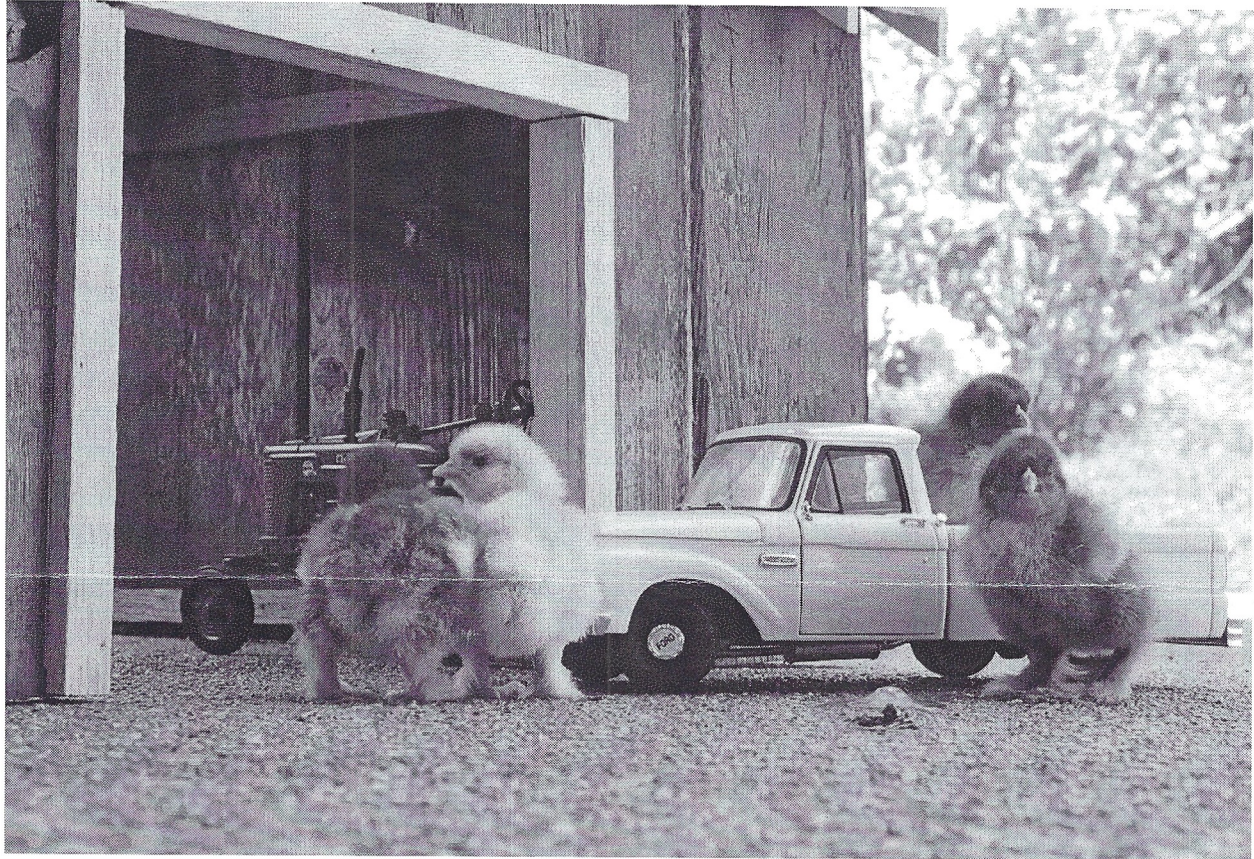


# Cochins International

Spring 2009

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*Someone is hatching some mighty large cochins!*

## President's Report

Hello Everyone,  
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me in the recent elections. As many of you know I have been trying to step down from the President's position, but with no takers to succeed me it makes it a bit tough. I would urge every one of our members to consider running in 2011 to take my place. Along these lines I'd also like to congratulate Paul Homer, Matt McCammon,

Roland Doerr and Shannon Ahlman on their elections to their new positions, and offer my thanks to those that they've replaced. Thank you to Mark Peterson, Hans Maas, and Kendra Aldrich for your efforts and support of our club while holding your director positions, and thank you to Bill Ziehm for your efforts while filling the Vice-President's position. Mark has been the district director for the West Central District for as long as I can remember, and was the most tenured of our board of directors. Thanks

*(continued on page 3)*

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*(just a couple more on the next page)*

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***(President continued from page 1)***

Mark for your years of dedication and volunteering.

As we move through the year in anticipation of the fall show season, a question that's on many minds is where are the Cochin Nationals this year? After the dust finally settled the 2009 Eastern National will be held at the Colwyn Championship Showcase, in Fergus, Ontario, Canada. Paul and Gene Homer honcho this show, and I've attended a couple times as a spectator. Both times they had fine displays of Cochins. Watch the Poultry Press for more details as they develop. The 2009 Western National will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska the weekend of 7 November 2009. Roland Doerr and Gerald Church have put a lot of effort into rounding up awards and prize money for this show, and the show will be in honor of Ed Zeleny. Thus far it looks like they have over \$750.00 in awards and prizes slated, and that number will surely grow. Again, watch the Poultry Press and the Cochin Forum for more show info and awards updates.

I even have some news on the 2010 Eastern National, which will take place just after the beginning of the New Year. The district rotation had it slated to go to Northeast District I and the Northeast Poultry Congress submitted a bid requesting to host our 2010 National. Subsequently our Board of Directors voted on

the placement and approved their bid. They are also the host site for the ABA National, and large numbers in the Cochin classes should be a certainty. I am working with their show management on awards and festivities and will post updates in the press and the forum as I get them. Mark your calendars for these shows and see if you can put down a contending entry of our favorite breed!

I was recently asked to speak at a Poultry 101 Youth Seminar hosted by the Penn State Poultry Sciences Department. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, I presented two topics to a group of approximately 70 attendees from Pennsylvania youth Poultry and 4-H organizations. I was asked to speak on Successful Exhibition Poultry Breeding Programs and How to Raise and Prepare a Bird for Show. Additional topics covered by University Professors and Instructors covered Poultry Feeding and Nutrition, Basic Poultry Health Care, Troubleshooting Hatchery Problems, Judging Laying hens, and we even mixed some custom layer feed! It was a great poultry day. The Penn State Poultry Education and Research Center is quite a facility and I could easily spend a couple weeks there assisting with embryology and feed research projects. I was certainly in my element. One of the Penn State Poultry Science grads was also a guest speaker and she is currently attending Virginia Tech, as a Graduate Student in their Animal Sciences Department. I may talk to her and see if she might be interested in helping get a similar program going in Virginia.

I have some catching up to do on the awards from last year and now this year in the Master Breeder plaque department so please bear with me as I get those on order in the near future. I have started the Breeders Directory so those of you that sent checks in for your ads will see them posting very soon. Sorry for the delay on that, but there are only so many hours in the day.

I hope your hatching is going well and you are hatching a few extras for the Nationals

and maybe to provide to a youth 4-H project to get them interested in our breed. Until next time, Cochins Rule!




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## Vice President Note

Greetings fellow Cochins International members!

I would like to start off by thanking you for voting me your new vice president. I have been raising Cochins for many years and have been involved with many other organizations at different levels. I hope to use this experience to make our club even better.

I have been busy hatching as many chicks as I can this spring. I have hatched about 300 cochins so far and will continue until I think I have a great number of each variety from which to choose. So far, the Mottled and the Red Mottled are looking great. The blacks, on the other hand, I wish they would start laying, but you all know how that goes.

I hope everyone is hatching a lot of birds for this fall. As you may already know, the 2009 Western National will be in my home state of Nebraska. Roland Doerr and Gerald Church have worked hard to collect money and prizes for this National. Not only do we have great birds out here, but, if you want to see different varieties of cochins this will be to show to attend! We should have about every Standard variety and 12 to 14 Bantam varieties represented at this show. We sure love our cochins out here! Along with the usual awards we will also have awards for Juniors. And, the club hosting the show is wonderful and they always provide a good time.

In closing I would like to thank my friends and family for their support and look forward to making many new Cochins International friends!

Raise More Cochins-Have More Fun!!!

Shannon

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## Secretary/Treasurer Report

Hey everyone winter is finally over here in New York and I am so happy. Currently the daffodils are blooming and I just plowed my garden today. The greenhouse is full and so are all the brooders. I have hatched roughly 600 chicks so far and would like to get a few more out of certain varieties and then the birds are off to their summer homes. I have 16 4 X 8 sheds that each variety gets a summer home. My wife and I are building two more this year for my latest acquisition - Australorps. I acquired some very nice birds from a friend last year and have hatched about 50. They are so much easier than cochins. No artificial inseminating which by this time of the year I am thoroughly sick of doing.

Now that the election is over I would like to congratulate our winners and thank you to all of you who sent back your dues and your ballots. I sent out over two hundred and received 74 back. I tried to make it easy with an addressed envelope. If anyone has any other suggestions how I could get a better response for the next elections please don't hesitate to let me know.

Both Tom and I have been elected to ABA Director positions so hopefully we can make a difference in that organization. I recently helped with a poultry school in upstate New York which was a huge success. Over 50 kids came for the day and we talked about everything from showing to health to general care questions. More of these need to be held in order to keep this hobby alive with youngsters. Anyway, hope everyone has a great fair season. I am looking forward to judging a

few new ones this year with a couple in Canada. Our treasury is holding its own until next time. Take Care, Jamie

National Meet Rotation	
2009E	Canada
2009W	West Central
2010E	Northeast I
2010W	Pacific
2011E	North Central
2011W	West Central
2012E	Northeast II
2012W	Pacific
2013E	Southeast
2013W	Southwest

## West Central

Well spring has finally "sprung" in Minnesota. I moved here from Nebraska in 1971 and we have never had a winter this cold with quite a lot of snow. The birds came through fine but I sure got tired of it. I've been hearing mixed reports of peoples hatching results probably due to the bad winter.

Hope everyone is considering attending the Western National Cochin show the first weekend of November at Lincoln, Nebraska. Lots of members have contributed over \$1200 for the Cochins. There will be several beautiful trophies, hand painted plates and mugs for all

BV and RV bantams and standard Cochins along with honoring long time Nebraska Black Cochin breeder Ed Zeleney from Morse Bluff, NE. Ed has raised wonderful standard blacks for years and shown throughout the Midwest and is a true gentleman. Gerald Church has done an outstanding job of raising funds and finding the artist to do the plates and mugs. The Nebraska Poultry Club has really given us fabulous cooperation and with this year's show at a larger, more accessible, facility we should have a wonderful time. I've already talked to quite a few members and am encouraging them to make plans for Lincoln in 2009. Following is the current list of awards:

*Super Champion Cochin (Bantam vs Standard)* - trophy and \$100, *Best of Breed Standard* - trophy and \$50, *Reserve of Breed Standard* - trophy and \$25, *Champion Standard Display* - trophy and \$50, *Champion Standard Trio* - trophy and \$25, *Best of Variety (9)* - painted plate, *Reserve of Variety (9)* - painted mug, *Best of Breed Bantam* - trophy and \$50, *Reserve of Breed Bantam* - trophy and \$25, *Champion Bantam Display* - trophy and \$50, *Champion Bantam Trio* - trophy and \$25, *Best of Variety (15)* - painted plate, *Reserve of Variety (15)* - painted mug, *Best of Breed Standard by a Junior* - painted plate, *Reserve of Breed Standard by a Junior* - painted plate, *Best of Breed Bantam by a Junior* - painted plate, *Reserve of Breed Bantam by a Junior* - painted plate, *All Junior Best of Variety (Bantam or Standard)* - painted mug, *Most Cochins by Exhibitor (Bantam & Standard)* - \$50, *Most Distant Cochin Exhibitor* - \$50

Looking forward to a great year!  
Roland



## International Report

From the United Kingdom, Helen Pope replies that she is beginning a breeding project with mottled large fowl in the hope of developing some decent birds over the next few years. Her starting point will be with some over-marked pullets and crossing them to a black male in hopes of improving type and dampening the over-mottling.

Her other half (Dennis) is experimenting with his mille fleur bantams by introducing an outcross to a bantam black hen known to be carrying the lavender gene in hopes of producing some porcelaine.

(Ed Note:) Helen/Dennis, please keep us informed of the results of your respective findings!

Ardjan Warnshuis reports that the Dutch Cochins Club had a great show last December with twice the number of entries of the 2007 Show. Also, for the second year in a row, Ardjan had the Best Male Bantam in Show with a Partridge. In Germany, all poultry shows, etc., have been shut down until the present time due to an Avian Influenza outbreak in the North. Ardjan also expresses concern about an apparent trend among European Breeders who seem to be electing to exclude large fowl from their breeding plans. He notes, for example, that there are now only a very few breeders of large fowl left in Holland.

Bobo Athes (Hungary) has written an article "On Poultry Shows, Breeders and Judges" which will appear in the May 2009 issue of Aviculture Europe. This and other articles are available to readers on-line at <http://aviculture-europe.nl>

In Viet Nam's capitol (Hanoi), the use of motorcycles and bicycles to transport live poultry has been banned in a bid to reduce the risk of an outbreak of bird flu (Avian Influenza). Starting in February 09', poultry brought into the city must be transported in special trucks and be certified as free of "bird flu" by the local animal health department.

In closing, I hope that everyone here and abroad has a wonderful hatching season and success in their efforts to produce those show quality birds!!

Regards, John (Burgess)

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## Northeast II Report

I hope all of your hatches are going well. I decided to cut back a little and only raise about 40 Large Partridge Cochins this year. With Feed prices up something had to give. My daughter recently acquired some nice Mottled Cochins Bantams from Jamie Matts and is working with them. Things in NE II are running about the same as usual. We are starting to see some slight changes in the A.I. testing with Pennsylvania now accepting the once every 90 monitoring program. Hopefully this will all shake out soon and we'll get a standard program in place for the region and hopefully across the nation. One of the biggest problems with the testing requirement is that some states do not offer the test. It's hard to get something done when it isn't available in your home state. Fortunately, we have been able to help a few people get birds tested when they can't get it done at home.

I continue to place Special meets at any show within the district that requests one. I have yet to place the 2009 District meet and I'm open for suggestions as to where to place it. It has not been in Pennsylvania or New Jersey for a while so I'm leaning toward a fall show in one of those two states unless I hear from the masses.

If you are going to attend a show and want to make sure there is going to be a meet, drop me an email and I'll let you know. If I see a show advertised in the Poultry Press, I generally send the meet forms to the organizers. That unfortunately doesn't always insure the reports get turned in. In addition, if you are at a show and know that there is a meet, mention to the

management that the show report forms ask for the overall champion and reserve cochin between bantam and large fowl. That can help some of our members who are on a points quest.

As always, my email is always open for suggestions or comments on how we can promote out breed. Keep hatching and we'll see you at the shows. Rich



## Southeast Report

Greetings from the Southeast

Has Spring arrived? Are your flowering trees and flowers blooming? Do you have the vision of baby chicks running around and the sound of peeps coming from that brooder box? Do you have that gleam in your eye and the hope that you've hatched that champion bird? I hope so. The earth is renewed and I hope your enthusiasm for the hatching season is also.

In the Carolina's, spring hasn't decided to close the doors on Mr. Winter. One day it's cold and the next day is warm. Some of the girls are still confused and I'm still waiting for some of the better hens to start laying. I won't complain because my hatching season began several months earlier than usual. I hope all of you hatch some great ones in 2009. I know that it will be almost impossible for most to attend the 2009 Cochin National in Ontario, Canada but we can be ready for the 2010 Cochin National and the ABA National Meet held at the NE Poultry Congress Jan. 15-17.

The Winter/Spring show season has been busy. Since Jan. there have been 9 shows in the Southeast and I've attended seven of

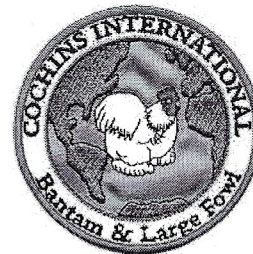
those. We're so fortunate to have that many shows with the majority being approx. three hours away. Hats off to those involved in putting on a show. Thanks for your hard work and dedication. Even though the total entries are down at most shows, cochins and featherlegs seem to be the largest class behind the Old English. I have noticed that there are several new youth exhibitors showing cochins in the south. Where ever you are, encourage and support the Juniors. They have fresh exciting ideas on most things. Let's get their opinion and maybe we can lift our club up, WAY UP.

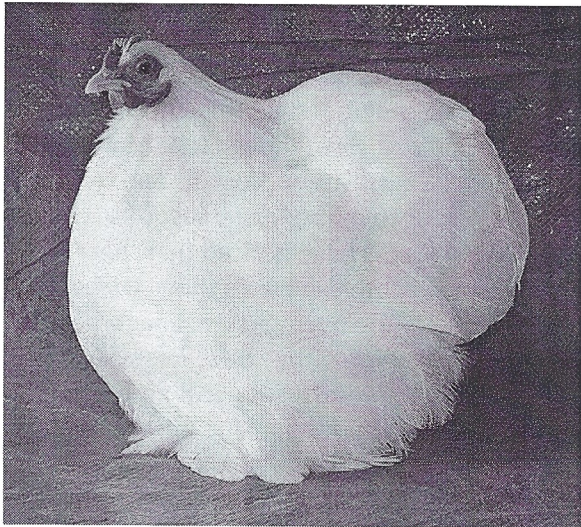
Please keep Fred Abbitt and Keith Legrand in your prayers. Fred is recovering from having his aorta replaced due to an aneurysm and Keith had a heart attack. Both seem to be doing well at this time.

I would like to make a challenge to our officers and directors in our Cochin Club. We are the ones that fellow members come in contact with at the shows basically in our area or district. Let's start calling a short meeting for those showing cochins and gather any new ideas or suggestions. Tail-gaiting has become popular in the Pacific District and we could do it also. In fact, we've done this at a couple of shows in the south. Let's keep the youth excited, they're our future.

Hope you have a successful hatching year and until next time, remember Cochins Rule!

Judy





*Super Grand Champion of the Delmarva Spring Show, March 6-7, 2009, a white pullet bred and owned by Tom Roebuck Jr.*



*Reserve Grand Champion of the York, PA Fall Show 2008, a black pullet bred and owned by Tom Roebuck Jr.*

## The Contribution of the Cochin

By Flank L. Platt

*(from Cackle and Crow, July/August 1938)*

In his notes in your current issue, Frank Hochrein states that the "fine showing of Asiatics at the last Boston show was a real accomplishment and something in keeping with old Boston traditions," and he credits the "four varieties of Cochins" as helping so greatly in making it "the best and most complete Asiatic show seen in Boston in many years."

It is like a gently rain, after a long dry spell, to see the work "cochin" in print. The Cochin is one of the most meritorious races of fowls in the world. Before these big, feather-legged fowls were imported, there were no big chickens, and all the stock of Europe and America was relatively small in size. It was fundamentally the Cochin that made possible such intermediate types as the Plymouth Rick, the Wyandotte, the Rhode Island Red, the Java and Giant in America, the Orpington and Sussex in England, the Malines in Belgium, the Barnevelders in Holland, and the Favarolles in France.

It was from the Shanghais of China that all of our larger breeds have descended. It is said that the Cochin is the progenitor of half of all the breeds of poultry in the world. It is a matter of historical record that, following the introduction of these Asiatic fowls, "the size of the fowls brought to the Boston market was doubled within a few years." When the British fleet threw open five ports in china in the 1840s, and that big, full-feathered Asiatic stock began to flow out, the whole course of poultry breeding began to change. Cock fighting, which had been a chief interest, gave way to putting the birds on exhibition. Indeed, it was the cochin that was the mother of the poultry show.



I quite believe that when you see the classes of Cochins at the shows getting bigger, the interest in cochins keener, and more comment on Cochins in the press, it is a sign of fair weather for poultry fancying in general. And that's about what's happening. I read in your paper about the splendid showing of cochins at Boston, I pick up the Australasian Poultry world and read that the 1938 Sydney Royal the increase in entries over last year totaled 336 head, and I find in the last Poultry World, London, a report of the Bath and West Society's show at Trowbridge, which is probably the best early show there, a larger entry than a year ago.

I know that it is quite the fashion to look on the Cochin as only an echo of the past, to point to it as an example of the folly of fancy breeding, and to describe it as an inactive fowl, with coarse shin, low egg production and persistent broodiness. Against this sort of criticism I should like to point out that I have yet to meet the man who ever got acquainted with the Cochin who ever found another fowl that completely filled the same place in his estimation. There is something about the cochin that is different. One old breeder thought he had found it in his hens in the matter of "vidth and visdom." Another found that the long axis of the aperture through which the spinal cord issues from the skull, was perpendicular, whereas, in all ordinary breeds of chickens that long axis of the occipital foremen was placed transversely. And John Robinson has told us that it was the cochin that saved the "degenerative native stock" in this country once.

It may be said that if there is "degeneracy" today it is not in the native stock, but in the exhibition Cochin. I am convinced that there is nothing genetically wrong with the exhibition Cochin, although I must admit that it is not as big in size nor as heavy in weight as years ago. We do not have anything like Edward Hewitt described when he stated: "Sometimes the cocks attain the weight of 13 ½

lbs., the hens from 8 to 10 lbs." The birds grew more in their second year than most breeds and did not attain their full stature until the third year. Why was this?

I rather think the method of feeding had more than anything else to do with it. In China, the birds were fed by the house wife, who usually gave them paddy, or unhusked, whole rice. This sort of feeding had probably been carried on for generation, even centuries. The early stock from china was very strong and vigorous.

We appear to have lost size since the advent of "balanced rations." The late John Robinson, at his home in Reading, Massachusetts, had some very vigorous Buff Cochins, of good size, strong bone, and they had the hardihood that Cochins had when I was a boy. Mr. Robinson was firm believer in feeding whole grain, including whole corn. He once stated that there would be less trouble with watery whites if feeders would go back to the old method of feeding whole maize.

According to the English poultry papers, utility men over there are agitating a return to natural methods, which includes the feeding of "live grain." By this is meant whole grain that one can put into his drill and plant and grow a new crop. That's the sort of feeding the Chinese practiced. They used unhusked rice.

I have fed my Brahmans on whole grain for several years. They would grow more uniformly if I used easily digested, balanced rations; but I have no desire to grow out a bird that under more rigorous condition, would falter. I don't want to fool myself. I have pullets that were hatched in July 1937 that weighed 7 ½ obs. In May 1938' and a cockerel of the same age that weighed 9 lbs. when about 10 months old, and then lost some weight from being in the breeding pen, so that his July weight will be a little less than that. These are not big weights, but when it is remembered that the grandmother of all these fowls never weighed over 6 obs. As a pullet, and never over 6 ½ lbs. as a hen, being similar to a great many

Cochins one sees, I am bound to think that the English utility men are on the right track in returning to the use of "live grains" in the feeding of future breeding stock; and I am enough discouraged over the process to suggest it to Cochins men who want to regain size. I repeat, I do not believe that there is anything genetically wrong with the Cochins; and if you want bigger fowl, you might try this grain feeding. This season I figured that my young stock was rugged enough to go on one feed a day, at night, all the wheat they would eat, to be followed with whole corn in the Fall, and a mixture of whole oats during the winter. They get unlimited range on grass during the day and the one grain feed at night.

Another thing, and to my mind a very important one, is the matter of type. I don't believe that you can get a big Cochins unless the bird is big all over. When you get very short legs, it seems likely that all the rest of the boney structure is shortened up. I remember some twenty-five years ago that in judging the Buff Cochins at old Madison Square Garden, I place a hen first that had size, but she wasn't as low set as the hen that won second, and the owner of the latter bird thought that he should have had the blue ribbon. Franklane Sewell came down the aisle, and, and seeing the first prize hen, remarked, "She is of the type of the birds when the Cochins were described as being 'grand'."

There is so much prejudice against stiff hock feathers, that there is no way in our shows to cover up length of legs. The English breed falcon hocks, so they have plenty of covering from body to the ground, and they neither have to breed a very short boned shank, not that type of drum stick which, when the bird is dressed, extends only half way outside the skin of the body. They can put a real pair of legs under their birds, and with their full feathered vulture hocks, have a bird with very good footings, completely plumaged up to the underbody line.

It was the Sharp Brothers at Taunton, Massachusetts, who did more than anyone else

to produce the loose, profusely feathered Cochins. They produced a type of feather that was so fluffy as to be almost a kind of frill. This sort of soft feather is today generally disliked on practically every other breed of poultry. I noticed that the fine Partridge Cochins at the New York poultry show in January, had a much more firmly hooked together web in their feathers, giving the surface of their plumage a smoother, harder appearance. This of course, was nothing unusual, for the Partridge Cochins feather carries a pattern, and in order to lay on a pattern there must be surface. George Mitchell long ago noticed this. He heard the Buff Cochins praised so highly for type, that he brought some of the Buffs that he could procure, and ran them in his yards along side of his Partridges. No one can breed the finest penciling in a partridge feather when the profusion of feather leads to a structure so faulty that the cushion feathers almost curl.

From what I can see in the English pictures of current winners, they have Cochins over there that have size, due as I have explained to adequate boney framework; they apparently do not like the very soft or frill type of plumage; and they appear to have a desirable hardihood in their sock. Indeed, I was so much impressed with the picture of a winning Cochins over there that I wrote the editor of the Poultry World, London, complimenting him for printing it, and he replied under date of December 16, 1937, as follows:

"Our Managerial department has handed you letter of Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> on to me for attention. It is very nice to receive such letters as that which you wrote, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind remarks concerning our special Dairy Show issue and coloured supplement it contains. It is some considerable time since I saw Cochins illustrated in American papers, but, as far as my memory serves me, I think that our birds are inclined to be somewhat heavier feathered than yours. Unfortunately, there are very few

breeders of them over here, but it is sufficient to say that the people in whose hands they remain are fanciers of the old school, and they pay a great deal of attention to vitality."

In reading that letter, I couldn't help but wonder how many editors in USA would say that it was "unfortunate" that there were not more cochin breeders in USA. Perhaps too few Americans have been told that the reason the Asiatics start the classification at the Boston poultry show is because they are the mother of the shows, and the progenitor of many of the breeds and varieties that make up the remainder of the classes.

*(The preceding article was submitted by Bob Hawes. Thank you Bob!)*

## From our friend in Romania

Usually, when you go to a show, you expect to find a friendly environment, with people who share the same passion. As a coincidence, just after finishing an article on poultry shows and judging (which you can see at <http://aviculture-europe.nl> - the April 2009 issue) I had the misfortune of attending a show that could be considered a perfect negative example. For me, it has been the greatest disappointment so far, as showing is concerned (the show was held in Iasi, Romania). Besides the very poor quality of the birds (in Cochins, I had practically no competition at all, there were 1,1 Whites, 1,1 Blues, 1,1 Splash, but with horrible type and colour, plus the males were as big as my females...) There were also 4 Large Buff males (all mine, one cock and three cockerels, all in good shape). And speaking about size, there were only 2 Brahmas that were bigger than my Cochins - my Light Brahma cockerel and my Dark Brahma cock!

But I did not win anything in the Brahmas... My Light cockerel got 85 points, compared to 95 - the points of the Champion (I didn't even take a picture of the Light male that won Champion, as I would sure the judges

would disqualify him for split wings, a nasty comb fault and almost no footfeathering. Just for the record, I have been champion with my Brahmas for 3 years now, in 3 varieties (Light, Dark and Partridge). But losing is certainly not a problem, if the "competition" is strong - which was not the case. Plus, I was too annoyed by another thing.

On my way to the gym, I dropped by the show to feed my birds. They were preparing some "feed", but I knew my birds wouldn't eat it. So I went to the market and bought corn and special pellets for chicks that I know they like. While I was feeding the first cock, some older guy comes to me and says "you are not allowed to do this" and grabs my hand. My blood rushed to my head, but I tried to stay calm and said "Look, this is my cock, he has no food, I personally went and bought him food, so I guess it is not a problem if I feed him". In the next second, he began shouting at me, saying that I show no respect, and I have no common sense and I ALWAYS cause trouble. I thought I didn't hear right. But when he and some friends of him (also organizers, like him) and some crazy woman continued saying those things, I lost my patience and said: "Look, guys, just leave me alone to feed my birds, and we remain friends". That was the moment when things turned bad, as they said "If you don't comply to our rules, you can take your birds and leave". I didn't like their tone and their attitude, and that was only a "normal" ending for 2 days in which they acted like I was annoying them with my presence, every time I came around, including bad language, nonsensical contradicting and so on. There's no use in naming names, ignorance and stupidity should be left anonymous - and, if possible, ignored.

I didn't even say one word, got to the car, grabbed the boxes, loaded my birds and left. Now, as I am writing this e-mail, I have the 6 males in the balcony, on the 7th floor of a block of flats, in the middle of Iasi! I'll leave to Vama first thing in the morning. To tell you the

truth, I was afraid to leave them in the show hall, with those people. One month ago, at another show, one breeder's pigeons were ALL poisoned in the show hall, after the breeder had an argument with some others. So I didn't want to take any chances. Moreover, last year I lost a very good Black Cochin cockerel after going to the same show. This time, a Light Brahma cockerel died in his show pen, and he had been placed next to one of my Brahmas, so I was worried anyway. Plus, there were other obviously sick birds, so perhaps taking my birds out of the show would have been the smartest decision in the first place, without the "additional attempts" to convince me. All in all, I learned a valuable lesson about people: when stupidity meets ego, only bad things happen. It can be really sickening to see grown-ups quarreling with judges or fellow-breeders about each and every detail, with the blind conviction that their birds are the best, and should get the prizes just because they helped organizing the show. Such an arrogant display of ignorance and completely selfish behavior can only ruin the pleasure of showing for others and in the same time annihilate the possibility of progress, as far as the quality of birds is concerned. Maybe the quality of the PEOPLE is even more important than the prizes they get.

So you see what kind of people one can encounter at poultry shows here; fortunately, NOT all of them are like that. I have another club close to where I live (Suceava) where I always feel at home, show birds, and judge other breeders' birds on various occasions. I hope you will NOT encounter such people, because it is really disappointing to watch such a disgusting parade of vanity in front of a couple of poor birds, in cages (I won't even begin telling you about the way these "breeders" handled their birds, it would make you sick).

I hope I haven't changed your mind about showing... At least, as long as you aren't planning to show your birds in Iasi, Romania J))  
*Bobo*



*One of Bobo's buffs*



*Bobo's white cockerel*