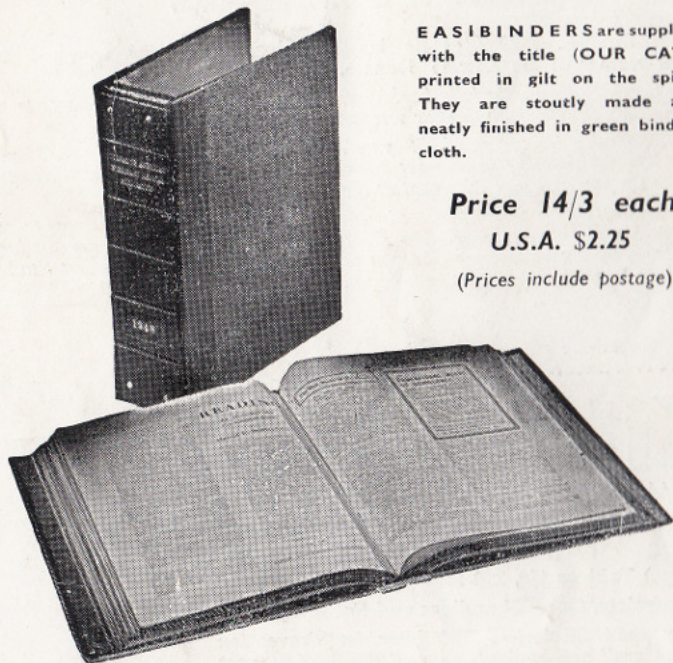


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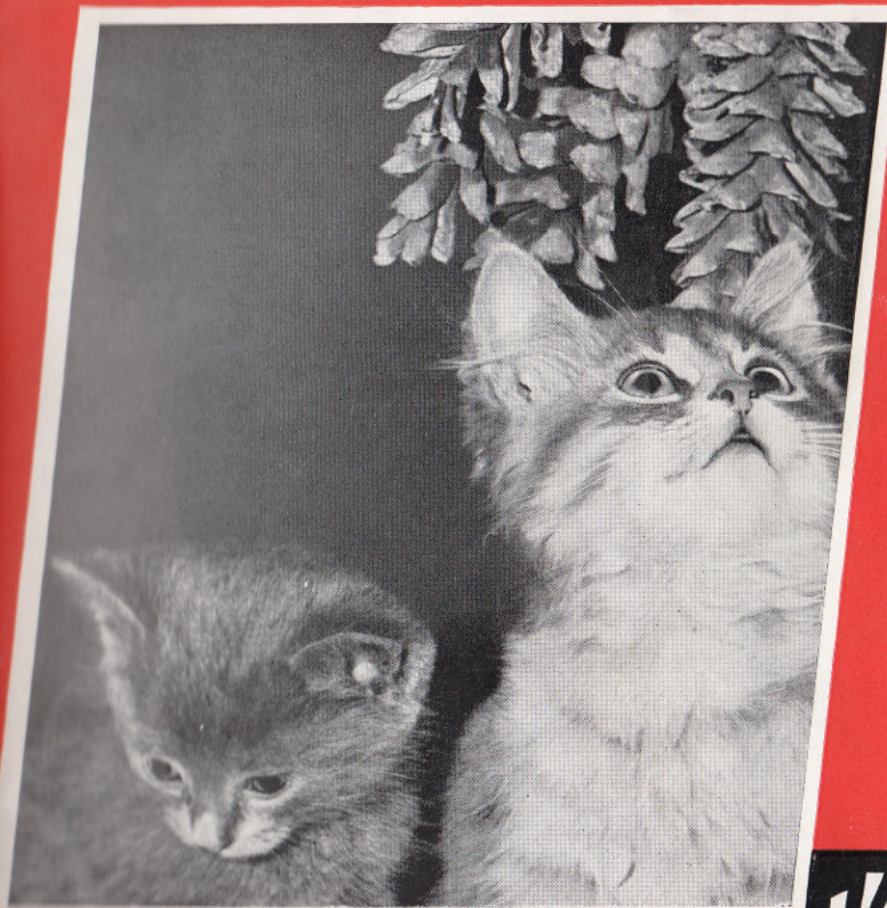
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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



Photograph by Jeanne White, Ottawa, Canada

Dec 60

1/6

SPECIAL FOR CHRISTMAS—PICTURES, FEATURES & GREETINGS

SNOWCLOUD EROS

14 months old

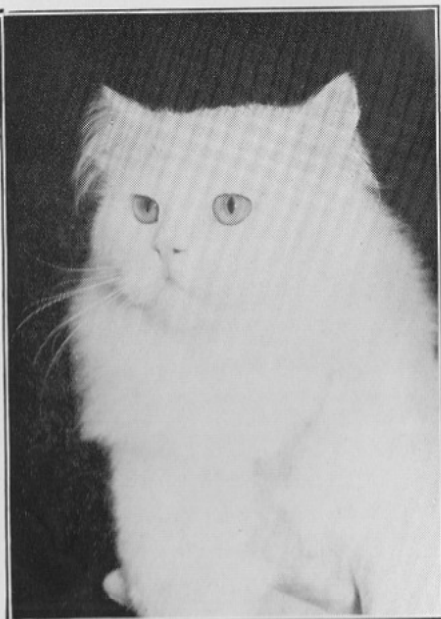
Best Exhibit in Show

National Cat Club,
Olympia 1959

West of England and
South Wales, June 1960

South Western Counties,
September 1960

MRS. KATHLEEN M.
MEARNS of Simons Holt,
Whitefield, Wiveliscombe,
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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.

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DECEMBER 1960

Managing Editor:

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

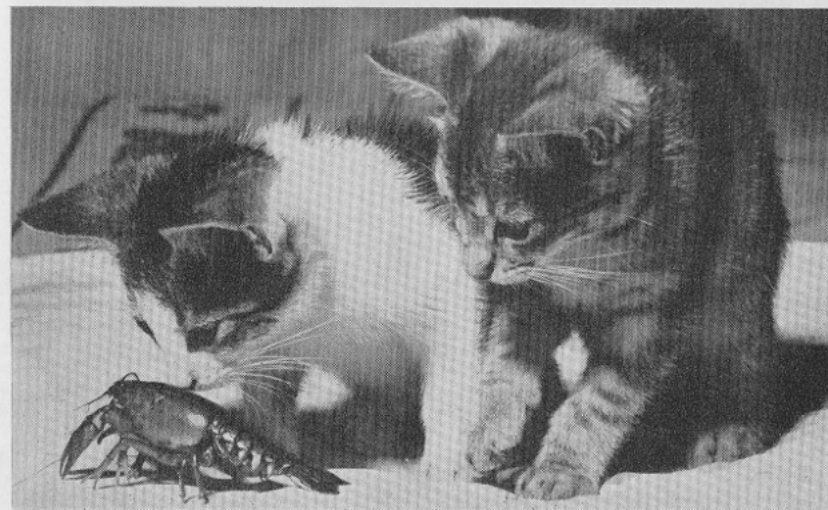
Australian and New Zealand
Correspondent:

MR. F. W. PEARCE, 33 OLD BEROWRA
ROAD, HORNSBY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



A Happy Christmas and a Glad New Year
is the sincere wish we send to readers at home
and our subscribers in the many countries
overseas—EDITOR



Frank W. Lane

Christmas kittens are puzzled at their first encounter with a "Wotisit"!

THE STRAY

THE days grow short and bitter cold,
And all the fields are white with frost.
The leafless woods no longer hold
A shelter for a cat that's lost.
All down the lane I make my way
With pleading eyes and hopeful purr.
But "Don't encourage her!" they say
"Or we shall ne'er be rid of her!"
I see the sparrows, smugly fat,
Thick-gathered for their daily crumbs.
But nothing for a little cat—
Oh, think of me when winter comes!
Remember me.

To-night a Star shines overhead
And points a way through field and gate
To where the village lies abed;
And here, in timid hope, I wait.
Till darkness ends in wintry dawn,
And one by one the windows glow.
And still I hesitate, forlorn,
Whilst voices, muted by the snow,
Sound faintly over field and fen
In carols of a gentler way—
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men—
Oh, think of me this Christmas Day!
Remember me.

DOROTHY WINSOR



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A brief history of our G.C.

WE promised in an earlier issue that 1960 would not be allowed to pass without some reference to the activities of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, which recently celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a record all-breed show at Olympia. The last days of a dying year are good days for mental stocktaking and the struggles and achievements of the Council over the past fifty years certainly provide plenty of material for thought and reflection. Its path can hardly be described as rose strewn but it has always striven hard for progress on democratic lines and we of this generation should be grateful for the heritage which is ours as a result of these fifty years of endeavour, so much of which has been of the unrewarded variety. So at this time when many of us are engaged in looking forward hopefully into a New Year we should spare a thought for the pioneers who blazed the trail and dug the foundations of what is now recognized as a model fancy by the rest of the cat world.

The Governing Council was formed out of the National Cat Club which had held the centre of the stage since 1887. There were other clubs of course which registered cats and ran shows but there were also periods of upheaval which put a brake on progress and served to stress the need for some scheme of centralization.

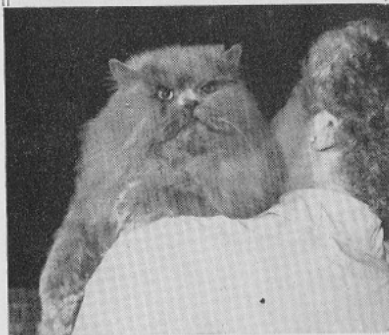
I recall that in 1949 our valued and regular contributor Mr. P. M. Soderberg mentioned that he had in his possession the Christmas number of "Our Cats" for 1903. The title page bore a portrait of Louis Wain, who was then the Chairman of the National Cat Club. The end of that turbulent year was marked by a long account setting out the reason why Lady Marcus Beresford had decided to leave the Fancy in which she had been such a prominent figure. "Our Cats" of those days was first a penny and then a twopenny weekly.

An eventful year

Seven years later—in March 1910—the National C.C. was successful in its efforts to stage a conference to discuss the unsatisfactory state of affairs which had existed since the turn of the century and to endeavour to iron out a scheme for a single authority to control registrations, transfers, shows and procedure. It was at this conference that the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy as we know it to-day was formed. The National agreed to hand over its governing powers and in recognition of this fine gesture it was granted four delegates in perpetuity, as against the one or two delegates for other affiliated clubs. An exception has since been made in the case of the Siamese Cat Club; by the end of 1930 it also was allowed four delegates because of the Club's phenomenal growth in membership.

In October, 1910, Mr. Russell Biggs, who had taken an active part in the formation of the new G.C., was elected as its first Chairman. He and other helpers were instrumental in drawing up the Constitution and rules. Mrs. Slingsby was a prominent personality in those days. The Constitution was framed in large measure on that of the Kennel Club, particularly in relation to registrations, show rules and disciplinary measures.

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Members at Home and
Abroad and also to*

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EVERYWHERE**

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Greetings**

from the

**SCOTTISH
CAT CLUB**



*A warm welcome
awaits everyone at
our Show on
January 21st, 1961
at the McLellan
Galleries, Sauchiehall
Street, Glasgow*

The second Chairman was Sir Claude Alexander who remained in office for a number of years. He was followed in 1926 by that great figure Mr. Cyril Yeates who was guide, philosopher and friend to the Fancy for well over thirty years. He resigned as Chairman in 1949 when he became the first-ever President of the G.C. His death at the age of 75 followed in 1950.

When Cyril Yeates died there was a universal feeling of personal loss. It was to him I went when I formed the idea of launching this Magazine and to meet him at his Kensington home—for years the G.H.Q. of the cat world—was an experience I always enjoyed. The help and encouragement I sought were always forthcoming and he was ever kindly, reliable and painstaking.

It was coincidental that the introduction of Cyril Yeates to the Fancy began with a visit to a cat show in 1910 at Hounslow—the same year which saw the birth of the G.C. He was taken there by the lady who subsequently became his wife. Gretta Yeates, a protégé of Miss Simpson, who compiled the monumental *Book of the Cat* in 1903, also became a prominent figure in the Fancy both as judge and breeder of Longhairs. I recall that in the very first issue of this Magazine in January 1949, we presented a profile and appreciation of the man who well merited the title of “King of the Cats”. Not long before his death he mentioned that he still had some ambitions to fulfil. He wanted to breed a first-class copper-eyed White and he also wished to see the return to popularity of some of the old English breeds such as the Silver Tabby and the Red Tabby.

With the passing of Cyril Yeates the ladies came into office and the chair was occupied for a year by Miss Kit Wilson, that experienced and colourful personage whose enthusiasm for feline causes is remarkable. When she resigned in 1950 she was succeeded by Miss Kathleen Yorke, whose devoted service over the past decade has been a major contribution to the mounting strength of the Fancy during her period of office. As a traveller in the cause of British prestige and goodwill she holds a record without parallel.

The Governing Council has a past of which it may be justly proud. It has a future of tremendous possibilities, the realization of which must always be regulated by the enthusiasm of club officers and members and their willingness to lend a helping hand. A.E.C.

**A Greetings Message from the Chairman of the
Governing Council of the Cat Fancy:**

In these difficult days of international unrest and uncertainty, goodwill and cordial relations are precious things we should all try to preserve and develop. When there is a common interest, as in our Cat Fancy, the Festive Season gives us the opportunity to remember our friends and wellwishers, new and old alike.

It is with this thought in mind that I would like, on behalf of the Council, its officers and members, to send to all the readers of OUR CATS our every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

KATHLEEN YORKE



A tough customer on the judges table. But most cats take the judging calmly.

Cat breeding from scratch—No. 9

By HUGH SMITH, who also supplied the illustrations

ONE thing a cat cannot do is to clean the inside of its ears. Even mother cats make a very perfunctory job of this with their kittens. One thing the exhibitor *must* do before the show—and preferably a day or two before—is clean the ears of both cats and kittens.

A small swab of cotton wool, moistened with olive oil and twisted round the end of a matchstick is most effective. There is no need to push the swab into the aural cavity; indeed, care must be taken not to do so. My cats always appear to enjoy the treatment and usually they purr madly during the process.

In a well-kept cattery there should be no trouble with canker, that most distressing complaint which causes the cat to scratch its ears and shake its head. These symptoms and the unpleasant smell from the ears which is characteristic of the complaint call for immediate action.

Another kind of irritation is caused by a minute parasitic mite. Its diagnosis is easy; a dry cotton wool swab should be gently inserted into the aural cavity. Withdrawn, it can be examined under a powerful lens and this should reveal the presence of the mites which are white and can be seen crawling about. This disease is highly contagious and steps should be taken to deal with it at once. It is wiser to seek the advice of a good

veterinary surgeon for ear troubles rather than attempt to treat them oneself.

At the cat show there is an anti-climatic quality about the long wait which follows the penning of one's cat and before seeing the judge's slip pinned up on the awards board. This is a good time to have a cup of coffee and study the catalogue at leisure.

There is a lot of information to be found in a show catalogue. In it will be found the names of many leading breeders and the prefixes by which their stock is known. It is well to learn to associate the prefix with breeder, for that is what all members of the Fancy inevitably do.

Had I not already done so years ago I should certainly think up a prefix for the registration of my queen's future progeny. A prefix should be succinct, easy to remember and have immediate impact. I think, too, it needs to have a word quality that does not make it sound harsh when associated with the variety of pretty names that can be given to one's kittens.

Prefixes of such quality associated with well-known breeders of national

and international fame readily come to mind: Ashdown, Prestwick, Doneraile, Laurentide, Misselfore and many others, which have been and long will be familiar in the Fancy.

For the payment of an extra shilling over and above the usual admission fee, it is usually possible to return to the hall almost immediately after the floor has been cleared and watch the judging. It is doubtful if anyone has ever gained very much information from watching the judging, since the onlooker is still kept off the floor and therefore out of earshot. Perhaps this is just as well, for when the judges do talk it is not always a stream of compliments that issues from their lips!

One or two of the halls in London have excellent balconies from which the judging can be viewed. In fact it is possible to obtain almost a bird's-eye view of the proceedings. Sometimes there are moments of high drama to be observed, as when a cat screams in no uncertain terms, "I've had enough of this ridiculous farce! Lemmigo!" But most cats take the judging calmly.

As I said earlier in this series, the show presents two valuable opportunities—



"One or two halls in London have excellent balconies from which the judging can be viewed."

particularly for the novice breeder. The first is the opportunity of forming in the mind's eye the "norm" of the "perfect" cat of a particular breed. This must be done by a careful study of the best that experienced breeders have been able to produce. The second opportunity presented is that of "faulting" one's own cats and kittens and measuring them up against the achievements of competitors. To do this adequately demands concentration and patient study.

Doubtless, there will be disappointments. But for these the judges should never be blamed.

Judges are human and no doubt they do sometimes err; but in my opinion they attain a very high degree of impartiality in judging cats. A lot of damage can be done by loose talk on the part of a bad loser. A lot can be forgiven the cat who bites or scratches a judge. One expects restraint from the exhibitor who feels like doing—just that! *(to be continued)*

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Cats on the air—No. 6

Breeding, showing & research

With this edited instalment we conclude the series of talks on "The Cat" given over Network Three by the BBC. Those taking part were Dr. W. R. Wooldridge, F.R.C.V.S., Chairman and Scientific Director of the Animal Health Trust, Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, and Mrs. M. Brunton, prominent member of the Fancy, judge and breeder of Blue Longhairs.

Dr. Wooldridge: Most people perhaps have looked upon cats as being the animal that is kept for the control of rodents. But to-day it has become perhaps one of the most popular animals kept for companionship, and I think we can add in view of the various breeds that have now been developed—for beauty. And there has developed an enormous industry which is referred to, I think, as the Cat Fancy. Now you, Miss Yorke, as the Chairman of the Cat Council—if I may call it that for short—really recognize the breeds and make sure that their development is adequately controlled? Can you tell us a little about this Council? When was it founded for instance?

Miss Yorke: In 1910, out of the National Cat Club. All the registrations were handed over and sole control of the Cat Fancy was then under the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

Dr. Wooldridge: You keep the records of these cats. You're rather like the Kennel Club, then?

Miss Yorke: Yes, our constitution was formed on the Kennel Club constitution. Most of our rules were their rules, and most are still to-day.

Dr. Wooldridge: Well, roughly speaking, how many cats are registered each year?

Miss Yorke: Oh, several thousands.

Dr. Wooldridge: Now you have these clubs. Your club (the National) was the first, wasn't it Mrs. Brunton?

Mrs. Brunton: Yes, it was founded in 1887. There are quite a number now, all over the country. They've been formed in different districts where people are far away from London so that they can have a meeting place, somewhere to get together and help each other with their cats.

Dr. Wooldridge: Yes, sometimes they will cover all breeds, and sometimes a special breed, I suppose?

Mrs. Brunton: Yes, but most of the clubs are all-breed clubs.

Dr. Wooldridge: And these clubs have their own shows and all the shows, Miss Yorke, have to be approved by your Council?

Miss Yorke: Yes, they must apply to the Council giving the date, and the venue, and also their show manager. Then the delegates sort them out, so that there is a sufficient interval between the shows because of trouble with infection.

Dr. Wooldridge: You mentioned infection. How long a gap do you like for this control of infection?

Miss Yorke: Personally, I would like six months.

Dr. Wooldridge: What does the Council decide?

Miss Yorke: It is now three months.

Dr. Wooldridge: Of course, you're quite right, the longer period you can allow, the better; but that doesn't get rid of the necessity to carry out disinfectant precautions, and so on, does it?

Miss Yorke: Oh no, definitely no!

Dr. Wooldridge: Well, Mrs. Brunton you're very active indeed in this question of preparing for these shows. What sort of plan do you follow in breeding and showing cats?

Mrs. Brunton: I try to select my best cat from the point of view of health and show points. I choose the best mate I can for the cat, in order to correct any faults and produce good kittens, and then I try to take every care of the kittens as they grow up.

Dr. Wooldridge: I take it you're not really a geneticist?

Mrs. Brunton: No, I'm afraid I'm rather ignorant on that subject. I simply go by pedigrees. I have bred cats for some years and therefore know the good and bad points in a great many of the pedigrees. I always try to select a male that will correct my own cat's faults and if I keep a kitten, I breed back again in the same line with, if possible, the introduction of an outcross.

Dr. Wooldridge: What do you mean by an "outcross"?

Mrs. Brunton: An outcross is using a cat of a different strain which is still a good cat and ensures extra health and strength by bringing in fresh blood.

Dr. Wooldridge: By a "different strain" you mean from a family that hasn't really been mixed with your own family for a long while at any rate.

Mrs. Brunton: Yes.

Dr. Wooldridge: You say you're not a geneticist, but by experience you've learnt what factors are dominant and recessive in the breeding of animals. For instance, you know that the blotched cat, the blotched character, is dominant over the striped.

Mrs. Brunton: Yes, and I also find that large ears are the worst thing of all to try and get rid of, especially when they are open at the base. It takes years

and years to eradicate them. Persian cats of quality should have very small ears which should be very wide apart. The large ears are pricked and usually close together and that spoils the whole balance and appearance of the head.

Dr. Wooldridge: Having chosen your parents, how do you proceed from there?

Mrs. Brunton: Well, then you have your kittens. If you're just starting out, you often want to have several females. So keep your best female kitten, and then mate it again when the time comes to another very good cat which must not be a completely different pedigree. You get nowhere at all unless you line breed. You may be lucky and get one kitten now and again that is really lovely.

Dr. Wooldridge: Well now, by "line breed" you mean breeding back?

Mrs. Brunton: In the same line of breeding but a long way off, or with a cat that has just been outcrossed to a different strain, to bring plenty of health and strength.

Dr. Wooldridge: You breed across, say, a grandparent and a grandchild?

Mrs. Brunton: Yes, you could do, or even a sort of distant relation.

Dr. Wooldridge: Do you take any special precautions with the mother during pregnancy?

Mrs. Brunton: No, not really. I think the great thing is not to treat her as an invalid and let her do everything she normally does. During the last three weeks I always introduce some milk-food, because I think it probably helps to increase the flow of milk when the babies arrive. And the last three days it is a good idea to put a pinch of bicarbonate of potash in their milk drinks. This helps to avoid acid milk, which used to be quite a common cause of litters just dwindling away.

Dr. Wooldridge: And then—

Mrs. Brunton: Give the mother a balanced diet, and always at least two

milk-feeds a day. The strange thing is that on the third day after kittens are born the mother nearly always refuses her food. I don't know if this is due to the after-birth or what it is they've swallowed but they nearly always go off their food and it can be rather worrying to a novice breeder. I find it happening every time and it must be something nature demands.

Dr. Wooldridge: You referred to a balanced diet. What do you, as a breeder, call a "balanced diet"?

Mrs. Brunton: I think it means a great deal of variety, bringing in as many different kinds of smaller meat-foods as possible and vegetables. I'm a great believer in barley, because I find it's very soothing.

Dr. Wooldridge: I couldn't agree with you more.

Mrs. Brunton: And I always add lime-water to all the milk food.

Dr. Wooldridge: Do you do anything special with regard to housing?

Mrs. Brunton: I like to have a little house for each mother; it's about 7' by 4', or 6' by 4', and it's raised off the ground. It has a little low-down window so that if they have to be in they can sit and look out and not get too bored. It must be draught and rain proof; in that way you avoid a lot of troubles. And I always arrange to have, where the door is, a board 6" in height inside the door to prevent draughts on the floor.

Dr. Wooldridge: You have your houses in a field, do you?

Mrs. Brunton: They are in the garden. I'm a great believer in heaps of liberty and exercise. I think it's such a mistake to keep them eternally shut up because cats are so lively and gay naturally. They run about all day, and go into their houses just for sleeping. You can't possibly have four or five cats sleeping in the house in healthy conditions, because they must have their windows pretty wide open at night.

Dr. Wooldridge: I take it that if that's the condition under which you rear them, you don't groom them every day?

Mrs. Brunton: I try to groom them if I'm not busy, the kittens in particular. The cats, of course, look nicer if you groom them. Normally speaking, most people nowadays keep cats as a hobby, and they're doing a lot of other things. They may not have time to groom them every day, not if they have several. I can keep them in quite good order by grooming every other day.

Dr. Wooldridge: Well now, of course, you've produced the cat and you have it ready for showing. I think we ought to say a few words about the breeds of cats. There are, what is it, 35 breeds?

Miss Yorke: Yes, 35—15 Longhair or Persian cats, 15 Shorthair, and the Siamese, including the Sealpoints, Bluepoints, Chocolatepoints and Lilacpoints.

Dr. Wooldridge: So we have about equal number of breeds in each section. Now you base the standardization of a breed on colours of coat and eyes, don't you?

Miss Yorke: Yes, definitely so. The Siamese, which I presume is the most popular breed there is, have their coat colour, their points and their eye-colour. Then you get to other breeds, like the Burmese, the Russian Blue, the British Blue, and Blacks, Whites, Creams, Blue-Creams, all with short coats and the same colouring as we have in the Longhair section. The foreign cats have a sleeker coat and a more pointed head, whereas the British Shorthair has a round head and a rounder body.

Dr. Wooldridge: So there are some variations in body structure, but small ones; certain cats have to have a long body.

Miss Yorke: A foreign cat has a long body and a long head.

Dr. Wooldridge: By a "foreign" cat you mean a breed that is recognized

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

ON December 25th will be observed the birthday of a Man born in an obscure village of Asia Minor. His Mother was a peasant. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. For the next three years He was an itinerant preacher. That comprised His whole life.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never journeyed more than two hundred miles from the spot where He was born. He never did one thing which suggested greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

His preaching caused the tide of opinion to turn to Him. His friends deserted Him. One of them denied Him. Turned over to His enemies, He endured a mockery of a trial wherein He was condemned to die, nailed to a cross among thieves. As He expired, His executioners rolled dice for the sole piece of property He had ever owned: His coat. His body was laid in a borrowed grave.

Nearly twenty centuries have come and gone, and to-day He is the centrepiece of the Christian World. All the armies which ever marched, all the navies which ever sailed, all the parliaments which ever sat, all the kings who ever reigned, have not affected mankind as has that One Solitary Life.

Is not this the real story of Christmas ?

SEASON'S GREETINGS

PURACHATR CATTERY, 3 HEVINGTON ROAD, AUBURN,
N.S.W., AUSTRALIA.

MRS. I. PARIS, SECRETARY, CUMBERLAND CAT CLUB

THE RHODESIA CAT CLUB

Salisbury, S. Rhodesia

sends Christmas and
New Year Greetings to
all in the Cat Fancy at home
and abroad :
especially to our English Cat
relations



*Any overseas visitors to
S. Rhodesia are sincerely invited
to get in touch with the Club*

Secretary : MRS. P. C. ROBINSON
63 ATHLONE AVENUE
P.O. GREENDALE,
SALISBURY N.E. 77, S. RHODESIA

ISIS BANKOK BARU

Sire : Ch. Bluehaye; Foxy
Dam : Gaewlina

and

ISIS SEALSLEEVE MISS PRIM

Sire : Ch. Pincop Simon
Dam : Sealsleeve Marquise

with all the

ISIS CATTERY

send Greetings
to their relations
and friends
in England
and America

MR. & MRS. ROBINSON

63 Athlone Avenue
P.O. Greendale,
Salisbury, N.E.77, S. Rhodesia

abroad and not recognized in this country, or what ?

Miss Yorke: No, we call the Siamese foreign. The Burmese, Abyssinian and Chestnut Brown Foreign are in this classification, also.

Dr. Wooldridge: You haven't got the same variations in cats that you have in the dog world and Dr. Green believes that that is due to the fact that the dog people have bred from animals with deficiency diseases. Do you get these diseases in your catteries ?

Mrs. Brunton: I think a few do occur, but personally, I haven't met them. I think that again it is a question greatly of correct feeding and plenty of healthy exercise. Cats climb trees and they've learned to develop their legs and exercise their bodies.

Dr. Wooldridge: Supposing you had a cat with an overshot jaw; would you breed from it ?

Mrs. Brunton: We should penalize it in show.

Dr. Wooldridge: You'd immediately stop breeding ?

Miss Yorke and Mrs. Brunton: Yes, with the jaw out like that. Occasionally they have one tooth sticking out, and that you'd never breed from.

Dr. Wooldridge: So you don't want to get these curious shapes ?

Miss Yorke and Mrs. Brunton: No !

Dr. Wooldridge: Mind you, it's not absolutely proved beyond any question of doubt as to whether that is the way in which these breeds of dogs are being developed, but it certainly is very suggestive, this theory of Green's. But at any rate you wouldn't allow it to happen in the cat world.

Miss Yorke and Mrs. Brunton: No—we don't want to !

Dr. Wooldridge: Are you much troubled with this question of disease ?

Miss Yorke: We have quite a lot of trouble with cat 'flu and distemper. I think with feline infectious enteritis we have some control over it now,

because after a show we do not get the mortality that we had pre-war, when quite a number of kittens were lost.

Dr. Wooldridge: I wonder do you feel that we, as a profession, the veterinary profession, are giving you the service we should ?

Mrs. Brunton: There are a lot of practical things in the science or breeding we need help with which probably do not come into veterinary experience.

Miss Yorke: I feel more research should be done and I think that the people in the Cat Fancy should help in that way, because it's a very expensive business. How best we can contribute is still to be worked out.

Dr. Wooldridge: It is indeed. I think we've got to admit that as a profession we've not had the same opportunities for carrying out investigation into cat diseases, largely because the nation is more interested in farm livestock. But as you know, some of us in the Animal Health Trust are trying to concentrate at one of our centres on the diseases of the cat as well as the diseases of the dog.

Mrs. Brunton: I think one of the things most urgently needed is something to combat distemper and cat 'flu which seems to be very difficult to control.

Dr. Wooldridge: That, of course, is going into the realm of the viruses, which are relatively new, and I think we shall find, when we seriously tackle this problem, that feline distemper is in fact a variety of diseases. In other words it is caused by a variety of viruses. Panleucopenia, feline enteritis and cat 'flu are all virus diseases and although we have a vaccine for a reasonable control of feline enteritis, we still have a long way to go with the other diseases. And that needs investigation and patience. I would emphasize that it also needs full co-operation from those who keep cats. One of the biggest bugbears we have in trying to help any livestock industry is the fact that the breeders will not let us know of their problems. They seem either ashamed that they've got

any disease in their livestock or they want to hide it for commercial reasons. I don't know what you think. Is it a good thing?

Miss Yorke: They should bring it out and let people know they have it. It is not fair to others if they go to a show after they've had illness and have not allowed sufficient time to elapse between the illness and the show. Much infection can be taken in this way to hundreds of cats.

Dr. Wooldridge: Then there are those food-poisoning organisms that most animals can carry, and that really does necessitate a warning. People shouldn't fondle their cats, embrace and kiss them as some do. And certainly they ought to take some precautions with their young children. Tuberculosis isn't common in the cat, but it does occur, and people tend to forget that. Then you've got the skin diseases. Ringworm can be transmitted from a cat to a human being; and there are of course many other skin diseases. That's another problem I think you'll agree we ought to investigate.

Miss Yorke: Definitely, yes indeed.

Mrs. Brunton: Some people seem ashamed to say that their cats have ringworm. It would be far better if they did advertise it, let people know and keep away from them, and from any show or any other meeting of cats.

Miss Yorke: Is it a fact that they've found something in America that helps ringworm?

Dr. Wooldridge: Well, there are a number of remedies so-called, but where we've carried out investigations, we've often found that these remedies are really no better than leaving the animal untreated. But you know there are other troubles that need investigation such as anaemia and jaundice. But I think the one in this country people are not really aware of is rabies.

Miss Yorke: Ah, rabies! In America there are many, many cases of rabies—some also in Germany. That's partly why imports from Great Britain are popular—because they know we do not allow cats into this country without six-months' quarantine.

Dr. Wooldridge: Couldn't we have those exports if we hadn't this six-months quarantine in being.

Miss Yorke and Mrs. Brunton: No.

Dr. Wooldridge: It's a nuisance to someone who wants to bring an animal into this country, but it is in fact the mainstay of the industry.

Miss Yorke: It is so necessary. People just don't realize how much.

Dr. Wooldridge: Mind you, I don't think we want to over-exaggerate this question of disease. It is certainly necessary to carry out further investigations, but by and large, I think we can all agree that our cat population has a very high standard of health, and with the care that the Cat Council and the breeders bestow to it, we have in fact, developed a body of very attractive, healthy and vigorous cats.

Let's go to a show

We urge our 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, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors.

1961	Promoted by	Venue
7 January	Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club	Nottingham
21 "	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
28 "	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association	Epsom, Surrey
28 "	Lancashire and N. Western Counties C.C.	Southport
9 February	Southern Counties C.C.	London
25 "	Coventry and Leicester C.C.	Coventry

And twenty Siamese walked in

By H. L. HOPKIN

We are Siamese, if you please.

We are Siamese, if you don't please.

MY first acquaintance with Siamese cats was made, appropriately enough, in their own land. At that time they were still a rarity in Britain, for few which made the journey survived for long in a bleak northerly clime.

In Bangkok we often discussed the possibility of taking them to Europe and developing the breed in a really big way, but we never got beyond the talking stage.

Later on other people were more practical and got down to business. To-day Siamese cats flourish in both Britain and the United States. A hardier race than their tropical ancestors, now that they are thoroughly acclimatized, they have the same gloriously rich yellow to brown colouring and beautiful eyes and they converse with the same hoarse, half-savage throatiness.

The Siamese people have an affection for cats, but they cannot resist occasionally pulling their furry legs. It is this way: In Siamese "ow" (as in how) means "want" and "my ow" means "don't want". It would be the playful practice to tender a saucer of milk or a tasty piece of fish and ask, "Ow rer my ow?" If the unsuspecting cat replied "my ow" the owner would withhold the offering and say, "All right, if you don't want it, don't have it".

But it was all innocent fun. The cat would get the delicacy eventually. Probably it knew the joke and just entered into the spirit of the thing.

My acquaintance with Siamese cats was made in a big way when I was first entertained by the late Ungku Aziz,

Prime Minister of the State of Johore, Malaya.

After luncheon and an inspection of the Minister's pets, which included a crocodile, we returned to the dining room and servants brought in a number of large bowls of milk. The Minister then called "Puss, puss", or the Malay equivalent—and twenty Siamese cats walked in.

I will not go so far as to say that they marched in columns of fours, but it was a stately, orderly procession, with no pushing and shoving. They drank their milk decorously and then walked among the company and made themselves acquainted.

Just a pair

I never owned twenty Siamese cats. I aspired only to two, a married couple named Edgar and Susan, who shared our house in Singapore and whose memory is still held dear. This pair would call me promptly at 6.30 every morning, never earlier, never later. If I did not happen to be awake, a delicate paw would reach up and prod a big toe, always with claws carefully sheathed. Then I would get up and we would have our early morning tea—milk in the case of the cats—together.

When I arrived back from the office the cats would invariably accompany me for a stroll around the garden, walking quietly together a couple of paces behind. Siamese cats, although they would hate to hear you say this, are very like dogs in their capacity to follow.

Occasionally Edgar would break rank and show his high spirits by climbing madly half-way up a tree and leaping to the ground. Susan did not altogether approve of this and would shrug her

shoulders and look up at me, as much as to say, "Isn't he silly?"

I am afraid Susan was never madly in love with Edgar. She respected him as her husband, would wash behind his ears and see that he was well turned out, but she did not bestow on him the affection you would expect of a couple who were all in all to each other.

Indeed the occasion came when there was a noise of violent commotion in the dining room, accompanied by the most appalling language in feline Siamese. I recognized the voice as Susan's. It would appear that Edgar had been endeavouring to exercise his marital rights. I went in to find Susan crouching in a corner, still using language more appropriate to an alley cat than to one of her upbringing.

His first affair

Edgar had a large scratch down the side of his nose. He came to me, looked up—and I swear there were tears in his eyes—and uttered a loud, heartfelt "Wow!"—as much as to say, "What can you do with a woman like that?"

I told him not to take things too much to heart and explained that women were complex creatures, come-hitherish one day, cool the next, and their wooing was a matter which had to be undertaken with care and finesse. But Edgar was a simple soul. He had had, as far as I knew, no affairs with other cats. Susan was all the world to him.

One day I feared the worst. I caught Susan giving a beaming smile to the garage cat, a fellow who was not Siamese, Burmese, Abyssinian or any fancy breed, but just plain black-and-white.

But Edgar had accomplished his purpose. It became evident that Susan was in an interesting condition, and in due course she produced her offspring. A refined, delicate cat, she did not believe in litters or even triplets or twins. Her family was just a single, solitary kitten.

Most unhappily it was still-born. But it was indubitably Siamese. Edgar's honour was saved.

When the time came for us to leave Singapore we presented Edgar and Susan to the French Consul-General and his wife. They were made much of and took readily to life in diplomatic circles.

Edgar remained a friendly fellow from all accounts, always ready to talk to old friends and recall the days when he was part of the journalistic world. Susan, on the other hand, became rather proud and haughty.

Cats can be like that. A friend of mine who lives in Dover Street, London, had a cat which developed the habit of slipping into the nearby Berkeley Hotel, where it was made much of by patrons and staff.

The cat's visits to the Berkeley became more frequent and longer, until at last it deserted my friend altogether and moved into the Berkeley as a permanent guest. Wise in the ways of cats, he accepted the change philosophically and made no effort to induce his former companion to return.

One day he was in the bar of the Berkeley and saw the cat sitting there sedately and very much at home. "Hullo, Tom, how are you?" he asked.

The cat cut him dead.

KIT-ZYME ADVERTISING

An explanation and apology is due to our good friends and regular advertisers Phillips Yeast Products Ltd., as well as to our readers, for the unfortunate misprint which occurred in the Kit-zyme advertisement on page 8 of our November issue.

In the last two lines of Sir Ian and Lady Stuart-Knill's tribute to the product, two words became pied in such a way that the last paragraph became nonsense. "Cheapest" became "headpest" and the word "and" became "can". Same letters but a different meaning!

The paragraph correctly runs: "We use about 800 Tablets a month and find that Kit-zyme is the best and cheapest Tonic ever devised and whoever invented it was a Heaven sent genius and truly the cats' best friend."—EDITOR.

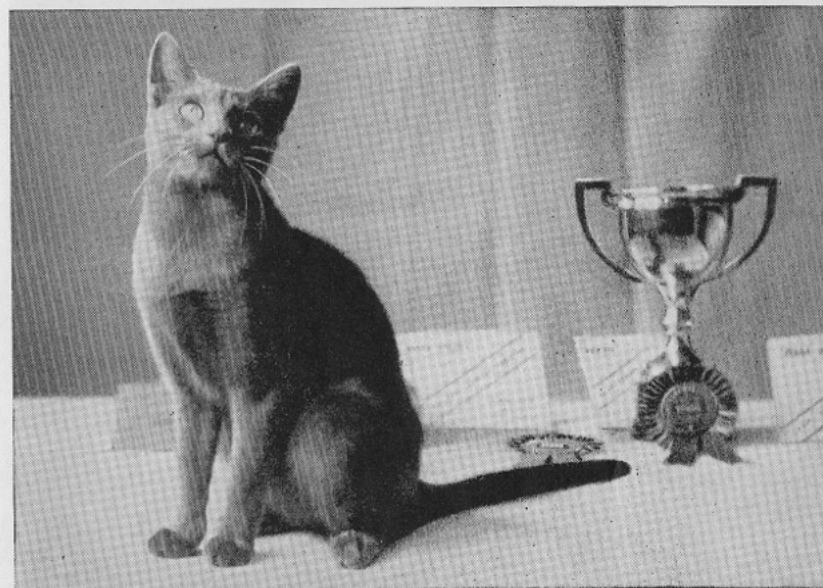
From tragedy to triumph with the help of Tibs

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"When she began to pull round, I put her on TIBS. You should have seen the change in her coat! Well, you can see what she looks like now."

We could—and so can you, though the picture does scant justice to the silver-shaded sheen of this lovely Russian Blue. The vitamins and minerals in TIBS were obviously just what she needed to put her back in top form. Mrs. Kirby went on to tell us of Glasfryn's later successes—best exhibit at the Cheshire and Area Cat Club Show 1959, twelve first, innumerable other prizes . . . and now her second certificate!

All this by a cat that nearly died. All this after a convalescence completed with TIBS. No wonder Mrs. Kirby says *her* cats are TIBS cats!



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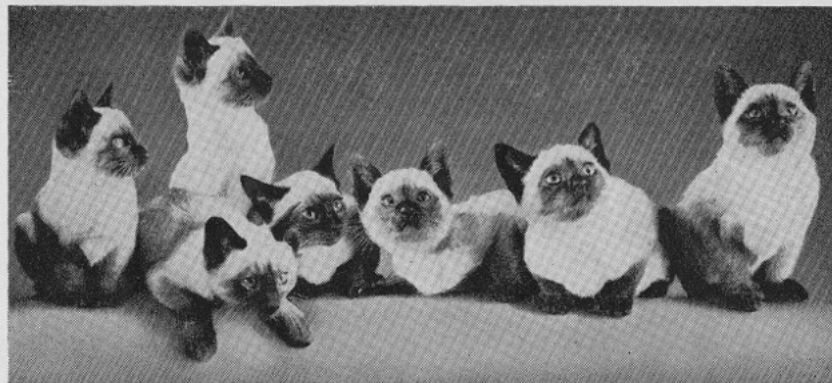
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Cats and witches

By ANN L. STUBBS

CATS and witches, witches and cats—the pair are associated; though nowadays the connection is only a dim recollection of a childhood book of fairy tales with an illustration of a grotesque witch flying on a broomstick towards the moon, a black cat riding the broomstick with her. This may seem a far cry from the dark days of the Middle Ages when it was sufficient for a lonely old lady to keep a cat, and be fond of it, for the witch hunt to begin and the pair of them end up at the stake. Our beliefs may be modified, but the old superstitions are not quite dead!

Witchcraft is a religious cult, albeit a degenerate survival of a dying religion. It was as it were an offshoot of the ancient cult of Diana, whose daughters held their social and religious gatherings in conjunction with the waxing and waning of the moon. It was in honour of her that they met to pay homage to her assistance in promoting fruitfulness in their crops, their animals and themselves. The moon was represented by the old Egyptian symbol of the cat.

In an excess of religious zeal these early witches donned furs and masks to further associate themselves with the deity they worshipped. They met in quiet mountains and woods and performed their dances and weird rites in this guise. This it was that no doubt gave rise to the fantastic beliefs so prevalent in the Middle Ages about witches changing both themselves and other people into cats!

Whether or not witchcraft as such was at its height in the period of the 16th-18th century is a debatable point but un-

doubtedly witch-hunting was; and this was a black era indeed for our small friend, the cat.

Whenever the deity of a religion is seen as an autocratic tyrant rather than in the light of all-embracing love then that religion becomes a terrifying power. This is what happened to a certain extent to the Christian Church in this period. In a determination to stamp out all manifestations of the earlier beliefs witches were declared devils, only slightly less evil than Satan himself and everything and anything that smacked of witchcraft was firmly and often brutally crushed.

A sort of mass hysteria swept the people, encouraged by the Church and those who collected fat fees for the witches they successfully hunted. Anything and everything that went wrong, from such trivialities as curdled milk to the death of cattle and humans, was attributed to the influence of witches, either working in their own form or in the shape of cats. Reading the accounts of the innumerable trials for witchcraft held in these years by the ecclesiastical courts it seems incredible that such evidence should even be offered, let alone accepted.

Penalty was burning

So blind were these early witchhunters that they completely ignored any possibility of a reasonable explanation, as in the trial in Aberdeen in 1596 when the principal evidence against a group of women charged with witchcraft was that they changed into cats in order to perform their orgies round the Fish Cross. As the Fish Cross was also the Fish Market it seems quite reasonable to assume that the "witches"

were in fact perfectly harmless cats attracted by the fish !

The records of most of these witchcraft trials say that the unfortunate victim "freely confessed". In view of the fact that the penalty was often burning and that the person who brought them to court frequently took over their worldly goods as well as a fair sum for his services to the community in ridding it of witches, I think this can be taken with a pinch of salt.

It was firmly believed that most witches had a "familiar", that is a creature into which they could turn themselves at will. This familiar was usually a cat. In 1618 two unfortunate old women were hanged at Lincoln, charged with bewitching the Earl of Rutland's children by means of a cat familiar. One of them is said to have "confessed" that she "rubbed Lady Catherine's handkerchief upon the cat and bid it fly and thereupon the cat cried 'mew'". The children died of some fever and on this evidence the two old women were hanged. The monument commemorating the children in a church near Nottingham bears an inscription that they died through "wicked practices of sorcery".

At a witchcraft trial at Exeter Assizes one poor old woman was condemned to be hanged merely because a cat was seen to jump in through her window at twilight. The neighbour who gave this evidence said that he believed the cat to be the devil !

A crazy merchant

Some of the most fantastic tales concerning cats and witches are those which deal with witches who, when back in their human form bore very obvious traces of the injuries inflicted on them as cats. One of the most recent of these stories concerned a merchant of Thurso, William Montgomery, who in 1718 complained to the sheriff that his house was so infested with cats that it was no longer safe for he and his family to live there. One night he armed himself with

broadsword, dirk and axe and set about the unfortunate cats. He killed two, cut a leg off a third and injured several others.

Shortly afterwards one suspected witch died, another threw herself off the rocks into the sea and was drowned, while a third old woman, called Margaret Nin-Gilbert, who lived about a mile and a half from Montgomery, was seen by neighbours to "drop off at her own door one of her legs at the middle." Needless to say, these three unfortunate women were promptly identified with the cats. Margaret's putrified leg was taken to the sheriff who immediately had her imprisoned. She too confessed, stating that she had been in the house in the form of a cat and that Montgomery had cut off her leg with an axe. A few weeks after this "confession" she died in prison, no doubt as a result of the gangrene from which she suffered !

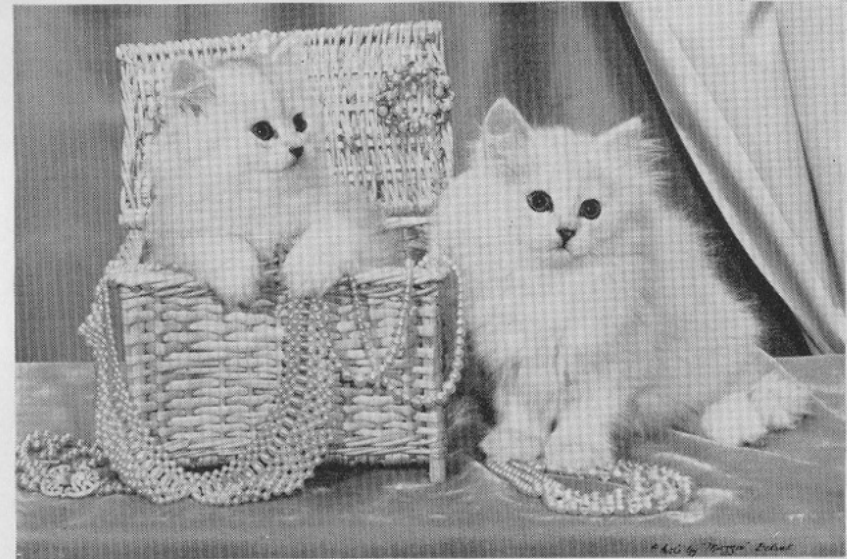
A full-time job !

This era of belief in witchcraft was not only long-lasting but widespread and witch-hunting became a full-time and very lucrative profession. A brief idea of the number of witches brought to trial, and there were few who were not condemned, can be ascertained by the fact that the German witch-hunter, Sprenger, alone was said to be responsible for 500 witches a year. A judge in Lorraine boasted that he had personally condemned 900 while the Archbishop of Treves (who blamed the bad Spring of 1586 on witchcraft) had 118 women burnt at one time !

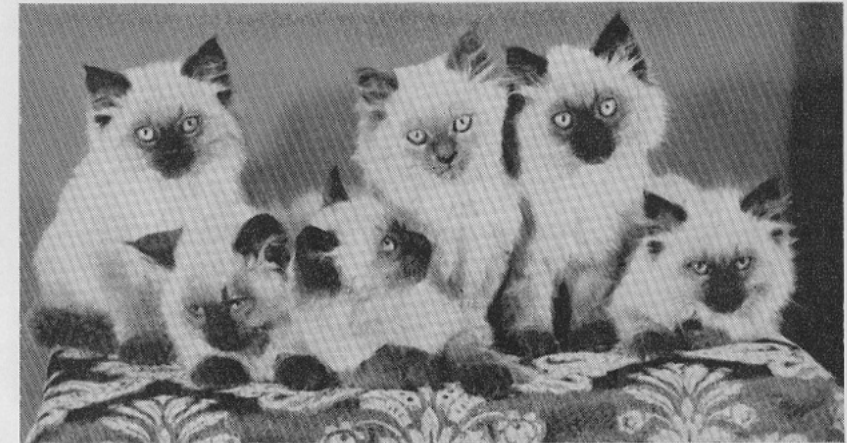
We hear a lot about the "Good Old Days", but as a woman and a cat lover I am most heartfelt in voicing my satisfaction with the 20th century !

FOR SALE

SIAMESE KITTENS (S.P.), few left from two prize winning litters, excellent pedigree, ideal breeding, showing or pets, very affectionate, used to children and dogs, house trained. Photo of kittens in "Kitzyme" advert inside back cover, November OUR CATS, 5 gns.—Box No. 77, OUR CATS, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.



My jewels ! A lovely arrangement by "Muzzie" of Chinchilla kittens belonging to Mrs. Mary Czurawski, of Detroit, U.S.A.



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Jeanne White

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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

MRS. JOAN THOMPSON
—popular and active
figure in the Cat Fancy
for many years, breeder and
International judge — turns
the pages of her diary to
reveal the most interesting
entries concerning personal-
ities, both human and feline.

Croydon Show

THE Croydon Cat Club Ch. Show
at the Central Hall, Westminster
on November 12th attracted 350
pedigree exhibits. It was organized by
the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Towe, with the
efficiency we have learned to expect from
those who undertake the arduous work of
the London shows with their big entries.

The weather was pleasant for Novem-
ber and it was an enjoyable day. Few
exhibitors like this hall which lacks the
first essential for judging cats—and that
is daylight. There is a little at either
end coming through fanlights but the
main body of the hall entirely depends
on strip lighting which has a peculiar
effect on colour, especially on the Blues,
Creams, and Blue-Creams. Eye colour
in these varieties usually looks pale
gold irrespective of what we know to be
its depth and brilliancy.

The Committee had chosen the lower
hall which appears to be more spacious,

but as they are aware of exhibitors'
opinions perhaps they will do their best
next time to obtain the Royal Horti-
cultural Hall if it is available and funds
permit.

Miss Elizabeth Taylor's husband,
Mr. Eddie Fisher brought her two sons
by Mr. Michael Wilding and her lovely
little daughter. They were very inter-
ested in the exhibits and it was pleasing
to see such celebrities taking so much
interest in cats. Eddie Fisher was
captivated by Mrs. Denton's Blue kitten
Camber Eros and later purchased it for
his film star wife.

There were many lovely Longhair
exhibits in full pomp and the majority
of the Shorthairs had the lustre on their
coats which we associate with them
when at their peak condition in
November and December.

Main awards were: Best Longhair
Cat—Miss Langston's Blue male Amos
of Allington by Ch. Bayhorne Ajax;
Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Denton's Blue
male Camber Eros by Ch. Foxburrow
Frigolous; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs.
Wilson's Cream Premier Priory Golden
Glory by Ch. Oscar of Pensford;
Best S.H. Cat—Mrs. Johnson's Blue
British Ch. Jezreel Jake by Ch. Mings-
wyk Blue Prince; Best S.H. Kitten—
Mrs. Johnson's Jezreel Joybelle (also a
Blue British); Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs.
Delacroix's female Chloe, all particulars
unknown; Best Siamese cat—Mrs.
Putwain's B.P. Siamese Bluebridge
Ratsmee by Bluebridge Sompur; Best
Siamese Kitten—Mrs. Lowcock's S.P.
Nefertiti by Whiteoaks Malahide.

Mrs. Keene had the exceptional honour of winning the S.P. Siamese male adult class with Kanburi Mayo who became a Champion (17 in class) and the S.P. Siamese female class with his litter sister Kanburi Zarifa (10 in class) by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy and Kanburi Habiba.

In an amalgamated class of Black Longhairs, Miss Woodhorpe's Arcamor Scamp by Valleyend Ecru was 1st and Ch. and in White adults Miss Sherlock's lovely typey orange-eyed female Bircotte Nanette was the winner. Blue females were headed by Ch. Regina of Pensford by Ch. Octavian of Pensford, making her first appearance since she was Best Exhibit in Show at Olympia in December 1958. She also won in Blue Breeders.

A new Cream male

Miss Sheppard's Cream male Widdington Orion by Ch. Widdington Winterstar was making his bow as an adult and secured 1st and Ch. and in Cream females Mrs. King's Startops Baby Bunting (by Ch. Hendras Benedict and Ch. Starmist of Pensford) completed her Championship. Miss Collins' Smoke male Kala Beaucaire secured his second Challenge Certificate and in Brown Tabbies Mrs. Beedell's Magyar Mira Bai and in Red Tabbies Miss Moronys Bruton Peri were first and Ch.

Miss Langston's Chinchilla male Ch. Fidelio of Allington by Ch. Flambeau of Allington gave a very good account of himself and was awarded several firsts. Mrs. Thornhill's Sunhaven Paula by Ch. Bonavia Contenta was the winning female. Tortoiseshell adults were headed by Miss Woodthorpe's Gracefield Autumn Leaf and Blue-Creams by my Star of Pensford by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous.

Mr. Stirling-Webb's handsome Seal Colourpoint male Briarry Euan by Briarry Malachite became a Champion. Two other cats to complete their Championships were Mrs. Attwood's Shorthair Cream male Aldra's Cream

Bunne and her Blue-Cream Aldra's May Blossom. Another cat awarded many firsts was Mrs. Johnson's British Blue Ch. Jezreel Jake. Russian Blue adults attracted seven entries with Mrs. Clavier's Revel Cathlas first and Mrs. Cowen won in kittens with Michifer Nginski.

Miss Bone bred and owned the winner in Abyssinian adults Nigella Caprice. Blue Pointed Siamese had eleven adults to represent them, the winners being Mrs. Putwain's male Bluebridge Ratsmee and Mrs. Boal's Freefolk Blue Layde. In an amalgamated class of C.P. Siamese adults Mrs. Plant's Haden Vicky was the winner and in Lilac Pointed Mrs. Sayers' Doneraile Lilac Laretta.

Burmese were fewer than usual at a London Ch. Show but the judge, Mrs. Kent found two worthy of Challenge Certificates—Mrs. Macpherson's Benroc Beau Brummel and Mrs. Dyte's Kingsplay Petronelle. Considering Blue Burmese have not long been eligible for Challenge Certificates, seven adults were representative and Miss Dunn's Bulrushes Blue John was the winner.

Mrs. McLeod's Chinchilla female Ch. Linnet of Thame was first in the Champion of Champions class and in Shorthairs Mrs. Worsley's B.P. Siamese Ch. Misselfore Lysander. Miss Kathleen Yorke was with us as referee judge and altogether it was a very interesting and cheery day.

Success in the North

Congratulations to the Honorary Show Manager, Mrs. M. Eustace and her Committee on the success of the second Championship Cat Show of the Northern Counties' Cat Club at the Palatine Hotel, Sunderland, on November 26th. Mrs. Montgomery and myself arrived at the hotel soon after mid-day on the Saturday morning and were met by the strains of a Highland fling coming from the ballroom. But shortly after "Auld Lang Syne"

we heard the distant sound of the pens being erected for the Show.

It would be a revelation to other hotel managers and proprietors of halls suitable for cat shows, who metaphorically turn up their noses at the mere mention of cats, if they could have seen how well the transformation back to normal can be achieved. Directly the Show closed a bevy of attendants appeared to take down the pens, to Hoover the attractive tartan carpet and set out the tables. When we peeped in on our way down to dinner visitors were having drinks and snacks with no sign of the afternoon's activities.

Tall windows all along one side gave excellent light during the day and the judges and stewards on the far side of the hall had only to take a few steps if they wished to bring out exhibits to the light side.

A treasured memento

A perusal of the addresses of exhibitors reveals the wisdom of the Governing Council in granting Championship status to the Northern Counties Cat Club. Although some breeders came from the South the majority were from the Midlands and it was very pleasing to see several Scottish exhibitors.

In the preface to the catalogue the names and addresses of 26 new members joining on the eve of the Show are listed and the Hon. Show Manager, Mrs. Eustace thanks all those who contributed to its success, especially the judges, headed by Miss Kathleen Yorke. To all these officials she gave as a personal gift a silver bonbon dish inscribed "N.C.C.C. Show 1960", which we shall value as a memento of a happy and interesting day.

Main awards were as follow: Best Longhair Cat—Mr. Waterson's Black male Freales Candy Velvet by Solomon Grundy; Best L.H. Kitten—Miss Bull's Black male Deebank Mascot by Vigilant Mark; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Shorten's Blue female Bluemine Marbella by

Ch. Thiepval Paragon; Best S.H. Cat—Mesdames North and Murray's B.P. Siamese male Lly-gra Simon by Ch. Laurentide Cometes; Best S.H. Kitten—Miss Hardman's Red Tabby Killinghall Red Robert by Ch. Killinghall Red Lion; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Vicker's Premier Cathiss Gypsella by Aldra's Blue Peter; Best Siamese Neuter—Miss Fletcher's S.P. Dinky Doo by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy. In Any Colour L.H. except self colour the winner was Mrs. Dawson's lovely Chinchilla Almondhill Amanda.

Congratulations to Mr. Waterson and to Miss D. M. Collins on their Longhair males Treales Candy Velvet and Kala Beaucaire becoming Champions. The latter is a Smoke by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo. I was interested to hear that Candy Velvet is a house pet at present. He is taken for walks on a collar and lead with a poodle which is his devoted companion.

Space will not permit mention of all the Open Class winners but among the Longhair kittens I handled, four exhibits were outstanding, namely, Miss Bull's Deebank Mascot; Mrs. Fisher's Blue female Halcyon Candida; Miss Susan Watts' Blue Colourpoint Amaska Orlando and Miss Woodfield's Tortie and White Pathfinders Mayflower.

More winners

Ten S.P. Siamese male adults were headed by Miss Allaun's Darwinnie Little Nick by Darwinnie Nicholas and sixteen females by Mrs. Marie Smith's Beag Geal Froach by Ch. Pristine Bandoola.

Mrs. Elmslie's Chinchilla male Redwalls Choir Boy by Ch. Bonavia Contenta well deserved his Challenge Certificate and she also had the pleasure of winning with her female Ch. Almondhill Clarissa by Ch. Terry of Allington.

Mrs. Aitken, judging Blue adults, made Mrs. Rippingale's Camber Winston and Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepval Desiree the winners. Miss B. Tate must

Greetings to all friends in England and Overseas



Champion Regina of Pensford

MRS. JOAN THOMPSON proudly presents some of the PENSFORD post-war winners.

BLUES

- *Champion Octavian of Pensford—Best Longhair Cat in Show at three Ch. Shows. Best Exhibit in Show B.P.C.S. Ch. Show, 1956.
- Champion Regina of Pensford—Best Exhibit in Show, National Cat Club Ch. Show, 1958 and S.W.C.C.C. Ch. Show. Best L.H. Cat in Show, C.C.C. Ch. Show.
- Champion Astra of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Cedric of Pensford (Australia).
- *Ch. Patricia of Pensford (South Africa).
- Ch. Royal of Pensford (New Zealand).
- *Ch. Harmony of Pensford (France).
- *Ch. Patrick of Pensford (Holland).
- *Int. Ch. Paragon of Pensford (Germany).
- Ch. Blue Diamond of Pensford (Germany).
- Ch. Dandy of Pensford (Denmark).

CREAMS

- *Ch. Oscar of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Sherry of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Paul of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Sunkist of Pensford (Australia).
- Ch. Orlando of Pensford (U.S.A.).
- Triple Ch. Lady Gay of Pensford (U.S.A.).
- *Int. Ch. Sunrise of Pensford (Switzerland).
- Ch. Sunbeam of Pensford (Italy).
- Ch. Gleam of Pensford (Sweden).
- Ch. Mascot of Pensford (Denmark).

BLUE CREAMS

- Ch. Dawn of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Moonrise of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Starmist of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Jewel of Pensford (England).
- *Ch. Twinkling Star of Pensford (England).
- *Grand Ch. Aurora of Pensford (U.S.A.).
- *Grand Ch. Lady Bess of Pensford (U.S.A.).
- Int. Ch. Twinkle of Pensford (Denmark).
- Int. Ch. Twilight of Pensford (Italy).
- *Ch. Dawnrise of Pensford (Switzerland).

And owner of the world famous
Champion Foxburrow Frivolous—Awarded ten Challenge Certificates; 81 Firsts. Sire of Champions with an asterisk.

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have been delighted to win the Novice Exhibitors Class with her B.P. Siamese female Milori Mirabel by Ch. Milori Oberon. This cat also won her Open Adult Class.

In Novice Exhibitors Longhairs Miss White won with her Blue male kitten Bluemine Mapapeta by Ch. Blue Boy of Kenton. Mr. Carpenter was awarded first prize for his bonny litter of six Siamese.

In conclusion here is an interesting excerpt from Mrs. Eustace's letter after the Show: "The B.P. Siamese of Burmese and S.P. Siamese origin Milori Mirabel is the one which captivated me whilst on holiday. At that time the owner had no idea of exhibiting but I told her she had a good kitten so you can imagine the delight when at just under a year old Mirabel was made a Champion.

"Another pleasant experience! I sold a little B.P. Siamese neuter to a consultant at the local hospital for a birthday present for his daughter. This little cat was not outstanding but got a second and third at the Show. The doctor, his wife and daughter spent all

day at the Palantine Hotel and afterwards came to thank me in these words: 'We have had a most enjoyable and interesting day. We had no idea cats could be so beautiful. Thank you for helping to bring to these parts such a delightful group of cats and people. We now have fresh interests'."

The judges were unanimous in their appreciation of the hospitality offered by the N.C.C.C. and the kindly way Mrs. Eustace supervised everything. I hope the Show was a financial success to reward the Club for all the hard work involved.

The Championship Shows for 1960 will be memories by the time these notes appear and in the New Year I shall be writing about the National Cat Club Show at Olympia and the Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show, both held in December. After these our thoughts will be on the coming breeding season although we still have three Championship shows to come during January and February.

In the meantime I send Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year to Cat Lovers Everywhere.

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News from "Down Under"

OUR very "screwy" summer is still playing tricks as I write in November and we are again having a cold and windy snap.

New South Wales. Sydney Lower Town Hall was taxed to its capacity for the Kitten Show staged by the Federal Cat Club. The day was fine but a very high and biting wind did a deal of damage round the suburbs. It almost stripped our lovely crop of plums and, I am told, caused one of the Persian junior females to remark, with one eye on the judge, "I wish this weather would make up its mind. I never know how to dress for it". The entry was very good (although an exhibition was also held at St. Ives that day) and so were all arrangements for the convenience of visitors and exhibitors alike. There was evidence everywhere of the excellent work of Mrs. Favelle and her Show Manager husband Ken and deputy Stan Jones. The Concord Spastic Centre should benefit accordingly. Our eminent sporting TV personality Reg Grundy, who gives away £35,000 annually at his quiz session, got a very happy response from his audience when he declared the show open and later when he was presented to the top award winners by President Mrs. Burnage.

It was lovely to meet so many of our grand old-timers, headed by Mr. Watkins, who has just celebrated his 90th birthday and looks splendid. He assured me that the next twenty years will be easier as he has learned all the short cuts now! Main awards (taken from the marked catalogue gratefully received from Mrs. Paris) were: *Longhair Section*. Best Male—Mrs. Mullins' Highland Star (imp.); Best Female, also Best Ch. Cat and Best Adult Exhibit—Miss Rapley's

Ch. Mayfield Leone; Junior—Miss Haswell's Miowera Flora; Self Coloured—Mrs. McFadyen's Colah Cindy; Litter—Miss Haswell's entry; Brood Queen—Miss Haswell's Ch. Miowera Royal Keepsake. *Shorthair Section*. Siamese Male—Mrs. Little's Bambi of Ellington; Female—Miss A. Herhily's Sirikit, also Best Shorthair Cat and Best Junior; Abyssinian—Mrs. Donahee's Mystic Araby Fawzia; Burmese—Mr. G. Allen's Amherst Osiris.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Armit are holding a barbecue at their Smithfield home followed by a Mad Hatter's party to assist the funds for a combined clubs Christmas party for the children. May it be highly successful. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Devine, club member and breeder of the outstanding St. Elmo cats, on the sad loss of her father recently.

Victoria. Next month (December) looks like being eventful for the Siamese Cat Club. Their Championship Show in Lower Town Hall, Melbourne, will see the introduction of the lovely new cages. Five local judges will be handling a comprehensive schedule and the proceeds will go to the White Ensign Club, a "home from home" for all young sailors from the R.A.N.

Mrs. Patterson, assisted by Mrs. Williams of Geelong, will be commencing judges classes early in the New Year and a list of breeders and stewards is being compiled. Eight students will sit in the class. The *Newsletter* contains some legends about the squints and kinks of Siamese and also one about the cat Napoleon who was regarded as a very reliable weather prophet. There are also some very useful hints for beginners requiring the services of a veterinary surgeon. I was very sorry to learn of the

death of Mrs. J. Watt, a Siamese breeder of many years' standing and the owner of Timoshenka, No. 1 registration. Colonel Cole's Siamese male Pluto of Arden gained his Championship at the R.A.S. Show last month. Congrats, Pluto!

South Australia. I have a copy of the October *Newsletter* from Tom and Jerry. Was hoping the November issue would arrive in time to catch these notes but no such luck! It is interesting to note that the Club has bought 100 new cages at a cost of approximately £100. How do they do it? Cages in this State cost nearly £4 each to order as we require them. Congratulations are due to Mrs. K. Gebhardt who did the long journey (1,000 miles return) to Melbourne and took along two Siamese and did exceptionally well with both. This was a mighty effort and I hope Secretary Don's digestion was still sound on his return.

Queensland. No news from my original scribe up in Brisbane, Colin Woodrow, so I guess things are quiet and normal. But I often wonder how old pals are and if Mrs. Henry is fully restored to health. We hope too—as Mrs. Helsham mentioned at the show on 5.11.60—that Mrs. Henry would be coming down for a few days. Would like to invite her once again to our Consultative Committee meeting and that applies to any executive member of an inter-State club. Miss Harrison has written but says there is very little news and no shows coming up at the time of writing. I liked the little story as to why cats wash themselves after meals instead of before. You may already know this one! Whilst I think of it, Queensland breeders may be glad to know that the two cats which Mrs. Gebhardt took to Melbourne Royal Show were Queensland bred, carrying the reliable "Coochie" prefix.

New Zealand. Miss Menzies' *Newsletter* for October is to hand and all is quiet and peaceful with not a single show report. The latest list of clubs and their secretaries is again included, also 1961

show dates which range from February to the end of July. Some very interesting reading is provided for beginners with Abyssinians, Burmese and Blue Point Siamese, including some helpful advice for anyone intending to have a try at breeding Blue Burmese. There is also a nicely arranged directory of breeders who have reliable studs and stock. I also received a very interesting but very modest letter from Miss Lovejoy, who has every reason to be happy and elated after such a successful show season. I would like to receive a photograph or two now and then of some of New Zealand's best cats or groups of club executives. They must be sharp black and white prints. Have not had any for reproduction or my scrap album lately and I like to keep up-to-date photographically.

A big cheerio to all my pals over in the Islands. And the same to Tasmania fanciers per Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins at The Pool.

I am sure the Editor will forgive a little digression for once. I know a charming lady who has lovely White Rhode Island chooks. She set 16 eggs from a mating with a 5½ months old cockerel and got 15 chicks, beauties. That should inspire some of the Thomas cats aspiring to fatherhood!

Greetings to Mr. Editor and cat folk where'er they may be and a lovely old Christmas to you all.



THE STONOR MANX CATS send Seasonal Greetings

to their many relations overseas,
especially to dear Ch. Stonor Jet
and Ch. Stonor Tortie True

*A very Happy Christmas to
their owners is the wish of*

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Racekatten
extends to all cat friends
at home and abroad
heartiest wishes for a
Merry Xmas
and a
Happy New Year

ANOTHER WINNER FOR RACEKATTEN

FROM Mrs. Doris Brice-Webb, well-known breeder of Longhairs in the Midlands and active supporter of the Fancy, we have received the following report of her recent visit to judge Longhairs at Racekatten's International Show in Copenhagen last month. It was the usual three-day fixture at the Tivoli Gardens which is always so attractively staged and enthusiastically supported by Continental fanciers and members of the general public:

"Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth asked me to fly over early in case fog should ground the planes, so I had a nice long stay in Copenhagen. I flew both ways by Caravelle Jet, the air-borne time being only 1 hour 45 minutes. The judge for Shorthairs was Fru Thea Volkersen of Hamburg, Germany, and thanks to the great kindness of Mrs. Eisenhuth we had a wonderful time visiting many local places of interest.

English import Best

"Nearly 150 cats and kittens were entered and those I handled were in grand condition and many of excellent quality. Best Exhibit was Widdington Valerio, a Cream owned by Fru J. de Koning of Holland and bred in England by Miss Edith Shepherd. He had an absolutely sound-to-the-roots coat with not a bar or mark anywhere and his glorious large eyes were deep copper. Best Kitten was a Blue Point Siamese Rangoon Blue Venus, owned and bred by Edith Dunvald, of Denmark. Best Shorthair Adult was another B.P. Siamese Rangoon Blue Lotus. Best Longhair Kitten was an exquisite White from Denmark, Kyros of Gilan.

"Winner of his second CACIB and also of the Stud Class was Ch. Mascot of Pensford, the sire of a long string of

winners including the 1st prize litter of four lovely Red Tabbies. Much to my amazement and pleasure Int. Ch. Ronada Onaway was exhibited. She won 1st and Ex., the only one in her class. I bred and exported her to Miss Larsdotter of Sweden when only 12 weeks old. She is now nearly 10 years and this was the first time I had seen her since she left me. She retains her eye colour and lovely soft and sound coat. She is by Southway Echo ex Ronada April and is a credit to her owner.

"I would like to thank all those who helped to make my stay in Copenhagen such a memorable one and also my three most efficient and painstaking stewards—Vibeke Hjort Lorentzen, Lis Landberg and Ulla Anderson."



CH. BENTVELD SULTANA, three-year-old Cream belonging to Mme Pia Sandoz, of Lausanne, Switzerland, loves very sentimental music which she sometimes responds to in a very high voice.

Greetings and every good wish
to cat people everywhere for
Christmas and the New Year
from
"Muzzie" Nelson, pet-ographer



In memory of our beloved
Susan, a picture of her enjoying
her last Christmas with us in
1957.

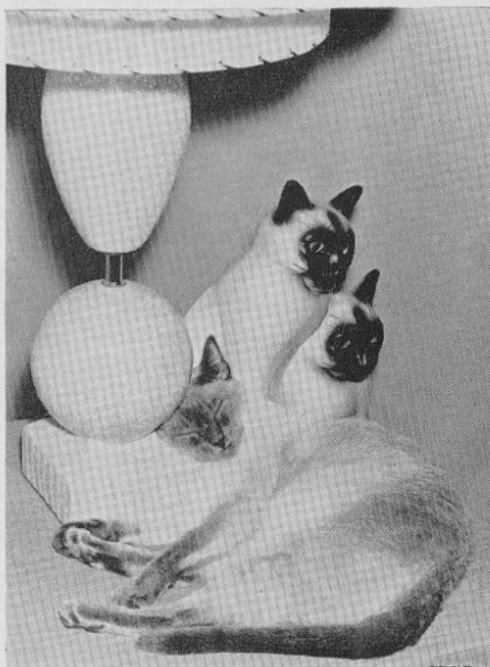
A napping pose of our
adorable Tanya, round whom
our world revolves. Maybe
she's not an exhibition Blue
Point but we're past caring!

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Letter from America

Being some edited extracts from one of the many interesting letters we have recently received from our friends and appreciative subscribers in the U.S.A. The writer is Mrs. Richard O'Donovan, prominent judge and one of America's most successful breeders of Shorthairs. Her missive reveals great courage and determination in adversity and over all a tremendous enthusiasm for what she gleefully describes as her vice.

"JUST to let you know I enjoy your Magazine so much. Kept meaning to send you a few items but I was critically ill in January. Having made a wonderful recovery it sort of makes me feel that now I really *must* do some of the things I wanted to do. It's a grand feeling to be like this after one has been told that you're in fine shape outside of your age, general wear and tear due to spinal curvature, old polio scars and a slight murmur which is something that has been chronic for decades.

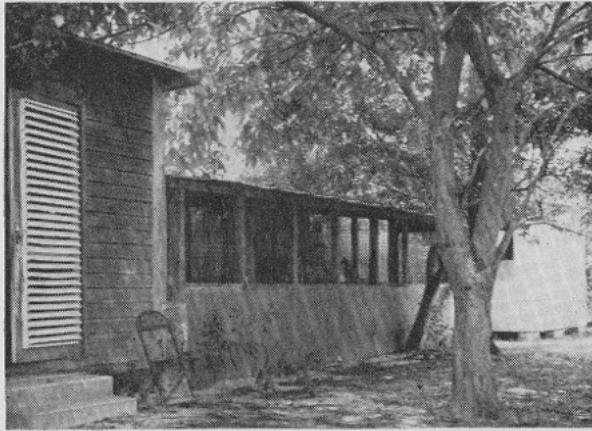
"I had thought I could never be an active fancier again—and there were fifty or more cats sitting in the cattery

and me in hospital. Some of them did have to go at that time, including that wonderful first C.F.A. Grand Champion male Kewalo Lei Krampert, whom I miss most. He will be recalled by Miss Kathleen Yorke as the cat she made Best Blue Point male in Kansas City. I have had him here since the summer after that show, along with the Abyssinian male she liked so well at Newark, my own much loved Dble Gr. Champion Chirn Sa-hai Ricki-Ricki. Ricki died of an overdose of combiotics given by a deputy veterinarian when my regular vet was in hospital. This in spite of my telling him that Abys do not take kindly to these heavy dosages. He gave it and so proved I was right but nothing could bring back my Ricki, the first Aby



Ray Fisher

"... a picture of me showing all my cat wrinkles"



Ray Fisher

"You can imagine my place is a sort of circus for cat fanciers. They simply come and have a wonderful time"

Grand Champion and the best I ever bred.

"Anyhow, I am back judging again and happy to be very well received. When I did a recent show all the Abyss came up in their natural colouring and I was happy not to have any doubts about them. I would explode if anyone put an Abyss under me that was coated with dye—and they *know it!*"

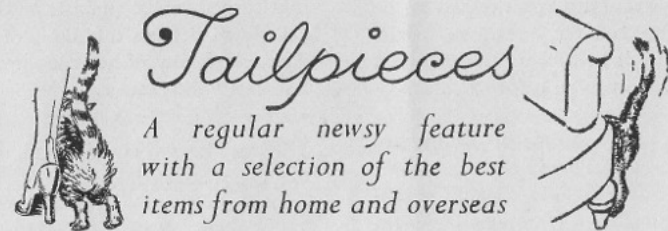
"You can imagine my place is a sort of circus for cat fanciers. They simply come and have a wonderful time. The cats really live it up here. I am sending along a picture of me, very recent and showing all my cat wrinkles. Ray Fisher, a *Miami Herald* photographer who owns one of my cats, comes to take pictures when he has time, so we put as many as possible on the table. The cattery for babies and moms is attached to my bedroom with sliding doors and there is a roofed patio and a grass plot with just screening.

"I was blessed with forty kittens this Spring. I had my breeding stock cut down to 23, mostly Siamese, and you can see the Chocolates, Seals and Blues even in a black and white picture. The bat-eared one in the centre is a Chocolate and you can see Burmese just getting off the table. I have a Spanish-speaking Central American woman who helps with the cats. She adores them. They seem to understand her Spanish, but I do not! It is very difficult at times but then for cats one puts up with anything.

"That ideal cattery article or series intrigues me. Maybe it is an impossible dream. My last addition cost a fortune and is still far from ideal. It is the *only* thing I spend real money on these days. We live an otherwise normal life and very economically—but for the cats. Everyone has a vice, my friends tell me. Mine is cats!"

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

This is the season of renewal for so many of our subscribers at home and overseas. So may we take this opportunity to request the favour of a prompt response to our first renewal application—it saves us so much time and paper work. Thank you in anticipation!



A regular newsy feature with a selection of the best items from home and overseas

OUR very first Christmas card this year arrived in an envelope bearing the stamp of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. It came from Mrs. E. T. Mehliss, that grand lady who continues to carry on her splendid work for the Bulawayo Cat Club despite illness and failing eyesight. "Still going strong in the cat cause," she reports. Let's hope that the New Year will bring her improved health and many happy days to enable her to carry on the work to which she is so devoted.

News flash from South Africa! Mrs. Hilda A. Johnston, of Johannesburg, Transvaal, reports that her Burmese Fernreig Charkki, bred by Mrs. Edna Matthewson and selected for her by Mr. V. Watson, has now attained his Grand Champion status. He was the first Burmese to be imported into the Union and the first Shorthair excluding Siamese to achieve this honour in the country. Mrs. Johnston adds that the breed has still to establish itself over there but Charkki and his progeny are making names for themselves and gaining friends.

Residents in the Hollywood Hills of California, U.S.A., are complaining that packs of wild coyotes are on the rampage, mauling dogs and causing pet cats to disappear. Experts say that absence of rain may be forcing the coyotes into inhabited areas. They wouldn't have gone dry had they lived in England this summer—and autumn!

Vice President Richard Nixon, defeated contender for the American

Presidency at the recent election, has a family cat called Donna who recently gave birth to a mixed litter of six.

According to the Royal Mint there are 550 million lost farthings. The P.D.S.A. would like to have some of them for their wonderful work. But if you are thinking of having a farthing hunt for such a worthy cause please do it quickly because the coin ceases to be legal tender after December 31st.

The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association reports the establishment of the National Animal Health Center in Washington, D.C. Here veterinarians will engage in study and research on animals from birth to old age. There will be diagnostic and clinical laboratories and facilities for training in highly specialized areas of veterinary medicine. Information will be available on technical subjects, pedigrees, genetics, training and other subjects. Plans call for a closed-circuit television channel emanating from an amphitheatre for both demonstration and instruction.

The United Burmese Cat Fanciers of America may not be the largest group of specialist fanciers in our cat world but I would question whether it is surpassed for energy and enthusiasm, plus a determination to do everything possible to win more converts to the breed. Northern California branch members recently decided to explore the possibilities of importing four males from Burma via Hong Kong. The Texas branch has been discussing the price of

kittens as pets and it was decided in the best interests of the breed to advise breeders to sell at \$50 per kitten when possible and not to go below \$35.

Firemen used a couple of cylinders of oxygen to revive Benny, a cat who was found unconscious in a blazing green-grocer's shop at Hampstead Heath Railway Station, London, the other day.

Miss Nancy Coton, of Telscombe Cliffs, near Brighton, who recently lost a protracted legal case in which a former friend and a large number of cats were concerned, has had better luck in her battle with the local authorities. The Lewes magistrates ordered her to reduce the number of her cats from 68 to 10 and gave her two months in which to do so. In default she would have to pay £2 a day for every day after that if the order was not carried out. Miss Coton took her case to the East Sussex Appeals Committee which agreed to permit her to keep the cats at her bungalow home provided she prevented any nuisance, smell or noise. The Canine Defence League came to her aid by erecting a 6 ft. high wire all round the bungalow. To celebrate what she described as "wonderful news", Miss Coton bought thirty tins of sardines. She told a reporter that her food bill was between £17 and £20 per week, just about what

she earned as a pianist and placing occasional bets on tote doubles on cats' names. Many of her cats have names associated with music.

Three boys belonging to Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks, were fined £7 and ordered to pay costs for torturing and killing a cat. They admitted to putting it in a gas oven and turning on the gas. When it coughed they took the poor creature out and beat it with a piece of wood before one of the boys shot it dead with an airgun. They were unable to explain why they did it and the father of one of them said he had given his son a good thrashing. The third youth said he did not like what the others had done and so he shot the cat to end its misery.

When former American Army officer Bill Davis, of San Francisco, his wife Heather and baby son sailed from Plymouth recently in an 8-ton yawl for the West Indies, their Siamese cat Sinbad completed the family group. They hope to "find a new life" at the end of their long journey.

When the parents of Michael Weston were packing up their worldly belongings at the American base at High Wycombe, Bucks, in readiness for their return to the States he was told that he couldn't

take his cat with him. When the belongings reached Southampton for transfer to the ship some dockers heard noises coming from one of the crates. So it was opened and there inside was Michael's pet. He had packed the cat away hoping no doubt it would travel as a stowaway.

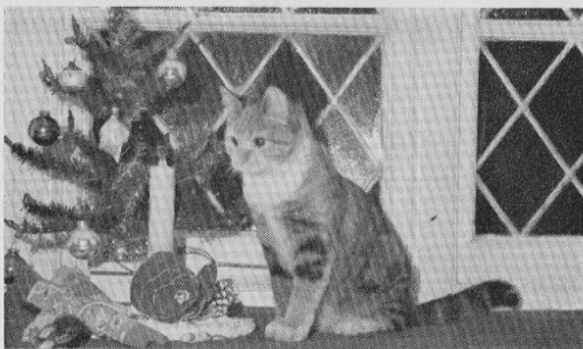
St. Albans (Herts.) Rural Council have angered tenants on a local caravan site by announcing a ban on cats. One councillor fighting hard to get the ban lifted described it as bureaucracy at its worst and added that it was difficult to believe that members of the Council could be so heartless as to say that people cannot keep a cat. My latest news is that the Public Health Committee is to reconsider the decision—and rightly so!

Also in Hertfordshire an 83-year-old woman has been appealing for people to give homes to the 13 dogs and cats which

share her two-roomed council cottage. The Letchworth Urban Council was granted a court order enabling it to remove the animals "for health reasons." The old lady, who feeds her pets and a number of strays from her £3-a-week pension, described them as "my only friends." She hopes kind people will come forward and save them from threatened destruction.

That newsy little item about cats you have read in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down . . . will you be kind enough to clip it out and post it to me in an unsealed envelope? Cuttings from overseas publications are particularly welcome but it should be remembered that we cannot reproduce direct from newspaper illustrations. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection. Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year from

MICKEY



G. C. Nicholl

Lucky Mandy has her own Christmas tree at the home of her owner, Mrs. Davey, Little Selwood, Falmouth



An appropriate "tailpiece" for this month's Tailpieces! A delightful arrangement by Mrs. V. E. Major, of Bexhill-on-Sea in which she has included her own Abyssinian kittens.

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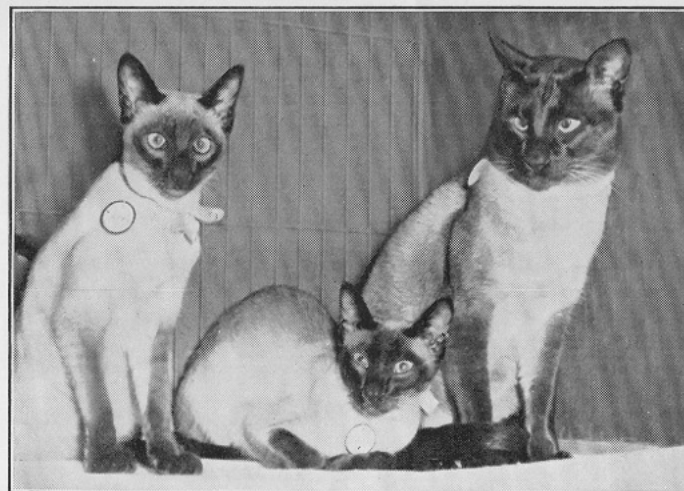
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