

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 2nd. January 1923
6r, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. F O R D ,

I beg to confirm my previous letter and am very pleased to let you know that your birds are leaving Antwerp on the 10th. inst, by the Red Star Line s/s. Napierian.

In lieu of the young cock 25I6029/22 which I told you I should send, I am sending you his brother, ring 25I6037/22 dark, which you will be able to mate to the big hen which you have, and I feel certain that you will get some good youngsters off that pair. Being a late-bred youngster, he never has been mated yet.

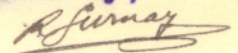
As I told you before, if I have quoted you 550 dollars for the two pairs, it is because I was certain to give you your money's worth, and you will be able to judge when you get these four birds, as I leave the price for you to decide about.

As I usually do, I shall sell my surplus stock at the end of this year to Mr. Shaw, in bulk, but I just now think that it might interest you to have some 10 or 15 pairs of that surplus, young and old birds mixed, in which case I should let you have same at the rate of frs. 500 per pair loco. You may think this over, and before September let me know what you may have decided with regards to this. Of course, I just want to give you a chance, the very best possible chance, and if you deem it unnecessary for you to have some such birds, it is quite all right to me.

I shall now begin the season with 45 pairs, all told, and that shows you how stern I have been when making my selection at the end of the season.

Hoping to hear some good news from you soon, and with kindest regards I remain, dera Sir,

Yours very sincerely,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 3rd. January 1923

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm my previous letter relating to the shipment of birds both from my loft and from my friends'

I suppose that by the time of writing, same are about to reach you and I shall be truly delighted to hear from you about same as soon as possible, trusting that you will be pleased with that consignment and that you will, for that reason, excuse the liberty I have taken to send you those birds.

As I told you in due time, I have now paid off all expenses relating to that shipment, and I beg to submit same to you herebelow, trusting that you will find that account quite in order.

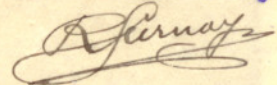
I suppose that the painting will shortly arrive now, but there has been much delay in ships reaching Antwerp on account of foggy weather and difficult navigation. As soon as it arrives I shall let you know and I expect it will be most beautiful, although there still is some mystery about the way you have managed to have that bird painted which you never saw in the flesh.

You must indeed have spotted THE Painter.

I at the same time wish to send you my heartiest greetings for the New Year, with all my best wishes for your future happiness and prosperity as well as all success in the Pigeon sport.

I beg to remain, dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,


Expenses:

Freight from Antwerp to Boston including cares and attendance	frs. 420.80
Carriage from Verviers to Antwerp	22.90
Veterinary certificate	5.50
Baskets and troughs	100.-
Consul's fee for invoice	60.-
Total	Frs. 609.20

25 50

Rec 7/1/23

TÉLÉGRAMMES : GURNAY - VERVIERS

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 12th. January 1923
6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

My dear Mr. Ford,

I suppose you will have heard from Mr. Gibson, ere this reaches you, that owing to a dockers' strike at Antwepp, the s/s would be sailing later than was expected.

Work has been resumed however, and the boat will leave sometime next week.

Being getting the birds ready, I notice that the hen 40732 has something wrong with a wing, probably has she been ~~struck~~ by another bird.

As it cannot be very serious, and as I also want to show you that this is not an excuse, I am sending her along as she is; but, as I also want you to be thoroughly satisfied with my consignment, I have added another bird, one of my favourite hens, blue, ring band II58522, whose father is my 1914 little Vierzon.

This hen should be mated with the Vierzon 40779.

I doubt not that you will be perfectly pleased with the five birds, as I expect 40732 to be quite herself again before reaching you, and hoping to hear from you as soon as you have seen the birds, I beg to remain,

dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE January 16th. 1923
6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to confirm my previous letter, and as I expected at the time of writing same, the painting of Bon Bleu was reaching Antwerp, and I got same through the Customs last week-end.

Well, all I can say is that it is utter perfection, and I do not even attempt at thanking you adequately for that beautiful present; I can but simply thank you, most heartily, for I could not express my delight.

Had the bird been sitting for the artist, it could not have been any better, and while congratulating Mr. Paget on that master-piece, you may add that he is by far a lot better than any artist in that line which we may have in this country.... and we thought we had a few good ones.

Again, many thanks and be sure that I shall seize with pleasure the first opportunity that offers itself to send you a young bird which I shall breed this next season for you especially, and may it be as good as that painting.

I trust that my consignment of early December duly got through and was reforwarded by Mr. Gibson, and I shall be most pleased to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

As a wager, I had to exhibit at Xmas at the Indépendante, a very important Liège Club, five birds, and I won the Excellency prize, along with 1st., 2nd., 4th., and 12th. prizes, while my opponent secures but 21st. prize with his best bird..... There were some 800 birds competing

Yours most sincerely

R. GURNAY

R. Gurnay

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 21st. February 1923

6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

Very many thanks for your letters dated 22nd. ult. and 1st. inst. which I find on my return from a month's holiday in the South of France, and I make haste to give you the particulars requested.

In the first place, I must tell you that what you give me as your ideas with regards mating just shows that you are not the first-comer in the fancy, and that you have the very right way to deal with birds.

Usually, I myself mate the birds on or about the 1st. of March, as our first races take place at the very beginning of May., but for the longer races, which generally take place later in the season, mating about March 15th. or 20th. is certainly better.

The time of separation is quite good too, you might even let the sexes together till Oct. 15th. but now again there is a question of climate which neither you nor I could judge, so distant are we from one another.

The training which you put the youngsters through is perfection; I am much more severe because I have much less patience than you seem to me to have, but I admit quite frankly that I find your system a lot better than my own.

For yearlings, be a little more severe though, starting them at 6½ miles, or thereabout, then 20 miles, then 38 miles, and so on till 225 or 250 miles, maximum.

That is the way I treat them, and you have one instance of it with the Vierzon who won that National race as a yearling.

With two years' old birds, you may face whatever distance you may fancy, and properly trained birds will get through, providing the weather give them a sporting chance.

Re flying them one hour morning and evening is exactly my system too.

In 1920. my Angoulême has gone through the following stages: 6½ miles, 19 miles, 38 miles, 57 miles, 115 miles, Then he was raced to Paris, 200 miles, then 232 miles, to be followed by a race at 280 miles, and another at 315 miles, and then to Angoulême, 450 miles.

He came every time well up in the prize list, till he won the longest race. When prize racing, put them on the road usually every fortnight, so as to give them some 10 days' rest after they have come home before basketing them again.

Gigot is a newspaper man rather than a connoisseur, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Why has he got no good birds?. According to what you show me you are doing with your birds, you are most decidedly a better connoisseur than he. An advice: never do take what the papers say as Gospel; for one thing they never agree with one another. Well, I say what is good, is good, whoever says so. There is but one truth, even with regards pigeons.

For breeding, it is up to the fancier himself to know what should be done, but one rule that always apply is not to take as breeders birds which are known to have faults.

Always choose birds well proportioned according to their size, and that is how you will get at good breeders, as well among small as among bigger birds.

For the eye, always search for alert, brilliant eyes, the colour of same has no importance, although I rather prefer dark or very red eyes, without making a rule of it.

With regards the tail, I prefer a short one, and as narrow as possible.

As ideal types of breeders, I think it would be hard to find better ones than the Tache and the dark hen off Bon Bleu.

Those are perfect types, in every respects, and although I was glad to let you have them, I regret them every day and we always speak of them with my friends. I have two of their youngsters who have done wonderfully well.

It is ever so much more difficult to have good breeders than good racers; often good racers are not good breeders, but the product of their offspring is generally good. Thus it is that, if you want to reproduce the bird which you most like, it is out of that very bird's daughter that you will most likely get it again.

Once again I tell you that the Tache and the dark hen are ideals of breeders.

I have always practised inbreeding, always of course as far as possible as relatives, although nephews and aunts together, for example, do not do badly at all. Very seldom have I tried another blood, for it is a double-edged weapon, and before taking such risks I must know thoroughly what that other strain is worth. I must then see what that cross-breeding produces, trying those produces and even their offspring before introducing the blood in my lofts for good. I am exceedingly particular about that.

I would advise you not to do it before you be absolutely bound to, that is when you see that your strain degenerates by too much inbreeding.

I must say that my strain produces excellently under inbreeding circumstances, but all strains are not alike and some degenerate very rapidly.

Re your letter of the 1st. inst. *Carl*

40779 is my famous Vierzon, 1918 blue bird, son of my Fred, at the same time famous as breeder and as racer which seldom happens as I have told you.

His mother is a dark hen, 26171/18, daughter of my famous mealy.

Blue hen 302738 is a daughter of my Cigarette, 24955/18. himself a brother of my Angouleme 1920 and famous racer also.

Her mother is a blue hen, 418425/21, daughter of my Angouleme 1920.

40732 blue hen comes off an excellent blue cock which I has the misfortune to lose at a disaster, named Bidet,; she is an extra breeder too.

2516037 dark cock is son of my Angouleme 1920, also named the Favourite, and his mother is a grand-daughter of my Vierzon 1914.

1158522 blue hen comes off a son of my Vierzon 1914. This father was a magnificent blue of 1915, bird absolutely beautiful and extra racer too.

I feel certain that, mated to 40779, they will give you something superexcellent.

Do not lose sight of this; that I sent you that extra hen as, just at the time of shipping, I saw that hen 40732 had something wrong with one of her wings, which I could have put straight had I had time to nurse her for but a few days. Yet, as I did not know whether or not she could bear the strain of the journey well, and wanting above all else to give you full satisfaction, I sent also 1158522 in her stead. Ever so much better if, when she reaches you, 40732 is quite all right again; thus you would then have two hens for 40779 out of which to breed. No one of my friends would believe that I had sold you that 40779, and they teased me saying that I surely was hard up for money. That is the way I have treated you.

The matings which you suggest could not, I think, be better thought

out, and as you have a hen too many, should 40732 be quite well again, then you could not do better than mating that extra hen with a son of the Tache or of the Noyon. I feel certain that you will select the cock as well as I could do it myself if they were here.

That is what you also should do next year, or perhaps even end of this year, with the last-sent birds. Mated to birds which are free at your place after you have kept them for a time prisoners in a cage from which they could view the neighbourhood, it is very likely that you will break them without loosing any.

Re the choice of birds which I had rather thoughtlessly offered you, what you tell me with regards to Mr. Gibson is quite right, but it never occurred to me before that you would have to sell most of them. For one thing, Mr. Gibson does not sell any of my birds now, probably as people do find his price, 100 dollars, too high. I could do no less, as I am not prepared to send across birds which I would know are not worth their salt.

We had better drop that matter altogether, as moreover I am always short of birds, and every year Mr. Fred Shaw finds that he has too few of them when he takes my surplus.

I have taken leave to give your name as a reference to a Senior Enrique Castaneda, of Havana, who wrote me this week for birds. I do not know him of course, neither the price he would be paying for birds. I have told him that I could let him have birds as from 100 dollars per pair, which is Mr. Gibson price, upwards, according to what he would pay. I told him also that you had had birds for three years and had paid as much as 350 dollars per pair, and that I felt sure he would hear from you what you thought about my birds and their price if he cared to ask you. I trust I have not trespassed on your kindness.

I am very anxious to hear from you about the birds sent last month, and what you think of them, hoping that they have now reached you in the best possible conditions.

Wishing you all success for the season, I beg to remain,
Dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,

ROBE R. GURNAY

W. Day writer.
W.D.

The writer trusts that you easily understand his translations, as this is rather technical stuff, he himself being not a fancier. He attempts to stick to Mr. Gurnay's sentences as much as possible, anyhow. If should anything be understood, please do point it out.

Yours most sincerely
A

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 26th. February 1923
61, Rue aux Laines

Dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to confirm my letter of this week, and I have to-day heard from Mr. Gibson that the birds had arrived and had been re-forwarded to you.

But he also tells me that cock 40779 was off conditions when he got the consignment, and although he does not tell me what was really the matter with that bird, I am horribly sorry to hear the bad piece of news.

When he was sent on, he was the most magnificent bird I ever had handled, and seldom, if ever, was I so sorry to part with a bird as I was with this particular one.

However I do trust that a few days' good rest and cares, and these I know he will receive at your hands, will do the trick and that I shall soon hear from you that he is himself again.

As I have told you several times already, that bird is AI in all respects; you have had the proof of one of his performances when I sent you the prize-list of the National race, and as breeder he has given me a son who won me the Cup last season for the Liege Provincial race, and that blue son of his is up to now the bird I am the most confident in for the next season. I feel absolutely certain that he is going to do marvels if nothing wrong happens to him.

40779's father was also a blue, and thus it is very likely that your bird will give you other blues.

He is perfection itself, and my most anxious hope is that he will completely recover, for no one can afford to lose such birds, as it is so seldom one can succeed in breeding birds of that accomplishment.

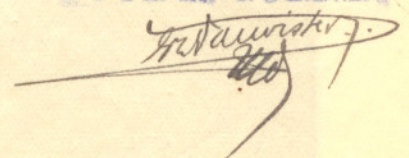
40732 hen has, of course, felt the strain of the long journey, as she was already not too well when she left. I do not know whether after that strain she will recover, and to a certain extent I feel sorry that I did not risk to withhold her and nurse her here. However you have another one to replace her, even though she would die, but it would of course be better yet if you could keep both.

Re account, I have paid Mr. Gibson's commission on your last purchase, so you owe him nothing in that respect, except your share of the forwarding expenses, which I expect he will have let you know about.

Awaiting your report as soon as possible, and with all kindest regards, believe me, dear Mr. Ford,

Ever yours most sincerely,

ROUS R. GURNAY



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 19th. March 1923

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

I have duly received your last letter and must make haste to say that you had already spoken to me in a previous issue about the objection against your purchasing a certain number of my birds at the end of the season, owing to the competition you would have to come against Mr. Gibson, and I answered to that that it was quite true and that we had better leave it at that.

Of course, owing to the heavy expenses incurred through advertising my strain, I cannot contemplate doing away with Mr. Gibson's services, but of course if he were to give it up, I surely would think of your offer, for which I thank you very sincerely,

I have been ever so sorry to hear about the bad land-journey the birds have had to bear, and I cannot understand how Mr. Gibson has been so careless about it.

I regret it the more on account of 40779, as I was already so sorry to have sold it, as he has all virtues required in a super-bird.

As told already, such birds, good for racing and good for breeding, as most rare, and so hard to breed than one does not like to part with them when one has the luck to get one.

As for hen 40732 which was mated to Vierzon, the pair are parents of my blue cock II58500/20 winner of the Cup of the Province of Liège last year. Just before sending her off, I noticed that she had been hurt in the wing, and at once I nursed her with iodine, which is the best treatment in such a case. Had I had a week or so before me to nurse her, I feel certain I could have cured her thoroughly.

Unfortunately, I had to send her off, as I did not like the idea that you might believe that I wanted to keep her after I had offered her to you and because she was unwell, I replaced her by II58522, also a 1st. class hen.

If you could cure 40732, you should mate her to Vierzon. What would be very good would be to give her some aspirin. You take one of those aspirins, cut it in fours and give one fourth at a time, another one hour after, and so on with the four fourths at one hour's interval, and you keep the bird near the fire in a basket, and keep an eye on her so that you would know if she were to disgorge same.

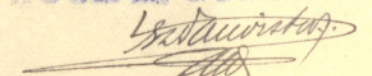
I had evidently administered her some iodine on the poorly part, which is essential in such cases.

I am sending the pedigrees by same post.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

R. GURNAY



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 21st. April 1923

6r, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours esteemed lettres dated 9th. and 14th. ult. , also your cheque for frs. 7500 in settlement of account, for which I beg to thank you very sincerely.

Re your matings, I might think that Cigarette's daughter is rather small a bird for Noyon. To my mind you would do well to get a pair of youngsters off that hen with La Tache. After that, not forget to re-mate La Tache with his old hen, the bronze hen, sister of the Favorite whom he was with when they were here.

Off that pair, I have two youngsters unequalled, but true, that hen may be mated to any cock and is sure to produce something fine.

You might also pair her to the 38th. prize Angoulême, whom I called the Téléphone, and I feel certain that they would produce something extra.

My cock Fred is also the father of the famous Petit Vierzon which you have, Mr. 40779.

With regards to the hen which I sent just to show you that she was really not in order with her wing, I would not bother with her and would kill her. To my mind, it always is doubtful to get anything out of birds which are not AI.

About the late bred young cock off Angoulême 1920, there is nothing better as stock, but I would not say as much about his appearance. He was rather narrow in the chest, but I think that, while aging, he will develop.

At any rate, there is nothing better than that bird as far as blood is concerned.

Re your friend, Mr. Van de Putte, I will tell you quite frankly that I do not like to bother with such missions. Sad to say, there is too much dishonesty in bird-dealers, and I would rather have nothing to do with them.

However, if it be a matter of pleasing you, I would do my best for him, and in that case let me have as much information as possible about what he wants. I shall act just as though it were for myself.

I have heard from Mr. Gibson that he wanted to know your price for the five last-sent birds for a Mr. Curtis, and that you refused to sell them. I am glad you did refuse, and you certainly acted wisely in that respect, for they are extra birds, and it is not so easy to get such fine specimens.

Re your intention of buying others birds by the end of this season, just remind me of it in due course, and I shall see whether I have got anything suitable for you.

The bird 40730 is indeed the son of my famous Fred, ring 26168/18.

Very many thanks for your recommendation to that gentleman in Havana from whom I have not heard since, however.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the coming season, I beg to remain,

dear Mr. Ford,

Yours very sincerely,

POUR R. GURNAY

R. Gurnay

Charles F. Hoser, President
Norristown, Pa.

Clarence R. Edwards, Vice-Pres.
Westwood, Mass.

THE AMERICAN RACING PIGEON CLUB

Robert W. Howlett, Secy-Treas.
Melrose, Mass.

Samuel P. Gibson, Race Secretary
197 Lakeview Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

April 25, 1923 192

Dear Mr. Ford:

Your letter of the 20th received. I had the same experience on Gurnays, all inquiries were for stock birds, and few as yet have sent in for youngsters. While I make a price of \$50.00 for squeakers, if orders are not sent in until the late Fall I increase that price. That is the time you probably will get many calls for Gurnays.

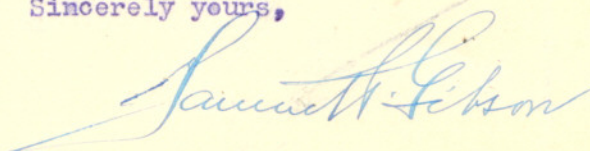
We have had another long cold Spring and the men who started to train three weeks ago have been getting hard knocks along the line. I have only had my birds in basket 4 times as yet and one more toss will finish them up for the 80 mile race next Sunday. That race is about two weeks too early. No leaves on the trees as yet and grass only turning green. Look for pretty good results in races this year. All clubs here fly Concourse and as there are about 250 members we are going to have some big races.

The Midland race is looming up big, but as it is a new course for many sections, I do not expect there will be as large entries as there will be in 1924. If I can get birds off in good shape so that the losses will be at a minimum, then it will go over big another year.

By the way did you forget me on those shipping expenses on the last birds from Mr. Gurnay. As I sent him the full amount he paid out as soon as I get his account, I would appreciate your check for \$20.00 at your earliest convenience.

Wishing you success both in breeding and on the road I remain,

Sincerely yours,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE
61, Rue aux Laines

May 3rd. 1923

Dear Mr. Ford,

I am much obliged for your favour dated 17th. ult. & am ever so glad to hear that the last-sent birds have got over the ill-effects of their journey & that you're pleased with them.

On April 26th. we had a small race - 78 miles - where I had 8 birds engaged. I won 6 prizes, the first being first prize for the big pools, won by a grand-son of 40779.

On April 29th., from Royon - 225 kms., I score 9 prizes & the same grand-son of 40779 wins again all the big pools in 1455 competitors.

It shows you that all birds off my "Fred", father of 40779, were good birds.

We, unfortunately, have no paper in Verviers dealing with pigeon fancy, but I'll try to have the results of the races printed in one of our daily papers & then will send you a copy each time.

Next Sunday, we race from St Denis, 200 miles; & I'll send my "heavy cavalry" - 20 birds - I'll report to you next week.

If I come to sell any of my good birds this year, you will surely have the first chance, but I must tell you that I have been left this season with 40 pairs all told, among which 26 racers. I have had too many demands & went on selling, as I didn't like to refuse, but now I must think about making new "champions" for my own use, & on the top of that, I do not breed much during the racing season.

VERVIERS - GURNAY - VERVIERS

R. GURNAY

Fournitures pour Tailleurs

VERVIERS, LE

VERVIERS

TELEPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9895

However, I shall not forget you.

By same mail, I'm sending you a sample of the tares I'm feeding this season. It is indeed the main item of the feeding down here. & we pay that 155 francs per 100 kilos. This as a guidance for your buying.

Always quite at your disposal for any particulars you might like to have, I remain,

Dear Mr. Ford,

Yours very sincerely

R. GURNAY

Handwritten signature

Fournitures pour Tailleurs

R. GURNAY

VERVIERS

Spécialité de Satins

Téléphone 1192

May 3 - 1923



Grand sur: Vierge, great races

Mr. Lee H. Ford

Box P.

Do not feed much during the Coacoy season

Great Falls

Montana

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE
61, Rue aux LainesMay 8th 1923

Dear Mr. Ford,

Confirming my letter of last week, I am sending to-day the sample of faces which I had overlooked.

By the way, if you cannot find that stuff in the States, I might send you some if you like & I think that, in spite of the transport expences, it would prove cheap to buy it here, owing to your high rate of exchange.

I don't know how much it would cost for transport from Verviers to Great Falls, but the price loco, namely 155 francs (less than 10 dollars) per 100 kilos (2 cwt.) seems to me to be cheap in your money.

Well, just examine & bear in mind that I am quite at your disposal in case of need.

I am sending a local paper with the prize-list of our race of last Sunday - St Denis - 885 competitors.

The first prize-winner beats my first bird by 37 seconds, but my bird (which wins 2nd prize) flew some 3 minutes over the loft before getting in. All the same, I win the 5 first prizes in all the pools with the 2nd 9th 10th 11th & 14th prizes, and the first-second & third prizes in all the doublages.

It is a grand success & the Verviers fanciers are already grumbling.....

I hope to hear some good reports about your racing too

Wish you all success in the forthcoming season.
With kindest regards,

Yours most sincerely
ROSE A. GURNAY
Rose A. Gurnay

Fournitures pour Tailleurs

R. GURNAY

VERVIERS

Spécialité de Satins

Téléphone 1192

U. S. A.

Rec 5/22/23



Mr. Lee H. Ford

Box 8.

Great Falls
Montana

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

May 29th 1923

My dear Mr. Ford,

Your esteemed favour of the 7th inst. duly to hand, I make haste to answer it.

The hen, daughter of Cigarette, which I sent you was indeed intended for La Bache. I am anxious to hear about the youngsters they will breed.

Ever so much better if the blue hen is getting better; but you should see to it that her young be not stricken by heredity. Yet I have come across similar cases where the offspring was perfect in all respects, but all the same "prudence" is the word. —

In confidence, Mr. Gibson has not really succeeded as an agent; in fact the sole customer whose name I got to know is that Mr. Curtis, even at that time I had but one pair I could part with, so many birds had I been induced to sell in different countries.

Bodys are more or less related to my strain, & it was I who offered them to Mr. Gibson as, owing to the blood-relation with my own birds, I don't want them to remain on the Belgian market; competition might become too keen!

End of this year, I shall have another 20/25 pairs of ~~Birds~~ to dispose of, at 600 francs per pair, mostly 1923 youngsters & a few older birds. Do not think that they are worthless birds, far from it; we might call them

the second choice, which does not mean that many will not be capable of facing the first choice birds. As you know, youngsters may develop as yearlings or two-year-old birds in an amazing manner, which could not have been foreseen when handled or trained in the year of their birth. Others, of course, promise well & become worthless altogether.

At any rate, should you wish to buy a lot of those birds, you will be first to be served and may rely upon it that I shall see to it that you get the best possible birds.

Evidently the old birds which I have sent you up to now were well-known birds which had given proofs of what there was in them both as racers & breeders, & never will you have ground for complaint about such high-class birds which I shall send you.

Re the pied birds which you breed this year, I am having the same experience & all I can say is not to throw them away if they are well built.

Some 25 to 30 years ago, my loft was already well known here, & was full of pied birds. Unfortunately the organization of the races was very defective at the time, & frauds were of daily happening, so to speak. As the pied birds were too easy to make out, in the baskets, I did away as much as I could with them, & that was my biggest blunder, for they were my very best stock.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

La Cache's father was a big pied chequered bird, & was brother of my Angoulême, of my 1914 Dierzon. Just now I have two extra-birds which are very white.

Of course I like the blues & the bronzos better, their colour being more flattering, but pied are not bad birds by any means.

I also have my extra breeder of 1913, which is of a pale colour striped of red, same as the blues are striped of blue, & blotched of black. It is an ideal type.

All secrets I don't know that I should have any for you! In order to keep a beautiful & silky feathering, you should, during the moult (immediately after the races) give the birds plenty of linseed & colza. —

Thus, if your pied birds are well shaped & like the other birds, I think you should keep them & race them too, & I should be surprised if they did not do very well indeed. Some "teachers" will tell & write that it is degenerescence, but it's all rubbish!!

With regards to my famous breeder the Old Blue which I sold to my friend Shaw when 9 years old, that is the same age as my 1913 producer referred to above, his feather was a dark blue; the eye a dark red; corpulence medium size; eye cere & bill & wattle same as those of the hen 1158522 which I send to replace 40732. —

I am always at your disposal for any particulars you may want.

As you perhaps know, it was my friend Shaw who, with my birds, won the 1922 Cup in England. This year he is again breaking all records so far & I enclose one of his recent letters.

With kindest regards & all good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

R. GURNEY

R. Gurney

Charles F. Hoser, President
Norristown, Pa.

Clarence R. Edwards, Vice-Pres.
Westwood, Mass.

THE AMERICAN RACING PIGEON CLUB

Robert W. Howlett, Secy-Treas.
Melrose, Mass.

Samuel P. Gibson, Race Secretary
197 Lakeview Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

July 28, 1923.....192

Dear Mr. Ferd:

Just a line to let you know I have sent orders over to Mr. Gurnay for five pair of his own breeding, 30 pair of Gurnay strain bred by his friend Mr. L. Bedy, who Mr. Gurnay calls the Champion of Liege and ten pair of Dardennes.

In his letter to me Mr. Gurnay says you were contemplating getting a few birds from him again this year. If you have decided to do so it might be well to advise him without delay to ship with birds I have ordered, as I am asking that they be sent me at the earliest possible moment.

How have you birds done for you this year and how are your youngsters coming along. I have the finest lot of young birds I have ever raised. Have started 62 of them on the road from which I will select my race team, but believe me it is going to be a job to cut down. I did not intend to start over 30 at the most but when it came to make a selection it was beyond my powers so started the whole lot and will try and cut down by the performance they put up in training. Up to the present that has shown nothing as they all are coming good.

Had a fairly good old bird season. Didn't do a lot of winning but the birds I sent through to the end did exceptionally well. You may recall the silver Wegge cock I sold you from left of Dr. Van England. I flew a two year old son of his and he never missed the clock being my first or second bird every time he was raced. He was my first bird from the National Midland race. I sent five birds to this race and got four although it proved to be a smash to many lefts. I had a Pure Gits do exceptionally well for me also as a three year old. He made 400 in day then 500 in day then came through the Midland smash, this on three Sundays in succession.

The Dardenne blood is also beginning to show its worth here and it virtually won the average speed of the United Concourse of Mass. for Howlett. At 200 his first bird was a Dardenne and his first pool bird was also a Dardenne again at the 300 his first bird was a Dardenne, he got second in race 3 birds jumping all other birds half an hour, and again at 500 in day his first bird was a Dardenne. It was yearling Dardennes that did the work for him.

Have been trying to find an avenue through which to secure Bastin birds but it looks hopeless.

With best regards I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Samuel P. Gibson

The Dempsey fight shows there are some game sports in Montana.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 3rd. August 1923

61, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to confirm my previous lettre to which I have received no answer as yet.

I feel I must again recommend you not to forget to mate La Tache with his old hen; as already told you, I got from them, in the spring 1921, a young cock which, as a yearling, flew 9 races and won 9 fine positions in the prize lists, with a total prize money of between 40 and 50.000 francs.

This year again, it has distinguished itself among the fiercest competition, among which three times first prize, winning a small fortune.

In the fall 1921, I had again bred a youngster of the same parents.

Having not dropped a single flight, I trained him last year but up to 40 miles, and this season I have had him racing four races.

First race, he comes 2nd. in the list; second race 3rd.; third race, provincial with high competition, first prize with a good advance. On the fourth race I lost him; it was a terrible disaster for all concerned, I do not think we ever experienced such nasty weather as on that day.

His brother won 20000 francs with the 42nd. prize at a provincial race, which shows you that the race was absolutely irregular. A fortnight afterwards, I sent the same bird again for a provincial race where he wins 1st. position with some advance.

That Tache and his mate are priceless birds as breeders, and I am sure your experience will be as good as mine with their produce.

I suppose you still have the prize-list which I sent you of the Vierzon race in Brussels, 1920, and you will have noticed that I won first and 2nd. prizes. I sold you the winner, and kept the second prize -winner which is now 5 years old, and never has missed his prize in all the races he was sent to up to now.

I am now disposed to sell him, also a few others, and as I promised to give you the first option, I am sending you particulars of those birds.

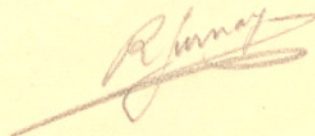
If you will kindly go through that list, and let me know whether you are disposed to purchase any this season, I should be very much obliged. Mr. Curtis, who wanted to buy the last birds I sent you, wants now to buy a few, and I am sending a copy of the list of birds to Mr. Gibson for that purpose, telling him that you have the first choice, and that, if you decide to purchase any, you will also let him know which birds at once so that he may strike them off the list and offer the others to M. Curtis.

Thus, when you have made up your mind, kindly let me know at once and also communicate your decision to Mr. Gibson.

By the way, do not trouble if your youngsters sometimes come with more white feathers than is usual with the parents; it is the return of the old standard, and I myself have had three such birds which have proved extra racers and are beautiful in all respects.

With kindest regards, and hoping you had a nice racing season too, I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,



LIST of BIRDS for SALE

Dark 418338/21, son of my famous bird called Léon.

As a yearling, won 5 prizes, two at the top of the list; this year also 5 prizes, three well ahead of the list, among which the 3rd. prize Chateaudun last Sunday, among 5 birds which scored together the 5 first prizes (425 kilos.)

Next Sunday he has to come back from Orléans, where I have sent him and staked him for 700 francs.

Price: 150 dollars. (with his hen)

X Dark 26965/18, the bird that won the 2nd. prize National race Vierzon when your Vierzon won first, the two being together. He is thus 5 years old, but has never missed a prize in all races where he was sent, as well in short distances than up to 900 kilos.

In 1922, he won above 20000 francs prize money.

Price: 275 dollars. with the hen.

X Mealy 1158474/20, called the Good Mealy, unbeatable as a youngster and as a yearling. When two years old, he missed the two first races, but made good in winning three prizes well ahead in three subsequent races. This year, has not been raced, by fear of losing him owing to continual bad weather and need of breeders. Excellent breeder, beautiful bird, son of my famous breeder called the Old Mealy. Bird to be recommended, extra.

Price: 250 dollars, with the hen.

146/13. Raced only up to outbreak of war in 1914, when he won several prizes. Perhaps a little old, but an extraordinary breeder, and I can vouch that he never misses one single couvey.

All fanciers are in love with that bird, so beautiful is he.

Price: 275 dollars with the hen

1158470/20, son of Téléphone, which was sold last year.

Has won me several prizes each year.

Price: 150 dollars with the hen

418302/21, blue with white flights. Exceedingly beautiful type. As I wanted to keep him, I raced him only this season, and after missing once, has come in each time about the middle of the list. I judge him as a breeder more than a racer. He is son of your Vierzon, and thoroughly to be recommended.

Price: 200 dollars with the hen.

Dark 9590/19, called my Derby; bird of great beauty, winner of all exhibitions, where he has no match. Excellent breeder.

Price: 275 dollars, with the hen

417528/22 Bronze, son of the Excellency which Mr. Shaw had, as a gift, for 3000 francs. Most beautiful bird, but, although he has won several prizes at races from 300 to 400 kilos, I judge him better for long races

Price: 150 dollars with the hen

24941/19, called Disaster, dark cheqrd. brother of Téléphone, excellent racer and breeder; is not quite well just now, but will be all right in a few days.

Price: 200 dollars with the hen.

X 26161/18, dark cheqrd. nest-mate of my famous Favourite. Has raced but in 1919 and did very well, but I stopped him at once seeing that he was too good a breeder for risking him in the races. Have this year bred from him three splendid youngsters, real promising champions.

Price: 275 dollars with the hen.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 29th. August 1923

6r, Rue aux Laines

Dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to confirm my previous letter in which I was offering you, of course should you want to buy any birds this fall, a few of the birds which I could part with.

I trust that I shall hear from you about this soon, as I must get ready for the shipment of birds which I have to make, next month probably, to Mr. Gibson.

We have just closed the racing campaign of 1923, and I am glad to be in a position to let you know that I am again, and by far, the greatest winner for Verviers and Liège.

In all, I engaged 47 birds out of this town, and won 41 prizes, many firsts and practically all the others well ahead of the lists.

This season was, however, one of the worst I have experienced; when I started, I had 30 racers, aged between one and 5 years, and I have lost nine; unhappily four of the very best were victims of the poor weather, my Cigarette, my Favourite, My good little blue, and a brother of my good Dark, which I started this year as a two year old bird and which was doing marvels. It was a son of your Tache with his mate, sister of Favourite.

I do hope and trust that you also are pleased with your results, for I have heard nothing from you for quite a long time.

Sending baskets to Mr. Gibson, I have joined to that consignment two new clocks, one for you and one for him, which I am pleased to submit to you.

The price must be somewhere about 400 francs locq; I shall know exactly in a few days and let you know definitely.

I really believe this clock shall be The clock in the future, in spite or perhaps because of its simplicity, and the impossibility to fraud with it, by what I am told.

I wish you would look at it and have it presented to your clubs as I do think they all could appreciate a good clock at a decent price.

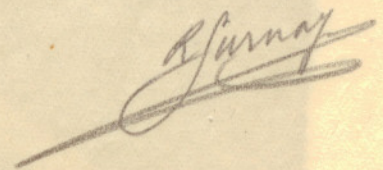
You will receive in a few days, along with the exact price, the prospectus telling of its qualities, and new dials and boxes for timing-in the rings.

Should the article interest you or your clubs, application might be made direct to the makers whose address is on the prospectus.

Awaiting your news most impatiently, I beg to remain,

Dear Mr. Ford,

Yours very sincerely,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 8th. Sept. 1923

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your last letter, also of the magnificent photos which you sent me, and for which I am much obliged.

Your country is a perfect dream, and I was very glad to have an idea of it. Those photos will be framed and will adorn my smoking-room most beautifully.

Indeed, Mr. Shaw, contrary to all expectations, did not do so well with the long distance races. Same as here, they have had awful weather, rain and fog, and they have lost many a good bird. In fact I do not remember a season as bad as the last for good birds, for most of the best positions were won by unknown fanciers with unknown birds, while we lost very heavily..

With regards the pair of the best youngsters which I could let you have this season, I could not really tell you anything before the birds be thoroughly moulted, which is the main think, of course .

I shall report about if as soon as possible.

I suppose you have found nothing that might interest you in the list which I sent you some time ago, as I have had no answer to that letter as yet.

I must congratulate you on your nice results this season; yet I should have thought that you would have got right at the top of the list each time.

The results obtained with your yearling that flew the long race are simply marvellous, but at that tender age, it is too much really , while once they are two years old, there is nothing too hard when they are fit, and of course with a regular race.

Do keep that advice and make the best of it.

I should like to know what bird that is that won that long race, and which are his parents.

With renewed thanks and kindest regards, I beg to remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours ver-y sincerely,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 27th. Sept. 1923

61, Rue aux Laines

Dear Mr. Ford,

I am duly in receipt of your esteemed favour, the contents of which have made me happy beyond words.

Heaps of thanks for the life-size picture of Bon blue, which you tell me you will be sending soon; I shall certainly like it and it will serve as a reminder of a good friend across the sea.

As for the pair of youngsters which you are so kind to offer me, I value your offer very much indeed and am as thankful for it as though I really were in needs of good birds, for I know they would be good birds.

However I am glad to be in a position to say that six yearlings which I put this season on the road have done so well that they have helped me forget the old champions which I lost.

Thus I have closed the season with much gains, beside being again the champion with the greatest number of prizes, also with my first, my two first, and my three first denominations.

In Liège, for the 7 great Nationale races, I sent in all 21 birds, won 19 prizes, among which three times the first position in three different races.

Re the special hen, or the pair of extra youngsters which you want, I have been looking at the thing very closely indeed, but as the birds are still in the moult, I cannot decide what to do yet.

In November, I shall be shipping birds to Mr. Gibson and I want you to let me join to that shipment just what I shall select for you, bearing in mind what you want, and I know that you will be delighted with my choice for you. I perfectly know what you want, and I am certain I shall satisfy you when the moult is over.

Just as in the past, I want to let you have what is best, but it is getting harder every time, seeing that you already have such a beautiful colony of my strain.

If you have succeeded your breeding, as I believe you have, you must be much better off than most fanciers even here in Belgium, and without boasting, I should pretend to take one of the leading places here in the fancy with but what you got from me and their breed.

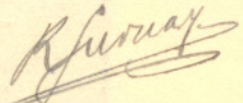
One thing you are sure of is that your birds are thorough-bred, and that is getting scarce even here.

I wonder if you did race the young pied which you told me you did not fancy because of his colour? I raced one similar this season, 9 races, 9 prizes, three firsts, and some 40000 francs winnings.....I do not think his colour interfered much with his racing, did it?

And La Tache's father and brother were pied too.

With kindest regards, believe me, dear Mr. Ford,

Ever yours very sincerely,



P.S. Mr. Gibson's friends also complain of the severe losses they have sustained and I wonder whether it was also due to hawks. It also is a

R. GURNAY

(Suite) du 27/9/23 à Mr. Ford

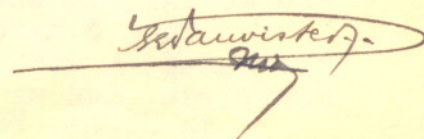
plague here and our clubs grant premiums to the people who destroy such birds and their nests.

It is clear to understand that it almost always is the best birds that are their victims, They race ahead of the bulk and get caught, and the less good birds coming later manage to escape while the prey-birds are devouring their victims.

Here in Belgium they are traps even on the telegraph-poles.



Mr. Dauvister wants to thank you very sincerely for the pictures sent and which he duly received. They are very interesting indeed.



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 7th. December 1923

6r, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour if the 16th. October and must really congratulate you most sincerely on your magnificent successes in the races.

It must indeed be admitted that you did exceedingly well under the circumstances, for I suppose that the competition was as keen as could be.

Mr. Fred Shaw has, in spite of all, also managed a nice season, but unfortunately the long distance race has been a disaster and he there lost several of his best birds. Had it not been for that disaster, he would have won the Cup this season too; Herewith I include part of one of his letters to me. It is a superb result, and to be 5 times first in ten races in a strong club is really a success.

I too did very well, in spite of my losses on the fourth Sunday, when I left 4 of my best birds which never turned up again. Fortunately I have started 5 yearlings which have done exceedingly well, and I daresay that that will often happen when one has got the strain to fall back on.

I have a yearling bronze with white flights and white feathers on the head, off a grand-son of Vierzon, which has been in 9 races and each time got the big pools; three times he was 1st.

I am sending you the local paper wherein you will see that I have again obtained the best results with my two and three first denominations and the greatest number of prizes. I missed the best result with my first denomination because of the lost birds. Further, my friends at the head of affairs at the club had requested me not to play with my best birds because as I would do too much harm to their organization, the other fanciers refusing to enter birds against mine.

In a club here, competitor of ours, where we were however allowed this year to enter birds, I engaged 22 for 7 races, and won 19 prizes ahead of the lists, among which three firsts; the result is that next year we shall not be admitted.

In Liège, for the 6 provincial races, I engaged 21 birds and won 18 prizes ahead of the lists, with three firsts also.

Last year I had been induced to sell too many birds, and as a result I had to carry on my season this year for too few birds.

Re your bird that won the 467 mile race, which is a performance indeed, you may be sure that, given a thorough moult, he will reserve a few nice surprises for you next season; should he seem unwilling to do his work, however, I should not force him if I were you, and when three years old, he will be unbeatable. I hold that, given good training and when in good order, there are no distances that a good strain bird will not cover.

Could you not manage to know who, in your country, has commissioned somebody here to purchase for him 6 pairs of birds from a fancier called L. Bastin, for 2000 dollars? If that fancier were in your vicinity, you may challenge his Bastin birds against mine which you have bred for any sum you may wish to name: I am desirous to take up the challenge, for you may rest assured that, with my birds, you have got the best strain that exists in Belgium. If there are exhibitions, you may also participate and be sure that you will get the prizes too.

From Buenos-Aires I have received the enclosed letter which I want you to peruse, about the winnings in the pen of the youngster off my birds.

As, some time ago, you had requested me to try and get some Wegge birds for a friend of yours, I have had two real opportunities with two good friends of mine, who are both the victors in their respective clubs, and both have achieved their successes with my strain paired to Wegge birds.

One of them, Mr. Firmin Devroye of Tirlemont, had 18 birds to dispose of; the other, Mr. Theo Demeuront, proprietor of the Club house of Waremmes where he is champion in a very strong club, had 12 birds to spare.

As both these gentlemen wanted to sell their birds abroad, so as not to have to settle them and not come across their own strains later as competitors, they asked me if I could not manage to sell the birds to one of my friends abroad.

I have thought that you would be pleased to get the benefit of such a bargain, as I obtained the two lots at 20 dollars per pair, and I am sure that you will not resent the liberty I have taken to send them to you, seeing the strain they belong to and the beauty of the specimens. Your friends will surely be delighted to have such birds at such a trifling price, and perhaps will you find in the lot something that you would like to stick to for your own breeding.

Those birds are sailing to Boston to-morrow from Antwerp and are sent to Mr. Gibson for being re-forwarded to you.

Do have a good look at them before inviting your friends to examine them; I feel certain you will not regret it.

Now as for your good self, I have added to that shipment a mate for
1) La Tache, ring I030467-23, blue hen,

Her father was my Derby, who was himself a son of my Excellence and of a blue hen, daughter of my blue cock II58560-20 called La Coupe.

She is, to my mind, the best possible mate for La Tache, and I should be much surprised if you did not concur with my view in the matter.

Also to my taste, I have also sent you my best trained youngster
2) cock, blue, ring I030421-23; it would have been an extra racer here if I had kept him, and is sure to prove a good breeder indeed.

His father is a chequered bird, II58460-20, son of Favorite; his mother is a blue hen called La Belle Bleue, , ring 24954-18, daughter of my Good Old blue, a famous breeder.

3) Then a beautiful blue hen, I030406-23, daughter of my famous chequered cock 2654492-21 and of a chequered hen 418382-21 daughter of your Vierzon.

Both the hens I am sending could be mated to La Tache as you fancy it; At all events, they all three are admirable specimens which will without the shadow of a doubt give you full satisfaction. They have never been mated. I think that a fair price for the three would be 375 dollars.

Herein also the lists of the 12 and 18 birds sent.

The detail of expenses will be forwarded in a few days. Direct, as to Gibson

Trusting to hear favourably from you soon, I beg to remain,

Dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,

R. Gurnay

P.S. I also wish to send you and all yours our best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New year, trusting that it will bring you all you may desire at home as well as in your business and with the birds.

And many happy returns to follow.

S. Dawidowski

R. Gurnay

has nothing to do with these birds from my friends - and the whole consignment is going out to you.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 7 Décembre 1923

61, Rue aux Laines

List of Birds belonging to Mr. Firmin Devroye of Tirlement (Belgium)

- ✓ 1) Bronze Cock 2362-15
Comes of Mr. Gurnay's loft and is father and grand'father of a great number of my birds.
- ✓ 2) Blue Cock 2359-15
Also received from Mr. Gurnay and the same remark applies to him as to number 1
- ✓ 3) Chequered Cock 718740-22
Strain Gurnay-Stassart
- ✓ 4) Bronze cock 2409791-23
Gurnay strain
- ✓ 5) Chequered cock 2425242-23
Gurnay and Levis strains
- ✓ 6) Bronze cock 2629749-23
Gurnay strain
- ✓ 7) Blue Hen 19828-12
Wegge strain - Extra breeder
- ✓ 8) Blue Hen 10405-19
Wegge strain, grand breeder
- ✓ 9) Black hen 516995-20
bred from one egg received from Mr. Gurnay
- ✓ 10) Chequered Hen 438818-22
off my blue Wegge cock and Levis hen
- ✓ 11) Bronze Hen 718711-22
Strain Gurnay
- ✓ 12) Pied chequered Hen 718723-22
Gurnay-Wegge strain
- ✓ 13) Chequered Hen 4513013-23 Wegge-Levis strain
- ✓ 14) Blue white flights Hen 2516033-22
received from Mr. Gurnay
- ✓ 15) Bronze Hen 2541566-23
Gurnay Strain
- ✓ 16) Pied Hen 2409799-23
sister of number 15
- ✓ 17) Blue Hen 2616603-23
Gurnay-Wegge Strain
- ✓ 18) Bronze Hen 2616611-23
off number 1 with a Wegge hen

7 Gurnay
1 Gurnay Stassart
3 Gurnay Levis
2 Wegge Levis
3 Gurnay Wegge
2 Wegge

Charles F. Hoser, President
Norristown, Pa.

Clarence R. Edwards, Vice-Pres.
Westwood, Mass.

THE AMERICAN RACING PIGEON CLUB

Robert W. Howlett, Secy-Treas.
Melrose, Mass.

Samuel P. Gibson, Race Secretary
197 Lakeview Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

December 23, 1923.....192

Dear Mr. Ford:

Just a line to let you know that your three birds from Mr. Gurnay arrive on steamer ~~Babbarian~~ due on December 26th. Mr. Gurnay also writes that he is forwarding some 30 other birds that are to go forward to you for some of your friends. Would appreciate it very much if you would advise me regarding the latter as up to Mr. Gurnays letter I had no information that you were expecting birds other than his own.

Will arrange to rest the birds and see that they all have a chance to get a bath and a little rest. If in good shape will forward them to you on Saturday next.

Will also forward you a clock which was sent me by the manufacturer at Mr. Gurnays request and he asks me to send one along to you. It is a nice ~~clock~~ clock so far as I can see but I think ~~the~~ manufacturer is asking too much when he asks 400 francs and one can secure Toulets 10 and 12 bird clocks for less money. The present rate of duty 45% plus \$3.00 per clock makes these imported timers quite expensive, still they are so far ahead of the American timers that they are well worth the difference in price to a fancier who races his birds seriously.

Wishing you the compliments of the season I remain,

Sincerely yours,

