

About Art in the hobby

Text: Nico van Benten

Some Beautiful paintings of French Fancy pigeon breeds illustrated the calendar of the French Pigeon Union (the Société National de Columbiculture SNC) in 1996. They were made by the well know French pigeon Judge and successful breeder of Oriental Frills, also president of the Standards Committee of the European Entente, Jean-Louis Frindell.

French Pouter GB - Franse Kropper NL - Boulant Francais F



French Pouters belongs to the large pouters and are closely related to the English Pouters, except for the feathered legs – the French Pouter has clean legs - and the typical proportions which are typical for the French Pouter, the crop, the prominent breast and the protruding upper legs. The upright position, the Cropper markings, including the wing roses and the crescent hint to the relation between the French and the English Pouter. In proportion, there is 2/3 of the body before the legs and 1/3 behind the legs; this is carried with an upright stance. Elegance and slenderness, where crossed wings are desired. The breed existed already in the 19th century and occurred especially in the North of French in the city of Amiens, that is why it was known in the beginning years also as '*Boulant d'Amiens*' (Amiens Pouter). The city of Amiens lies 115 km at the North of Paris, or approx. 100 km of the Belgian border. The breed never became really popular. The breeders are mainly in North France and also in Germany there are a reasonable number of breeders.

For more information: Specialty Club for the French Pouter in France, Matela Tadeuz, 38 rue Emile Zola, 59179 Fenain (France).

Cauchois NL – F - GB

A beautiful France breed from the group of utility pigeons, but in France they put very high standard demands concerning the colour of this pigeon, like a real colour pigeon. A breed for specialists, who are working very closely on European level. In the Netherlands the number of breeders is very small, not more than 10 Breeders at the most, whereas in Belgium and Germany it is much more common. In France the breed belongs to one of the most popular breeds, to be found at the National shows in large numbers. The breed existed in the 17th century in Normandy and particularly in the region Caux, in North West France. Unmistakably one of the Cropper Breeds was used and the France Hyacinth Pigeon also played a part in the development of this breed.

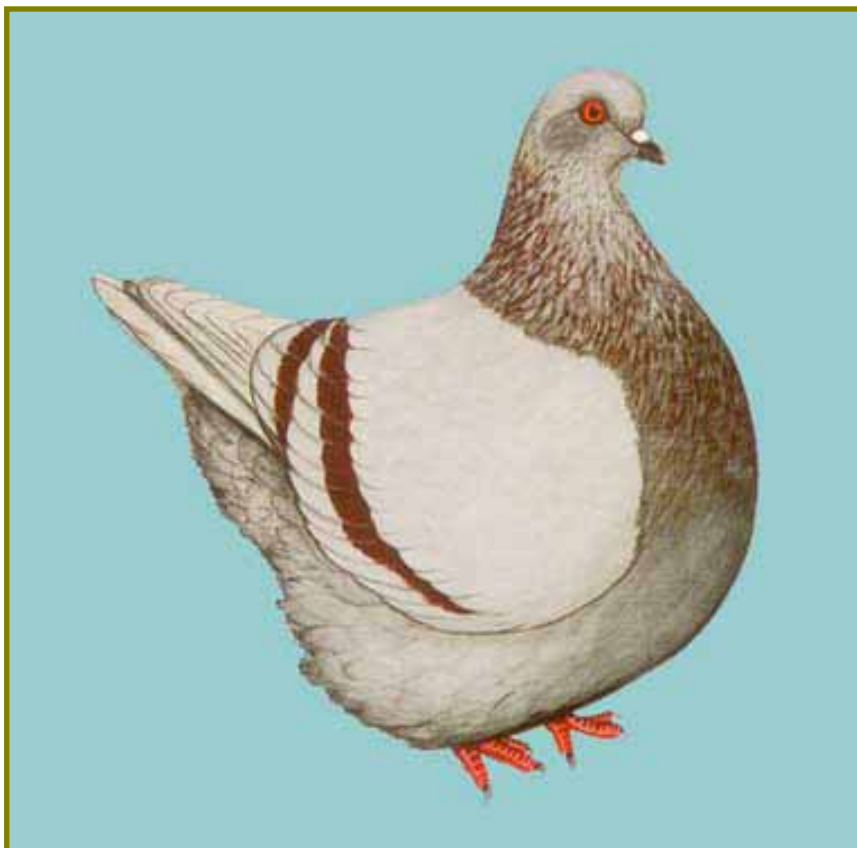
In the beginning the breed was also called Mondain of Caux and according to the literature, the breed had a noticeably inflated crop at that time. This information can be surmised from what the France writer Buffon wrote about this breed in 1774. A somewhat thick neck and the white crescent mark (bavette) is nowadays still a proof of the relation with the cropper. The checker design (spangled) on the wing shield is believed as originated from the France Hyacinth Breed. After the general description, colour and design are the most imported points from the breed, The most difficult, but also the most attractive colours are the white- rose- and bronze checkered. Unusual is the mention of the wing spread in the France standard of 85 to 90 cm for males and 80 to 85 for females. Also the tail feathers are mentioned as 4 cm large. The ideal station is 45° and the total length from beak point to tail end is between 42 and 46 cm. Males weight 750 gram (28 ounces) and females 675 gram (25 ounces).



For more information: Club Français du Cauchois, Cherbonnier Dominique, Le Bois Lavaud, 87130 La-Croisille-Briance (France).

Mondain NL – F - GB

Belongs to one of the oldest pigeon breeds in France, but only in the beginning of the 20th century did they finely start to develop uniformity in the breed and a standard which was recognised in 1931. With this standard, the previous variety in the breed, with the crests, muffs and the flying type, was excluded. Probably, the type with the muffs is now familiar as the Italian breed the Romagnol. According to Buffon (1774) the Mondain was not only bred in France, but also in the Nord of Italy where it was known as a utility breed. The name Mondain is derived from the fact that this pigeon had a very 'earth bound' existent, meaning that this pigeon did very little flying! It was bred as a 100% utility bird for consumption. And breeding was possible all the year round. Hence the emphasis was on the depth of the breast and a head as small as possible. The total weight is about 900 gram for the female and 1 kg for the male. Of course the French standard has also mentioned measuring sizes for the length: from the point of the beak to the end of



the tail a female 40 cm and a male 43 cm. We already mentioned that the head is small in size, comparing to the body. The front of the head must be well filled and the line of the front must be almost 90° (a right angle) with the beak line. The legs are short and are mostly camouflaged by the rich full feathers. Of course the breast is deep and well fleshed with a long breastbone, this should not be crooked; a condition which is prevalent in Heavy breeds. Due to the body width the short wings can hardly cover the back; good 'Back Cover' is, however, a requirement.

For more information: Club des Amis du Mondain, started in November 1978 in Montluçon (France) by cooperation of the Club du Mondain and Des Amis du Mondain.

President: Jack CHARONNAT, 27 avenue Pasteur, 36210 CHABRIS (France).

Tel. : 0033 (0)254400489, e-mail: j.charonnat@laposte.net.

Romein NL – Romain F – Runt UK

This breed is known as one of the largest and heavy pigeon breeds, with a horizontal station, forming according the standard, a perfect balance, with equal body parts before and after the legs. The French have the honour of perfecting this breed, but the French name for this breed; 'Romain' (France name for the Italian city of Rome), indicates other Origins. And indeed, the Runt or similar size pigeons with a weight of 1.5 kg came from Andalusia (Spain) and found there way from there to Italy and from there to France, that's why the French chose to name this breed to the Italian city of Rome. The French standard is gives surprisingly full details of the Runt. Especially the wings, the tail and the legs are extensively described. The colours in which this race is recognised, are restricted to blue black barred, brown barred and the selfs in black, dun, red, white, yellow and a specific type 'spotted grizzle' (black almond, also called Qualmond). In the French standard a precise description of the Runt in every separate colour is given. The lower back is obligatory white and also the white edges on the two outer tail feathers at the blue black barred and the brown barred.



It is remarkable that - being a utility pigeon - the standard requirements for the colours red and yellow are very high. So it is a big fault to have traces of black, like black spots in the reds or blue traces in yellow. The blacks are wanted intensive black on the wing shields and there must be green brilliance in the neck. About the 'grizzle spotted', the standard explained that there are two different varieties, namely the white with black spots and grizzle with black spots. The first are to be preferred. They are born almost white and after each moult, year after year they become more black spotted. For the whites, there is no exception for the eye colour; it must be the same as in the other colours: white, in the French standard there are a lot of measurements and weights given, which of course differ between male and female, but also between the different colours. This breed is very popular in France and also in Germany, but at the Dutch exhibitions it is hardly found.

For more information: Romain Club de France, Cros Henri, Le Cros, 34390 Saint-Julien-d'Olargues (France).



Sultz Haube NL
Huppé de Sultz F
Crest de Sultz UK

There is very little known about the history of this breed. It was found for the first time in literature in 1943 and it was originated in the city of Sultz, that's in the North East of France in the province the Elzas and supposed to be a cross between Priests (a colour pigeon) and Hessian Pouters. Typical is the naming, because strictly speaking 'Huppe' stands for a pointed crest, whereas the current breed having a shell crest, which in French is indicated normally as a 'Coquille' (shell). Moreover the earlier-mentioned crossing is contradicted by other historians, among Kampschäfer. In France and Germany the race is very popular and found on the shows in large numbers. It is a robust breed; accordingly its weight it is heavier than an average pigeon. The males are around 700 gram and females are 600

gram. The stance is slightly sloping. The French standard mentions an angle of 30° for the line of the back, and the length from beak point to the tail end is approximately 40 cm. The forehead is filled and the shell crest ends on both sides in well defined rosettes. The shell crest, one of the main points of the breed, is extremely important with the highest demands made. The neck is full and the tendency for blowing (making a crop) is tolerated for males, but absolutely not wanted for females. The breast is broad, large, well developed and somewhat upwards carried. The colours are blue (without bars, black barred and checkered), with the remark that this blue is a very light and 'porcelain' blue. Also in ash red (dominant red barred) and ash yellow (dominant yellow barred). Finally the three coloured 'almond' variety.

For more information: Club Français du pigeon Huppé de Sultz, Wehrung Sylvain, 2 rue du Maire Wust, 67150 Gerstheim (France). Tel. : 00331 (0)3.88.98.33.73.

A NEW, UNIQUE COLOUR OF THE BARNEVELDER

By: Elly Vogelaar

The most famous and most often seen colour variety of the Dutch breed the Barnevelder is the double laced; a deep golden brown ground colour - we say the colour of a fresh fallen chestnut – with double stripes of black over the brown; one stripe running round the edge of the feather and the second parallel in the middle. (The larger feathers having an extra black marking round the feather shaft.) The black lacing should have a green lustre and should be well defined, without any black splashes in the brown ground colour.

Only the females express the double-laced pattern, whereas the males are melanized black-breasted reds, meaning almost entirely black, with only red golden

colour in neck, hackles and wing shield.

In Holland we have another recognised variety: the blue double laced, being the same lacing pattern but of a blue colour instead of black, the ground colour still having the same deep golden brown.

Above: Double laced Barnevelder hen.

Right: Blue double laced Barnevelder.

Photos: Aviculture Europe.

Below: A silver (black) double laced bantam hen.

Owner and breeder: Bert Beugelsdijk.

Photo: Archives Kleindier Magazine.



But we were really surprised and exited to see this latest creation: a silver-double laced Barneveld bantam. In this variety the black double lacing is on a silvery white ground colour! As you can see in the pictures, this is a beautiful contrasting colour pattern and the already achieved perfection is truly striking! This variety of colour pattern doesn't yet exist in any other breed in Europe!

The creator of the new colour is Bert Beugelsdijk, a Dutch top breeder in Barnevelder and Australorp bantams. He read in an very old book that in the old days silver Barnevelder were created for their sex-linked heritage, but as far as we know the only sex-linked variety of Barnevelder was a cross with a 'barred' breed, probably



Plymouth Rock. Never mind that. The idea took hold in his head and he began to work on this 'silver Barnevelder'. It took him several years to get this result, which is based on crossing with silver pencilled Wyandotte bantams. Today the type and stance, comb and tail of the hens are without question a true Barnevelder bantam and as you can see in the pictures the colour and marking of the hens are superb. At the cocks only the silver marking in neck and saddle hackle should be more evident.

Right: Photo Archives Kleindier Magazine.

This new variety is not yet recognised in the Dutch Poultry Standard, although the 'first step' has been taken: the birds were presented at the Club meeting of the Barnevelder Breeders' Club and the Board and members approved of the new colour, saying that the double lacing is a true Barnevelder colour pattern, no matter if that lacing is on a golden or silver ground colour.

If both Club and creator are satisfied with the result, the birds will be presented at the National Poultry Union Show, The Noordshow. When approved by the Standard Committee, the new colour of the Barnevelder bantams will be



recognised in the Dutch Poultry Standard. We will keep you informed!

Now we are curious who will succeed in creating the 'Jubilee colour' in the Barnevelder, that being a WHITE double lacing on a golden ground colour.....

Left: 2 bantam cockerels in the new colour.

Photo: Aviculture Europe.



Right: 3 perfect bantam hens.
Photo: Aviculture Europe.



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Visiting Guy Delpech

in St. Sylvestre, departement Lot et Garonne (47) France.

Text and pictures: Nico van Benten

I had known this breeder for a long time, from different shows he had attended with his pigeons, guinea pigs, turkeys and his different breeds of poultry. For him, attending an exhibition wasn't just about showing his birds, he also used to be there on each day of the show, accompanied by his wife. This is quite common in France; shows are a club matter and all members and their families help.

Driving on the small country roads, heading to this breeder, the sun shined over the deserted road and even the little villages I passed seemed to be deserted. Hardly any traffic, which is usually between twelve and two o'clock. These hours are somehow holy. France has lunch and rests. When I arrived

at Guy's house at 14.00 hours, as we had arranged, only the dog barked. Because there was a sign "dangerous dog" I did not persist and decided to wait. When I came back, half an hour later, I found out that the reason was a medical one. Mrs Delpech had to be brought to hospital in Villeneuve sur Lot to have twelve stitches in her thumb, after she had cut herself opening a can of meat.



After Guy told me that he was 68 years of age and that he had been enjoying his pension since he was 60 we went to his stables. "En passant" he told me that he got into contact with the hobby at a very young age, when he used to live in the village of Valeilles (about 15 km away from Fumel). He grew up there and from his early days he had been interested by animals. The local postman brought him to the hobby. He was breeding pigeons, not pure breeds, just for meat. The pigeons were called 'pattu' (feather-legged). He offered Guy two pairs of these birds, provided that he should get some Wood pigeons in return. The deal was made and Guy went home to catch some Wood pigeons. In those days this was no problem because there were plenty of them. He located a nest and tied the young birds with one foot to the nest, so that the parents would go on feeding them till they were big enough to eat by themselves. Then Guy would pick them up and deliver them. On the day of delivery Guy went to the postman, with the birds in a sack. This turned out to be a great disappointment. The pigeons were dead, suffocated by the lack of oxygen, or maybe because of the stress. So Guy could not deliver any bird and went home weeping. His parents felt sorry for him and arranged that he did get a pair of these "pattu" from the postman.

Below: *Columba palumbus* Wood pigeon.
Photos: Dirk de Jong





Left: At the entrance of the village of St. Sylvestre, there is a wonderfully restored pigeon tower.

Below: The hilly countryside of the Quercy, where Guy was born.

For Guy, this was the beginning of a beautiful hobby. Encouraged by the postman and the local club, he finally chose poultry – large birds, of course, with which he had a special bond.

At the moment I visited him, breeding was done. The three cocks he had bred from were being kept in a separate run and were so calm that Guy could pick them up just as he liked. The birds were not afraid of him and he could easily put them on a table, to have them photographed. In turns, first a Sussex, then a Plymouth Rock and a Bielefelder.

During the conversation he told me that his champions got nicknames and were allowed to stay as a mascot. Guy kept a Marans champion, Mario, until the bird died of old age. Speaking of this was still making him sentimental.



On the right: a champion Plymouth Rock cock. He is the male-parent of all the other birds. Below: dark Sussex cock.





Left: Bielefelder cock.



Right: Sussex columbian pullets of 2007.

Large stables and runs, so no lack of space. His coops are 20 X 30 square meters, the sides were strong and about two meters high. All over them are nets. Gratings with heavy profile on a concrete foundation made sure that foxes and rats could not get in.

Guys next neighbours live at least a hundred meters away, so no complaining about crowing cocks. As I told Mrs. Delpech about this problem in Holland she was surprised and said: *"Ici c'est la campagne!"* (We live in the countryside here!).



Left: Sussex broody with turkey chickens of the 'Bronzé Amérique', as they are called in France.

Below: The parents, cock and hen of the 'Bronzé Amérique'.

Guy visits a number of regional shows with a selection of his birds, as there is Bergerac (33) Dordogne, Condom (32) Gers, Valance d'Agen en Montauban (82) Tarn et Garonne, Limoge (87) Haut Vienne. He has won many awards in the last couple of years. Everybody who takes an interest in the hobby can come to him for advice and he is always willing to sell a newcomer good material.





Left: This award was won by Guy with a Plymouth Rock cock in 2004 at the show in Valence d'Agen, where it was 'Best in Show'.

Below: Everywhere awards and cups, the harvest of many years of showing.



Right: Guy Delpech here with a Texan male. A very popular pigeon breed in France. It is an autosexing breed. The males always are white with some colour in the neck. This is produced by the faded-factor which is found twice in the males. The females are coloured with a single faded-factor; this makes the colour less definite.



Below: In these coops, young Marans and Plymouth Rock of this year.





Left: A view at the Texans. A breed that has become more and more popular on the shows in the last years, but also consumption is a reason for breeding them. Good visible are the black and blue females. All whites are male birds.

Below: The loft of the Coburg Lark. Another popular breed of utility pigeons in France. As you can see, some of the nest-boxes are already closed.



Left: A broody Coburg Lark, silver barless.

Left and bottom and below: The aviaries of the Coburg Lark.





Left: Best in Show a Bronzé Amérique Turkey, at the show of Valence d'Agen (82) in 2006.

Guy's turkeys do not go inside at night. They stay outside, under the roof, and feel good that way.

I did not take any pictures of Guy's rabbits. They were not for showing, but just for consumption. One lives close to nature this way.

But I did take some pictures of his single-crested tricoloured Guinea Pigs, from which he has at least 50.



Left: single-crested tricoloured Guinea Pig of Guy Delpech.

Below: Homemade feed-silos. These were in the pigeon lofts, where they could chose between French corn, green peas and pellets (pressed poultry food).



The way of keeping animals in France is different from the way it is in Holland. Shows are much more family-like and cosy. The main thing is to have fun together, keeping animals. On shows people always dine together, breeders as well as visitors. At the last show in Bergerac, the secrerary of the show was selecting workers among the people who visited the show. The president of the Bordeaux Club was kindly invited to take care of the sale-office, and the wife of a French friend of mine could go straight through to the kitchen, to give a helping hand.

Guy is a member in more than one club, but 'his' club is SACCA, what stands for; **Société d'Aviculture Colombiculture Cuniculture d'Aquitaine.**