



—Photo courtesy of (Dr.) Ralph Farmer, Masspeth, L. I., N. Y., breeder and owner.

WHITE BRÜNNER
Cock, 1940

tainé (1922, p. 72, *et seq.*) divides the Ghent Pouters into four principal varieties:

(186) Dominicans (Fr.: *Les Dominicains*)—The Dominican is a magpie-colored Pouter, though the marking is somewhat different from that of the English Magpie. The head, globe, wings, lower part of back and under part of body have white plumage. The neck, breast, upper part of back, and tail are colored. The line of demarcation between the two colors should be clean-cut. The white marking of the head covers the frontal and the crown and extends about one-half inch below the

eye, and over the globe in the form of a bib. According to Fontaine (1922, p. 73), the feathering of the leg of the Dominican is sligher than in the other varieties of Ghent Pouters.

Self-Colors (Fr.: *Les Unicolors*)—Fontaine says that blacks and whites are the only two typical colors in the self-colored varieties.

Pied (Fr.: *Ceux à bavette*)—This variety has the same general markings and crescent as the pied English Pouter and, according to Dale, occurs only in blue and black. Fontaine, however, mentions also red, yellow, and mealy.

Snips or Spots (Fr.: *Les Heurtes*)—This variety, according to Fontaine, was rather scarce in 1922. He describes it as white, with a colored spot on the head and a colored tail. According to the standard of the *Federation Belge*, 1909, this variety has the same general characteristics as the Dominican, with plumage all white except for the spot on the head and the colored tail, which are either blue or black.

(187) Amsterdam Balloon Croppers (Ger.: *Holländer Ballonkröpfer* or *Amsterdamer Ballonbläser*; Fr.: *Boullants Hollekropper*)—The Amsterdam Balloon Cropper, known also as the Holle Cropper, is a creation of Holland and especially of Amsterdam. This variety is said to have been bred in Holland for centuries, and there are paintings of it by old Dutch Masters of the sixteenth century, such as Jan Steen and d'Hondekoeter (Rey, in Lavalle and Lietze, 1905, p. 174). The Dutch have long taken pride in the development of this most unusual breed of Pouter. The Holle Cropper is small and belongs to the group of Pigmy Pouters. It stands erect on tiptoe, leaning backwards, somewhat after the fashion of a good Fantail. The body is round, the breast is full and well developed, the head is carried back, though it should not rest upon the cushion as does the head of the Fantail. The top of the globe should form the highest point of the body. The

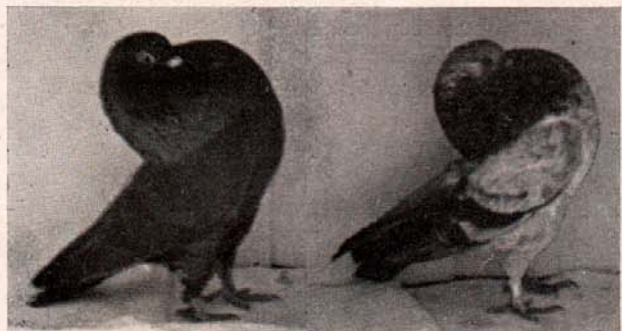
neck possesses the tremulous motion of the Mookee and of the old type Fantail. The general appearance of the bird should almost be that of a round ball supported on eager toes. The wings and tail are short, and the wings should fold neatly upon the tail. Shape and station are main show points in this breed. An interesting characteristic is that in flight the head and neck are carried in an upright position and not extended to the front as in other varieties. It is bred in white and black selfs and in many colors, the colored birds having the same general markings as the English Pouter. The pied birds are bred in blue, silver, mealy, black, red, and yellow.

This is a most charming breed of pigeon, and it is said to have become quite popular in England in recent years. Only a few occur in this country. Jas. L. Sessa (N. Y.) breeds it.

(188) Slenker (Ger.: *Slenken Taube*; Fr.: *Slenker*)—This is another Dutch breed of Pouter, stated by Wittig (1927) to be the Dutch national pigeon. Apparently it is a derivative cross of a Pouter (somewhat similar to the Holle Cropper) and other local breeds of Holland. German pigeon books contain practically nothing upon it. Spruijt (1935), a Hollander, says that it is known there as *Slenk*, *Slenke*, or *Slenkerduif*, and that it is popularly bred in Groningen (Holland). The name is thought to be derived from a similar word describing its peculiar flight: *schlenkern*, in German, means *swing*. Spruijt says it is not unlikely that the Slenker represents a fusion of Croppers and Tumblers, since it looks like the "old" Holle Cropper, the Norwich Cropper, and the Ringbeater. An Asiatic Tumbler is also supposed to be in its ancestry.

The breed today resembles the Holle Cropper but lacks its globe and carries its tail lower. Its station is rather like our modern Fantail, breast carried high, head back, with tremulous head and neck movement but with normal tail carried very low. It is bred principally in reds and yellows, barred and T-pattern (510).

The breed is cultured for air performance rather than for exhibition. According to Fontaine (1922, pp. 80-81), its flight is a spectacle. The bird uses great energy in its wing beats. Carrying its head and neck arched, it first rises almost vertically, then flies horizontally, with loud



—Photo by LeCoq.

HOLLE CROPPERS

(Left): Black cock, No. 2535-1938

(Right): Blue grizzled hen, No. 38237-1934

Birds sent to author for photographing by James L. Sessa, Jamaica, L. I., N. Y., breeder and owner.



A SLENKER
As portrayed by Hollander.

clapping of wings. Each wing stroke is very powerful, and Fontaine says that each stroke seems to carry the bird five times as far as the wing beat of a normal pigeon.

Boulant Signor—This variety occurs in Belgium and is thought to have been derived from a cross of the Belgian Pouter and highflier (*volant*). Its globe is oval and plumage white, with colored head

and tail. According to Fontaine (1922, p. 76), it is very rare.

French Pouters (Fr.: *Boulants Francais*)—Boitard and Corbie (1824) describe about twenty-three varieties of Pouters then known in France. There the breed is known as *Boulant* or *Pigeon grosse-gorge*, though colloquially it is sometimes called *Pigeon souffleur*, *Pigeon gavus*, and *Pigeon claquart* (Fontaine, 1922, p. 61). Of the many varieties of French Pouters described by Boitard and Corbie, only two today are prominently known.

(189) **Amiens Pouters** (Ger.: *Französische Kröpfer*; Fr.: *Boulants Francais* or *Boulants d'Amiens*)—This French Pouter, Fontaine (1922, p. 65) says, probably originated in the vicinity of Amiens and has been, therefore, often called the Pouter of Amiens. The variety belongs to the group of large Pouters and is of the same general type as the English Pouter but is absolutely clean-legged. Its origin is uncertain, but it seems to be a natural derivation from the Dutch Uploper. Fontaine considers it much more beautiful than the corresponding English Pouter, though it is a matter of taste whether one prefers a bird with clean legs or slippered.

The general body conformation is very similar to that of the English Pouter, and the colors are likewise similar. The crescent of the globe should be approximately the same, and the same pied marks on the wings are present. The waist, thighs, and primaries are also white. It is bred self-colored in black, red, yellow, and white; and in pied similar to the English Pouter in black, blue with black bars, red, and yellow.

(190) **Lille Pouters** (Fr.: *Les Boulants Lillois*)—This



Pouter is the French equivalent of the English Pigmy Pouter and the German Brünner. It derives its name from the fact that it was created in and around the city of Lille. The breed is described by Boitard and

A LILLE POUTER

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Corbie (1824). In general appearance this French Pigmy Pouter is very similar to the English Pigmy Pouter, though not quite so nicely proportioned. It is always bred with clean, very red legs. According to Fontaine (1922, p. 68), the Lille Pouter, while once well known, had been replaced in popularity by the Amiens Pouter, and at his writing had become very rare. Fontaine says that the Lille Pouter is a small reproduction of the Amiens Pouter, just as in England the Pigmy Pouter is a small reproduction of the English Pouter. In colors it is bred in white, blue with black or white bars, black, red, and yellow, the last three colors either self or white-barred. It also occurs in tigated with wing flights and tail black.

Priests (Ger.: *Pfaffentauben*; Fr.: *Pigeons coquillés russe*)

(191) The Priest originated in Saxony and Thuringia (Schachtzabel, 1925) and is a stoutly built, thick-set Toy variety, which formerly was bred with clean legs, but which has been bred for some time with heavy muffs. The feathers of the entire body are colored except for a white head and white wing bars. It is shell-crested, the crest being colored and finishing on each side in a rosette. Priests are divided into at least two varieties:

Double-Crested Priests (Ger.: *doppelkuppige Pfaffen*)—In this variety, in addition to the shell crest, there is a frontal tuft or rosette, giving to the breed the name of double-crested (*Doppelkuppig*), as in the instance of the German Trumpeters and the Double-crested Fairy Swallows and others. This variety of Priests is always well muffed.

Neumeister (1837, plate 2) shows a whole plate of illustrations in various colors and describes it as occurring in his time in black, with or without bars, blue, brown-red, and yellow. Today it is bred in black, blue, red,



A BLUE WHITE-BARRED DOUBLE-CRESTED PRIEST

From the loft of a Chicago fancier. Photographed for this work, 1940.