



foto- Z. Gilarski

OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF PIGEON BREEDING IN POLAND

**By: Zbigniew Gilarski, Agent of the Main Board of PAPPSLB (PZHGR I DI)
for the promotion of Polish breeds**

Our specialized literature concerning the origins of the modern poultry and pigeon farming on Polish territory is quite modest, difficult to obtain and practically unknown to modern raisers. We still need many years of work and a great commitment in order to arrange in a logical whole, the true history of the development of our breeding culture and objectively evaluate its impact on the contemporary achievements and the position of our organization in the European family of breeders from the fragments of knowledge saved in various publishing houses from a bygone era. The scarcity of old Polish-language publishing houses is a result of the general civilizational backwardness of most Polish regions, which were deprived of independent statehood by 123 years. We cannot forget that the Polish lands from 1795 to 1918 were under the three annexations: Prussian, Russian and Austrian. The development of Polish science and culture was destroyed by repressions and attempts to denationalize and deprive the own identity of Poles. Moreover, we should remember about the great material losses, which were suffered by Poland during the First and Second World War.

In the post-war period (after 1945), the population of some Polish breeds of pigeons was very small and heavily neglected in breeding. Several races have become extinct irrevocably and some breeds were on the border of biological extinction. Short-beaked races (quite difficult in breeding) were especially endangered. The answer to this state was my appeal and spontaneous establishment of the nationwide action called "S.O.S – Ratujmy polskie rasy / S.O.S. – Save the Polish races" in 1995. This year, is the 20th anniversary of the beginning of our activity. Thanks to our actions, we showed breeders real threats and presented proposals for a joint rescue of races threatened with extinction. Thanks to the commitment of breeders, many neglected Polish races returned to show rooms



and once again are the pride of our pigeon houses. Today, I take the opportunity and want to thank all enthusiasts, who spent their time and material resources in order to rescue the heritage of our ancestors. In the coming years, it is necessary to continuously monitor the breeding program of Polish races with a particular focus on rare breeds in danger of extinction. However, we must be aware that the realization of "S.O.S." campaign depends entirely on ourselves and only the string participation of breeders in the Polish breed rescue program will guarantee the achievement of a full success.

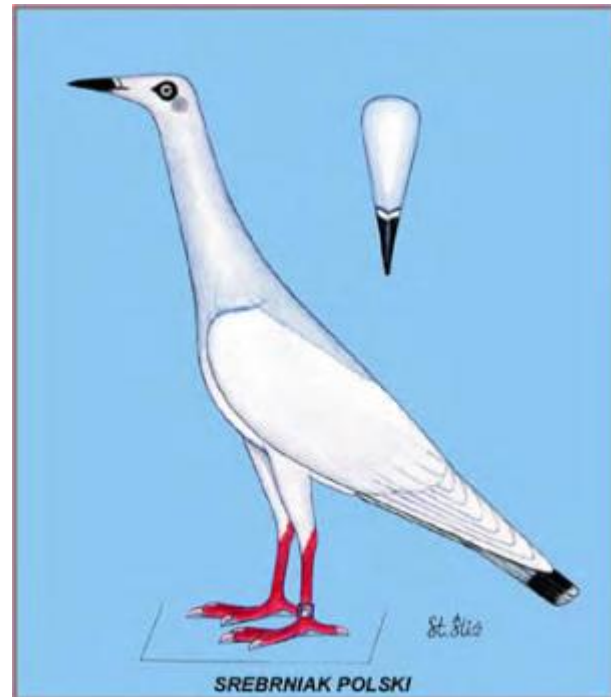
Despite the complicated history and heavy losses suffered during the way and occupation, the culture of small livestock survived and currently, it develops very dynamically.

At the moment, over 70 autonomous associations (and a few specialized clubs of races), which include several thousand members, are affiliated in the Polish Association of Pedigree Pigeons and Small Livestock Breeders (abbreviation: PAPPSLB).

We are proud of breeding more than 60 races of pigeons and the pride of our breeders is beautiful and precious pigeons belonging to the Polish Long-Faced Tumbler group. This group includes as many as 12 races. The uncrowned king of this group is the very popular and most frequently bred Polish Long-Faced Tumbler (Polish Srebrniak EE/0802/PI). I must also mention that after many years of efforts, we restored the national identity of the Polish Lynx, which because of formal reasons has been registered in the EE under the name "Old-Polish Lynx". However, we cannot forget that this is the same Polish Lynx, which was bred more than 120 years ago by our ancestors. Moreover, we have a numerous group of short-beaked pigeons that

includes: Bialostocka Krymka Tumbler,(EE/0935), Masurian Tumbler (Wywrotek Mazurski, EE/0968), Polish Short-Beaked Magpie Tumbler (EE/0969), Warsaw Butterfly Tumbler (EE/0936), Polish Owl (Mewka polska EE/0724) and Polish short beak Tumbler occurring in several colour varieties (Polski szek EE/0948).We are also proud of Polish Masciuch Tumbler (Maściuch polski EE/0960). This is a rare race saved from extinction thanks to the actions of "S.O.S - Save the Polish races". We also have some beautiful races belonging to the group of Brodawczak pigeons. These breeds include: Polish Wattle, Ostrowiec Wattle, Podkarpacki Wattle, Turczyn Bialobrwisty and Polish Bagdad (Listonosz polski,EE/0114). I must also mention about large group of highflyer races that includes: Polish Eagle, Polish Wilna Eagle, Bialostocki Eagle, Bialostocki Shield Highflyer, Polish Griwuni Tumbler, Polish Shield Highflyer, Danzig Highflyer and Zamojski Highflyer. Another the Polish Cropper saved from extinction and its dappled variety Malopolski Cropper.

The culture of decorative and productive poultry is very dynamically reborn The Polish flagship race, the Green Leg Partridge Hen, is popular and has been raised for over 120 years. This breed has green coloured legs and because of its reliability in producing good and very tasty eggs, it is raised in large numbers in individual farms. This race is going through a renaissance and domestic poultry lovers have been working hard) to breed new coloured varieties of this national hen for several years. In recent years, enthusiasts of decorative hens registered new native breeds of poultry: Crested Manorial (Czubatka Dworska), Polish Bantam (Karzelek Polski) and Old Polish duck (Kaczka Staropolska). Great creativity was demonstrated by young poultry farmers, who established the actively working "Club of Karzelek Polski" under the leadership of Grzegorz Jablonski. In this description, we cannot ignore forgotten Polish chicken breed – the autosexing breed of Polbars. This breed was only raised, until recently, in a conservative flock. This interesting race is now slowly starting to be grown also in rural households. We are also proud of the following breeds of geese: Bilgorajska, Zatorska, Lubelska, Kielecka, Podkarpacka, Kartuska, Rypinska, Suwalska and Pomorska. Our domestic breeding of rabbits stands at a high level and our pride is a native race called Popielno White. Polish breeders are quite active in the international arena. They establish numerous contacts with foreign breeders, bring new breeds and more and more often take an active part in prestigious exhibitions organized in Europe.



STAWAK POLSKI (schwarz)
hod. Mateusz Kiebała
wyróżniony 95 pkt.



foto- Z.Gilarski

STAWAK POLSKI (getigert)
hod. Marek Rzepka
95 pkt.



foto- Z.Gilarski- Poland

Polnischer Steigerkröpfer

Akrobatik während des Fluges

Polnischer Steigerkröpfer



Stawak polski



1



2



3

Polish Lynx
Le Lynx de Pologne
Polnische Luchstauben
RYŚ POLSKI
Waga: 600- 700 g

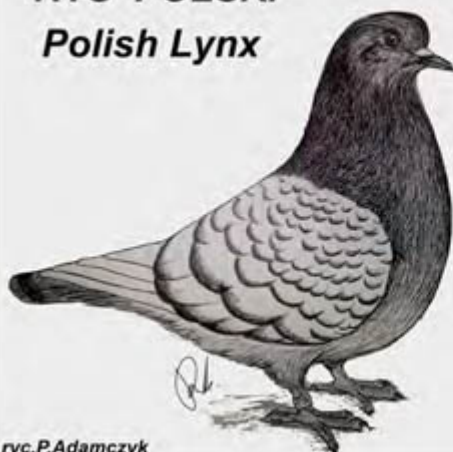


grafika-Z.Gilarski

**Luchstauben /DE/
Lynx**
EE/0024/DE
Waga: 800 g +



RYŚ POLSKI
Polish Lynx



ryc.P.Adamczyk



A bit of history

The first associations uniting breeders of poultry, pigeons and fur animals began to establish in Europe in the second half of XIX century. At that time, Polish lands were under foreign partitions: Prussian, Russian and Austrian. This situation seriously hindered or even prevented the formation of such organizations. An exception was the Austrian partition, where during the autonomy the range of freedom was much larger than in other partitions. In this partition, culture and education was developed and the official language was Polish. It is true that the Galician Autonomy was only an outgrowth of a real independence, but thanks to the partial autonomy the national consciousness, culture, education and political life were developed without any major obstacles. This had a great importance in maintaining the national consciousness, even for Poles living in the Russian and Prussian Partitions.

We should also mention that the political elites of that time often acquired a good education in the best universities of Europe, which later resulted in a development of breeding, agricultural and industrial culture on native lands. Following the example of highly developed European countries, our breeders began to form industry associations on Polish terrains located under the Austrian Partition. Similar organizations were also established in the Prussian and Russian Partitions.



Typically, members of these elite associations were the owners of land estates, civil servants, teachers, officers, rich merchants, etc. For a wide range of simple farmers, these organizations for social and economic reasons were unavailable. Despite the overall civilizational backwardness of the whole region, a social activity in the Galicia of that time was connected with the development of schooling and education. It had an impact on the development of various fields related to industry, agriculture and breeding. The first organization associating Polish breeders of small livestock was the "Ornithological Society" established on November 23, 1894 under the patronage of Princess Maria Czartoryska. The first president was chosen Władysław Bzowski, who held this honorable function till death in 1904. It is worth knowing that the first member of the Society was Earl Stefan Zamojski the owner of Wysocko (born on 7.09.1837 and died 22.01.1899, the Member of Parliament of Galicia). In 1896, the name of this Society was changed to "The First Galician Society of Poultry and Breeding".

The next change in the name was made on 17 April 1906 – "The First Galician Society of Poultry, Pigeons and Rabbit Breeding" and it was connected with the change of the statute approved by the Galician Vice-regency on 8 May 1896 (L. 42338).

According to reliable findings, the first exhibition was organized in 1895 in Jarosław, the second was held in 1897 in Przemyśl, the third exhibition was held on 7-8 September 1899 in Jarosław and the outbound exhibition took place in 1900 in Lviv. Subsequent exhibitions were organized in 1902, 1905 and 1908 in Jarosław.

This impressive activity and wide breeding work of the Society in Jarosław can arouse admiration and envy even today. An incredibly successful move was the opening of an access to the Society for a wide mass of neighbouring peasants and conducting trainings concerning the popularization of poultry and rabbit breeding and subsequently also the breeding of pigeons with a focus on the Polish Lynx. The opening of the intellectual elite of that time on problems of the Polish countryside was a precedent and it determined the success of the whole project.

Another brilliant move was to create in the district a “network of rural breeding stations conducting a demonstration breeding of pedigree poultry, rabbits and pigeons. This positive example was “contagious” and had an impact on the recruitment of new members of the Society. Each resident of a village, even the poorest one, could obtain for free (with the rights of breeders) a selected flock of poultry. He could reproduce it and after the breeding season, this flock was returned along with the previously agreed amount of yield to the Society. The rest of the poultry was left to his breeding activity, while the Society worked on a basis of “chain of people of good will” and passed the flock to other breeders. These pioneering activities contributed to the spread of modern methods of farming in the Polish countryside and allowed the purchase of more efficient breeds of poultry, pigeons and rabbits.



On the other hand, a similar breeding organization called "National Association of Poultry, Pigeons and Rabbits Breeding" was established on 26 March 1889 in Lviv (the capital of the Eastern Malopolska (Galicia) region of that time). The statute of this Association was approved by the Vice-regency in Lviv on 26 May 1899. On the day of 2 July 1899, on the basis of approved statute, the First General Assembly of the Association was called and the statutory bodies were selected. The first president of the Society was Prof. Jozef Szpilman, Dr – the Rector of the Imperial-Royal Academy of Veterinary in Lviv. The statute of the Association was published in the Polish-language monthly magazine "Hodowca Drobiu / Poultry breeder" No. 1/1900. In 1899, the Association had 61 members, in 1903 – 496 members, and in 1910 – 1209 members. The Association in Lviv also established local branches. Local branches in Sanok and Zloczow were created in 1903, and the branch in Cracow was established in 1904. In accordance to reliable sources (W. Pruski), there were 14 local branches in 1909.

An official press organ of the "National Association of Poultry, Pigeons and Rabbits Breeding" in Lviv was the monthly magazine "Poultry Breeder". The chief editor of this magazine in the years from 1900 to 1904 was Prof. Jozef Szpilman. After his resignation, the leader of this editorial office was a former secretary of the Association Dr. Henryk Mankowski. This monthly magazine appeared regularly in the years from 1900 to 1914 and was an invaluable source of breeding knowledge, as well as having had a great influence on the formation of breeding organizations in Malopolska.

A large breeding and cultural activity in Galicia of that time was connected with the development of schooling and education. It was reflected in the development of various fields of study related to agriculture and breeding.

Quite a thriving organization called "Galician Farmyard Association" was founded in Lviv already in 1829. In 1856, this Association established the "Higher School of Agriculture" in Dublany near Lviv, renamed in 1901 to the Academy of Agriculture. A similar organization called "Cracow Agricultural Association" was created in Cracow in 1851. Galicia was a "breeding ground" of many agricultural, cultural and sports associations. This is a very broad subject, worthy of a separate study.



POLISH BANTAM

As you can see, the breeding of pigeons in Poland has a long and glorious tradition. We should also mention that in the area of Austrian Partition, there were many other breeding associations, which were actively working until the outbreak of the First World

War. After gaining independence, many of these organizations still continued their operations. At the same time, a lot of new breeding associations were established throughout the country. Their activity was interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

After regaining independence (since 1945), Polish breeders were associated in specialized group of pigeon breeders, working first at the Provincial Associations of Small Livestock Breeders and after the renaming in 1975, in the National Cooperative of Small Livestock Breeding based in Warsaw. After 1989 and dissolution of old union structures, breeders began to search for a new formula of action. This situation caused the creation of a new organization called PAPPSLB.

The Polish Association of Pedigree Pigeons and Small Livestock Breeders (PAPPSLB) was created in Cracow on 28 September 1991 during the Congress of representatives from various local breeding organizations. On the other hand, the statute was registered only on 5 December 1992 and this is the official date for the beginning of this organization's activity. A honourable function of the PAPPSLB president was subsequently performed by: Bogumil Salicki, Zygmunt Wozniak (both from Radom), Zdzislaw Gogolewski from Poznan, and now this prestigious function is carried out by Jan Pajka from Tarnow.

Activists especially meritorious in creating the new structures are: Bogumil Salicki, Zygmunt Wozniak and †Justyn Szwede from Radom, † Michal Stasiak from Lodz, Marian Pawlik from Rzeszow, Bogdan Koziarowski and Ryszard Suski from Cracow, Zbigniew Dorynek from Poznan, † Leon Cybulkin from Wroclaw, Jan Pajka from Tarnow, † Jozef Seniuk from Olsztyn, Andrzej Targowski from Kielce, Jozef Gref from Suwalki, † Antoni Swiecki from Warsaw and many other colleagues, who actively supported the union structures.



Polish Masciuch Tumbler

PAPPSLB has been adopted to the European federation *Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture* (abbreviation: EE) at a meeting of the International Conference of the European Association of Poultry, Pigeons and Rabbits Breeders held on 16-19 May 1996. The case of Polish accession to European structures was piloted by Prof. Zbigniew Dorynek and † Michal Stasiak.

In connection with the adjustment of statutory activities to the requirements of the European federation, the Main Board of PAPPSLB at the meeting on 24 May 2008 decided to change the name to the Polish Association of Pedigree Pigeons and Small Livestock Breeders (PAPPSLB). Change of the name was approved by the Extraordinary Congress of Delegates, which took place in Konstantynow Lodzki on 15 June 2008.

Currently, PAPPSLB brings together dozens of autonomous associations and clubs of breeders dealing with breeding of pigeons, poultry, rabbits and small livestock. The College of Judges that supervises all matters related to the training of assistants and judges, exhibition regulations, instructions for evaluation and development of patterns acts within the framework of PAPPSLB. Function of the president in the College was successively carried out by: † Eugeniusz Czepczynski from Poznan, Zbigniew Gilarski from Darlowo, Maciej Kolinski from Poznan, Janusz Pajka from Tarnow (now Cracow), Adam Zdeb from Rzeszow and now Edward Gersztyn from Wroclaw.



Since 2011, the Main Board of PAPPSLB organizes annual national exhibitions of pigeons, poultry and rabbits. Exhibitions are held in Kielce in the modern exhibition complex – Targi Kielce. The official organizer of this exhibition is the Main Board of the Polish Association of Pedigree Pigeons and Small Livestock Breeders and the Management Board of Targi Kielce S.A. Thanks to the cooperation of breeders and exhibition and fairs professionals, it was possible to organize the biggest breeding and exhibition event in Poland. As you can see, the combination of our hobby with the business gives surprisingly good results.

In a few years, Kielce probably will become a Mecca of the Polish pigeon breeding and the whole Europe will come to this place. The interest of this event is enormous, not only among national breeders. The exhibition is visited by breeders from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Italy and Bulgaria. You can also find there enthusiasts from Arab countries.

The great advantages of Targi Kielce are modern and spacious exhibition halls, good access roads, well-functioning gastronomy, good sanitary facilities, large guarded car parks, as well as rich and varied in price accommodation offer in hotels and guest houses located in close neighbourhood to the exhibition areas.

We invite all lovers of small livestock to visit our exhibition and see our breeding heritage.



I hope that the history of the development of Polish breeding in a nutshell will help to understand our problems and will contribute to the development of cooperation between breeders throughout Europe.



National Association of Poultry, Pigeons and Rabbits Breeding - KIELCE POLAND



Motyl warszawski - Stanislaw Śliż - Giżycko

Left: Warsaw Butterfly Tumbler (EE-0936)

Below: Krakow Magpie.



SROKA POLSKA
(Krakus)

copyright Grzesiek Majewski

Left: Pomerian Cropper. Painter: Stanislaw Śliż, Poland. E-mail stanizlaw-sliz@wp.pl



foto- Z. Gilarski



Above: Polish magazine for pigeon fanciers.



Copyright ©2016
 All rights reserved by the Aviculture-Europe Foundation.
 This is a publication by the online magazine www.aviculture-europe.nl
 English edition ISSN: 2352-2445
 You are not allowed to copy, distribute, send or publish these texts or photos without our prior permission in writing.