

Verviers, 4th. June 1925

Dear Mr. Ford,

We have, several days since, received your kind letter announcing two papers as having been posted the day before, but same never arrived.

It is most urgent that I should know what is being said about myself and Bastin, for I do not admit that some people advertise by means of untruths and thus make me the most possible harm. I must put an end to that, and for that, I should receive those papers at once. Kindly oblige me with those copies, and have same registered to make sure.

I shall reply later to your letter.

The Heuvelmans affair has never been settled, yet I had asked you to do what was necessary. Those people must be laughing at us...

Yours very sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 18-5-25
61, Rue aux Laines

The American Racing Pigeon News,

Nerristown. Pa.

Mr. Editor,

I have, through a friend of mine in your Country, received a copy of the February and March issues of your paper.

While it may be very flattering to see my name appear so often in the Fancy press, and being made use of by fanciers who never saw a real Gurnay bird, and less still ever had any to sell or breed from, you will admit that I cannot let some misstatements pass unchallenged, especially when these errors are due to the pen of fanciers who may possibly have a name in the American Fancy world.

Thus, in the "Belgian Notes" signed by Mr. Lewis F. Curtis, and which you print in your March issue, the writer is pleased to say that "personally he only saw where I won two races of medium importance".

This is a deliberate untruth, and before writing such stuff, your correspondent might have secured accurate information from this side, or else his duty was to hold his pen.

I think it will be sufficient to say that, last year, I have to my credit at my club, the Spert Colombophile Verviétois, which is unquestionably the strongest here, 9 first prizes in 9 different races; also 11 second prizes.

As to the Championship, last year was the 19th. year I have held it without a break.

To make it clear that I do not boast about this without proof, I enclose herewith a certificate issued to me by the Club's Comity.

This season again, I am absolutely certain to retain my place at the head of the list.

In the face of such evidence, your correspondent must admit that he has, purposely, been misled, unless he prefer to admit that he wrote that part of his Notes under some prejudice.

Moreover, my strain has proved what it could achieve, not only here, but with Mr. Fred Shaw of Hyde-Manchester (England) and with Mr. Lee M. Ford, of Great Falls (Montana).

It is quite true that heaps of birds have been sold in your country as being Gurnays, while they were fakes worth less than 10 cents, but that is not my fault, and buyers of pedigree birds should be careful to make sure about the origins of the birds they intend purchasing before paying fancy prices for fancy birds which are sure to disappoint them.

In your February issue, the same Mr. Lewis F. Curtis again mutilate the truth when stating that Mr. Lucien Bastin here has ever beaten me in the races. It is quite his right to praise the Bastin birds which he sells, but I must most emphatically contradict him when he states that Mr. Bastin won his championships in 1923 in the club where I compete.

Mr. Bastin left the Spert Colombophile Verviétois, of which he was

one of the founders, when I had become too strong for him and he had realized that he could no more beat me in the races.

He then joined another club, the Fédération Colombophile, but up to the beginning of this year (1925) I could not have been a member of his club, that being forbidden by my own club's regulations.

I have joined the Fédération Colombophile only this season, when our Club, the Sport Colombophile, has permitted its member to do so.

I can only repeat that 1924 was the 19th. year I have held the Championship in my, the strongest club, and that 1925 will be the 20th.

If Mr. Bastin has been champion in his club last year (when I was not in), we might say that "once is not a custom", but as to have beaten me, he is absolutely incapable of such a feat.

Your correspondent, Mr. Lewis F. Curtis, ought to be careful about what he writes, and his duty is to avoid doing anyone any harm on the strength of false information which he has been careless enough to get published without having controled it.

I am quite willing to challenge anyone, for any amount, if one can prove that what I say here is not true, while, on the other hand, I may easily prove that what Mr. Curtis has written, in his Belgian notes as well as in his own advertisement, is untrue.

As to the opinion of Mr. Alf. Darbyshire about the Bastin birds, it is quite natural that he should praise them, for, who has ever seen or heard one blame one's own goods? He sells Bastin birds, and is bound to acknowledge the strain as being the first in the world. It would be another matter altogether to prove it.

I should be very much obliged to you, Mr. Editor, if you would give this my letter the hospitality in your columns, in order to enlighten your readers, and put before them the truth with regards such statements which they would have all reasons to accept as correct if they were to pass unchallenged.

Thanking you in anticipation, I beg to remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

R.G.

P.S. I beg again to point out to you, Mr. Editor, that, although your correspondent may be right in the way he is trying to inform the American fancy, yet the sources to which he applies for his own informations are wrong, and seem to be wilfully so.

I quite agree when Mr. Darbyshire praises the Bastin's birds, as he is Mr. Bastin's agent for the United Kingdom, but when I cannot agree with him, it is when he says that Bastin won the 1923 championship in his club, where I was competing. That is absolutely untrue; but I shall compete in his club in 1926, and I am already willing to make a wager that I shall beat him on his own ground.

That is, as a single example, to show you the insincerity of these manoeuvres against my strain and my reputation in the fancy world.

I trust that you will put the whole matter before your readers for their direction and guidance, and thank you again most sincerely.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 22nd. June 1925

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Friend,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favours dated 6th. and 9th. inst., also of your draft for Frs. 717.50, for which I am much obliged indeed.

You will, meanwhile, have received my correct invoice, amounting to Frs. 952.50, thus leaving a balance of frs. 235.- unpaid, which you will probably be kind enough to remit at some future opportunity.

I also received the two copies of the A.R.P.N. for which I beg to thank you, and you will find herewith a copy of my letter to the Editor.

Yet it seems to me that all these questions of birds etc. are but a matter of who has the most trade with the editor in the way of adverts.

My opinion about this is strengthened by what you just tell me about Howlett and Heuvelmans. Thus, Heuvelmans being a big advertiser is not to be done any harm to, even though he attacks other people's honour, and your papers are quite willing to help him spread his nasty rumours about, as long as he pays for his advertisements. Yet, Mr. Howlett might counteract, also because he advertises and pays much. Well, I can only say that it is better than that with our press.

However, and although I had no reason whatever to be pleased with Mr. Howlett's stand against me in the past, when he had no reason whatever to be a party against me, I quite agree with your suggestion to let him have the correspondence sent you with regards Gibson's non-payment of what he owes me.

Only you will have to remark that the Dardenne birds have been paid for in full. As a matter of fact, when he started getting in debts with me, he had nevertheless paid 20 francs against 2625 plus expenses for Mr. Dardenne, along with paying in full the Body birds which he got.

For the time being, he owes some frs. 6800 odd. for baskets and for the Dujardin birds which he ordered by cable, saying that he was also cabling the money.... which he never did.

At the beginning of this year, he sent me the balance of Dardenne's account, plus 1000 francs against the baskets and Dujardin birds a/c, leaving an unpaid balance of 60 odd francs. I have again written for payment, but without even an answer, and I also wrote last week to our Consul asking him to tell me what could be done in this respect.

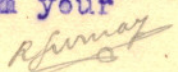
You may thus let Mr. Howlett have those letters, for I am not in the least afraid of his making use of them in his articles in the press, not any more than of what I wrote you about Heuvelmans.

Yet, this is on the clear understanding that the latter shall be exposed as a humbug. These people, who have no birds and are mere bird merchants, get what they can, at the smallest possible cost, and then get along running down other sellers in order to enhance the value of their merchandise. That is what should be made clear to the American fancy, unless they like being the fools of when buying all sorts of nameless and fameless birds..... It ought to serve them right though...

Good luck to you in the cases and all kind wishes from your

P.T.O.

most sincere friend.



VERVIERS, le 22 Mars 1922

Here in Verviers, I have again scored:

1st. prize at Orléans. 270 miles, the Victory Pool race

1st. prize Limoges 390 miles. (yesterday in wretched weather

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Hills

Dear Friend,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favour dated 6th. Jan. and to say in reply that I am much obliged indeed. You will, meanwhile, have received my correct invoice, amounting to £17.50 for which I am much obliged indeed. I also received the two copies of the A.R.P.M. for which I beg to thank you, and you will find herewith a copy of my letter to the Editor. Yet it seems to me that all these questions of birds are but a matter of who has the most birds in the way of advertising. My opinion about this is strengthened by what you just tell me about Howlett and Hevelmans. These Hevelmans being a big advertiser is not to be done any harm to, even though he attacks other people's honours, and your papers are quite willing to help him spread his nasty rumours about, as long as he pays for his advertisements. Yet Mr. Howlett might counteract, also because he advertises and pays much. Well, I can only say that it is better than that with our press. However, and although I had no reason whatever to be pleased with Mr. Howlett's stand against me in the past, when he had no reason whatever to be a party against me, I quite agree with your suggestion to let him have the correspondence sent you with regards Gibson's non-payment of what he owes me.

Only you will have to mark that the Darbonne birds have been paid for in full. As a matter of fact, when he started getting in debts with me, he had nevertheless paid 100 francs against 225 francs expenses for Mr. Darbonne, along with paying in full the birds which he got. For the time being, he owes some £1.800 odd for baskets and for the Dutch birds which I ordered by cable, saying that he was also calling the money.... which he never did.

At the beginning of this year, he sent me the balance of Darbonne's account, plus 1000 francs against the baskets and Dutch birds etc., leaving an unpaid balance of 200 odd francs. I have again written for payment, but without even an answer, and I also wrote last week to our General asking him to tell me at could be done in this respect.

You may find Mr. Howlett have these letters, for I am not in the least afraid of his making use of them in his articles in the press, not any more than of what I wrote about Hevelmans.

Yet, this is on the clear understanding that the latter shall be exposed as a humbug. Those birds, who have no birds and are mere bird merchants, get what they can at the smallest possible cost, and then get along running down other names in order to enhance the value of their merchandise. That is what should be made clear to the American fancy, unless they like behind the scenes of when buying all sorts of nameless and tameless birds.... It ought to serve them right though...

Good luck to you in times and all kind wishes from your most sincere friend.

P.T.O.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 11th. Sept. 1925
6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Sir,

I am duly in receipt of your favour dated Aug. 13. and I must first of all congratulate you on the fine results you have achieved with your birds this last season. After such records, I do not suppose that you would think of complaining, not any more than I do after one of my most successful seasons, which is the 20th. without a break for which I am champion.

I also thank you for your endeavours to put matters to rights with Heuvelmans' affair, and I must apologize for all the trouble I have unwillingly put you to.

It is really strange that this is the second affair in which I am treated as a dishonest man, and even after I have supplied people with proofs against those who try to run me down, the people interested do not even reply to my letters.

It was just the same with the articles in the R.P. News with the Curtis' article and his advert. Neither Curtis nor the Editor ever answered my letters, although I supplied them with a certificate of my club, of which I enclose a copy.

I had thought that, in America, as well as here, when a paper had published false informations about some one, likely to harm him, it was the man's right to have things corrected, but it seems that, in the States, it is not even needed to answer a letter.

What trust then can be attached to their writings? True, the Editor for New England in that paper is Gibson, the man who had me buying birds and baskets for him, which I paid and which he never re-paid me. That is the way he pays me back, after I have had trust in him. Now that he owes me well above 6000 francs, since two years, he goes about playing the poor man, and stabbing me in the back. And there is no one who would tell him off publicly as he attacks me in the paper he is attached to.....

I have again written him, also the Editor and Curtis, and failing prompt satisfaction, I shall again write to our Consul and, if need be, go before the proper Court of Law.

Re birds, 1st. class birds which might suit you, I give you a list of six which I would be willing to part with. For your guidance, I may say that the least good of the six is a jolly side better than the "famous" Limoges sold by Bastin to Curtis for well above 1000 dollars, plus Darbshire's commission of course. They proclaim that bird one of the best in the world... here we take it as an ordinary bird, nothing more.

Were I not embarrassed with too many good birds, these which I offer you are not birds to do away with, and I consider that they are priceless.

Evidently, I should give each of these cocks a suitable mate.

I have also a superb mealy hen, daughter of my Old Mealy of 1913, she is extra as racer as well as breeder. She is splendidly smart, but unfortunately, same as with La Tache, I have been compelled to take her ring off, and that is why I should let you have her for 100 dollars if you care to have her.

She is, thus, sister of my Mealy Cock of 1920- II58474-

Herewith, I enclose her ring, and should you not care to take her kindly return same with your next letter.

Of course, I have other birds which I could sell you cheaper; they are good birds indeed, but the six I offer you are the pick. In short, it is a matter of trust, as usual.

Talking about races this season, I sent three to the National race Angoulême at Brussels, where 6000 birds competed.

I won 9th. and 26th. places, those birds being 2nd. and 4th. in the big pools. As they also flew for Verviers (local) and Liège (provincial), they have brought me in more than 70000 francs.

The bird that missed was the best of the three engaged, and came back a fortnight afterwards.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with kindest regards,

Yours most sincerely,

R. Gurnay
R. Gurnay

- 418428-21 Bronze cock, son of bronze cock called Excellence, which I sold two years ago to Mr. Shaw, owing to having been forced to take his ring off too, the leg becoming too big. That bird has raced exceedingly well till 1923, then seeing that he was an extra breeder, I have kept him for that purpose. Ideal bird in the pen. Price 300 dollars.
- 9590-1921 Dark cock, not to beat in the pen, extra breeder. He is called my Derby, and, thing very remarkable with him, when in good form, he does not coo but he sings. Price 400 dollars.
- 26161-1918 Chequered cock, extra breeder. nest-brother of my famous Favori who won in 1920 at the National race Angoulême the 1st. prize with an advance of 40 minutes. Price 300 dollars.
- 418322-21 Dark cock, called Bon foncé. In 1922 won 9 prizes in the big pools for 9 races he competed in. Certain that, each year he will win several prizes well up in the list. He is the father of both the birds that have won 9th. and 26th. prizes this year at Angoulême, as said above. Price 500 dollars.
- 302749-22 Blue cock, son of Bon Bleu painted by your friend. The absolute likeness of his father. Has won each year lots of prizes at all distances. Price 500 dollars.
- II58474-20 the famous mealy of which I already spoke to you last year. Has again been racing the whole season through this year and has won me more than 15000 francs. Price 500 dollars.

C O P Y

Sport Colombophile
Verviétois

Nous déclarons que Monsieur Gurnay Renier
demeurant à Verviers, a remporté en 1923 et 1924

- 1) le plus grand nombre de prix
- 2) le plus grand nombre de prix avec le premier marqué.
- 3) le plus grand nombre de prix avec les deux premiers marqués.

Fait à Verviers, le 26 Juin 1925

Le Président

(s) A. Debarre

Le Classificateur

(s) A. Jodin

Translation

We declare that Mr. Gurnay Renier,
domiciled in Verviers, has won in 1923 and 1924:

- 1) the greatest number of prizes
- 2) " " " " " with his first denomination
- 3) " " " " " with his first two denominations.

Given in Verviers, the 26th. June 1925

The President

(s) A. Debarre

The Classifier

(s) A. Jodin

Original being sent to the American Racing Pigeon News

Norristown

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 13th. October 1925

6r, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

G R E A T F A L L S

Dear Friend,

I am duly in receipt of your favour of the 21st. ult.

Re Bordeaux' pedigree, indeed there has been a mistake made by my secretary in the translation, and pray accept all my apologies for same. In fact, the Bordeaux' mother is a grand-daughter of Endormi, who was father of Bon Ecaillé 218-12.

Herein your copy of pedigree corrected.

Contrary to what you have seen, and probably misunderstood, My friend Shaw is not selling out, and the best proof is that he has just booked 30 birds for later on in the year, from me. He is selling his surplus, nothing else.

This year, I am again the great champion here in Verviers, which means the 20th. year in succession, without a break. This has never been done yet in the fancy.

I sent three birds to the National Bordeaux race this season and won 9th. and 26th. prizes. My third bird, which was by far the best of the three sent, came back a fortnight afterwards.

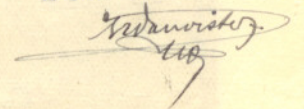
You should bear in mind that I seldom send birds to the National races in Brussels, for the very good reason that there is not enough money staked in such races, and, being handicapped as we are here in the easternmost part of the country, our money is being staked at too great a discount against our competitors near the southern border, the French-Belgian frontier, who have some 60 miles less to fly than we have.

I beg to confirm my previous letter with list of birds offered to you, and hope soon to hear from you about same.

With all kindest regards, and best wishes, believe me

Ever yours most sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE October 13th. 1925
61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D ,

Great Falls

Dear Friend,

With reference to my letter of even date, I just notice that I mentionned my winnings in the National Bordeaux race. This was a gross mistake, for I meant the Angoulême race and not Bordeaux.

With 9th. and 26th. positions, I win 2nd. and 24th prizes of the 100 franc pool, prizes which amount to 1000 francs each.

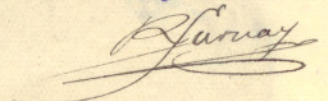
To show you the disadvantages of flying with Brussels, I 'll tell you that I only compete in their races when they are so organized as being also local races for the Verviers fanciers, and provincial races for the fanciers of the Liège province.

Thus, in this Angoulême race, I cashed for the National: 8000 francs only, while I cashed 12000 francs for the local Verviers race and 37000 francs for the Provincial section. Total 57000 francs.

You see what advantages I have to fly here and in Liège rather than competing with Brussels.

With renewed kindest regards

Yours very sincerely,



P.S. The official prize-list of Angoulême will be sent to you by Mr. Curtis, with whom I still am corresponding with reference to our difference re his adverts and articles in the A.R.P. News.

R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 5th. December 1925

6r, Rue aux Laines

Dear Mr. F O R D ,

Confirming my previous letters, I have been a long time waiting for your reply with regards the different pairs of birds which I specially offered you.

I am simply overwhelmed with demands, and I feel that I cannot offer anyone else those birds which I offered you, yet I would like to know your intentions as soon as possible, as I want then to see what I shall do with same, wether I shall sell them or keep them for me.

Will you kindly oblige me per return of the mail with your decision on the matter ?

I suppose you now have received the prize-list of the National race which I sent to Mr. Curtiss with request to forward same to you after perusal. If not, kindly request Mr. Curtiss to let you have it.

Has anyhting new appeared in the American Papers, I wonder ?

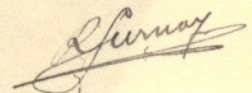
I have written fully to Mr. Curtiss on the matter, as he seemed to be willing to undo what he had done rather rashly, on the authority of false representations or uncomplete reports form here.

As for Gibson, there seems no possibility to get anything from him, for he does not even trouble to answer my letters, and I am now without news from our Consul.....

Hoping that you are keeping in the best of health, and wishing you and yours the very happiest Christmas and a prosperous New Year, I am,

dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 29th. December 1925

61, Rue aux Laines

My dear Mr. Ford,

I have duly received this morning your cable, unfortunately too late to be able to ship that hen mealy by the steamer sailing on the 31st. inst.

I am going to get information about the next sailing, and meanwhile I can assure you that she may be mated to either La Tache or Bordeaux, and I feel certain that their offspring will give you full satisfaction.

I am sure you will be delighted with that hen, which, moreover, I would not have sold if she had been kept with her ring.

I have just heard to-day that, despite the small number of birds that I sent to the races in the Fédération colombophile Vervietoise, that is Bastin's club, it is I who has won the objet d'art for the greatest number of prizes for the long distance races, namely between 350 and 850 kilometers.

I have in the meantime received very satisfactory news from Mr. Curtis, and from the particulars I supplied him with, he acknowledges that he had been misinformed in the first instance, and now he says he is quite at my disposal for obtaining of the Concourse that Gibson be expelled. The lawyer who was to present my case would do it free of wharges through his good offices, and moreover he says that he is going to write another article in the R.P. News correcting what he said before that was erroneous. This is very fair play..... and I am anxious to see that article.

I suppose you will since have received the prize-list of the Angoulême race.

In celebration of the 50th. anniversary of its foundation, the Fédération Colombophile Vervietoise, Bastin's club, holds a series of shows. In each show, no fancier is allowed to exhibit more than 4 birds, and on the first day I showed 4 young hens and won 1. 5. 6 and 10 prizes

For the second day, old cocks, I again showed 4 birds, winning 1st. 2nd. 3rd. and 12th. prizes.

On January 10th. the winners come up for the Excellency prize, & I shall let you know the results. The birds will be judged by six French Fanciers. To my mind, my chequered cock I027893/20 is unbeatable and he has already won the Championship at the International Exhibition in Brussels last year. Moreover, it is an extra breeder, and should you like to have it, along with a very suitable hen of my own choice, I would let you have the pair for 500 dollars. Should you not like it, or would it fail to win you all prizes at your shows over there, I am quite willing to let you have ten pairs of youngsters free as a compensation.

Is that a fair proposal? As I have the other hen to send you, will you kindly cable on receipt of this letter whether you would like that pair or not. Just cable yes or no according to your decision and I shall know what you mean.

With all our best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, and a successful one, believe me, dear Mr. Ford,

Ever yours most truly,



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 10th. February 1926

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letters of Dec. 30th. and Jan. 23rd. also of your cable, and to thank you very much for them all.

I also beg to thank you for enquiring about what has happened here with the floods, and am glad to say that this city escaped damage thanks to the dam that was constructed 50 years ago and that has been able to keep the water in good order after the thaw of the snow and the heavy rains that we experienced. In other places, as you will have read in the papers, nothing can give an idea of the devastations that the waters wrought everywhere. It was simply appalling, but the response to calls for help has been magnificent.

Now to pigeons: I have yesterday enquired about the first steamer sailing for New-York, and shall consign by same your birds to Messrs. M. Harrison & Co. Inc. New-York as we did previously, and I am going to give those people all instructions about re-forwarding the birds by express train as soon as cleared from the Customs-house.

I shall manage the invoice, for Customs, to be less than 100 dollars and thus avoid paying heavy duties, probably, and expenses of consular invoice on this side.

Now, with regards to the pair which I offered you and which you say you would like to have, were it not for lack of ready money just now, as you hope to be able to purchase some sometime in March when you will have sold your youngsters, I may say that, between you and me, I suppose we may trust each other enough, as we have known one another for some years now, and accordingly it gives me great pleasure to send that pair along with the silver hen, hoping that you will be pleased with my decision about that pair.

When you will be ready, you may send me the amount of 600 dollars.

For your guidance, I must tell you that that cock which I am going to send you is unequalled at shows, further, it is a first-class breeder and you will soon be able to tell me what he is capable of.

As to the particulars which you want me to supply you with, with regards to my winnings during these last twenty years, I am sorry to have to say that such records could not be written now, as, to start with, all records were destroyed when the Boches came here in 1914.

Since then, owing to pressure in business, I have not kept records of what my birds did, and that also for the very simple reason that I am known the whole world over. #

By same mail, I am sending you a paper which I have just to-day received from Mons, a town some 125 kms. away near the French border.

You will see that they say that I am commonly named "The king of the Fancy"....

Suffice it to say that my average yearly winnings in all the great

Mr Gurnay, may the writer tell you, is probably the man in the world who most takes writing! As for keeping records, you might as well ask him to keep water in a bucket!! He's past redemption on that score, unless Gurnay tell him. 15/2/26

racing competitions between 300 and 900 kilos. is 125 to 140 prizes, Of course, if, like many fanciers, I were to take into account the pool-prizes in what we call the "doublages", that number of prizes would rise up to 600 to 700 at least, but I never mention anything but prizes recorded in the club's classification. for the race.

As to shows, of course I have exhibited my birds now and again, but always without any enthousiasm, as I have never been a partisan of showing my birds to all my competitors, as I do not ~~want~~ want them to know too much about my strain. The stronger one is, the more jealous there are.....

At any rate, each time I have shown my birds, I have secured first prizes in all classes, and never could any one say that I have been beaten.

Re Mr. Curtis, I quite agree with you that he makes more noise than effect.....I do not think that man can be very interesting, and I am enclosing two letters of his to show you what he can achieve: not much....

Had he been able to do something against Gibson, it would surely have been in order to grind his own axe rather than doing some good to the fancy, as I suppose he has some personal vengeance against Gibson, and he wanted to use me as a tool in order to get rid of one of his competitors.

Of course Gibson is absolutely bad and dishonest, and do not in the least trouble over paying what he still owes me...

Curtis says that he admits that he was wrong in his writings about my strain and that he was going to correct that. Then all he writes in the A.R.P.N. is parts of my letter to him with particulars which I sent him. Not much of a correction, is it?

At any rate, now that he has made amends, I shall no longer take any notice of him, and if he again bothers me with letters I shall not answer them. This will put an end to that story.

Herewith a letter from my club, which I have found in my old papers, giving a list of my winnings in 1922. Since then, I have done better still.

In your letter of Dec. 30. you said that the bird 418322-2I would interest you. That bird, called Bon Foncé, comes off La Tache (which by the way I am so glad you did not lose after all) with the Dark hen sister of Favorite which you received along with La Tache.

It was off these two birds that I had asked you a pair# of youngsters back, and it shows you that I ever have served you to the very best of my ability.

The hen which I have given to your cock to be shipped shortly is rung IO734I5-24, she is a daughter of my blue cock of Bordeaux rung IO30399-23, whose father was my famous blue II58545-20

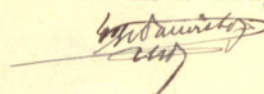
The mother of this hen being sent you was a pied-dark hen whose father was son of my Favourite, with my old pied celebrated breeder-hen.

It is the very best one could have, and you may mate her without the slightest fear to my Excellency cock. You could not get any better bird, I am sure of that

Pray let me know as soon as you have received the birds, what you think of them, and meanwhile, with all best wishes for a successful season, believe me, dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay



Verviers, 16th. February 1926

Dear Mr. Ford,

Here is the detail of costs for the birds sent you last week, and which went by the Red Star Line s/s sailin-g on the 13th. inst.

Certificate Frs. 10.50

Carriage to Antwerp 7.-


Freight to New-York and care on board 189.50

Frs. 207-

Trusting you will receive the birds in perfect conditions, and will like them as they deserve to, I beg to remain, dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

Pour R. Gurnay



MEMORANDUM

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

R. GURNAY

ADR. TÉLÉGR. : GURNAY, VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

COMPTE CHÈQUES POSTAUX 9885

VERVIERS, LE 27th. April 1926
61, RUE AUX LAINES

A Mr.

Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Mr. Ford,

On March 5. MM. M. Harrison of New-York, through whom we had sent you the last consignment of birds, have been pleased to send us your letter of thanks for the care they had given to the handling of that consignment, which you were telling them had reached you in perfect conditions.

We were of course very pleased to hear that, but ever since we have been expecting word from you to tell us what you thought of these birds, about which we do not as yet know your opinion. We cannot really account for such a delay, which is quite contrary to your ways, and we have now made up our mind to send you these few lines, for fear your letter might have been lost, and in such a case you might now wonder how it is that you do not hear from us in answer.

We shall be delighted to receive news at your earliest convenience and we hope that your new birds are perfectly happy in their new home.

With all our best wishes for the season that is about to begin, and very kindest regards, we remain, dear Mr. Ford,

Yours very sincerely,

R. Gurnay



R. GURNAY

FOURNITURES POUR TAILLEURS

VERVIERS

TÉLÉPHONE 1192

Compte Chèques Postaux 9885

VERVIERS, LE 14th. May 1926

61, Rue aux Laines

Mr. Lee M. F O R D

Great Falls

Dear Friend,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your very welcome letter dated April 21., with two drafts for Frs. 13404.- and Frs. 2725.-, for which I beg to thank you most sincerely,

In the meantime you will have received the details of the charges for shipping &c.

I trust that you did not put yourself to any inconvenience in order to settle that account, for, as I told you when I shipped the birds, you were to remit the amount agreed to whenever it was possible for you to do so quite at your convenience.

Re cock IO27893, I was sure it would be the bird you wanted, and that is one of the two reasons why I was willing to let you have it.

The second is that I have once for all made up my mind not to show my birds any more.

As I told you before, I had shown four birds here and had won the 1, 2, 3 and 4th. prizes with them, the 1st. prize being the cock you now have.

For the championship, I again sent the four birds, which were shown with all the other people's champions. There I got only 2nd. 3rd. 5th. and 6th. prizes, thus being for the first time beaten.

For that championship, the 1st. prize was awarded to a Mr. Coopman who is the President of the organizing club, and who had given hospitality to the 3 French jurymen who were to judge the birds. His bird, that is Mr. Coopman's, had been shown on the same day as I had first shown mine, and the jury awarded him the 10th. prize. However it was that, with the 10th. prize he managed to beat my four birds which had previously beaten his, I do not know, neither does he, for he does not mind declaring to everybody that my birds were far superior to his.

He won $\frac{1}{2}$ a point against mine, that is against bird IO27893 for the 1st. prize, and when I asked the juries to explain the difference, and how they had found in favour of Coopman's bird, they had to admit that they could not explain, and that there must have been a mistake, but it was all over and nothing could be done.

Hence my decision never again to show my birds.

When I said that I had sold that bird, my friends said that I must be in needs of money, for they could not understand a fancier like me doing away with such a bird.

At any rate, you must be proud to have got it, and the hen too is a magnificent bird.

As to the mealy hen, she may be less beautiful, but I tell you honestly, do not do away with her. She is not a pure Gurnay, but a crossing which I tried before the war with a bird which I bought off Mr. Verhoye, a well-known Courtrai fancier. Those Verhoye birds are doing well when crossed with mine, although they are not so nice looking, yet they are quite all right as racers, and you will judge for yourself later on. I tell you once again, do keep it, and give her a fair chance.

R. GURNAY

(Suite)

Should she fail you in your expectations, we shall see what can be done, but as you know, you must ever tell me what is going on, and not mind to tell me frankly what you think of the birds you get from me. I shall ever do my best to give you satisfaction to the fullest extent.

Our weather here has been miserable for the last six weeks, and the number of birds lost so far is incredible. With that, the breeding of youngsters is poor, and with 50 pairs, all I have got for the first breed is some 35 youngsters worthy of the name of pigeon.

Yesterday, we had some snow.....and very seldom do we happen to see any sunshine. Rain and cold, that is the normal this year.

Up to date we have had three races, all poor, and I have won 22 prizes with all new birds which I am testing. My old champions cannot get fit, because of the cold weather. In another week's time, we start the more important races, and we must hope that things will change for better, otherwise it will fare badly with the best birds.

Herewith the three pedigrees requested.

Dardenne: did you see into the matter with the bird that was sold to Mr. Fitz as a Dardenne and that was actually one of mine sent to you?

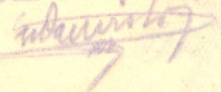
I really want to see that matter cleared, as Mr. Dardenne has again communicated with Mr. Fitz, and they both now suspect me of having kept one of the Dardenne birds and to have replaced it by one of mine.

I should like to clear that point beyond any suspicion being left in their mind that I could have played such a trick on any body, which I would not do for the whole of Dardenne's loft.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and with my very best wishes for the racing season, believe, me, dear Mr. Ford,

Yours most sincerely,

POUR R. Gurnay



7630 Homewood Place
La Mesa, California
March 22, 1962

Mr. Lee M. Ford
P. O. Box 711
Great Falls, Montana

Dear Mr. Ford:

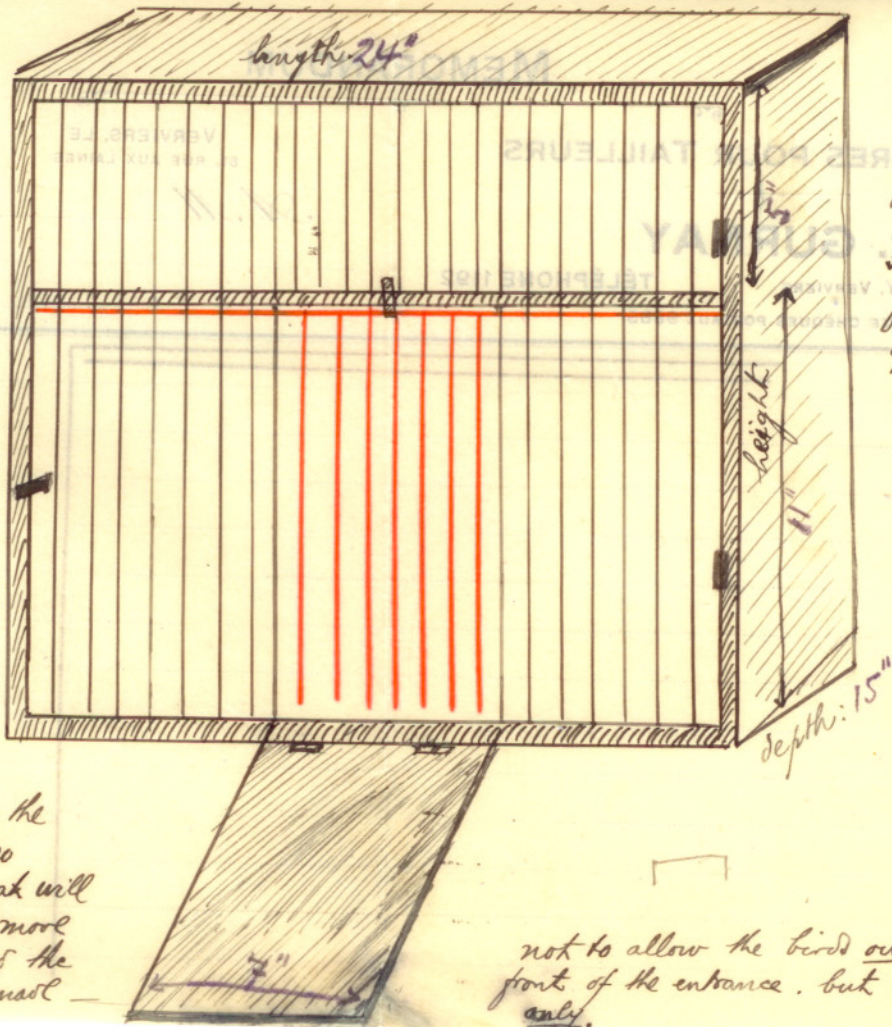
I am returning to you at this time, most of the materials that you sent to me. I have had them copied and added this new information to the material that I already had regarding the Gurnays and Mons. Gurnay. I still have one copy of The Racing Pigeon, the letter from Magner to you, the one page copy of the 1920 article giving the racing records of Verviers and telling of Gurnay and also three photos - the two which were painted by Paget and the one from Gurnay himself which has his signature on the back. These six items I will return to you after the first of the month sometime. I have taken them to a photo studio to have pictures made of these items and as they were extremely busy they told me they could not promise them back to me until about the 5th of April.

I certainly appreciate your sending all of this information to me. Most of it, of course, was entirely new to me and added a worth of new material to my ever growing library as regards the Gurnays. It was certainly most kind of you to take the time to gather all this information to send to me and knowing how you must value this information, I appreciate your confidence in sending it to me.

I was most interested in the article in the controversy as to whether Gurnay ever had "reds" or not. I had heard this discussed before somewhat. I have, at the present time, two brick reds, one mosaic and one mealy from his stock. I know these also to be authentic as they are only two or three generations from some of the birds listed in Gurnay's final sale of 1936. I had previously seen the 1936 sale catalogue and had translated some of this. In the sale there are, as I remember, three reds and a mosaic or two. Also mentioned, was the color gris and gris mosaic. An old Belgian fancier who helped me translate a small portion of this, interpreted these colors as red, mosaic, dun and mealy. Thanking you again for all of the trouble that I have caused you and your kind cooperation in this, I remain,


Most sincerely,


W. R. Hefner




Measurements
given "inside"

The whole bobbed
front should be
openable, so as to
allow easy cleaning.

 wood.

 wires (fixed)

 movable bob-wires
moving to the
fixed left (or right)
side so as to leave
the nest-box open
or to shut it without
lifting up the front
plank that serves for the
bird to perch on. also
to close the nest-box at will
The movable bob-wires move
inside the nest, behind the
other wires and are so made

not to allow the birds out when move in
front of the entrance. but to allow them in
only.

"BARON" } Valen duiver
"VALEN D'HOOGHE" } Mâle pâle



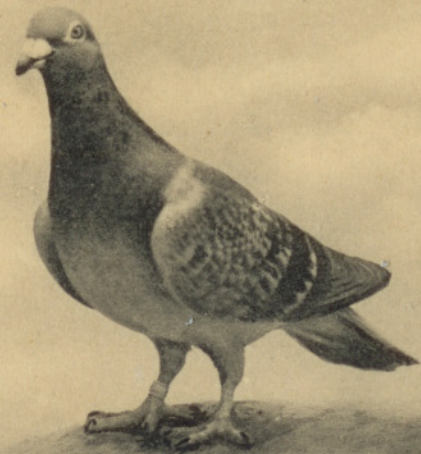
"ELFENNER" } Mâle écaillé
"LE ONZE PLUME" } Geschelpten duiver



"ROUGE DE HERDT" } Rooden duiver
"DE ZOT" } Mâle rouge



"L'HIRONDELLE" } Geschelpte duivin
"BALDAUFKEN" } Femelle écaillée



" LE BORDEAUX " } Mâle bleu
" VUILEN BLAUWEN " } Blauwen duiver



" PLUME BLANCHE " } Blauwen duiver
" WITPEN DE BOT " } Mâle bleu



" BLESKEN " } Blauwe duivin
" PLUME BLANCHE " } Femelle bleue



" BLAUWKEN " } Blauwe duivin
" LA BONNE PETITE FEMELLE BLEUE " } Femelle bleue

