

UNITED Swallow Club



Summer 2017 Newsletter • www.unitedswallowclub.com • Since 1969

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mike Swanson

I suspect all of you are busy raising this year's champion swallow! The breeding season is in full swing. The weather today in Colorado is 98 degrees and today is the first official day of summer. We are enjoying the season and our breeding season is off to a great start! We've banded 130 young birds, so we are excited and encouraged although they require lots of work; record keeping, monitoring, watering and of course the feed bill skyrocket!

Just to recap recent USC events, the election outcomes resulted in the Amarillo, Texas NPA National as the location for our annual United Swallow Club meet. Gloria Weisgram was selected as our annual meet judge. Being elected to judge our annual show is a great honor. I know Gloria takes this honor very seriously and will direct all of her efforts into this opportunity resulting in successful outcomes for our annual show!

Brian Goodwin has been instrumental in nominating and promoting the NPA National as our annual meet location. The USC has benefitted from Brian's generosity and support through his donations for our USC auctions. Brian is working on a meeting room for our Thursday evening USC annual meeting. Thanks Brian!

I want to extend our congratulations to our current Vice-President, Gary Romig! Gary has been selected as the new editor of the NPA Quarterly! As many of you have already realized, you can readily see the upgrade in the quality of the NPA Quarterly. Gary's expertise is readily apparent. Gary created both of our USC advertisements: one in the NPA Quarterly and the other in the Purebred Pigeon magazine.

Other current events include the election of new USC officers. These officers' terms begin in January of 2018 and extend through 2019. I know they will appreciate your support and will continue working for the USC as they all have in the past, just in a different capacity. Congratulations to all of our new officers!

As we look ahead to the Amarillo NPA National, the location for our annual show, Chris Auer and David Averbeck will be the members in charge. Rachel and Brad Stuckey along with Chris

Auer have graciously accepted to oversee and facilitate the auction held in conjunction with our annual show. Historically, our auctions have been very successful endeavors and provide an important resource for the sustainability of the USC. Additionally, the auction birds provide access to high quality birds, still another important resource for the sustainability of our club and our hobby!

So, as you contemplate attending our annual show, consider in what ways you might support Chris and Dave, and in what capacities you might contribute to the USC auction. Don't hesitate to reach out to Dave and Chris as well as Rachel, Brad and Chris. Definitely there are multiple ways to support the show and to support our auction not only through auction birds, but also through other items and merchandise individuals might want to purchase i.e. books, magazines, art etc. the possibilities are unlimited.

Our club not only hosts an annual meet, other shows you might consider attending, showing or shipping birds to include: The Pageant of Pigeons, a Western District Meet, November 16-18, 2017. Leo Kunath

from Europe will be the judge. Consider showing, attending and supporting the auction, too!

A Central District USC Meet may be a possibility at the Des Moines Iowa Show December 8-9, 2017.

More details will be forthcoming. Also the National Young Bird Show in Louisville, Kentucky will be a Central District Meet. Dave Averbeck is serving as the member in charge. It would be great to have a USC Eastern District Meet as well. Definitely reaching out to potential breeders while creating opportunities for our membership in ALL regions promotes multiple possibilities and opportunities for our membership, potential breeders and of course our breed!

A huge priority and endeavor of the United Swallow Club is our upcoming Purebred Pigeon special this September/October 2017. This special is an important opportunity for the United Swallow Club. Through our collective contributions we have the unique opportunity to chronicle the journey of our club, our breed and illuminate the ways in which our breed is so special

Continued on the next page

Club Officers for 2016 & 2017 (See more officers on page 3)

President:	Vice President:	Secretary/Treasurer:	Western Dist. Director:	Central Dist. Director:	Eastern Dist. Director:	Canada Dist. Director:
Swanson, Mike 4800 Road 23 Ft. Lupton, CO 80621 303-857-0985 cathybighorn@yahoo.com	Gary Romig PO Box 152, 58 Sonoita Dr. Patagonia, AZ 85624 520-394-2174 gromig@unitedswallowclub.com	Elliot Yeske 21649 State Hwy 108 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 ejy@loretel.net	Griebel, Bill Sr. 12032 Rio Hondo Pkwy. El Monte, CA 91732 626-448-8565 griebel@att.net	Dave Averbeck 9432 Tiber Dr. St. Louis, MO 63123 314-260-9326 averbeck1979@gmail.com	Ron DeClement 11179 Old Princess Anne Rd. Princess Anne, MD 21853 410-651-0256 declementr@verizon.net	Bernd Licht, 54149 Range Rd. 205A Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada T8L 3Z2 780-998-4876 alterkeiler@mcsnet.ca

Presidents Message Continued

Mike Swanson

and unique. The Purebred Pigeon editor, Larry Hart, is one of our contacts. He is supportive and eager for our members to contribute to the September/October 2017 Swallow Special. It is imperative our membership seize this special opportunity by contributing articles, ads and photos. The Purebred Pigeon is a quality magazine and a critical conduit for promoting our breed and hobby. Definitely plan to contribute to the success of our Swallow Special. Ron DeClement has volunteered to be the facilitator for the Swallow Special. Reach out to Ron with your articles, photos and ads. Or send them directly to Larry Hart at the Purebred Pigeon. Historically, our Swallow Specials have been outstanding, successful and memorable. Definitely, they have been unique landmark editions in both the Purebred Pigeon and the American Pigeon Journal. Realize the USC is also paying for the Purebred Pigeon front cover of our swallow special. Ron DeClement has access to a photo of a M. Frank Cook Painting donated by Eric Kooker to put on the front cover. Act now; get busy with your ads, articles and photos! AUGUST 15, 2017 is the deadline! Our collective efforts will contribute to the success of the Swallow Special! Larry Hart's contact information is: advertising@purebredpigeon.com and his phone number is 1-615-851-9674. Ron DeClement can be contacted at declement@verizon.net and his phone number is 410-651-0256.

In other club news, USC committee chairpersons need your support, feedback and contributions. So reach out to Bill Griebel, Certified Judging Chairperson, with your feedback. Nate Wayne, USC Standard Chairperson, is eager for your contributions, perspective and feedback related to our Swallow Standard. Ron DeClement is the chairperson for our upcoming Purebred Swallow Special. Brad and Rachel Stuckey along with Chris Auer are stepping up to serve as USC auction chairpersons, for the Amarillo NPA National USC Annual Show. They are very eager for your support through birds, art, books, magazines etc. Your participation in club endeavors sustains our organization and our breed. So reach out to these USC committee chairpersons with your thoughts, donations, feedback, articles, photos, and ads! Our collective efforts and energy sustain and promote our breed and organization!

Definitely, 2017 has been a special year for the United Swallow Club! We are eager for what lies ahead for the United Swallow Club through our shows, outcomes from committee work, the Purebred Pigeon swallow special and of course this year's crop of young birds! Both Cathy and I enjoy the opportunity to show our young birds. It is such a special opportunity for the birds. They have one time to be a young bird and we enjoy their one time to shine as a 2017 young bird! Good luck to all of you as you continue on in this year's breeding season. We hope you to see all of you in Amarillo!

Message from the Sec./Treas.

Elliot Yeske

I hope all of you are well and that your birds are doing good this breeding season. Here things are slow, not too many young yet.

The club has sold out of the 11 mm size bands a few months ago. We do still have 50 of the 8 mm bands for the clean leg birds. Remember, you can use them on other breeds besides clean leg swallows. They are 50 cents each and \$4 for postage. It would be nice if the club could sell out this size as well.

I also have some of the club patches left to sell. They are \$5 each and \$4 postage. They have a black white bar fairy swallow on them.

I have sent the NPA our club band order for next years bands, and I tried to adjust, if needed, the number we order, but not to order to many. Keep this in mind for next years band orders. Get your orders into me quickly so you do not get left out of being able to get your USC Bands.

Once again I hope all is going well for all of you.

Judging Swallows

Ron DeClement

The first consideration when evaluating the swallow pigeon is whether the particular bird being judged will improve the breed. This is the most important question the judge can ask when evaluating the swallow. Will the breed be improved overall and within the breeder's loft? The qualities of the swallow pigeon have been discussed many times and the majority of fanciers are well aware of what attributes the swallow should have to make it a desirable bird for breeding and improving the breed. There has been discussion recently on judging and currently, an extremely competent judge, Nate Wayne, is chairman of a committee to review the standard and make improvements where necessary. There was also considerable discussion on judging after I judged the Annual Meet in Des Moines, Iowa.

First and foremost is the fact that the United Swallow Club has a standard which has been carefully written and reworked often, describing the ideal appearance of swallow pigeon. In addition to the standard, the swallow club is incredibly fortunate to have an excellent artist, Gary Romig interpret the standard through artwork. It must also be noted that Gary not only paints the swallow as he envisions it to look, but also paints earlier artists work which gives him a full understanding of the swallow pigeon over centuries and how the breed has developed. This is important for interpreting the standard.

A misconception which I often hear in discussions with fanciers is the swallow is more improved today than it was 50 years ago. The qualities of a particular color and marking of swallow cycle, and a certain color and marking may look outstanding in 2015 and by 2020 be almost non-existent. Show me a good blue or silver spangled fairy or Silesian swallow today in the United States compared to 20 years ago. Then too, show me a good blue checked fullhead swallow compared to 40 years ago. A color may dominate the shows in one decade and be unavailable 10 years later. It depends on breeder preference.

The judge must consider the color and marking of a particular type of swallow when judging. When judging a red white barred or spangled swallow the judge obviously must make more allowances for the difficulty of the color. This applies to what is hardest to achieve in that particular color. For example, a clear white in the wing marking of a red or yellow swallow, particularly red, should be considered when rating these birds. This does not apply to the overall qualities of the bird. If a color or marking is known to have certain failings then they should be considered when judging.

Continued on the next page

More USC Officers for 2016-2017

Publicity Director: Election Commissioner:

Frank Bailey 21506 E. Lost Lake Rd. Snohomish, WA 98296 360-668-1371 franklbailey@icloud.com	Chris Auer, 2603 Prairie Hollow Rd., Imperial, MO 63052 314-412-0308 auer23@aol.com
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It must also be noted that we are doing the swallow pigeon and the fancy no favor by artificially puffing the ratings. When a breeder enters a swallow in a show they already know what attributes the bird has and does not have, and if not, just study Gary's drawings which are available with the standard and accurately portray the bird as it should be. In looking at a past swallow bulletin there were swallows pictured from a show in Europe and all were rated Excellent. All the birds had faults which eliminate them from the Excellent category, and in many cases, eliminate them from the Highly Superior category. We do not help the swallow by awarding an Excellent rating to a long, narrow bird with the bars of the secondaries and first row of coverts not separated at the top of the wing and lacking even spacing. We also do not benefit the swallow by awarding a high rating to a bird with sideboards or gaps in their muffs. We have a standard and it should be followed. We all should remember one point. The top swallow is the Highly Superior Swallow and the rating of Excellent is reserved for the few absolutely outstanding specimens which appear from time to time.

Many discussions and articles concern the swallow. Bill Griebel recently wrote an excellent article on the balance of the bird. The balanced swallow is properly proportioned. Meaning the head, the body, the muffs are developed to the point where the bird presents a pleasing artistic form. No one particular feature overpowers another. For example, muff too long or short, or head too large or small, or body too long or short. Bill also mentioned elegance. How do we interpret elegance? Look at Gary's drawings.

Elegance is a well proportioned bird with clean lines that presents itself as a first class specimen. Elegance does not mean thin, long or dainty. It means properly developed and presenting a pleasing appearance and if we study the drawings Gary made for the standard they depict the swallow as it should look.

One other point which I consider important. The United Swallow Club is based in the United States although we are fortunate to have members from countries around the world. However, we have a standard and that is what should be followed. Other countries should not do our thinking for us. We know the bird and we have excellent breeders in many sections of the United States. We should rate our birds according to the United Swallow Club Standard. Consistency in what we do here will improve our swallow.

The Judges Corner

By Bill Griebel

First thing to mention, we have several meets set up so I need the trainee judges who want to work on their judging program to contact me and let me know where you want to work with a Certified Judge and I'll set that up for you. At this point we have the NYBS, the Pageant and Amarillo. The Pageant will have a Certified German judge so this one will be interesting.

Some of the trainee judges have participated in our process in past years and have not turned your paperwork! Let's get that done! David Averbek and George de la Nuez are two members off hand that need to turn in paperwork.

I have 2 projects to send out to the Certified Judges to look over and make suggestions. These projects are: (1) Judging etiquette which explains our judging program from start to finish. And (2) A judge's survey of shows they either judged or attended to discuss things that they saw, what they were impressed with and what disappointed them. All forms will be compiled and we can then give an overview of the USC shows for the previous year. This will let the exhibitors and judges know what's happening around the country.

Our Start in the USC

Brad & Rachel Stuckey

Around the age of 16, I bought Levi's Encyclopedia of Pigeon Breeds and immediately fell in love with Swallows and other Color Pigeons. At the time, I didn't know about shows or anyone who raised these birds so my dreams were put on hold for a while.

Four or five years ago, I began actively looking for folks who were in the hobby and started getting involved with shows. It opened up a whole new world for me and I was excited to find out that there was a Swallow club. Thanks to great guys like Chris Auer, Bill Griebel, Mike Swanson, Brian Goodwin, and George De La Nuez I've been able to get a great start in the hobby!

My wife, Rachel, has also grown an interest in the Swallows and has recently acquired a few pair of Silesians from Mike Swanson and is really enjoying them. She's really appreciated folks checking up on her progress in the hobby and giving her advice. Ron DeClement has kept in touch since meeting her in De Moines and she's loved getting to talk with him about the birds. He has been a big help by giving tips and suggestions on successful breeding.

We know we have a lot to learn still but thanks to all the wonderful hospitality and comradery in the United Swallow Club, we know that we have a great opportunity ahead of us! Thanks to the rest of the folks who have given us information and advice along the way. We are actively working to share our passion with locals and hoping to get some new recruits for the club in the future.

We're excited about getting to go to our first Nationals in Amarillo, TX this coming January and we're looking forward to seeing all our fellow Swallow enthusiasts! We've been asked by Mike Swanson to help coordinate the auction at the Nationals and will be contacting all of you as we get closer to the show to see about possible donations. The auction at De Moines gave us our fantastic start and hopefully we can get new members by having another great one in Amarillo!

We hope you are all having a great breeding season!

Western District News

Bill Griebel

The most important thing to talk about is the Swallow Special Issue coming up in the Purebred Pigeon Magazine. I hope all our swallow breeders and especially those here in the Western District participate in some way, whether it be in the form of an ad or article or both, any and all would be appreciated. The deadline to get your articles and ad to the Purebred is August 15, 2017. Advertisers for special issues get a 20% discount so our ad rates are as follows: full page, \$200, half page, \$116 and quarter page, \$68. Send ads and articles to Purebred Pigeon, P.O. Box 2089, Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37070 or email items to: advertising@purebredpigeon.com.

Our Western District show is again with the Pageant of Pigeons on November 16-18, 2017. We are pleased to announce that Leo Kunath of Germany has accepted our offer to judge the Pageant and will spend 2 weeks here with us. Leo speaks English and is well versed on swallows and color pigeons and he is the German Trumpeter Club's official person on the Trumpeter standards for that club. We look forward to his judging our show, visiting the breeders in our area and the breeders in Northern California. Come join us, it should be fun.

USC's Annual Meet has gone to Amarillo, Texas with Gloria Weisgram as our judge. A couple of us are planning to be there and showing swallows. I am also going to try to set up a color pigeon meet in conjunction with the Rare Breeds Pigeon Club. More details in the next bulletin.

The breeding season is going well so far with reports of fair to good production. We look forward to good show season this year.

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Brian Goodwin

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Hobbs, NM 88241

bgoodwin1478@gmail.com



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AMERICAN PIGEON JOURNAL SPECIALS

AMERICAN PIGEON JOURNAL
August 1972
Published Monthly at Watkinson, Missouri, 63095, U.S.A.
World Wide Circulation—50¢ Per Copy \$1 Per Year

AMERICAN PIGEON JOURNAL
April 1976
Published Monthly at Watkinson, Missouri, 63095, U.S.A.
World Wide Circulation—75¢ Per Copy \$6 Per Year

\$10 Each - shipping \$2.50 for 1 or both
Bill Griebel • 12032 Rio Hondo Pkwy. El Monte, CA 91732

George de la Nuez georgedlnuez@att.net

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Hello Swallow Fanciers;

We want to invite you to participate in our
September/October 2017 issue of
Purebred Pigeon magazine which will feature:

Swallows

We are looking for articles on any facet of the breed:

- History
- Recent Show Reports
- Well-known birds or breeders
- Fertility
- Preparing for show season
- Housing
- Nests, Pairing
- Line-breeding, Out-crossing
- Feeding Regimen
- What you love about the breed
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**Absolutely anything that
relates to Swallows is welcome.**

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Just send whatever wording you want and pictures.
If you have them and I will work
with you to make an ad you like.

**The deadline is August 15 but,
please let me know if you need more time.**

If you have any questions or suggestions,
please feel free to contact us
at the address or phone number below.

Thank you for your time,
Doratha Connally, Editor

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USC Election Results

The 2017 official election results are as follows:

President	- David Averbeck
Vice-President	- Gary Romig
Secretary-Treasurer	- Elliot Yeske
Central District Director	- Perry Mueller
Western District Director	- Bill Griebel

Annual Show Site

- NPA National - Amarillo, TX January 18-20, 2018
Amarillo received 15 votes,
Pageant of Pigeons received 11 votes

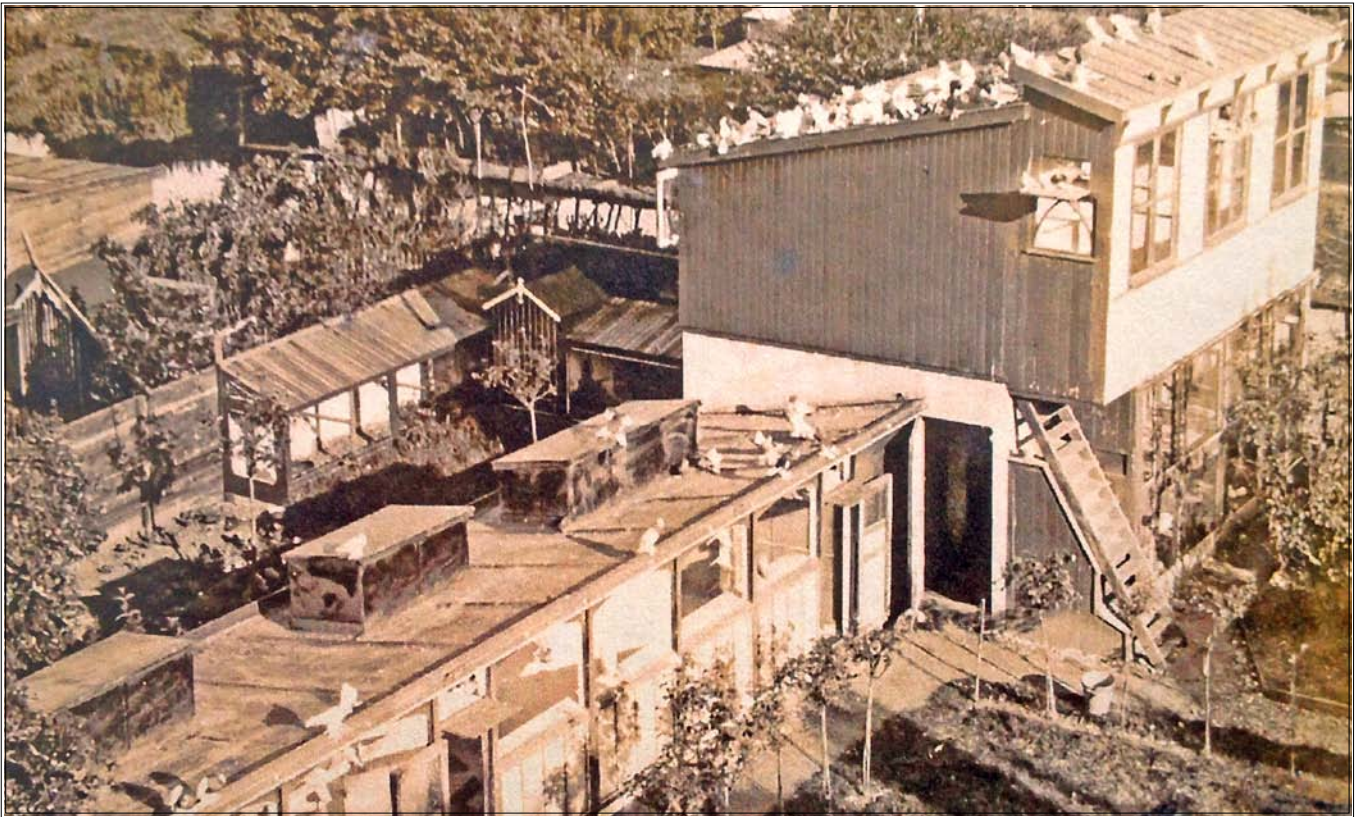
Annual Show Judge

- Gloria Weisgram received the most votes
Gary Romig was second in voting for the NPA National

I would like to congratulate our elected officers
and Gloria Weisgram!!
Also thank you to all members that took the time
to vote this year.

Chris Auer
Election Chairperson

The life and work of C.A.M. Spruijt (1889 - 1955)



The Gouda Pigeon Park of C.A.M. Spruijt was responsible for saving hundreds of pigeon breeds from being destroyed by the Nazi Regime in Northern Europe. Spruijt was able to secure a special permit to keep pigeons there by becoming the "Noah's Ark" for pigeons during WWII.

Pre-article Introduction: The author, Thomas Hellmann of Berlin, Germany, has spent many hours researching and compiling information on many notable pigeon personalities in history. C A M Spruijt is one such biography that is an interesting read. When finished reading this bio we may understand that because of Mr. Spruijt's hard work the DNA of some of our color pigeons today may have originated from his efforts during World War II.

-- Bill Griebel

November 21st 2015 marked a special day in the pigeon fancy. On that day, 60 years ago, a very well-known man in the pigeon fancy died. The man was no other than Cornelis Adrianus Marie Spruijt from the Dutch city of Gouda, who was called during his life „het duivenkoning van Gouda“ (the Pigeon King of Gouda) - an honorary title more than deserved for this man. A lot of fanciers these days will not really know where to put his name, Spruijt however secured himself a place in the annals of the pigeon hobby as one of the all-time greats. His life was truly devoted to pigeons in many ways - some of which were not always in the easiest times. Later more on this.

His life started with a life-threatening danger on March 26 1889. A friend of his mother, assisting her during labour, set by accident fire to the stores in the room with a candle - the family home burnt down to the ground, only the massive front door survived. Spruijt's father, a successful cheese merchant from Gouda, succeeded in saving his wife and new-born son from the fiery inferno. The friend, responsible for the fire, died trying to salvage some of the family's belongings from the flames, her charred remains were found days later in the ruins of the house. Spruijt, as a boy he was called Ab, got his first pigeons as a present for his 6th birthday from his grandfather. The surprise for the boy was complete when he discovered a pigeon box fastened in front of his bedroom window with a pair of red Hagenaar as inhabitant. This pigeon box afforded the birds with all amenities and it also had a little window to the inside of the room so that the boy could

watch his birds going about their lives. The pigeons were to be a part of him for the rest of his life and would make him the biggest and most well-known pigeon breeder in the Netherlands. The love for animals came as a family heritage, Spruijt's father not only bred pheasants but also his Collie breeding was highly successful. Of course, the amount of pigeons the boy increased but he alone was responsible for their maintenance with no help from his parents whatsoever - this taught him how to approach the pigeon hobby from an economic point of view.

Spruijt was an active boy, he spent most of his free time in his pigeon lofts. This didn't end too well for him - in the 3rd grade he failed to make it to the next higher grade. He was a bit of rebel, good at sports and had a very strong personality. Needless to say, he was the ringleader of many pranks in school and it was to be one these pranks that got him expelled from school - his father was told in no uncertain terms that his son was no longer welcome in school.

Being no dullard, Spruijt senior had already felt that the stringent demand for discipline in school did not match his son's character. That's why he had arranged work for his son in a local print shop, Koch & Knuttel, whose owner was a friend of his. When Spruijt was 17 years old in 1906 he started learning the ins and outs of the printing business from square one. He was neither stupid or lazy, within only a few days he knew how to handle the then common typesetting machines and hardly made any mistakes when setting text. His training led him through all the different departments of the company, so he did not only learn the practical side of printing but also the administrative parts of the trade. To complete his training he was sent to a print shop based in Leipzig/Germany in 1907. Despite all his love for printing and everything related to it, the pigeons were never far, even in Leipzig. Amongst a lot of small local breeders, Spruijt also got to know the legendary breeder of Brunner Croppers, Gustav Krause - they remained friends for the rest of their lives.

Continued on the next page

His enormous enthusiasm for the business was appreciated, the company entrusted Spruijt with its representation of the company during the 1910 World Exhibition in Brussels with 2 high speed presses and 4 large jobbing presses. The presentation under Spruijt's direction was a big success - even the then Belgian King Leopold II was vastly impressed by the demonstration. After the World Exhibition, Spruijt went to complete his professional training with the Paris-based printing company "Le Matin et Malherbe", in this time the leading company for magazine printing - they alone operated more than 100 presses in their workshop. After Spruijt's return to Koch & Knuttel he was to become its technical director, at only 21 years of age.

In his life, he was married twice, his first marriage ended however in divorce after only 8 weeks. In 1922 he married his second wife, Emmerentia Johanna Warnaars from Enschede. She was the mother of two sons, Cornelis Adrianus Marie Jr. (born 1925) and Ono Okke Spruijt (born 1930).

At that time, the family already lived under the Gouda address that was to become world-famous: van Beverninghlaan 36. Spruijt had already reached such a level of fame that even letters from overseas with an incomplete address safely reached him. The garden of the house was home to Spruijt's loft, commonly known as „Goudse Duivenpark" (Gouda Pigeon Park). And „Pigeon Park" was by no means an exaggeration - in the 1930s there were around 40 individual lofts in the garden with an average number of more than 1000 birds at any given time. Spruijt operated his pigeons along his principles he was steeped in since his childhood - export and sale of pigeons contributed to the financial upkeep of the operation. Annually he published an illustrated sales list, not only in Dutch but also in English. His exports did not only go to various European countries and England, he even sent pigeons to Indonesia, at that time still a Dutch colony.

As an exhibitor he was nationally and internationally active and

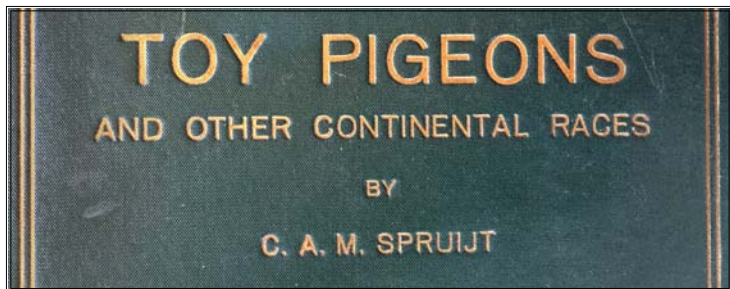
would participate in such events as the London Crystal Palace show and even the World Poultry Congress in Ottawa in 1927 saw exhibits from Gouda. Until the time of his death, Spruijt had won more than 30000 prizes at shows, 33254 to be exact.

Spruijt's pigeon breeding lived through both World Wars. While WW I was more or less harmless for the Netherlands owing to the country's neutrality - the pigeon fanciers had only to come to term with the rationed feed - the Second World War nearly meant the end of the fancy pigeon hobby in the Netherlands. The country suffered the German invasion in 1940 and the occupiers decreed that all pigeon keepers had to be registered with the number of their animals. In 1942 came the near-fatal blow: a decree ordered that all pigeons in the country had to be put down, pigeon keeping was outlawed. This would have meant the end of a century-long passion and irrevocable loss of breeds and their genetic potential.

A quick solution was needed in order to safeguard the hobby. After tedious negotiations with the occupiers, Spruijt was granted the right to keep a maximum number of 2000 birds in his loft - a safe haven for pigeons in a war-torn Europe. The highest priority were of course Dutch breeds, among them also C. S. Th. Van Gink's recent creation, the Voorburg Shield Cropper. In second line came rare foreign breeds, among them for example Bokhara Trumpeters and Oriental Frills but also Colour Pigeons from Germany. The Dutch breeders were understandably worried, each one tried to send at least some of their birds to the safety of Gouda. On the key date, August 16 1942, 1653 pigeons from lofts all over the Netherlands had reached Spruijt's loft, which was renamed to „Central Duivenpark" (the „Central Pigeon Park). Problems were huge and the responsibility was enormous, Spruijt had to be ready any time for unannounced German inspections and he was personally responsible for all birds in his care. Among the German soldiers in Gouda was also a pigeon breeder: Berlin-



Some early photos of Spruijt's birds just after World War I. Some appeared in his later books. Photos owned by Thomas Hellmann



Cover of Spruijt's English language book on Color Pigeons (Toy Pigeons)

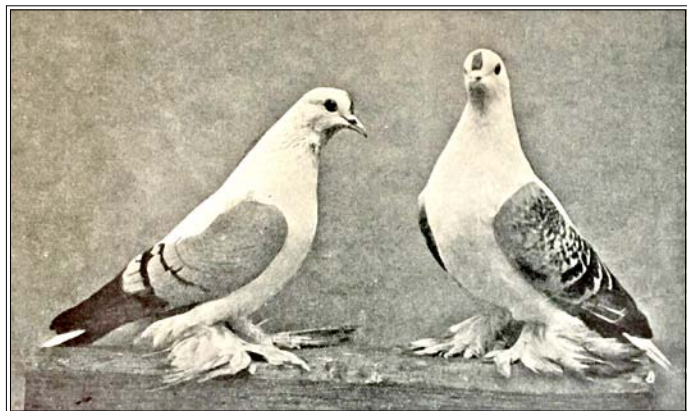
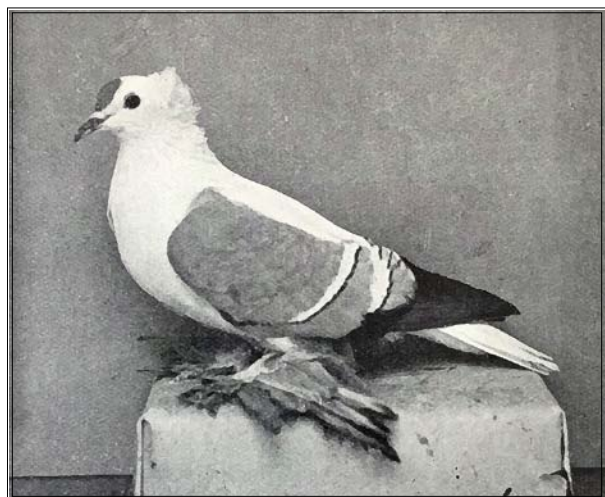


Photo from Spruijt's Toy Pigeon Book. Nicely posed with two birds.



Nice quality Fairy Swallow from around 1946. from the Toy Pigeon Book



Cover of the Book with Lentink illustrations in color



C.A.M. Spruijt among his many trophies and awards

based photographer Bernhard Linden, a well-known breeder of Berlin Shortfaces in the 1950s.

Spruijt did his best to take care of the pigeons entrusted to him, but problems ensued. There was an outbreak of paratyphoid, a flood claimed losses and towards the end of the war, Gouda had become a target for allied air raids - also the Pigeon Park suffered damage. With hindsight Spruijt commented that it would have been wiser to save more birds from fewer lofts than taking few animals from a multitude of lofts instead. A total of 110 breeders had sent birds to Gouda for safekeeping.

Spruijt left the pigeon hobby something unforgettable - his books. Next to the 6 books published in the "Handbook" series on all breed groups between 1925 and 1948, Spruijt authored as well some breed monographs, general books on pigeon keeping and even a book on Racing Pigeons. His legendary work "Onze Duiven en Woord en Beeld" with the Lentink plates was published posthumously. From a bibliophile point of view, Spruijt's books are very sought-after items, from cover to cover full of his practical knowledge and experience. His own experience apart, Spruijt drew from his wide-spread network of contacts and not the least as well from his well-stocked library. After his death, the Amsterdam auction house A.L. Van Gendt & Co was entrusted with the sale of Spruijt's library. Books formerly owned by him are easy to identify, they are either stamped or even signed with his name.

In writing this article, I am greatly indebted to Theo van Dissel, long-time friend, bibliophile and owner of The Hague Pigeon Museum. With the help of Spruijt's two sons he succeeded in collecting and publishing material about the pigeon king of the Netherlands in a limited edition of 50 copies. It is a task for the historians of the pigeon hobby to make sure that personalities of the fancy such as C. A. M. Spruijt will never be forgotten.



USC Annual Meet

2018 NPA Grand National

AMARILLO

Texas

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of the Panhandle

The Grand National Pigeon Show

Show Dates: January 18, 19 & 20

Show Hall: Amarillo Civic Center
401 S. Buchanan Street

Host Hotel: Embassy Suites
550 S. Buchanan Street and SE 6th Ave.

Host Airport: Rick Husband International

General Membership Meeting:

Thursday Evening 6pm
Amarillo Civic Center

Annual Awards Banquet:

Friday Evening 7pm
Amarillo Civic Center

For more info go to

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