

# ***Old Oriental Owl***

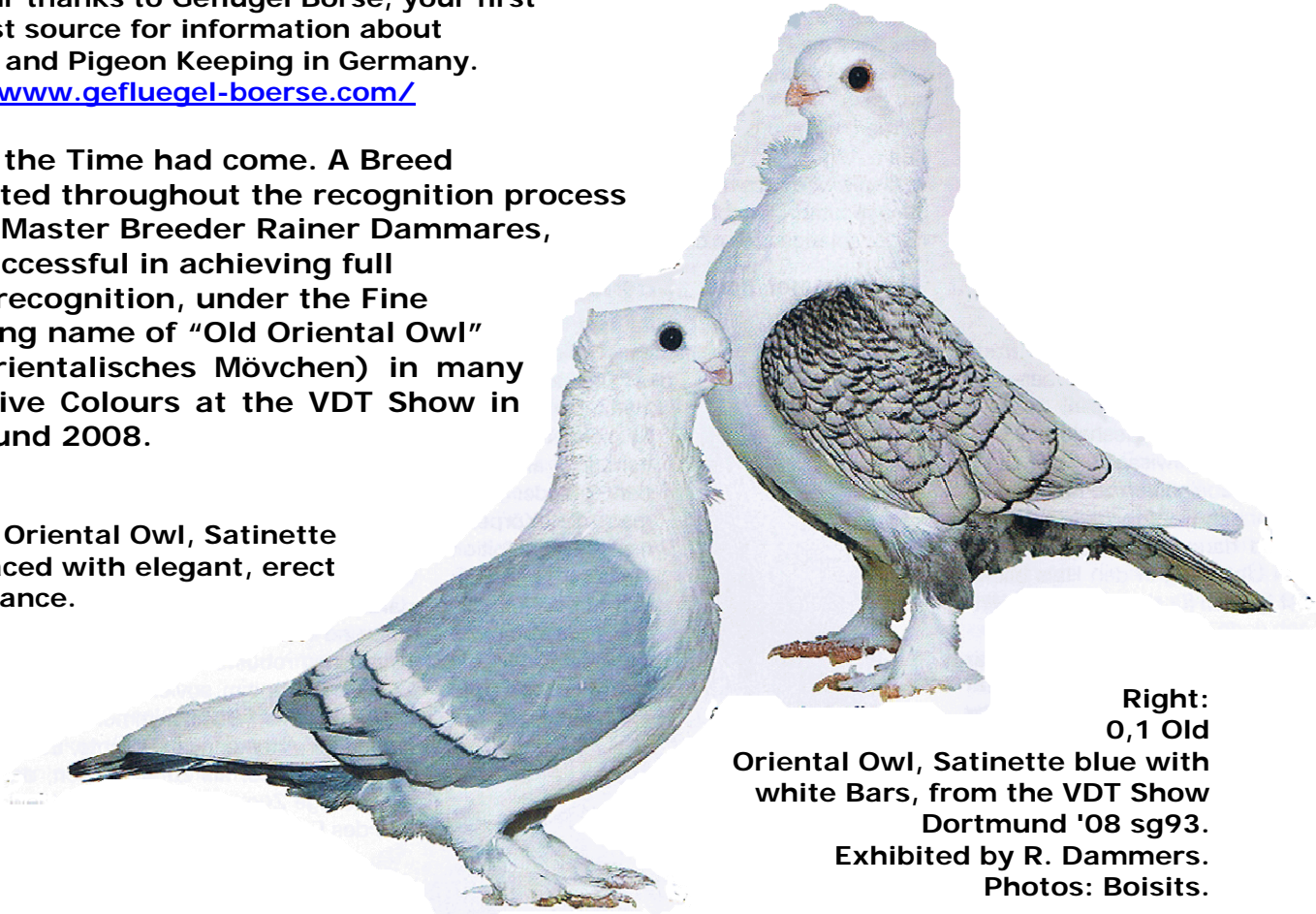
## ***a New Star in the Pigeon Heaven***

By: Andreas Boisits.  
Translation: Mick Bassett.

With our thanks to Geflügel Börse, your first and best source for information about Poultry and Pigeon Keeping in Germany.  
<http://www.gefluegel-boerse.com/>

At last the Time had come. A Breed presented throughout the recognition process by the Master Breeder Rainer Dammars, was successful in achieving full Breed recognition, under the Fine sounding name of "Old Oriental Owl" (Alt Orientalisches Mövchen) in many attractive Colours at the VDT Show in Dortmund 2008.

Left:  
0,1 Old Oriental Owl, Satinette black laced with elegant, erect Body stance.



Right:  
0,1 Old Oriental Owl, Satinette blue with white Bars, from the VDT Show Dortmund '08 sg93. Exhibited by R. Dammers. Photos: Boisits.

The Name 'Old Oriental Owl' appeared first in a Breed Portrait in the Geflügel Börse Magazine 8/2002. Also as was mentioned in the "Austrian Small Animal Breeder" this beautiful Pigeon is actually not so young and not so new as a Breed. You can recognise from the word 'Old' in the Breed forename, that this handles on the Original Form of a Breed known here for many decades and with many breeders, the "Modern" Oriental Owl. As so often with the many Breeds of Pigeon on this Earth, in the Case of the Oriental Owl there has been a process of 'Change' over the Years and in several Regions of the World, so today, according to the recognition of what constitutes a 'Breed' we can recognise without a doubt, at least two Breeds.

Right: 0,1 Old Oriental Owl, Satinette, Brown with white Bars. Participant: G. van Dooren, at the Champion Show in Utrecht (NL) 2010. Photo: Mick Bassett.

In the USA, there is also in recent times, a third breed 'Type' appeared, supported by a very active Breed Club, which in the Breed characteristics can be placed somewhere between the Old and the Modern Oriental







Owl in Breed Type. The Change in Type in the case of the Oriental Owl was found outside its Region of Origin Anatolia; this Change was mostly in Middle and West Europe and also in the USA. It took a good 150 years before the Oriental Owl in the Form seen now, in all its Finery and Beauty but also with its admittedly extreme Features, would be perfected. East of the former 'Iron Curtain' however there persisted the unchanged and predominantly 'pure' Original Form. So a Recognition of the "Young/Oldster" was also more than justified.

**Left: Sulfurette are reduced Brunette, here an example with perfect Mirror Tail (Markings).**

### **Massive interest**

Since their first appearance in Middle Europe and the first articles in the Fact Press and the first brave attempts in the Exhibitions and Pigeon Markets to present them to a wider Audience, the fascination and interest in the "Old Oriental" or "Old Satinette" as they are often known for short, has increased enormously. Because of its exotic colouring and very trusting nature with Humans, the 'Western' radically altered modern Oriental Owl has always been loved and valued. Despite that, the Breed has a devoted but limited Circle of Breeders, who over the Years have stayed true to the Breed. The relative time consuming breeding method, with foster parents, that is needed to perpetuate these birds, has however inhibited further popularity. It is exactly in this area that the Old Oriental Owl has no problems.

**Right: A common Fault with the Birds originally brought from the Eastern Lands: Bluette with a rust-red foreedge to the Bars.**



It is Medium Beaked and the Management and Breeding is completely without problem; they rear the Young perfectly and show a robust, natural and vital constitution. So they can be recommended without any hesitation to any beginner or any Young Fancier, without the fear of poor results/breeding success, which could cause the new Fanciers to 'Give-up'. I would like to relate some of my interesting and exciting observations in this respect. In the last few years I have kept myself intensively informed over the new Owl Breed and never cease to be astounded how attractive and fascinated this Breed is to the Female World. We all know



and lament the fact that this Hobby is extremely 'Man' Dominated. This could, at least in the case of this newly recognised Breed, change. Every now and again a Breed is



recognized as being an excellent 'Ladies Pigeon'. In the Category "Feathered Heartbreaker" the Old Oriental Owl has shamelessly and firmly secured a place! This makes the Breed so much more priceless and worthwhile to us all. I am totally confident, that this Pigeon Jewel from the East with all its Brilliance and Resplendence, will find the way into the Hearts of even the most 'Pigeon Sceptical' Fanciers wife!

**Above: Completely unadulterated (Pure) Old Oriental Owls blue and dilute blue white Bar at a Small animal market in Virovitica, Croatia in February 2009.**

### **The Old Oriental Owl in Detail**

With the Official Recognition of the Breed, the Standard was published in the Geflügel Börse 12/2009. I would here like to discuss some of the Breed Characteristics. Basic to the Breed Character of the Old Oriental Owl is an Elegant, somewhat upright and seemingly short Body, that admittedly only occasionally and when 'On Parade' is to be observed; this gives a line from the Eye to the Leg that nears the Vertical. Furthermore, in comparison with its Modern Cousin, it should seem really small and dainty. Then off-course the Head Points, including the Beak and Eye are of decisive importance for the Identity of the new Breed. So the impression is given of a barely medium length Beak, that opposed to the Oriental Owl has a slight angle(break) between the Base of Beak and the Forehead. The Convex curved top line of the Head goes without a break into a well formed Peak Crest and a large, dark and expressive Eye, which is only sparsely surrounded by feathering. Surrounding the Eye is an eye cere that is broad, pale and feather free. As with almost all 'Owls'(with the exception of the Antwerp Smerle) our Beautiful Old Oriental carry a distinct Dewlap and a well developed Jabot, that is a long Feather whorl formed by a fold in the skin on the front of the Neck. Most of the Typical Breed Features are already well fixed in the Breeding Stock, others still need some attention and must be put into practise on a broader basis. In the Area of the Tail, Legs and Feathering, there is rarely a problem.

**Right: Head Study of a blue white chequer, with excellent Head topline, broad Eye cere, a beautiful Peak Crest (with a curve between the upper Head and the Crest Peak) and a good Mane. (photo Boisits)**

Contrary to this the correct moulding of the Head will need to a certain extent, some work by the Breeders. For example, the forming of an exact Beak-Forehead angle will need much patience and will occupy breeders for a long time. To be truthful, few individual Birds at the moment show this feature to perfection. The Reason for this is that for us, many specimens of



the Old Oriental Owl had been to a degree the product or based on cross breeding with the modern Oriental Owl. Absolutely pure Old Orientals were hardly obtainable at the beginning of the Breeders efforts. This was particularly brought home to me when in February in a Pigeon Market in Virovitca, Croatia, I saw many beautiful and apparently absolutely pure Original Old Oriental Owls. These Birds were all very Fine and Delicate and all showed a marked Beak to Forehead angle. They were quite obviously never 'diluted' or corrupted, with Oriental Owls from the West. As at the time Croatia was not a member of the European Union and the risk of sporadic Border Controls was always present, I did not want to risk importing any of these pure Old Oriental Owls. But I am convinced that with the necessary selection in the now officially recognised direction, we can in the medium to long term achieve our breeding goal with the birds we have at present. By the way, I have observed that fortunately our Birds in some Breed points regarding Colour and Markings, in the Rule, on a broad basis, are somewhat ahead of the original Birds in the South East European Lands and on average a little to the Fore.



**The colour Red-White Chequer ('Spangled'). Left the small picture in Nest Feather and then as fully mature "Old Satinette" below.**



### **A Rich and Varied Colour Scheme recognised**

The National/Federal Committee for Breed Recognition under the direction of Reiner Wolf and Dr. Werner L  thgen has fortunately recognised the Old Oriental Owl in many and varied colours. Contrary to the Oriental Owl, the Old Oriental was only recognised in the Satinette Marking. Satinette are Orientals with a regular Pied marking, that is the so called 'Anatolian Pied', so White, with coloured wing shield and tail. The Old Oriental is recognised only as Satinette, here however and in contrast to its modern Cousins, in virtually all the possible normal Genetic combinations existing in the Oriental Owl. Only omitted were the White Bar with Laced Tail(see Standard) as there was no call for this from Breeders.

### **Often asked Questions**

As shown in the Published Standard, the Colours for our Old Oriental Owls were divided into two broad Categories. These are firstly the Satinette with Mirror Tail, then the Satinette with Laced Tail. Many Breeders (and sometimes one or the other Judge) is from my experience not completely clear on which genetic criteria of this division of the Oriental colour into two Categories follows. The Answer is amazingly simple. The Laced Owl carry always the Spread factor for Colour. The Mirror Tail on the contrary lack this gene in their genome. So it is naturally clear that, for example, a Blue - White Chequer Oriental Owl, so a Bird without the Spread factor, will naturally have a Mirror Tail. If the Spread factor for colour was added, it would give the colour "Black laced" that as the Name says, shows a laced tail. This Formula, "as the Name says", is only applicable for the special Terminology



for the Oriental Owl, that is with few exceptions the only Breed in which the question "Mirror Tail, yes or no" applies. For example in Colour Pigeons the story is quite different, I would like to use a short example to discuss this issue. During the discussion on the Draft Standard of the Old Oriental Owl with the German Breeders Committee, which was headed by Reiner Wolf, a staunch and very competent Colour Pigeon Expert, the question emerged of whether to recognised in the Category "Satinette with Mirror tail", the Colour "Brown-White Chequer". If we look at the Standards of our Colour Pigeons, we do actually find in some few Breeds(for example the Swiss Berner and the Thurgauer White Tail) this Colour is present. Actually here described as "Brown-White Chequer", but it is a fact that the characteristics "Mirror Tail-or-Laced tail" in Colour Pigeons is not in evidence (and by the White Tails naturally never). So here the Question of if it is handling on a Chequering or a Lacing, is not in the Hands of a Geneticist but solely on the basis of optical impressions, so for Swiss Pigeons the decision was for the definition White Chequer to be used. Totally different is the relation to colour/marking with the Oriental Owl. Given the opportunity to use "Brown - White Chequer" for the Oriental Owl which understandably carry the Spread factor, we can see from the above description that they naturally exhibit a Laced tail. So they do not belong to the Category "Satinette with Mirror Tail", so they cannot be described as "Brown Chequer". So with Oriental Owls was decided to allow only the colour "Brown Laced" but not "Brown with White Chequer". This example shows how important it is for some imagination and adequate and objective discussion among specialists, in the Process of Drafting a Breed Standard to quickly and effectively remove inconsistencies. In the recognition process of the Old Oriental Owl in my opinion this was most successfully achieved.

**Below: The Colour Dominant Red with white Bars in Nest Feather (small picture) and as a Mature Pigeon.**



**Right above: Notice the Coloured Feather Shafts in the Tail, Genetically the 'Spread' factor is missing, it is genetically a Mirror Tail Marking. (photo: Boisits).**

### **Dominant Red Ground Colour**

This has caused a significant degree of confusion amongst breeders of the Old Oriental Owl. Fortunately however the Breeders Study Meetings to date have eliminated and resolved all unclear points. The Results of this work by the Breeders and the Recognition Committee have resulted in a genetically accurate and correct designation of the appropriate Colours in the Standard Text. So to give some guidance for the now many breeders of the relevant colours, here is a brief summery and analysis, with sample Photos of the work from the past year. In a first article over the Old Oriental Owl in the ÖKZ (Austrian Small Animal Breeder) 12/2005, I wrote about a not then precisely identified Colour that I wanted to analyse. I considered that these two Old Oriental Owls, discovered by Mr. Shkreli in Hannersdorf, Südburgenland, may possibly have some unknown genetic 'Paling' factor present. I was able to acquire the two animals and it soon turned out that it were pigeons with a Dominant Red Base colour. In a further report for the first presentation of the Breed at the 2006 VDT Show in Nürnberg and in the ÖKZ 1/2007, I showed the three pictures of this colour that I named "Lavender Laced" and "Lavender White Bar"; my original suspicion of a 'paling' or lightning Factor, I could reject or exclude. Nevertheless, I must now admit, that at that time I was far too premature in my assumption with the name "Lavender Laced", as explained above, one may only name an Oriental Owl the colour 'Laced' when the Spread factor is present and that was missing. When I looked at the two Owls then, all appeared Sunshine clear! In 2007 I would have bet my House that these bird would be missing the Spread factor. That Bet I would have lost, miserably.



**Right above: The Shield colour in this Colour is paler and more restrained as the Mealy Chequer (Spangle). The Spread factor is present, consequently it is genetically a Satinette with laced Tail. The Tail feather Shafts are totally white.**

### **The result of the Gene analysis**

For space reasons I must do without listing the point by point details and test pairings and go to the results. First it is important to grasp that the correct name for the colour description is not "Lavender Laced" but "Dominant Red - White Chequer" (the Dilute Factor is not involved). I can still hardly believe that the combination of the Red Ground colour, the Chequering (White) the three Toy Stencil Genes and the Frill Stencil could bring about this colour, but the results were known for an absolute certainty. Add to this the Spread Factor for colour, this causes a further paling of the Phenotype, so the resultant appearance of "Lavender Laced". This gives the appearance of a very light grey almost white pigeon, with a pinkish red to lavender Lacing. The Tail Feathers of a Red-White Chequer at least have a trace of colour in the Under Tail Coverts, but the Lavender Laced

appears almost pure White. The Breed and Recognition Committee had also a White Bar Variety with Dominant Red Ground colour recognised and that is without the Spread factor, so Red-White Bar. The Bar Variety with Spread factor, so Lavender-White Bar, as with all other Bar colours with Laced tail(so Black-White Bar, Dun-White Bar, Brown-White Bar, Khaki-White Bar and Cream-White Bar) was then not recognised. That naturally from all the dominant red colours, theoretically, all the dilute Versions could appear but had to that time not been presented, the Committee had luckily recognised them all at the same time. Combined with the Dilute Factor were out of the Red-White Chequer, Cream-Laced, Cream Laced and out of the White Bar. The Cream-White colour, Lavender-White Bar, recognition would have made the appearance of being almost pure White! Altogether with Old Oriental Owls there are six dominant red colours (varieties) recognised, that can be exhibited during this coming Show Season.



**Left: A female Satinette, Bluette or Blue with white Bars.**

### **Traditional Names**

In the Standard Text of the Old Oriental Owl are found only the Genetic correct colour names. The Names that for many decades it has been a tradition to use, have been deliberately left out. In the newly revised re-worked 'EE' Standard for the Oriental Owl they have also been omitted. On the one Hand it gives some uniformity in the Word Jungle of German Pigeon Breed Standards, on the other Hand many Breeders, including myself, would Mourn the loss of such beautiful and flowery word names as "Bluette" for Blue-White Bar, "Silverette" for Brown-White Bar and "Sulfurette" for a Khaki White Chequer Owl. I am absolutely certain that within our Circle of Breeders these traditional terms, that have been in usage for so many years, will surely be carried on; we will not let them die! Does it not sound much more friendly and attractive for every Breeder, when he may say for instance, "Brunette" instead of having to call the same pigeon by the almost boring sounding name of "Brown with White Chequering"? Naturally it is important that the Breeder is aware of the Genetic background behind the colour of his Pigeons, but in this case with a non genetic term, for the genetics, these they can learn with their own personal interest in Pigeon genetics. The oft quoted statement that our Old Pigeon Breeds are an important Heritage of Mankind losses quickly its significance, value and weight when these attributes are reduced to the animal itself. Important in this context is, in my view, the maintenance of the Traditions in use within our Hobby. First that what we keep in our Heads and our Imagination that which makes our Hobby, only then can it be of Cultural worth, certainly one of these is the Names used for so many generations for our Oriental Owl varieties.



## End Note

To all those who have not (yet) owned an Old Oriental Owl, I would like to conclude with this thought to hold in your Heart, as a Plea for our Hobby, That The Pigeon Hobby will be understood and Fostered: "To Dream of Beautiful Pigeons is not enough; you need to have the daily contact with these wonderful creations to achieve the greatest Joy". In the near future, work will be underway to provide a Website and Special Club, so all questions and enquiries about our attractive and seductive Old Oriental Owl may be answered by competent and knowledgeable Fanciers.

**Right: Standard  
drawn of the  
Old Oriental Own,  
By: Jean Louis  
Frindell (F).**



**Standard  
description  
Old Oriental Owl  
(Altorientalische  
Mövchen)  
(EE: European  
Standard)**

## Origin:

Bred and developed in Asia Minor, the Breed arrived in Germany at the turn of the millennium via the Balkans and was first presented 2006 at the VDT Show in Nürnberg.

## Overall Impression:

Short barely medium sized Owl, with a lively/jaunty presence, stockinged Legs, fairly upright carriage, barely medium length Beak.

## Breed characteristics:

**Head:** Longish, well filled behind the Beak Cere and in Profile showing a moderately Curved line, with a very slight angle between the Base of Beak and base of Forehead, between the Base of Beak and the Eyes, should be well filled(Cheeks) The Tip of the Peak Crest should be at least as high as the Top of Skull (creating a graceful concave curve between the highest point of the skull and the tip of the Peak Crest).

**Eye:** Dark, Eye Cere, Pale and not fully covered by Feathering.

**Beak:** Barely medium length, strong at the Base, well closed, forming a slight Angle with the Forehead, Flesh Colour, the Beak Cere small. smooth and white powdered.

**Neck:** Rising full from the Body, short and strong, in shape, with a slight backward curve. The Dewlap and Jabot well developed.

**Breast:** Broad and Curved, carried slightly lifted.

**Back:** Broad across the Shoulders, sloping and narrowing/tapering, to the Tail,



Wings: Powerful, well closed, covering the Back well, carried on the Tail, the Tips not crossing.  
Tail: Short and well closed.  
Legs: Barely medium in length, Stockinged(Groused).

**Colours:** Satinette in Mirror Tail Marking: Red with White Bars, Yellow with White Bars, Blue with White Bars, Dilute Blue with White Bars, Brown with White Bars, Khaki with White Bars, Mealy with White bars, Cream with White Bars. Red with White Chequering (German=Geschuppt)(USA=Spangle) Yellow with White Cheq', Blue with White Cheq', Dilute Blue with White Cheq', Brown with White Cheq', Brown with White Cheq', Khaki with White Cheq', Mealy with White Cheq', Cream with White Cheq'.  
Satinette with Laced Tail:  
Black Laced, Dun Laced, Red Laced, Yellow Laced, Brown Laced, Khaki Laced, Lavender Laced, Cream Laced.

#### **Colour and Markings:**

The whole Body white, except for the Wing Shields and Tail (Anatolian Pied) from the outer side 5 to 12 Primaries White, with no more than 2 white feathers difference each side desired, so that the Balance between the Wing Shields is not compromised. Some colour in the Stockings and Leg Feathers permitted. For the Mirror Tail Mark Colours, an even and distinct white 'Mirror Tail' (Oval) marking on the Tail Feathers desired (creating the Tail Bar) and also on similar markings on the Primary Feathers. The White Wing Bars ideally should be even and travel across the closed Wing Shield, and except for the Red and the Yellows, the White Bars bordered by a fine darker coloured edging. The White Chequered (Spangled) should have distinct chequering with clear, sharp, Arrow Head marking, with a narrow coloured edging; the Red and the Yellow have no such edging to the Chequering. The Laced Colours, should have the Wing Shield Feathers ground colour, Pale to Whitish and on the Wing Shield and the Coloured Primary Feathers, narrow sharp/distinct, Coloured Lacing on each Feather. Dilute Ash (Lavender Laced), a pale Ash Colour with a Reddish Lacing and Dilute Pale Ash(Cream) with a weak but noticeable Yellowish Lacing.

#### **Faults:**

Too large, long, or narrow Body, Drop Wings; noticeably flattened Skull and poor Peak Crest, Failing a Jabot and a Dewlap; short and very down-faced Beak; too much Rust in the Bars or the Chequering (Spangle); the Lacing indistinct, Poor Colour and Markings.

**Evaluation:** Overall Balance and Type - Form - Colour and Markings - Head and Beak - Jabot - Foot Feathering.

Ring (Band)Size: 8

#### **Interested?**

Then please contact either the Author:

Andreas Boisits, Tauchen 52, A-7433 Mariasdorf, Austria. Tel. 0043 3353 6526.

Email [andreas.boisits@aon.at](mailto:andreas.boisits@aon.at)

Or:

Rainer Dammers, Hamburger Str.  
33, D-24576 Bad Bramstedt,  
Germany.

Tel. 0049 4192 1626.

Email [rainer-dammers@t-online.de](mailto:rainer-dammers@t-online.de)

Or:

Breeder(s) in the Netherlands:

G. van Dooren, Landpoortstraat 7,  
5371 BT RAVENSTEIN (NL)

Tel.: +31 (0)486-413307

Right: Old Oriental Owl, Blondinette red laced. By G. v. Dooren at the Champion Show 2010 in Utrecht (NL) for recognition.



Copyright ©2010

Aviculture-Europe.

All rights reserved by VBC.