RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE ON VOLCHER COITER in the Augustus issue of 2009

We received the following response by Kees Verkolf (NL) regarding the article by Elio Corti on the Dutch anatomist Volcher Coiter:

“My compliments for publishing this splendid information on Coiter and Gessner, not ‘deformed’ by the ‘wise guys’ in the fancy, but coming from Italy, straight from the source.

In one of the booklets in my possession - "Schouwburg der dieren" by Dr. A. Schierbeek, published in 1942 door de Algemeene Vereeniging voor Natuurbescherming voor 's Gravenhage e.o. - I found some information on Coiter, adjusting the words of Elio Corti. This is one of the few Dutch books that mention and praise Coiter”.

Kees included scans of some pages of the booklet, from which we gladly publish a few lines:

Page 47 ... In his short, haunted life, Coiter achieved a lot.... Quote Singer: In the present days Coiter is truly the father of Embryology (study of the development of the chick in the egg). Many studies are on his account, also in the field of psychology. His name should surely be honoured by our people!

Page 51 ... Also Nuyens, studying Coiters Works, gives him the credit he is entitled to... According to his own words, Coiter preferred independent research and never quoted studies of other scientists; that can be read in their books....
SCHOUWBURG DER DIEREN

BLOEMLEZING UIT DE DIERENBOEKEN

van MAERLANT & LEEUWENHOEK en SWAMMERDAM

Aangeboden door de algemene vereniging voor natuurbescherming voor 3-gravenhage e.o.
Coiter himself stated that, when being a teacher in Bologne, he was thinking of Aldrovandi’s lamentation that the naturists neglected the anatomy, while the natural history of animals and knowledge of their build is based on that. “Now to please my promoter and to unbend myself – being tired by the fatiguing studies – I started my anatomic researches”.

Thus Coiter leaves the honour of the initiative to Aldrovandi, but demands the priority of the studies for himself, and to me, there is no reason to doubt this. Aldrovandi’s books were published much later and thus he could profit from Coiter’s pioneering work. The skeletons for his 1575 treatise were prepared by his friend, the Nuremberg doctor Gregorius Palm, thus he didn’t do his studies with Aldrovandi’s material; again it was his own work.

Page 157 (In conclusion) ......It was our compatriot Coiter who had the honour of publishing the first treatise on Anatomy, and also without any objection he was the first – after Aristotle - to research the development of the chick in the egg.

*Drawings by Coiter, 1575.*
THE ONETO SHOW

This is a combined exhibition, organised by 27 local clubs in the Twente Halls in Enschede (East part of the Netherlands)

De ONETO is a National Show with International participation

11, 12 and 13 December 2009

Do you want to participate?
Foreign entries are welcome. Entries close November 25th. Entry forms are available at the Secretary of the Oneto Show, email secretaris@oneto.nl

Visitors:
We are expecting well over 5000 entries, being poultry large fowl and bantams, fancy pigeons, rabbits, cavies, waterfowl and ornamental fowl. There will be a separate exhibition of canaries and tropical birds, organised by the EVON Association. The Parakeet Society of Twente will also house their annual Show here. Furthermore many commercial displays and a children’s farm.

Opening hours and entry fee will soon be published on the updated ONETO webiste www.oneto.nl
INTERNATIONAL MARANS MEETING IN CHAMPLON, BELGIUM

A weekend with special chickens and their beautiful dark brown eggs.

August 22 and 23, the most skilled and fanatical Marans breeders gathered together in Champlon, at the Club Day of the Belgian Marans Club. On Sunday, over 250 Marans were penned by Members of the Marans Clubs from France, Belgium and Holland, making this happening the largest in history – apart from the European Championship show in 2000 in the city of Marans (France) where 420 Marans were entered.

Also the number of entries for the egg contest was a record for the Club: 28 series of 6 eggs, and all in the characteristic dark brown colour.

Many people gathered for this meeting; some for the whole weekend, others only Sunday. We were surprised to learn that 90 to 95% of them turned out to be active users of the internet and especially in the Belgian and French Marans Club forums. Is this going to be the future way to experience our hobby; people living at great distance from each other and keeping in touch by means of the internet, and still have the wish to meet once or twice per year?

To help with introductions, the organizers had made a visiting-card for all members and judges. This way, the ‘names’ from the internet easily got a ‘face’ and soon all got acquainted.

The large attendance at these Club meetings is also due to the fact that all members get a personal invitation and the active forum members have a reminder by email.
All guests could spend the night in the youth hostel, where the meeting also took place.

Saturday night was the board meeting, with several proposals and changes ordered. Present were the new chairman Alain Delatraz and Christian Herment, both of the Marans Club of France; chairman Jean-François Krins and Secretary Ludo van Neste of the Marans Club of Belgium and chairman Fred Broekhuizen and Secretary Dirk de Jong of the French Breeds’ Club of the Netherlands. These three clubs represent most of the European Marans breeders, have extensive knowledge of the breed and all three clubs are on a par with each other; this was explicitly stated by the French delegation.

The Dutch proposal to adjust the text of the Standard description to reality was considered very well. We learned that in Belgium judging was done in two ways; the French way and the Dutch way. The experienced problems concerning the leg colour and shine of the plumage of the copper-black variety arise from a wrong translation / interpretation of the French Standard text. So it was understood that we want the text adjusted to give the right guidance to the judges. In French nothing will change, as there the Copper-blacks are standardised with dark legs and green shining plumage. The proposal of changing the tail carriage from 45° to 90° provided a nice discussion. As it turned out, in French the tail carriage was already agreed to be 60° without altering the standard. All proposals will be discussed at the annual Club Meeting in France and – after approval – be presented to the French Standard Committee.
Enjoying the supper together: Mussels and French fries (chips).

Another word on the ‘new way’ of experiencing our fine hobby. You may read this report maybe months after date, but news and photos on this event were presented on the diverse forums the same evening! We heartily invite you to have a look at the hundreds of photos of this fantastic event. Go to the French or Belgian forums mentioned below, search for Champlon 2009 and enjoy! Also the two videos on YouTube give a splendid view of the Marans, the Club Day and the joy of keeping poultry.

Videos:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdqypf9ULuE
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQgHsRsHMgY&feature=player_embedded#t=19


Text and photos : FHC, Dirk de Jong.
Visit the European Show in Nitra. More info on http://www.eeschau.eu/index.htm
Announcement by
the VALENCIANA CROPPER Breeders’ Club in the Netherlands.
Taken from their Club Magazine, Volume 25, issue 3, August 2009.

“Our letter about no longer judging the Flying Valencina Croppers resulted in questioning by several of our members, asking if we forbid the Flying of their birds. No, we don’t forbid anybody to breed Valencianas that can fly. Same as we don’t forbid anyone to teach his pigeons how to ‘skip-a-rope’ or to swim, or to rear its own Young, or to accompany you when going shopping. Whatever you want to do at home with your birds is totally up to you. As long as you enjoy it.

However, it is something completely different when entering your Valencianas at a Show. The thing we cancelled, is the distinction between the Flying Valenciana and the Show Valenciana.

Thus at the coming Club Days and Exhibitions, all will be called Valenciana Croppers. Because that is what they are. There are no two breeds or varieties, no matter what they can do or not. At the Club day or Show they simply have to meet the Standard description”.

Photo: Archives Aviculture Europe