

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.

January 14, 1924.....192

Dear Mr. Ford:

As I wired you the birds were late in arriving due to the fact that the steamer was held up seven days in London. The birds however arrived in grand shape and were fine when I shipped them.

Agreeable to your request I went over them carefully but knowing nothing about how any of them were bred I don't know that I can offer a great deal. There were some very nice birds in the lot and some I did not fancy. There were a few, but very few that to my eye look much like Wegges. Some of them were strong in the Van Schingen or Delmotte type, those with the short blocky heads, others looked as if they carry considerable Greater blood and several looked to be either Pure Gurnays or strong in that blood. Some of them were pretty old, which I do not like, and while the two old cocks and the old hen may have been good in their day, to take them to a new country and breed them looks as if who ever gets them will have to be patient with their get for a year or two until they get youth again in the blood.

Of the hens:

235422 Bronze Hen would be my first choice  
904438 " " " " " 2nd "  
1030406 Blue " " " " " 3rd "

25456

2541566 Bronze Hen is a nice one as is also 718723 Blue C. Pied H. and 1030427 Blue hen.

4513013 Light check hen is a very good looking hen and the nearest to my mind to Wegge in type of any. 1009517 Black hen is also on Wegge type.

2409799-2616603-438818-2616611 look as if they came from same loft and are strong on Van Schingen type.

10405 Blue hen 2516033 1088987 and 19828 look to me like a cross of Wegge and Greater.

The others look like either Gurnays or Gurnay crosses and some of them are nice ones.

Of the ~~xxxx~~ cocks 2359-2362-38777-1088988-2629749-718740-2425242 look like birds all from one loft and like some of the hens on Van Schingen type. 8679 is Wegge type and a nice bird to handle but a little weak in eye.

23527 Blue C. Cock -1030421 Blue Cock and 235420 and 2409791 would be my selections in order listed. 904421 the Blue cock with hood is a fine bird except for the hood or topnet. He is a nicely balanced bird with grand feather. He looks like Gurnay to me and if his breedings satisfied me I would not hesitate to try him out a couple of seasons and see what he would give me.

I was at a loss to understand the shipment and really feel that Mr. Gurnay might have at least asked if it was agreeable to me. I do not think they realize

in Belgium what the conditions of the fancy here really are. They think, I suppose, because we have corralled most of the gold of the world, in the past ten years, that American fanciers are in a position to take over anything they wish to send here. They may think that \$100.00 per pair looks small to the fanciers here for a pair of birds, but those that will pay that price are few and far between.

I think it goes without saying that I have given the Gurnay strain a big advertising in this Country and such extensive advertising is expensive. Measured with my commissions on the Gurnay birds I have sold the latter is nothing to what it has cost, but I do feel by keeping birds before the fancy here at a price (minimum) of \$100.00 for Gurnay bred birds, I have accomplished what I set out to do, namely bring up the price of birds all over the country. While I have sold a limited number of pairs at such a price, the fancy in general have been able to get fair prices for the birds they sell.

Mr. Gurnay has been kind enough to send me birds from Mr. Dardennes loft, which proved to be exceptionally good, also from the loft of his partner Mr. Body of Liege at prices much cheaper than his own stock, still I have held to a price of \$50.00 per pair minimum on these and although fine birds I have not been able to place many of my last lot from Mr. Body. Within a week inquiries are coming in and I hope to close them out as I am getting a lot from Mr. DuJardins loft of Antwerp (through Mr. Gurnay). These should be very fine birds as Mr. DuJardin is a very successful fancier and has a good line of birds.

Although I get Belgian papers I never noticed wither the names of Devroye or Demeurent mentioned specially. Undoubtedly they are successful fanciers as Mr. Gurnay says but they would not appeal to me as lofts I would want to bring birds from, certainly not until I know more about them than I do now.

I have seen a copy of your ad that will appear shortly and my only thought regarding these birds is that it would be for the best interests of all not to let the birds go too cheaply. I do not think it is necessary for me to point out that it will tend to hurt the value of Gurnay blood if imported birds of that strain are sold for less than \$50.00 per pair even if they come from lofts other than his. I fear very much unless the situation is properly safeguarded that the fancy may begin to doubt the value of the birds coming from Mr. Gurnay and we would all suffer accordingly.

There is an old adage namely "Too many cooks spoil the broth" and while there has to be a first occurrence before a mistake has been made, I feel that I will be able to show Mr. Gurnay that it would in the end do neither himself or myself any good to repeat a shipment of the kind he made to you. For your part I can see the embarrassment it has caused you and feel sure you do not like the position you have been placed in both from the standpoint of your relations with me and the fact that you would not want the fancy to think you were going to take up the business of selling pigeons. Possibly Mr. Gurnay thought there were a great many fanciers in your section and that when Mr. Van dePutte had selected what birds he wanted you would be able to place the rest locally without any trouble. He may not realize how far you are away from the large centers and how much personal expense in money and birds you have been to just to get a small club started in your City.

My expenses on the two shipments were as follows: Fee to Ships officer for care of birds \$3.00 - expressage steamer to my loft \$3.00 revenue stamp \$.50 wharfage \$.30 feed \$1.00 - customs entry-carg etc, \$5.00 total \$12.80 for which kindly send me checks I imagine you have or will get a statement from Mr. Gurnay of the other expenses which please settle with him direct.

Would be interested to know at what price you are offering the birds and what success you have in placing them.

Sincerely yours,

*James T. Gibson*

Which were the 3 huns from Mr. Gurnay for you?

30) 54.46 (1.81 per bird)  
30 x  
244  
244  
200

12.80  
25.50  
11.16  
5.  
54.46

**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE January 31st. 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Dear Mr. Ford,

I am duly in receipt of your favour for which I am much obliged.

I was glad to have your frank opinion upon the Demeuront and Devroye birds, and although both my old friends are champions in their respective districts, I must agree with you as regards their birds.

But as you have asked me whether I did not know of Wegge birds for a friend of yours, and knowing that the aforesaid fanciers had bred Wegge for years and years, I thought this a splendid opportunity and that is how I ventured to send you their birds.

Indeed, if you look at them after you have examined a team of my best, such as those which you have, they seem to fall into nothingness, and it was also my impression when I saw them; but as I knew what their owners had done with them in the races here for many a long year, I took that resolution not upon the look of the birds but only upon the merits of their doings.

Both fanciers are most honourable persons, and I wish you would get particulars about them from another source. They both are in the seventies and not young fools as one might think, and I am convinced that anyone may deal with them in all security.

In fact, there are in those lots, both too old and too young birds, yet I feel confident that the fanciers who will get them will obtain better results than you may anticipate, if properly handled; anyhow what they have done here may surely be repeated in your country by their off-springs.

I was just telling you above that those birds do not compare with mine, but you may also be certain that the Bastin birds which may possibly have been purchased by Mr. Curtis must be disappointing to him too, the more so after what he got from me. Not that you should run away with the idea that I want to blame the Bastin birds, for as a matter of fact he used to be my most serious competitor here, and still is somehow as far as it goes. Up to 1905, we were great friends, Bastin and I, but at that time I began to become to strong a competitor for his fancy, and thus we had some small discussion, which grew bitter and bitterer, until we reached a climax and ceased to be friends. He even had to leave our club, the Sport Colombophile, of which he was a founder, and join the Fédération Colombophile, another local club much less important.

Since almost twenty years, we thus are anything but friends, but since then, apart one, seldom two races in a season when he has been successful, his birds have done nothing compared to what mine have done.

When I wrote to you about the last birds sold to you, I also wrote to Mr. Gibson, and I even had him sent from here two new clocks, one of which should have been forwarded to you for examination. I know that he got both clocks and forty baskets which I had made here for him at the end of September, but since then I have had no letter, and no money for my baskets either. I wonder whether you got one clock, but at all events I cannot admit that way of treating me and I consider that if I bother over having baskets made for him, and also bother about shipping them and paying for them, he should have paid that account long since. That is not

for you, of which you would surely be pleased. It would be very important to me as it would help me make a crossing with my own pure strain off birds bred abroad.

You may rely upon it that you have in hand the best and most beautiful strain that exists in the world to-day, and I dare say so without conceit, for it is the result of 40 years' work and I can assure you that I am very proud of what I have been able to achieve.

I enclose a sale notice where you will see what people say of my strain. There is practically no day that passes without my refusing the offers of newspapers' directors who offer to advertise my loft against a commission on my sales. The best advrt. is the results of my racings, and it has been going on thus for the last 30 years without failing once.

Re mistakes in the pedigrees, I am sorry that it did occur, but it all happened through the interference of a fellow who was the loft-man for me about the end of the war and after, and who I had to dismiss owing to his wrong-doings in my lofts, and also in my record-books which he mixed up so as to make me lose the breeding records. As you know, we do not bother here over pedigrees, and I have none for any of my birds, but in spite of that, as I could not be in the loft as often as I liked at that time, I had that man keeping records of what was going on.....

Well, I wish you could have a look at his books, both the draft book and what purported to be a definite record. It is a shame.

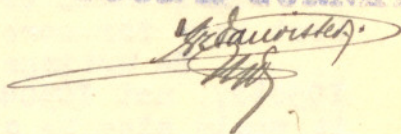
Owing to all that, there was a mistake made when Fred Shaw got the records about Petit Vierzon. Your pedigree is the exact one, and the ascendancy of 40730-19 is the same as that of 40779.

I have made a correction on the enclosed copy, as I had no blanks which I could fill, but if you will kindly send me a few, I shall send you a corrected pedigree for 40730 (that of 40779 being correct) and also for the three last sent birds, for which I give you herein a copy on special sheet of paper.

I trust that this will be all right now, and trusting to hear from you ere long, I beg to remain, dear Mr. Ford, with all good wishes for the next season,

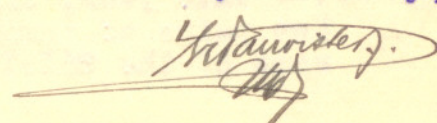
Yours most sincerely,

ROBE E. GURNAY



P.S. The writer wants to tell you, Mr. Ford, that Mr. Gurnay is most unable to keep records in his lofts, as he is far too "cock-sure" of his memory, and too nervous about book-keeping in any shape or form. We have been trying to have him do so, and got books ready for him, which were the simplest things to do, but he attends to the book for two or three days when the breeding season begins, and then throws it away and will not go on "bothering" with that any longer, as he says. He is most incorrigible in that matter. However, I personally went through what are his records about the Fred, Vierzon and 40730, and may assure you that the Vierzon pedigree which you have is absolutely true, and that 40730's should be corrected so as to be like that of Vierzon's

Yours very sincerely,



\* those of the Belzee, who used to be his loft-man  
 (and a "rotter" on the top of it. -

# SAMUEL P. GIBSON

✿ IMPORTER ✿

BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

197 Lakeview Avenue,  
Cambridge, Mass.  
February 11, 1924

Dear Mr. Ford:

I have delayed answering your last letter to see what demand might arise for birds but so far as I am concerned the inquiries are few and far between and as I still have many of the Body birds as well as a lot of the last shipment from Mr. Dujardin, and about 100 birds too many of my own breeding, you can see I cannot very well take on these birds sent you.

I hope that your advertisement will enable you to get them off your hands without delay as it is a nuisance I know to have a lot of birds hanging around that one dont want.

In the lot were some fine birds but candidly there were some I would not give a nickel for. Still one may make a mistake in the good ones.

Would appreciate a check at your convenience for the Boston expenses on last shipment.

Very truly yours,

*Samuel P. Gibson*

R. GURNAY  
FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS  
VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

Febr. 20<sup>th</sup> 1924

Dear Mr Ford,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favour enclosing cheque for Frs. 8993—, equivalent of \$360— as price of the three last-sent birds, remittance for which I thank you most sincerely.

With regards to the birds of my two friends, just do as you like in order to dispose of them; I have arranged that with my friends, but, at the price quoted & seeing the rate of exchange as it stands to-day, no buyer could have to regret purchasing those birds at such a low figure.

Evidently, if you place those pigeons near to mine, there is a visible difference, but it is more striking still when you compare the price quoted for them to what you have paid for my own birds! You have had the very pick of my strain & of course it will pay to have secured the very best obtainable, as you have done; the best proof I could have given you was my proposal to exchange two pairs this season which I made in my previous letter.

With the birds you have had since 1920, you would be in this country my most serious competitor, but had you been in Belgium you would have had none of those birds, at any price.

I am mating my birds just now, and I believe, if nothing untoward happen, I have a score or so racers who will make fanciers run this next season! As for you, I could bet

VERVIERS, LE  
de Rue aux Laines  
R. GURNAY  
FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS  
VERVIERS  
TELEPHONE 1193  
Compte Courant Postaux 0985

you are by far the best-equipped fancier in the whole of the U. S. A.

Re. Mr. Gibbon. I am without a word from him since the beginning of October 23. & all my letters remain unanswered, while he surely gets them, for otherwise they would be returned. They all are sent to Boston

110. State Street  
Room 603

which is no doubt his correct address.

I cannot understand his ways & have written him a few days ago that I couldn't let him continue acting as my agent for the States.

Now, as he owes me a certain sum still (this in confidence) could you not tell me how he is situated as regards solvency & how I could make him pay?

Ever so many thanks beforehand, & believe me, with all best wishes for the next season

Yours most sincerely

POUR R. GURNAY

*W. G. Gurnay*

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

26<sup>th</sup> February 1924

Mr. Lee H. Ford

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

I have received to-day both your favours dated 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> inst.

To the former, I can but say that you did not in the least hurt my feelings, for I had seen the birds before I shipped them & I knew that you would change your mind when they could show themselves fully to their advantage. Moreover, it was your candid opinion which you gave me, & I am always glad to hear exactly my friends' points of view.

I had done that for the best, thinking to do well & in order to supply racy birds at a cheap price to your friends, but nevertheless, when I had read your previous letter, I decided never again to do such a thing, except on request & only for intimate friends. All the same, it comforts me to know that you have now a better opinion of those birds. I am feeling sure that you will be able to dispose of them easily.

Of course, nobody could dream of comparing them to the birds you got from me .... but no one would compare the prices either! I have been working at my strain for 35 years now & that is no easy task to obtain both beauty & capability in a strain; you will realize that in time.

As for those who say that my birds will do better "crossed" than



"pure," I'll ask you as a personal favour not to listen to what they say & to let them carry on as best they like. As for you, you will best help yourself & me by making no crossing whatever, unless you come to the conclusion that the breeding degenerates. Then, & only then, should you partially cross; that is what I have done several times with the best available strains, but up to now I have been forced to come back to my own strain, pure absolutely.

You will probably have read in the Squills' diary an advert. by a Belgian acquaintance settled in Bradford re selling Body birds. He said in that advert. that our best birds (Body's & mine) had been crossed. It is a great mistake, due to his very imperfect knowledge of English; I wrote to him about that misleading statement & he acknowledge that it was a mistake; what he meant was that Body & I were great friends & that Body's lofts consisted almost of pure Gurneys.

Therefore, it is useless for you to think of taking up Body's for crossing purposes; they are of the same strain & you have much better birds than he.

However, should you wish to try, you may have all possible particulars about those birds, but I can tell you candidly that that lot consists of his "Surplus" which were sold in bulk so as to get rid of them & all for the same price.

There may be good birds among them, but seeing what you usually get - they are not up to the kind you want.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

2

I could not help smiling when I read in your letter that you were having warm weather on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. Here, it has now been showing most heavily for three whole days & I do not remember such a heavy snowfall at this time of the year ever since 50 years.

Thinking that spring would soon come, I started mating on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. but it was a mistake & I should have waited a little while. Yet, 15 miles away from here, people have seen not a flake of snow!

We begin our races on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 145 miles. & as you begin one month later you are right to wait till March 15/20 for your matings. & you should let each pair rear a youngster.

As soon as they have 4-5 days' eggs, you make them exercise over the loft, morning & evening for 15 minutes for a start, increasing daily by 5 minutes twice until you reach the maximum of one hour morn. & even. (thus 2 hours per day.)

That is exactly what I do, & we have the same race programme as you have. For all distances that preparatory work is necessary.

When the youngsters are a fortnight old, I take the hen away & let the cock rear the youngster by himself. The cocks are allowed to have a look (and only a look) for one or two minutes at their hens before being sent off for the race & in the basket. When they come back after the race, I let the pair together 30 to 60 minutes. Thus the cocks fly alone each day morn. & evening; beside that they are kept in their

loft by themselves the whole day & night, without hens.

I cannot enough advise you to try that system in one separate loft & you would see that you would obtain the best speed & would not change the system after you had experienced it. Contrarily to what you think, that would give you less work & take up less time than your own system which is excellent, but only for hens racing with eggs of 8 to 18 days, or youngsters of 4-5 days. —

My system is good for cocks only —

Every time you drive your birds out for exercise, just haul up a flag or some kind of scare over the loft & leave it there for the time you want them to fly. They will keep flying until you remove that strange thing.

Feeling confident that you would make the other fanciers run if you started my system, I do insist on that point, at least with part of your team as a trial, especially with yearlings, for I am sure you would attain marvellous successes as it is with yearlings handled that way that I have always done best. The one drawback is fog, for in that case, as they run blindly in the thick of it, they are liable of getting lost, but in bright weather they are there, the more so against a head-wind.

Thus as far as 467 miles, for once you attempt such races as that of more than 900 miles, there are other points that must not be overlooked:

You just pair the birds intended for such long races as you

## R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

pair the others, but not allow them to rear any youngsters. You let them sit on their first eggs (not eggs evidently) & when they abandon them, you take their hen away. Forty days before sending them away to the race, you give them their mate back & thus the racers will have youngsters of 8 to 10 days. Then, if you see he starts driving again, take the hen away & send the cock to the race without having seen her at the time of basketing. Thus he will race under the impression that he must come back in order to rear his offspring. —

The second system is the same, but you take the hen away only after the cock has been driving and you know that she is about to lay her first egg.

If you follow my instructions, & of course given a normal race, you must win it with an advance on the second bird. —

For shorter races, you should not kill the youngsters, but just let things follow their natural course, & have also the hens racing as I tell you before.

For long distances, do not overwork the birds too young; up to two-years of age, they may go to 467 miles, the older ones going to longer distances.

You do right to divide your racers in two teams working alternately; never put all one's eggs in the same basket, lest a disaster occur.

Experienced birds needn't have much training & I contend that, once they have flown 130 to 190 miles & that they are quite fit, they may race 300 & more miles. Distance doesn't count.

For fast races, it just is the opposite: the most possible training, even if it were but 7 to 10 miles as often as possible. If, a fortnight before the open fast races which you mention, you could take them every other day at least to some short distance & toss them individually from 5 to 5 minutes it would be ideal: it teaches them to return alone & choose their way by themselves, not going with the crowd.

In England, my birds are acknowledged as being unbeatable, especially up to 300 miles. Shaw has been challenging the fancy all this winter but not a fancier dare to take up the challenge as it was laid down.

You asked me birds best fitted for long races, but you may rely upon it that, well handled, you may have them do anything & make you the champion at all distances.

Further, I am quite at your disposal for any particulars you might wish to know.

By same mail, I am posting the cover of a French paper & you will see what the front page says of my birds. Also Shaw's list with photos.

Gibson, Curtis will have to do without my birds.

Could you let me have another correspondent in Boston or New-York to whom birds sent to you could be addressed. Without someone on the coast, we may be prevented from sending you birds with a fair chance of

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

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VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

being taken proper care of when landing. —

The name of Mr Gurnay is pronounced with the same accent on both syllables: thus:

G: hard - as in glass.

u: no sound like that in English - just the ordinary french u - or ü as in über in German -

r: sounded - not muffled.

nay: same as bay in English.

With kindest regards & all best wishes for the racing season.

Yours most sincerely,  
 R. GURNAY  
 H. Bauwister.

# SAMUEL P. GIBSON

✿ IMPORTER ✿

BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

Please reply to  
197 Lakeview Avenue, Cambridge, Mass.  
February 26, 1924

Dear Mr. Ford:

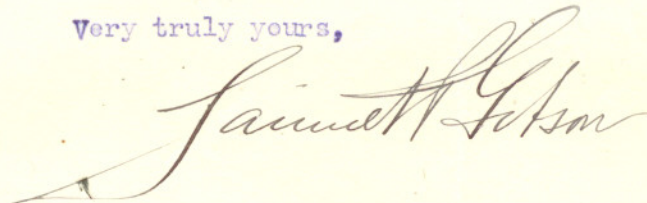
Thanks for letter enclosing check.

Some time ago Mr. Gurnay had the makers of the Phenix clock send me five of these clocks and suggested that I get in touch with the manufacturers as to an agency here. I did so and received a proposition to the effect that if I would finance them with a prepaid order for 500 clocks before a certain date, they would do me the favor of charging me more for the clocks than they were advertised to retail for in Belgium, and gave me a 30 day time limit to accept in.

Belgian fanciers and manufacturers must have a crazy idea of the fancy in America and little real idea of the vast size of the United States. Needless to say that I am not going to bother much with these clocks but out of courtesy to Mr. Gurnay ran an advertisement, also so that I could dispose of the five which I have had the pleasure of paying duty on.

Mr. Gurnay suggested that I send one to you, and believe I mentioned it is a former letter but hesitated to do so until I knew whether you wanted to see it or not. I enclose booklet on same and if you wish me to I will send one of the clocks along to you.

Very truly yours,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE

61, Rue aux Laines

March 24<sup>th</sup> 1924

My dear Mr. Ford,

Over so many thanks for your most kind letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. enclosing cheques for Frs. 8350.- & Frs. 610.- in full settlement of account.

It was my mistake about the former draft, as I do not know what the rate was when you sent it. We follow the rate of the £ stg. but not so closely that of the dollar, as our trade is with the U.K. Please excuse.

I trust that you will soon be able to dispose of the birds sent to you, for the price is really low, & anyone may quite well enquire about both Mr. Scroye & de Seneurant. They are at the head of the fancy in their respective districts & the strains which have been the foundations of their lofts are well known all the world over.

Herein a photo of Mr. Scroye sitting in front of his lofts.

Mr. Gibson, he has written a long letter of complaints, as he has been hard up & unable to settle his ac. with me, but if he does not settle same in the very near future I shall have to cease dealing with him, & in that case it will be on you that I shall call first to represent me in the States.

I know now that Mr. Curtis purchased the Batten birds: one pair of old birds & 5 pairs of youngsters for \$2000<sup>00</sup>— & it is a pity that you do not live in his district so as to compete against him. You might have challenged him



for large sums of money, for your own account & mine, & should have been having a few happy days over his defeats!

I don't suppose you know any fancier living anywhere near him whom you could fix up with good birds for that purpose.

Mr. Curtis, because he is a millionaire, wanted me to let him have my first choice & to submit to his decrees!

Not likely!! You have stepped in first & I was glad to have a real fancier & a straightforward man to deal with, who made my strain known in your country, & you will retain that 1st. position as long as you care to.

If Curtis ever thought that his big outlay of money was going to be an advertisement, he will soon learn to deplore the sale of his Tournays. I play with Bastin here as a cat with a mouse, - & that was the origin of our enmity.

I was delighted to have your fine report about the two last-cent hens & trust they will carry on & live up to their mates.

Thanks for the two nice photos enclosed in your letter, I was glad to have a look at La Cache again. Herein two other photos from my friend Mr. Shaw.

You're right to send the three old birds to the long race; those slow birds often show their mettle in such cases but never risk a good bird beyond 500/550 miles, for they have too many enemies to deal with en route.

Yours most sincerely

ROBT R. GURNAY

*Robt R. Gurnay*

**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 16 April 1924

6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. LEE M. FORD

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour dated 12. and 17. March. for which I must thank you very sincerely and I very much appreciate the particulars you give me confidentially re Mr. Gibson.

Your opinion about him rather fits in with mine, but what he owes me is not for birds he got from me, but mainly for baskets which he had me ordering here for him, and for birds from friends which I purchased on his account, and paid for.

The last transaction was an order for 20 pairs from an Antwerp friend which he ordered by cable, saying that he was cabling also the money.....

He has had the birds now for three months, but the money has never been forthcoming.

As the seller would not send the birds off before he had the money I had to go myself to Antwerp and settle matters there so as to have the 20 pairs shipped. Thus, two days lost, plus travelling expenses and so forth, plus my money laid down with the risk involved.

Moreover, I had him sent four clocks, one of which was to be sent to you, as I wrote you about it last year. I do not know that he ever sent you one, but the first and last I heard about it was a few days ago when he made up his mind to say that they came badly broken and all kinds of petty excuses.

I had done all that in order to secure good business for him. That clock is a new make, whose maker is a friend of mine, and whose agency for America I attempted to secure for Gibson.

That is the way he rewards me, for he never sold many of my birds, barring one pair to Curtis.

As you suggest, it is quite possible that he breed from any strain and sell the youngsters as Gurnays, for he himself never purchased any but two or three which he kept from my first shipment to the States, which birds were badly hurt and picked during the journey, so he said.

As I already had that on my mind some time ago, it was my reason for requesting you to have it inserted in your leading fancy-paper that I could not be responsible for the birds that were sold as Gurnays without my authority. That is manifestly a fraud, and that does an enormous harm to my reputation and that of my strain of birds.

Well, I am expecting an answer from Gibson any day now, and as soon as he has settled his a/c. I shall look into the matter of my agency in your country and you will be first on the list, as I know full well that my interests would not be in better hands than yours, as well as those of the fancy at large.

Re my system for racing, I enclose a photo of my loft in order to make explanations clearer.

Loft 1 is for hens separated from their mates

2 is grain room

Loft 3 is for 16 cocks (racers) alone  
 4 " " " " " "  
 5 is for 25 pairs of good breeders  
 6 is for the season's youngsters

As you may see, the hens are far away enough so as to prevent the cocks hear their cooing, as far as possible..

Quite naturally, it will happen that, after 5 or 6 weeks, some of the hens will pair together and lay eggs. That is the drawback, for after that, when you put such hen in the presence of her cock she does not take any notice of him, and that is what is bad. The best then is to get hold of another hen, similar in colour if possible and very ~~amorous~~ amorous, so as to excite the cock before basketing him for the race.

As soon as you notice hens ~~having~~ laid when separated from their cocks, take the eggs away and never let them sit.

Before basketing the cocks intended for the day's race, you force him fly out and while he or they are exercising, you put the hens into the nest-boxes, shutting them in if possible with bob-wire that let the bird in and not out. When the cock comes in after his exercise, he sees his hen and at once gets into the nest-box, cuddles her and then squats in the scale cooing. When the hen is well amorous, she jumps on him and also cuddles him on the head. You let them do this some 3 to 5 minutes and then take the cock and put him in the basket, ready to go, but be careful to let him have a last look at his hen so as to be sure that she is in the nest-box.

You would be surprised to see their speed when coming back from the race, and unless untoward incidents happen, you will never have a bird so trained losing time over the loft when racing back, but he will drop in like a stone.

That system you may use for all races up to 500 miles.

For longer races, I prefer cocks racing with a youngster 10 to 12 days old, and if it is a hen, she should have eggs 12 to 13 days' old or young 4 to 5 days' old.

In all cases, it laways is good to feed them during the racing season small grains, such as hemp and red rape.

Not forget that, barring one hour's flying morning and evening, your cocks should be kept indoors all the time.

It is well to let the hens out now and again, but then the cocks should not be allowed to see them and for that purpose the shutter ought to be down when the hens are flying. When the cocks are away for the race of course you may allow the hens to be free.

I do not think you understood my last letter, as I meant to say that I allowed the cocks, once mated, to breed their first youngster up to 20 days of age, then only taking their hen away. The system is as good and perhaps better if you separate the pair after 8 days' sitting, but in that case you have no offspring from those racers so treated. For ten years, I have so treated loft number 3, separating the birds after 8 days' sitting. In loft 4, I let the parents breed the first breed up to 20 days then only taking the hens away. As I have done as well each year with loft number 3 as with number 4, I have made up my mind this season to breed in both lofts, applying the system of loft 4 in previous seasons.

No doubt, with that system, you will have some birds which, after a certain time, will not keep up their vim, but I do think that this depends much on the strain, for mine get used to it wonderfully well.

Thus, if you try it, do not alarm yourself if the cocks look less lively than usually, and carry on without discouragement. By the middle of the season and for the and there will be prizes but for you. It is a double-edged weapon, to be sure, but when one knows it well, it is the very best one.

For the moult, I shall tell you what to do when the racing season is over; do remind me of that in due course.

And if there be anything you do not understand, never fear to ask me, as I am anxious to fit you for victories unknown in your country up to the present.

Feeding should consist of one ounce of food per bird per day, divided in two meals, one after each exercise, morning and afternoon.

Those exercises should start with 20 minutes and gradually increase the time up to 60 minutes both morn. and afternoon.

Stimulating seeds, as you say, must be given during the racing season and possibly the birds badly come out of a night's outing in poor weather, but that does happen to all birds, when they happen not to end their career in the stomach of a hawk, or of a cat.... That is the bad part of long races, but what can be done as long as some fanciers want that useless kind of performance out of birds that are not fitted for it? and cannot put up a fight against their natural enemies?

I duly got your cable re tares, which is the base of pigeon feeding here in all seasons. It always predominates in the mixture given out to our birds. Of course, I have cancelled the order.

Re Demeuront and Devroye-s birds, I am glad to hear that you have been able to dispose of them all, and feel absolutely confident that the purchasers will be pleased with them.

About pedigrees, this is absolutely unknown in this country for pigeon fanciers, but I shall ask both my friends if they can make out some

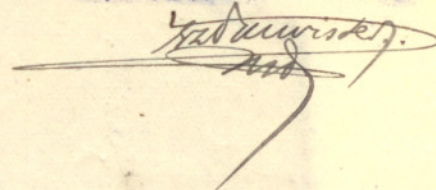
Even for me, it is a deuce of a job to put down records, so unusual is it for us so to do.

We always go by the birds themselves and their performances, and not by pedigrees, saying that good parents may have poor children and vice-versa. That happens always with birds and all animals too.

With kindest regards, and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

R. GURNAY



P.S. We are experiencing the vilest weather possible, and to-day one could not recognize one at a distance of 10 paces for the snow that is falling. Training of birds has been exceedingly poor, and we are beginning the races in a fortnight.....

Melrose, Mass. April 26, 1924.

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

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Yours of the 21 st. received this morning and have noted fully the questions you ask.

I can purchase you here some mighty good small Argentine Corn that is the best I have ever had. The price is \$ 3.30 per cwt. and if you wish I can purchase your requirements and have it sent via freight to you at once in double bags.

It would seem to me that if your birds fly so long during the winter days that they need little to get them in shape for the races outside a few tosses. I have yet to see birds in the East or Middle West fly over a half hour during the winter months if one can get them to fly that long. My birds during the winter months only are put out on good days and at times they are in the loft a week at a time due to the weather conditions. I never start on my birds to get them in shape for the races over 15 or 20 days before first race and always manage to have them rounding into condition when the first race is flown. Some of the most successful Belgium flyers take their traps off in the winter and keep their birds locked up all winter yet they fly and win races when the season starts.

It does not necessitate a lot of work to get ones birds into condition for the races. Birds that have an open hole in the A.M. when work is started on them round themselves into condition. I know many successful flyers that never flag or chase their birds or even fly them around the loft at all only as they wish. We all work out our own systems and I know from my past early experience that what is fine for one another cannot dare to attempt.

I find that the Gurnay birds have no more vim or vitality than the average racing pigeon. They are large which means of course it takes a lot of work on them to round into condition and as you have all Gurnays think I would try out his system at least on part of my birds and you can then prove which is most adapted to your climate there. If they work better with a lot of work around loft give it to them by all means. But I fear I could never be as successful as I am if I flew my birds around loft an hour morning and night. I watch my birds very closely during the racing season and if they are not in shape;- that is if fat they get tosses on the road twice a week 10 miles out in direct direction of first race point. If they are getting to fine I ease up on them until they suit me.

Now as to the Widowhood system. If a man could be with his birds all the time or have a loft manager it could be very successfully worked out I think by working it on a few select birds. I always try to work nearest to natural things and know that if a bird is contented in mind at home one can give him the incentive to HOME FAST. There are many fellows here that play tricks with their hens or cocks by taking one away the day of shipment and placing it back for a few minutes before basketing and at times they get the bird on edge by this but I really think it disturbs them.

I think if one could have certain birds with a four weeks old youngster and sitting on eggs ten days for the long races it would work out on most birds both cocks and hens. I do think cocks fly best to big squeekers and hens ten days on eggs, but when you average it on the whole loft of birds it has proven to me that ten days on eggs works best as a whole. A bird with squeekers in nest 5 to 10 days old is heavy feeding and would not dare to bank on this bird on the 400 or 500 mile race. At this time of writing my birds are with squeekers ten to fourteen days old and I know they do not feel or look

like they do when they are sitting on Eggs. I have mated some of my best cocks to stock hens this year so I could always have the mate at home and am going to let a certain few have big squeekers on the 500 mile race., I think it is really with the bird itself. One must find out under what home conditions they fly best to and then always have them this way.

My system might not be adaptable to you there, but it has to be for me as I am away on road generally all week at this time of year. Birds with squeekers in nest have to be fed a certain way, that is, allowed to feed fully then go to nest and feed it off and then fed again til they have enough. I have no loft manager here and as my business takes me away the greater part of week must do things the easiest way. The young man I have to clean daily I would not let handle my birds, but my wife flys them A.M. and P.M. and feeds them by hand and when I get back Friday I have that day and Saturday to carefully go over them and pick out my prospects for each race. I do know that birds with eggs are easily conditioned than birds with squeekers and are more easily kept in the pink of condition.

I meant to say in my letter that I have them flown 20 minutes in morning and 30 minutes at night.

I at times give my birds twice during week tosses from 10 to 15 miles on road if they do not suit me but pick only clear days when the wind is with them or no wind at all. I can usually tell how my birds work around loft whether they are fit or not. Then when I am ready to basket I go up in loft and walk them around and can tell by their actions which are fit. I select my prospects then go over them carefully eliminating those that do not handle as I want. I like a bird that can look his condition right out of his eyes., so speaking.

Do you know that the winning cross that Gurnay made was the D'jurdon birds. Mons. Gurnay recently send Gibson about 12 pairs of these birds to sell and Mr. A. Heuvelmans the Plasschaert Clock man from Brooklyn, N.Y. was here last week and gave me this information. Heuvelmans visited Gurnay's city last summer and personally knows a neighbor of Mr. Gurnay who gave him this information.

Gurnay does have Red Ch. and Mealties as a friend of mine Mr. W.G. Means purchased a red ch. handsome cock a few years ago and this bird bred this color. Then I know that father of my 9910.- " # 146 " was a mealy and his father was Gurnays so called " Famous Mealy ".

Now as to flying your birds. I would take half of my cocks and fly them along Gurnays system and take the other half and fly them with 10 day eggs and a four week old youngster. This will soon tell you which is best for you there. I know Gurnay does not fly his hens and strange to say my cocks are what I term 50 % better than my hens,-that is my racing birds. I have many good proven racing cocks, but I could pick out of my 10 or 12 racing hens what I term 3 good ones. Why I do not know, but it may be I expect to much of my birds the first year. All my birds go to the 500 mile races, if in condition and they get tested in full. This to some may seem wrong but I can truthfully say that my best racing birds have flown 300 miles as squeekers and 500 miles as yearlings and to me my system of flying yearlings has proven right.

I expect to have more time with my birds next year and am going to cut my birds down to 20 or 30 birds and then I may try out two different systems to see which is best. I do know that on fast days I <sup>AM</sup> not in the first 10

--days where the verlocity is from 1,500 to 1,800 yds. But when the races are hard say 900 yds. or less I can always count on my birds being at top.

I do think my birds and I are better at 300 miles and beyond. I am usually in the running on the shorter races,- as I want to hold my average, but from 300 miles out my birds seem to always deliver the goods. That is the main reason I added the Serventi Delmottes to my loft., to get their blood. I know those birds have reproduced race winner from 100 to 300 miles and felt if I could get this combination working for me on the shorter races it would even up more to a better average.

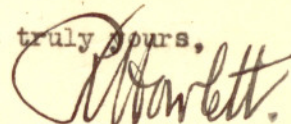
I do love my Gurnay birds and they are beautiful in every way. The third and fourth generation of Pures I am flying this year may fool me as they are acting fine to date with the races two Sundays off, but I am going to watch them real close, so that I will not give them more than they can stand.

I wish it were possible for you to get in touch with Mr. A. Heuvelmans, 221 Webster Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. as he could probably tell you or rather write you imformation about the Gurnay birds that you would like to know.

I am glad that Mr. Gurnay and Gibson will get together again. Mr. Gibson who is lame and cannot go to business is one of the best fellows in the world and needs all the help Gurnay or I can give him. I have always been the main one here to help him place these birds with no thought of any recompense, and he will no doubt take care of his debt to Gurnay when he gets on his feet. Gibson has done a lot for Gurnay in America placing the price of his birds on a higher sale basis than any other birds were ever sold here. If the Pure bred Gurnays would only work for me there would be no better booster for this blood in America, but until they have proven themselves, as well as my other blood,- I will still be one who is on the fence. You have the finest collection of Gurnays in America,- probably outside Gurnay's own loft and they should under all conditions prove their value to you. You probably know that Gurnay recommends Dardenne birds as a cross for his and can say that this blood with me are 100 % even when flown Pure. I recently sold 10 pair for Gibson to Mr. Fitz a friend of mine in Wakefield, Mass. who has all my blood. Gurnay got the birds for us. If I were you I would get Mr. Gurnay to get from his friend Dardenne 10 birds and I really think that if you flew these against your Gurnays they would surprise you very much.

If through a general run of my letters you can not get the information you desire will you kindly get me a list of questions to answer on each subject that you feel I can assist you. I can then devote time to answering each one so that you can get the full imformation you desire.

Very truly yours,



N.B. I am Mr. Heuvelmans agent for the Plasschaert new 12 bird timer \$ 60.00 If any of your club members need any would be glad to ship them on. Have them here in stock so can get them to you quickly.

R.W.H.

**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE April 30th. 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. FORD

Great Falls

Dear Friend,

I duly received your letters dated March 27 and April 2. and was about to reply to both when I got that of the 12th. inst. and I must thank you for all, and especially for the particulars about Gibson.

As I now can see, that man is likely to have used me in a very improper way, so as to make money out of what he got through me, which money he is not willing or not able now to refund.

I enclose herewith a statement of his account with me, and as you will see, all the items were either birds or baskets from other people which I secured for him so as to help him make some money, while he sold none of my own birds.

If you can see your way towards making him pay that amount, I shall be exceedingly obliged to you, and you may be sure that that service will not be forgotten.

All the while that man has been advertising and probably selling so-called Gurnay birds and the stuff he has supplied the fanciers with is very likely to injure my reputation in your country.

Bearing all that in mind, I shall have nothing further to do with him and henceforward I shall sell no birds in your country except through you.

In my last letter I gave you some more particulars about my racing system, and although I believe you will have certain difficulties for putting it into operation this season, you must bear it in mind for next year, and meanwhile I remain ~~entirely~~ entirely at your disposal for all further explanations which you may wish to have.

You ask me about my feeding system for the youngsters: here it is: 50% tares; 20% wheat; and 10% each of linseed, beans or maple beans and colza (the latter is a small seed same as rape but black)

That mixture is to be given freely, the youngsters being allowed to eat what they need.

Now, what would you think of a holiday spent in our country, along with Mrs. Ford? I should be immensely delighted to open you my home for as much time as you could afford to spend with us, and you would thus be able to learn on the spot as much as possible, beside seeing a very nice country indeed; for we live here in the most beautiful part of Belgium, quite near Spa which is known all the world over. I could show you all the country, taking trip in my car, and fill up the gaps by showing you all about the birds. Do think it over, as perhaps the London exhibition may be an opportunity for you to cross over to the old world.

I have had the good fortune to find in old archives a very ancient method, which no longer exist, and which will show you more in a few printed lines than I could explain about the conformation of birds. You will see the drawing that will show you how a bird should be built, also all sorts of particulars which are all good. You may keep that booklet and I daresay you will have someone to translate it for you; otherwise send it back and the writer shall try to translate it for you.



R. GURNAY

(Suite) to Mr. Lee M. Ford

30/4/24

Re your friend's demand for Bricoux' birds, I may tell you that that Mr. Bricoux has been trying hard to get in touch with me and to get some of my birds. He has even requested friends of mine to invite him and me to evening parties, so as to have an opportunity of meeting me, but I have always avoided those parties. Perhaps have I been wrong, but that man is a friend of two fellows whom I cannot stand; and consequently I do not care for his friendship either.

However, if it can please your friend, I may try and have some of his birds through good friends of his and mine, who will be pleased to do that for me, and you just should request your friend to tell you what he wants and what price he is willing to pay.

We have started the racing season last Sunday week, and for the first race, 57 miles, I win 5 prizes with five birds racing, and two prizes in the big pools.

Last Sunday, in great South-wind, at a speed of 2030 yards per minute I win 10 prizes with 32 birds racing, among which the first two prizes of big pools, and all pools in 20 ~~xxxxxxx~~ doublings. Distance 146 miles; 1750 birds competing.

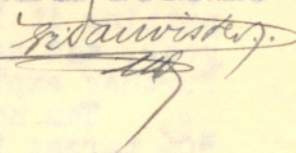
But in such weather, one cannot judge birds as they all come together, and it is but a matter of dropping fast in the loft and of getting hold of them and timing them in as swiftly as possible. There were 350 prizes, as you will see by the race list which I send to-day under separate cover, with the booklet above-mentioned, also the season agenda of our club with the regulations and all the programme of training and races.

I am also delighted to join my photo as demanded; now may I in turn request the same favour from you, as I should be delighted to have a photo of you in anticipation of your own person. Many thanks beforehand.

With kindest regards and all good wishes for the season, I remain,  
dear Friend,

Yours most sincerely,

ROUR E GURNAY



P.S. Is the address P.O. Box 8 still correct? for I see that your bank's address is P.O. Box 1742

**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURÉS POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 30th. April 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Samuël P. Gibson's account unpaid:

Dardenne birds: 15 birds at frs. 175	2625.-	
received on account.....	<u>2000</u>	
Balance owing	625	625.-
Dujardin birds: 22 pairs at 175		3850.-
freight on same		440.-
cares on board ship		50.10
consular invoice		57.50
Freight on Dardenne and Body birds		909.10
carriage to Antwerp on same		43.50
Cables		25.50
Consular invoice		54.50
Baskets		360.-
Baskets: 12 at frs. 28-		336.-
12 at " 49		588.-
12 at " 70		840.-
carriage to Antwerp		17.50
freight		202.-
consular invoice		57.50
		<u>frs. 8456.20</u>

Eight thousand four hundred fifty six francs, twenty centimes

35/1



Handwritten calculations:

8456.20  
 .05  
 -----  
 424.8100

Vertical list of numbers:

175  
 15  
 -----  
 1875  
 175  
 -----  
 2025

# THE GREAT FALLS NATIONAL BANK

CHARTERED 1891

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$300,000

LEE M. FORD, PRESIDENT      SHIRLEY S. FORD, VICE PRESIDENT  
EDGAR A. NEWLON, VICE PRESIDENT AND CASHIER  
ROBB R. WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT CASHIER

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

May 3rd, 1924.

Dear Mr. Howlett:

Have yours of May 1st, dealing with training of the birds and in reply want to say in short that there are tricks in every trade and believe me that successful pigeon flying in Antwerp is a trade which is only very little understood in this country, and allow me to tell you very frankly that I have not met 10 real pigeon men in America, even the Belgians we have here are not all of that gifted class, and it is exactly for that reason that I like to have a pigeon talk with Mr. Grimbers just because he knows what he is talking about. 90% of the other flyers don't.

As to training pigeons, I hope you do not understand my previous letter as meaning that I claim that birds do not need training, but I claim that 90% of the birds that disappoint the owners, do not come in the prices because they are overtrained, and all the good is out of them before the races start. That applies as well to a race horse as to a prize fighter. Over training is a great danger, and do not forget that either. . More men die from drinking too much than from not drinking enough. I have flown pigeons for the best part of thirty years and have never been the owner of a chassing pool. My remarks are made in my previous letter with the intention to prove that it is absolutely foolish to stand on the roof all day with a chassing pool in your hands to make your birds fly, in order to win a prize, as almost every one does here, but why should they not chase them? They fill the birds up with grit so that their birds are lazy and heavy. No wonder they got to use the stick to make them fly. My birds do not get 50 lbs. grit in a years time. If they want grit all good and well, let them go and get it in the fields. They can eat any brand they like best. My prisoners do get it.

Crossing the bay is as you say a hard proposition. On a clear day some of my birds will come straight, but on the average day they will come from the Battery, which is 6 miles past my home, so they have to come back that distance, making that the bird covers 12 miles more than what she is credited with. Brooklyn is not the best place to fly from.

As to the Gurnay case, just tell Mr. Gibson if he talks about the matter again to write to the Pigeon paper Martinez in Bruselles and ask for the information, and I feel that he will get the truth. There are others that have a good reputation, but are they sending the winning stuff here, or are they buying them on the pigeon market and sending them over here in order to get big money for birds that they never bred? The news that Mr. Gurnay had been put out of the fancy for a certain time was given to me by the Editor of the Antwerp Pigeon Paper (De Duif), Mr. Leopold Adrianssens, who is known by almost every Belgian pigeon man in Boston, just at the time that I was going to Verviers to get some birds from Gurnay. It was confirmed to me by some of the best flyers in Antwerp, Bruxelles and Genth. I went to Bruxelles to find out all I could get about the Delmottes, as

**THE GREAT FALLS NATIONAL BANK**

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LEE M. FORD, PRESIDENT                      SHIRLEY S. FORD, VICE PRESIDENT  
EDGAR A. NEWLON, VICE PRESIDENT AND CASHIER  
ROBB R. WILLIAMS, ASSISTANT CASHIER**GREAT FALLS, MONTANA**

- 2 -      continued

I had promised my friend Serventi to do that, and it is on the strength of that information that I have offered him \$1000.00 for the 17 Delmottes. He had included pair #1 as I knew that there was no monkey doodle business there. He declined my offer but later managed to get pair #1. He knew that I was in love with them. That's why I had to pay his price. I call them super pigeons.

fraternally yours,

A. Heuvelmans

COPY

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.

Melrose, Mass. May 6, 1924.

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

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Yours received and at once ordered the 400 # of Argentine Corn shipped to you at Great Falls, Montana. Trust it arrives in good condition and you like it.

The enclosed from Mr. Heuvelmans is self-explanatory. I trust you will treat this as confidential as I do not want to in any way get into any argument with Gurnay or Heuvelmans and in extending this information to you do so with the feeling that you can either yourself or one of your friends write the parties Heuvelmans names and find out if there is any truth in what information Heuvelmans has received.

Personally speaking I do not know anything about Gurnay, but I do know that he has strongly recommended the Dardenne birds as a cross for his but from your letters it would seem he has requested that you breed them straight. I do feel that if there is any truth in the matter you should know what is what, due to your spending so much money with him and should get fair treatment. I know Heuvelmans is not the kind of a man to insinuate anything or speak ill of a man unless he has direct information and my only thought in the matter is to protect you as I would want you to protect me in the same case. If you think better to write Heuvelmans you can say that I have written you about this information as this would probably be better than saying I had sent his letter for you to read. But I did want you to know it was no saying of mine or did I enter into the matter other than telling you the facts. Please return Heuvelmans letter with your reply.

Have not seen the 4 pair of D'Jordan birds Gibson retained out of the lot he imported but will let you know how they size up when I see them. The Body birds of course are typical Gurnays in every way. The Dardennes are along the same lines but look like a more racy bird, but are in my opinion a good strong strain.

Thanking you for your letter and I sincerely trust that the information I am sending you will not in any way make you feel I am a knocker or one who is looking for trouble or a disturber.

Cordially yours,

*Howlett.*

Uniform Domestic Straight Bill of Lading Adopted by Carriers in Official, Southern and Western Classification Territories, March 15, 1922

# UNIFORM STRAIGHT BILL OF LADING

(PRESCRIBED BY THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION)

**ORIGINAL—NOT NEGOTIABLE**

Shipper's No. ....

Agent's No. ....

## THE NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD RAILROAD COMPANY

RECEIVED, subject to the classifications and tariffs in effect on the date of the issue of this Bill of Lading,

at Boston, Mass.,

from Cunningham Grain Company

the property described below, in apparent good order, except as noted (contents and condition of contents of packages unknown), marked, consigned, and destined as indicated below, which said company (the word company being understood throughout this contract as meaning any person or corporation in possession of the property under the contract) agrees to carry to its usual place of delivery at said destination, if on its own road or its own water line, otherwise to deliver to another carrier on the route to said destination. It is mutually agreed, as to each carrier of all or any of said property over all or any portion of said route to destination, and as to each party at any time interested in all or any of said property, that every service to be performed hereunder, shall be subject to all the conditions not prohibited by law, whether printed or written herein contained including the conditions on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to by the shipper and accepted for himself and his assigns.

(The property herein described, while water borne on vessels of The New England Steamship Company is insured by such Company against fire and marine risks. The insurance covers for seventy-two hours after landed from such vessel unless sooner delivered to owner, consignee or some connecting line, and if a Sunday or holiday intervenes, during such Sunday or holiday also.)



( Mail or street address of consignee—For purposes of notification only. )

Consigned to Lee M. Ford

c/o Great Falls National Bank

Destination Great Falls,

State of Montana

County of .....

Route.....

Car Initial..... Car No.....

(Delivering carrier)

No. Packages	DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES, SPECIAL MARKS, AND EXCEPTIONS	*WEIGHT (Subject to Correction)	Class or Rate	Check Column
4 bags	Corn	400		

If this shipment is to be delivered to the consignee without recourse on the consignor, the consignor shall sign the following statement:

The carrier shall not make delivery of this shipment without payment of freight and all other lawful charges. (See section 7 of conditions.)

Cunningham Grain Co  
(Signature of consignor.)

If charges are to be prepaid, write or stamp here, "To be Prepaid."

Received \$.....  
to apply in prepayment of the charges on the property described herein.

Agent or Cashier

Per.....  
(The signature here acknowledges only the amount prepaid.)

Charges Advanced

\*If the shipment moves between two ports by a carrier by water, the law requires that the bill of lading shall state whether it is "carrier's or shipper's weight."

NOTE—Where the rate is dependent on value, shippers are required to state specifically in writing the agreed or declared value of the property.

The agreed or declared value of the property is hereby specifically stated by the shipper to be not exceeding .....

Cunningham Grain Company Shipper. (Signature) Agent

Per (Signature) Per (Signature)

Permanent post-office address of shipper..... Malden, Mass.

# CUNNINGHAM GRAIN CO. 23887

49 CLINTON STREET, MALDEN, MASS.

Date 5-5-24

Name Lee M. Ford % Great Falls National Bank

Address Great Falls Montana

CUSTOMER'S SLIP

No. Bags	Pounds		
4	400	Argentine Corn 350	1400
		By freight	
		Charge R W Howlett, Foster St., Melrose,	

Please keep—So you can check our monthly statement.

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.

Melrose, Mass. May 17, 1924.

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

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Yours of the tenth received and contents noted. I am sorry that the matter about Mr. Gurnay came up, but the fact that he admits to you that the birds he first sent Gibson he didn't think much of them showed they must have been inferior birds and yet he charged Gibson around \$ 87.50 a pair I think it was as I saw bill and Gibson charged \$ 100.00 which was not much after he paid duty etc. I bought one of these pairs and when I spend \$ 100. for a pair of birds expect good ones and am surprised at Gurnays statment. No wonder I have not had more success with them flying pure. This to my way of thinking is not straight dealings to much of the panning off of undesirable birds to outsiders.

When I sell birds I try to give the man buying the best and I would not say I had any pair in my loft that I could not stand behind. If a man with me is not satisfied he gets replacement or money refunded and that is the reason I guess I have been selling my surplus birds the past eight years and still at it. A man like Gurnay will not get by long as a man can get stuck once but only once from the same ~~same~~ party.

Your lot I feel are right as the race sheets proved their individual winnings, but personally speaking I would not deal with a man who I could not trust thought he did not know me or where birds were going.

Gibson feels a little bit disgrunted I think because I have written you, but I have always tried to be square regardless who it hits and expect those I deal with to do the same by me.

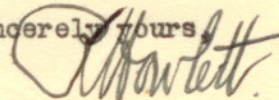
You did not return the Heuvelman letter and wish you would do so after satifying yourself as to its worth to you.

My # 551. Dardenne cock 13 th. Concourse in a North West wind a smash last Sunday, -second club. Mr. Heuvelmans has the # 1. pair of Delmottes paying Perventi \$ 350.00 for them he said. I still like the Dardennes best of any of the lot Gibson imported. Have not seen Curti's Bastin birds yet but will write you when I do. They are small snippy birds but I hear great things of them across the water.

Gibson I do not think is as much to blame as Gurnay as Gurnay wrote him and I saw the letter what wonderful birds he had sent us.

Trusting corn arrived O.K.

Sincerely yours,





**R. GURNAY**

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 22nd. May 1924

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

My dear Friend,

I am much obliged for your kind letter of May 6th. and make haste to confirm my cable of the 20th. inst. which told you to continue the system as you had depicted it in your aforesaid, taking care of course not to let the male racers see the breeding hens in peg 2.

I feel absolutely certain that you will obtain the best possible results by the application of that system which has worked so wonderfully well with me with the very same birds which you now have. It does not make the slightest difference whether the racers hear or not the breeders living next door to them, as long as they don't see each others.

I am as anxious as you may be that you should prove the worth of my breed in your country, and all I can suggest in that direction is that you should closely follow my own system which has made my name here.

Re Gibson, as I have already told you, all he has had from me in the way of birds is a pair from my first shipment to the States, pair which he said was too badly picked on arrival for being sold to anyone else.

If he has been able to sell many self-styled pure Gurnays out of that pair, ever so much worse for the buyers, and I shall not mince words when I next write him.

With regards the Dardenne strain, again it was in order to help Gibson in his endeavours that I decided my friend here to sell him a few pairs at the flat price of frs. 300 per pair, and last season shipment at 350 francs. Those birds are worth that price and no more, else Mr. Dardenne would have sold them at a higher figure, of course. It is just the same with my old friend Dujardin's birds which were shipped after Xmas, sold at frs. 250 per pair and never paid for. I have had to pay myself for these, as I could not let my friend in the lurch with a bad debt, as he had sold those birds to Gibson on my recommendation. That is how one gets rewarded when dealing with dishonest people, and so far Mr. Gibson has proved himself most dishonest towards me.

Both Dardenne and Dujardin, knowing that I sell abroad, wanted to sell their surplus birds abroad too, so as not to encounter them in the races here, and as I wanted to help them and at the same time offer a good bargain to Gibson, I managed the bargains... and so far have been the sufferer. To Gibson, my price of 100 dollars per pair of youngster was too high, while the other birds, at between 250 and 350 francs, were all right for him, for owing to the adverse rate of exchange, they came but to a few dollars per pair.

Now I can see that my name has been made use of for the sale of other birds which I had the weakness to make him have, and all he has said is a pack of lies.

You may rest assured also that, whatever confidence you place in the friend who wrote you the letter of which you gave me extracts, it is impossible for me to repose the same confidence in him, for the simple reason that he recounts too easily tales which he has not taken the

trouble to make sure of. When the repute of someone is at stake, other people who dare talk about that person has the duty to be careful and to make sure of what they spread about, lest they inflict undeserved injury.

It is a lie to say and repeat that I have recommended the cross of any other blood with mine.

It is another lie to say and repeat that I have obtained my winning ( or any other ) blood with a Dujardin cross.

For one thing, any connoisseur can see that my birds are not cross-bred, and it is my pride to say and to know that my strain, pure as you and I have it, is the best, the most beautiful and the purest in the whole world.

One of his friends, he told you, came to see a neighbour of mine last summer who told him all about that crossing with Dujardin blood. If there be any truth in that, that fellow whom he visited is Bastin, who was, many many years ago a great friend of mine, but who could not allow that I should be more successful than he, Whence our enmity.

Ever since, and that was years before the war, I have beaten him without a break in the races; this year I have begun doing it again, and I shall go on doing it until he drops out of the fancy for very weariness

As to Dardenne, who is a friend, he is all right and a gentleman, but nobody would even compare his birds to mine.

For twenty years, I have been champion in the races and I mean to be so again this season.

I am ready to lay a wager of 100.000 francs agginht anyone who would fancy to challenge me in the races, or against anyone who dare challenge the ~~skakakaks~~ statements I have made to you in my correspondence. I think this sufficient for you to put a stop to all that wild and jaleous talking, and far as you are personally concerned, if you have lost confidence in the birds I sold you, you are at liberty to send same back to me, as I am quite ready to take them back.

I have always told you that you should have faith in what I sold you and you must either have it, or do away with it. Never mind what people say, with thousands of miles and nothing to risk as a shield.

In Belgium, nobody, you may take my word for it, can compete with me in the races.

By same mail, I send you a booklet where I am mentionned, also a letter received this week from my friend Shaw, and a paper relating last Sunday's results in two races.

As you will notice, I come in rather late for the Salbris race with the 65th. prize, but that does not prevent me getting the 3rd. prize in all the big pools. Because of a formidable storm, that arce was most irregular. I had sent 10 birds, and score five prizes with my 10th. 9th. 7th. 8th. and 5th. nominations, in this order. Thus I got first the e least likely bird, while three hours afterwards my for best birds were still missing, which fortunately came back two at 5 p.m. one at 6 and the very best of all at 7 p.m.

Those who missed will go this week to Orléans, and on June 25th. w will go to Limoges, provincial race in Liège, and I shall send you the programme. You will see that these are two races where all the picked birds compete, and I will take any wager for my birds against anybody's.

If you know of somebody who dare uphold competing birds belonging to any other fancier on this side, I am raedy to take up his challenge, for I am but too sure that here nobody will risk it. That is the best, and so far the only. way to shut the jaleaus peoples' mouths.

Now all I can add is that I stick to all what I have always told you with regards to my birds; I cannot suggest of any crossing for the very good reason that I do not do any and do not believe in any either, and I cannot take any responsibility for any crossing made against my advise.

All those who have had any of my birds cannot praise them too highly, and I do not bother over advertising anywhere, being always short of birds to meet the demands. As for the birds sold under the cloak of my name, that is outside my province and responsibility. Such benevolent buyers should have been more careful about it, and not, above all, have been in search of low-price birds with a good label on them. If they have been cheated, it is mainly their own fault, and I shall keep my pity for those who have palyed fair and have been ill-lucky, for that also happens.

As for you, you have made sure to get good birds from the source and I stand by those which I sent you through thick and thin.

With all best wishes for the racing season, and kindest regards, I remain, my dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,

ROBE E. GURNAY

*Robe E. Gurnay*  
*1900*

P.S. Re your friend's demand for Ericoux birds, I have got in touch with that fancier and beg to enclose herewith his answer to my request.

If you will let me know the price your friend is willing to pay, loco Belgium, I shall continue discussing that matter with Dr. Bricoux and see that he gets the best possible birds for his money.

Monsieur R. Gurnay,

J'ai bien reçu votre honnête  
démarche écrite. Vous  
pourrez obtenir à l'arrière  
train les deux couples de  
jeux de pneus courés, deman-  
diés par votre client. Je suis  
au prix nos les réparations  
en temps opportun.

Je vous prie de remercier  
Gurnay mes meilleurs  
salutations.

D. Bricoux

P.S. L'ami Carter m'en avait  
touché au mot.

Translation

M. R. Gurnay,

I duly received your favour  
on Sunday morning.

You may have, in the fall, the two pairs  
of youngsters of the first breeding requested  
by your buyer.

As to the price, we shall see to that  
later on.

Yours  
(s) Dr. A. Bricoux

P.S. Our friend Carlier has said a  
word to me about the foregoing.

601 West State St, Rockford, Ill. May 23rd, 1924.

Mr A. Houvelmans,  
221 Webster Ave,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I would appreciate very much if you will let me know what it will cost for a Plasschaert timer, all the members in our club have them and compel the use of a continuous running timer, fortunately I have one, but there are two Belgians here who will need them for the fall races, hence my writing you concerning same.

We have three American members only, the rest are all Belgians, fly under the Belgian system and pool all birds in all races, and a continuous running timer is the one to use under these conditions, as every bird counts for a prize.


While answering my letter, I would also appreciate if you could give me any advise as to how Mons Gurnay stands in Belgium, I may say that I have several good Gurnays in my loft today, but feel rather blue on account of the many different reports I have heard lately concerning these birds, I have heard so much about them not being worth anything as racers that I cannot figure out what is the matter, but I have heard some time ago that you were in Belgium, and thought perhaps you had heard while there what the Gurnays and Mons Gurnay were thought of, I have quite a lot of money tied up in these birds, and if they do not pan out right I shall be awfully disappointed in them, Gibson cracks them up in all his advertisements, so do all the other fellows, but men who have flown them tell me different, I have never flown any yet, but I expect to this year, I received a letter a few days ago from Mr L. W. Schimmel of Detroit, in which he says, "The Gurnays have done nothing for me, the cross breeds or 50-50 crosses have done nothing, but the 25 per cent Gurnays have done fairly well but no better than my own birds".

Those are the exact words Mr Schimmel wrote me, then there are others I hear from that tell me the same thing, Mr Wellman of Cleveland, O. tells me the same thing, then I have also heard from the East all kinds of reports about them, that they are no good in this country, and it is worrying me more or less, and started me to thinking whether my birds are any good or not, and the sooner I know what to expect the sooner I will get rid of all I have, I have other good birds that have done well for me from all distances, and I was intending to try the Gurnays out this year, and if they don't come up to my old stock I will get rid of them, for if they are not right, I want to know it, and if they do not fly well it will not be very long before everybody will be getting rid of them, and I can see myself being stuck for a lot of real American Coin.

Do you know Mons Gurnay personally? and does he know that his birds are not giving satisfaction in this country? is he aware that the fanciers in this country are losing them as fast as they breed them? or so it seems to me, they tell me to be very careful how I handle them, and that I should not breed them pure, but that I should cross them with others to get the best results, I am all upset concerning these birds, and I do not know of anybody that has been over to Belgium lately, or I would write them, and if you know of anybody that has been there lately I wish you would let me have their name and address and I will write them, I would like to know anything concerning these birds and Mons Gurnay, he seems to be winning plenty every year, but the Gurnays certainly are not doing anything remarkable in this Country, that is the birds sent out by Gibson to fanciers whom I know, and which are supposed to be the real stuff direct from Gurnay's loft.

Please give me whatever information you can regarding Mons Gurnay and his standing in Belgium, and anything you happen to know about his birds in this Country, and I am sure I will appreciate the favor very much, wishing you every success this season, and thanking you in advance for any information you may feel disposed to give me, I remain,

Very truly yours.



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.

May 24, 1924.

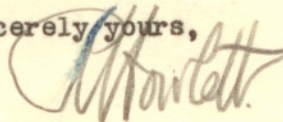
Dear Mr. Ford:-

Yours received and would say I have requested Mr. Heuvelmans to immediately send either you or I the addresses you ask for. I do not know where these people are located.

Mr. Gibson I understand is very much put out that I have in any way extended you the information about Gurnay. I understand that he is trying to get a lawyer to take the case and bring me into court, which seems to me pretty far fetched, unless he dreads the truth being known about what is what about the Gurnay birds he has been selling.

You can advise me after your investigation as I do not want to talk to anyone about same unless it is Gibson who is also interested.

Sincerely yours,



M. H. PAGET

Artist

OIL PAINTINGS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

601 WEST STATE STREET

ROCKFORD, ILL.

5/ 25/ 24.

Mr Lee M. Ford,  
Great Falls, Mont.

Dear Friend Ford:-

I received your very interesting letter on Friday, and was pleased to hear from you once again, I have read and reread your letter and studied it very carefully, and have written to Heuvelmans and am enclosing you a copy of the letter so that you will know exactly what I said, keep it if you wish for future reference, or return it to me when you are finished with it, either you or me should keep this copy, it may come in handy some day, we never know what might happen in the future.

Your remarks are just a proof of what I told you when I was in Great Falls, I believe you can see now that I was right in my statements concerning the Gurnay Birds, but the ~~remarks~~ remarks are somewhat of a mystery as to their origin, I never have found out just who started them, but I do know there were remarks being passed around among a lot of fanciers that certainly DID GURNAY AND HIS BIRDS NO GOOD, and to be candid with you I am glad you have heard something from another source other than myself, I firmly believe that Mons Gurnay sent the right kind of birds to Gibson for his customers, and if you remember I also told you that Gibson was getting a bad name among the right thinking fanciers, HE WAS SENDING OUT BIRDS THAT WERE NOT OF THE GURNAY TYPE, and a lot of good fanciers were STUNG with birds of poor type, poor feather, poor quality as racers, poor in everything but the PRICE, my words to you a year ago were not merely thoughts on my part, but quoted from others that I knew well, men that money did not effect a particle, what they wanted was the right kind of stock, and I told you that Gibson was not sending out birds like yours, I know a Gurnay when I see it, Gurnay himself did send some good birds to Gibson, but Gibson did not keep them for his own use, I know he had a few from Gurnay, but how many or of what quality I never knew, but I DO KNOW HE DIDN'T SHIP GOOD STOCK to everybody, Howlett could not send typical Gurnays out if he did not have them,



and if all is true in your letter as coming from Gurnay himself, Howlett did NOT get any good stuff from Gibson or anybody else, and as I have told you more than once, Howlett's Gurnays do not show up like the birds you have, they are not the type, they lack that one point so much that no one would even guess at them, the resemblance is absolutely conspicuous by its absence, the feather is lacking, the color is fair, but the eye is absolutely off color, Williams here has seven birds from Howlett, and not one is anything like the birds you have, he has five from Mc Lean of Bicnall, Ind. they are better by far than the Howlett birds, better type, better color, and better in everything else, but they are nothing to brag about, my advice to you is to stick to what you now have, breed all you can from them, sell all you can everywhere, and sooner or later you will be pestered for birds, I can see it coming to you, Gibson will hang himself shortly if they will give him rope enough, I know you thought I was rather hard on him when I told you what I did, but I think you can see now that I was giving you the right DOPE about him, and there is no question in my mind whatsoever about Gibson sending birds out to everybody that are not PURE GURNAYS, and I have told different fellows that they were crossbreds, and they only laughed at me, but since that time they have found out different, so much for that.

One of my young hens died yesterday, 6561, she has a pair of youngsters in the nest almost two weeks old, I hope the Cock feeds them allright, they are a nice pair of youngsters if I have luck enough to raise them, one has Wfts in each wing four or five, and is a real dark bronze, the other is a dark checker without Wfts, but both are fine youngsters, I have seven all told pure Gurnays, none flying out yet, and the one I had intended to ship to Howlett has gone to pieces, the little fool could hardly feed himself, and had the nerve to start feeding other youngsters on the floor, and fed himself poor, I think I can pull him thru, but he is awfully poor in flesh, but he is a dandy if I can only get him fat again, I don't like to ship him to Howlette for fear he would not turn out good, he is bred from the "NOYON" Cock and the Blue Hen, and is a real dark Ch, I have another pair from them about three weeks old, one a real light bright blue, and the other is a very dark Bronze, practically Black at first sight.

I admire your attitude towards Howlett, and if he has asked you to respect his wishes, you certainly should do so, Howlett is a fine fellow, a clean sport and without question, a gentleman whose character should not be questioned, that's my opinion of him.

**M. H. PAGET**

Artist

OIL PAINTINGS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

601 WEST STATE STREET  
ROCKFORD, ILL.

(2)

Gibson and Howlett are very great friends, and I suppose Howlett does not want to get in wrong with Gibson, but I think if it came to a show down between them, and Gibson could be found guilty of conduct unbecoming a fancier, Howlett would not take sides with him, I cannot say very much about their relations concerning the Gurnays, but I know for a fact that Howlett received some real good Dardennes from Gibson, but where Gibson procured them I do not know, but I have found out lately that Lee Crandall and two other fellows got a few birds thru Gibson from Lucian Bastian, and I believe that one of the other fellows is L. F. Curtis, his name has been hinted, but not definite, I have a friend in Boston that has furnished this information to me, but he is not absolutely sure of it, this information will come a little later if he can get it.

If Gibson is doing any dirty work concerning the Gurnays I would not hesitate a minute to get the information to you, but you are level headed enough to know that it is very easy to accuse anybody, but a hard matter to prove the statements, and I don't think Gurnay would send anything here if it was not right, I think he too honorable to do anything like that, it would not be worth while, but you know there are plenty of so-called fanciers that would stoop to anything, principal counts for nothing with them, I hear so much from one and another about the dirty deals being pulled, that I am very particular about introducing their birds into my loft, I may be poor, but I am proud, and cannot afford to take chances on any old thing that comes my way.

You told me once that I was particular in my selection of birds, I am glad to know that you noticed it, I AM PARTICULAR, and always will be, but I shall not take any notice of any reports concerning the Gurnays until I have proved to myself what they can do, and I know myself well enough to think that I can fly them if anybody can, I think I know what they need to make them fly, and if they do, not prove to me that they can race well in the next two years, I am thru with them, it may take three years to get them in the trim I want them, if it does I will spend three years doing it, circumstances alter cases, and under ordinary circumstances they should develop in their third season on the

road, that will be as youngsters, then as yearlings, then as two\*year-olds, and then if they don't come to my way of thinking I may be convinced that they are not what I figured them to be, but I intend to give them every chance in the world to prove their merits.

Do not write to Heuvelmans until I can get word to you and send you his letter if he answers mine, and I think he will, I had to do a little salving to get the ICE broken, and the two fellows here that have asked me to write about timing machines are the means to that end, it helped me fine in that respect, so I really am killing two birds with one stone, and I hope we can get the information that Gurnay should have, and I hope it will mean something to you too, Gibson should be exposed if he is not right, or straight, I cannot see how you can do anything concerning the bill he owes Gurnay, perhaps he has the birds yet that he sent for, but if he hasn't, and you could find out who he sold them to, you would have something to work on, and expose him concerning them, but how are you to get this information?, the only way to get this information is for someone to write him and ask him if he has such and such birds and what he wants for a few, or if he has sold them ask him where they can be had or from whom, and the price.

The best thing for you to do is get the Agency from Gibson thru Gurnay, tell Gurnay straight that you feel you should not trespass until Gibson is releived of the agency, then you will be able to go to it properly, that's the stand I would take if I were you, it is the proper thing to do, and you should tell Gurnay so.

Well we have flown three races so far and every one has been a smash, birds of experience on the road have gone down like chaff before the wind, all the fellows here are losing them fast, I started six yearlings and have three left so far, and they will soon be gone after one more toss if this BUM weather keeps up, I am having awful luck in breeding, cannot get the youngsters I want at all, I have seven Gurnays on the floor and have to send Howlett six some time, but I cannot see how I am to do it yet, I will have none for myself to fly if I send him these that I have now, so I wrote and told him I will send them later on, but have not heard from him since, I say I have seven Gurnays on the floor, that is wrong, I mean seven all told, one on the floor, two almost ready to leave the nest, and four little ones ten days to two weeks old, and that's all.

To fly two teams, just select say 15 to 20 birds for one team and the same for the other, or as many as you intend to fly and race, place all birds not intended to be sent the limit in one team, and the others in the other. that's all.

## M. H. PAGET

Artist

OIL PAINTINGS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION  
601 WEST STATE STREET  
ROCKFORD, ILL.

(3)

The way I usually handle my old birds is easy after you get to know them, you know that there are slow and fast birds in every loft from different distances, some are fast at one distance and slow at another, the proper way to handle yours is the same, as I do, I take say 30 birds, possibly five of them are exceptionally fast at the shorter distances, take two of them in team number one, and the other three in team number two, then take the next fastest and split them likewise, and so on until you have two teams built for every speed and every kind of a day, by this time you should know pretty well what certain or some of your birds will do, put a few of the best in each team, and balance them as near as possible, keeping the band numbers in mind not to mix the two teams up, and if one of the teams happen to thin out a little, replace with a bird or two from the other team, in this way you will not be shipping all your birds to every race, fly one team one week, and the other the next, old birds can stand the jump better than youngsters.

I am receiving a few letters from different sources lately, and every one that has written say they are getting BUMPED hard, poor returns, but the speeds are fairly good, it is too cold to race well, but the birds that happen to come thru are the right kind to keep, they must be game to make it, the Ft Wayne fellows have been fortunate so far, they have lost a few birds but not many, Chicago are getting ripped right and left.

Did you read my article in the A. P. K. ?, if not you are missing something indeed, I am receiving a lot of nice letters from fanciers all over the states congratulating me on the article, I forget whether or not I sent you a slip to fill in for a subscription to the paper, but if I did I will send you another one anyhow, and if you do not use it yourself give it to some one and tell them to send \$1-50 to Mr Deitz, also tell them to start the paper with the April issue, the article starts in that issue, and you will enjoy reading it, so will Van and Louie and the others.

By the way did you write to Hamilton yet ?, I understand from Mr Dietz that he Mr Hamilton is trying to get someone to run for the office in Chicago, but so far he has

been unsuccessful, but is willing to work hard for the right kind of a man, and I think I can handle that job to perfection, I know I can do a lot better than the last or present one is doing, he is considered a big JOKE among the fanciers all thru the East, his letters and correspondence is considered a joke, his service is absolutely rotten, some of the Clubs still have their Young Bird Diplomas coming to them yet, which you know is absolutely uncalled for, the old bird races are in full swing now and he will be swamped with reports pretty soon, and leave a lot of real hard work for the next Secretary to do, if he is way behind now, how is he going to be by the end of his term?.

A letter from you to Mr Hamilton will do me a lot of good if you can only find the time to write him, you know me personally, he does not, and you know him personally, and can write him better than if you had never met him, that is the way good friendship is held, one man helping another through the aid of someone else.

St Paul fellows are boasting me for a fare-you-well, and will do all they can to get me there, they know me personally and feel that I can do the job properly, and if you can put your little shoulder to the wheel by writing to a few friends somewhere in the States, it will help a great deal, Howlett tells me that Gibson was thinking seriously of taking a crack at it, but since that time things have changed somewhat, so much so that he thinks Gibson has reconsidered it, perhaps Gibson is commencing to smell a rat, if so, and Gurnay gets after him besides, it will make it all the better for me I believe.

There is a matter of \$1.000 a year in it for the man that gets the job, and a little money like that would work wonders for me, the office is for two years, and a couple of years would give me \$2.000 to play with, look what I could do with that.

Well I think I better close now, let me hear from you soon, and I will write you as soon as I hear from Heuvelmans, then you get busy and let us see if we cannot stop this CHATTER that is defaming Gurnay and his birds, would you mind if I wrote to Gurnay for a little information, it is nothing concerning him or his birds and Gibson, but I am preparing an article for the A. P. K. on Color breeding, and want to get his ideas on the way he has mated his birds as far as color is concerned, and want to use his name in my article, or if you wish I will write the letter and send it to you, you in turn can get it to Gurnay, as there is no secret about it, but I would like to get his own permission to use his name, and the way he produced the wonderful Bronze colors in his birds.

Now I must close, and remain as ever, Very sincerely yours.

*M. S. P. A. T.*

May 29th, 1924.

My dear Mr. Howlett:

Just got home from Montreal and find a load of mail, among which several letters about the Gurnay matter; one from Mr. Gibson, one from Mr. W. H. Paget, and yours for Mr. Ford. Since I note that so many fanciers are anxious to learn something about it, I will write myself to Belgium and find out if the information given to me is correct or not. At the same time I give you the address of Mr. Adriaenssens, who will I think give all the information Mr. Ford may desire.

Mr. Leopold Adriaessens, Uitgever,  
23 Josef Liesstraat, Antwerpen Zuid.

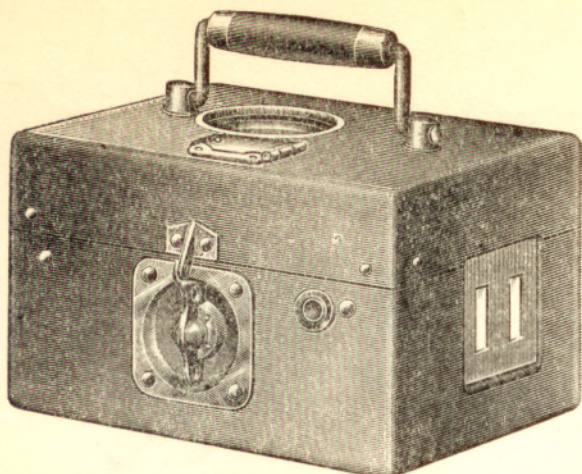
My reason for writing to Belgium is that I would like to have some of that information on paper.

Yours very truly,

A. Heuvelmans

221 Webster Avenue,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

COPY



# A. H. Plasschaert Bros.

BELGIAN, PIGEON TIMER AND ROUNDSMANS CLOCK

MODEL 1921 12 BIRD TIMER PRINTING SYSTEM

AGENT

A. HEUVELMANS  
221 WEBSTER AVE.  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.  
FLATBUSH 3121

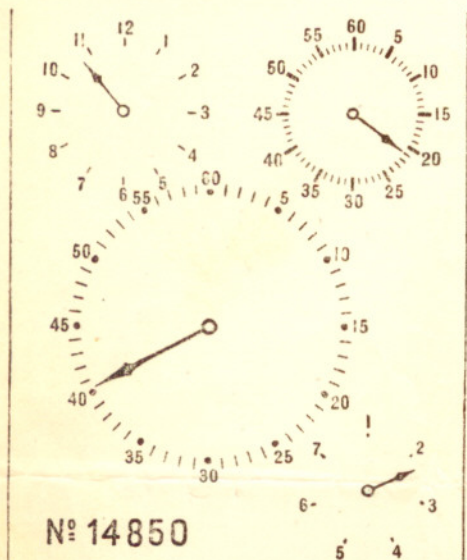
ROOM L - M  
PRODUCE EXCHANGE  
NEW YORK  
BOWLING GREEN 4836

IMPORTER OF

RUBBER COUNTERMARKS, SHIPPING BASKETS & RACE MATERIAL

May 30th 1924.

ACTUAL SIZE OF MACHINE 8 3/4 - 6 3/4 - 5 1/4



N<sup>o</sup> 14850

TIME READS, 10-40-21 2DE, DAY

ACTUAL SIZE IMPRESSION

12 FIRST PRIZES

AWARDED IN CONTESTS OF TIMERS

Year	Location	Prize
1906	TOURCOING	FIRST PRIZE
1906	BULLY	" "
1907	AMIENS	" "
1907	LA HAYE	" "
1907	KAISERSLAUTERN	" "
1903	ESSEN	" "
1908	HANNOVRE	" "
1910	MUNICH	" "
1911	COLOGNE	" "
1911	ROTTERDAM	" "
1912	FRANCFORT	" "
1913	BOCHUM	" "

1912 - 13 ENGLAND 1912 - 13

"THE NATIONAL UNION"

DIPLOMA OF FIRST CLASS

Mr. W.H. Paget.  
601 West Street  
Rockford Ill

Dera Sir.

Have your of May 23rd. and in reply beg to say that the price of the Plasschaert timer is \$ 60. immidat delivery.

You ask me about the standing of Gurnay in Belgium. well I was there in Dec 1922. and was on my way to Vervier to buy some Gurnays, but friends told me that I would better stay away from him, for reason that his salesman ship was questioned, this does not say that you should be disapointed before trying your birds, as it is possible that you have the real Gurnays, but I was told that a lot of birds had been sold as been Gurnay's but when investigation was made, it proved that they were not, I like the way the Gurnay birds fly for Gurnay, and the big question is, does a man get what he has paid for some of those pigeon dealers must have real pigeon factories to breed so many youngster of all the winners,

You ask me if I konw Gurnay personally, No I do not but have noticed his remarkable flying. and must admit that I do not know of any one on this side that has done anything with them. the big question is are they what they are represented to be????.

I have spend over \$ 2000 on buying pigeons, and can surely understand how a man feels, if he is in dought about the real value of his breeders. I paid \$300 for one pair of Delmott's but I knew what I was buying bought 10 more Delmott's at from \$ 25 to \$50 each. actual winners and the parents of the winners. also imported 31 birds, the yougster of which have already won 4 first and 2 second possitions.

If it is nesasary to put 75 % of good blood in the Gurays, as Mr Schimmel states, ~~then~~ to make them fly, then you may aswa take a comun bird cross it 75% with your best bird and the result may be just as good.

I am going to writ to Belgium and try to find out some more about the standing of Mr Guray. as I would like to prtect my friends that have paid large prices for those birds.

Yours very truly.

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.

Melrose, Mass. May 31, 1924.

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

Dear Mr. Ford:-

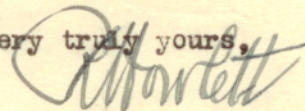
Yours of the 24 th. received this afternoon and fully noted. Please refer to your first paragraph. In your letter of the tenth written personally by you you say in third paragraph;- " The first two importations which I received did not suit me at all., I had far better birds in my own loft. ~~of~~ I complained bitterly to Gibson to no avail, then took it up with Gurnay direct and he finally admitted that he did'nt think much of the birds he sent. I did away with the entire lot including the young ( killed them ) and ordered the best Gurnay had to sell. " You surely would not say it was square on Gurnays part to admit that he sold us birds for \$ 100.00 the pair that he did'nt think much of. Please do not think I am in any way going to broadcast any statement as the matter is closed as far as I am concerned.

I am very glad indeed that you have so much confidence in Mr. Gurnay and trust he will on his part warrant this confidence placed in him by you.

Gibson and I have had a little run in , - I presume he did not like it because I wrote you as I did, - but as far as he is concerned he never meant anything to me and it was only kindness on my part to assist him in disposing of those Gurnay birds.

Very glad the corn suited you and at any future date I can serve you kindly drop me a line.

Very truly yours,





Melrose, Mass. June 2, 1924.

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

Dear Sir:-

Yours received and I had hoped that our unpleasant correspondence on the Gurnay matter had ended but your letter I think demands a reply.

The enclose letter from Heuvelmans is self-explanatory which you can return after reading.

I presume that Gibson has written you and as he is a dealer in pigeons it would seem that he has probably thought I would hurt the sale of the Gurnay birds if what has been written is true. He has probably misconstrued things to you on what I said and for your own satisfaction if you desire, you can mail me his letter and I will correct you if there is any untruth in same, that is if you want to be straightened out on what I have said to him.

Gibson should understand that my friends bought the Body birds,- my friend Fitz bought the lot of Dardenne birds on my recommendation and if Gibson has not been man enough to send Gurnay the money paid him, that is his lookout to make good for them.

I try to be above board in my dealings and careful with any information I give out and in writing you as I did about Gurnay,- it was after you asked me for it and I felt that if it was true, it would save you a lot of time and money.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT W. HOWLETT

# Journal " LE MARTINET "

Société Coopérative

ORGANE COLOMBOPHILE HEBDOMADAIRE

Affilié à l'Association de la Presse périodique belge

PARAISSANT LE MERCREDI



BUREAUX ET IMPRIMERIE :

Rue Rouppe, 4, BRUXELLES

TÉLÉPHONE 22203

Compte Chèques Postaux n° 21785

Nous prions nos abonnés et correspondants qui ont des paiements ou des envois de fonds à nous faire, d'opérer le versement de ces fonds à notre compte chèques postaux n° 21785, ouvert au bureau postal de leur localité.

BRUXELLES, le 2 juin 1924

St.

THE GREAT FALLS NATIONAL BANK,

GREAT FALLS,  
Montana, U.S.A.

Monsieur.

En réponse à votre honorée du 17 mai dernier nous avons l'avantage de vous faire savoir que jamais jusqu'ici nous n'avons entendu dire que Monsieur GURNAY de VERVIERS achetait des pigeons au marché. M. GURNAY est très honorablement connu et en relation avec un grand nombre d'amateurs sérieux. Nous ne le croyons pas capable d'un manque à l'honneur. Nous savons qu'il cède beaucoup mais ses installations lui permettent d'élever quantité de jeunes. Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, nos salutations distinguées.

Le directeur du Martinet

Mr. LEE M. FORD.

# SAMUEL P. GIBSON

✻ IMPORTER ✻

BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

197 Lakeview Avenue, Cambridge, Mass.  
May 20, 1924.

Mr. R. Gurnay,  
61 Rue aux Laines,  
Verviers, Belgium.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of correspondence that you may see the situation you have placed me in over here by airing your business affairs with me to other fanciers who had no interest in the same. I am very much surprised and disappointed that you should have done this.

You will note the statements that are being made by Mr. Heuvelmans regarding charges brought against you over there. I made him beg off the first time he made the statements to me and have written him now to pin him down in writing and if he cannot or does not come through with the source of his information I will publish the correspondence. You will note the charges brought against you by Mr. Howlett from information he claims he had from Mr. Ford, based on statements contained in your letters to him. You will note how I have answered the same. If you have copies of all your letters to me I would appreciate it if you would review same that you may see wherein you have made statements to me that are conflicting but which I felt were due to the shortcomings of your secretary in transmitting your ideas and statements into English.

I have always stood back of my guns in supporting you and did not complain when your delay in sending me the Body birds, which were fully paid for, cost me a lot of money and did me a lot of damage. You had the use of some 12,000 francs for over two months, that is you, Mr. Dardenne and Mr. Body, but because I delayed payment on half of that amount on other business you cancel your arrangements with me, and spread the fact out among the fancy here. As I wrote you in my last letter you had no need to worry but that you would have received every cent that was properly due you, fluctuations in exchange, interest or otherwise.

I dislike having to keep you waiting for your money but if you continue to write others about our affairs as you have done I fear you will cause such a situation here as will delay the payment to you a long time.

I sold your birds in good faith as being all that you represented them to be. You never intimated to me that any of the birds you sent me were inferior birds in the sense that they were not all pure bred of your own stock, for had you done so I never would have sold another bird for you under any circumstances and if you have written others to that effect then you have both discredited yourself and caused me a very serious injury that may be very difficult to fully measure for some time to come in a matter of dollars and cents.

You can see the nasty situation your letter writing has caused over here, and unless you can see your way clear to make it plain to those you have written that you sent no inferior or poor class of birds over here, then I fear both you and I will meet with a money loss. I wish therefore you would endeavor to undo the injury you have done me over here which will place me in a position where I can better meet my obligations to you.

I tell you candidly at this time that you must now still be patient and

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

T R A N S L A T I O N

Journal " Le Martinet "

Brussels, June 2nd. 1924

The Great Falls National Bank

Great Falls, Montana U.S.A.

Sir,

In reply to your favour of the 17th. May ult. we beg to bring to your knowledge that never, so far, have we heard it said that Mr. Gurnay, of Verviers, was buying birds on the market. Mr. Gurnay is very honorably known, and connected with a great number of serious fanciers. We do not believe him capable of failure where honour is concerned. We know that he let have much, but his installations allow him to breed quantities of youngsters.

Yours &&.&c.

The Director of "Le Martinet"

Mr. Lee M. FORD

---

The words " en relations avec " in the French text, which I translate " connected with " exactly mean that we are in touch with the fanciers, either as customers of ours, or as competitors both in the races and the shows, or again as friends.

The word " cède " which we translate by " let have " means either giving or selling, i.e. birds that leave our lofts.

R. GURNAY

~~SECRET~~

T R A N S L A T I O N

Antwerp, June 3rd. 1924

Mr. R. GURNAY

Verviers

and My friend, Mr. Gustave Dujardin, has just showed me a letter ~~which~~ I do not understand. how one dares to say things which I never spoke about.

I have met that man in a place where a pigeon exhibition was being held,; there he asked me whether I had no second-hand Plasschaert clocks to sell, also conveying pigeon-<sup>1</sup> baskets. But I guarantee that I never mentioned your strain of birds.

What do I know of what is happening in Verviers?

How is it possible, after 18 months, to find lies which I am charged with having told, such as your ~~having~~ been turned out of the Belgian fancy?

Your beautiful results of 1923, and perhaps of 1924 are there to prove that you have not been turned out of the Belgian Fancy.

I myself have been proud when you came over to have a look at the sale of Mr. Havenith's birds. The reports which I sent to the daily Antwerp papers are there, in which I said that the King of the Belgian Fancy, Mr. Gurnay of Verviers, came to see the sale of Mr. Evrard Havenith's birds.

Had I been jealous of you, then I should not have written that. I have myself given in the daily papers of Antwerp reports of your beautiful results in the races, which I have heard of through my friend, Mr. Gustave Dujardin who is respected by all the fanciers of Antwerp.

I do not understand how one can circulate such slanderous rumours about you.

I never have had anything to do with that Mr. Heuvelmans; I never tried to find second-hand Plasschaert clocks, nor baskets, as it takes up to much time and is too difficult.

Yours very sincerely  
(s) Léopold Adriaensens  
23. Rue Joseph Lies  
Antwerp.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE June 4th. 1924

6r, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

I am duly in receipt of your letter and following upon my cable and previous letter, I trust that you will have changed your mind, and have started your racing season with my system.

I cannot say too emphatically that with that system, in bright weather, you are bound to succeed, as well in short as in long distance races. Of course I rely upon it that you will keep the thing secret.

Mr. Shaw is again getting all the butter, winning all the best positions and all the pools, and it must be so with you once you are properly on the go.

Along with your letter, I have received a letter from Gibson, and I have then realized why, not long ago, you had written me a letter in which you showed that your trust in me was somewhat shaken. And I must now say that I was greatly displeased with same.

That Gibson letter included copy of a letter he had himself sent to a man Heuvelmans, who seems to be a bosom friend of your friend Howlett, also copy of correspondence that has passed between Gibson and Howlett. This latter I care not to judge, as it seems to me that I had better keep off him. All the trouble has come from him, not the slightest doubt about that, and I shall never share in your trust of him.

That fellow Heuvelmans never came anywhere near Verviers, contrary to what Howlett told you, but was in Antwerp, some 80 miles away, and I now have the proof that he is a liar.

Mr. Adriaensens, who was supposed to have told him about my exclusion of the Fancy, has answered my letter and gives the most emphatic lie to that fellow. Herein copies of Adriaensens' letter, also of the two which I wrote to Heuvelmans; the first before having heard from Adriaensens, the second after I had had his reply.

This second letter is couched in rather coarse language, I know, but you will excuse it as it is done on purpose to make him realize what I really think of him. I have indeed gathered together on purpose the nastiest insults I could pour upon one man (that I know of), for I am more sorry than I can tell you not to have the fellow here. I could give him matter for thoughts, and would.

Now, as I consider I may call myself a friend of yours, I should be much obliged indeed if you would do all in your power to expose that fellow in proper quarters, for really, to use his proper words to the Editor of the London Racing Pigeon, the Fancy must be protected, and that is apparently what he is after when he circulates his lies about me!!!

As for you, dear friend, I have told you all I could possibly tell you in the way of handling birds and so on, and all I can add, once again, is that the trust you have had in me so far has not been misplaced.

I am not out for personal profit; I have sold you birds which you paid a good price, and which were worth more to me even than the price I had you pay for same. But on no account whatever, do not buy Gibson's Dujardin or other birds for cross-breeding with my strain. Do keep my strain pure, as I do, and if at a time I consider it necessary to introduce new blood into it, I am there the best possible judge, I think, for doing it.

R. GURNAY

(2)

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

VERVIERS, LE \_\_\_\_\_

61, Rue aux Laines

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

I am there for studying the case and search the blood that would fit in with mine, and that is delicate a thing to do, I can assure you.

Each year, I have tried to find something, at whatever price, that could suit; I have even tried 3 or 4 times with other strains, always with the most miserable results, the end of which trials being a whole-sale slaughter.

Those cross-breedings are the cause why you often notice fanciers doing well one year, two or even three years, and then, all of a sudden they completely disappear; they are never again being heard of. It is the crosses that have done the trick.

Gibson: is furious because I have told you what is happening between him and me, and he has sent me copy of the letter he has written you of late. It is quite natural that the birds he got from me were not up to those which you got, but then what about the enormous difference in price.

I never said that he got ~~xxxxxxx~~ birds of inferior quality or cross-breds, for there are none of the latter kind in my lofts, and as for the quality, what I sell each year is the offspring of what I kept as being the best of my loft at the end of each season. But proven birds such as those which you got have their price, have they not?

This evidently does not mean that he was badly served for his money, and the thing the most certain about it is that he could breed first class birds out of those which he got, if he, or his customers, had had the patience to wait and the cleverness to keep the strain pure.

As for his complain that he has sent me frs. 12000 two months in advance, I got that money ( not for me though) at the end of August and wrote him that I could not suggest to send the birds before their moult had been successful. Some might have died while moulting, and most would, had they been shipped at that time. And those who would have survived... well, what of them after that trip, do you think?

Any serious fancier would not dream of having birds sent to him at such a time, would he? even though he had paid for them.

Mr. Gibson is making excuses and everything is good for that purpose, however poor it may be.

Herewith I enclose the letter he writes me, and as I have detailed to you in my previous letter, that money he owes me is due to friends, and not a cent for birds of my own. I have been bothered with his birds, and that has brought me in not a cent either. Now Mr. Dujardin has refused my money and says that he has had to deal with Gibson and will not have it that I should be responsible for his debts. What do you think my position is like in that case, when I recommended the man to my friend and told him he would be paid hard cash at once.

In the way of thanks, not only does he not pay me nor my friends, but more than that, he runs down my birds for the benefit of those which he never would have had but for me. I daresay he likes the Dujardin a lot just now, as they cost him nothing so far and as it will be so until he has paid my friend what he owes him.

Re your visit: I do insist that you should come as soon as ever possible, and your young lady might as well come along with you. There is room for all, and we should be ever so delighted to have you in our midst.

*all best wishes & kindest regards from*

*Your faithful*  
*J. R. Gurnay*  
*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.

Melrose, Mass. June 14, 1924.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

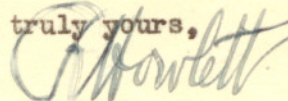
Yours received and thanks for correcting your past letters on Gurnay and I am sorry that I was brought into the matter at all. I do not knock anyone and will be the first to credit Gurnay birds here with their said value when they come thru in the races.

Gibson never worries me as he is in the game for the money he can get out of it through selling pigeons. If his reputation as a flyer was as good as mine throughout the country people might take him serious, but though he has many fine ideas and knows from a reading standpoint what is what he does not demonstrate his ideas through actual results.

My letters to you were only to help YOU:- and if I have seemingly to you or others acted as a BUTTER IN please pardon the offense as it was not my intentions.

With kind regards.

Very truly yours,





June 24th. 1924

Mr. A. HEUVELMANS

BROOKLYN

Sir,

I beg to confirm my letters of the 2nd.

and 4th. inst.

As I now have at hand all elements relating to the rumours you have spread about in the Fancy in your country, I must again write you in order to have you at once correct those misleading and malevolent statements of yours with regards my own person and my strain of birds.

Being yourself a Belgian or of Belgian parentage, you know more about things here than the generality of the Americans, and therefore are the more guilty, and the less to be forgiven your offence.

You very well know that all you have reported about me are lies, and what is worse, lies invented by you for your own selfish purposes.

It seems to me that you must belong to that category of nasty people who must be called to order so as to keep harmless.

And that is the reason why I command you at once to have published in the leading Fancy papers of your country a declaration formally doing away, in the most explicate manner, with all you have said regarding my "being ruled out of the fancy here in Belgium" and "my buying birds in the market in order to sell them abroad as of my own strain".

These two statements must be corrected by you, the more so as you know but too well that they are absolutely ~~groundless~~ groundless, and that you invented all those tales in order to enhance the value of the Delmotte birds which you want to sell.

This correction in the papers without prejudice to the action which I reserve myself the right to bring against you before the proper Tribunal in view of making you pay the penalty for your slander against me.

If you cannot retract what you have said, then I shall have you prove it, and I am well satisfied that you could not, as there is not the least shadow of truth in it. Yet I suppose truth has never bothered you overmuch, but you may take it from me that this time it will.

You have caused me no end of trouble with all that, let alone the harm done, and I must have you mend it all.

There is not the slightest difficulty for me to prove that any and every bird shipped by me to America was born and bred by me: anybody can have that proof by the ring-number which is registered with the Fédération Colombophile Belge, Brussels, controlled by the Ministry of National Defense.

As for my having been ruled out of the Fancy, you may ask any Club in Belgium about it, and my results in the races every year before and after the war are sufficient testimonies of my accepted participation.

You must indeed be a fool, and a bad one at that, when you think that the American Fanciers are going to swallow all your tales without proofs; yet as you have done it, you have to tell all concerned, through the Press that you have told them all a deliberate lie, or rather two lies; otherwise I shall have one of my friends over there taking proper steps against you before the Courts, whatever it may cost.