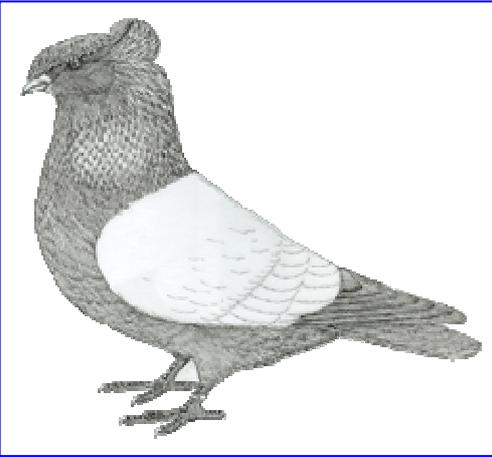


# A visit to Ton Brouwers

## in St. Michielsgestel - part 3

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Frillback, Schmalkalden Moorhead and Trumpeter Club. Text and Photographs: Nico van Benten. Drawings: Jan de Jong



**Frankische Trommelduif (NL)** – Drawing Jan de Jong -  
**Frankische Trommeltaube (D)**  
**Franconian Trumpeter (GB)**  
**Tambour de Franconie (F)**

This clean legged breed originated around 1900 and the last few years the popularity of the breed is rising in The Netherlands as well as in Germany, probably because of the minor interest in muffed breeds. An extra plus is that this breed has a good fertility and raises its own youngsters. Besides that it has a calm character and is a capable flyer; all of those things are a positive boost to choose for this breed in the loft.

**Right:**  
**Franconian Trumpeter, red white shield, young male. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**



Within the Dutch Specialty Club there are some 10 breeders occupied with this Breed, which is seen at the shows lately in the growing number of exhibits. Very typical for this breed is the neck, which is short and stout. The main feature of the head is a rich feathered crest that definitely not may have rosettes (and is set lower than the 'Shell' Crests in most Breeds) and an oval, not to big beak crest. The Breed will give you plenty of challenges, even very difficult ones, in breeding the right colour and marking in the varieties. To keep it simple you could start with the 'Self' coloured. Although high demands are made on the Self

coloured in white, black, red and yellow, almost as demanding if it was colour pigeon.

**Franconian Trumpeters in aviaries at the show in Germany. Photos: Mick Bassett.**  
**Left: yellow barred.**  
**Right: silver checkered.**



Additional information: The breed originated in the state of Oberfranken (one of the biggest industrial areas of Germany) and the neighbouring areas in the state of Thüringen. Oberfranken has over 1,1 million inhabitants. There is much textile industry.

Between 1806 and 1810 Oberfranken was private property of the French Napoleon Bonaparte. It was bought from him by the then Kingdom of Bavaria for 15 million Franks.





**Harzburger Trommelduif (NL)**  
**Harzburger Trommeltaube (D)**  
**Harzburg Trumpeter (GB)**  
**Tambour de Harzbourg (F)**

This breed descended around 1970 from the Beak Crested Trumpeter and the Bernburg Trumpeter. It is a very rare breed which is hardly seen at the shows, not even in Germany. In practice, the muffling and the white wing shield are a too big problem for the fanciers. One really must have patience and wait several years to be able to judge the shield colour from the red and yellow.

**Above: Harzburg Trumpeters. Owner: L. Rohriq. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

Attention must be paid too 'Complimentary' pair Birds. One should certainly not pair two perfectly marked birds together, because the white tends to expand. So one would better choose Self coloured x shield marked, or two birds with insufficient shield marking and wait for some years to see what has become of it. The fertility of the breed is good, but the caring for the youngsters leaves much to be desired, so foster parents are a necessity. Both this and the difficulties is colour and marking causes the lack of fanciers for this breed in The Netherlands as well as in Germany. The Harzburg Trumpeter is not really a shy bird, but also not very confiding. They don't fly much.

**Additional information:**

Bad Harzburg, from which this trumpeter breed took its name, is in the German state of Nedersaksen at the North side of the Harz Mountains at a hight of 350 meter. The ton is known for its health resorts and beneficial spa's. There are 23.000 inhabitants, so less than St. Michielsgestel which has 28.000. According to tradition Charles Charlemagne had already built a chapel here in the year 780, but that cannot be proven anymore. Although buildings from the year 916 are ascertained. From 1831 the spas became the vogue and in 1894 Bad Harzberg was given city rights. The distance from Holland is about 500 km and it is on the route to Leipzig, the city where this year's Europe Show is to take place.



**Krulduif (NL) – Painted by Jan Hatzmann -**  
**Lockentaube (D)**  
**Frillback (GB)**  
**Frisé (Hongrois et Hambourg) (F)**

Not being a Trumpeter breed, the Frillback, together with the Schmalkalden Moorhead, are an exception in the specialty club. It is a very particular and uncommon breed which will always attract the attention of the show visitors, a real eye-catcher. Both fanciers and novices admire the breed. The character of the Frillback is a bit shy by nature, but all depends on

how you handle the birds. Always stay calm if you have to catch a Frillback in the loft; take your time and you will see that in a while they will calm down.

**Right: White Frillback in an aviary on the Leipzig show in 2004.**  
**Photo: Mick Bassett.**





**Left: Frillback yellow grizzle, young male, 96 points. Owner: P. van Zielst. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

The Frillback is a fertile breed with a very good production and it will raise its Young perfectly. The type of the Frillback is of the field pigeon, with large rounded wing shields on which the characteristic curling is found.

**Below: A nice red shield Frillback with excellent curling and structure. Photo: Mick Bassett.**

The curling feathers on the shield must show a lot of structure (compact, closed curling), each feather ending with a round ringlet without degenerating into so called 'corkscrews'. Frillbacks are recognised in unicolour white (plain headed and shell crested) and black. Also grizzles in blue, silver, red and yellow. The shield markings come in black, red, yellow, blue barred, ash red and ash yellow. Also the Self coloured Frillback with a shell crest, the feathers of the groused legs allowed rather longer and look more



like muffs.



**Left: Frillback red grizzle with a perfect curl structure. Owner: Herbert Vleeming. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

marked Frillback from the then East Germany. He thought he had bought a pair of red shields but they turned out to be two hens, so compelled by necessity he had to cross with white cocks. After getting pied birds for year after year, he finally succeeded in breeding a reasonable sharp marked shield markings.

**Right: Frillback silver grizzle, young male, at the Ornithophilia Show in 1999. Owner: P. Stallmann. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

In Germany the interest in the Frillback is obviously from a much earlier date, as the Frillback Breeders Club was already founded in 1905 in the German town of Ebersdorf.

At the 100 year Jubilee Show of the Club, which was organised in January 2006 in



Rockolding (Germany), 711 Frillbacks (including Youth members) were penned. The shield marked were the most popular with a number of 250 birds, followed by the unicoloured red-, blue-, silver and yellow grizzle. In France a Breeders Club was only founded in 1982. The number of Frillback fanciers is not large over there, still at the Club Championship Show in January 2005 at Gueugnon (France) there were 91 Frillbacks penned.

**Additional information:**

You may have noticed that at the shows the Frillbacks are always penned by the owner or a specialist. This is done by carefully taking up the bird from below, so without grabbing the feather curling. With a feather you can correct some of the frills at the wing shield, if necessary. Something that you definitely should not do is washing a Frillback before entering the show, and certainly not with water on which shampoo or such is added! It will loose most of the curling by doing that!

In the Netherlands still very good Frillbacks are on hand and if you consider starting with this breed, the Club will help you with decent starting material.



**Nederlandse Krulveer Kropper (NL) – Drawing Jan Hatzmann -  
Niederlandischer Lockenkröpfer (D)  
Dutch Frillback Cropper (GB)  
Boulant Néerlandais Frisé (F)**

This breed is the 'creation' of Peter Stallmann from Breda in the Netherlands. The breed was recognised in January 1997. He liked to have a pigeon with the 'curls' of the Frillback, combined with the affectionate, playful character of the Croppers so decided to combine the two in the 'Dutch Frillback Cropper'. That was more easily said than done! It cost him almost 12 years hard work before he had something approximating the 'breed' he was aiming for.

**Right:  
Dutch Frillback Cropper red  
grizzle young male. Owner: Peter Stallmann.**



His aim was for a broad wing-shield, to carry the curls and show to a maximum; also the groused legs and muffs had to be 'frilled'. He wanted the approximate 'type' of a Voorburg Shield Cropper but not so 'slim' and moreover Peter attached much importance to the 'action and temperament' of the bird.

After several attempts the Norwich Cropper crossing turned out to be the most successful for build, colour and feather structure.

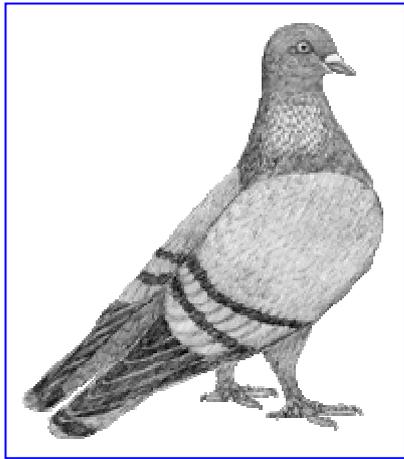
For Stallmann, the affectionate and playful temperament of the Dutch Frillback Cropper was of the utmost importance, eventual this was brought-in by using the Voorburg Cropper, being most notably successful with the whites.



**Left:  
Dutch Frillback Cropper white, old male. Owner: Peter Stallmann, exhibited in 1999 and gained 96 points.  
Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

With the red grizzle, you see more the character of the Norwich, so a slightly more 'distant' temperament.

Meantime the breed is exhibited regularly at the Dutch shows and the interest from foreign countries is still strong. The Frillback Cropper comes in the same colours as the Frillback pigeon, being white, black, blue grizzle, red grizzle, yellow grizzle and silver grizzle. Recently was announced that from January 2007 the Dutch Frillback Cropper will be transferred to the Club of the Rare Cropper Breeds, where it will probably be more in its rightful place.



**Schmöllner Trommelduif (NL) – Drawing Jan de Jong -  
Schmöllner Trommeltaube (D)  
Schmolln Trumpeter (GB)  
Tambour de Schmölln (F)**

This breed has descended from the area of Schmölln and Altenburg, seen in a wider spectrum we could say the states of Saxon and Thüringen. The present breeders are from Thüringen. It is obvious that the breed descended from crossings between the Altenburg Trumpeter and the Fork tail German Trumpeter. According to German history the official standardisation was in the year 1925. In the latest German Standard the breed is wanted with a fork tail with minimum 14 (2x7) tail feathers, without having an oil gland. It is a strong build type of field pigeon, plain headed, with Pearl eyes,

groused legs and unfeathered toes.

Main characteristic is the fork tail, with a clearly visible split. In former days even a split tail feather was wanted, but not anymore. At German exhibitions the bird is often seen in the blue colour and in red- and yellow colour (yellow pea). The tiger heads, tigereds, mottleds and checkeredes are seldom seen, even in Germany. In the Netherlands the Schmolln Trumpeter is very rare and never seen at the Exhibitions.

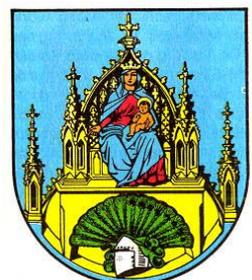
**Right: Schmolln Trumpeter white, old male.  
Owner: Th. van Dissel. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**



**Left: Schmolln Trumpeter.  
Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

#### **Additional information:**

The distance from The Netherlands to Schmölln is 600 km. It is situated 60 km below Leipzig in the eastern part of the German state of Thüringen, more specific in the district Altenburger Land. The town of Schmölln has 13.000 inhabitants. The town was first mentioned in history books in the year 1066 and it was widely known for its button manufacture.





**Schalkaldener Moorkop (NL)** – Painted by Jan Hatzmann

**Schalkaldener Mohrenkopf (D)**

**Schalkalden Moorhead (GB)**

**Nègre à Crinière (F)**

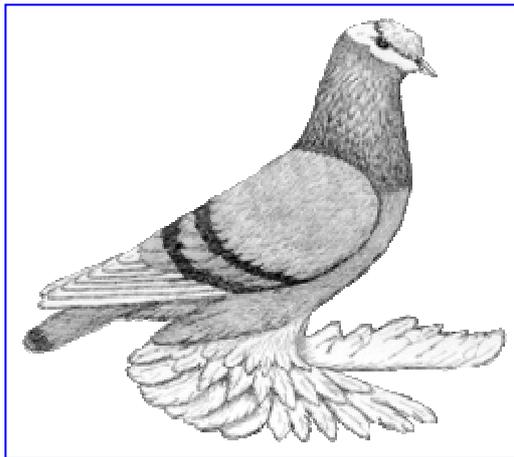
In 1991 this pigeon was added to the Club breeds and at the following International Structure Pigeon Show at Wehl there were 80 Schalkalden Moorhead exhibited. At first they came only in black (that's why the breed had the name 'Moorhead') but later on they came also in blue, red and yellow. Nevertheless it later went downhill quickly. At the moment The Schalkalden Moorhead is very rare in The Netherlands and we can conclude that this pigeon is no longer bred for exhibition,

for they are not present at the shows. Also in Germany we only seldom see the breed. The problem lies in the shyness of the breed; it is even advised not to keep it together with other breeds, because the Schalkalden Moorhead will then feel inclined to seclude itself. For this reason they are mostly kept in so called 'couple cages'. They are bad breeders and will even need foster parents to raise their youngs. The marking and correct colour give big problems too; the percentage of mismarked and miscoloured is rather high. Not for nothing have they called it 'the colour pigeon of the structure pigeons'! Together with the character and breeding problems, this makes the number of difficulties so large, that the breed became unwanted. A shame for this breed, as it was a splendid and imposing bird at the show.

**\* See at the end of the article for additional information from Mick Bassett (Germany)**

**Additional information:**

Schalkalden is a town in the German State of Thüringen, situated in the district of Schalkalden-Meiningen in the valley of the river Schalkalbe. The town received the city rights in 1180 and today it has about 18,000 inhabitants. To compare with St. Michielsgestel, this has 28,000. Schalkalden is at a 500 km distance from St. Michielsgestel and some 200 km north of Neurenberg. The shield of Schalkalden shows a black hen, i.e. the arm of the Counts of Henneberg (litt. the Hen Mountain). Until 1583, this family owned most of the territory of the modern *Landkreis*.



**Vogtlandse Trommelduif (NL)** - Drawing Jan de Jong

**Vogtländer Weißkopf-Trommeltaube (D)**

**Vogtland Whitehead Trumpeter (GB)**

**Tambour de Vogtland (F)**

This Trumpeter breed originated from Vogtland (in the German state of Saxon) where it descended in the middle of the last age by crossings with Beak Crested Trumpeter and Monked colour pigeons. In structure and type (head, feet and slender

neck) this bread is identical to the Beak Crested Trumpeter. The difference is in the white head, the 7 to 10 white flight feathers and the white muffings, which make this a very difficult pigeon to breed.



**Right: Vogtland Trumpeter, old male, 96 points.**

**Owner: R. Peijs. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

When composing a breeding pair, one has to choose Self coloureds and miss-marked birds to gain a correct marking. Still it is almost impossible to breed correctly marked birds. Besides that the Vogtland Trumpeter is supposed to have at some sort of bulge in the parting of the white and coloured feathers in the neck, in such a manner that the colour field expands up to the eye; an extra difficulty on breeding this pigeon. The blacks must have a dark tail ribbon and the whites and yellows a white tail ribbon (of course this is not possible with the recessive colours). Logically there are many mismarked and that is the main reason why the bird is not bred in the Netherlands. In Germany it is also very rare.



**Left: Vogtland Trumpeter 1999. Owner: R. Peijs. Photo: D.J. Hamer.**

**Additional information:**

Vogtland is an area that includes the 4 German states of Saxon, Thüringen, Bavaria and the Bohemian Egerland in the Czech Republic. Vogtland is a Middle-European active volcanoes area that is why there are many hot spas', which are said to be very healthy. Besides this, the name Vogtland is synonymous to cameras, trains (including small-scale) and everything that comes with these.



**Vorkstaart Trommelduif (NL) – Drawing Jan de Jong -  
Deutsche Gabelschwanz-Trommeltaube (D)  
Fork Tail German Trumpeter (GB)  
Tambour Allemand à Queue Fourchue (F)**

This ancient German breed is closely related to the Schmolln Trumpeter. The most remarkable detail is its (split) fork tail that misses the oil gland and that has to be composed of 2 x minimal 8 broad and long tail feathers and a clear split in the middle. Although the Schmolln Trumpeter is groused, the Fork Tail German Trumpeter must have large muffs. The eye colour is the same, so just like the Schmolln Trumpeter they should have Pearl eyes. However, the white eyes are a problem and they often have red/orange eyes. The muffing and the fork tail are the next

problems, causing the breed to be very rare in the Netherlands and hardly ever showed in Germany.

**Right:  
Fork tail German Trumpeter  
Blue barless. Photo: D.J. Hamer**



**Left: Fork Tail German Trumpeter, old male, 96 points. Owner: G. Buttler. Photo: D.J. Hamer**



### In conclusion

With thanks to Ton Brouwers, Dick Hamer, Jan de Jong and Mick Basset, for the cooperation we got on writing this article.

For more information on the described breeds you may always contact the Frillback, Schmalkalden Moorhead and Trumpeter club,

secretary: A. Brouwers, Meidoornstraat 27, 5271 KB St. Michielsgestel

Website of the Club: <http://kstc.sierduif.nl>

## Postscript: *The Schmalkalden Moorhead* Text and Photographs: Mick Basset (Duitsland)



I would not say that they are bad breeders! Here in Germany, I have a pair that are certainly not 'unusual' for the Breed and are excellent 'fosters'!

They also get very tame but ARE shy of other breeds (easily bullied, even by small 'busy' breeds like Arabian Trumpeters) and best kept apart, but certainly not in

cages; just ordinary lofts and flights but apart from other breeds.

One of the reasons is, apart from obvious 'bulling' Males like to take their time in mating and generally another 'breed' Male will get in and mate with the

Schmalkaldener



female first! (But that is like White Crested Frillbacks; they are the same with mating, the males tend to 'Take their time' about mating!)



With Schmalkaldener Moorhead there seems not a lot of problem with real miss-marks either; again a case of 'complimentary' pairings. Some careful trimming of the colour is preferential to having the 'correct amount', which then leads to the 'white' spreading and many miss-marked birds. A few (the Odd) coloured feathers on the body is certainly no problem as easily removed.

**This 50th Anniversary article consisted of three parts;  
this is the end of part 3.**