

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 13th. February 1920

61, Rue aux Laines

Lee M. F O R D , Esqre.

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I duly received a few days ago your esteemed letter sent by Mr. Samuel P. Gibson,

I must, first and foremost, say that the regrettable incident that occurred has greatly pained me, and it all happened because, at the time I received your enquiry and your cheque, I was not conversant with Mr. Shaw's plans and agreements re the sale of my birds in the States.

Had I but known that he had appointed a representative to act on his behalf, you will readily understand that I should have been unable to accept any order which did not come through them.

On the other hand, I had accepted your remittance and promised to send the birds, and there I was, caught between two promises that were altogether opposite to one another.

However, Mr. Gibson's courtesy has solved the problem, as he very kindly accepts to receive your birds, for which you have offered him a commission, and accordingly I shall forward them to his address as soon as there is a steamer sailing to Boston, but as you will see by the Red Star Line's enclosed letter, there is no knowing as yet when there will be a steamer bound to Boston. However, you may rely upon it that I am not losing sight of the matter, and that I shall ship the birds on the very first opportunity, and I have requested the Red Star Line to let me know without fail when the first boat will sail.

Re future business, I shall, of course, be but too glad to book you as many birds as you may like to order when you have seen the first lot.

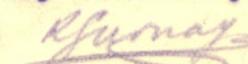
Yet, as I have an agreement with Mr. Shaw that he will have the sole sale of my homers for the English speaking Countries, and as, on the other hand, he has entered into an agreement with Mr. Gibson that the latter will be his sole representative in America, I must request you, should you want any more of my birds, to book your order through Mr. Gibson, who is, I am sure, quite straight in his dealings, and then I shall be but too pleased to select the birds for you and let you have the ring numbers and all particulars. I think this proposal will relieve your mind as for the possibility of receiving any sort of birds.

One thing however I wish you to understand is that it is not my interest to ship unworthy birds for my customers abroad, as surely, if such were the case, no one of them, after having been deceived, would come back again, and that would moreover be a very poor advertisement.

I know that other people are offering my strain on sale abroad, but I decline all responsibility, as nobody can offer my birds on sale abroad, without my permission, and nobody has such a right but Mr. Shaw and Mr. Gibson.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,



**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 28th February 1920

61, Rue aux Laines

Lee M. F O R D , Esqre.

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

With reference to my previous letter, I have the advantage to inform you that the Red Star Line has just let me know that they would have a steamer bound to Boston sailing in the first days of March.

Accordingly, I am making arrangements for your birds to be got away by that very steamer, addressed to Mr. Samuel Gibson, Cambridge. Mass.

These birds have the following numbers on the rings:

Blue cock, white feathers,	I9 Y 34826	}
Check hen	I9 E 4434	
Blue cock	I9 Y 34825	}
Check hen	I9 E 4426	

To my mind, the best mating would be as they are put above, and I should be more than surprised if you were not to breed magnificent birds from them. As for the strain, it is now too well known the whole world over for me to praise it. You will be able to see for yourself when you breed from my birds as well as when you have the birds tested in the races, but with proper cares and given a chance they will show you what stuff they are made of, and that they do not fear any other strain in the world.

I do only trust that you will receive them in good conditions, but the Red Star Line people assure me that proper care will be given them during the sea journey, as you will have seen in their letter which I have sent you a few days ago.

Hoping now soon to hear from you that you are well satisfied, and wishing you every success, I beg to remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,





## RACING HOMERS

Pure Strains and Crosses

Gibson's Import Agency



Boston, April 26th, 1920.

Mr. L. M. Ford,  
Great Falls,  
Montana.

Dear Sir:-

Agreeable to your request I am sending you a copy of my booklet on breeding.

Whether the Gits would cross with the Gurnay's is a question. I know I have a pair of youngsters from a Gurnay Cock and a half Bonami & Gits cock that look very fine. What they will do on the road remains to be seen.

In general makeup, except for eye, the Gits I have are close to the Gurnay still they are not so fine a type. However it might be well for you to have more than one iron in the fire and they would work in well with the Burrows I feel quite sure. I personally tried out blood from Mr. Hodge and know it is right- 500 miles to clock in day as yearlings.

Now as to the Wegge-Hansenne blood of Mr. Dehulla. I simply am helping him out in handling replies to his advertisement, and he is one of but very few fanciers who I would do this for. I have been over his birds and I have checked up the particulars of his imported birds and know that they were the finest Hansenne and Wegge blood that money could obtain. They are very close to the Gurnay on type and I feel confident they would cross in well- eye and feather and station are alike and they have produced a great many winners. You would make no mistake in getting some of them.

Will ship the Gurnays in a day or two as the Express Company state the congestion is well in hand and that birds will go through O.K.

Very truly yours,

*Samuel Gibson*

*Dehulla's birds run mostly red checks as his Wegge were red. Gurnays I think contain Wegge Vendome (Blue) blood but will know for certain when I hear from Mr Gurnay. They look to be a blend of Hansenne - Givotes - Vendome Wegge.*  
S.G.

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

Doublures imprimées  
Spécialité de  
Latins laine & coton.

Adresse télégraphique:  
Gurnay-Verriers

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

R. Gurnay & Co

VERVIERS, le 9 Mai 1920  
29, rue Tranchée

Monsieur Ford  
Great Falls

Je suis en possession de votre honorer du 15 écrouli me demandant 2 nouveaux couples ce dont je puis y servir en toute confiance.

Les 2 couples que y avez reçu doivent y donner des bons et pour votre gouverner les mâles sont de bouche à grande vitesse jusqu'à 600 kilo. mètres tandis que les femelles proviennent d'une race de longue portée.

Un moment que je sais que elle race vous préfère je y le répète vous pourriez être certain que vous serez bien servis et vous n'avez qu'à vous féliciter de mes envois.

Pour votre gouverner j'ai en ce moment 100 femes de ma première souche qui commencent à aller en fait j'en ai bien laissé; je compte pouvoir élève pour vous environ 200 à 300 femes  
Vrpf.

Vous pourriez donc avoir en femme de  
 1900 en qui n. voulez et pour garçons  
 ils sont tous bayés pour le grand  
 Derby National de 1900 Bruxelles.  
 De 1919 voir en qui je pourrais vous  
 fournir

- 40299 maille <sup>coupe</sup> foncée
- 40242 " "
- 40238 " "
- 40239 " clair
- 40219 " foncé
- 40230 " "
- 40235 " "
- 40229 bronze
- 9558 " "

tous mâles  
 qui j'ai reçus  
 pour moi faire  
 voyager

- 40209 maille foncée
- 9546 rouge rayé <sup>aplatis</sup>
- 40281 maille foncée
- 40236 " "
- 9545 " clair
- 40211 bronze
- 9542 maille clair
- 54850 " "
- 40290 foncée

femelles

De mon élevage de l'année dernière  
 je n'avais conservé expressément pour  
 moi que 10 couples hors de 150 couples  
 c'est donc assez vous dire que c'est  
 de l'extras. Si vous le voulez tous  
 pour faire une affaire je puis vous

Doublures imprimées  
Spécialité de  
Latins laine & coton

R. Gurnay & Co

VERVIERS, le

19

Ordre télégraphique:  
Gurnay-Verviers

29, rue Tranchée

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

ci-dessus les 9<sup>pauses</sup> à 100 dollars plus ici  
si mieux il fallait mettre les 3 couples  
que je me réserverai comme extras et  
alors enca. en partant les bagues suivantes

mâles	{	9582	brunze	{	40231	filé <sup>usillé</sup> du bon bleu
		40289	usillé foncé		9503	bleu
		9518	brunze		9542	clair usillé

Dans tous sujets de 1913. C'est pour  
je suis de bien vous servir sans cela  
je puis faire de l'élevage avec ces pigeons  
qui me supporteront enormément  
je ne offre également ce qui suit au  
prix de 200 dollars plus

1 un bronze bague 1102 de 1916 de toute beauté  
un vrai étalon, imbattable aux expositions  
de pigeon voyageurs a participé à 3 exposi-  
tions et a obtenu la plus haute récompense

2 mon Argentin usillé de 1913 bague  
N° 224 pigeon également de toute beauté  
sans tous les rapports en 1913 a remporté  
prix en tête de tous les concours où il a  
été envoyé il a même fait le 1<sup>er</sup> prix  
avec 10 minutes d'avance à un voyage  
de 400 kilomètres

En 1914 a du nouveau temps son  
prix a chaque concours ou il a été  
engagé même 8 jours avant le déclara-  
tion de guerre donc fin Juillet 1914 au concours  
national d'Anvers en Belgique. Tous  
jours la Belgique a fait un prix de  
11.000 francs. On l'a surnommé alors  
l'Anversoise. Si on avait pu continuer  
a faire voyager ce pigeon on aurait  
gagné une fortune.

3<sup>e</sup> écaille plume blanche du 1915 Bayes  
N° 82 Prix de l'Anversoise de toute  
bonne tenue

4<sup>e</sup> écaille surnommé le tache sur  
suite d'une plume blanche a la tête  
du 1916 Bayes 991

Ces sont 4 vrais specimens de Pigeons  
de long cours et comme je n'en  
dis imbatibles sans aucun rapport  
ils valent plus de 50 mille francs a leur  
prix. D'ailleurs si je me décide a  
les vendre c'est pour que c'est a  
l'étranger.

En tout cas ils sont tout bonnement  
supérieurs et je désire n'importe qui de  
connaissance en soit de pouvoir même  
toucher a leur valeur le moindre reproche  
c'est tout le complément du parfait  
inimitable. Avec cela c'est pour  
être de suite le grand champion

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

Doublures imprimées

Spécialité de

Satins laine & coton.

Adresse télégraphique:  
Gurnay-Verriers

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

R. Gurnay & Co

VERVIERS, le

29, rue Tranchée.

111

19

En tout cas ce sera certainement  
le cœur gros que je m'en séparerais  
Dont vaillie des choix et j'attends  
de vos bonnes nouvelles  
Dans cette attente je vous prie Monsieur  
mes salutations les plus affectueuses  
R. Gurnay

Je ne demande de l'argent  
c'est vrai mais aussi je fournis  
de l'extra et même vaillie mille  
Et puis et il est certain d'avoir des  
bons

A vous

En 1918 notre pays était occupé par  
les Prussiens et comme mon père  
possédait une grande renommée en  
Allemagne. (En 1913 j'avais eu  
fournis au gouvernement Austro-Hongrois  
des lycées pour une grande somme)  
Outre tout l'état Major je reus la  
visite des frères des fameux Kaiser  
le Prince Henri de Prusse

lequel tombait tellement en extase  
en voyant les 4 budgets qui se reffer  
C'est même a cause de cela que nous  
avons fait passer nos figures a l'événement  
lorsque l'Etat Major est venu  
s'installer a Spa

Story on Prince Henry  
and his bid to buy  
offered me

Translation of Mr. Gurnay's letter dated May 9th. 1920

I am in receipt of your esteemed letter dated 15th. ult. asking me for two additional pairs, which I can supply you in absolute confidence.

The two pairs which you have received must rear something good, and, for your guidance, the cocks belong to a strain for swift races up to 500 to 600 kilos. while the hens belong to a long distance strain.

As long as I know what kind of birds you desire, I can but tell you once again that you shall be satisfied with those I supply you, and you will have to congratulate yourself on what you will get from me.

For your guidance, I have just now 100 youngsters, the first breed, that begin to go out on the roof; I have very well succeeded; and I expect I shall breed some 250 to 300 birds for the season.

You could therefore get anything you would fancy in the way of 1920 youngsters, and they all are ringed-up for the Grand National Derby 1922 in Brussels.

From my 1919 breed, the following is the list of what I could let you have:

Cocks which I kept for my own racing:

40799 and 40747, dark checqd. *show* 40738 checqd.  
 40719, 40730 and 40735 dark chcqd. *show* 40729 light checqd.  
 40779 and 9558 bronze.

Hens:

40781 and 40736 dark checqd. 9545, 9547 and 54850 light checqd.  
 40711 bronze, 40790 *show* dark.

Out of my last year's breed, I had kept for myself but a special 12 pairs out of 150 pairs; that only tells you that they were extra birds.

If you want the lot, for a bargain, I am willing to let you have them (9 pairs) at the rate of 100 dollars per pair, loco. and even if you wanted me to do so, I would add the other three pairs which I wanted to keep as extra birds. Their rings are the following:

Cocks	Hens
9582 bronze	40731 checqd. daughter of Bon Bleu
40799 dark checqd.	9503 blue
9518 bronze	9547 light checqd. <i>show</i>

all born in 1919.

It is only because I want to satisfy you, for I could breed out of those birds and it would bring me in a big lump of money.

I am also offering you the following birds at 200 dollars per head:

a bronze cock, ring 1102/ 1916, great beauty, real breeder, not to be beaten at exhibition of racing pigeons; has been three times exhibited and has got the highest awards.

My Angoulême, checqd cock of 1912, ring nr. 224, also a beauty in all respects, in 1913 has won prizes well up in the lists in each race he was sent, scored even first prize with 10 minutes' advance in a 400 kilos. race

In 1914, won again a prize at every race he was sent to. A week before the outbreak of the war, end of July, competing against birds of the whole country at the National race in Brussels, Angoulême, he won me 11000 francs, whence his name: the Angoulême. Had I been able to let that bird go on with the races, he would have won me a fortune.

A checqd, cock, with white feather, ring 87/1915, brother of the foregoing, also a beauty.

## II

4) checkd. cock, ring 991/1916, named La Tache, owing to a white feather on the head.

The foregoing are real specimens of long race birds, and, as I tell you, they are not to be beaten in any respect. The four are worth more than 20000 francs, and I have made up my mind to sell them because they would be going abroad.

At any rate, they are simply superb, and I challenge any connoisseur even to try to find any fault with them. They are perfect, and not to be found elsewhere. With such stuff in one's loft, one would immediately be the champion.

And it will be with a heavy heart that I shall part with them.

Here is the choice, and I am now awaiting to hear from you.

Meanwhile, I beg to remain, &c. &c.

(s) R. Gurnay

P.S. I am, it is true, asking some money, but on the other hand, I am supplying extra stuff, and it is far better to pay the price and to be sure to get its worth.

For your guidance, in 1918, our country was under German rule and, as my loft had a great name in Germany, (in 1913, I had supplied the Austrian-Hungarian Government with birds for a big sum of money) over and above all the Staff, Prince Henri of Prussia, brother of their famous Kaiser, called on me and was in ecstasy at the sight of the 4 birds I am offering you.

It is really because of that that we have been able to save the Verviers birds when the General staff took their headquarters at Spa, ten miles from our town.

**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 14th. July 1920

6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. LeeM. F O R D ,

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I am rather surprised not to have received your answer to my previous letter, in which I was making you a proposal in reply to your enquiry for some of my birds.

Did you not get my letter, I wonder?

I have in my loft a yearling cock, bronzed, ringed up with the 1920 National Derby ring band.

That bird has flown nine races and won 8 prizes, amongst which the 1st. on Noyon, 230 Kms. It is an extra racer, and on the top of that, a beautiful bird, that won the first prize at the National Exhibition in Liege last winter, in 400 competitors.

I regard it as a first-class bird, and, should you like to have it, I would let you have it for 200 dollars.

Should you be interested in it, I might also send you the official prize-list for the Noyon race, in which it scored the first prize. As the ring-band numbers are recorded on that list, you would be certain about the bird and its performance.

On the other hand, I should be willing to let you have the 1918 bird which, last season, won the 38th. prize at the National race Angoulême, when I won three prizes, as you know, with the first prize among them.

It also is a most beautiful bird, which has again won five different prizes this season, and I would let you have same for 200 dollars also.

I hope that your birds are doing well this season, and that you are pleased with the breed of those which I sent you.

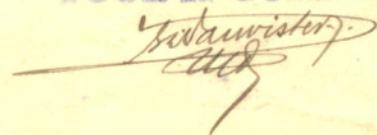
A fortnight ago, I won the 2nd. prize in a Provincial race, Limoges, at a Liege Club, and the bird has won above 50000 francs all told. On the same Sunday, I won five prizes at my club, the first prize among them, and drew a good lump of money too.

For next Sunday, I have sent two birds for the National race Bordeaux, 300 kms, in spite of the great handicap placed upon my birds which have to compete against others that have but 630 kms. to fly. In this hard, dry and appallingly hot weather, they will have some hard work to do.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with kindest regards, I remain,  
Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

ROUR E GURNAY



*The first of the above-mentioned birds  
has the ring band N<sup>o</sup> 1.158.438.*

U. S. A.

Fournitures pour Tailleurs

R. GURNAY

VERVIERS

Spécialité de Satins

Téléphone 1192

Mr. Lee M. FORD

Box 8

*Aug 1920*

*Wagon 1st prize with show  
at large  
and competitors  
Telephone 7*

GREAT FALL  
Montana

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

Doublures imprimées

Spécialité de

Latins laine & coton

Adresse télégraphique:  
Gurnay Verviers

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

R. Gurnay & Co

VERVIERS

le 12 Juillet 1920

29, rue Tranchées

Monsieur L. M. Ford  
Great Falls

Retenant de voyage je trouve votre  
bonheur du 11 et vous me remettant  
un ordre d'un couple choisi de 1910  
pour 150 dollars.

Vain ce que je vais faire et ainsi il  
me semble que vous n'avez pas à  
vous plaindre de mon procédé.

Un lieu d'un couple et un souvenir  
deux c'est-à-dire vous en avez une  
de pigeons de 1919 qui m'ont donc voyagé  
cette année et qui ont été leur maître  
c'est-à-dire que le mâle a été engagé  
3 fois et il s'est classé 6 fois dont  
3 fois en tête la 2<sup>e</sup> fois qu'il a manqué  
s'était par une disette 4 jours après  
le lâcher la moitié des pigeons n'étant pas encore  
repartis et on a dû tirer le restant  
des pigeons au sort le Jeudi. Le Samedi  
donc 3 jours après je le retrouvais en  
pigeonnier. Sur 10 pigeons que j'avais

mis trois seulement sont revenues  
Donc le Lundi Dimanche, le Mardi je  
ferais le 1<sup>er</sup> prix de grosses poules à l'honneur du  
matin et le Mercredi le 2<sup>o</sup> prix à midi.  
c'est donc essayez et dire qui est le meilleur  
cela a été.

Pour le second couple nous commencerons  
les entraînements Lundi prochain  
et je vais en essayez 60 pour faire  
sans les voyages jusqu'à moitié Septembre  
Je vous propose de vous livrer les deux  
qui auront le mieux voyager si méritent.  
tellement ils représentent les types que  
vous aimez et qui certainement sont  
les vrais types de voyageurs.

Ce que j'ai écrit cette année est  
très bonnement superbe en tout cas  
de beaucoup mieux à ceux de  
l'année dernière. Le motif de ce  
changement est que cette année nous  
avons bien nous procurer de la bonne  
nourriture et cela joue un grand rôle  
de ce qui semble à il par que mon idée  
est bonne. Dans le cas où il y en  
aurait qui ne y conviendrait pas.  
dis-moi le moi bien sûr et je  
fais confiance dans votre appréciation  
Alors je y remplacerais ce qui ne  
vous convient pas.

# dans la semaine de cette année

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

Doublures imprimées  
Spécialité de  
Satins laine & coton.

Adresse télégraphique:  
Gurnay-Verriers

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

R. Gurnay & Co

VERVIERS, le

19

29, rue Tranchées

II

Je vois que vous me regardez pres  
à mettre le prix pour avoir du bon  
et j'ai à cœur de vous fournir de façon  
à ce que vous soyez le plus satisfait dans  
votre pays.

Cette année je suis encore le grand  
champion avec une forte avance sur  
le second, (c'est donc assez vous dire)  
car ici le colombophilie est très avancé  
et nous avons à lutter avec de très sérieux  
concurrents. Aussi les prix sont enlevés  
en quelques minutes.

La campagne finie je vous enverrai  
la liste de tous mes résultats.

Faites moi donc savoir si nous sommes  
d'accord et quand je dois vous en faire  
l'envoi.

Donc 1 couple de 1919 qui a voyagé  
dans les meilleures conditions et le couple  
de femelle de cette année qui se distingue  
le mieux pour ses dollars.  
A vous lire revoyez Monsieur Ford mes meilleures  
salutations sportives

R. Gurnay

## Translation

Coming home again after a journey, I find your letter of the 11th. ult. with an order for a pair of 1920 youngsters, a choice one, for 150 dollars.

This is what I intend doing, and I do not think you will have to complain about my way of treating you.

Instead of one pair you will receive two, namely one of 1919 birds which have been racing this year and have done very well. The cock went 7 times on the road and won 6 prizes, three of them well up in the lists.

He missed on the seventh time, ~~having~~ on the fourth day after the birds had been liberated half the prizes had not yet been won and the remnants were drawn at the club on the Thursday. I found him back in the loft on the following Saturday, and that race was a disaster for all the fanciers.

Out of 13 birds that I sent, three only have got back.

With the birds liberated on the Sunday morning, I won all the big pools with a bird homing at 7 a.m. on the Tuesday, and scored another prize on the Wednesday noon. That shows you what a disaster it has been.

For the second pair, we are beginning the training of the youngsters on Monday next, and I am going to try 60 birds for all races up to mid-Sept.

I propose to send you then the two which will have best succeeded in those races, if they represent the type of birds that you like and which certainly are the best racers..

What I have reared this season is simply superb, at any rate far better than last year's breed. The reason of that improvement is that, this year we have been able to get good food, and this has a great deal to do.

Do you not think that my idea is good?

Should any of those birds not suit you, then tell me quite frankly, as I have all confidence in your appreciation. In that case, I shall replace whatever does not suit you.

I notice that you are willing to pay the price for good birds, and I mean to supply you so as to make you the strongest fancier in your country.

This year, I am once again the great champion, with a big start on the next fancier. This certainly means something, as the fancy here is very keen, and we have to compete against very serious competitors. Prizes always get won within a few minutes.

When the season is over, I shall send you the full report of my winnings.

Kindly tell me whether you agree to my proposal with regard to the birds I intend to let you have and tell me when I ought to ship same.

To sum up, one pair of 1919 birds which have raced exceedingly well and one pair of 1920 youngsters which will do best this season for 300 dall.

Awaiting your reply, I am, &C. &C.

(s) R. Gurnay.

The L I E G E G A Z E T T E

21. July 1920.

## National A N G O U L E M E

" Contrarily to what we said in our yesterday's issue, the great official national race at Angouleme will not precisely be a " disaster" as many, on Sunday night, thought it would.

No doubt, certain parts of the country were ill-favoured, where violent storms struck down our little winged racers but a few wing-strokes away from their lofts, and it thus became impossible for such birds to resume their flights.

In the East, the end of the first day was rudely disadvantaged owing to a thick mist, soon followed with a frightful downpour.

It is through sheer miracle, writes a fancier living near the Fagnes ( just south of Verviers), that I had the luck of getting my favourite back again, and in what state...

In the province of Limbourg, on Monday morning, it was impossible to see a hundred meters ahead, so thick was the mist.

Yet, soon the morning turned out better.

The return of the birds from the places where they had not been released on the Sunday was precipitated, for the dark clouds disappeared and the sun came into play to dry our racers.

Were it but to give the world the sight of a race such as no other country could organize, our little Belgium was owing to herself, in this year of disasters, to do better and bigger than anybody else.

The fanciers have understood it, and the great 1920 race was a success. The control of the clocks makes us hope that the race will end early on the morning of the second day.

Many telegraph offices were unable to transmit the telegrams deposited on Sunday evening. Thus, on Monday morning, the telegrams came in at the office of the organizing club thick like rain, and, accordingly, Brussels announced the end of the race at about 8 a.m. But this time will not be reached by far, and many fanciers will thus be disillusioned.

However, our province (Liege) will have the biggest shares of the spoils once again, and we are already in a position to say that the first price will be Mr. Gurnay's, from Verviers, the great triumpher of all times, who thus keeps his title of " King of the Pigeon World" and who will score three prices out of 4 birds timed in, out of 5 birds racing.

Messrs. Gathoye, of Micheroux, and Conrardt, of Esival, have also good timing &C. &C.....

**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 22nd. July 1920

6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

With reference to the contents of my previous letter, I am very glad to let you know that I have won the first price in our National Official Race at Angoulême this last Sunday against 1623 competitors, the very pick of the country.

As you will see by the enclosed translation of a newspaper article, the weather was rather against us, especially here in the east of the country, where, on the top of that, the birds have the longest distance to fly.

I had engaged five birds, and the one that scores the first price flew for all the money that could be staked.

The pigeons were released at 6.55 a.m. on Sunday, the distance from Verviers being 696 kilometers, and I timed the first bird at 4.51 p.m. then another at 6.04 and another again at 6.34.

The fourth bird was timed in at 6.04 a.m. on the next day, the fifth being still missing.

To-day, although the season be rather advanced and the birds needing rest, I have sent two fine dark pigeons to Vierzon, some 500 kilos. again for a national race, and found great hopes on them, weather permitting.

With all kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

**ROSE H. GURNAY**

*Rose H. Gurnay*

Kindly notice that the enclosed article was printed by an ordinary newspaper, not a specialized one for our sport.

*x - she won 1st & 2nd and I bought 1st prize winner*

EUGENE P. CARVER, JR.  
LINDSLY B. SCHELL  
EUGENE P. CARVER  
OF COUNSEL

CARVER & SCHELL  
COUNSELLORS AT LAW  
110 STATE STREET

TELEPHONE  
FORT HILL 1600  
CABLE ADDRESS  
CARWARD

BOSTON July 26, 1920

Mr. L. M. Ford,  
Great Falls,  
Montana.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

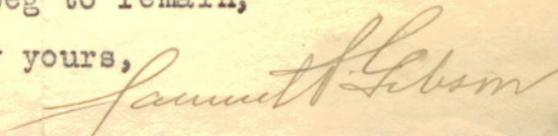
Your several letters were duly received and I have delayed answering for several reasons, one because I sort of put my hands out of commission and have been unable to write and a second because you make reference in your letters to a letter you were to send me from Mr. Gurnay to translate but same has not yet reached me.

You can quite understand that I am in rather a difficult position where we are both writing Mr. Gurnay about the same matter and both so far apart. In a recent letter I had from Mr. Gurnay, he spoke of selecting a 1918 and a 1919 combination for you and I have no doubt they will be from what you desire. Now that you have made your decision I quite agree with you in getting young blood and this is always my advice to my customers as you know. To demonstrate how good birds will be sold, perhaps by owner not really knowing how good they are I might say that the hen of the Specimen pair which I received (1918 hatch) proved to be the mother of a bird that won some £250 for Mr. Gurnay from Orleans on June 20th of this year, so he writes me on the pedigrees which I received for the original 16 birds. They are very short and not as full as some might like them but they indicate that the birds were all from his best stock. I sent him a lot of my blanks asking to have them filled out on all birds he had sent and might send. Yours however have not come to hand as yet and I will see that you get them.

Now as to Mr. Jansens, as you may know he is the President of the Fancy in Belgium. He is a very close friend to Mr. Gigot who absolutely handles what few birds Mr. Jansens disposes of each year (10 to 30) and Mr. Gigot can get almost any price he might ask from them to sell same right in Belgium. Mr. Gigot writes me that no fancier who has obtained Mr. Jansens birds has been unsuccessful. Pedigree will come forward signed by Mr. Jansens and verified by Mr. Gigot. I am sure you will be well pleased with the birds. As I wired I have other birds coming from Mr. Gigot and cabled him so as to have the two pair come forward for you and thus reduce shipping cost. Would appreciate check at your convenience as I shall have to remit to Mr. Gigot.

Thanking you for this order I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,



**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 29th. October 1920

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence, I have much pleasure to inform you that I have sent the two pairs of birds ordered to Mr. Samuel Pl Gibson, and that same are crossing over on the s/s Oakland, which sailed from Antwerp on the 27th. inst.

For your direction, you may mate those birds as you like, for you will see from the pedigrees that there is no near parentship between them, although they all come from my strain.

I am perfectly satisfied that their offspring will be extra, for I have sent you birds which I would not have sold in Belgium at any price, as I would not like to come across them or their descendants in future races in this country.

I am sending the pedigrees along by the same mail, and I feel perfectly certain that you will be well satisfied with these birds, and that they will give you every reason so to be.

I should be delighted to hear from you as soon as, after a short rest given them, you will have been able to form an opinion on those birds, also to know what has become of those I sent you early this year.

With all kindest regards and best wishes, I remain, dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,



P.S. I am sending the bill of expenses along to Mr. Gibson, so as to enable him to establish the pro-rata cost per pair, having sent him a few other birds beside yours.

Re 1920 birds, I am sorry to have to tell you that, owing to the prevalence in our country of a kind of very malignant cattle plague, the neighbouring Governments forbade the entry into their territory of our cattle and even of our birds, by fear of contagion of the disease through the railway-trucks. Thus it happened that our races for youngsters came to an abrupt end, our country being unfortunately too small in size.

# SAMUEL P. GIBSON

✻ IMPORTER ✻

BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A. November 15, 1920

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Just had a letter from Mr. Gurnay stating that he had shipped the birds on the steamer Oakland due Boston any day now. I called up the steamship people but they had not heard from her by wireless up to noon today. Mr. Gurnay writes that he has sent pedigrees direct and that the birds numbers are:-

1919 40730      1920 1158462  
40711  
9533

He writes me he is sending pedigrees of other birds under separate cover and as they have not come to hand am in hopes they will turn up with a letter from Mr. Gigot as well. For I would like to be able to ship all your birds at the same time.

Now answering your favor of November 4th, I give you below a brief outline showing the process under which the present homer was worked out in Belgium:-

Original Birds bred by a combination of strains by Baron Ulen.      ULENS

From him they went principally to the follows:-

VanSchingen  
then to:

Delmotte  
Cremer

Vekemans  
then to:

Soffle  
Vandervelde  
Hansenne  
Ruhl  
Wegge

then to:

Bastin  
Delrez  
Gurnay

and I feel to  
Putnam but have no  
Belgian authority for  
the latter.

Grooters  
then to:

Jurion  
Claes  
Swiggers  
Vanderlinder  
Carpentier

After working out from sale lists, the English R. Pigeon and English H. Pigeon and from what English books I could get, the combinations which produced the best birds in England I came to the conclusion that the above strains pure or combinations of the same were the best. The above tabulation was taken from a Belgian book and confirms my analysis of the English pigeons. Therefore from the standpoint of the fancier who is breeding on blood lines you can see that any of the strains enumerated either pure or in combination one with the other should produce the best

# SAMUEL P. GIBSON

✿ IMPORTER ✿

BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

results. As I understand it you now have Gurnays, Putnams, Hansenne, Verhaegen Soffles and Wegge. Here you have most of the original blood from the 3rd generations we may call it. In the Plentinckx you have Delmotte or Van Schingen blood and if mated with Vendome Wegge probably are pearl eyes. The Hansenne-Wegge and Gurnays run mostly the hazel or dark red eye. Still the two cocks on last shipment to you as I remember it were inclined to the pearl eye. Of course you have both Hansenne and Gurnay's in your loft and compare them but to me most of the Gurnay's I have handled indicate a toning down of some of the Hansenne features and I believe this was done with either, Wegge, Grocter or possibly in the case of the pearl eyes Delmotte. I asked the question but received a rather evasive answer so felt I was a little out of order in asking state secrets about breeding. You speak of another Gurnay cock. Surely with the four you are now to receive it ought to give you a cock to mate with her for part of the season at least. Of course another order increases my commission but I don't like to see a fancier loading up with too many birds, especially of one kind, when he is keeping many others as well. Too many birds is as bad as too few. One gets partial sometimes to a certain kind and overlooks many times the best ones in his loft for this reason, if he is carrying a lot of birds. I did this myself years ago and only found I had some exceptional birds when other fanciers got hold of them.

As you know there are all kinds of arguments on both sides of the breeding ~~the~~ question. I have just been reading over some pedigrees and see that both Mr. Galway and Mr. Gurnay figure they produce their good ones by breeding half brothers and sisters. This you will find outlined in my breeding plan. Now as to Mr. Gits, he must be getting close to 90 years of age and for many years cannot have been able to keep a keen oversight of his birds. Then during the war he lost many of them. Mr. Gigot said he could get birds from Mr. Gigot, who knew personally and esteemed highly, but did not recommend it. Now as to Mr. Gits' breeding. While he introduced new blood in his loft from time to time, it is also a fact that he knew the game from A to Z and in getting new blood he always obtained same from fanciers who bred closely. His soffles came from a cross with birds from Henri Soffle and many of his good ones came from a Wegge cross. There is no question but what the Gits have done wonderful work in England and have crossed with most any other strain with success. If one could run down the facts I feel it would show that it was the original blood in both birds, that nicked rather than the exact combinations of blood in each. As I wrote you before I have some Gits that are as pure- ~~3~~ 4 Gits cocks- as one can get anywhere and whose pedigrees go back to some of the best birds that went to England from Mr. Gits loft. The hens are a combination of Gits & Deridder in other words Gits & Wegge- just the cross Mr. Gits made himself. They are fine birds 1919 hatch and every one was flown 200 as a young bird in England. They have bred me fine youngsters that were in the

*Combination of  
certain*

*or local*

# SAMUEL P. GIBSON

✻ IMPORTER ✻

BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

3

clock and money both for the Traill Lofts and myself in many races this Fall. Further more youngsters bred from them by me and broken to a loft in Cleveland did fine work for Mr. Wellman of that city; one getting 2nd at the 200 and being only beaten by a few yards after sitting out several minutes. They are good and if you feel you want Gits blood- you cannot get it any better than in these birds. The price is \$50.00 per pair as you will see in my advertisement in November's A.R.P.News.

Have not received the particulars of the birds Mr. Gigot is to send me except that they were to be:-

- Delmotte,
- Ulens
- Wegges
- Hansenne
- Grooters

They will be something exceptionally fine I feel sure and from \$100.00 to \$125.00 per pair but do not know for sure as yet.

I am enclosing a translation of the two letters from Mr. Gurnay. They were the best I could do and I am not sure that they are entirely correct on account of the trouble in reading his handwriting.

He writes me that the expense on this shipment will be 310 francs or about \$20.00

The brokerage charges as I have to	6.00	14 birds in
have this work done now will be	2.00	shipment
Tip to butcher on boat	1.00	
Express to Cambridge		

Making a total of \$ 39.00

of which your share will be <sup>2/7</sup>	\$4.00
The charges on last shipment as	\$8.00
Mr. Gurnay wrote you were 275 francs or	16.50
The brokerage charge was	5.00
Expressage and feed	2.00
Tip to Butcher on boat	1.00
My commission 10%	20.00

making a total of \$52.00

for which I would appreciate a check at your convenience.

Now as to your inquiry about buckwheat. It, in my opinion is fine for homers and helps moult and produces good feather. Good barley is also a good winter feed. A little good wheat at times helps also but in your severe climate, it would seem that you would have to feed heavy with good corn, also.

Will write you again when birds arrive.

