily installed in the home of their new owners, the Hine family, sheep farmers of Lara. BRIARRY SIMONETTA is held by the little girl and Mrs. Hine is nursing LEMLING PERTAMA and VELVET MASK DELPHINE (Blue Point). KAYBEE CLEMATIS, another B.P., is seen with young Garry Hine. The quartette have made their first show appearance, notching a whole string of successes.

“Wayward, Wilful and . . .”

P. M. SODERBERG concludes his interesting profile of a remarkable cat—12½ years old Chinchilla female Champion Langherne Winsome, who on her last performance on the show bench was judged Best in Show at Olympia in September. In last month's instalment Mr. Soderberg related the facts about Winsome's birth, her first show appearances, her four owners and her bar sinister kittens. After early disappointments she was at last in kitten to a well-known stud. Would she ever rear anything but mongrel kittens?

THIS time things soon looked much more hopeful and eventually four well-developed kittens were born. It was soon obvious, however, that all was not well, for from the moment of their birth these kittens continued to cry to the accompaniment of a whistling sound. To me this was something new, but when I examined each kitten in turn it was quite clear that they all had cleft palates and could not possibly feed from their mother. Thus Winsome's first pure-bred litter was a failure and had to be destroyed.

I then decided that before she had another family there should be a period during which I could feed calcium and the vitamins, particularly Vitamin E. Thus when Winsome called next time she was shut up in a top room at least forty feet from the ground and the door was locked, although the window was left open an inch or two at the top. Only a few minutes later there was the sound of a cat calling and with three flying leaps, the longest of which was nearly 20 feet, Winsome had reached the ground and was off. Fortunately, she did not get very far and for the next week she was kept securely shut up.

After this I asked Miss Langston if she would have Winsome when she was likely to call and mate her to Ch. Rodney of Allington. This Miss Langston agreed to do and the result was Foxburrow Tilliwilli, a single kitten but the first pure-bred Chinchilla that Winsome had reared. He became the first Chinchilla Champion of the post-war period and is still owned by Miss Langston, to whom I sold him before he had been shown. He has many of his mother's qualities, both physical and also of temperament, but I think I should give her pride of place in both respects.

Soon after Tilliwilli was born all my cats developed cat 'flu and for many weeks Winsome's life hung by the merest thread, but she had no intention of dying and hung on with a grim determination which was very cheering to those who had to nurse her. Early in the next year she had another male Chinchilla kitten, Foxburrow Simon, who was also outstandingly good, but I lost sight of him and he was never shown.

Even her single Chinchilla kittens had caused Winsome a lot of trouble, so I now decided to mate her to a Blue as her cross-bred litters had been produced without difficulty. Miss Langston

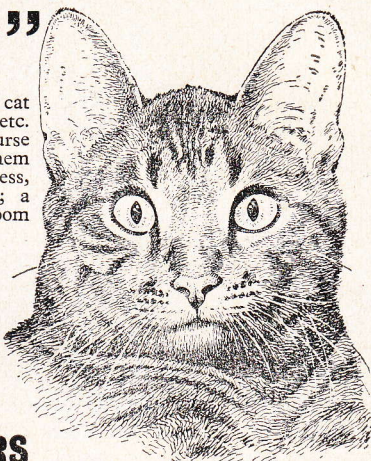
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mated her to her well-known Blue stud, Dickon of Allington, but once again there was the same trouble and there was only one kitten, a Blue-Chinchilla, Fox-burrow Wendy.

I was now convinced that Winsome's breeding days were over and I discussed the matter with Miss Steer, who was strongly of the opinion that Winsome should at least have her chance on the show bench. As that did not appeal to me Miss Steer asked if she could have Winsome again. To this I readily agreed, but we were all sorry to see the old lady, who was now well over seven, leave a home where I felt she had been happy apart from the interference of humans in her family affairs. I knew that with Miss Steer she would have a home equally as satisfactory as the one she was leaving, and so the day came when I took her to London and sent her off to Newmarket, where Miss Steer was living at the time.

Her Last Adventure

It did not take Winsome long to prove to Miss Steer that, although a cat of seven should be sedate, this one was different. One night, when the moon was full and lady cats are inclined to go in search of adventure, Winsome again escaped through a bedroom window and wandered the countryside. For four days Miss Steer searched for her high and low and in the process lost her voice and also wore out a pair of shoes. But Winsome was quite safe when she was found at the end of this time. Exhausted and dirty, she was taken home to sleep for the best part of a week.

This was her last amorous adventure, but there were no kittens.

It was now that Winsome turned her attention to other fields, for at her first show in 1945 she won her first Championship Certificate. Since then she has gone on to win seven Championships and has several times been Best in Show. More Championships would have come to her had she been shown more often, but even a great cat must sometimes give lesser felines a chance of the highest honours.

And then last September once again she was chosen as Best in Show and had the pleasure, if such it was, of seeing her photo in the daily press. As Miss Steer says in her letter to me, the Crystal Show at Olympia was her "great finale."

Her Line Continues

Several times I have seen Winsome at the shows and have always gone to talk to her. I used to imagine that she remembered the happy days we had at Caterham. I hope I was right. However long she lives Winsome will not change. She will always be wayward, wilful and delightfully attractive. "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety."

Since Olympia, Thistledown Buntie, a daughter of Foxburrow Wendy, has had a female kitten who is thus a great granddaughter of Winsome. This little kitten is to be called Thistledown Crystal as a tribute to the remarkable show successes of her great grandmother. May she be equally successful!

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Dear Sir,

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It was a hard decision to make, whether we should bring her or not, but we are all thankful now, especially as it is so obvious that she has been well cared for.

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Let's go to a show !

We urge readers to attend as many Cat Shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management. Brief details of the show programme for the 1950-51 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1951					
8 January	...	... *Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club	...	...	Nottingham
20 January	...	... Lancs and North Western Counties	...	...	Manchester
29 January	...	... *Southern Counties Cat Club	...	...	London
11 February	...	... Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	...	...	Edinburgh
* Denotes Show with Championship status.					



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

REGULARLY every month, Mrs. Joan Thompson—popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge—will turn the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

9th November. Croydon Cat Club Ch. Show attracted the record number of 170 exhibitors. Exhibits totalled 339 and entries 1,371. Our capable Show Manager, Mr. Towe, was in the unique position of having to refuse entries owing to lack of space. Only adult Longhair males and litters were allowed double pens. Owing, perhaps, to the printer's strike, the newspaper publicity was almost nil, so the gate was not in keeping with the other records.

The cats, just coming into winter coat, were a lovely collection and some of the scarcer varieties showed an improvement in numbers. Creams demonstrated their steadily growing popularity by having 13 adults and 13 kittens to represent them.

The President, Miss Helen Hill Shaw, now 90 years of age, arrived long before judging commenced and stayed until the end. Her thoughts must have been winging backwards to the time when she organised so many successful shows for the Club.

Best Cat was Miss Kathleen Yorke's Longhair blue-eyed White Ch. Carreg Comfort. He was in perfect show

form and beautifully presented. Best Shorthair Cat, Mrs. Teasdale's S.P. Siamese Kentshill Ermyntude; Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's Blue—a picture kitten; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mr. Whiting's consistent S.P. Siamese winner Maiz-Mor-Marquis.

A grand show, well organised in the way we almost take for granted nowadays.

25th November. To the Salon Bleu of the Palace Hotel, Lausanne, a very luxurious venue for the International Championship Show of the Cat Club Vaudois.

I wonder how far one would have to seek in England before one would find the manager of a first-class hotel agreeable to renting a ballroom for a cat show? Lovely carpets were laid on the parquet floors and the pens were erected above them, and although it rained from morn till eve each day of the show the public came in hundreds to see the cats. In an annexe there was a dais with a long table and behind it a huge window, so there was a very good light for judging.

When I arrived at 10 a.m. workmen were bringing in pots of cinerarias and tall green plants and attending to details which add so much to the charm of shows abroad. I had two very attentive stewards, Mlle. Urruty and Mlle. West, each with a marvellous flair for finding the cats quickly. The numbering abroad

is different to ours. At Continental shows each owner's exhibits are penned consecutively, irrespective of the variety. Mlle. Curchod had thoughtfully provided a chart, but they needed some sorting out as often two, three, or even four cats were in one large pen. It is remarkable how well they agree as males and females are often penned together, and on some occasions I have also seen males together. The Longhairs far outnumbered the other varieties and many beautiful exhibits were presented.

Best Cat in Show was Mme. Bridgett's Southway Reveller, yet another potential Champion by Dickon of Allington and Southway Whiz. The progeny of this famous pair will go down to posterity and this mating is a classic example of a perfect "nick." It was almost a toss up for Best in Show between Southway Reveller and Mme. Bridgett's young Cream male Rollo of Sunfield, by Mrs. Aitken's Pelham Puffball. Rollo was bred by our Miss Gabb, of Godalming. He has a lovely head and eyes, neat ears, fine physique, and the pale coat Cream breeders are seeking to re-establish. Combined with paleness it had length, and when he was brought to the table on the evening of the second day to receive the prize for Best Cream Adult there was much applause.

The second Cream male, Bentveld Muffin, owned by Mme. Urruty and bred in Holland by Miss Posthuma, was a lovely cat excelling in type and eye colour, but his warmer shade of coat made him second on the day. Mme. Bridgett also won in Cream females with the litter sisters Widdington Wisteria and Widdington Whimsy, by Ch. Widdington Warden, bred by Mrs. Sheppard. They are a lovely pair.

Mlle. Curchod exhibited some handsome adults with lovely coats and

splendid physique, but they were darker in colour, and as 50 points out of a possible 100 are allowed for coat and colour in Creams, Mme. Bridgett's had to take precedence. Mlle. Perrin's famous Longhair Whites were in fine form and an impressive sight as they lounged in their triple pen with its silver gauze draperies and mirrors at back. Her blue-eyed International Champion White Flowers du Lemane was first in the class for Ch. females, closely followed by the Paris winner M. Pierre Pulby's orange-eyed White Djangir Xermine, who was first and Champion in her Open Class.

Mme. Paganini, all the way from Novellara, Italy, won in Blue females with Yukiko de la Chesnaie, and she also won in Chinchilla females with Yade de la Chesnaie, both bred by Mlle. Chamonin, of Geneva. These young breeders are very keen and cheerfully undertook the 10-hour journey to exhibit in Lausanne. Whilst there they purchased a beautiful odd-eyed White kitten from Mlle. Perrin.

An interesting exhibit was a Blue Smoke by Mlle. Perrin's orange-eyed White Longhair Int. Ch. Pigeon, the dam being a pure bred Blue, Trenton Columbine. Mme. Cordey's Blue Chinchillas were exquisite and it was with reluctance I put her Tikita de la Chesnaie down to third in the Open Class because she was too heavily ticked. Her eyes were a glorious brilliant green, a colour we see too rarely nowadays since palest coated Chinchillas are de rigueur. Tikita's beautiful son, Uwai des Perlitats, was Best Neuter.

Best Kitten was Mme. Sandoz's Cream, Deebank Powder Puff, bred in England by Miss Bull. She was so equal in quality to a Brown Tabby of exceptional type that I considered the fairest way was to arrange a ballot, and on consulting the Presi-

dent, Mlle. Perrin, she agreed and officiated with Mme. Bridgett and myself, the result being one in favour of the Cream. The Brown Tabby Zette-Tabou du Leman is interesting as she is by Ch. Pigeon and a pure bred Blue.

Only one Siamese male was exhibited and two females, the better one being Dr. Horvatin's Susi. On the second day her owner had her Alsatian tethered to a chair. He was lying on the floor near the dais nearly all day, not taking the slightest notice of the comings and goings, but in the evening, when Susi was sitting on a chair near him with a collar and lead on, waiting to be taken home, he was on guard instantly waiting to challenge anyone who attempted to go near her.

Mme. Bridgett's Cream male René de Valescure was exhibited "not for competition." When he has his harness and lead on he will go anywhere with his mistress. He was parading at the Paris Show and Lausanne quite unconcerned about the crowds. He usually travels with her and visited Mme. Sarrazin when we were there in October and wandered round as if he owned the place. The resident cats were so overcome by his lordly manner they just sat and looked at him without a murmur.

26th November. To the Show and a leisurely day. I had only the couples, groups and best Champion male and female to judge. No prize money is given. A long table had a lovely display of prizes for all the winners: table lamps, silver spoons, china ornaments, cut-glass, table mats, chocolates, liqueurs, not forgetting a bottle of whisky and gin. It was a delightful finale to the Show, which closed at 6 p.m. the second day.

Mme. Beard gave many lovely silver prizes and Mrs. Macdonald donated two silver dessert spoons with a unique design which were

THE BOOK OF THE SIAMESE CAT

by Rose Tenent

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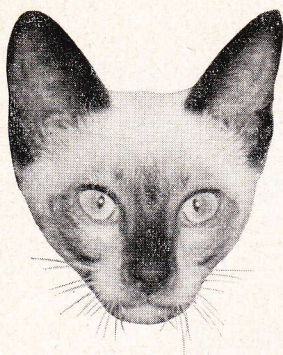
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awarded to Mme. Bridgett. Mlle. Curchod, the Secretary-Treasurer, toiled very hard and no praise is too much for all the work she put in to make the Show a success. Mlle. Perrin, although far from well, was also busy before and after the Show. Mrs. Macdonald and Miss Manley travelled overland on the Wednesday before the Show. I did not have much opportunity of speaking to them during the show but when I met them at Mme. Gibbon's on Monday evening I heard how much they were enjoying themselves.

I was very pleased to meet again Mme. Sandoz, from Zurich, who judged the show at Copenhagen on 28th, 29th, and 30th October. She gave me a written report and here are some extracts from it: "Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth organised the Show perfectly and she had a wonderful set of workers. The show was held in several rooms beautifully decorated with little trees and flowers, with flags of all competing nations hanging on the walls. There were 120 exhibits, a number of them coming from Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. A youngster I fell in love with was the English-bred Siamese kitten Morris Sable, by Ch. Hillcross Song. With his pale short coat and dark seal mask and points, slanting blue eyes and whip tail, he was a picture. A great winner later on, I imagine, he was Best Siamese Kitten. Dandy of Pensford was exhibited 'Not for competition,' as the daughter of his owner, Baroness Lilly von Bach, was anxious to steward for me. He is a fine male with his large, well-rounded head and neat little ears. The winning Blue male was Fru Anna Frederiksen's Teddig of Bollemosen, and the same owner's Blue female, half-sister to the male, was first and Ch., and she also won first and Ch. with her White male Neptun of Bollemosen and her female, so it was a very successful day for this owner.

I was amazed to see so many Red Tabbies in Denmark; not all were good in markings, but Lisbeth Montanus was a worthy winner of the Ch. She had the butterflies on shoulders, oysters on side; head and paws well barred and was a huge queen with a very good head and tiny ears. Miss Jorgensen's White male Xam du Bosquet was a lovely cat, but the Red self male of her own breeding I thought was wonderful. His deep, warm brown-red coat even to the roots and of softest texture enchanted me, and, combined with this, he had lovely type. I had an original litter to judge. The dam a Silver Tabby and the sire a Blue. One kitten was a handsome Silver Tabby, two Brown Tabbies and one Blue-Smoke.

"Twenty-five Seal Pointed Siamese were present, Hr. Sorensen's Ayll of Sandkaas being the winning male and Fru Paulsen's Fut of Jorna (pictured in OUR CATS, November, 1949) the winning female; the latter completed her Championship.

"I went for some lovely drives with Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhuth before and after the Show and returned to Zurich with lovely impressions of the show and Denmark."

27th November. To "La Prairie" to visit Mme. Gibbon, Mme. Bridgett and Liseron. After a merry tea-party we saw sufficient super Blues, Chinchillas and Creams to make a show.

What a galaxy of beautiful cats and how marvellous to keep so many in such coat and condition. Over 60, I was informed. The Chinchillas are some of the loveliest I have seen for years and are the immediate descendants of the super Chinchillas we had pre-war, owning Ch. Thistledown Carus, Ch. Matthew of Greengables, and the Allington Chinchillas as their sire or grand-sire.

Writing in a contemporary magazine, Mr. Soderberg, who judged

Chinchillas at Croydon Show, comments: "I must confess that I am worried about them if those I had to judge were really typical. I can well remember before the war Chinchillas which for size and strength of bone were almost the equals of Blues. In those days . . . Chinchillas impressed me with their ethereal appearance combined with real sturdiness. . . . I believe the solution to be a Blue cross but I am not unaware of the resulting difficulties."

I am inclined to agree with this stricture but am a bit dubious about the remedy. The orange or copper eye being dominant is the first drawback which comes to mind, and then the tendency of this cross to accentuate or appear to introduce bars on head and legs. However, it has other good possibilities such as greater breadth of muzzle, stronger chins and smaller ears, apart from the hope of achieving the original objective, viz., improved physique.

Mme. Gibbon's Chinchillas conform to this ideal; their appearance is daintiness personified, yet they have sturdy limbs, glorious coats, and the majority the huge sea-green eyes which puts the finishing touch on this lovely variety. I revelled in handling all these beautiful Chinchillas, my second favourite Longhair variety after Blues. Farquhar Aiglon sat on my lap and gazed around with his huge eyes. He is a friendly fellow and suffered no ill effects from his Paris outing and triumphs. The Blues arrived in a bevy and were just as true to type; in fact, some of them verged on the ultra typey. The females would have needed some sorting out in an Open Class at a major London Ch. Show and were sufficient in quality and quantity to provide a class above the average.

An orange-eyed White, White Heather du Leman, bred by Mlle. Perrin, and a rich-coloured Tortoiseshell were also lovely.

CORABELLE

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Mrs. H. Denham, of 48 Elsworthy Road, Hampstead, N.W.3, owner-breeder of the well-known Frensham Siamese and Abyssinian Cats, writes:

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Mme. Bridgett's Creams were sleeping after their triumphs at the Show, but Rene was in evidence enjoying himself, as usual.

A delightful informal supper ended the evening. In addition to our hostesses, others present were Mme. and Mlle. Urruty, Mlle. West, Mrs. Macdonald, Miss Manley, and the cook, who presided over a steaming dish which made for merriment and fun.

28th November. Visited Mme. and Mlle. Perrin in the morning. After Croydon Show a photo (reproduced elsewhere in this issue) appeared in the "Daily Graphic" of Mrs. Turney's remarkable litter of nine Chinchillas. I was interested to be shown reproductions of this in foreign periodicals by Mlle. Perrin. She was amazed when I assured her they were all one litter and had been reared by the mother, assisted by Mrs. Turney's hand feeding. It is almost as rare as human quadruplets for a Longhair cat to have nine kittens and even more rare for them all to survive. I saw them at Croydon and they were remarkably lively and strong. There are five males and four females and they have a Blue grandsire. Sire, Ch. Stourbank Silver King, and the dam is Danehurst Sandon. One wonders if the outcross gave them just the little extra vim necessary for survival. In the afternoon I flew back from Geneva with recollections of a lovely Show and charming personalities.

29th November. The Lancs. and North Western Counties are holding their show in the Manchester Corn Exchange on 20th January for the first time under G.C. rules. Siamese judging will be in the capable, experienced hands of Miss Kit Wilson and Miss Wentworth Fitzwilliam. Longhairs will be judged by Mrs. Newton, who has officiated at so many post-

war shows, and myself. Forty-four classes will be provided. I am sure everyone who attends this fixture will appreciate the friendly atmosphere. I have very happy recollections of the two occasions on which I have judged for this Club. Mrs. Culley, 65 Westbourne Park, Urmston, Manchester, will be pleased to give further particulars, and here's hoping for a bumper entry.

30th November. Several letters abroad correctly stamped reminded me that whilst I was abroad I received some with insufficient postage. The correct rate for France, Italy and Switzerland is 4d. letter post and 2½d. for post cards. Fanciers in this country would be vexed if they realised our friends abroad were paying surcharges.

A Happy Christmas to cat lovers at home and overseas, and all good wishes for a successful year with their cats and kittens.

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Peppermints, liquorice, green salads, tomatoes, beetroot, nuts, glacé cherries—all these are enjoyed by their pet cats, according to correspondents in a Sunday newspaper.

Here is a news item of special interest in view of the article which appears elsewhere in this issue under the title "Return Again—Whittington's Cat." Living with her parents in Sussex, where she keeps a number of cats, is a direct descendant of Sir Richard Whittington's elder brother, a mercer who lived in Gloucestershire. She is 24-year-old Elizabeth Whittington, a professional ice skater.

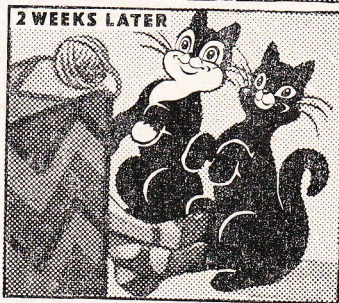
Geneticists at a laboratory in Bar Harbour, Maine, U.S.A., are said to have raised a pair of Orange Point Siamese. They will "officially" be known as Red Points.

A man charged at Chester on a charge of breaking in with intent to steal was discharged after he had explained how he went into a neighbour's house after his cat. He told the Court how he entered the house through a loft after hearing a cat screaming and a dog growling. He was in his stocking feet because it was his custom to take off his shoes when he came home.

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Tailpieces

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with a selection of the best
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THE new date for the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club Show is 11th February and the venue Edinburgh. The show, it will be recalled, was originally fixed for October and was wisely postponed owing to an outbreak of cat influenza in the district.

A grey tabby cat has played a big part in preventing the death by drowning of a 2½ years old New Zealand boy. The child, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Les Smith, was found floating unconscious in a pond and was rescued in the nick of time. The cat, which was closely attached to the boy and followed him everywhere, was seen by Mrs Smith agitatedly parading up and down the bank of the pond. When she noticed the cat's unusual behaviour she investigated. A former nurse, she applied measures to make the child vomit water and succeeded in restoring his breathing. "It's only an old grey tabby," said Mrs. Smith, "but from now on she'll be fed on good steak."

The Committee of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Clubs have appointed a new Hon. Secretary, Treasurer and Show Manager following the resignations of the Joint Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. J. M. Newton and Miss Phillips. He is Mr. F. B. Williams, of Sutton, Surrey, husband of Mrs. Kathleen Williams, who has just fulfilled a judging assignment in America.

Trying to rescue a cat, R.S.P.C.A. Inspector Coles was nearly carried away by the strong currents of the River Mersey at Stockport. He fell from a rock ledge and was waist deep in water, but managed to haul himself up to safety by clutching the rope with which he was lowering himself. The cat eluded the Inspector for three hours, during which it swam 75 yards against the current to a rock.

Fifteen "wild" cats presented a problem for the Superintendent of Our Dumb Friends' League at Newport, Mon. A message was received from the hostel of the Polish labour camp at Llanmartin, which was being evacuated, asking for advice and stating that they were concerned about the future of the cats which lived in the woods and visited the camp for food. When the camp was evacuated there would be no food for them, and as the cats had become very wild they could not be handled. The Superintendent visited the camp for five days and succeeded in capturing all of them in a cat trap.

The current issue of "The Tailwagger Magazine" records the existence of a non-pedigree cat who weighs 32½ lbs. at nearly 12 years of age. His owner, Miss Davies, of Herne Bay, says he keeps fit and is a perfect companion.

The Scottish Cat Club had a fair and bright day for their Show after a

period of fog and rain. Some out-lying exhibitors had trouble with the icy roads, but despite all the difficulties 57 cats and 3 litters were waiting for the judges. These were Miss D. M. Beckett and Mrs. Speirs. During the four hours of opening 816 people paid to see the exhibits. Best in Show and Best Kitten was Inwood Cloud, by Ch. Prestwick Penglima Pertana ex Inwood Shadow. Runner-up to this 6 months old kitten was Miss Paton's Longhair Red Tabby female Pixie of Rockvilla. The guests of honour were Miss Kathleen Yorke and Madame L. Gibbon, who gave much helpful information to exhibi-

tors and seekers after knowledge. The winner of Mme. Gibbon's special prize from the Cat Club de Paris was Mrs. McPhail's Tweeniehills Glenavon, the best Longhair Blue exhibit bred in Scotland. A handsome silver bracelet gifted by the same donor went to Mr. W. Alexander's tiger-striped neuter.

More than 20 dogs and some cats died in a fire which broke out in a wooden building at the well-known Hackbridge Kennels, Surrey. Most of the dogs were in quarantine or sick quarters and the origin of the fire is reported to be a mystery.

MICKEY



LINDALE NICOLETTE (Mystic Dreamer ex Beaumanor Bricky) has been a show winner for Mrs. Matthes, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

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To the Children



From Uncle Peter



Boys and Girls

I want to talk to you this month about the migration of birds. This strange habit of birds applies to nearly all countries, but we will deal with a few from the British Isles.

Quite apart from the different species of birds in these islands, we have several different types which are different because of the period of time they spend with us.

Some birds which we call British spend the whole of the year with us ; others come in the spring and then go away to warmer lands before winter comes. There are also other birds which come to us as winter visitors because here they know it will be warmer than in the countries where they have spent the summer. These birds, however, do not wish to go to a country where it is really warm.

Residents

I expect that you can think of many birds which are with us all the year round. Have you ever been out for a walk in the country at any time of the year without seeing one of those cheeky tits who so often remove the tops from our milk bottles and help themselves to the cream?

Migration

Some of our birds migrate long before winter comes. That usually means that they collect together in small groups or even a large flock and then, as if a signal had been given to them, they rise in the air together and usually fly south, where, as you know, the winter is much warmer than in England. Some of our British birds fly to the north coast of Africa.

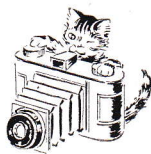
No one really understands how they know when the time has come for them to start on this dangerous journey of perhaps more than 1,000 miles. Even people who have spent their whole lives studying birds cannot say for certain how birds tell the direction in which they are flying. The fact is that some of them go to the same area year after year when autumn comes, and some of them return to the same towns or villages and even the same nests when spring arrives.

Every spring I look for the arrival of certain birds because when I see or hear them I know that the cold weather is past. Of course, I have my special favourites and I expect you have, too. If not, when next spring comes see if you can find out when some of these birds return to your district.

Uncle Peter

Your replies to Uncle Peter should be addressed to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Please remember to write "Uncle Peter" at the top left-hand corner of your envelope.

*. . well-fed, well-petted
and
properly
revered .*



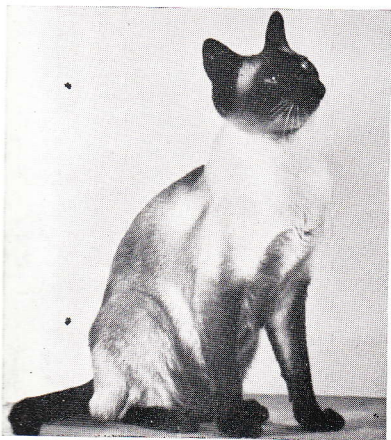
Mark Twain



OVID FELIX, something of a rarity, is a peke-faced Red Tabby male. Bred by specialist fancier Mrs. Mabel Davidson, Anna, Ill., U.S.A., he was twice Best Kitten in Show and sire of many Champions.



ANSON BELINDA, born March, 1950, was bred by Miss I. Statman, of Cricklewood. Sire is Robin of Pensford, dam Valleyend Vanessa.



LITTLE SINGHI, photographed by Frank Newbould, belongs to Siamese fans Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Counsell, Jr., of Cleveleys, Blackpool.



Well-named **PERCY MIDNIGHT**, 7 months old, is one of three pets who officially belong to $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old Claire Bevan-Jones, of Radstock, Bath.

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