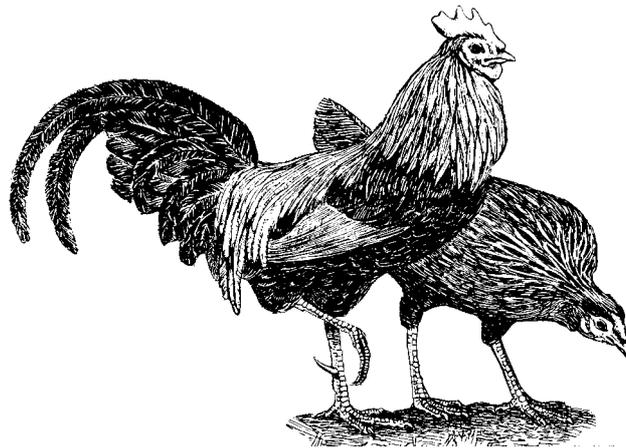
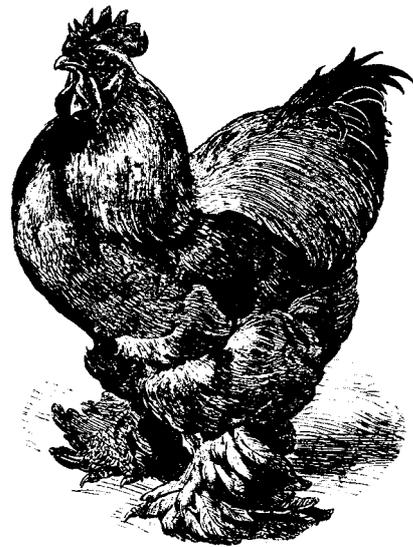
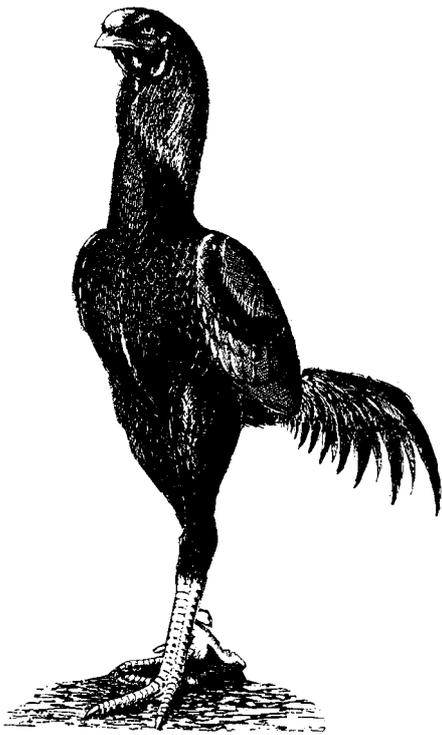


Chattering on Gallus



*The correspondence throughout the World
from 1975 till 1996*

**by
William Plant**



(Photo by Guido COMASINI – 1996)

William John Plant of Maitland, NSW - Australia, died on 20 October, 1996. This remarkable poultry fancier, amateur researcher and historian was born on 3 May, 1921. Three years in high school were followed by work in engineering and three years on a technical college course. From 1939, interrupted by army service during World War II, he operated as amateur radio station. In 1965, in conjunction with his son David, he started to breed Pekin Bantams and they became members of the NSW Pekin Bantam Club. It was from this time that an interest in fancy fowl, and the domestic fowl generally, took on a progressively more important role in William's life.

As breeders of Black Pekin Bantams, Bill and David Plant became Club Grand Champions on many occasions. William Plant served as Club Secretary and Newsletter editor (since 1974). This led ultimately to his co-editing *The Australian Pekin Bantam* (1993). The intriguing combination of interests in Pekin Bantams and short-wave radio provided the basis for his investigations and research into the origins and history not only of this variety, but into that of other varieties and the domestic fowl and poultry generally. While he wrote many articles for the poultry press on the history and development of varieties of domestic fowl and other poultry species in Australia, his increasing passion became the origin and evolution of the domestic fowl.

Some of the results of William Plant's research were published privately, including *Chicken Bone Recoveries* (1984) [and essential supplement (1985)] and *Gallus Species - Jungle Fowl*. Had the author lived longer these were intended to form part of a comprehensive treatise that would have embraced the origin of birds together with the evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl. Some of his findings are cited in *Poultry Breeding and Genetics* (1990).

To gather the information he needed, Mr Plant consulted a great many leading poultry scientists and obtained information from numerous museums, universities and institutions in many countries. It became apparent that the extensive correspondence that had accumulated could itself be of value. Bill Plant collaborated in the plan to combine this material in a book, *Chattering on Gallus*, that is published posthumously .

Although Bill Plant was apologetic over his lack of academic background and for any. consequent deficiencies in presentation, his wide ranging investigations and research were carried out with thoroughness and great enthusiasm. Indeed, as he followed in the tracks of ancient domestic fowl he was like an indefatigable bloodhound, with the results related as a thrilling detective story. In spite of suffering impaired sight, the fruitfulness, dedication and clarity of vision of this scholar were striking and could be envied by many: who might be considered to be better qualified. Bill Plant's philosophy was one of continuous learning. He eschewed the idea that he had become an authority, linking this term with the cessation of learning. All those who had the good fortune to know this remarkable man will regret his passing.



The last letter sent to Bill

by Elio CORTI

Sunday October 6th 1996 7:40 p.m. - mailed October 10th 1996

Dear Bill,

If it's too much hard for you to read this letter, I ask from Marie to do this.

As they told me that we have no too much time to communicate by letter, I would like to say that you are in my heart since the first day I knew you personally, and, perhaps, also before, when we was only corresponding by snail mail.

I hope only one thing: you might leave this life without sufferance, because this life was very lavish with you not only with spiritual pains.

You dictated your last will by telephone. I can assure you that my collaboration with David, in researching what you are researching since years and years, will be complete, as you can be sure that what I promise I keep.

You returned from your European journey with many ideas for the Australian breeders. One of these ideas was to give them the Australian Poultry Standard. I think that as remembrance of the big and strong man you are, every friend of you must be available to realise this dream.

This dream must become reality. In this way for each of us it will be like living at your side, under your benevolent and reassuring smile.

The last words I told you in the Milano's airport have been: we will see in Pine River, Minnesota.

I don't know where we will see next time. May be in the chickens' Paradise. So, it will be possible to know definitely either all the domestic chickens are an offspring of the Bankiva or not.

Next week I will meet Loyl in central Switzerland, near Lucerne. I will speak to him about our unsuccessful meeting in Minnesota. It will be for another time!!!

Please give my greetings to your dog Bob.

My mother, Guido, Paco, Rex, Merlo, Pinga and all my chickens and my three volumes of *Summa Gallicana* are with you, a silent fighting winner cock.

The dedication of my job will be for the two strongest persons I met in my life: Claudia & Bill.

You are in my heart and in my mind, for ever and ever.



I always remember with a lot of pleasure the spring of 1996 because it has been really intense, spontaneous and full of emotions. It was then that I met Bill, *the Man of the Pekin*.

It was impossible not to have respect and esteem for a man that devoted half of his life to the love for the Chickens. It is very uncommon a such keenness that comes from the heart, and not everybody is able to understand...It's depending from the point of view you are looking at the world, everything is depending...

When Bill passed away, part of his keenness for animals emigrated in me. In fact it is during that period that I begun to develop a passion at first for the chickens (Pekin, Rosecomb, Appenzeller spitzhauben, Dwarf modern English game), then arrived the passion of my life, together with flowers and plants: geese, ducks, swans.

Bill was a very calm person, serene and very well-mannered. I have been able to do a trip with him and with Dr Elio Corti through the European beauties. He was a person with whom it was possible to speak about everything, but for me the English language was the only flaw. What a pity! I would have been able to learn a lot, also on waterfowls.

If the Italian breeders were devoted with half the interest emitted by Bill, the Italian aviculture would find a place of all respect towards the more developed Countries in avicultural field, like Germany, Holland, UK, USA, Australia. But, alas, it is not so.

The few persons - and I know one of them - that could help the whole system, they cannot do it, not for lack of will, but because it is difficult to have some recognitions, and with time, considering that the man lives also of gratifications, the trust is lost and everything goes to the dogs.

It is a true pity. Now, after 4 years, a lot of things in my life have changed, but the special persons like Bill remain always close to us with our memories and hopes.

Guido Comasini

Chattering on Gallus

*The correspondence throughout the World
from 1975 till 1996*

**by
William Plant**



Antonella COMASINI

Busto Arsizio - Italy

Typing of hand-written correspondence

Fernando CIVARDI

Milano - Italy

Review of English and punctuation

Elio CORTI

Valenza - Italy

Page maker

Guido COMASINI

Busto Arsizio - Italy

Assistant Page maker

Printed in Valenza – Italy

2000

INTRODUCTION

This collection and coalition of my correspondence over a period of some 20 years was suggested by Dr. Corti of Valenza in Italy after he visited my home in Australia during 1995. Dr. Corti scanned all my files and copied much during his visit and after reading all this correspondence he decided it should go into print and undertook to coalate it and make master copies for it to go into book form.

I had not considered this aspect although many facets of the study of chickens were contained in the literature. For many years I had been researching information on first of all the Pekin (Cochin) Bantam then the Origin of the Domestic Chicken in general.

Living in Australia made this difficult for we are a long way from sources of information. This necessitated me writing many letters all over the world, hence all this correspondence. At the same time it will be noted much correspondence with the late Mr. Frank Gary who was for many years Chairman of the Standards Committee of the American Bantam Association.

Being myself involved with the Pekin Bantam Club of New South Wales, now the Pekin Bantam Club of Australia, I was most interested together with my son David and our then President Neville Notley and later Tony Mills, who is now President, most interested in compiling colour standards for a number of new colours which were being exhibited in Australia. Also we felt the standard, i.e. British Standard used in Australia, could be made a little more explicit for our purposes.

In this field we sought advice form Mr. Gary, who I consider the greatest standard maker we have seen. I say this because in my library I have many standard works and I would rate the America Bantam Association Standard the most clearcut standard I have seen. It is clearcut and precise which is most necessary.

Mr. Gary freely gave his advice which we followed and the result today is that we have a Club Standard for the Australian Pekin Bantam.

I found during overall researches I explored many avenues of science and my interests led me into Poultry Genetics for I was doing experimental work in colour breeding.

In this field I have to thank Dr. Clive Carefoot of Chipping near Preston in Lancashire in the UK and Fred Jeffrey of North Amherst in Massachusetts in the USA. These two gentlemen were always ready to answer any problems I had. I had much correspondence with Professor George Carter of the Texas A&M University. Although my main theme was the Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl, my enquires moved into many other subjects wherein I picked up scraps of information. I do believe one can be in some cases too narrow in their field of research and thereby miss out on important information. In my experience I have proved that widening the filed of the research has proved profitable.

This work does not contain all the files of information I have received. That would take up a number of volumes. Some correspondence has been missed due to the state of my own files and I still have more information and correspondence coming to hand week by week. That will have to wait for another day.

The search for the Origins of the Domestic Fowl will last past my lifetime as there are still many questions to be answered e.g. from whence came *Gallus gallus* (Red Jungle Fowl) the Malay and the Asiatics. As far as I have been able to ascertain there is not enough positive evidence to answer this question.

This is I believe is the area we now have to explore.

It has generally been accepted that all Domestic Fowl descended from Red Jungle Fowl but I believe that the explanations are not good enough for me.

I would encourage those interested to explore further back in years for probably an extinct ancestor.

I hope these volumes will prove of interest to anyone reading them and I am always pleased to hear from others interested in the subject.

I am must grateful for the work Dr. Corti has done to make this possible.



William John PLANT

Valenza - Italy - May 3rd 1996

FEW NOTES ABOUT SOME CORRESPONDENTS

Annie BANNING-VOGELPOEL



Mrs Banning has been involved with chickens for many years in the Netherlands. She is a breeder judge and author, having published to my knowledge at least two books on chickens. She co-operated with the late Mr Frank Gary, Chairman of American Bantam Association Standard Committee, when European breeds were being discussed.

Over the years Mrs Banning has assisted with much information for my researches. After corresponding with Annie for some years, on a recent visit to Europe I was able to visit her home for a couple of days and discuss many matters with her. This personal meeting was most pleasant.

Clive CAREFOOT

Dr Carefoot, M.Sc., Ph.D., of Chipping near Preston, Lancashire, UK, is a Poultry breeder from around 45 years, inheriting this pastime from his father and grandfather before him.

He is a breeder of quality stock, always aiming for perfection. Among his bantam breeds are Partridge Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, Sussex, Silver Pencilled Wyandottes and Black Orpingtons. A recent addition is the Chocolate Orpington which came from his Blacks and now is breeding true to colour, this being governed by the gene Choc.

I have been fortunate to view Dr Carefoot's stock and I must say the quality of the markings in his birds is without doubt *high quality*.

Dr Carefoot's book published a few years ago *Creative Poultry Breeding* is a book any sincere Poultry Breeder should have on his bookshelf. He also has a number of papers on Poultry Genetics published in *Poultry Science*.



George CARTER



Professor Carter before his retirement was Emeritus professor of Geography at the Texas A&M University - College Station - Texas in the United States. Professor Carter's contribution to the subject of chickens stems from his chapter in the treatise *Man Across the sea* when he wrote of Pre-Columbian chickens in the New World, the Americas.

Although many do not agree with Professor Carter's deliberations he has over the years stood firm on his argument of chickens in the Americas Pre-Columbian times. He is preparing a book on the subject but has been having difficulties getting it published.

He has contributed articles to a publication the *Ellsworth American* from the States of Maine which discusses Pre Columbian matters over the years.

Professor Carter has been a most informative correspondent and I have received some very interesting letters from him.

Roy CRAWFORD

Professor Crawford of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, is another person with whom I have had correspondence which has also been most helpful.

A few years ago he took on the job of gathering and editing a comprehensive study on Poultry Genetics bringing all literature up to date. Previous to this F.B. Hutt's *Genetics of the Fowl* was the main literature on this subject. However this was published in 1949 and in the intervening years more information has come to hand.

Professor Crawford's effort with his publication *Poultry Breeding and Genetics* is to be commended.

Frank FOGARTY

Frank Fogarty of Taree, in the State of New South Wales, is a particular friend of mine with whom I have frequent contacts.

Frank has been working on the making of Barred Pekin with some success. As far as I am aware he is the only breeder in Australia involved in this project at the moment. He also constructs unique carrying boxes for the transport of fowls which are eagerly sought by exhibitors to convey their birds to shows.

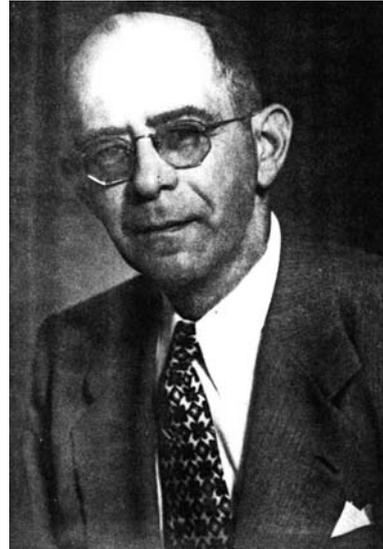
Frank GARY

I had much correspondence with the late Frank Gary of New Jersey in the United States during the years research was being carried out on the revising of the standard for the Pekin in Australia.

Mr Gary was most helpful with his advice in doing this time and we of the Pekin Bantam club of Australia consider ourselves most fortunate that we had someone of his experience to turn to.

Mr Gary was for many years Chairman of the Standards Committee of the American Bantam Association and through his drive and thoroughness the ABA produced, I believe, six editions of the *ABA Standard*.

There was no half measures with him. It had to be one thing or another, no in *betweens*. In my opinion he was the best standard maker we have seen. His work should be an example for anyone compiling standards. I have always had great respect for this man.



Roger GREEN

Dr Green of the University of Auckland is emeritus Professor in Prehistory in that Institution.

Although I have not had a lot of correspondence with him, he has been most helpful when I have been searching for information on the Pacific area.

Leonora HERING

The late Mrs Hering from Saratoga, California, in the USA, was a Poultry Historian in that country and author of a number of articles in the *American Bantam Association Yearbook*. She assisted me a great deal providing much information for my researches.

Charles HIGHAM

Professor Higham of the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, through correspondence alerted me of the presence of chicken bones he excavated in North East Thailand some years ago.

This was an important discovery being dated around 3500 BC which enabled me to expand my researches. His assistance was much appreciated.

Edmund HOFFMANN

I have been corresponding with Dr Edmund Hoffmann of Canning, Nova Scotia, Canada, for some time now and he has been most helpful with general and contact information. Also his comments on my researches have been most constructive.

Ed is most interested in ducks and geese, particularly the Muscovy duck, the history of which he has been researching for some years. He also published a booklet on quail.

Ed travels quite a lot as he has a number of waterfowl breeding experiments operating in Saudi Arabia and I do believe China. His assistance has been much appreciated.

Fred JEFFREY

With Fred Jeffrey of North Amherst - Massachusetts - in the United States, I have been in contact for many years and he has always been ready to give me advice and information when I requested. We used cassette tapes for some time to communicate, particularly when my eyesight began to fail. Unfortunately his file of correspondence cannot be located among my large amount of material. I believe some of his letters are distributed among other subject matter files. How Mr Jeffrey has been a real help to me over the years: his book *Bantam Chickens* is, I believe, one of the best books written on this particular subject available. It has had wide popularity around the world. He is also involved in another book on Old English Game Bantam. His work on colour breeding is invaluable.

Most of Fred Jeffrey academic career was spent at Rutgers University in New Jersey and the University of Massachusetts. Prior to his retirement he served as Dean of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. After retirement he was for some years Secretary of the American Bantam Association and currently Secretary of the Old English Game Club of America. Fred Jeffrey has had at all times been only too pleased to answer to any of my queries.



BANTAM CHICKENS
by
Fred P. Jeffrey

*Best wishes
To my
Good friend
W.J. Plant
F.P. Jeffrey
1-31-78*

William LONGENECKER

Dr Longenecker and I usually exchanged short letters in my early years of research, particularly when I was exploring the history of the Cochin.

He was with the National Agricultural Library at Beltsville - Maryland - in the United States and searched through its file seeking information for my studies.

I am indebted to him for his assistance.

Veronica MAYHEW

My correspondence with Veronica Mayhew of Woodcote, near Reading, in England, has been over quite some years but our letters have usually been of a very short nature due to the fact that it has been mainly regarding the purchase of poultry books.

Veronica has supplied me with many books over the years as she is I would say the *leading supplier* of both new and antiquarian books in the world having customers in most countries.

I have appreciated her assistance over the years and on my recent trip to Europe had the opportunity to spend a pleasant day at her home.



Sally RODWELL

Mrs Sally Rodwell of Cambridge, England, replied to a letter I had written to Dr Higgs. Unfortunately Dr Higgs had passed away, so my enquiry had been passed to her.

Mrs Rodwell had done a study on the chicken bones that had been unearthed in China. This opened a new avenue for me. It was necessary for Sally to move to Hong Kong, which interrupted her studies.

John SKINNER

Professor Skinner of the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the United States is now retired. I believe was involved with the American Poultry Historical Association.

He also edited a new style of *American Poultry Association Standard* of which he sent me a complimentary copy. Professor Skinner was also the author of a book on Bantam.

Jim SPECHT

Dr Specht of the Department Anthropology at the Australian Museum in Sydney was most helpful with information on chicken bone recoveries in Melanesia and was always ready to answer any my questions.



Loyl STROMBERG

Loyl Stromberg of Pine River, Minnesota, USA, has over the years conducted the business of supplying poultry equipment, books etc. I have been corresponding with Loyl for many years and during that time have noted his efforts in compiling an encyclopaedia of World's Poultry Breeds.

The information is that publication will be available during 1996. Loyl has also been working hard on the formation of a Poultry Museum in Bonner Springs, Kansas, USA. I am sure his efforts will be rewarded.

Pat VICKERS RICH

Dr Vickers Rich is with the Earth Science Department of the Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. She has been working in the field of Palaeontology in conjunction with her husband for some years.

Dr Vickers Rich has been most helpful in my researches providing information and contacts which proved invaluable. She was responsible for giving me a contact in China which gained much information for me. She is a co-author of quite a large treatise on Palaeontology in Australasia.

INDEX OF THE CORRESPONDENTS

- American Poultry Historical Society** - Madison - Wisconsin - USA - 27
- Australian Museum** - Sydney - Australia – 15 – 35 – 37 – 59 – 86 – 107 - 121
- Avicultura** - Amerongen - Netherlands – 329 – 340 – 365 – 380 - 383
- BANNING VOGELPOEL Annie** - Waardenburg - Netherlands - 79 – 116 – 137 – 140 – 145 – 152 – 186 – 225 – 252 – 253 – 257 – 259 – 260 - 407
- BARKER Colin** - Tenambit - NSW - Australia – 195
- BULLOCK Dillman** - Angol - Chile - 89
- Cambridge University Library** - Cambridge - UK – 47 - 427
- CAREFOOT Clive** - Chipping - Lancashire - UK - 28 – 38 – 39 – 180 – 206 – 210 – 224 – 254 – 262 – 265 – 279 – 282 – 364 - 392
- CARTER George** - Texas A&M University - College Station - USA - 51 – 142 – 312 – 320 – 326 - 429
- CAWLEY William** - Texas Agricultural Extension Service - College Station - USA - 203
- COLLIAS Nicholas** - University of California - Los Angeles - USA -289
- Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia** - Sydney - Australia - 1
- Consulate General Royal Thai** - Sydney - Australia - 3
- Consulate of Malaysia** - Sydney - Australia - 4
- CORTI Elio** - Valenza - Italy - 291 – 295 – 300 – 303 – 304 – 307 – 309 – 316 – 317 – 322 – 330 – 331 – 338 – 346 – 347 – 351 – 358 – 361 – 378 – 388 – 408 – 411 – 415 - 423
- CRAWFORD Roy** - University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon - Canada - 160 – 181 – 220 – 276 – 278 – 280 - 281
- Department of National Museums** - Colombo - Sri Lanka - 13
- FREEMAN John** - American Poultry Association - USA - 33
- GARY Frank** - Crosswicks - New Jersey - USA - 42 – 43 – 45 – 46 – 48 – 50 – 54 – 61 – 63 – 65 – 71 – 77 – 84 – 87 – 94 – 96 – 99 – 106 – 109 – 113 – 131 - 143
- GEO - Australasia Geographical Magazine** - Dee Why - NSW - Australia - 198
- GREEN Roger** - University of Auckland - Auckland - New Zealand – 36 - 199
- HARRISON Colin** - British Museum of Natural History - London - UK - 161
- HERING Leonora** - Saratoga - California - USA - 16 – 19 – 20 – 21 – 25 – 26 – 30 – 31 - 32
- HEYERDHAL Thor** - Oslo - Norway - 267
- High Commission of India** - Canberra - Australia - 6
- HIGHAM Charles** - University of Otago - Dunedin - New Zealand – 55 – 127 – 172 - 290
- HOFFMANN Edmund** - Canning - Nova Scotia - Canada - 219 - 228 – 235 – 237 – 242 – 244 – 258 – 261 – 264 – 268 – 271 – 283 – 284 – 285 – 286 – 299 - 430
- JEFFREY Fred** - North Amherst - Massachusetts - USA – 22 - 297
- McEVOY Sheri** - Sydney - Australia - 292 - 296
- MOISEYEVA Irina** - Institute of General Genetics - Moscow - Russia - 372
- Museum of Victoria** - Melbourne - Victoria - Australia - 399
- Muzium Negara - Kuala Lumpur** - Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia - 10
- National Library - Bangkok** - Bangkok - Thailand - 12
- National Library of Australia** - Canberra - Australia - 393
- National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka** - Dehivala - Sri Lanka - 7 - 14
- OLSEN Stanley** - University of Arizona - Tucson - Arizona - USA - 70
- OSTROM John** - Yale University - New Haven - Connecticut - USA - 34 - 126
- PARKER Russell** - Tenterfield - NSW - Australia - 350 - 353 - 356 - 400 - 409 - 422
- PLANT William** - 40 - 52 – 56 – 57 – 60 – 66 – 68 – 72 – 74 – 75 – 82 – 85 – 92 – 95 – 97 – 100 – 102 – 104 – 105 – 108 – 111 – 114 – 117 – 123 – 124 – 128 – 129 – 132 – 135 – 139 – 141 – 147 – 149 – 150 – 154 – 156 – 157 – 162 – 163 – 164 – 167 – 168 – 169 – 170 – 173 – 174 – 175 – 177 – 178 – 182 – 188 – 189 – 192 – 193 – 196 – 200 – 204 – 207 – 209 – 213 – 221 – 223 – 226 – 238 – 240 – 246 – 247 – 248 – 249 – 251 – 266 – 293 – 298 – 301 – 305 – 308 – 310 – 315 – 319 – 323 – 324 – 325 – 333 – 336 – 337 – 341 – 343 – 344 – 348 – 354 – 355 – 360 – 369 – 373 – 381 – 394 – 396 – 398 – 405 – 412 – 413 – 414 – 426 - 428

PRATT Jerome - Sierra Vista - Arizona - USA - 375 – 384 - 385
Queensland Museum - Gregory Terrace - Australia - 165
RICH Pat - Monash University - Clayton - Victoria - Australia - 64 – 76 – 166 - 371
RODWELL Sally - Sawston - Cambridge - UK - 120 - 144
ROMANOV Mikhail - Poultry Research Institute - Borky - Ukraine - 366 – 402 - 425
ROMANOWSKI Nick - Deakin University - Victoria - Australia - 211 – 215 – 217 – 272 – 273 - 274
SCHIPPERS Hans - Amstelveen - Netherlands - 410
SCHLATTER Roberto - Universidad Austral de Chile - Valdivia - Chile - 183
SCHURMANN Ted - Inglewood - Victoria - Australia - 359
SKINNER John - Madison - Wisconsin - USA - 23 – 29 – 110 – 134 – 171 – 179 – 184 - 243
SOMES Ralph - College of Agriculture & Natural Resources - Storrs - Connecticut - USA – 194 - 218
State Library of Jakarta - Jakarta - Indonesia - 5
STOUT George - Cinnaminson - New Jersey - USA - 197 - 202
STROMBERG Loyl - Pine River - Minnesota - USA - 118 – 119 – 122 – 133 – 159 – 191 – 277 - 421
Taronga Zoo - Sydney - Australia - 17 - 18
Trade Commission For Sri Lanka - Sydney - Australia - 2
WANDELTD Rüdiger - Marburg - Germany - 334 – 342 - 382
WATSON George - Smithsonian Institution - Washington - USA - 88
WEST Barbara - British Museum of Natural History - London - UK - 263
WETMORE Alexander - Smithsonian Institution - Washington - USA - 90
Zoological & Botanical Gardens - Jakarta - Jakarta - Indonesia - 11





KONSULAT JENDERAL REPUBLIK INDONESIA

Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia

6 Bridge Street - SYDNEY 2000

6th February 1975

Dear Sir,

Regarding your letter dated the 27th January 1975, requesting the addresses of:

1. Museum
2. Library
3. Zoological Garden

Listed below are the above mentioned addresses for your information:

Museum Qusat
Jl. Merdeka Barat N. 12 - Jakarta

Perpustakaan Negara (Library)
Jl. Salemba Raya N. 13 - Jakarta

Zoological Garden (Kebun Binatang)
Jl. Pasar Minggu (Rangunan) - Jakarta

We hope this information will satisfy or help you.

Yours faithfully,

Achmad Wirahadikusumah

Vice-Consul

TELEGRAMS: LANKATRAD
TELEPHONE: 233-5039



66 PITT STREET,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

TRADE COMMISSION FOR SRI LANKA

February 11, 1975

Dear Mister Plant:

I thank you for your letter of February 8 and wish to bring to your notice the addresses of the following, which will be able to help you in your quest:

- (a) The Director,
Colombo Museum,
Cambridge Road,
COLOMBO. 7
- (b) The Director,
Wild Life,
Conservation Dept.,
Gregory's Road,
COLOMBO. 7
- (c) The Director,
Zoological Gardens,
DEHIWALA.
(SRI LANKA)

I am sure that these three people will only be too happy to assist you.

Yours sincerely,
The Trade Commissioner



ROYAL THAI CONSULATE GENERAL

ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDING, 12th FLOOR
56 PITT STREET - SYDNEY 2000
TELEPHONES 27.2542 - 27.2543

12th February, B.E. 2518 (1975)

Dear Sir,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 9th February 1975, and with regard to your request, I am pleased to advise that the addresses you require are as follows:

The National Museum
Na Phra Thart Road
Bangkok

The National Library
Tha Wasukree, Samsen Road
Bangkok

The Zoological Gardens
Khao Din Park
Dusit
Bangkok

I trust that you are able to obtain the information you are seeking from these institutions.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian G. Hudson".

Ian G. Hudson
Consul General

**PESUROHJAYA PERDAGANGAN
MALAYSIA
TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR MALAYSIA**



CONSULATE OF MALAYSIA
11th floor, 92 Pitt Street
SYDNEY, NSW 2000
Telephone 231 1377
Telegraphic address
PERDAGANGAN, SYDNEY

14th February 1975

Dear Sir,

Reference your letter dated 10th February 1975, the addresses you require are given thereunder:

NATIONAL MUSEUM
The Director of Museums
Muzim Negara
Jalan Damansara
KUALA LUMPUR - MALAYSIA

NATIONAL LIBRARY
The Deputy Director (Library)
The National Library
UMBC Building, Jalan Suleiman
KUALA LUMPUR - MALAYSIA

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
The Superintendent
National Park
KUALA TAHAN, PAHANG - MALAYSIA

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Selvaraj', with a horizontal line underneath.

A. Selvaraj
for Malaysian Trade Commissioner
Australia & New Zealand

**PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA DEP. P.&K.
JAKARTA
(STATE LIBRARY OF JAKARTA)
SALEMBA RAYA 18 - JAKARTA - INDONESIA**

20-2-1975

Dear Sir,

We are pleased to inform you that we have been receiving your letter 8 February 1975.

We are very sorry to inform you that for this time being we don't have yet the collection you need.

In this matter we advice you to contact with:

BIBLIOTHECA BOCORIENSIS
Lembaga Perpustakaan Biologi dan Pertanian
20 Ir A.Juanda St. - BOGOR

That library has complete collection about biological science and other field.

Sincerely yours,



F.Pesik
Librarian



HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
92 MUGGA WAY, RED HILL
CANBERRA, ACT 2603

No. CAN/ISI/302(2)/75

February 26, 1975

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your letter dated the 8th February, 1975, redirected to us for necessary action by our Consulate General in Sydney.

The requisite addresses are given below:

- a) The National Museum,
(Ministry of Education & Social Welfare)
Janpath,
New Delhi. (India)
- b) Zoological Gardens,
Alipore
Calcutta - 27 (India)

Assuring you of our co-operation and assistance.

Yours faithfully,

K.N.Gaid
Press Attached



The National Zoological Gardens
of
Sri Lanka

ANAGARIKA DHARMAPALA MAWATHA
DEHIWALA, SRI LANKA (Ceylon)

Director

W.L.E.de Alwis, B.Sc., F.Z.S.

Telegrams: ZOOLOGY

Telephone: Mt.Lavinia 071-275 * 071-7542

26th February 1975

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 13.02.1975.

Only one species of jungle fowl exists in Ceylon namely *Gallus lafayettei*, the Ceylon jungle fowl. We exhibit three breeding pairs. They are kept in a large walk-in-aviary where they not only thrive but also get somewhat tame. The Javan Green Jungle Fowl is also represented in our collection, but we have only one male at the moment.

There is not related sub species to *Gallus lafayettei*, there species being peculiar to Sri Lanka.

I have enclosed literature on the Ceylon jungle fowl extracted from two books which will provide you with all the information about their size, colour, characteristics and habits.

I trust that the information provided therein would be of help to you.

Yours faithfully,

Director

BIRDS OF CEYLON

by W. E. Wait

Gallus lafayettei

Size of a small, but not bantam, breed of domestic fowl. The jungle fowl is distributed throughout the island, wherever jungle or dense scrub of any extent is to be found, but it is nowadays common only in the wilder parts of the dry zone. In the neighbourhood of villages and roads it is shy and wary, but in remote jungles it is sometimes very tame and will strut about and crow in full view, like a village fowl. A slight acquaintance with man and his ways, however, quickly changes it into the embodiment of caution. It spends its life in forests on its outskirts never venturing far from cover, though, especially in wet weather, it likes to frequent open places, such as roadsides on glades, for the purpose of feeding free from drippings from the trees. Most of the hours of day-light are spent on the ground, where it walks with a jaunty carriage though with the tail less elevated than in domestic fowls. If disturbed by human approach it generally runs for cover unless come upon suddenly when, with a great flurry of wings, it flies off to a distance; but if put up by a dog or other carnivore it almost invariably flies up to a branch of the nearest tree, from which it peers at its enemy, with tail elevated, cackling its alarm for some time before flying off to a safer area.

The hen's cackle is a high-pitched, metallic *kwikkuk, kwikkukuk*... Hen desire-note, uttered when, for instance, she is about to lay an egg, is a *kra, krak* very like that of domestic hen but higher pitched. She calls her chick with a rather shrill cluck. The cock's crow, which appears to be basically an assertion of territorial claims, is a staccato, musical, ringing *chiok, chaw-choyik*, the terminal *ik* being higher in the scale than the rest; this crow is uttered with the head somewhat depressed and the beak jerked sharply up at each syllable. In early morning the cock will crow for several minutes while strutting up and down a branch of his roosting tree, before fluttering down to begin his morning feed. When challenging a rival, the crow is generally preceded by a vigorous clapping of the wings together above the back, from three to six claps. Unfortunately for the cock, the sound of this clapping is very easily imitated, and numbers are thus lured within gunshot by this means. Although the cocks are very pugnacious, evidence of actual fighting is rare, crowing being normally sufficient for the maintenance of territorial right; when a fight does occur, however, it is fierce and bloody.

The food of the jungle fowl consists of grain, weed-seeds, berries, various succulent leaves and buds, and a large proportion of small animals, such as crickets, centipedes and termites; the latter form the main food of the chicks. When nillu flowers and seeds in up-country jungles, jungle fowl migrates to these areas in large numbers to fatten on the abundant seed. They are also very fond of the seeds of the small hill-bamboo which, like nillu, seeds only at long intervals. The hens are very industrious scratchers, particularly when they have a brood of chicks. Early in the evening, jungle fowl fly up into trees to roost, usually singly, but sometimes in pairs or family parties. Unless disturbed they will use the same perch night after night for considerable periods. The perch chosen is generally high, well screened with foliage, and not much ticker than a man's thumb.

The main breeding season is in the first quarter of the year, but often a second clutch is laid in August-September, and breeding may go on throughout the year. The courtship display of the male is very similar to that of a domestic cock: it consists of running closely round the hen with his body canted towards her so as to display as much as possible of his plumage, and especially the metallic purple rump-feathers; at the same time, the wing nearest to her is drooped and its primaries scraped with the foot. The nest is often a shallow scrape in the ground, concealed by herbage, at the foot of a tree or beside a dead log; but many nests are above ground level, on top of dead stumps or on a platform of rubbish caught up in a tangle of creepers, etc. The hen sits very close, and leaves her eggs only at intervals of several days. She approaches and leaves the nest very stealthily. The eggs number two or four; they are creamy-white, some very finely peppered, others more boldly but sparingly speckled with brown. They measure about 48 x 35 mm. The chicks are very precocious, learning to scratch as soon as they leave the nest. At the mother's alarm-call they instantly scatter and disappear in amazing way under dead leaves, etc, remaining motionless until her little metallic cluck reassures them. Their wing feathers grow rapidly, and in a week they are able to fly into trees to roost, which they do covered by the mother's wings, or even snuggled between her legs on the perch.

Description

Male. The hackles of the neck and the smaller wing coverts are golden, or straw yellow, with dark shaft-stripes; on the crown the feathers shade into chestnut, on the back, scapulars, medium wing coverts, and elongated feathers at the side of the rump into shining yellowish red with almost black shaft-stripes; feathers of the dower back and centre of the rump amethyst with reddish chestnut margins; greater wing coverts black splashed with dull chestnut; primary quills dark brown, secondaries black with a metallic purple gloss; tail coverts glossy violet; tail feathers black with a purple and steel blue gloss; fore-neck glossy purple, the breast bright chestnut with dark shaft-stripes; shading trough reddish brown on the upper abdomen into dull blackish brown with rufous edges on the thighs and towards the vent; under tile coverts greenish black.

Female. The crown is dark brown, the sides and back of the neck blackish brown with rufous edges to the feathers; these colours gradually shade into the fine, vermiculated, blackish brown and buff of the back, scapulars, and wing coverts; rump and tail similarly coloured, but the shafts of the feathers are darker; primary quills dark brown with lighter mottling on the outer web; secondaries and greater wing coverts black, boldly marked with mottled, buff cross-bars and tinged at the ends with rufous; the chin and throat are almost naked; lower breast and abdomen white with broad, black markings, which disappear towards the vent; under tail coverts of the same colour as tail.

Young males resemble females, but the upper plumage is more rufous, and there is no white on the under parts. In the male the bill is brownish red, paler at the tip and on the lower mandible; comb orange yellow, shading into bright red on the edge; the naked face, throat, and wattles are purplish red; iris light yellow; legs and feet pale yellow, darker down the front; tarsus armed with a sharp spur. In females the bill is dark brown, paler beneath; iris olive yellow; feet and legs has in the male, but without any spur.

Male: length about 27; wing 9.5; tail 13 to 15; tarsus 3.25; bill from gape 1.2

Female: length about 14; wing 7; tail 4; tarsus 2.5; bill 1.1

Distribution. Peculiar to Ceylon. Found in most parts of the Island, except in the more cultivated districts. Its chief haunts are the forests of the north and the scrub jungle of the dry maritime districts. It ascends in great numbers to the Horton Plains and over elevated plateaux when the nellu (a species of *Strobilanthes*) is ripe, to feed on the seeds.

Habits. A jungle bird living largely in the cover of the undergrowth. In the morning and evening, especially after rain, it comes out on the roads, jungle paths, and open spaces in the forest to feed; during the heat of the day it keeps well inside the jungle, and at night time roosts in trees. The cry of the cock, *cluck -joj-joice*, may be heard constantly from sunrise till about 9 am; the hen has a curious, little metallic clucking cry. The cocks appear to be polygamous, and to leave all family cares to the hens. I have taken the eggs in nearly every month of the year. The nest is sometimes a small hollow in the ground under a bush, or behind a fallen log, the eggs resting on a few dry leaves. I have, however, often found it in such situations as on the stump of a failed tree, in the tangle of dry leaves caught up by bush overhanging a water course, or in an oven-shaped hollow in a tree trunk. The eggs vary in number from two to four. In shape they resemble those of a domestic hen. The ground colour is creamy white with light brown, or purple brown markings, which vary from an excessively fine stippling all over the egg to comparatively large and scattered freckles. Their average size is 1.82 by 1.39.



JALAN DAMANSARA, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

MUZIUM NEGARA

TALIPON 80158/9 PEJABAT MUZIUM

83479 PENGARAH MUZIUM

28th February 1975

Dear Sir,

I am directed to reply to your letter dated 21st February 1975 about the Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus gallus*).

It is unfortunate that we do not have any specimen of the Jungle Fowl in the Museum but I enclosed herewith photostat copies on information of the Jungle Fowl and I hope that will help you in your study.

Yours faithfully,

HEAH SOON HOCK
Acting Curator of Natural History
Muzium Negara
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

PEMERINTAH DAERAH KHUSUS IBU - KOTA JAKARTA

Proyek — TAMAN MARGASATWA —

KEBUN BINATANG. Pasar Minggu

ZOOLOGICAL & BOTANICAL GARDENS

March 17th, 1975

Dear Mr Plant,

We received your letter asking information of the jungle fowl. Indonesia has two species of jungle fowl, and in our Zoo we have two males and two females Red Jungle Fowl, and two males and four females Green Jungle Fowl. This is the description of their general character in the wild:

1 - Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus bankiva*)

Length of male about 27 inches, of which nearly half is tail.

Female 17 inches.

The cock is very handsome, the tail iridescent and flame color on the Back. The hen is mostly brown with the back yellow.

Usually solitary cock, sometimes in pairs, or a cock accompanied by several hens. They are common in the vicinity of all pastures and open terrain, also occurs in the midst of extensive stretches of forest, though they prefer the light forest.

Feeding: many kinds of seeds and fruits of wild grass, small insects and also small reptiles.

Nest: the nest is on the ground as well as in dense forest, and laid 4-6 eggs with the average size of 48,10 x 35,60 mm.

2 - Green Jungle Fowl (*Gallus varius*)

His distribution is especially in Java and eastern part of small Sunda Island. His main food are also seed and fruit of wild grass, small insects and small lizards, small slow-worms.

Nest: the nest is also on the ground and laid 4-5 eggs with the average size of 44,90 x 35,50 mm. It is difficult to distinguish the nest of a Red Jungle Fowl and a Green Jungle Fowl.

Generally, mainly confined to meadows and other open areas, heavy forest is avoided.

These are some information from this two famous ancestors of our domestic fowl, which are believed by Anthropologists were first domesticated by Bronze Age peoples about 4000 BC.

Hope that this short information will have some value for you.

Yours faithfully,



Linus Simandjuntak
Zoo Veterinarian



National Library

SAMSEN ROAD - BANGKOK 3 - THAILAND

March 18, 1975

Dear Mr Plant,

Your reference: the letter dated February 14, 1975.

Quantity	Description	Price
4	pages of xeroxcopy of the book named <i>Bird guide of Thailand</i> written by Dr Boosong Lekagul, published by the Association of the Conservation of Wildlife, Bangkok	US\$ 1.50
Total		US\$ 1.50

Remittance by cheque or money order mail to the National Library, Samsen Road, Bangkok 3, Thailand.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Maenmas Chavalit
Director National Library

P.S. The material requested is being forwarded under separate cover by air mail.



The National Zoological Gardens
of
Sri Lanka

ANAGARIKA DHARMAPALA MAWATHA
DEHIWALA, SRI LANKA (Ceylon)

Director

W.L.E.de Alwis, B.Sc., F.Z.S.

Telegrams: ZOOLOGY

*Telephone: Mt.Lavinia 071-275 * 071-7542*

17th June 1975

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 31.05.75.

Further to my letter of 26th February 1975 I wish to state that the number of birds has increased and now we have several young pairs that may start breeding soon. At the time of writing these letter we have some chicks that hatched out recently in the Walk-in-Aviary.

In captivity the jungle fowls breed and raise their chicks in the seem manner has they do in their wild state. The jungle fowls in the walk-in-aviary lay their eggs in shallow depressions made on the ground which are lined with drive leaves. The nest-sites are in these undergrowth. Chicks wonder around feeding on insects and grain in addition to the food that is provided.

Yours faithfully,

Director

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

6-8 College Street
Sydney 2000 P.O. Box A285
Telephone: 3398111 - Sydney South Telegram: MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

23rd November, 1976

Dear Mister Plant,

Thank you for your letter concerning junglefowl.

Unfortunately, I doubt whether my article would be of much use to you. I must admit that I have very little interest in *Gallus*. The editor thought it would be interesting to trace the spread of the chicken from its origin to all the different parts of the world. Thus this project was not developed from our interest but rather from a personal whim of the editor. Since the subject involved a half-scientific half-anthropological approach, it became a choice between 8 members of the Anthropology Department and myself to do the writing.

As I was chosen, I attempted to write a very general survey of this topic and since neither poultry science nor anthropology is my field, I primarily paraphrased a few texts I had available.

The article, then, is probably not of the depth that you would like and I expect that you have already covered the subject far more extensively than I did. Publication will be next year and I will be glad to send you a copy. I am sorry that I have not been of greater help to you.

Best wishes on your research.

Yours sincerely,



Walter E. Boles
Department of Ornithology

This article will be appearing in the museum's popular magazine *Australian Natural History*.

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

February 27, 1977

Dear Mr Plant:

It is always a pleasure to use my collection of Poultry Books and pictures to help someone with a problem. Also a pleasure to hear from someone in Australia, where I have never had a correspondent.

Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of the Jan Steen painting *The Poultry Yard*. He was, indeed, a Dutch Master, 1626-1679. I have made a Xerox of the information on the back of another copy, which I got in Holland.

This picture was used as the cover for the *American Bantam Association Yearbook* for 1961, and inside that book I gave a write-up about it, of which herewith also a Xerox. This is probably from which your friend quoted.

Now that I look at it with a magnifying glass, under a strong light, I wonder what I could have had in mind about a Black Cochin Bantam? I must have been using powerful imagination and enthusiasm about the little black hen just to the left of the White Polish. I am sorry and ashamed to have raised your hopes.

The Dutch claim to have had sea Captains bringing poultry from the Far East long before the English and some of their claims are borne out by the paintings of another Dutch Master, Hondecoeter, 1636-1695. I have many Museum photocopies of his pictures, and Crested White Polish, Black Breasted Reds, Mottled White and possibly some Partridge color are clearly recognisable, but no Bantams, nor anything like Cochin shape and feathering.

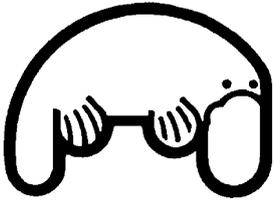
I am sure if the Dutch could claim to be the first to have Cochin Bantams, they would. But I have the Dutch Bantam Standard and can read enough Dutch to see that they give the same 1860 story of the Cochin Bantams being brought to England, that was given by W.B.Tegetmeir, in the *Poultry Book*, 1867, page 251. This story in H.H.Price's article, from the *ABA Yearbook 1953*, is also enclosed. Again a disappointment.

I believe the Cochin Bantams were probably brought to near perfection in China, over many years' time, possibly for the nobility only, since they were found by Europeans in the Palace grounds. But I doubt very much that records of the process were kept. Our only hope of knowing would be if representations of them appear in paintings, screens or ceramics known if you get any useful information from Peking. I will watch exhibitions of Chinese things here.

Your name *Pekin* for these little fellows is much more accurate than our *Cochin*. It is of record that the originals came from Peking. If you bring out a book please pt me down for a copy. I have only two Australian books, *The King of Fowls* by Marshall, and *Australasian Book of Poultry*, 1899, by Compton.

Cordially,

Leonora Hering



TARONGA ZOO

PO Box 20 Mosman NSW 2088

Telephone 9692777

Telegraph Zoology Mosman

14th March, 1977

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your letter. It's a shame we missed one another when you were down, but perhaps we will meet later.

Regarding the various chickens, I also have other people working on getting some birds for me, so if you locate some birds for sale for me, please let me know first before (or if) you get them, as I map already have them and don't have room for very many of any one breed.

I have a trio of acceptable White Pekins, donated; however, I would like to show at least one example of Cuckoo, Black and Buff, hens if possible (the cocks fight). I'm working on locating good buffs in Q'ld.

I have a line on a trio of White-crested Black Polish in Canberra, but can only get standards, not Bantams. He says that Bantams of this variety of Polish don't exist in Australia? - only Bantam Whites.

I still need good Rosecombs and could use the Australorp Bantam - I need a trio. I could use any Silver-laced Wyandotte Bantams. I still need Faverolles, although I have 4 eggs from Mr Coady presently setting, but his stock throws some off-coloured birds.

I don't have room for any Campines or Old English Game.

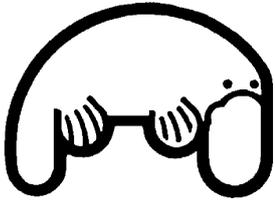
I also believe I can get some good Ancona Bantams, and possibly some Andalusian Bantams. I will contact Dr Smith on the Malays.

I would like to see your book on the Araucanas it would be most interesting. I have one young pair here now.

Let me know what you find out about the above. Many thanks.

Respectfully,

Kerry A. Muller,
Curator of Birds.



TARONGA ZOO

PO Box 20 Mosman NSW 2088

Telephone 9692777

Telegraph Zoology Mosman

28th April, 1977

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your wonderful hospitality on our recent visit. I certainly enjoyed seeing you and all your fine birds.

The birds all arrived safely at the zoo and are presently in quarantine, waiting clearance to be put on display.

I had a minor problem in that the box that had the name of the breeder who donated the Rosecombs was thrown away before I could cut off his name and address. Could I trouble you again for this, so I can write him a letter of thanks.

I have read the 2 books I got from you and will be returning these shortly. Many thanks.

Respectfully,

Kerry A. Muller,
Curator of Birds.

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

June 1, 1977

Dear Mr Plant,

Please forgive me for delaying so long to answer to your nice letter with photocopies and beautiful stamps. I have been involved with many things all at once, birthdays, a wedding, a graduation and a funeral. The days have just slipped away.

About the Chinese pictures, yes, we had their archaeological exhibit here in San Francisco, and I went to it and bought a catalogue. But you *scooped* me with your sharp eye for the chicken head reproduction on the jar. I shall keep your drawing and the photocopy with my *Chicken in Art* collection. And thank you very much for both.

In a few minutes I shall be looking at the first of the many TV presentations of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. This will be the one at the Opera house, with the Ballet. I'm sure you are having it too. Perhaps we are fellows Anglophiles? My father was Anglo-Irish, came to Canada and then to the US but always kept his British nationality. Generations back the family was from Tiverton in Devon.

Please let me know if you find out anything about Cochin Bantams in existence in China or Japan before 1860. If you don't hear from Peking, try the Librarian at the University of Tokyo. That's all the address you need, and I have found them very helpful.

Sincerely,

Leonora Hering

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

July 4, 1977

Dear Mr Plant,

More excuses for not writing to thank you for all the beautiful stamps and the *Cochin Club Newsletter*. This time really serious excuse, I've had a recurrence of an old spinal fracture, have to wear a most disagreeable brace and sit with my back against a tall electric heater. There have been many days when I could hardly walk. So you see, I haven't felt much like writing. I hope you wrote to the librarian at University of Tokyo about the bantams before 1860. I feel certain that it had taken centuries to breed them to perfection, and that they must have existed in Japan as well as in China. The Japanese were real Bantam fanciers, look at all the lovely colors they achieved with their own tiny *Chabo*. Did I tell you, it was a librarian at University of Tokyo who was able to find a copy for me of a scarce Poultry book that had color pictures of all breeds?

My book collecting has slowed down, most offerings are things I already have, or modern text-books, or fantastic prices. Do you get English rare-book catalogues? You just wouldn't believe the prices! Only the Oil Barons could afford.

Did I tell you, my whole collection is going to Kansas State University? That is in what we call the *Middle West*, center of USA. They have a fine Poultry Department and draw students from many countries, so my books will safe and possible useful.

I thank you for all the lovely stamps. I liked the one best of *Pioneer Family*. We had pioneers in this country too, much hardship.

Until my back gets better, please don't expect letters, unless I can really help you.

Most sincerely,

Leonora Hering

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

October 8, 1977

Good Morning Mr Plant,

Your pleasant letter of September 28 here October 6. My back problem is clearing and I walk very well now, carry a cane just in case I trip. Also, people hold doors open and give other helps to a cane carrier!!

I hope the Japanese materials are of some help on your history of the Pekin Bantam. Do let me know what you learn. This history must go back a long long time, they are a really *fixed* breed, do not revert as some modern bantams are prone to do if not kept to Standard.

I have a very good number of the American Standards, but you really do not need them all, there is very little difference between some of them, may be just the addition of one new breed. The complete list of them, compiled by Kansas State College (now University), I'll copy for you on a separate sheet. But the Bantam Standard, by the American Bantam Association, is more complete and more accurate for Bantams. For many years the APA paid little attention to Bantams.

Pehringer, yes, but he offended me deeply by putting my little book on his list at One Dollar. In the first place, it was never sold, just given to friends. I had given him one, and I thought he was offering that for sale. (Another collector told me this). When I wrote P. he said he thought I would let him sell some, and he claimed that the price was a mistake, should have been Ten Dollars. But I am unforgiving.

Fred Jeffrey is also well known to me. Has been since a Christmas card dated 1955. Do you have his *A Selection of Old Poultry Books*? If you do, you will see he mentions me in the introduction. It is long out of print, but he might be willing to make a Xerox of it for you, for the cost. Xerox has become very cheap here, and the place I go to only charges 5¢ a page. They have a new machine that brings out the black & white pictures much better than formerly, and another machine that makes Xerox in color, very very well, That kind costs more, but not prohibitive.

About my little book, I only had 200 copies made, and gave 25 to the artist. My supply is down to 3, I gave to so many relatives, friends, poultry libraries and breeders of Houdans. It is all about Houdans. As Rex Woods in England wrote me "*I never thought to see a book just on Houdans*".

I will write to the artist today and ask if she can spare a few, as she does not have any poultry connections was just using them to show potential employers her work.

Leonora Hering

AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

97 Pine St., N. Amherst, Massachusetts 01059

Fred P. Jeffrey, *Secretary*

October, 16 1977

Dear Bill,

I think your idea of an Australian Standard to be a sound one - hope you go ahead with it. Feel free to quite freely from Bantam Standard if you wish to so long as credit is acknowledged. I will try to answer your question on Red Cochins (we have some good Red Cochins - true reds with no black anywhere).

RI Red x Black Pekin should give on F1 of black - most females should be solid black but males will be black with red in hackle and saddle.

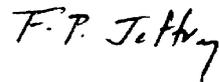
Mating Brother x Sister I would expect tremendous variation in color and type but the ingredients are there to eventually produce a Red (Black tailed red) Cochin.

How long it would take I don't know but it would have to be many years to recover Pekin type and proper red color.

If one crosses RI Red x white Pekin (recessive) the F1 would be coloured but I could not predict what colour with any accuracy because whites very so much from bird to bird in their covered up colour genes.

My best having Clive and Mary Carefoot of Preston, England, visit us the last week in September. I now have a better picture of exhibition breeding in Britain.

Sincerely,



Department of Poultry Science

1675 Observatory Drive

MADISON, WI 53706

608-262-9764/1243

October 18, 1977

Dear Mr Plant:

I must apologize to you for the long delay of this letter. I have been in England and it seems correspondence has gotten considerably stacked up. Regarding your efforts to amass a history of Cochins, especially of Cochin Bantams, I would have to refer you to several publications some of which you may find difficult to obtain but at any rate we will see what we can do.

I believe to understand the total story of Cochins you have to first consider the large fowl and then admit that the Bantam Cochins may not be a result of a miniaturizing effort applied to the large fowl but rather an independent effort to develop a miniature of similar configuration. There are several books that I would then call to your attention. One is a paperback entitled *The Asiatics* by the *Reliable Poultry Journal* Publishing Company of Quincy, which does not carry a date but was printed in the very early 1900's, about 1903 I believe. There are, of course, the classic books such as *The New Book of Poultry* by Lewis Wright, *The Poultry Book* by W.B. Tegetmeier, *The Poultry Book* that is attributed to Harrison Weir and edited by Johnson and Brown, *The Poultry Book* by Wingfield and Johnson carrying Weir's illustrations and the version of the *New Book of Poultry* that was edited by Sidney Lewer. These give a pretty good background on the large fowl. From there we would have to go over to *Bantams and Miniature Fowl* by Silk, *Bantams* by W.F. Entwisle, *Bantams Down to Date* by Joseph Shakespear, *Bantams* by C.A. House, and *Bantams as a Hobby* by T. Proud.

Some good information can also be found in the numerous articles by John H. Robinson that appeared in the *Reliable Poultry Journal* while he served as their editor in the early 1900's. When he transferred over to *Everybody's Poultry Journal*, he continued this effort and the period of about 1928 to 1932 saw that magazine carrying many short but very informative bits and pieces on many of the breeds and varieties. John Robinson was probably the best informed poultry historian of all times. He knew the background of the people as well as the chickens and therefore could put the two of them together and relate it to such things as political influence, popularity of the fancy, etc.

Certainly as far as background material on the development of the Asiatics, and particularly the Cochins, in the United States one needs to consider the semi-fiction book, *A History of Hen Fever* by George P. Burnham. Burnham was a despicable soul fighting with nearly everyone who would allow him the opportunity but, nevertheless, this book has more than a smattering of truth in it. I believe it does help us to understand what was to follow.

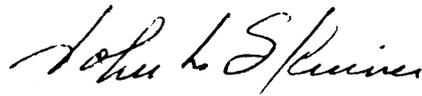
There is a small booklet offered by the American Bantam Association entitled *Cochin Bantams* and this too might prove to be a helpful tool for you.

Your project is an admirable one and I only regret that you are not nearby as I have someplace in the neighborhood of 11,000 pieces of poultry literature in my home. This is not, unfortunately, well catalogued and my work schedule is such that I can't devote long periods of time to its organization and indexing. However, if there are materials that you can use that I can sort out, I would be glad to Xerox bits and pieces and send them to you. I am told that Dr. Longnecker of the National Agricultural Library has reproduced certain pages of some of the classic books and sent them to you. Is this correct? Did he include the section on Pekin Bantams from Wright's book?

Do you plan to use drawings, illustrations or other figures in your publication? If so, there may be an opportunity for me to assist you in this field because I have access to large numbers of slides, pictures and drawings both in my own collection and in that of the University of Wisconsin.

Forgive me for making this such a long letter at a late date but circumstances have dictated the time and interest dictates the length of the letter. Please let me hear from you further as this project progresses and if there is any way that I can be of assistance, please allow me to do so.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John L. Skinner". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

John L. Skinner
Poultry and Small Animal Specialist

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

November 4, 1977

Dear Mister Plant,

I have a book for you, ready to mail, but because of our dock workers' strike, no surface mail is being accepted at the PO. It would cost too much to send it by air mail.

So, when you read that our strike is over, you will know that a copy of my little book is on its way to you.

Sincerely,

Leonora Hering

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

November 24, 1977

Dear Mr Plant,

A quick answer to your newsy letter of November 16. Look right away in that 1888 Standard. If it has line drawings, profiles of various breeds, it is rare and valuable. That one was with drawn and one without illustrations issued. Many breeders had objected to the drawings and raised a howl in the APA Convention.

As you may know the 1st *Standard*, 1874, is unobtainable in original form, but in 1906-07 a fac simile was issued by the then-President of APA. It, too, is scarce & rare, but some do appear. Probably very expensive. Kansas State University at Manhattan, Kansas, is thought to be the only owner of a complete set, including the 1st; a little paper bound pamphlet.

Your information about the *Micajal Cock book* is correct: I believe the Dock Workers strike is over, but the Post Office hasn't gotten around to lifting the Embargo, *large bodies move slowly*.

I thank you very much for the *Pekin Bantam Newsletter*. What a lot of work it takes you!! I hope you are appreciated?

Today is the great American *Turkey Day*. But I am invited to dinner so do not have to cook. But must sweep my walks, we had a big storm and all the leaves, & some branches, fell.

All the best.

Leonora Hering



AMERICAN POULTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Poultry Science Department - 1675 Observatory Drive
MADISON, Wisconsin 53706

January 10, 1978

Dear Mr Plant:

I am afraid that I do not have any more information to add to your search for the Pekin or Cochin Bantam.

Dr. Skinner, of course, is an authority in his own right in this area.

I am sure that if there was some way you could reach the right person at the National Museum in Taipei undoubtedly there is a great source of material available there. I was in Taipei the first part of November and was very impressed with the tremendous reservoir of material. Of course, finding the right person is the key.

Enclosed is a copy of the material on our Society. We put out newsletters, two or three a year. Also, we have published the one history book on the poultry industry. I received your *Newsletter* on the Bantam Club.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Hogue

Treasurer

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

3-3-1978

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter received some time ago and for the Pekin Club *Newsletter* also.

I suppose Bush Fires and 100°F heat must be very serious but it is tempting to risk when you have to than the water pots every morning. If you do come to England would be most welcome to come here to visit us.

It seems funny you talking about restoring your heritage in a house built in 1838. Our house here was an old farm house we converted into modern style since we moved in 8 years ago, and it originally dates back to about 1700 but I am not sure when. Of course near here we have a Roman Fort a Museum, an 11th century church so 1700 is modern relatively.

I have enclosed two pictures of Pekins which won recently. Of course they are not perfectly posed but they may interest you. Breeding is in full swing and I have hatched over 300 chickens so am hoping for a reasonable selection later on. I am hoping this year is one of consolidation as I have put new blood in some of my breeds during the last few years. However time will tell.

There is a point of caution in your risk to breed as many generations as possible in a short spare of time. You may be breeding in undesirable factors for short life, bad eyes (the green often appears hallways through the pullet or cockerel year) and any other fault not apparent at point of lay.

I feel you do not want to go back to the Pekin until you have got the colour spot on in your crossbreeds. Otherwise you may lose something in your *new* F₂ generation. I say *new* because I mean the F₂ of the back x to the Pekin.

I have had some bad luck in my search for chickens from my hen feathered male in my F₂ of Gold Pencilled Hamburg and Partridge Wyandotte. If you remember the object of the exercise was to get a Partridge Wyandotte Pullet bred male which was hen feathered so that we could see his pencilling. Well the 50 & 50 appears to be sterile as fifty + eggs have all been clear. So it back two years and start again if I don't get something this year. I hope you are regoing well.

Yours,

Clive

Department of Poultry Science

1675 Observatory Drive

MADISON, WI 53706

608-262-9764/1243

April 20, 1978

Dear Mr Plant:

Your newsletter and the *Cochin Bantam History* arrived last week. I enjoyed reading both very much.

The comment you made about calling the bantams Cochins instead of Pekins because they were miniatures of the big Cochins is interesting. Here many of us admit we are not picking the same type in bantams as in large fowl. In the bantams we are picking a bird of lower station, shorter legs and a nearly square appearance when viewed in profile. By this I mean the length and height are about equal. In the large fowl the preferred is taller than its length and the legs keep the body off the ground.

Sincerely yours,



John L. Skinner
Poultry and Small Animal Specialist

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

May 3, 1978

The reason for this picture which you have already seen is that a friend of mine was sent the *Australian Catalogue of the Chinese Exhibition* and it seemed to me that the picture of this *pot* with the chicken head spout, was in color but not as sharp and clear as this one, which appeared in the Exhibition Catalogue here. Your catalogue was in every way more beautiful more than the one we got. Ours have no color plates or cover.

About the petroglyphs, this was something a fiend visiting Hawaii brought me. I the wrote the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, and they sent me 3 copies of the things they consider chickens, but you have to use your imagination. They are just barely skeletons. I think them much older then their guess. I have pictures of a Babylonian Cylinder Seal, an ancient Hebrew seal, and the Greek and Roman mosaics, which are definitely chickens, and these are not prehistoric by any means. What we are trying to find is some representation of a prehistoric creature that is something between *Archaeopteryx* and *Gallus bankiva*. This may be as illusive as the missing link between apes and men. The chicken's bones are so fragile, it would be a miracle if any survived.

None of that, of course, has any bearing on your search for the origin of Pekin-Cochin Bantam. We must keep searching for artefacts, and I think your discovery of the 4th century *Celadon pot* is splendid. Let me know what the Japanese article told.

Pardon me for not writing more today. I am still in much shoulder pain, and typing doesn't help much. More anon.

Sincerely,

Leonora Hering

P.S. There are 2 Davenports. One is called *Inheritance in Poultry* 1906, and the other *Inheritance of characteristics in domestic fowl* 1909. I bought them way back in 1951, and I am ashamed to tell you how little I paid.

P.S. #2. Yes, Camarillo, California, is about 500 miles from here. I wrote him there, but no answer. He may be getting old, just out here get away from the frightfully cold East Cost.

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

July 13, 1978

Dear Mr Plant,

Now I owe 2 letters! The article from Melbourne was good to see; our local papers wouldn't give space to chickens or bantams! There are few breeders of fancy ones around. At our Country Fair one sees hardly any, but plenty of the commercial breeds, shown by young people. California has never been for anything except the money-makers. I subscribe to *Poultry Press* which comes from East Coast, and it caters to nothing, but the fanciers, and seems to have plenty of ads, show reports, pictures of winners, so these do exist in the US but not in California! The last two winters there has been a Poultry Show in South San Francisco, and it has had good exhibits and good attendance, perhaps because it is a novelty. But most of the birds have been shipped in from goodly distances, and the people who promoted the show worked very hard.

Have you had any luck with the Japanese translation? I still think someone at the Embassy would do it for you, for not too much money, as a *good will* gesture. Or you could write your Australian Embassy in Japan. They would find you someone. You see, I'm a great one for writing on wild chances, and sometimes it has brought highly gratifying results. I am interested to note that you use the word *states* for the division of your country, not *provinces* or *counties*. The English people never seem to understand ones *states*, that these have different laws, different taxes, different customs, different ways of talking and of foods. They can't picture their counties having different divorce laws for instance; why women flocked to Reno because the State of Nevada only required 6 weeks residence, just over an imaginary line from California, which requires a year. And that some states do not recognize a Nevada divorce! They think this very confusing, but it isn't really. Do your states vary like this? We call it *States' Rights*, and it has led to trouble in the past.

You spoke of my nice summer weather. It hasn't been, so my corn and tomatoes aren't ripe yet. If you have a map of California, you will see that it is a great central valley with mountains near the coast, and also to the east, what happens is that the valley gets very hot in summer, heat rises, so the cooler air rushes into the vacuum, giving us who live nearer the ocean a steady wind all summer.

If you'd like a good map of California, let me send you one. We can get them easily at gas (petrol) stations. Does Australia have to buy oil from Arabs? This gives us a very unfavorable trade balance. I heard a new story recently, how Brazil is manufacturing alcohol and already mixing it with gasoline, and going to keep at it until they will run all cars on alcohol, and be free of the oil-barons. We should be doing the same, but our President just keeps urging us to conserve, but we aren't there is a national 55 miles an hour limit law, but few observe it, and few are penalized for not. This is all very far from bantams! I wish I could help you more on your quest, but I can't think of any further leads, are you in touch with American Cochin Bantam Club? One is called US Cochin Bantam Club, in Waco, Texas, and the other which seems to be more active is World Cochin Family, in Perrysburg, Ohio, (both large and bantam).

Hope your winter not too bad. Cordially,

Leonora Hering

Leonora Hering

13135 QUITO ROAD
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
95070

August 12, 1978

Dear Mr Plant,

No need to apologize for Air Letter, I use them all the time for England.

On August 2 I sent you a map of California sea mail. You can calculate from that how long it takes. You will find Saratoga about 50 miles south of San Francisco, but as this is not a contour map, it does not show that there is a range of mountains between Saratoga and the Pacific. So we have a warm summer climate (dry) and our rainy season is not so bad, maybe 4 or 5 days in the entire winter the water in the bird-bath will freeze over.

Checking an Atlas I see Saratoga is approximately on the 37th degree latitude and Maitland 32½. So you have it even warmer. Do you grow semi-tropicals like avocados? They do well here in sheltered locations. People are always starting them from pits, *in the house*, but they seldom bear out of doors, or revert to the small Mexican original. I am quite satisfied with my apricots, peaches, Japanese persimmons and almonds. I have 2 large walnut trees but unless they are sprayed they get a pest called husk-fly, which makes the nuts black.

Glad you have found some US correspondents who can be helpful. But a government *Special purpose grant* sounds extraordinary time to trace the origin of *Pekin-Cochin bantams*!

I didn't think they cared! But I have seen far stranger subjects presented for Ph.D. degrees.

I push along with my cane, and take pain pills when needed, do necessary house & garden work, enjoy life too much to think of quitting!

Cordially,

Leonora Hering

American Poultry Association

John M. Freeman, *President*
Box 192, Eagleville, Penna. 19408

August 15, 1978

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your good letter. I was particularly interested in your thoughts on making Brahma Bantams and in your experiment with Columbian Cochins (Pekins) by the Light Sussex-Black Cochin cross. I can see where the resultant progeny might well conform more to the Brahma than to the Cochin type, particularly in view of the fact that the Light Brahma was almost certainly used in making the Light Sussex, as, indeed, I believe it to have been responsible for all of the Columbian varieties in the various breeds. In the same manner I believe the Silver-Pencilled varieties all came from an original Dark Brahma cross.

As you say, your best bet to breed in the pea comb would seem to be by use of the Indian Game (we call them Cornish here) even though a hard-feather breed is not desirable for such a cross. I presume you have White Indian Games in Australia since both the Darks and Jubilees would bring in the red factor which would be dangerous. I have been wondering if you have any pea-combed games, either O.E. or Australian, in the Silver-Duckwing variety and whether, if so, that might be a quicker way than by using Indians. The O. E. at least would not have the whip tail.

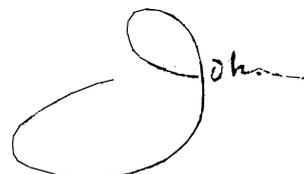
As to the origin of the Asiatics (if other than *Gallus Bankiva*) we can always fall back on Temminck's theory. I am sure I have mentioned him to you before. An 18th century Dutch naturalist, he was a proponent of the theory that the Asiatics (including the Malays and their offshoots, Shamos, Tuzos, etc and the Asils) stemmed from a different root. He attributed their ancestry to what he called *Gallus giganteus*, a very large land bird incapable of flight.

He cited a number of physiological differences skull formation, shorter intestine etc. as a basis for his theory. I understand there have been absolutely no fossil remains or other concrete evidence to back this belief; however, the circumstantial evidence is strong. You have a copy of Tegetmeier's *Book of Poultry*, he goes into this question at some length. I believe the more popular opinion is in favor of Darwin's theory that the Jungle Fowl is the single ancestor of all domestic chickens, although, again, many feel that the Gray, as well as the Red Jungle Fowl is a factor.

Again, many thanks for your treatise. I would love to have a copy of your final revision. I have never read much on the subject and what little information I had was to the effect that the Pekin Bantam had been developed in the Royal Gardens at least several hundred years ago; that a few had been brought to England and, through inbreeding and judicious crossing with Nankeen had been brought to their present state of perfection.

I know nothing about the Nankeen and have never, so far as I know, seen one. My understanding is that they are a rather over-sized very dark buff or cinnamon Bantam, single-combed and either clean legs or very sparse feathering. I also understood that they were present in the make up of several different Bantam varieties and that they (the Nankeens) had been known and kept, at least in Great Britain, for a long, long time. It is always good to hear from you and please let me know if I can be of any help whatever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John", with a large, sweeping initial "J" that loops back under the rest of the name.

Yale University

PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Division of Vertebrate Palaeontology

PO BOX 6666, 170 WHITNEY AVENUE

New Haven, Connecticut 06511

203-432-4043

November 28, 1978

Dear Mr Plant:

Thank you for your recent letter that was prompted by my article in the *National Geographic Magazine*.

Because of your interest in bird origins, I am sending several papers of mine on this subject. I hope they will be of some use in your writings. Thank you for your compliments on my research.

I was interested in your observations of claws on the wings of Pekin or Cochin bantams. Although your fellow poultry breeders do not know of such occurrences, they have been reported in some birds. In fact, I was informed just a few weeks ago of such an occurrence in a zoo hatchling - an East African ibis. Presumably, these represent a *sport* or the re-occurrence of a primitive condition - perhaps from a near *Archæopteryx* state. These claws are different from the spur that occurs in your spur-winged plover or screamers - which is more like the spur on the shank or metatarsus of galliform (pheasants and chickens) birds.

You are right. My research is most interesting and satisfying - when I can get to it. But then, I enjoy my work with students as well.

Thank you for your interest and good wishes.

Sincerely,



John H. Ostrom
Professor of Geology

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

6-8 College Street
Sydney 2000 P.O. Box A285
Telephone: 3398111 - Sydney South Telegram: MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

27th February, 1979

Dear Mister Plant,

Many thanks for your letter of the 2nd February and your kind comments about the recent issue of *Australian Natural History*.

I regret I am not able to give you much information about the origin of the chicken or its history in the Pacific area. An issue of *Australian Natural History* published January/March 1976, Volume 19, No. 1, has an article by Walter Boles titled *From the Jungle to the Farm*. This offers a very small review of what little information there is on the origin of the domestic chicken,

Mr Lampert visited Buka Island briefly in 1966 to do archaeological excavations and I was there throughout 1967, and although some bird bones were recovered none of these can be identified as coming from chickens. At Watom Island, New Britain, a bone from a member of the Fowl family has been found on an archaeological site, possibly 3,500 years old, though it could easily be much younger. To the best of my knowledge the chicken is not present in archaeological sites elsewhere in the Southwest Pacific earlier than a few hundred years ago. This should not be taken to indicate the late introduction of the chicken.

I am sorry that the information is so scanty and unsatisfactory. I feel your suggested eastward spread from India is perfectly reasonable, though as you say the lack of evidence is a fairly serious problem. I suspect it will be many years before we have a large body of evidence from the East Asian or Pacific region to allow us to discuss the origin of the chicken and its distribution in more sensible terms.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.R. Specht', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J.R. Specht,
Curator of Anthropology.



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
PRIVATE BAG · AUCKLAND · NEW ZEALAND · TELEPHONE 792300
Department of Anthropology

2nd March, 1979

Dear Mr Plant,

As you are doubtless aware there is an older literature of the History of the domestic chicken done largely without benefit of materials from archaeological sites. I agree with you that as archaeology recovers chicken bones from early sites, the whole subject and the basis for various statements will change.

The most recent essay of the older (and I think invalid speculative type) was on *Pre-Columbian Chickens in America* by George F. Carter, in a book called *Man across the Sea*, Riley, C.L. and others (eds.) Univ. of Texas Press, 6-Austin, 1971. More recent work on the distribution and dating of the chicken was done by a student, Jenny Cave, at the Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, for her B.A. Hons thesis. My own involvement with the chicken to date is to note its finding in various Lapita sites in the Pacific dating to between 1500 and 600 B.C. Enclosed is the relevant page from an article called Lapita in a book edited by J.D. Jennings *Prehistory of Polynesia*, Harvard University Press, to be published late this year. It lists what I know about Lapita chickens. Under separate cover a working paper on Lapita is on its way to you by surface mail.

Yours sincerely,

Professor in Prehistory.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

6-8 College Street
Sydney 2000 P.O. Box A285
Telephone: 3398111 - Sydney South Telegram: MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

9th March, 1979

Dear Mister Plant,

Thank you for your letter of 4th March, 1979 concerning the origins of the domestic chicken.

I regret I cannot answer your specific query regarding which sort of fowl may be represented by the Watom Island bone. The osteologist who examined it was unwilling to be positive in his identification. I do not have the bone in Sydney, so I cannot check for the details you mention.

There are no animals depicted on the Lapita pottery, though several designs have been interpreted as anthropomorphs. The main designs are geometric, non-figurative. Several clay figurines have been found at Lapita sites and at sites of a similar age but with a different kind of pottery in the Solomon and New Hebrides Islands. None of these figures can be identified as chicken.

I hope you do eventually find some clearer information on the history of the chicken and wish you well in your studies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.R. Specht', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J.R. Specht,
Curator of Anthropology.

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

11-3-1979

Dear Bill,

Please find enclosed a copy of the paper I have recently published on the dosage effects of the recessive white gene. I hope it will be of interest to you.

I think it should be because it shows what can be done with a long established fancier bred strain so simply and easily especially since in over 70 years the professional geneticists have not come up with a single case of dosage effects for C⁺.

We have had a lot of snow, ice and frost so please think about us when you are complaining about it being too hot.

I have got a photocopy of the paper on Ancobars but the photocopy is not too good. Apart from colour they are similar to Anconas but in colour the cockerel is nearly white and the pullet barred with white mottles and tips. They were made to have an Autosexing breed incorporating the best of the laying properties of the Ancona and Barred Rock American style.

I must close as I have promised to send quite a few of these reprint away.

I hope very much that your personal problems are easing.

Best wishes.

Clive

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.
GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE
"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

30-4-1979

Dear Bill,

I am sorry to hear your troubles are skill with you. Let us hope things improve for you and let you get settled again.

The paper by Lamoreaux was the one I was referring to the Ancobars and I don't think anyone else has done any work with them.

I have sent the photos of the Columbians to Fred Jeffrey for his comments. My comments are that you know the females are pure Columbian, otherwise they would have black markings on the back, but you are not sure about the male as Columbian is completely dominant in the male only.

So if you put them back to the black you are advised to use Columbian hens and a black cock. The second point is that if they had a triple comb your Columbians would look like light Brahmas, so you are starting in a position where you would have liked to start had Light Brahmas been available. Incidentally a Lavender Pekin hen was best ornamental at Malpas on Easter Monday, but I didn't go so don't know whether it was any good or not.

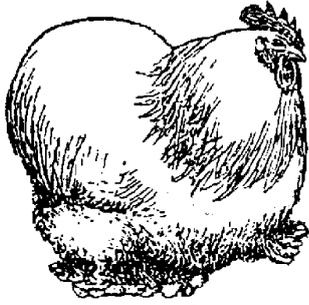
I was intrigued by your comments about our series *All creatures great and small* as it was very popular. We have just had a marvellous series called *Life and Earth* which has explained how life developed from the beginning up the modern man. If you get chance to see it, it is well worth watching I have hatched a few promising ones, but perhaps time will tell otherwise.

I have been invited to give a 3 hr lecture in June at a weekend seminar in Shropshire, so I look forward to having the opportunity to preach to the converted and also to try to convert a few more. I enjoy talking principally because I always learn something from talking. Congratulations on your wins at Sydney, it is always nice to win the big one!!

Thank you once again for your interesting letters. I look forward to the next are, and also hope that it bears better news.

Best wishes. Yours sincerely,

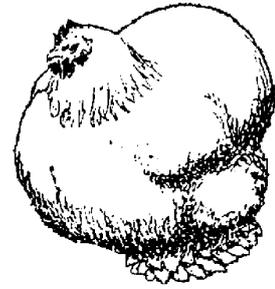




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**Dr Green - Professor in Prehistory - Dept of Anthropology
University of Auckland - New Zealand**

13-5-1979

Dear Dr Green,

I received your letter of 2nd March in answer to my enquiry on distribution of the domestic fowl in Polynesia and only a short time ago received the workings papers on Lapita sites in the Western Pacific (the papers took quite sometime to arrive as our postal system has been in chaos here in Australia for quite awhile with long delays).

For your information I thank you very much. I have not been through the working papers thoroughly as yet but have found them very interesting. My congratulations on your work on the subject.

Since last writing I have obtained a copy of *Man across the sea* and have read the section on pre-Columbian chickens by George Carter. Unfortunately as you say it does not cover any archæological material. I have other material also by Bate and Coltherd. I am still endeavouring to obtain a copy of Zeuner *History of domestic animals*. However this material mostly follows the line of Professor Carter except Bate on the domestic fowl in pre-Roman Britain.

I feel however the eventual answer will come from people such as yourself with actual as discoveries of bones of the fowl etc.

I have written to Miss Jenny Cane of the University of Otago as you suggested. However I have not as yet received a reply. I feel she may have something to throw light on the subject.

The palaeontologists have had the same problem with their researches into the origin and evolution of the bird itself as fossil remains do not show up very often possibly because of the fact of their fragile nature and perhaps being devoured by predators. In fact I think there has only been 6 specimens of the first fossil bird Archæopteryx discovered. Archæologists will no doubt have the same problems: I would be interested to hear of any discoveries of chicken bones etc in the Pacific.

Mr Specht of the Australian Museum advised me that a bone from a member of the fowl family possibly 3500 years old has been found at a site of Watom Island. In a further communication from him he advised that the osteologist who examined the bone was unwilling to be positive in his identification. It would be interesting to know from what breed of fowl it belonged as Finsterbusch (1929) believed very strongly the Malay fowl and the *Gallus Bankiva* (which Darwin mentioned was the original only ancestor of the domestic fowl) were two different species. His argument in favour of this included differences in bone structure, the Bankiva being a flyer and the Malay a runner. The Asiatics from China could have perhaps been another species. They may all three have evolved from a common ancestor (extinct).

The bone from Watom Island if positively identified could perhaps throw light as to whence it originally came (its ancestors).

Unfortunately as Mr Specht suggests it could be many years before enough evidence is available to establish the distribution of the domestic chicken in the Pacific.

From reading Thor Heyerdahl's books and his latest trip in a papyrus boat in the area west of India it does at least prove that distribution could have been possible into at least the Eastern Pacific although once again no concrete evidence is available. Mister Heyerdahl did advise me that the chickens on Easter Island did lay blue eggs which would establish the fact that they came from South America. However this could have happened since 1722 when the first Europeans discovered the island. Heyerdahl states that there were fowls on the island in 1722 from reports. However it would need to be established if at that time they were laying blue eggs.

However I will press on. Something may turn up. Once again Dr Green thank you for your assistance it is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY
5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

June 6, 1979

Dear Mr Plant,

Mr Fred Jeffrey, Secretary of the ABA, has informed me that he has had some correspondence with you and recommended that I write you.

I have started work on the fifth edition of the ABA Standard and would like to include breeds that are in existence in various countries throughout the world.

Do you, in Australia, and possibly New Zealand, have any breeds that are not listed in either the *British Standard* of poultry or the *American Poultry Standards*? If so, is it possible for me to purchase a book(s) listing these breeds? Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N. J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

July 11, 1979

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your prompt reply in which I inquired about breeds of fowl in Australia. Your letter was received by me on the sixth day after I mailed the letter to you. The other material arrived two days later.

I have always had a problem with the *British Standard*, and this also applies to the *German Dutch Standards*, with their descriptions. They are far from complete when compared with the APA and the ABA descriptions. We describe each breed and variety from comb to toes, both in shape and color pattern of both male and female.

A common phrase in the *British Standard* when they refer to the description to of the female, various breeds is *the general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences*. This is very vague, particularly to a novice and leaves open for argument, a host of things to interpret by experienced breeders and judges.

There are many instances in the *British Standard* where an *either, or* phrase is indicated. For instance, *five or six points in a single comb* as well as similar descriptions in color patterns *bay or chestnut, glossy black or beetle green*. In the case of Jubilee Cornish, they require the ground color to be *chestnut brown, nut brown, or mahogany brown*, how in the world, everything else being equal, can two cantankerous judges be brought into agreement in which specimen is the best at a showing.

In connection with your discussion regarding the problems you are having with the organization of a national Australian Association, I suggest that you ask Mr Jeffrey for the very latest revision of the ABA constitution and By-Laws as soon as it is available. I was one, of a committee of three, who recently revised it. It has been modified a number of times over the years to meet the demands of changing conditions.

The ABA was organized in 1914. George Fitterer was its secretary/treasurer for years, with the exception of 1919 when he served in World War I. I have been a member since the late twenties and have only missed three meetings since becoming active. The first miss was my fiftieth wedding anniversary which conflicted with the meeting date. movement of the annual and semi-annual meetings around to different sections of the USA and Canada has been one of the primary features in making our Association such a success Bantams shown outnumber large fowl four and five times to one. Back in the teens and twenties and thirties the number of specimens were reversed.

Now that Fitterer has passed away, I am one of the oldest members. I have served state representative, director, vice-president, and five terms as president. In my last term as president, I proposed that we develop our own standard, due to the many problems of trying to get various breeds and varieties recognized by the APA, and was promptly given the job as Chairman of the Standard Committee as well as the task of giving all of the written examination for Bantam judges. Lynn G.Brenneman relieved me of this latter job about three years ago, thank goodness.

I will keep in mind that you are missing the first edition of the *ABA Standard*, and try to pick one up for your collection. The fourth edition is now on the press. It is not too much different than the third, except that some errors of omission and corrections have been made. Mr Jeffrey changed the format by including all of the variety descriptions many of which are repetitive in so many breeds, in a separate section. Some mistakes were made and corrected also.

I have a collection of just about all the *APA Standards* including a reprint by the reliable *Poultry Journal* for the year 1874. I also have all of the *Yearbooks* of the ABA, beginning with the year 1917. None were issued in 1918 and 1919.

I thoroughly enjoyed your history on the Pekin Bantam and noticed a few items that I had never encountered before. The item on the birds shipped to England after the invasion which I had never heard of before was particularly interesting, It makes a strong point for the fact that the Pekin Bantam really is a distinct breed and not a miniature Cochin.

The Langshan material you sent me depicts an entirely different type of bird than our American Langshans. I will attempt to write a standard description this fall to be called the *Australian Langshan Bantam* and send to you for approval. I will have to study more before making a comment on them. With respect to the games, I will have to study them more. I am eighty-two and my eyesight is failing somewhat. I will discuss this with our Standard Committee at our next meeting.

Many, many thanks for your prompt reply and all of the information that you forward me.

Sincerely,



FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

October 1st, 1979

Dear Mr Plant,

I am enclosing a copy of the proposed description of the Australian Pit Game Bantam which I would like to have you review and return promptly in order to have it published in one of our Quarterlies.

Not having too much data to work with in the form of an illustration, I have concluded that the shape of this bird is somewhere between our American Game and the Old English Game Bantams.

The pamphlet your forwarded to me has been used as much as possible in setting up this standard and I tried to use much of the language contained therein. I am at a loss to know whether, in the show room, dubbed birds compete with undubbed birds. Hence, the statement under comb that appears at the head of this description. Here in the USA, we would not permit such a thing. In other words, these would be judged separately in a separate class.

The pamphlet states that *Colour - immaterial*. Of course, we cannot tolerate this so I have set up five different color patterns and designated the comb, eyes, beak, shanks and toes on a basis of what I would believe to be a fair compromise for these requirements and points that could be easily bred up to.

Following our requirements I established the shape of Female description with an educated guess as to how the female should appear in comparison to the male so that the judge and the beginner would have a standard to work toward.

Sincerely,



FRANK L. GARY

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CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

November 15, 1979

Dear Mr Plant,

The last of August I mailed you a numbered copy of the 5th Edition of the *ABA Bantam Standard*. I hope you noted that the Chinese Langshan is included at page 77 et seq. The administrative processing of description for the other breeds we worked on was not completed in time to be included in this edition of the Standard but hopefully they will be included in the 6th edition which is well underway and hopefully will contain color rendering of many breeds as a center section.

Specifically, the breeds which I hope will be in the 6th edition are the Australian Pit Game, the Australian Game Bantam and the Australian Pekin Bantam. The drawings of the ideal Australian Pekin, which your son is to prepare, should be in my hands in the near future. I want to expose them in the *1982 Yearbook* which goes to press on or about May 1, 1982. We would need time ahead of that for comment and processing. Can you help me on this?

I look forward to seeing the photographs you said would be sent to Mr Fred Jeffrey to which you referred in your letter of June 29. I have not heard from Mr Jeffrey that he received them from you.

Mrs Gary is progressing slowly but not to the point where she is able eliminate the need for assistance in household tasks; she is no longer able to drive so we depend upon relatives and friends for transportation for necessary travel: I hope that your wife has recovered from her hospitalization and is able to be a good companion.

We have had some little snow here in New Jersey. The ground has a slight snow cover, its having snowed some days ago and the temperatures holding below freezing. Roads are clear in this area. I know you are enjoying warm, if not hot, weather and I hope Santa changes to shorts for his visit to you.

My fondest regards to you and yours at this Holiday Season, and may *all your Christmas's be white*.

Sincerely,



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WEST ROAD
CAMBRIDGE
ENGLAND
CB3 9DR
Tel Cambridge (STD 0223) 61441
Telex: 81395

WEST ROAD

14 January 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your letter of 25 December.

I have looked at the Hakluyt Society volume published in 1908 to which you refer in your letter but I can find no reference to blue eggs.

Roggeveen does say that very few domestic fowls were seen (p.22) but in an appendix - Carl Friederich Behrens' narrative of Roggeveen's visit - there is a reference to "500 live fowls which were like those of the Vierländen" (p.135). I assume that the Vierländen referred to is the agricultural area adjacent to the city of Hamburg. I am sorry that I cannot give you any more positive help.

Yours sincerely,

S.M. Lees
Superintendent & Reading Room

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
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CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

22 January 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Received your letter of 10 January 1980. It is hard to understand why my letter of December 14 took such a large time to reach you, because your letters to me come through in two or three days from Australia; however this latest letter of yours has taken about ten days. I would suggest that if you are revising the Pekin Standard that you follow the rigid order which we follow in writing our descriptions. It is followed identically in order for each fowl. You will also note that in describing the color patterns we list each one of these body parts even though the color pattern in that part may be the same as another part. This leaves no doubt in the mind, particularly in the mind of the beginner, as to what the proper color pattern should be.

I believe you are in the right track when you work with a small group to revise your Pekin Standard. This way you will make rapid headway. Do not worry about criticism from someone who says *Those fellows are only making a Standard to suit their own birds*. I can well remember after the 1st Edition of the *ABA Standard* was distributed that I met Dr David Wolf of Albany, Ga., at a meeting of the ABA in Atlanta, Ga., that he made a sarcastic remark to the effect *I see that you have put the American Game Bantam in the front of the Standard which should be of great benefit to you*.

The reason why the American Game was the first breed in this standard was because we have decided that all the breeds in our standard would be listed in strict alphabetical order as opposed to the APA who lists their birds in class order and having received many gripes about this from people using their standard that it was hard to find a particular breed that they were looking for.

When Mr Jeffrey prepared the 3rd edition he made the suggestion that all color description be placed separately in strict alphabetical order which was, to many people, considered a further improvement.

I do have hopes that our 5th Edition will include Australian varieties that do not appear in any other Standard. It may be that you can accomplish what you really want to do if we could pick up all Australian breeds including the Pekin that you are presently struggling with. I do not understand in what respects the Australian Pekin differs from our Cochin Bantam because I do not have enough material from you to search out the differences. I will be glad to include the Australian Pekin in our 5th Edition if you would like to have this done.

Of course, you realize that we must confine ourselves to Bantams even though it may be rare to find a Bantam counterpart to some of the larger breeds fowl, but the real purpose is to have a standard description available. For instance, the Altsteier Bantam which is a very old European breed with small likelihood that there are many bantams in this breed. The real reason that I picked up this breed was the counter the criticism of Dr Wolf and others which alphabetically preceded the American Game Bantam.

I might say that I have also already prepared and sent to Mr Jeffrey eight other rare breeds which will eventually, hopefully, appear in the 5th Edition.

About ten years ago, I had cataracts removed from both eyes at two separate intervals. My vision was nearly perfect for about five years thereafter, but I made the serious mistake of not going back to the surgeon who performed the operations for a semi-annual check of my eyes. Rather suddenly, my vision began to be blurry, and, of course, I immediately contacted this doctor who criticized me severely for not coming in for semi-annual checkups. I really did not understand that I was supposed to have these subsequent checkups. He prescribed certain medical drops which at the time arrested any further deterioration which he labelled as glaucoma. About a year and one-half ago, I had a further deterioration and have been to seven other specialists to see if any help could be given. I would like to warn you to have an examination for glaucoma at least once each year. It takes only a few minutes and you do not even feel it. They pt drops in your eyes and immediately use a small meter instrument to measure the pressure.

Your research on Poultry is interesting. I am in possession of Moubray's *Treatise on domestic and ornamental poultry*, new edition enlarged by L.A.Meal, dated 1854. This has several color plates and contains 504 pages and is probably worth in excess of 150\$ today. As far as I can find out, color plates in any printing appeared for the first time in 1830's. This book is about the oldest one that I possess, although I do have a copy of the reprint of *Aldrovandi on chickens* written a few centuries back. I would be of no real help in your research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. A. Meal', written in black ink.

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

January 24, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

I am enclosing a copy of a proposed standard description for the Pekin and Langshan Bantam which I would like you to review and advise me promptly of any changes you might deem appropriate. I would like to have an answer from you forthwith in order that this description could be placed either in our *Spring Quarterly* of the 1980 Yearbook.

I have developed this description from the small brochure which you forwarded to me some time ago . It was somewhat hard to determine all of the detail from the photograph appearing at the rear of the pamphlet. I also noticed that in this picture the male seems to carry his head a little further forward than we find in most other breeds and I have described this, as you will notice, by the vertical line drawn upward from the breast.

Can you obtain for me either a black and white print or a photograph in black and white of the illustration appearing in the pamphlet? It is possible for us to reproduce a good book illustration from a good black and white print that-it you could obtain or may have at hand.

One of the problems that we have with the *British Standard* is the either/or statements that appear in their standards; for instance five or six points in the comb. This we cannot approve in our standards. Another intolerable statement regarding the female is the reference to *allowing for the natural sexual differences*. We describe the female completely without reference to the male so that the beginner is informed on what to look for in all parts of the bird. In addition, it prevents endless argument between judges in the show room.

Above I have referred to Pekin and Langshan while in the Standard description I have entitled it Chinese Langshan. Is there a preference in the title for the Standard?

I will start on the Australian Game Fowl Standard in the near future.

Kindest regards,





George CARTER

Professor at Texas A&M University
COLLEGE STATION TE 77843 - USA

February 27th, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for the long letter on chickens. I wish that I could give you a lot of information, but I can't. I did the chicken paper and pretty well let the subject slide.

Carl Johannessen, Geography, University of Oregon, has pursued the question of ceremonial uses of the chicken in America and that of Asia. He finds that in many ceremonies, the whole thing is duplicated. This reinforces the notion that the chicken was introduced, a number of times, into America long before Columbus.

Chicken bones are surely hard to come by in archaeology, and even harder to get identified. And this ridiculous since the chickens specialists can identify them right down to varieties.

In America chicken bones dating back to about 1400 were found some years ago but the finder has lacked the courage to publish them.

I don't think that we can do anything much with the separate species argument until some good scholar takes the whole thing in hand, collects the wild species, and the tame, and really compares them histologically and osteologically. I think that they will prove to be two or three different species involved. I base this on the *plant* word. Domestication often started with one species, but as the idea and, or the plant spread, it was hybridized with local wild species and the result was a swarm of hybrids of markedly different aspect and decidedly different parentage.

It is amusing to have you comment on the unimportance of the chicken, in the archaeological mind. One can find articles on various tribes in the *Handbook of the South American Indians*, where chickens will be mentioned, but they are not indexed, only turkeys etc.

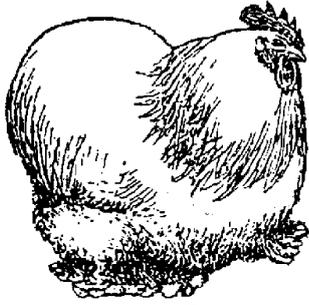
It is becoming increasingly clear that America was reached many times from east and west. We now have alphabetic inscriptions all over the Americas, mostly Mediterranean, but some Asiatic. For this see H.B.Fell *America B.C.* just out... *Saga America*. Whether or not they brought chickens or not it's harder to say.

Heyerdahl's stone hens are real enough, but dating them is seemingly not possible. The Blue Egg trait is most mysterious. Why only in America? A local mutation? I would expect it in Asia but I have never heard of a trace of it. It is more likely in brown eggs or in brown eggs? White - all colors. Brown is the result of a red-blue mix. Suppress the red and have blue? Blue eggs occur as far North as Central America - far more wide spread than I had thought.

There is a large book in Dutch on the chicken - apparently about the last to show any interest in the varieties and their origins: *De Hoenderrassen*, R.Houwink Stoomdr.Floralia, Assen, 1909. I have it in xerox, and have long intended to translate it, but I find too many other things to do.

For a very good summary of the present state of our knowledge of transoceanic contacts with America see *Pre Columbian Oceanic Transfers* by Stephen Jett in *Ancient Native Americans*, Jesse D.Jennings editor, W.H.Freeman Co, San Francisco.

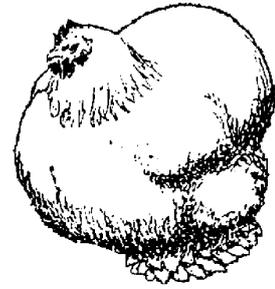
Sincerely yours,



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Professor George Carter
Texas A&M University - College Station- Texas - USA

15-4-1980

Dear Professor Carter,

I thank you for your letter of February 27 which received today. Surface mail usually takes 6 to 8 weeks to come out from the States.

The information contained in your letter I found very interesting but I regret to hear that you haven't done too much on the chicken since your paper was written. Some of your reference to Professor Johannessen could be useful to me as I recently received a letter in answer to an enquiry on the chicken bone subject from Prof Wilhelm Solheim who is presently at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. He mentioned a Professor Jorgensen at the University of Oregon but was no sure he had the correct name. It is most probably Prof Johannessen he had in mind. He was going to confirm the name when he returned to Hawaii. Prof Solheim also referred me to Prof Charles Higham of the University of Otago in New Zealand who is taking care of identification and study of all the animal bone that has been recovered in North Eastern Thailand where excavations have been going on recently, some dating back to a bit before 10.000 BC. It may be an interesting contact because I am aware of the fact that a student from the University of Otago has done a thesis on the dating of chicken bone, but as yet have no information on any conclusions of this thesis. It is unfortunate that results of the study on the chicken bones found in America dating around 1400 were not published. This could perhaps assisted the pre-Colombian cause.

I am at present reading once again Heyerdahl's *Ra Expeditions* when he travelled the Atlantic in the papyrus boats. He at least proved that there could have quite easily been pre-Columbian contacts from the East and perhaps they could have brought chickens with them.

I agree with you that really needs someone to get these facts into the subject of chicken species. Professor Punnett many years ago said that until such time that exhaustive experiments were carried out along the lines you suggest on the wild types etc that the question that all domestic chickens emanated from the Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus Bankiva*) could not be settled. Unfortunately Charles Darwin when suggesting that this was the case was not aware of Gregor Mendel's work in the field of genetics. To me there seems to be so many differences between the Asiatics, Malay and Bankivoids it could not be put down to just variation and mutation when we still have the Bankivoid as it was in the beginning. Perhaps the Araucana (Blue Egg) chicken another species again for it has many features that are not present in the other 3 species I mentioned.

I endeavoured to gain information as to whether the chickens on Easter Island when first discovered by Roggeveen 1722 laid blue eggs. If they have, once again Heyerdahl on his *Kon Tiki Expedition* theory that migration from South America into Polynesia could have been possible. I wrote to Cambridge University in England who have a fairly detailed report on Roggeveen's visit to Easter Island. In Carl Friederich Behrens narrative on Roggeveen's visit there is reference to 500 live fowls which were like that of the Vierländen which is apparently on agricultural area adjacent to the city of Hamburg in Germany. To me it would appear they would more likely to come from an easterly direction through the Americas than from Asia.

In a communication from Mr Heyerdahl some little time back he tells me the blue egg chicken were on the Island when he was there but that doesn't prove anything as Easter Island has been in contact with Chile for quite a long time. I have not seen the photographs of Heyerdahl stone hens but hope to get hold of photos one of these days to for comparison. I have not noted any information of the blue eggs anywhere but in South America in early days.

Your mention of the Dutch book. The Dutch would have been probably among the first of the Europeans to bring back chickens from Asia. Also your book perhaps could prove interesting. However I think the eventual answers and positive evidence must come from the archæologists.

I thank you for the information on publications on the subject. There are a couple of publications I have to obtain from the Bishop Museum in Hawaii which may have some leads to follow. There is no doubt I recently look on a tough one when I started looking for information on the evolution, history and distribution of the domestic chicken, but *nothing ventured nothing gained* but will press on hoping something may turn. There is no doubt it is an interesting subject but very frustrating I'm afraid.

Once again thank you for your letter and information. It is very much appreciated, I can assure you.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

4-28-1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Sorry for the delay in answering your letter but I too have been experiencing a series of sickness in my family. Beginning in mid-January Mrs Gary went into the hospital for a massive bleeding through the rectum. After many tests they could not pin point the cause and concluded that it must have been caused by the many years that she had been taking Cumadin as a blood thinner. After returning from the hospital, about a week later, we both came down with a form of flu or old fashioned grippe which lasted some three weeks. About a couple of weeks later Mrs Gary was suddenly taken with a massive blood clot which was located at the juncture of the leg at the torso. It was operated upon immediately by a surgeon who we both have a great deal of confidence in and she is presently recouping in the hospital.

I note that you are apparently using the same kind of eye drops that I am. I have been using them a little over a year instead of two other kinds of drops and have seen a very slight improvement.

I have made the corrections that you suggested in the description of the Langshan and forwarded it to Mr Jeffrey with a request that it be included in the first available quarterly. I will await the photographs of the ideal illustration that I understand you are having prepared.

I will need two copies of the photograph. The original drawing can be retained by you possibly for framing.

If you will review the shape descriptions in our standard well as those in the APA standard you will note that there is a five degree difference between the male and female in just about every breed described. It is just a natural difference that occurs in just about every breed.

Sincerely,





UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Anthropology Department

Box 56 Dunedin New Zealand

26 May 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

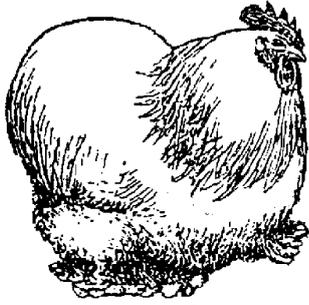
Excavations at Ban Chiang in N.E. Thailand resulted in the recovery of chicken bone as part of the burial offerings. In some cases complete skeletons of the bird were placed on the human chest area. There were also some chicken remains in the middens.

I enclose a reprint covering the economy and chronology in question. I think the Gallus in question is a domesticated S.E. Asian jungle fowl, but have not studied the bones in the detail they deserve.

Miss Cave has gone to Canada and I am unsure of her address.

Yours sincerely,

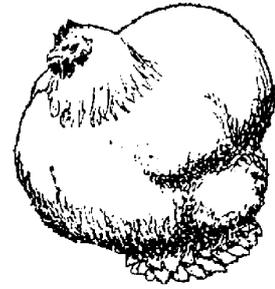
C.F.W.Higham
Professor of Anthropology



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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**Professor Charles Higham - Department of Anthropology
University of Otago - Dunedin - New Zealand**

3-6-1980

Dear Professor Higham,

I thank you so much for your letter and enclosure of your paper on the excavations in Northern Thailand which I received yesterday. Also thank you for the information on Miss Cave. Perhaps I may catch up with her at a later date. The information you gave proved very interesting indeed. I have not studied the paper in depth as yet and, being as I am a layman, am not conversant with some of the technical terms. However I can see from a preliminary study it should be of much assistance in research.

I gather from your letter that the chicken's bones uncovered would date around 3500 BC. What would be most interesting would be to know whether the bones excavated belonged to a Bankivoid (*Gallus Bankiva* - Red Jungle Fowl or offshoots) or to the Malay (*Gallus giganteus* Temminck).

According to Finsterbusch (1929) who made a detailed study of Game Fowl throughout the world the Bankivoid and Malay were 2 distinct species. I agree with him entirely and would be inclined to go one step further grouping the Asiatics (Cochin - Langshan - Brahma) into another species which are so different again from the 2 forms previously mentioned. However I do not have any specific evidence of this. Darwin in his narration of animals and plants under domestication discusses skull shapes etc but does not apparently attach too much importance to the differences. However Finsterbusch on the other hand from his observations believes that the head is important when considering ancestry. There would be no doubt genetic mutations have occurred but it is hard to imagine that the vast differences existing between the Malays, Bankivoids and Asiatics (which were considered to come from China) were all caused by mutations.

Therefore I would find it very interesting to discover from what line the chicken bones at Ban Chiang spring. I am enclosing a photostat from Finsterbusch outlining his description of the bone structure differences between the Bankivoids and Malay. You may find his notes of interest. If at any time the chicken bones are given further study I would be pleased to hear the results of any findings.

I think I mentioned in my previous letter of the chicken bones unearthed on Watom Island, New Britain, the information from Mr Specht of the Australian Museum in Sydney. Unfortunately no specific identification was made regarding species with these bones. I have always felt that the discovery of chicken bone when considering the distribution of civilisation itself could play an important part in any research on the subject.

I do appreciate your assistance on this matter as it has given me encouragement to continue on with my quest on finding answers to the origin, evolution and distribution of the domestic chicken. I will continue my research whilst I am able. If you do happen to find a moment to further study the chicken bones you may like to compare them against Finsterbusch's description.

Sincerely yours,

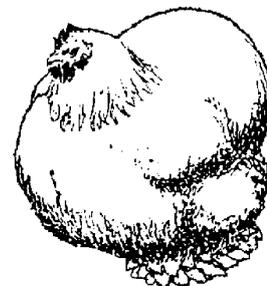
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

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Australia



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Mr Pat Rich
Monash University - Clayton - Vic - Australia

4-6-1980

Dear Mr Rich,

I read with interest the article *Bird history - The first one hundred millions years* which appeared in Oct/Dec 1979 of *Australian Natural History* prepared by yourself and Rita Berra.

Although not an academic myself I breed domestic chickens (Bantams) and over the past few years have been doing private research on the origin, evolution and distribution of the domestic chicken.

The project began when I set out to trace the history of the Pekin Bantam but I found that one thing led to another and I found myself delving into the origins etc of the domestic chicken in general. It has proved very interesting though frustrating as most of the material available was purely hypothetical and I now feel that the answers must come from the archaeologists, anthropologists and persons such as yourselves who can furnish positive evidence.

Unfortunately very little importance has been placed on the chicken. However I feel that man's distribution throughout the world is tied with the domestic animals as where man went his animals went with him.

I have the material you mentioned from John Ostrom of Yale University as I during my research I have corresponded with him. I also have the book *Fossil Birds*.

As I mentioned I breed Pekin Bantams and at times have noted amongst them the claws on the front of the wings appearing as in the Archæopteryx. I mentioned this fact to Professor Ostrom and he advised that this had occurred in a Zoo hatching (1978) in an East African ibis. Quote from him: "Presumably these represent a *sport* or the recurrence of a primitive condition, perhaps from a near Archæopteryx state. These claws are different from the spur that occurs in your spur winged plover or screamer which is more like the spur on the shank or metatarsus of galliform (pheasants and chickens) birds".

The spurs in the wings on my birds were in a much smaller form of course than those of the Archæopteryx. My quest for information on this subject just seems to lead on from one thing to another but as the origin of the domestic chicken does seem to be somewhat clouded I feel that any lead I may get requires following on.

Charles Darwin concluded that all domestic chickens emanated from the Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus Bankiva*). Without discrediting Darwin unfortunately he was not aware of Mendel's experiments in genetics and it is the opinion of geneticists - Bateson, Punnett and others - that perhaps Bankiva was not the sole progenitor of the chicken.

I am at the moment exploring the possibilities that there were a number of species or subspecies, possibly 3, perhaps emanating from a common extinct ancestor and branching into 3 species, Bankivoids, Malays and Asiatics. Finsterbusch (1929) put forward a positive argument in favour of at least 2 species (Bankivoids and Malays) mainly because of the bone structure.

I am also working on the distribution question. This situation is very heavy, but I have had a couple of leads recently. Chicken bones have been unearthed in North East Thailand (dating back 3500 BC) and also on Watom Island, New Britain. Unfortunately there is no positive identification as to whether they belonged to the Bankivoid or Malay. I am following this lead and may eventually get some results.

My purpose in writing to you is that you may perhaps offer some suggestions as to the line of research I might follow or perhaps you may feel you have some information which could assist the research. I would appreciate any suggestions you may put forward.

Perhaps because of their frailness and being subject to predators, finding fossil remains of birds will remain very elusive, however I guess we must press on.

I hope eventually to prepare some notes on the material I have collected and conclusions.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

6-8 College Street

Sydney 2000 P.O. Box A285

Telephone: 3398111 - Sydney South Telegram: MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

19th June, 1980

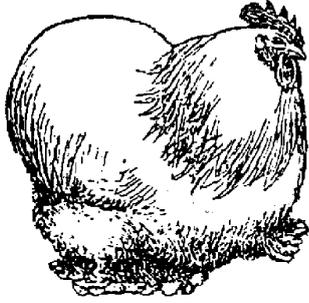
Dear Mister Plant,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd June regarding the fowl bones from Watom Island. I am still trying to track down where they are; at last report they had been sent, inadvertently, from Dunedin to Auckland. I am now trying to get them back to Sydney, in which case I can quickly check them against Finsterbusch's views. I will let you know what happens, but first we must get the bones back.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Specht', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

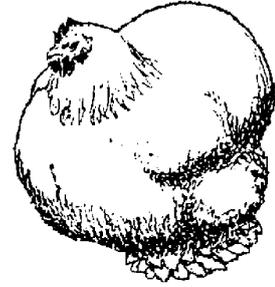
Jim Specht
Curator of Anthropology



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Jim R. Specht
Curator of Anthropology
Australian Museum - Sydney

24-6-1980

Dear Jim,

I thank you for your letter of 19th June on the chicken bone from Watom Island.

It was quite heartening to hear that you may be able to obtain the bones and check them against Finsterbusch's conclusions.

I do not have anything further as yet from Professor Higham at the Otago University regarding the chicken bones from N.E. Thailand. I have written to him again enclosing a copy of Finsterbusch's notes in the hope he may do some further study on them and draw some conclusions as to their species.

I would appreciate hearing of any other discoveries in this field and will be looking forward to hearing your findings on the Watom Island bone when you do get hold of it.

Thank you very much for your interest and assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

July 8, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

I am returning to you herewith the technical papers on the Pekin Bantam along with a comment from me to be incorporated in these papers.

You can feel free to use the illustrations taken from our standard and it would be appreciated that you give credit to the ABA for their use. Our first standard was copyrighted but the present one is not because we have found that here in the USA, that the description of an animal cannot be copyrighted.

It appears to me and some other that I have consulted that you have pretty much followed the British description of the Pekin Bantam. We have concluded that the Pekin is very closely comparable with our Cochin Bantam.

I have prepared shape and color descriptions of the Pekin Bantam formulated in the manner that would be acceptable for inclusion in our standard. There are minor differences in this material between your Pekin and our Cochin which the average person reading it would not pick up without comparing the two texts. I did use your language where possible.

We cannot accept such descriptions as:

1. varying number of serrations in the comb of the male and female
2. differences in eye color
3. shape of female being the same as the male except for sexual differences
4. either/or descriptions
5. lack of detail in the partridge color descriptions

It is very hard for me to understand why you do not describe shape of male and female in all parts of the body. This also applies to color descriptions of other than solid color patterns.

How does a judge, in the showroom make a determination on which is the best specimen when one bird has a three point comb and another bird of equal characteristics has a five point comb? What does he/she do when there are three specimens of equal merit and each of the three birds has different eye color?

With no wing description in detail, how does the judge determine whether the wing meets the standard requirement in it's five sub-divisions? Is it carried too high or too low, is it too large or too small, does he handle the bird by spreading out the wing on each side of the body to see if there are any defects and observe the length and width of the primaries and secondaries; in multicolored birds are they properly marked? A judge in Canada or the United States would not be called back for a second assignment if he did not pay attention to the details set forth in our standard.

I hope you will not feel that you have to use my suggestions for your standard but this is the way it will need to be written to get it into our fifth edition. Of course if I have made any errors they should be corrected so I would like to hear from you on this forthwith for I want to send it to Jeffrey at an early date.

When you get your illustrations made, I would need two approximately 3" x 5" photographs for use in printing.

In our standard, we have general defects and disqualifications which apply to all breeds and color patterns, hence they are omitted in my material. In feather legged breeds here in the USA and Canada, we are finding an increasing number of specimens in the show room that have only a stub of one joint on both of the outer toes, hence the disqualification. It has been watched out for in feather legged breeds.

THE FOLLOWING ARE MY COMMENTS FOR INSERTION IN THE SPACE
PROVIDED IN YOUR TECHNICAL PAPERS:

During the early to middle eighteen hundreds there were a number of importations of the Pekin Bantam into the United States and Canada, they arrived principally through the ports of Boston, New York and Philadelphia,

The American Poultry Association published their first Standard of Excellence in 1874 in which appears the description of the PEKIN OR COCHIN BANTAM. In the 1894 standard, the word PEKIN was dropped from the title and they are listed as just plain COCHIN bantams and have remained so ever since. Large Cochins were very popular at that time, bred and shown in large numbers, the Pekin Bantam was considered to be the miniature counterpart of the large Cochins even though they appeared different in some respects.

At the turn of the century, in the early nineteen hundreds, the APA began their illustrations of ideal male and female specimens of each breed of large and small Bantam breeds. It was during this period that Maurice Wallace, a Canadian breeder of many poultry breeds, became an official APA judge and member of the Standard Committee along with Arthur O.Schilling, who was also an excellent judge and our finest poultry artist. Together, these two gentlemen made many refinements in the standard requirements in the detailed form that still remains unchanged up to the present time. This applies to both shape and color pattern descriptions.

All breeds, both male and female, are separately described from comb to toes in a systematic manner, Breed varieties (color patterns) are also described for both male and female, from comb to toes. Exceptions to this are the solid color patterns such as black, blue, buff, exchequer, splash and white where the plumage is the same over the entire body.

When an ideal is set forth in this detail, the breeder, especially the beginner, plus the judge, cannot successfully go too far astray on just what is required in a given specimen.

Kindest regards,



PS—You will notice a description of both shape and color of the Chinese Langshan appears on pgs 14 & 15 of the *ABA Summer Quarterly*. I have detected an error in the male shanks and toes description—it should be corrected to read: Shanks—medium length, small boned, outer side sparsely feathered, Spurs have been omitted, This should read: Spurs—set low. In other words shanks and toes and spurs have been erroneously combined. I will ask Mr Jeffrey for a correction in a subsequent issue.

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

August 4, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

I have received your letter with the comments on the Australian Game Bantam. I have increased the weight by four ounces in each of the four categories as you have suggested. I originated the American Game Bantam. They are really miniatures of the larger Fit Games and when I first began to advertise them, I called them PIT GAME BANTAMS. Later they were changed to the American Game Bantams. I found that there was a natural aversion to the word PIT by the average fancier and dropped the word PIT in my advertisements after which I began to ship them all over the USA and the Caribbean Islands as well as South America.

In developing some of the varieties of this breed, I often searched for the smallest of the large fowl, either male or female and found that in three or four generations I could get them down in size to the required standard. The larger male or female was first mated to a regulation sized specimen. A number of eggs were incubated and the smallest selected each generation until they met the required weights, I would surmise that this could be the best way to make the fastest progress in bantamizing the Australian Game Bantam.

I would suggest that your friend keep a sharp lookout for the smallest specimen, either male or female, or both, of it's large fowl counterpart, stud mate them and select the smallest each year with his present stock and I think he will be agreeably surprised with the results.

Somewhat over two weeks ago I returned your script on the Pekin Bantam together with my comments which you asked that I make for an appropriate space in your comments. Also was enclosed my version, which was discussed with our Standard Committee, of an appropriate description that would be required if it is to be included in our proposed fifth edition of the *ABA Standard*. I asked the postmaster whether I could register this material and explained the importance of it and he informed me that this could not be done, so I sent it any way. Hope that it has arrived by now. Most of your mailings to me come through in from three to five days.

I am quite pleased to learn that you are beginning to believe that a separate detailed shape and color description is advisable for the male and female. This, I feel, is very helpful to the beginner and also prevents the judge from making different judgements on just what is the requirement in the various sections of the anatomy. The elimination of either/or requirements is another thing that I feel you should work for also. Variations in the number of serrations in the comb, different in the eye color, etc., are confusing to the beginner and judge, too. In a given specimen, how do you decide which of the variations should be the best, everything else being equal.

In the earlier part of this century, Maurice Wallace, a famous Canadian breeder writer, APA judge, and a member of the APA Standard Committee for several years was a STICKLER for the elimination of the either/or provisions in the standard descriptions. Both he and Arthur Schilling imbued in me the necessity of eliminating this phrase in our descriptions. I hope your wife is in better health by this time.

Sincerely,



MONASH UNIVERSITY

CLAYTON VICTORIA AUSTRALIA 3168

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

CHAIRMAN: Professor B. E. Hobbs

TELEPHONE 03 541 0811 EXT 3791 - TELEGRAMS: Monashuni Melbourne - TELEX: Monash AA 32691

August 5th, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Please excuse me for not replying to your letter of 4.6.80 much sooner than this but it landed at the bottom of a pile of correspondence and I've just managed to reach the bottom level!

Your work on domestic chicken was interesting as I myself have a similar interest, only much less experienced than yours. I'm especially intrigued by the Pekin Bantam and have been thinking of getting a small flock on our block.

One item of real interest in your letter was the presence of claws on the wings. I would be very keen on getting the skeleton of one of those if one happened to die. If you wouldn't mind and could save one such skeleton next time it occurs, I would be grateful. I could then look at the arrangement of the bones. As Dr. Ostrom suggested it may well represent a "neotenuous" condition - that is the holdover of a primitive character. It also might represent a "mistake" in development or actual mutation in that particular individual (see Welty, J.C. 1962. *The Life of Birds*. W.B. Saunders p. 491) - thus it would be interesting to look at the anatomy of the structure.

Now to answer your questions, although I must admit that I have no expertise whatsoever with domestic animal fossils. Three people who might be able to give you some information of the archaeological record of chickens and their relatives are:

Dr Stanley J. Olsen,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721.

Dr Jeannette Hope,
Australian National University,
Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies,
Canberra, ACT 2600.

(She's mainly interested in marsupials but knows archaeological literature for the SW Pacific and New Guinea).

Dr E.S.Higgs
35 Panton P1,
Cambridge, England.

(He's done much archaeological work in the middle east with emphasis on domestic animals).

A couple of other leads that you could follow up would be Koch, T., B.H. Skold and L. De Vries (1973). *Anatomy of the domestic chicken and other domestic birds*. The Iowa State Press, Ames, Iowa; and Hargrave, L.L. (1972). *Comparative osteology of the chicken and American goose*. Prescott College Studies in Biology, No. 1, Prescott, Arizona.

The place I always start when I begin work on any group of fossil birds is with Pierce Brodkorb's *Catalogue of Fossil Birds* - in this case Pt. 2 is appropriate (1964. *Bull. Florida State Museum, Bio. Sci.*, 8(3), p 318-319). This suggests that the genus in which the domestic fowl belongs (*Gallus*) first appears in the fossil record in the early Pliocene (about 7 million years ago) in Greece (*Gallus aesculapii*) while a second slightly younger species, (*Gallus bravardi*) is known from several locales in France. This material, to my knowledge, has not been reviewed recently, so it is somewhat uncertain as to its rightful assignment. Anyhow, it's a start. From there we must go to the archaeologists.

That is about all I can offer you at the moment. I hope it's of some help. Let me know what you find out. Could you send me a full reference to Finsterbusch's article (1929) that you mentioned. All the best.

Sincerely,

Pat

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
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AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

October 10, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

I am enclosing a copy of a proposed standard for the Australian Game Bantam which I hope you will review promptly and return with any suggested changes you may deem appropriate.

In order to meet our standard requirements for the Game breed, which are put on exhibition, any bird exhibited after November 1st, the male must be dubbed. You will notice that I have made a designation to this effect for the cockerel and it is further qualified that in the Southern Hemisphere that the date will be May 1st. In setting the date, I have assumed that your seasons are exactly opposite of ours here in the Northern Hemisphere. Is this correct? I wish you would advise me further regarding the time of the year when your principal hatching is done, etc.

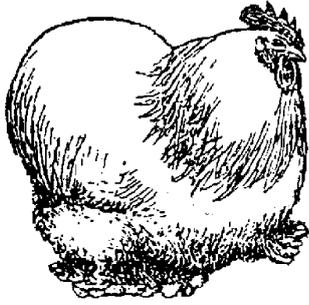
I am also in a quandary about setting proper weights for these bantams. The brochure you forwarded states that cocks may vary in weight from 9 to 12 pounds and that mature hens will weigh up to 10 pounds. We normally consider that bantams which have a larger counterpart should weigh from one-quarter to one-fifth of the large fowl weight. You will notice that the weights I have assigned are less than one fifth of that of the large fowl. The standard for modern game bantams for both the *English* and *American Standards* are somewhat smaller than I have designated. My experience in producing the miniatures of large fowl which takes about four generations is that if you set your goals too low, you experience a number of problems. I will be guided with your desires on what the weights should be.

In connection with the eye color, which was stated as *pearl, yellow or daw*, I have shown the three colors but this is not in accord with our rules. Which should the dominant color be? I cannot find a dictionary description of the color *daw*. Can you describe what this color is? As to the shanks and toes, I chose the color *willow* in preference to *willow or olive*, because there is very little real difference and that willow is often referred to as a leg color.

Sincerely,



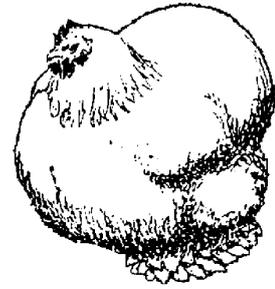
P.S. - In giving further consideration to the disqualifications, it may be that undubbed males are acceptable in the showroom in Australia which is contrary to the American practices. In the event that this is true, the disqualifications should be modified to permit undubbed specimens in Australia, will you please advise on this matter? The probability is that the description of this breed will appear in our 1981 Yearbook, so you will have plenty of time to get illustrations prepared for this breed.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**Dr Stanley J. Olsen - Dept of Anthropology
University of Arizona - Tucson**

11-8-1980

Dear Dr Olsen,

For some little time I have been carrying out private research in the field of the evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl in the hope that I can unearth some information and facts relating to this subject. I have found it very challenging though frustrating but have collected quite a deal of material and also formed some conclusions which however at the moment are somewhat hypothetical although a few leads I have do indicate that more definite conclusions may be arrived at a later date.

I do not have an academic background but have breed Bantam Chickens for some years and became interested their history etc which does appear to be somewhat clouded. I first began researching the Cochin or Pekin Bantam which led me further into the subject and I have become quite absorbed in the study.

It has been for me necessary contact people such as yourself who have studied anthropology, palæontology etc in depth in my quest for some positive evidence in this field. I have received heartening support from a number of persons who have assisted where possible.

In a recent letter from Pat Rich of the Earth Sciences Department, Monash University in Melbourne, it was suggested that I contact you as Mr Rich made reference to you in his and Rita Berra's article in a recent issue of the Australian Museum magazine; the article: *Bird history, the first one hundred millions of years.*

I have also had correspondence with Professor Ostrom of Yale University who very kindly sent me some of his papers on Archæopteryx etc. I feel that the answers to question of evolution, history and distribution of the chicken must eventually come from people such as yourself, anthropologists and archæologists.

I have felt for some time that the distribution of the domestic chicken is closely related to the movement of man himself as I guess it would be in order to presume that where man went, his domestic animals went with him?

However, the chicken being what it is, of a frail nature (bone wise) and perhaps fed to other animals it follows that probably little evidence has been of them amongst the excavations.

However I have been advised by Mr Specht Curator of anthropology at the Australian Museum in Sydney that chicken bone was unearthed at Watom Island, New Britain, and from Professor Higham of the Otago University in New Zealand I have received papers of the findings in NE Thailand also of chicken bones.

Following on the evidence of Finsterbusch (1929) who over many years made a study of Game Fowl it would be interesting to learn the exact nature of these birds. Finsterbusch put forward the argument that instead of all the domestic chicken be descending from the Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus Bankiva*) there were in fact 2 species or subspecies, Bankiva being one and the Malay fowl the other, both perhaps stemming from a common perhaps extinct ancestor.

Charles Darwin suggested that all chicken descended solely from Bankiva. With all credit to Darwin, he was not aware of Mendel's discoveries in the field of genetics. As Finsterbusch suggests there are so many differences between the Bankivoids and the Malays it becomes hard to believe that the differences were only caused by mutation. Finsterbusch also presented evidence that the bone structure between the Bankivoids and the Malays was also quite different, one being a flyer, the other a runner.

I am inclined to go one step further in that I believe that another species or subspecies could also be added, that is the Asiatics (Cochin, Brahma and Langshan). They are so much different again from the other two mentioned. Mr Specht advised that he is hoping to get hold of the chicken bone from Watom Island and perhaps identify it from Finsterbusch's account. I am hoping Professor Higham may do the same with the bones from NE Thailand. If this can be done it may provide a lead as from whence they came and also who brought them.

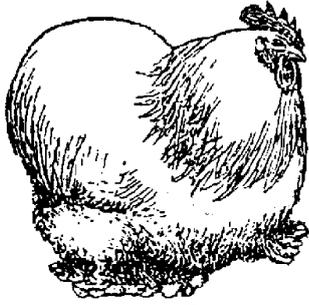
Therefore I thought perhaps you may be able to give me some advice on recent papers on the subject and also advise me on what avenues I should explore in my search for further information on the subject. Any assistance I can assure you would be very much appreciated. I hope in the not too distant future to put together notes from the material I have obtained together with conclusions I have formed.

I am quite interested in the distribution situation. I don't think it has been definitely decided with regard to pre-Columbian in the Americas but Thor Heyerdahl certainly proved that it could have been possible.

However I will be interested to receive any advice from you on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

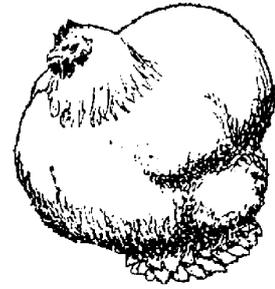
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Dr E.S.Higgs
35 Planton Place - Cambridge - England

12-8-1980

Dear Dr Higgs,

Over the past few years I have been doing private research on the origin, evolution and distribution of the domestic chicken.

I do not have an academic background but have found the subject both interesting and challenging though at times frustrating as information available appears to be somewhat scanty.

I have gathered together quite a deal of material and have formed some conclusions although somewhat at the moment of a hypothetical nature due to the lack of positive evidence.

I have made contact with a number of people who work in the fields of anthropology and archæology who have been most helpful but find there are still a lot of gaps to fill.

In a recent letter from Pat Rich of the Department of Earth Sciences at the Monash University in Melbourne she advised me that it may be a good idea to make contact with you as you have done much archæological work in the Middle East with emphasis on domestic animals.

Therefore I felt that perhaps over recent times during your work you may have unearthed chicken bones which may throw some light on the evolution and distribution of the domestic chicken. If so any information which could assist my research would be most appreciated.

I do have papers written by Coltherd and have written on the chicken in the Middle East. You may have further to add which may have occurred since those papers were written.

My belief is that there are 3 species or sub-species of the domestic chicken, i.e. the Bankivoids, Malay and Asiatics (Cochin, Brahma, Langshan). These 3 groups being mostly different in so many aspects that it is hard to believe that these differences came only as mutations.

Charles Darwin suggested all domestic chickens had as progenitor only *Gallus Bankiva* (Red Jungle Fowl). I have based my thoughts on the evidence put forward by Finsterbusch (1929) wherein he described the differences in bone structure between the Bankivoids and the Malay, the first being a flyer, the other a runner.

I do not have information on the bone structure of the Asiatics except from Darwin's narration of Plants and Animals under domestication where he states that the shapes of the occipital foramen between *Bankiva* and the Cochin (Asiatics) shows a remarkable difference. Further he admits that if any of the varieties of the chicken come from a different ancestor to *Bankiva* it could have been the Cochin.

Unfortunately at this time of writings Darwin was not aware of the work of Mendel in genetics. If he had I presume some of his views may have been modified especially in the field of mixing colours. Through our knowledge now of genetics we can in many cases predict the result when putting together 2 colours in our domestic chickens.

My belief is that perhaps an extinct ancestor was responsible for the chickens we have today, the 3 species or sub-species afore mentioned emerging along the way. There still appears to be no evidence as to the origin of *Gallus Bankiva* itself. Therefore I feel the information must come from persons such as yourself (archæologists, anthropologists) through discoveries made during excavations.

I am very interested in the distribution also of the chicken. My belief in this field was that whilst the chicken moved west from India through Persia, Egypt and eventually across the Atlantic to the Americas hence into the Pacific, it also moved in an easterly direction through the islands of the Indies also into the Pacific. Thor Heyerdahl's voyages certainly proved that the westerly drift could have crossed the Atlantic but of course there does not appear as yet any positive evidence of this occurrence.

If however through your work you have unearthed any chicken bones I would only be too pleased to send you a copy of Finsterbusch's findings on the differences of bone structure for comparison with anything you may have unearthed. Any information, suggestion or advice on thus I might follow in my research I can assure you would be very much appreciated. I hope in the not too distant future to put together some notes on the material I have and some appreciated conclusions I have assumed. Lack of positive evidence however is one of the difficulties surrounding these conclusions.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
TUCSON, ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
BUILDING 30
(602) 626-2585

August 29, 1980

Dear Mr Plant:

I am quite interested in the ancestry and origin of the domestic chicken, particularly its introduction into the Western Hemisphere.

I have just returned from a rather extensive trip to China where I was pursuing the earliest domestic dogs that I could find. While going through the bone collections, I did note those of chickens. There were considerable elements of the chicken recovered from the Neolithic site of Pan-p'o near Sian in North China.

The earliest chickens, recorded from the Western Hemisphere, are from South America. They were brought there by the Spanish about 1519. There are no pre-Columbian chicken bones from the Western Hemisphere. Some years ago I consulted two avian palaeontologists, Drs Pierce Brodkorb and Alexander Wetmore (now deceased). They both agreed that until chicken bones are recovered from an early, dated, archaeological site we cannot assume that they were here in prehistoric times.

I would say from your letter, that you are going into the study of chicken origins rather thoroughly. Therefore, please keep me informed of your success relating to whether there are one or several races that may have contributed to the domestic bird. If you wish I can dig out a bibliography of papers and volumes relating to this study. I haven't done so as it appears that you are already aware of most of the literature.

Please keep me informed of your study. If I can be of help, drop me a line.

Sincerely,

S.J.Olsen
Professor
Zooarchaeologist.

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

9-11/1980

Dear Mr Plant,

I am somewhat concerned that I have not heard from you with respect to the descriptions of the Pekin, Australian Game and the Australian Pit Game bantams. I had hoped to have these available for discussion at our upcoming annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, the second weekend in November.

In connection with the comb description of the Australian Game Bantam it may be that you will wish to delete the part has to do with dubbing. Is it your custom not to require dubbing of game bantams when they are exhibited in the show room?

I realize that you have been having problems with sickness in your family, but can you just send me a very short note on the progress to date on these three breeds.

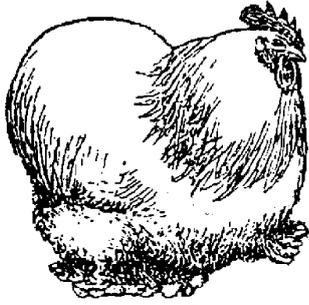
My grandson Robert is presently in the process of preparing black and white illustrations on twelve European breeds of bantams which I have finished working on with Mrs A.C.Banning of the Netherlands and I have a notion that he might prepare the illustrations for the two Australian Game breeds.

Mrs Gary has been in the hospital for the third time this year, this last time for the removal of a cataract. She is doing nicely but has not yet attempted to drive the car in a situation where there is anything but a small amount of traffic. We do go every morning to a restaurant for breakfast, to the post office and occasionally to the bank. She will hopefully have full vision when glasses can be fitted.

With the inclusion of the four breeds that I have been working with you on it is now possible that we will have one hundred one breeds with nearly six hundred varieties of bantams in the fifth edition. There is no other manual anywhere in the world that would be comparable that I know of.

Sincerely,

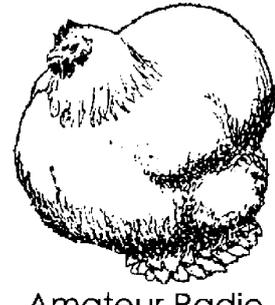




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**Prof Stanley J. Olsen - Dept of Anthropology
University of Arizona - Tucson**

11-9-1980

Dear Professor Olsen,

Thank you for your letter of August 29th and the information contained therein. I am pleased to hear that you are also interested in the ancestry and origin of the domestic chicken. It is without doubt a challenging subject and I feel worthy of attention. Perhaps some answers in this field would also provide links in the field of the distribution of man himself.

I am sure that your trip to China proved interesting and the fact that chicken bone was unearthed at the Pan-p'o site could be of importance.

I am enclosing some photostat material from Finsterbusch (1929) and Darwin's *Variation of plants and animals under domestication*. Perhaps if you still have the chicken bone from China on hand you may find time to compare it with this material. This could assist in my theory of the 3 species, the Asiatics (Brahma, Cochin, Langshan) apparently evolved in China. I am inclined to believe that bone found in China should follow the pattern of the bone as described by Finsterbusch of the Malay species as the Asiatics were not flyers as were the Bankivoids.

Thank you for the comments on no pre-Columbian chicken bones in the Americas. From Professor Carter on pre-Columbian chicken in *Man across the sea* he mentions that Dillman Bullock found chicken bones on Mocha Island, Chile, but although the bones were identified by the *Smithsonian Institution* as *Gallus*, no dating was given. In a recent communication from Professor Carter he advised me he had done little work on the pre-Columbian chicken since 1971 when he did the treatise. This is unfortunate indeed.

You mentioned Dr Pierce Broadkord I recently wrote to him on this subject and am hoping to receive a reply in the not too distant future. I am hoping that information may come to hand from both Mr Specht on the Watom Island bone and Professor Higham on the NE Thailand bone. Information also on the identification of the Pan-p'o bones could also assist in putting a few loose ends together.

I find the problem arising from this study is that a little more information keeps coming to hand and I have delayed putting together notes but after getting them together probably something else will turn up. However I will do something shortly in this regard and hope for the best.

I am also enclosing part of the notes I put together some little time ago on the history of the Pekin or Cochin Bantam. They perhaps will be of interest to you.

If you do hear of any chicken bone discoveries apart from what I already am aware of, I would appreciate hearing from you. I will certainly keep you advised of anything in the field that comes my way.

One thing that does seem odd (from Carter page 200) that the diffusion of the chicken in South America was very rapid after 1519. I would imagine that the local Indian population would not move very far from their own areas which would naturally make the diffusion fairly slow.

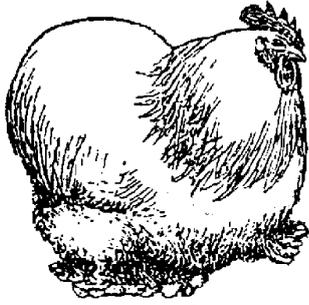
The blue egg chicken (Araucana) as far as I know has only ever been found in South America, therefore if there were no pre-Columbian chickens there a mutation must have occurred since 1519!!

Thor Heyerdahl in correspondence told me the chickens laid blue eggs on Easter Island when he was there but of course Easter Island had taken in contact with Chile over quite a period. There were chickens on Easter Island in 1722 when discovered by Roggeveen which were described as being like those of the Vierlanden which is apparently an agricultural area adjacent to the city of Hamburg. I have yet to discover what these chickens from the Vierlanden looked like but am working on it. Therefore there is still a lot for us to discover in the field but hopefully the facts may eventually become apparent.

Once again thank you for the information and interest. It is much appreciated. I will keep in touch.

Sincerely yours,

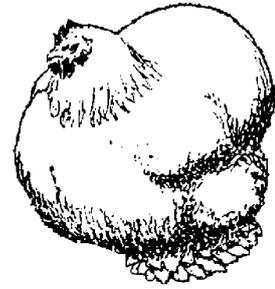
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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**The Director - Dept of Ornithology
Smithsonian Institution - Washington D.C. 20560**

12-9-1980

Dear Sir,

Over the past few years I have been carrying out private research on the origin, evolution, history and distribution of the domestic chicken. I do not have an academic background but over the period have collected quite a deal of material on the subject and am in the process of putting it together and have formed some conclusions which although somewhat hypothetically the moment through lack of positive evidence.

There are however some facts I have learned which may assist in providing some answers to the aforementioned subject.

During my studies I noted in the publication *Man across the sea* page 180 in the section written by Professor George Carter entitled *Pre-Columbian Chickens* that chicken bones were found in graves on Mocha Island, Chile, that must date before 1687 by Dillman S. Bullock (I do not know in what year there were found).

Professor Carter stated that the bone was examined by experts of your Institution as being those of *Gallus gallus*. However no dating of this bone was made. Perhaps some further work has been done on this bone if it is still with your Institution.

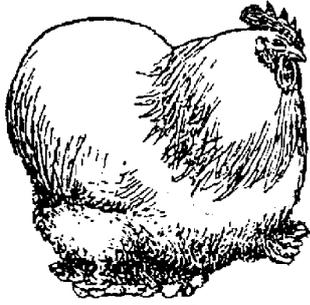
In a recent communication from Professor Olsen of the University of Arizona he informed me that as yet there have been no pre-Columbian chicken bones discovered in the Araucania and until such bones as there are we cannot assume that they existed prior to being brought there by the Spanish.

I have ascertained that chicken bone has been discovered in North East Thailand, Watom Island, New Britain, on a Neolithic site of Pan-p'o near Sian in Northern China and in England so would be interested to hear of any other discoveries that may have occurred over the past few years.

Any information you may have on this subject would be much appreciated, also any research that I may follow.

Sincerely yours,

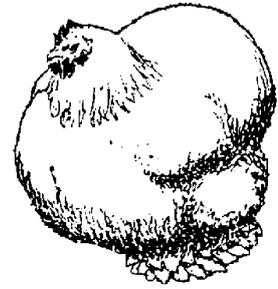
Bill Plant



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**Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA**

30-9-1980

Dear Mr Gary,

Just a short note hoping you received the material I sent you last week. I asked you in my previous letter for Mrs Banning address. I received the *1980 ABA Yearbook* yesterday which has her address in it, so will now write to her. Feel sure she will be able to assist me with the information I am seeking to further my research on the history, distribution etc of the domestic chicken. I am enclosing a copy of the *Ancona Club Standard* (England) which the Ancona Club of Australia has adopted and distributed amongst its members.

It is as you would be aware a little more detailed than standard appearing in the British Standard. The Ancona both large fowl and Bantam is pretty popular in Australia (particularly New South Wales and Queensland) and the breed is in the hands of some good fanciers who are endeavouring to improve it all the time. I felt this pamphlet may be of interest to you.

Further to my comments of last week on the opposition from our Pekin Bantam Club Committee members on the Pekin Standard information has come to hand that lead me to believe they are against it (yet they would not allow me to present it to the members at the last meeting, so they don't know even the format of it). This sounds a ridiculous situation, which it no doubt is.

My co-worker Neville Notley, my son and myself have discussed the situation and there is no doubt one way or another it will go down on paper. We do not feel there could be any improvement on the material you put together and sent me together with the few alterations I discussed in my previous letter.

There is no doubt your predictions then when too many become involved the situation become lagged down. However the 3 of us are determined this will not occur. Have to visit the doctor on my eyes again in a couple of days. Hope for a good report.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

MONASH UNIVERSITY

CLAYTON VICTORIA AUSTRALIA 3168

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

CHAIRMAN: Professor B. E. Hobbs

TELEPHONE 03 541 0811 EXT 3791 - TELEGRAMS: Monashuni Melbourne - TELEX: Monash AA 32691

1 October 1980

Dear Bill:

Thanks for your letter of 14/8/80, that was a while back! Also tanks for the information on the Pekin Bantams. They are a good breed of chickens, indeed. One of these days I shall have some.

Another article that I just came across in a reference is: Jànossy, D. 1977, Plio-Pleistocene bird remains from the Carpathian Basin. 1 Galliformes. 2 Phasianidæ. *Aquila* 83:29-42. Discusses 11 paleo and 3 neospecies.

Describes *Gallus beremendensis* (Lowest Pleistocene) and *Francolinus subfrancolinus* (Lower Pleistocene), new species. Author considers the first of these, the nearly complete humerus of a small form of Gallus, to be of great significance concerning the origin of the domestic fowl!!

A person you may contact about the New World history of domestic fowl is Dr Stanley Olsen, Dept. of Anthropology/Archæology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA.

All the best with your work. Keep me posted. Sorry this letter is so short but I'm due out with students at this point.

Cheers!

Pat
(I'm a Mrs.)

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

October 4, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Your letter of August 1 and September 18 arrived yesterday. It appears your letters are taking a long time now whereas they used to come through in from three to five days.

My grandson, Jonathan, will be pleased with stamps on this envelope as he is a stamp enthusiast. Several years ago I turned over to him a small collection that I had accumulated in prior years.

I believe that we will be able to make practically all of the changes that you have suggested in these two letters but will have to wait until I can muster a meeting of our standard committee which is going to be hard to accomplish before the big meet at Columbus, Ohio.

The *ABA Standard* does have a description of the Cuckoo color pattern. It is listed as Barred as in Cuckoo.

I also wish to refer you to the self blue color pattern which would probably fit your requirements and am going to set up a self blue color pattern which can be added to the other varieties previously sent to you. This would give you two different color patterns to exhibit the blues under and eliminate squabbles among the exhibitors who prefer one of the other blue patterns.

About a year and one-half ago, my ophthalmologist changed my eye drops from the same kind you are presently using to TIMOPTIC 0,25% manufactured by Merck Sharp & Dohme, West Point, Pa. I use one drop in each eye morning and evening and after starting to use them had a slight improvement in my vision. Since then I have heard of several persons who have been changed to these drops by their doctor who report varying degrees of improvement in their vision.

There will be no problem in the use of items in our glossary provided you give credit to the American Bantam Association when you use them.

You are correct in assuming that an adult male showing spur buds but really no length of spur would be a defect rather than disqualification in this breed. Other breeds (page 283) would require disqualification.

I am adding the following variety of the Pekin Bantam and suggest you do the same on your copy of the material I sent you.

SELF BLUE PEKIN BANTAM

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Bright Red

BEAK: Yellow, shaded with black

EYES: Red

SHANKS AND TOES: Yellow, black shading permissible; bottoms of feet yellow, plumage same as balance of plumage

PLUMAGE: Refer to self blue color description.

I have made all the changes you suggested except the eye color which in our standard will appear as *Red* only. We have a policy which cannot be deviated from in halving but one eye color in any variety, If you wish to make an exception to this in the material you are distributing to your members, that is your prerogative.

I admire your courage in the face of adversity and encourage you to STAND FAST with the descriptions we have jointly agreed upon. You will find that, once this is in print, the objections will melt away and disappear over a period of time.

Keep a stiff upper lip.

With respect to the Australorp as bred in Australia, I would appreciate your referring to our standard descriptions and informing me just what differences occur, as you breed them, and as they are described. With respect to Mrs Banning, she forwarded me a large amount of material which I have used to describe several European breeds. In the past, I have set up standards descriptions proposed by her and simply had them included in our standard without additional correspondence. I am following the same practice this time. I have completed ten European breeds for the fifth edition. Mrs. Banning's address is as follows:

A. C. Banning - Vogelpoel
Steenweg 16
4181 AL Waardenburg, Netherlands

Mrs Banning has recently (1978) published a book titled *Kippen houden als liefhebberij* which has a number of color illustrations principally done by A. O.Schilling and which have appeared in the past in many of our books on poultry.

I will write you separately on the Australian Pit Game Bantam at later time.

Kindest regards,



Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

October 7, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Receiving your letter I first thought my answer could fill a booklet. But I must be brief. I am a married woman with a large interest in poultry, I am a breeder of Old English Game fowl, Mechels fowl (Malines), Silkies, Old English Game bantams, Dutch bantams and Houdans bantams. I am a poultry judge and in fall and winter I do about 40 judgements here and in Belgium. I am a writer of poultry articles in our monthly poultry magazine, and give some copy to the ABA, I wrote two books on the subject and did make 3 monographs of bantams breeds.

In my first book I wrote 4 pages on the origin of domestic poultry, a source of my information was a book of the late Mr A.L.Hagedoorn, a Dutch genetics specialist also known in other countries. In 1927 he wrote a book on genetics and breeding (animals and plants). "All domestic animals come from wild ones. Some of the animals and birds proved to become tame and the history of domesticated animals you can find in the history of men. The men who tamed and domesticated these animals must have a certain civilisation. The oldest fossil rests of fowl are found in caverns in Belgium and France together with bones of elephants, bears and hyenas. All those bone rests should date from the time between the last ice-times, so that brings us more as 100,000 years ago. Fowl's fossils are found very often in old pre-historical towns and villages."

Hagedoorn stated that to tame a bird is not the same as to domesticate a bird. Domestic animals must multiply easy, should have a large production and must be kept alive on a cheap and easy to obtain food and ask not too much care. The wild Jungle Fowl lives in humid woods and eat insects, grubs and fruit like berries. These birds should starve on a diet of chicken pellets. Domestic fowls have an economic importance as grains and fishmeal. Domesticated animals must have a tame character and make them easy to fence it. Most domesticated animals and birds are very variable, that can prove that there was a crossing of two different wild Jungle Fowls and there were youngster tamers as the wild ancestors. Because there are domesticated fowls with the same color as the Jungle Fowl, Darwin stated that this wild fowl was the ancestor of all our domestic fowls. But the people who know really the Bankiva Jungle Fowl understand that it is not possible that natives had a breed of Bankiva around the hut, they are too shy and the people had no chicken wire. But there is a wild Jungle Fowl that is tame of nature and can be kept as domesticated fowl, the *Gallus sonnerati*. This bird can be brought by men in other surroundings, in times of travelling to other hunting grounds and there can have been a crossing with other wild Jungle Fowl male, as the Bankiva male, disappearing later in the woods. The crosslings are fertile and crossings give a large variation in the second generation. Modern geneticists suppose there must have been a gigantic fowl, *Gallus giganteus*, that is now extinct. This malayoid fowl weights around 4-7 kg and could be an ancestor of the malayoid breeds of fowl.

In forming the several breeds there are two main ways. First evolution. Think about the bearded and/or crested breeds and the feathered legs. By forming crests and beards, the combs and wattles become smaller. Houwink, a Dutch breeder living in the first part of this century and earlier, wrote in 1909 a book about it. After freezing off combs and wattles some crest forming is possible and he stated that if only the best protected fowl could survive, crested fowls were the best for China (Silkies) and Siberia (Siberian fowl crested, bearded, feathered feet). But the second way in forming breeds that was breeding, picking the best birds for eggs, or meat, or color, or fighting etc. To make a choice in the birds to be mated is the best way to change chickens. In early times real breeds were created by men in close surroundings, in convents, close communities etc.

Thousands of years ago in West Europe there was a breed of fowl, color must pencilled or black red, white in earlobes, leaden blue legs, type as Bankiva's but larger. Descending breeds: Westfaals Totleger (rosecomb), Ost Frisians, Groninger, Frisians, all with single combs, Assendelfter with rosecomb, Braekeel or Campine with single comb and the French Bresse (all pencilled). Black reds were found in the Drenth and Ardenner fowl. All these breeds have a lot in common and are known for centuries. All fowls are spread over trade and caravan ways, on wars as food, to keep fighting games etc. There is written that Phoenicians brought game fowl of the Caucasian breed from the Mediterranean to the British Scilly Islands more as 2000 years ago. Each breed has an own history.

We have a Dutch Association for breeders of standard fowl, bantams, garden and waterfowl (NHBD). There is a club for the bantam breeders (DV) and a lot of special breeds clubs. There are around 300 local clubs, members breeding fowl, pigeons etc and rabbits etc. In USA there are 2 associations, APA (large) and ABA (bantam).

Facts about the Fowl in the Americas in the pre-Columbian period can be read in history books. The invaders found no chickens, but only turkeys. In the North part it is true that European immigrants take chickens with them on their ships. But it is possible that before the big travels of Europeans in the 16th and 17 and 18th century, natives of the islands of Polynesia and Oceania reach Easter Island and with these people some chickens. In fact there were people on these islands and domesticated birds and animals always are spread by men. Not all history is written. From the beginning there could be a fowl in the mountains of South America that is evolved in another way as the Bankiva in Asia. Later these birds are been crossed with the Spanish birds which the invaders took in with their ships. I read something about the story of Heyerdahl in an article of Reader's Digest. In my papers there is nothing about Roggeveen. You can ask the University of Utrecht.

But in the old Dutch Standard of Perfection (round 1960) there I found some old history of the Araucanas. The chickens got their name of the region Arauca in South Chile, the Indians there proved to be very brave and never submit to the Spaniards. The first foreign chickens came into Chile by Señora Ines Suarez, when coming from Peru. Later more chickens came from Spain, common fowl and game fowl. In the 17th century (before Roggeveen) Dutch pirates commanded by Olivier van Noort came and brought in Asiatic fowl. These pirates, being driven away in the beginning of the 17th century from the Sonda Islands by the Dutch Government, provisioned at Bali and took with them live fowls and pigs and exchanged these with the Araucana Indians for other things. The Dutch pirates stayed for about 25 years in Chile and attacked Spanish merchant ships which went home from the Silent Sea via the South Cape to the Atlantic Ocean.

So Chile had long before other parts of America Fowl with much variation. But the blue shells and ear bussels make these fowls remarkable.

Mr Van Gink, who was a vice president of the World Poultry Science Association and a famous poultry artist, I knew him in person and he died 10 years ago. In 1967 he wrote an article on this subject. In the poultry history there is a note about Araucanas laying blue eggs from 1854. In 1907 a German emigrant from Chile took some Araucanas to Germany. There are found illustrations of fowl with ear bussels, made by missionaries dated from the early time of the Spanish invaders. The origin of the blue egg-shells of chickens is not found now, may be it can be found in South America or one of the Islands for the coast, all or not far in the Ocean (Van Gink).

I think if there was a report letter of Roggeveen about the egg color of the fowl he found at Easter Island, Mr Van Gink should have known this.

I had a very busy time and it is October 19th, but I continue the answer of your letter. Let us pick up the Cochin or Pekin Bantam.

In 1860 British soldiers took them to England as spoils of war. The birds are founded in the Chinese *forbidden town*, the place where the Chinese Emperor lived, and were given to the Queen Victoria. These little immigrants from Peking had nothing to do with the very large Cochin Chine Fowl, there is no relation and the bantams are not miniatures of the large Cochins. There are differences in type, the bantams stand lower and are fuller feathered, as round featherballs.

The head is lower as the tail and they are so small and came to Europe as an original bird. Breeders tried to led them like more alike (large Cochin and Pekin bantams) but this did not worked out at all. Houwink stated around 1911 that the Siberian fowl was crested and bearded and had feathered legs. The were several feather colors, they were good layers, moderate meat fowl, became broody, very hardy and easy to breed. Can made it a champion.

In the Netherlands you can find Cochin bantams on each large show. This week I had to judge some birds in Belgium and there were white, black, blue and pearl-gray Cochins, the latter to be the best. Also there was one with curled feathers. White Cochin bantams have always been very good, but the past years there were a lot of pearl-gray winners - this is a light blue color that breeds true. The Cochin bantam has to be very full feathered to win, the leg and feet feathers very full. By crossing black and white there are birds with greenish legs, this is not allowed for the white birds, the blacks are allowed to have dark legs but must have yellow soles. Other colors are partridge, cuckoo, birchen and spotted black and buff. I think we have here very good winners, also in Germany. In the USA there are also very good Cochin bantams and it is true that after the war Cochin bantams from USA came to Europe. The British Cochin bantams differ a little, there is less fluff. But there are the same standards for this breed. At the large *Ornithophilia* show of young birds and animals at Utrecht from 3-5 October 1980, 35 Cochin bantams were entered.

It is October 28th now and I found an hour to finish this letter. When I read it over I think I mixed the answers on your questions a little. The reason is I worked on it several times. I think it is understandable. I did not make a real article on Cochin bantams because that should be a repetition of standards, which should be alike all over the world. You know your standard. You can do me a favour and send me a copy of the *Pekin Newsletter*.

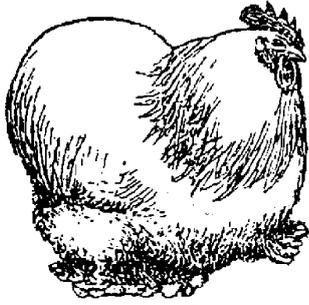
A Chinese proverb tells: 1 picture is worth more as 1000 words. I send you enclosed some pictures from our bantam magazine and a German poultry paper with good Cochin bantams. I can use an envelope of the Dutch Bantam Club, I am the vice-president and I give answers on questions of the members. I also give articles for the newsletters.

I reread your letter for the last time and found at last something about the Vierländerhoen in the book of Houwink (4 parts) and this fowl was rare in 1909 and in modern German books from 1920 till now I find nothing about this breed. Houwink stated it was a normal (Bankivoid) fowl with a single comb. I don't know the place Vierlanden. But I found a note in the German Standard about the Ramelsloher: since 1870 bred from the robust Vierländer Landhuhn in the village of Ramelsloh in the circle of Hamburg near Hamburg. So the Vierländer is extinct now but is the ancestor of the Ramelsloher, which is a fowl like the Andalusian, but with white feathers. The Andalusian is also used with the creation of the Ramelsloher. At last I found a picture of a Ramelsloher, as you see a common fowl with leaden blue legs and beak, dark eyes and a red single comb, blue/white earlobes.

I do hope the information in this letter helps you a little. I have 10 *Standard of Perfection*, Dutch (2), English, USA (3), German, Belgium, European and Suisse, and a fair number of old and newer poultry books. I have a niece and my husband has a cousin in Australia, the latter told me there is nothing of poultry books in your country. If there is, I could exchange it with a book of my.

Sincerely,

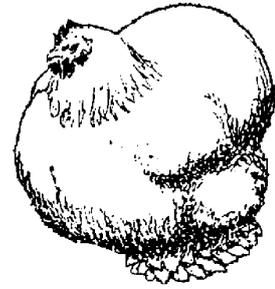




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Dr Pat Rich
Monash University - Clayton - Vic - Australia

8-10-80

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your letter of 1st October and the information contained therein, also for clarifying the situation on being Mrs. I had the feeling that this may have been the situation. Couldn't make up my mind whether it was Patricia or Patrick!!

You will perhaps wonder at my prompt reply but I'm writing while the opportunity exists. I am so far behind with my correspondence that it worries me at times. Therefore I will do this thought and also answer Ted Schurmanns (Ted writes up the Poultry page for the *Weekly Times* in Melbourne) letter. He and I correspond and although I have not met him, we do appear to be able to have some common ground to work on.

The reference on Jànossy sounds very interesting and I will endeavour to get hold of the article. I will check with Newcastle University tomorrow. I read the publication on AQUILA? Can't say I have heard of it but will chase it up. All leads such as this may eventually piece together. As far as I can ascertain no serious work has been done on the chicken but there does appear from your comment on Jànossy that there could be bit a pieces of information around it. Out no one has put them together. If has become quite a thing for me and I am determined to find out as many facts as I can. Nevertheless an interesting challenge.

Did you note just recently both on television and on the press the report on the large fossil bird discovered in Argentina? The television report mentioned 5 million years. They called it the TERATORN.

I have written to Dr Kenneth Campbell of the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History seeking further information and also endeavouring to ascertain if any chicken bones etc have been unearthed in South America as I am interested as to whether the chicken was in the Americas pre-Columbian. This question has never been settled.

Regarding the Pekin Bantam. Yes, it is a breed worth keeping. My son began breeding them some 15 years ago when he was around 12 or 13 years old. When he left home to begin his working life it became my job in keep them going. Therefore I had to set about getting to know them. It has eventually become a big part of my way of life. He however he is now back in town and over the years he has retained his interest. He did in fact judge the Pekins at this year's Sydney Royal Show. We are able to hold our own with all comers at the shows.

I will send you under separate cover in the near future some back copies of the Pekin Bantam Club of NSW *Newsletter* of which I am Editor. It may encourage you to take on the Pekin Bantams perhaps sooner.

I am in the moment endeavouring to develop a Pekin with the Columbian colour pattern (this is the colour marking as in the Sussex fowl, white with black in neck, wings and tail). I have been nearby 3 years on the project and am at this stage where it appears it will be possible (after another 6 generations, 9 in all). There are no Pekins with this colour pattern in Australia as yet. The result of my work on them so far appeared as an article in the *American Bantam Association Yearbook* of 1980.

You suggested in your previous letter that I contact Professor Olsen, Dr Jeanette Hope and Dr Higgs. I haven't written to them and also Professor Brodkorb. At this point of time I have received a letter from Professor Olsen who has returned from an extensive trip to China where he was pursuing early domestic dogs.

He advised that on going thru the bone collections from the Neolithic site of Pan-p'o near Sian in Northern China there were considerable elements of chicken bone amongst them. I have again written to him and sent him a copy of the Finsterbusch notes hoping that he may find time to compare the bones found in China with Finsterbusch deliberations.

Although I retired from my normal work just over 12 months ago, I never seemed to have been busier, the days just do not seem to be long enough. I had hoped to have a lot of the material down in readable form by now but it seems that when you retire you take an extra interest or perhaps try to do things you couldn't do before. It seems that I fall in this category. Nevertheless it keeps me out of trouble I can assure you. I do find this study very satisfying however. I am just coming up to the 3 score mark age wise. I should have started the Project many years ago. I will keep you informed on progress and endeavour to obtain a skeleton carrying the claws on the Pekin.

Once again thank you for your assistance. It's much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY
5 BARBARA DRIVE
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AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

October 9, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

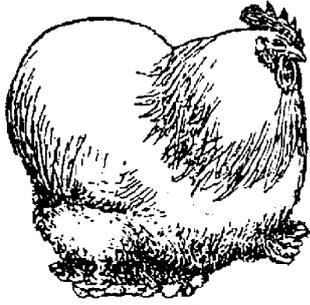
A few days ago I forwarded to Mr Jeffrey for publication in the next *Quarterly* that he has room for it, the shape and variety description of the Pekin Bantam. This included all of the changes that you requested and the added variety of the self blue color pattern.

It now occurs to me that the partridge color pattern description that was included with this material was different from our regular color pattern and that I am not sure that this also had your approval.

Would you be kind enough to resolve this matter promptly and write me on this as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

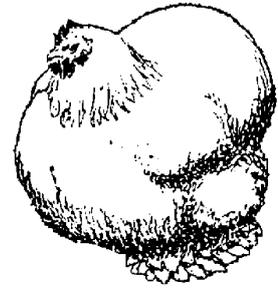




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Australia*



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**Prof Stanley J. Olsen - Dept of Anthropology
University of Arizona - Tucson**

21-10-1980

Dear Professor Olsen,

You will recall my recent letters to you regarding my research on the domestic chicken.

However I am writing on this occasion enclosing a press cutting of a recent discovery here in Australia which I felt may be of interest to you or some of your colleagues at Tucson.

We don't have too many of these discoveries in Australia, so it is quite an event.

Further to my Chicken research since last writing I received a letter from Dr L.B.Halstead of University of Reading (England) who has forwarded my enquiry to C.A.Walker of the British Museum who may have some information relating to the fossil birds which could fill in a gap or two.

Also another correspondent of mine Dr Pat Rich of the Earth Sciences Department of Monash University in Melbourne advised of a paper published in 1977 by Jánosy on discoveries of chickens bones etc in the Carpathian Basin In Europe which would appear to have some bearing on the origin of the Chicken.

I have contacted Professor Specht, Curator of Anthropology at the Australian Museum in Sydney on endeavour to obtain a copy of Jánosy's paper which I believe available in a publication edited by that institution.

I am also told that the paper is written in Hungarian, but a Hungarian friend of mine tells me she will endeavour to translate it for me. She has been out in Australia for many years and is a bit rusty on the Hungarian language, but will do her best. Hopefully it may contain some useful information.

Hoping the press cutting is of interest.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

6-8 College Street
Sydney 2000 P.O. Box A285
Telephone: 3398111 - Sydney South Telegram: MUSEUM
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

23rd October, 1980

Dear Mister Plant,

Thank you for yours of 9th October, and the \$2 note.

I have passed your request to the library and so you should receive the photocopy in a few day's time.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Specht', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Specht,
Curator of Anthropology

FRANK L.GARY
5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

October 28, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

Your letter written in October sixteenth arrived here on the twenty third.

Thank you very much for the commemorative stamps. My grandson Jonathan is going to be very pleased with them when he comes home for the thanks giving holiday vacation the last Thursday in November.

I am enclosing a token of my appreciation. For some time I have been meaning to ask you about poultry judges.

How does one become an Australian judge?

Do you have a licensing system?

Does the individual have to pass some kind of an examination before eligible to be called a judge?

Does he have to pay a fee for the examination?

Is there an expiration date to this license?

Near every Canadian judge is licensed by the ABA and/or the APA and judges under the rules of our standards. They do not recognize the British Standard.

Kindest regards,



PS - Are you a licensed judge?



National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560 · TEL. 202 - 357-2051

November 7, 1980

Dear Mr Plant:

I have examined Bullock's chicken bone from Mocha Island. It (Accession #130325, catalogue USNM 322183; cite USNM catalogue number in any publication) is a dark-stained and polished tarsometatarsus of extraordinary length and robustness with a well developed spur. Its measurements are:

length 103.9 mm.
spur length 28 mm,
widest diameter 9.7 mm,

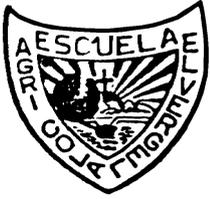
I am enclosing the correspondence covering its accession into the national collections. As far as I can ascertain there is no way at present to determine its age accurately enough, short of destroying a portion of the bone to make dating it worthwhile. If additional evidence suggesting the presence of chickens in pre Columbian America comes to hand we could reconsider the present decision.

You might be interested in writing to Dr Carl Johannesson, Department of Geography, Condon Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. He has been studying New World chickens with black bones.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

George E. Watson
Curator
Division of Birds.



EL VERGEL

Escuela Agrícola

Casilla 2 - D

Dr Alexander Wetmore
National Museum Washington D.C.

Angol, June 22, 1934

My dear Dr Wetmore,

A few days ago I sent to your address a small parcel containing the leg bone of some kind of a gallinaceous bird. This was found in a grave on Isla de La Mocha. I cannot tell the age of the cemetery but probably at least 250 years. According to history the last of the natives of the island were destroyed in 1687.

We have no way of knowing whether the grave of the Indian from which this was taken is a very old one or not.

There are a whole series of interesting questions which come up in connection with this bone. Is it fossilised? If so where did it come from and why did the Indian have it buried with him? If it is not fossilized then the question also arises as to why he had it. Possibly it was the leg of a famous fighting cock which he owned.

If it is fossilized it would probably mean that there were chickens of some kind in this region in very remote times. There is a general idea that the Araucanian Indians had chickens when the Spanish arrived although many authorities claim that they did not. It is still a question. Perhaps this might throw some light on the matter.

I have sent it on to you because it is of little value to me except as a curiosity and to you it might be much more. If it is simply a bone of a rooster dug up in a grave then Dr Hough might be interested in it for the anthropological section. At any rate it is for the Museum.

If you wish to look up information concerning the Isla de La Mocha there is a publication of the National Museum of Chile in 1903 which is very interesting.

With kind regards I remain,

Yours very sincerely,



National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

Dr D.S.Bullock
Escuela Agricola - Casilla 2-D - Angol, Chile

December 19, 1934

Dear Dr Bullock,

Your letter of June 22, together with the leg bone of a gallinaceous bird came duly to hand at a time when I was away from Washington, and were held for my attention. I am much interested in this type of thing and receive a considerable amount for examination so that sometimes, as in the present case, a little period must elapse before I can make reply.

Your specimen is the leg bone of a male domestic fowl *Gallus gallus* and must have come from a strong and robust fighting cock from the strength of the spur.

The specimen is highly interesting because of its antiquity and I am pleased to have it for preservation in our collection here. To discuss some of your queries and questions, while most of the fatty matter has been lost from this bone it is not fossilized in the sense that the bony tissue has been replaced by silicon. The brown appearance may be due to leaching in the grave in which it is found, while the polish may have come from handling. It would be fascinating to know just why it was buried with its owner.

That there were domestic fowl in the New World at the time of the discovery has been frequently advanced as a theory but is one of which there is non absolute basis in fact. When we recall that the early explorers took domestic animals with them, and when we remember how easily chickens propagate and establish themselves then I think we must believe that *Gallus gallus* was introduced. Undoubtedly it came at a very early date. You may know that chickens have for more than a hundred years been established in a wild state in some of the South Pacific islands undoubtedly from escapes from domestication.

The specimen is accessioned as a gift in your name for which I give you my sincere thanks. With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary.

ACCESSION 130325

Cat. No. 322183,
S.L.

DEC 21 1934

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

ACCESSION MEMORANDUM

Department of Biology Division of Birds

December 20, 1934., 19

Please enter as an accession from Dr. D.S. Bullock,

(Address) Escuela Agricola,

Casilla 2-D, Angol, Chile.

the following object (collected with without the aid of a Museum outfit):

1 leg. bone of the domestic fowl, Callus gallus

(130325)

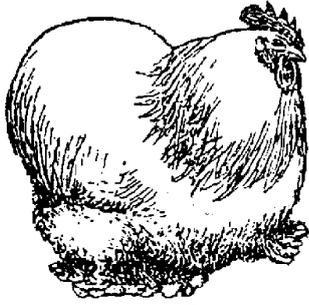
130 325

Papers appended DCR

(The Assistant Secretary directs that ALL letters in the possession of the Curator or his Assistants, which relate to this Accession, be attached to this memorandum and forwarded with it to the Division of Correspondence.)

Gift, exchange, loan, deposit, transfer, bequest, collected for the Museum, purchase, made in the Museum.

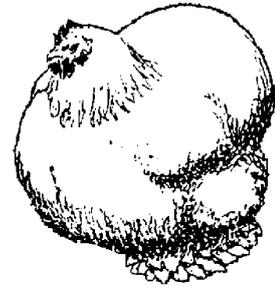
H. Finch
Curator.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**George E. Watson - Curator - Division of Birds
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution - Washington DC 20860**

19-11-1980

Dear Mr Watson,

I was delighted to receive your letter and enclosures on the chicken bone from Mocha Island in answer to my recent enquiry. Your assistance is much appreciated and does in fact gives me a line to follow up.

I am enclosing some photostats of extracts from Finsterbusch (1929). It would be appreciated if you would after looking them over pass on to me your comment of comparison of the bone discovered by Bullock and Finsterbusch's deliberations. Finsterbusch apparently travelled extensively, I believe, and his book I consider the most informative on the Game Fowl that has been written. He really made a study of the subject.

I agree with his argument regarding the Malay and the Bankivoids being different species. I am also of the opinion that the Asiatics (Cochin, Brahma, Langshan) from China were grouped into another species, all 3 perhaps descending from an extinct ancestor which we will have to depend on the archæologists and others to inform of. This of course may take some time.

I have recently received a paper by Jánossy, from *Aquila* vol.83, Budapest 1977, pp. 29-43, wherein he speaks of *Gallus* remains (fossilised) from Hungary (Lowest Pleistocene) and Neolithic finds from the Middle East pointing to an Eastern European origin of the domestic fowl. He speaks of *Gallus beremendensis*, *Gallus bravardi* and *Gallus æsculapii*. You would no doubt have this paper in your library.

Your information regarding the sizes of the tarsus-metatarsus from Bullock suggests it may be of Malay origin and if of the age suggested (250 years) by Bullock could have descended from the Malays and brought to Chile by the Dutch pirates in the 17th century (commanded by Oliver van Noort). They came across the Pacific from the East Indies and traded with the Araucana Indians in Chile (Mocha Island) lies just off the Araucan territory in Southern Chile. They could also have brought *Bankivas* but it is unlikely that Bullock's chicken bone considering the size belonged to *Bankivas*. This is of course hypothetical but I consider quite probable. On the other hand the Araucana chickens named after these Indians and purported to be raised by them lay blue or tinted eggs, a trait not found anywhere else in the world (except when they have be imported). Was the blue egg trait a mutation in that particular area or does it go back pre-Columbian. The \$ 64.00 question.

During my researches I have thought along the line that from India perhaps there was a distribution of the chicken into 2 directions, West through Persia, Egypt, Africa, across the Atlantic into South America then to Polynesia.

Thor Heyerdahl's voyages, *Ra* and *Kon Tiki*, certainly proved that this could have happened pre-Columbian, and from Professor Carter in *Man across the sea* the diffusion in South America appeared to happen too quickly after the Spaniards arrived, suggesting *Gallus* species may have been in South America pre-Columbian.

The other route from India easterly through the Indies and into Polynesia also probable but again when and how for? I am at the moment waiting for a book (Ball) from Bishop Museum Hawaii concerning chicken in Polynesia. When Easter Island was discovered by Roggeveen in 1722 there were chickens in the island. I followed this lead and from an account of Roggeveen voyage the chickens looked much like chickens from the Vierländer (near Hamburg in Germany). However my information tells me there was a breed of Vierländer Landhuhn This breed is now extinct but it was used to make up a breed called the Ramelsloher in conjunction with the Andalusian. How would this type of fowl get to Easter Island before 1722? It would more likely to be descended from the Bankivoids. It is not known whether the chickens laid blue eggs at the time of Roggeveen. I have checked this out. However in a communication from Thor Heyerdahl he told they did lay blue eggs when he visited the island. However this doesn't count for much as Easter Island has been in contact with Chile for a considerable time. Although I do not know the method of carbon dating I can quite understand it would be necessary to destroy part of the bone for dating purposes.

You will most probably find my writings a little disjointed but I do feel I am getting a few facts together and although the subject becomes very frustrating at times I find the research challenging and satisfying.

I have written to Dr Johannessen some little time back but as yet received no answer. He may perhaps be away from the University at the moment, so will wait and hope he may be able to assist.

I do appreciate you sending copies of the papers on the Mocha Island chicken bone and would also be happy to hear from you your deliberations comparing the bone with Finsterbusch's remarks, especially regarding the spur.

Unfortunately there is so little positive evidence available on this subject one can only be hypothetical at the moment.

Mr Specht at the Australian Museum in Sydney is endeavouring to get hold of the Watom Island bone for further study (comparison with Finsterbusch). I have also sent Prof S.J.Olsen of the University of Arizona Finsterbusch notes hoping he may be able to compare with the bone unearthed in Northern China where he has recently been. These were from a Neolithic site. I am awaiting his reply.

Once again my apologies for the disjointed text of this letter.
Hope you can follow it.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY
5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

November 24, 1980

Dear Mr Plant,

I have just returned from the joint show of the ABA and the APA at Columbus, Ohio. There was a total of sixty three hundred bantams and three hundred Bantam ducks shown. Large fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys and a few guineas totalled about three thousand, making a grand total of over ninety six hundred entries. This was by far the largest show ever held in the USA. The largest show previous to this was a little over seven thousand. Boston, Chicago, Baltimore and New York used to have large shows but never one to equal this. The quality of the birds exhibited was also outstanding. The best breeders from all over the country of Canada were there in large numbers.

At the Directors meeting of the ABA I reported at some length regarding my work with you in developing standards which were acceptable to your breeders and the fine cooperation which I have been receiving from you in particular.

We decided to establish two honorary Directorship worldwide and I, of course, nominated both you and Mrs A.C.Banning for these offices. You will hear from Mr Jeffrey officially on this.

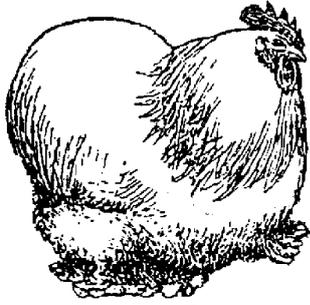
At the membership meeting I also discussed the work that I was doing with you on this standard material which was also approved unanimously.

Prior to attending the Columbus meeting Mr Jeffrey had informed me that he would have to go to press with the 5th edition of the *Bantam Standard* because he was rapidly running out of his supply of the 4th edition. We follow the practice to exposing new breeds and varieties of bantams in either the quarterly of the *Yearbook* before action can be taken by the Board of Directors in approving them to be placed in the Bantam Standard. I received approval for the conclusion of twelve new breeds in the 5th edition but the only one peculiar to Australia that had been exposed for review was the Chinese Langshan Bantam. We will have to wait for the 6th edition to include the Pekin, Australian Game and the Australian Pit Game Bantam, but these three breeds should be published in the nineteen eighty one *Yearbook*.

I just noticed that there were 650 exhibitors listed in the show brochure at Columbus. This seems to have also broken an all time record for this country.

Sincerely,

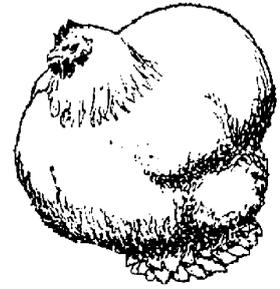




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
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J.R. Specht
Dept of Anthropology
The Australian Museum - Sydney

4-12-1980

Dear Jim,

I thank so much for passing my request on to your library for the *AQUILA* paper by Jánosy.

I received in the due course. Jánosy discusses fossilised chicken be from the Lower Pliocene unearthed in the Carpathian Basin, than says and suggests the bone may assist in formulating the origin of the chicken.

I also received information from the Museum of National History Smithsonian Institution - Washington DC on chicken bone (not fossilised) unearthed by Dr D.S. Bullock on Mocha Island off the Southern coast of Chile in 1934. The tarso-metatarsus was 109 mm long and quite robust. I have sent Finsterbusch's notes over for comparison. The bone has not been dated. Bullock suggested about 250 years old (1934). It comes from an Indian grave.

By the size etc. suggests it could be Asiatic (possibly descended from Malay) which may have been brought over by Dutch Pirates in 16th century from East Indies. If it is older than that it opens up an interesting situation. The pre-Columbian chicken question in the Americas could be affected.

It has not been settled and the distribution across the Pacific. Anything on the Watom Island bone yet?

I was down in Sydney last Thursday and rang the Museum. They told me you were away last week. I was just around the corner in Liverpool St. at my son's sandwich shop and could have dropped around the Museum for a few minutes.

He has had the shop there going on 6 years, although not operating it himself now (manager). He operates similar business also here in Maitland. Perhaps next time I am in Sydney I can look you up.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY
5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
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CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

18 May 1981

Dear Mr Plant,

It has been some time since we have exchanged correspondence. I have had a number of problems this year that have not permitted me to complete action on the Australian Australorp Bantam. Lynn Brenneman has passed away and noon has been appointed as his replacement. In addition I have been in a bind in having illustrations completed for the Fifth Edition of the Standard for the twelve additional breeds to be included. These twelve breeds had to be approved by the Board of Directors before they could be included in the Fifth Edition which was accomplished at the Columbus, Ohio, annual meeting. Mr. Jeffrey informs me that this edition will be off-the-press in about a month's time and I will see that you are furnished with a copy of It.

The Australian Game, the Australian Pit Game, and the Pekin could not be acted upon at the Columbus meeting because the descriptions had not been exposed either in our Quarterly or our Yearbook in time for action to be taken.

I am anxiously awaiting the illustrations of the Pekin Bantam which I believe you informed me would be done by your son. I would appreciate receiving three photographic copies of this illustration by the 1st of September. Do you think that you could meet that time? The drawing should be an ideal Male facing the ideal Female in any color you may choose that is described in the material previously sent you.

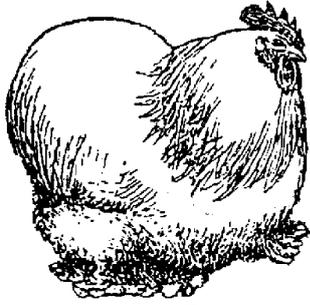
In a little over a year, Mrs Gary has been in the hospital four times and about three weeks ago, two days after a cataract operation which was quite successful, she suffered a heart attack. Three days later she suffered a mild stroke. She returned home Saturday and is improving slowly.

I hope that everything is well with you, your wife and your son. I do miss writing and hearing from you and look forward to your next letter.

I appreciate the detail you furnished regarding the Australian judging systems which will be useful in the future. As in Australia, we Americans while still being individualists are prone to organize greatly.

Sincerely,

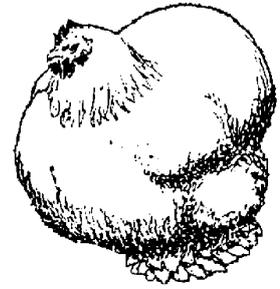




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

4-6-1981

Dear Mr Gary,

I was most pleased to receive your welcome letter today and must apologise for not writing myself over the last few months, which I might say have been very heavy. Like yourself I have been logged sown with somuch on my plate and although I am retired. I can't work out how I ever had time to go to work! I think the fact of the matter is that when one retires one tends to take on so many other projects until the situation gets out of hand. I was sorry to hear that Mrs Gary has had so many problems. I trust she will continue to improve. One of the things that has slowed me down has been the condition of my own wife. I believe I told you I was writing a book on the Pekin Bantam which includes the history and information I have collected on the breed, the final chapter dealing with a suggested standard for the breed in Australia which was formed thru our discussions.

The Pekin Club here did not want to handle it, so I have included in my book as a suggested standard for the Pekin in Australia. I will have some criticism no doubt but as you said to me some time ago *Go ahead and get the job done and don't worry about the critics*. I am enclosing the complete text. There are illustrations (some of which come from your *ABA Standard* with due acknowledgement). These I will have printed by the offset process for inclusion as well as the sketches of the bird. I am hoping my son will have these for me very shortly. His business is expanding and he is also short of time. I will let you have copies as soon as possible.

As you will note my book will not be of high quality printing wise. I cannot afford to have it published in the normal manner as I wouldn't find a publisher to take it on. I have typed all the stencils myself (I am not much of a typist either) and am printing the pages on a Gestecner Duplicating Machine also myself. I am printing 130 copies to start with and the book will contain approximately 160 pages. I can tell you it's been a long hard grind. I have printed up to page 60 and typed the stencils to page 125 as well as this suggested standard. I am onto the last 3 or 4 chapters now so there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The pages will be stapled together by the printer who is doing the illustrations for me. He will also print covers. Some people will perhaps say it is an amateurish job but it's the only way I can get the information across so be that as it may.

There are also other drawings in it which I have either drawn or traced. You will certainly receive a copy when it comes off the press. Hopefully within a couple of months. I would appreciate your comment on the Standard's chapter I have enclosed. It does of course contain more e.g. Scale of Points than we agreed upon for your *ABA Standard* but for Australia I felt this necessary.

When my friend Neville Notley began checking out the colours, we found 3 different descriptions of the Partridge pattern in the British Standard, so scrapped the lot and use the *ABA* description. That British Standard gets confusing I can tell you. For the Leghorn they have a general description, about 12 colours listed and 7 different Scales of Points for judging the different colours. Pretty hopeless. Some Scale of Points don't even have points allotted for TYPE!

I was sorry to hear of Mr Brenneman's passing. From my observations he must have been one of the stalwarts of the ABA. I have a copy of his book *Crested Bantams* published in 1977. You will no doubt miss him on your Committee. Hopefully you will soon have someone to fill his position.

It is certainly good news that the 5th Edition of the ABA Standards will be off the press shortly. I will be looking forward to seeing it. From memory I think the Australian Langshan was passed thru at the Columbus meeting but I understand on the other Australian breeds having to pass thru the channel before going into the standard.

Glad to hear that the information regarding the judging system in Australia proved useful. Since last writing our NSW all Feathered Clubs Advisory Consul have adopted a slightly improved arrangement for admitting judges to the judges panel. Not the complete answer but a move in the right direction. It will be a very slow process out here to get the situation into position where it is anywhere near what you have in the States.

I am President of our local Maitland Poultry Club. Our annual show comes up in 3 weeks and than our delegate and also thru personal contact our Club as well a few other affiliated Clubs in NSW have been advocating that the Executives of the Council visit the country shows to set up a better liaison. I think we are getting the message across at long last as when in Sydney for the Royal Easter Show I offered a personal invitation to the President of the Council to attend our show this year. The Club also put an invitation thru the official channels and I am led to believe he is coming to our show. There has recently been a change in executive officers of the Council. I think the change has been for the better. Of course the complete answer is a national association on the lines of the ABA with individual members. I'm afraid this may be a long way off.

Fred Jeffrey sent me 5 ABA Medallions for distribution throughout Australia. I have allotted one of the Bantam Club of the NSW, a show to be held also in 3 weeks time in Sydney. Another one will go to Queensland and another to Victoria. I am negotiating with the Clubs concerned at the moment. I have asked these Clubs to provide photographs of the Bantams awarded the ABA Medallion which I will send to Fred Jeffrey. If this proviso is adhered to the photographs may be suitable for publication in the Yearbook and be of interest to your American readers. It is very heartening to me to be made a Director at Large of the ABA in Australia and I will do my utmost to further the cause of the ABA you can be assured.

My son's business interests are improving in this area. He will be disposing of this Sydney shop in September. This will enable him to expand here. The catering side of the business is improving (i.e. supplying food and service for parties weddings and the like). A lot of my time is taken up obtaining supplies etc for him and of course enables him to direct his energies into the selling and preparation for his work. The shop he has in the main street of Maitland sells hamburgers, sandwiches, drinks and the like. He does the cooking himself for his catering jobs and although he has never trained as a chief does a pretty good job with it. He also runs a hiring service (crockery, glasses knives and forks etc). The opportunity came up some little time back of buying out a couple of business's in this line which he took. Over a period it will turn into a good money spinner. So you can see we don't have much time for setting around. Some years ago (around 1960) I operated a nursery setting trees, shrubs and the like. Around that time there was somewhat of recession in that type of business so I phased out. However there is somewhat of a boom at the moment. My thoughts when I retired was to begin again on a small scale as an interest. I have tested out the marked for propagating and selling to nurseries small stock for growing on and the potential is there.

I have spoken to my son on this project. At my age (60) I don't want to start a business if it were not to be carried on. He is interested and I can get it rolling and teach him enough to carry on so that could turn into another enterprise for him. I have the ideal situation as far as land is concerned which will eventually be is so it is up to him.

Well I have rambled on as Damon Runyan would say more than somewhat so will close now. I you are speaking to Fred Jeffrey you might tell him I will be writing soon. So for now all the best.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
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AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

14 June 1981

Dear Mr Plant,

Your letter of the 4th of June arrived here in Crosswicks two days ago. I was dismayed to hear that you have had such a difficult time over so long a time span in caring for your wife and her problems. I wonder if the element Lithium has been used in treating your wife's illness. It is used quite commonly today to try and stabilize those subject to depression,

I was pleased to hear that the businesses of your son seem to be prospering and hope that they will continue to do so. It was intriguing to read that you are contemplating starting an enterprise at age sixty. That was the time in years when I was most productive and at the height of my earning power. You certainly have at least fifteen years to look forward to become a great entrepreneur. I wish you luck.

If Australians buy nursery products as Americans do you cannot help but succeed. The only trouble locally has been the several drought years we have experienced which led to water-use restrictions that were difficult for the nurserymen to surmount.

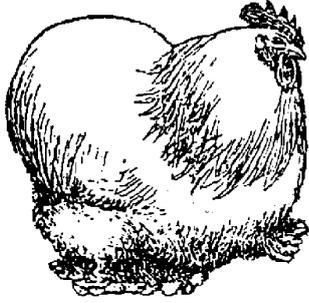
With the help of my son-in-law, we have reviewed your Chapter 22 on the Pekin Bantam. We were amused by your introductory material to the bare standard and admired your clever way of attempting to put the dissenters in an awkward position. The way you wrote the material certainly should diffuse some of the Australian *clannishness* to the use of British and American Standard materials while getting an important message across to the Judges and some of the old died-in-the-wool breeders. We noted one typing error in the Glossary where the word *Cock* was listed twice; the second listing should have been *Cockerel*. I greatly admire all the effort you have expended to get your materials ready the publishing. I will make certain that I will try to get some publicity for your manuscript in the *ABA Quarterly* after I have had a chance to read your whole publication. I look forward anxiously to reading it.

I would like to know whether the illustrations your son is preparing for you will be the quality that we can use to accompany the *Pekin Bantam Standard* to be used here in the US. I hope that we could obtain those three photographic views of the ideal pair of Australian Pekin so that I can expose the standard in the next yearbook.

Glad to see that you are starting your fall shows as we move into Summer's heat.

Kindest personal regards.

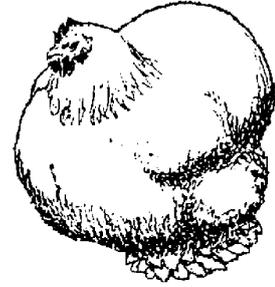




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
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Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

29-6-1981

Dear Mr Gary,

I thank you for your letter of 14th June and the information contained therein.

My wife has returned home unexpectedly after the doctor advising me two days previously that she would be hospitalised for perhaps another 2 weeks. They gave her an injection to sedate which it has certainly done, too much so in my opinion. I would have thought they would have kept her in the clinic to observe the effects. You speak of lithium. She has been using Lithium Carbonate for some 10 or 12 years. I believe it was first developed in Australia about that time. It did keep her reasonably stable for sometime, but I don't believe it is doing its job any more. As you may be aware too high a level in the blood becomes toxic. For some reason a couple of years ago suddenly the level rose very high, whether she took too many tablets or did not drink enough fluid was not determined. However she was at death door for 4 or 5 days. It is necessary to have the level checked regularly.

My eyes are not as good as they were. The doctor increased the strength of the Pilocarpine to 3% hoping it will improve the situation.

The business enterprises are improving, I mentioned the nursery setup. That may have to wait a little while as another opportunity looks like arising in the food business. A friend of mine advised me only last week that a small shopping complex is being built just off the main street of Maitland with new shops available. My son's shop at the moment is in the downtown area. The new situation is midtown and could provide another outlet for his takeaway food. It would be an ideal situation. On the strength of it he is going to Sydney this week to speak with the developer. Hopefully something may come of it therefore that will probably mean work for me, setting it up etc. We will just have to wait and see after his Sydney trip.

Thank you for your comment on the Standard chapter. Basically it is the same we agreed on except for the fact of Scale of Points and the like. Some of the breeders I feel need to be put in an awkward position, although it's very hard to get a message through in this country. It will be interesting to observe the reaction when the treatise does get into print. Still have a couple of chapter to do then print it, so it will be a few months yet. OK on Cock being repeated. There are a few mistakes here and there. Hopefully not too many. Thanks for checking this out. I have been so busy over the last month as so printing schedules for our own Poultry show and the Pekin Bantam Club schedule and *Newsletter* that I haven't been able to get on with the book. We had our local show here in Maitland the weekend before last: 850 entries and we were delighted with the profit we made, \$ 175.00. It's pretty hard these days to make a profit on a show and although a few of us worked pretty hard the effort was well worthwhile.

The Pekin Club Show is on 26th July. My son and I show in partnership. Managed to take out Reserve Soft Feather Bantam award with a Black Hen at the local show. Travel 40 miles south next weekend, then 100 miles north the weekend after.

All being well I will be travelling up to Brisbane, the capital of the State of Queensland (about 600 miles north) in early August. We have entered some Pekins in the Royal Show up there. Will endeavour to keep the Queensland breeders honest. It's so much warmer in Brisbane at that time of the year, beautiful weather in fact and I have another reason for going. My Father's brother lives there. He will be 94 years old this year and now only plays lawn bowls 3 times a week instead of 5. I was speaking to his son per telephone the other night and he says the old fellow is slowing up a bit, although he has just completed building some bird cages and painted the back of his house from scaffolding a few months ago. He is the only one left now. My father passed some 12 years ago aged 78 and my aunt who lived next door to me reached the age of 90, died about 3 years ago. The other brother died at an early age. He was gassed in Worldwar I.

Regarding the illustrations my son is going to do. I will let you judge whether they come up to the quality you require for the Bantam Standard. He is finding difficulty getting the time with all his commitments.

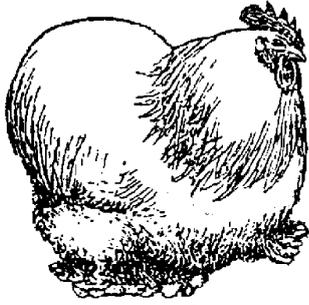
Today I received a letter from one of the leading Poultry Clubs in Queensland accepting the offer of a ABA medallion which Fred Jeffrey sent me (5). It will be for competition at their 1982 Show and they have undertaken to supply photographs of the Champion Bantam which I will send on to Fred. One medallion was supplied to Bantam Club of NSW. It was won by Modern game which was Ch. amongst about 800 birds. I am hopefully getting photos of that bird to send to Fred. They may be suitable for the Yearbook.

Thanks for the offer of publicity with my manuscript. You will get one as soon as they are off the press. I will look forward to your comments. The text is somewhat rambling in places but I'm afraid that is my style. I think however there is information in it that will interest the Pekin breeders. I will be glad when it is completed, it's been a hard grind but satisfying. I only wish that I could have had it published in better form, but as you would be aware publishing costs run pretty high these days. I therefore I did the only way I know now.

That's it for now, a bit cold at this time of the year, though we don't have severe winters as you would in New Jersey. All the best, hope your wife is improving.

Sincerely yours,

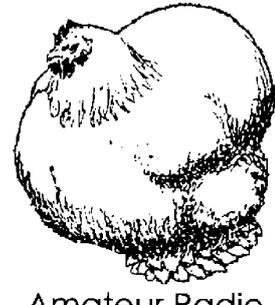
Bill Plant



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since 1965

William J. Plant

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Australia*



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**Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA**

30-11-1981

I think it was sometimes in August since I last wrote to you and I must apologise for not writing sooner, but without going into details things here have been pretty hectic.

I must write to Fred Jeffrey as I have a photo to send him of the Black Red Modern Game Cockerel which was Ch. Bantam at the Bantam Club of NSW Annual Show. It took out the ABA Medallion.

I must also apologise for not getting drawings of the Pekin to you. My son hasn't even yet got around to doing them. However I am enclosing sketches which I have pieced together. I will explain a little about them later in the letter.

I must thank you for the copy of the 5th Edition of the *ABA Bantam Standard* which arrived only last week. My congratulations on the effort. I haven't had time to go right through it yet, but have noted the Langshan. Your grandson did a really good job with the art work. Please pass on my congratulations to him also. Also thank you for the acknowledgement in the Standard of both Neville hotly and myself. We are only too happy to assist wherever we can, so do not hesitate to call on us at any time. We really enjoyed the exercise.

While on the subject of standard: although I have not got a copy of *1981 ABA Yearbook* as yet I noted in the one Neville received the standard for Australian Pit Game, Australian Game and Pekin which is very good. I checked the copy I received from you on that breed which did have in it pea comb but I had a note alongside it that it was incorrect. Perhaps I did not advise on that when I wrote back to you? The Australian Pit Game is a straight combed bird and is dubbed as an OEG would be. Some of the Pits have muffs, you may check if I advised on that. I'm sorry if I missed it. Neville is coming down to my house one night. We will go through the *Yearbook* against my copies from you. I may have missed something else. If so will let you know since last writing my son has married and I have been doing some work on his home as well as helping in the business. His home is of an historic nature being built in 1840 (that is old for Australia). It was originally an inn, *The Black Horse*. Unfortunately before he acquired it very little maintenance had been done on it. He hopes over the years to restore it to its original condition and use it for holding small dinner parties and the like as this is part of his business.

Hope both you and your wife are keeping well. Guess you are coming up to a White Xmas, there is New Jersey, of course here at Xmas we usually only wear a pair of shorts and little else. My doctor gave me a good report on my eyes a short time back. I use Pilocarpin 3% - 4 times a day which seems to do the job.

30-12-1981

I am continuing the letter which I started around a month ago. Even I have finished it, then it would have been no good posting it as the mail situation here in NSW was out of action for about 3 weeks during December. The men were on strike and there was no mail in or out for that time. They went back to work just before Christmas.

The book I have been writing is not finished after being at a standstill for some months. It is called *The Pekin Bantam in Australia*, 190 pages, quarto, typewritten. I typed all the stencils myself and painted them on the duplicator. I've worked pretty hard on it over the last month. I could not afford to have it published with printing costs etc.

A printer friend of mine has done the photographs for me by the offset process. I have only painted 120 copies but have the stencils which can be used again if necessary.

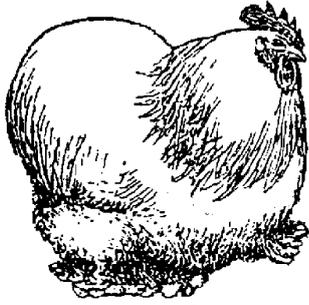
All that remains to be done is the insertion of another page. A chap from Melbourne who writes poultry articles for the newspaper down there is writing a forward for me and I am waiting on that to come to hand. Then the pages, including the cover, have to be stapled together and trimmed by the printer which I anticipate will be done around the middle of January. It won't be morocco bound, nothing fancy, but does contain quite a deal of information. Hopefully I will sell a few copies to defray the cost. As soon as they are ready I will be sending both you and Fred Jeffrey a copy for your personal library.

I am enclosing drawings which my son eventually got around to doing. These will be included in the book. I think they may raise some comment from some breeders out here but feel they are reasonably close to what we are endeavouring to achieve and after all I think that's what it is all about.

In any case as I have stated in my book I was prepared to go out on a limb with regard to the standard here in Australia. Somebody had to do something. I have been looking through my file of old *Australian Poultry* papers and read where somebody says we should do this or that. After 40 years these things still haven't been done, so hopefully with the time I have left I'm going to do something about a lot of these things. Some may hate me for it but as you once said to me ***Don't worry about what they say. If you believe that what you are doing needs doing just go ahead and do it.*** A good example is the ABA and the *ABA Bantam Standard* and yourself in particular.

I may have told you before that some couple of years ago I acquired about 800 copies of a weekly newspaper called *Poultry* that was published in Sydney from 1918 to 1970. They contain a wealth of information. Now I have finished the Pekin book. I hope to go through these papers and extract the articles and information on the 4 breeds indigenous to Australia namely the Langshan, Australorp, Australian Game and Australian Pit Game. I think I can get enough material of a booklet on each of them. It may take some time but if it is not done all the info will eventually be lost forever. Anyway must close now and will not leave it so long before writing again.

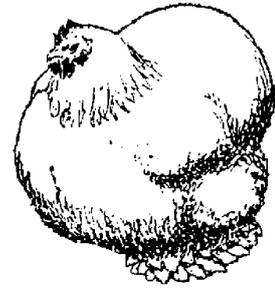
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Professor George Carter
Texas A&M University - College Station- Texas - USA

15-2-1982

Dear Professor Carter,

I thank you for your letter of January 21. Good to hear from you and thanks for your further information.

I will send you a copy of my book *The Pekin Bantam in Australia* under separate cover. by surface mail. I will take a little time to get to you by that medium, perhaps 2 to 3 months. Air mail rates in Australia are very high for packages. Please overlook the typographical errors for I had to type the stencils myself and am not a very good typist. However I had to get the message across one way or another and printing costs are pretty high also.

Now about Picuris. I assume Picuris is in Mexico? Could you give me approximate location. Also Gran Quivira. That 1400 at Picuris makes it pre-Columbian?

I have written to Mc Kusick to the address you gave me. I don't know where Finsterbusch got this information on Dutch and introduction of cocks.

Mrs A.C.Banning-Vogelpeol of the Netherlands with whom I correspond, a poultry authority from that country, advised me as follows and I quote: "In the 17th century (before Roggeveen who in 1722 discovered Easter Island) Dutch pirates commanded by Olivier van Nordt came and brought in Asiatic fowl. These pirates being driven away in the beginning of the 17th century from the Sonda Islands by the Dutch Government provisioned at Bali and took live fowl and pigs with them and exchanged these with the Araucana Indians for other things. The Dutch pirates staid for about 25 years in Chile".

I think her reference was van Gink. I would agree with you as to the probability of Asiatic fowl came to the America before 1500. Regarding Bullock's bone. They reckoned at the Smithsonian Institution about 250 years old (1934) Wetmore. I will write and mention about the C¹⁴ dating tests. They could do something about it. It could be interesting.

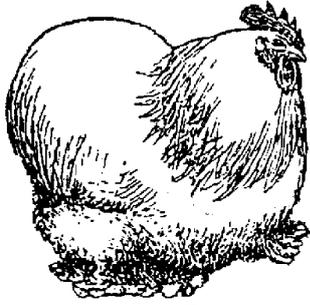
OK on being retired and writing the newspaper column. I don't have much time to spare as I'm working on this treatise. It's coming along OK. Your info has been of great assistance.

I have just been working over Jánosy's paper on the fossil remains of Gallus (Pleistocene period) in the Carpathian Basin, Hungary. Very important I consider. Thanks for your info on the shipwreck off Rio de Janeiro. I think that Heyerdahl proved that ocean comings and goings were possible long before Columbus both in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Don't know whether you have read his book *Tigris*. The papyrus-boat built in Mesopotamia sailed into the Indian Ocean. From memory he imported someone from South America to build it.

That's about it for the moment. Start looking for the book in about 2 to 3 months.

Regards.

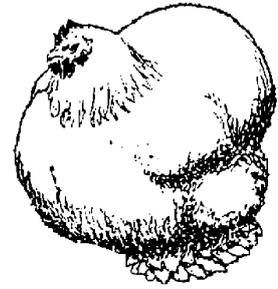
Bill



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Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

10-3-1982

Dear Mr Gary,

I think our recent letters may have crossed as your letter did not carry a date and I could only read 1981 on the postmark. I feel your letter may have been delayed. The mail has been a problem here in Australia. The mail workers sometimes go on strike for two weeks at a time. Hope you got my letter and the sketches of the Pekin OK.

Hope Mrs Gary is still progressing and this continues. My wife is home and able to manage, OK. She is in fact as good as we can expect. My son's wife is expecting an addition to the family within about two weeks, so we are all looking forward to the happy event.

Well here is the book. The orders are coming in for it. I have in fact got to sent 20 copies to John Norris for resale in the US. My main problem is correcting the typographical errors in each copy. This was due to my inexperience as a typist and printer. It's a pretty tedious job: I sent Fred Jeffrey a copy. He says he will review it in the *ABA Quarterly* sometime in the future. Also sent him the photograph of the winner of the ABA Medallion at last year's Bantam Club of NSW Annual Show. He will probably show it to you. It was a Black Red Modern Game Cockerel Ch. Bantam in Show.

I sent you previously the Standard Chapter. In the book you will find on page 175 and 176 some alterations in the penalty points. After thinking about them I decided to change a few of them. Also on page 175 I have altered the text near the bottom of page to read *the amount of importance which may be attached to* instead of *points to be deduced*.

Also in the drawings page 179 & 180 alterations to wings Page 179 Shortened wing on male and on Page 180 deleted top line of wing on female which should not be showing. I know these drawings perhaps aren't the ideal for you purpose but hopefully will give you a lead on the general appearance. We work on the idea the bird should fit into a circle. Perhaps in these drawings the head may appear with drawn to some extent. In any case however the neck should be short.

Well that's it now. Heard on the news you are getting bad weather once again. You have certainly had a rough time this winter.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY
5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

30 August 1982

Dear Mr Plant,

A lot of time has passed since I last wrote you for which I am sorry. There has been a vast number of problems concerning the forthcoming 6th edition of *Bantam Standard* which has taken a goodly amount of time in conferences and correspondence. In addition, due to my eyesight state, it took some time to get through your new book on the Pekin Bantam.

I was greatly impressed when I read your book. I know that it reflects the vast amount of research and correlation of the varying data which you must have performed so that it could be incorporated.

Upon reflection, I believe you have presented a substantial case that the Pekin Bantam originally came from China.

During my lifetime dating back to the 1920's, Will F.Caskey, Topeka, Kansas, was the most famous breeder of Black Cochin Bantam in this country. His male line was particularly good and he often won champion Bantam of the show in many parts of the country. D.Ross Blanford, Albuquerque, NM, purchased the stud of Bantam of Will Caskey after the latter's death. The Caskey strain has been continued by Blanford who has been a consistent winner. He just recently passed away. At the time I was writing the first *Bantam Standard*. A.L.Love, Mt Airy, North Carolina, was a Cochin Bantam Breeder who developed them in many different varieties and I worked closely with him in establishing the standard description.

I have never received the sketches you mentioned in the last paragraph of your letter of 10-3-82. Am I correct in assuming that the illustrations on pages 179 and 180 are the ideal illustration which we should use when we print out next standard including the Australian Pekin? I'm desperately in need of an illustration of a pair - the Australian Pekin Bantam - that you approve for publication.

Since there was trouble with the mail, please inform me whether you did receive a numbered copy of the 5th Edition of *Bantam Standard* which I mailed approximately last of August 1981. I hope it didn't go astray.

Hope you've had a good winter.



THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

6-8 College Street

Sydney 2000 P.O. Box A285

Telephone: 3398111 - Sydney South Telegram: MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

17th September, 1982

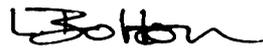
Dear Mr Plant,

I am sorry I was unable to see you recently, but I was tied down with a meeting plus preparations for going away for a month.

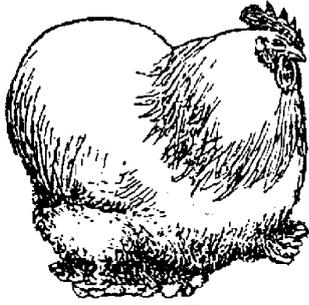
I have not located those bones yet, but will try to find them on my return. The bones finally came back from New Zealand.

Many thanks for the copy of your book. I haven't read it yet, but it certainly looks interesting.

Yours sincerely,



for Jim Specht
Curator of Anthropology

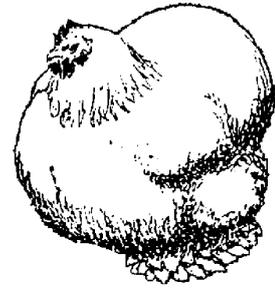


Breeding Pekins
since 1965

Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
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NSW
Australia



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4-10-1982

Dear Mr Gary,

I was so good to hear from you once again and glad to know that you are working on the 6th Edition of the *Bantam Standard*. Regarding the sketches of the Pekin Bantam on pages 179 and 180 of my book, yes, use those sketches for your *Australian Pekin Bantam Standard*. In discussion with my son who originally drew these up I made a few minor alterations, we feel this is what we would require in a Pekin. It must fit into a circle. There could be comment that the neck is too short and head and comb too small. However we feel that overall the Pekins that are being exhibited especially the males are too big in the comb so therefore when drawing up a standard it should be stressed that it is what the bird should look like, not some exhibitors are benching.

I have sold quite a number of my books throughout Australia and as yet there has been no comment regarding the standard that I presented, so I feel that there can't be too much wrong. As you know from your experience there are sometimes someone who would not agree but as you advised me previously they do not count anyway.

I think your nephew does the art work for you, will be interested to see what he does with the sketches. But the way I noted in the Yearbook the description of the comb in the Australian Pit Game, I'm not sure whether I mentioned before to you regarding this point. I Thought I did but might not have. The comb on the Australian Pit Game is not a pea comb. They are straight combed birds and the males are dubbed in the same manner as an Old English Game. I guess the Pit Game will go into the next edition of your *Bantam Standard*. Did you ever do any work on *Australorp Bantam Standard* (Australian)? I never received any copy on it from you.

Thank you for your comment on my book. Although it's not a professional print job. I felt I had to get it out as it will assist some of the newer breeders in this country as a guide to breeding and exhibiting Pekins. Hopefully early next year I will be starting to put together more books on the history of the indigenous breeds of Australia combining in one book. I will combine the Australian Game, Australian Pit Game, Langshan and Australorp. Hopefully then a book on the origin, evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl, I have a great amount of material for these projects which I have collected and researched over the last few years.

My life has been very busy of late and I can't find time to do many of the things I want to do. I will write later and fill in the details. I am afraid my correspondence is lagging somewhat but hope to get my house in order within the next few months. Fortunately my health has kept fairly good but my eyes are giving me some difficulties. The specialist told me recently that my eye which has been the good eye will possibly eventually pack up a form of cataract apparently. He then may be able to do something with it. I am having some difficulties reading the small print. Am using Timoptol 0.25% drops at the moment. That's about all that can be done right now. Must press on now and thanks for info on Pekins.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L.GARY

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CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

January 10, 1983

Dear Mr Plant,

To start this new year, I sincerely hope you are having some improvement in your ability to discern the small print as well as the large. I can be sympathetic with you because of my own problems.

From the material you previously submitted to me, I thought both the pea and single comb were in existence on the Australian Pit Game Bantam. However, in view of the statement in your letter of October 4, 1982, I have deleted from the description for the male and female, the pea comb in this breed. Unless I hear further from you, the description will appear hereafter with a single comb only, dubbed as a preference in the male.

With reference to the Australian Australorp, I have no intention to write a separate description for the breed because there appears no significant variation between our description and that furnished me from your work.

I was intrigued by your statement that you intended to write about the indigenous breeds of Australia. I wondered which are breeds which you consider indigenous and how you concluded that they were not transported for other locations. There has been controversy over the last three centuries about the origins of chickens and I will be most interested to hear what you have to say about this.

There will be a marked change in the next Edition of Bantam Standard. The book *Bantam Standard* will go to press sometime after 1 July 1983. It will contain a center section of sixteen pages in full color showing the most popular breeds of Bantams in the United States and the associated color patterns. The *Bantam Standard* will now include all recognized breeds that are actively being raised in the United States and for which advertising is carried in the *ABA Yearbook*. A second, separate volume will be titled *Rare and Foreign Breeds of Bantams* and will pick up all breeds and varieties not included in the *Bantam Standard*.

By the way, I don't remember your mentioning that you received a copy of the 5th Edition which was dispatched in the mail to you in August 1981. It was a numbered and autographed copy. Did you receive it?

Sincerely,





AMERICAN POULTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Poultry Science Department - 1675 Observatory Drive
MADISON, Wisconsin 53706

October 4, 1983

Dear Mister Plant:

Congratulations on finishing *The Pekin Bantam in Australia*. I shall look forward to receiving it.

The *American Standard of Perfection* (1983 edition) has just been delivered to the printer. I served as editor so can appreciate your feeling of both accomplishment and relief at having completed your project. Our new Standard will have 464 colored plates and 231 pages of text.

I know we will have stirred some controversy but trust that the percentage will be favorable.

Our national show will be held next month at Columbus, Ohio. The report is that there will be 15,000 entries. That makes it almost too large to view comfortably in the length of time available.

My *feather factory* netted a couple of promising youngsters this year and with the increasing costs of feeds I'm not keeping a large number around just to look at.

Sincerely yours,

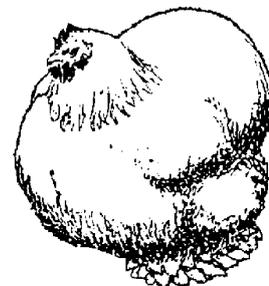
John Skinner
Archivist



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William J. Plant

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Australia



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Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

15-10-1983

Dear Mr Gary,

You have perhaps wondered what had happened to me as it is quite some time since I last wrote. I have had quite a busy time one way or another. Assisting my son in his business interests has been one of the time takers and renovating my home another. The days don't seem long enough to get through all the jobs.

Hope you and Mrs Gary have been keeping well. The cataract is continuing to grow over my left eye but the doctor says it is still too soon to do anything with it yet. He changed my glasses which was a great help. It was getting that way I was having difficulty reading the newspaper. At the moment it is OK. He says I will probably need another change of glasses before the cataract grows right over. I am using TIMOPTOL drops twice a day which is holding the pressure and he is quite pleased with that. I don't have to see the Doctor again until December. Apart from little arthritis in a couple of fingers I appear to be quite OK.

I am at present working on setting up a colour standard on behalf of the Pekin Bantam Club of NSW for Color pattern for Black Red, Blue Red, Brown Red, Birchen, Pile etc for the Pekin Bantam. A few of these colors are starting to get about out here and some of our Club members from West Australia wrote and asked the Club to provide some guidelines in these colors.

As usual the *British Standard* isn't a great deal of help, so I am working from the old time Game breeder A.J.Compton (you may remember my references to him in my book). In my opinion he was the greatest authority we have had in Australia together with Mark Marshall who more or less set out the *Australian Pit Game Standard*. Their writings have stood the test of time.

At the moment I have some eggs in the incubator of Black Reds and Brown Reds sent over from the West so we will see what they have come up with.

At our Annual Pekin Show this year there were some birds shown as Brown Reds but they were Crow wings, just a cross from Black and Buff. Not good enough.

I think in these colours we must stick to the Old English Game Colors, because after all they will have to be made from the OE. Would appreciate your opinion on this matter.

Had a visit the other day from the President of the newly formed Plymouth Rock Club. They have to think of some standardisation and the Plymouth Rock color situation is quite confused out here. They exhibit both Light and Dark Barred. Anyway I loaned him a couple of *APA Standard* and a *ABA Standard* and gave him the same advice that you some years ago and that was not to fiddle around and get too many involved. Just with his committee sum up the situation and get on with it.

I have begun work on my next book. It will cover the two Game breeds indigenous to Australia i.e. Australian Game and Australian Pit Game and will be entitled *The Game Fowl of Australia*. It involves quite a bit of work as I have to copy out the material from the old *Poultry* papers which I acquired dating back to 1922, it is really worthwhile information. It will more or less a history of the breeds or a collection of information on them. Then I want to do books on the Australorp and Langshan, then finally one on the origin, evolution, history and the diffusion of the domestic fowl. throughout the world. I have researched material for this latter subject for quite a number of years and have a good lot of it to sort out.

As I am 62 years of age now I will have liven myself up if I want to get all these things done.

My apologies for not writing sooner but will endeavour to do better in the future. All the best for now and how is your latest Standard coming along?

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

P.S. If you are speaking to Fred Jeffrey would you mind telling him I will be writing soon.

FRANK L. GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N. J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

October 30, 1983

Dear Mr Plant,

Both Mr Jeffrey had been wondering what, if anything, had happened to you; I am very pleased to have heard from you. (Rec'd 10/25/83).

Mrs Gary passed away on June 4, 1983 as a result of a massive stroke which she suffered about three weeks earlier. I'm left alone in a very large house, a housekeeper who comes five days each week, and my daughter and his husband who come over the weekend, I miss my wife very much for we had been married just over sixty-three years. I try to remain active through maintaining my interest in chickens. I am handicapped greatly since I can read only the large headlines in the newspapers. I have sold over one-half of my library and several painting and pictures, the receipts of which are being placed in a memorial fund for the future payment of premiums to the exhibitors of the rarer breeds of bantams on an annual basis, to members of the American Bantam Association. I have designated the American Game Bantam and the Ameraucana for the start and will add other breeds as the revenues from this fund increase.

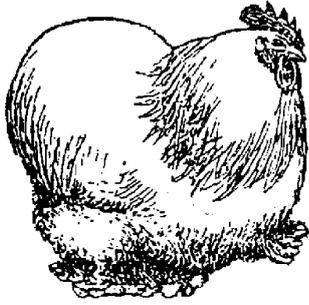
The color patterns for the Pekin (Cochin) Bantam that you mention you are going to prepare for the breeders in New South Wales have been noted. Two of them appear in the *ABA Standard* under the variety descriptions (following the Shape descriptions) where 9 the plumage color for Shanks and Toes feathering is noted with the remainder of the plumage covered in the Plumage section of the standard. I noted that we do not have the Black-red, Blue-red or Pyle, but do list the Birchen and Brown-red as varieties in feather legged breeds.

I would presume at the Shank and Toe feathering would be black for the male and deep reddish bay, pencilled with dull black for the black red variety and that the Pyle would be white feathering in both sexes. In the case of the blue-red, I would presume that the male leg feathering would be slaty blue, laced with darker blue, and the female is questioned, (I can not advise you on this female feathering. I, also, may be in error on the female leg feathering for the black-red variety). With exception of the leg feathering, the plumage section of the ABA Standard contains a description of all parts of the body, male and female for the varieties you have mentioned. Since the ABA does not copyright the standard, we would certainly not object to your using the descriptions thereby saving a lot of research on your part.

I can appreciate the work that will be involved in preparing a history of the various breeds you mentioned and would be more interested in reading your ambitious volume on the fowl history because I know of none who has done such a treatise. It would certainly be more saleable than the other items you mentioned.

BEST WISHES!
WRITE SOON.

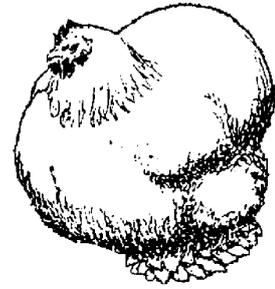




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

8-11-1983

Dear Mr Gary,

Received your welcome letter today and first of all please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of Mrs Gary. I remember you mentioning some time back that she had had a spell in hospital I think. I can appreciate how you would feel after being together such a long period. I am 62 years of age so I guess you must have been married somewhere around 1920. I think keeping your interest in the chickens will be of great help in keeping active and keep on with your work with the Standards. You really do have a great track record on that score. The American Bantam Association owes you a lot for the work you have done with the Standards. I have very recently written to Fred Jeffrey and apologised for my absence on the correspondence scene. I appreciate both yours and his concern on my well being.

Your gesture on giving the receipts from the sale of your library etc to the cause of the rarer breeds is to be commended and should no doubt be appreciated by members of the ABA I myself have a pretty extensive collection of poultry books and literature, in fact a room full of it as well as books on *Australiana* i.e. books written about Australia by Australian authors. Also there are my books on Amateur Radio as I have held a *Ham* Radio Operators License since 1939. Have not been terribly active in that field over the latter years but in earlier days talked a lot over the air waves with chaps in the US. Just had a quick look thru my acknowledgement cards and found that I talked with a chap in: Succasunna NJ in 1950, a chap in Red Bank, 1970, and another fellow in Closter NJ, 1969. May get back to it one of these days.

I checked with our State Library here about them taking over my collection when I pass on but I made the stipulation that it had to be kept as a unit. However they appear to have problems when it comes to a situation like that. As My son is really the poultry breeder in the family he has agreed to take it over. I told him and his wife if they didn't look after it I'd come back and haunt them. I didn't want it split up as its pretty hard to get a decent collection together out here. There does not appear to be too many comprehensive Poultry book collections in Australia. A lot of mine came from either the States or England I did however pick up a few out here. Thank you for your comment on the color patterns. As you are aware the British Standard is not a great lot of help but when I get working properly it which will be very shortly I will keep you posted on progress and probably seek your advice. I think you are aware that we have no National Poultry Body in Australia so at our Pekin Club meeting last Sunday we decided that as a Specialist Club we should set the Standard. The *British Standard* is the accepted one for Pekins here in Australia but I think eventually the Suggested Standard in my book will be accepted by the Pekin Club and recommended by them. It is in actual fact the same as we discussed during our earlier correspondence and what you set up for the *ABA Standard*.

The only thing we have a scale of points out here which would go into it. The problem was originally that when I put this suggested Standard to the Pekin Club meeting of committee we had one DISSENTER who vetoed the thing before it got off the ground. However he no longer comes to the meetings. I got the thing in print out here anyway and although I know that some of the stick in the muds don't altogether agree with it no body as yet has taken me to task. Its pretty hard to teach an old dog new tricks. However the Committee is right behind the color business and I have to come up with a draft for the next meeting in February.

They are breeding quite a few Black and Blue Reds and Brown Reds over in West Australia and the photographs look OK. One of the chaps sent over some eggs and I've just hatched six chicks. The chicks didn't come out as our OEG Black Reds come with a stripe down the back so I don't know how they got them. I think more by chance than anything else.

However we will see how they shape up. I think if they are going to make these colors they will have to start with OEG bantams to get the color right in the first place. What happens in Australia is that with OEG They put Black Red into Pile to darken up the males and Black Reds with Blue Reds etc. It can get a bit confusing if you don't watch what you are doing. In the OEG Bantams the Black Reds have Wheaten females There are Black and Blue Tail Wheaten and the Partridge hens come amongst the Piles. We have classes for both Dark Leg and Light Leg in these breed.

Had a letter from Professor Skinner of the University of Wisconsin the other day and he tells me they are on with the latest edition of the *APA Standard*.

You suggest I might get on to book about Origin etc etc of the Domestic Chicken before the others. I have been toying with that idea myself as I have plenty of material that I've collected, some of it only hypothetical but nevertheless a lot of it fits together and I have come up with some conclusions which I feel do make some-sense. There does not appear to been any serious work done on the subject. I wrote to Professor Carter of the University of Texas a few years ago as he wrote the Chapter on Pre Columbian chickens in the Americas in the book *Man across the Sea*. He had concluded his chapter by saying that a lot more research was needed to establish the fact as to whether there were chickens in the Americas pre Columbian. In his reply to my letter he said that after writing that Chapter he didn't do any more work on the subject. So there you go. I was thinking that if you have a cassette player at your disposal it might be an idea for us to exchange cassettes as we do seem to have a bit to talk about let me know when you reply what you think of the idea.

Had a bit of excitement in the house tonight as a small Black snake ran across the living room. Had nothing to hit it with so it got away. That's not a regular occurrence, but we do see them around from time to it's been a very hot day today and that's what gets them moving. It's midnight and I've got to turn the eggs in the incubator so must do that and get some sleep. So until next time all the very best. Good to hear from you.

Sincerely Yours,

Bill Plant

P.S. Regret to hear that reading for you is getting more difficult. So the cassette might be a great help.

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

December 7th, 1983

Dear Mr Plant

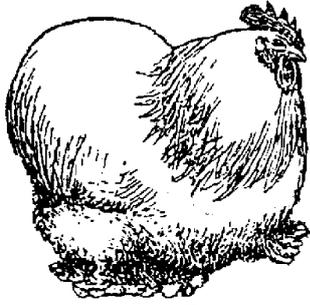
I remember I sent you some years ago an article or information for your Cochin magazine or newsletter and am glad that you could use it well. You should do me a great pleasure to send me a copy of the book you wrote on Cochin bantams. I am very interested in monographs of a special breed, in such booklets there is much more information as we can find in large books about poultry and bantam breeding.

I like to send you a copy of *Japanese Bantams*, which I wrote for the Dutch Fanciers and translated for an edition in the English language by the ABA. I'll add a copy of the Dutch Sebright Club, I think you like it, but you cannot read it. But there are a lot of Dutchman in Australia so there must be a fancier who can help you.

Australorps, large fowl and bantam, are breed here in a good quality. The large Australorp is popular and are often winners in showroom. Langshans are breed mostly in the German variety, without leg feathers. But the Croad Langshan breeding is started here with some English birds, even bantams. I am a judge and had to place these birds in show, This is the season of the shows. During October, November and December each week we judge ± 3 shows and a few shows in September and January. To end with: I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

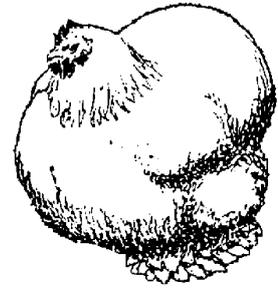




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Professor John Ostrom
Peabody Museum of Natural History
Yale University - New Haven - Connecticut - USA

8-12-1983

Dear Professor Ostrom,

You may recall some 2 years ago I wrote you with regard to my private research on the *Origin Evolution History and Distribution of the Domestic Chicken*. You kindly supplied me with your paper *Archæopteryx* since then I have collected some information on the subject and am presently endeavouring to obtain a paper written by Jánossy (1977) of discoveries on chicken bone in the Carpathian basin. I have also learned that chicken bone has been unearthed in NE Thailand, Northern China and on Watom Island New Britain.

You will remember I mentioned the small claws on the wings I discovered on my Pekin (Cochin Bantam) back in 1978. I never pursued this matter but a few of my correspondents have shown interest in this fact so I am going to check them through shortly and seen what I can come up with. It may only occur occasionally. I will advise of any development.

Recently noted in the press and television the information on the discovery of the fossil remains of a giant bird named the Teratorn in Argentina. No doubt you are aware of this fact. Apparently the fossils are in the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum. I am still endeavouring to ascertain whether chickens existed in pre-Columbian Americas. I would like to make contact with someone in South America who may be able to give me a lead in this direction. The question of pre-Columbian chickens in the Americas has never been resolved with positive evidence.

My main reason for writing is to include a press cutting of a recent discovery in Australia which I felt may be of interest to you or some of your co-workers at Yale. Still enjoying the research, hope to put together some notes on the subject one of these days.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher

PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222

PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

December 8, 1983

Good Morning Mr Plant:

November 15th....I had the privilege of meeting Dr William Longenecker. For many years he has helped me with research, doing COMPUTER INFORMATION SEARCHES...for me. During this visit he told me you writing him. On returning to the office.....I find where he sent me a copy of that same letter!

WILL BE MUCH, MUCH INTERESTED....in your histories on the 4 breeds that originated in Australia. With your research ability, would like to count on you for this information for my long range planned book: POULTRY OF THE WORLD WILL ALSO NEED

EXCEPTIONAL PICTURES.....close-ups, well posed, in color.

NOTE IN YOUR LETTER

you plan to compile another book...on the Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Chicken.

BY COINCIDENCE

ON THIS TRIP.....visited with a Professor John Skinner....who at one time indicated an interest in doing a chart, showing where these breeds started....etc.

Am not sure as to the extent of your RESEARCH LIBRARY. While I do not have as complete a Library as some of the large collections here in the U.S., over the past 10 years I've invested considerable in ancient poultry books. Perhaps we can help each other?

A Professor William Cawley....has expressed to me some doubts on the accuracy of the statement....that ALL our domestic chickens originated from the JUNGLE FOWL! This would apply to many breeds...but he questions this as to the Cochins and fowl of the Malay stature.

NOW IN MENTIONING COCHINS....

.....I have never been satisfied with information that I can get on the origination of the COCHINS.

Off hand...a quick item on this, they originated in the Shanghai area of China...something to that effect. Such is very vague....what did they originate FROM? Surely they....

DID NOT JUST HAPPEN TO POP OUT OF NOWHERE!

ON THIS RECENT TRIP,

spent 3 days in Columbus, Ohiothe largest poultry show in the U. S. With over 10,000 entries. At this show, the AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION introduced their new Color Standard of Perfection, the official show specification book....the "POULTRY FANCIERS BIBLE! It is a fine book....464 color pictures. Price is \$35.00....sent Via Air Mail....\$4.50 more, otherwise \$2.00 shipping.....via surface.

BACK TO VISIT WITH DR LONGENECKER!

They have contact with 140 countries that have organized Ministries....or...Departments of Agriculture. Will have him conduct a SEARCH TO THOSE COUNTRIES....seeking pictures, informations, etc. Will convey to Dr Longenecker...that I also had received a copy of your letter to him. He is a fine fellow....but right now is concerned, being of retirement age, that the government is going to force him TO RETIRE....which....he does not wish to do.

As to more history on the COCHINS, I expect to pursue this search through contacts with the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. Somewhere along the line I hope to MAKE CONTACT....with some Chinese.....who is dedicated to poultry, to seek out some more history, so we have it MORE COMPLETE...and....of course / ACCURATE.

WILL LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR LETTER. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Best wishes for a WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON



Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher
PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222
PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

December 12, 1983

Good Morning Mr Plant:

My friend Dr Longenecker....sent me a photo copy of the
FRONT COVER.....of your book on the PEKIN BANTAM.

WHAT PRICE DO YOU ASK FOR THIS BOOK?

Wish to get a copy for my private Library.

At bottom of your letter...copy sent to me,

notice that you have in mind a book on the:

"ORIGIN, EVOLUTION, HISTORY AND
DISTRIBUTION OF DOMESTIC CHICKENS!"

By chance....would you have a
chart....showing the time....place....lineage....in the origination of our modern day CHICKENS?

Will look forward to hearing from you.

VERY BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON.

Loyl



Sally Rodwell
10 Granta Road - SAWSTON
CAMBRIDGE CB2 4NQ

18th December 1983

Dear Mr Plant,

I am writing in reply to your letter to Eric Higgs dated 12th August 1980. As you may know he is now dead and Dr Geoff Bailey of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, has passed on your letter to me.

I believe you are right in thinking that very little research has been done on the origins of the domestic chicken. I have just completed an M. Phil. dissertation at the University of Cambridge - *The Transition to Agricultural Societies in Early China* - which embodied the evidence from Cishan, a sixth millennium B.C. North China site which was excavated a couple of years ago. At this site remains of chickens were found and the Chinese archaeozoologist, Professor Zhou Ben Xiong, considers the chickens were domestic. I have translated Professor Zhou's reports and made an analysis of his findings and this is due to be published in the *Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association Bulletin* (Australia National University) next summer. In his report Professor Zhou postulates that the red junglefowl *Gallus gallus* L. was domesticated in China. Chicken bones are found in neolithic assemblages in China from the sixth millennium onwards. They appear in India at about 2,000 BC at Mohenjodaro, in the Indus Valley, and in Egypt at about 1,500 BC. In the first millennium BC the domestic chicken spread to Mesopotamia and Asia Minor and at about 500 BC it reached Europe. In particular Zhou refers to Zeuner, F.E. (1963) *A History of Domesticated Animals*.

I have not come across the work of Finsterbusch (1929), which you mention, or that of Coltherd, Wood Gush, Bate or Lowe and I would be most grateful for complete references to their work which sounds most interesting.

In his report Professor Zhou does not comment on the morphological differences between modern Chinese domestic chickens and those in the West, and I agree with you that it seems unlikely that they should have had a common ancestor. I would be most interested to hear your thoughts on the subject and I hope this letter reaches you after such a long interval.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Rodwell.
—

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

6-8 College Street
Sydney 2000 P.O. Box A285
Telephone: 3398111 - Sydney South Telegram: MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

19th December, 1983

Dear Mr Plant,

My apologies for a slow reply to yours of the 4th.

Nothing new has come up regarding the chicken bone on Watom Island. It was a leg bone. Unfortunately it is not easily accessible for measurement.

I must confess that I have not made a conscious effort to keep up with recent finds of chicken bones in the Pacific. It would take several weeks of library research to do so. Have you contacts with Professor C.W. Higham, Department of Anthropology, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, N.Z.? He may be able to assist you.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Specht', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Jim Specht
Divisional Head, Anthropology.

Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher

PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222

PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

December 28, 1983

Good Morning Bill:

So very pleased to receive your letter. Will look forward to your book on: THE PEKIN BANTAM OF AUSTRALIA.

Am much impressed that you are working on a book:
ORIGIN, EVOLUTION, HISTORY AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE DOMESTIC CHICKEN

Hope I will not offend you in sending the enclosed for your information. Am hopeful, that it will be helpful to you. The fact is, there is a Mr Deterring in GERMANY...that a few years ago was interested in this same subject. My apologize to Mr Deterring for I promised to send this same information to him.

FROM WHAT YOU WRITE....it is most apparent you are delving into the subject deeply.

AS I WROTE....am not satisfied with the history of the Cochins. Through Dr Longenecker, feel he can help through their "OFFICIAL COMUNICATIONS". Mrs Longenecker told my wife they are in touch with an attorney in an effort to continue working. THIS FORCED RETIREMENT....does not agree with him.

PROFESSOR SKINNER....too will receive a copy of the enclosed.

To....Dr. Longenecker
Professor Skinner
Professor Cawley.....I owe very much.

THOSE THREE GENTLEMEN....have helped me tremendously. All three have helped greatly in our book publishing.

MEXT MID AUGUST....we plan to go to the World Poultry Congress in Helsinki, Finland. Though this is primarily for the commercial poultry people over the world, still I am hopeful to gain some HELPFUL INFORMATIONS...at this event. It will only take meet ONE....maybe TWO dedicated men (women) deeply interested, that the trip will be worth while. Would love to meet you there! On this trip...will take us to Sweden, Denmark, Norway. IN SWEDEN, hope to meet Dr Martin Silverrud....he is a geneticist....poultry breeder.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NICE LETTER.

VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

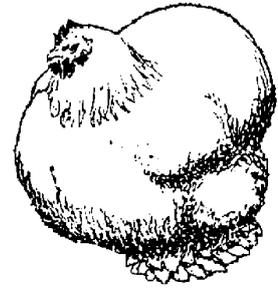




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Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

3-1-1984

Dear Mr Gary,

First of all hope you had a good Christmas although from watching the television your weather in the US has been pretty rough. I am writing to ask a favour of you and that is if you would have a look over the enclosed color pattern for the plumage of the Pekins that I have put together. We had discussed this subject previously. I put this draft standard together which proved quite tedious. As you are aware the British Standard does not give a great deal of assistance.

I have also sent a copy to Professor Skinner for his comment for as you manage the *ABA Standards*, he edited the recent new addition of the *APA Standard*. I have been corresponding with him for some years also. The comment or criticism I would like is as to whether the presentation and lucidity of the draft good enough for I have to present it to the Committee of our Pekin Bantam Club at the beginning of February. Therefore if you could find time to check it out, I would like to have your comment by then. I realise you will probably not agree entirely with the colors and placements etc, but I feel you are aware of the differences in our system out here alongside yours.

I have had to research quite a bit on the older authorities, Compton and Marshall whom I consider the greatest in the field that we have ever had in Australia. The Black Red and Blue Red are one in the same except for the ground color of course.

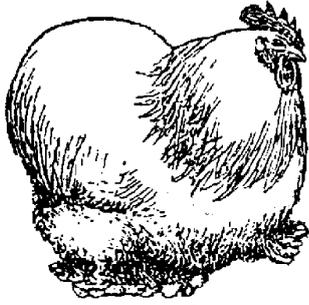
It's a great pity we do not have the same system with plumage pattern that you have, but I don't see much chance of that happening in my time. Our Specialist Breed Club (Pekin Club) feels that we are obliged to give guidance where possible to promote the breed for there is no one else to do so.

The average poultry fancier and breeder in this country is very apathetic towards matters along these lines. Most judges seem to have their own standards and from my observations when speaking to some of them they haven't even read the book on fowls they are judging.

I have referred to your *ABA Standard* during the research. Hope your latest edition is coming along OK. Hoping to hear from you in the not too distant future, all the best for 1984.

Sincerely Yours,

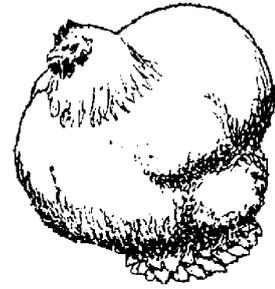
Bill Plant



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Mrs Sally Rodwell
Whittlesford - Cambridge - England

6-1-1984

Dear Mrs Rodwell,

A very pleasant surprise to receive your letter today as at the moment I'm working on section of my treatise *The Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl* dealing with the recovery of chicken bone throughout the world.

The whole operation is going to be a long and tedious job as I'm getting toward 63 years of age and although retired from my normal work still have plenty to do apart from this writing.

The treatise will be in sections, not necessarily in the order that the title suggests, but hopefully will fit into place in the long term.

I have been researching and collecting material for some years now which being so far away from the action has proved quite a job. The matter of sorting and putting it into readable form is going to be quite a job too. However I intend to press on. I am sorry to hear of Dr Higg's passing. I never did get a reply from him.

I found the copy of the letter I wrote to him, so as you have the letter, there is no need for repetition of what I said him.

What began my interest in the whole Origin etc etc bit was that I had decided to write a book on the Pekin Bantam fowl as my son and I have been breeding them for some 18 years as so. When I started researching for it I found that one thing led to another, so I continued on with the overall research. It has proved very interesting thought frustrating at times and I have formed a few conclusions which could be right or wrong but at least may give someone more learned than myself some food for thought.

I have written and published a book entitled *The Pekin Bantam in Australia*, 187 pages quarto typescript and in it touched lightly on possibility of origins etc.

There is one bit that may be of interest to you on China. We had the Chinese Exhibition here in Australia a few years ago which I visited. On exhibition was a Celadon pot the spout of which formed a cock's head. It was 4th century AD. With a paper I obtained it gave me a lead as to the possible beginnings of the Pekin Bantam in China.

Would you like a copy of this book for your personal library. If so I will send you a complimentary one.

The information contained in your letter is interesting and most helpful. I was aware of chicken bone recoveries from a neolithic site at Pan p'o near Sian in North China. Professor Stanley J. Olsen of the University of Arizona advised me of this fact. This was only a few years back. I have written to him only recently to see if anyone had done any study on the actual bone: should have an answer shortly.

Also Professor Higham of the University of Otago in New Zealand did work in the Sakon Nakhon Basin on NE Thailand at Ban Chiang chicken bone recovered there also. I have his paper on the proceedings. Would suggest you write and ask him for a copy if you do not already have it.

There was a thesis done by a Jenny Cane for a Masters degree at the University of Otago on the dating of chicken bone in the Pacific (I think) only a few years ago. However I believe she went to Canada. I haven't been able to locate her but am still trying. Professor Higham says Ben Chiang recoveries around 3500 BC.

In my *Pekin Bantam* book I touch a lightly on these findings. The chicken bone section of the treatise I'm doing now is going into much more detail.

The whole problem appears to me to be that although this chicken bone is recovered nobody seems to attaches a great amount of importance to it. If an osteologist got hold of the bone and studied its construction from Finsterbusch's findings of the differences between the *runners* (Malay or *Gallus giganteus* of Temminck) and the flyers, *Gallus Bankiva*, in the bone make up could be determined, which in turn would give us an idea of from what the fowls or their antecedents come from and as man took his domestic animals with him would help in determining the moment of civilisation which still appears clouded as far as can see.

Another instance is the chicken leg bone on Watom Island, New Britain, it was recovered by Dr Jim Specht of Australian Museum of Sydney who has tried to track it down for the last few years. Had a letter from him just before Christmas.

Finsterbusch was a Chilean who made a life study of Game Fowl and I feel put forward very logical arguments backed up by practical study on the difference of species. He suggested the Bankivoids and Malays were different species. He did not go into the Asiatics (Cochin, Brahma, Langshan) but I believe they were another species or may we call them subspecies. There are so many differences physically, anatomically, feather wire etc that I find it hard to believe they are just variation or ever mutation. They no doubt had a common extinct ancestor but went off in perhaps three different lines of descent.

I have great faith in Finsterbusch as he seems to have the positive approach to the subject. I also believe Thor Heyerdahl voyages proved a point that the diffusion of the chicken throughout the world could have been both east and west from Asia (India area). I did write to him a few years ago and he agreed with this but said we do not really have any positive evidence, which is quite true.

You have perhaps heard of the Araucana (Blue Egg chicken) of Chile. The blue egg trait has never been explained as to the origin of egg shell color. During my recent researches I found in Finsterbusch that Dutch pirates settled on the coast of Chile and imported cocks from Dutch East Indies (around early 1600's, this comes from another source).

Now, Hutt (1949) in *Genetics of the Fowl* found, Punnett also found that the traits of the pea comb and blue egg shell color are linked. The Dutch could have imported either Malays or more likely Aseels (which have a pea comb). These, crossed with the local chickens and a mutation occurred. The blue egg shell is a dominant trait. The Araucana area of Chile is considered to be the first area where blue eggs occurred.

The bone unearthed by Bullock on Mocha Island in this area in 1934 was a metatarsus of unusual robustness which suggests Aseel traits and was considered to be around 250 years old. It sort of fits in.

I received a letter the other day from Professor Carter of Texas A&M University who has done a lot of work on pre-Columbian Chickens in the Americas. He gave me a bit more info of recoveries of chicken bone in New Mexico but once again not enough detail.

Until we can get these fellows to really study the bones in detail it's going to be a hard road.

Have rambled on more than somewhat but will be looking forward to getting a copy of your paper on the *Transition to agricultural societies in early China* I guess it will be available through out National University of Canberra.

Now for some details of your request on the papers. First of all Finsterbusch's *Cock fighting all over the world* has been reprinted I believe (I have an original) and I think it was done by Spur Publications at the Idle Bradford but should be available from Veronica Mayhew, near Reading, telephone: Checkendon 0491-680743.

A paper that may be very useful to you is from *Livestock of China* compiled by Ralph W. Phillips, Ray G. Johnson and Raymond T. Meyer (1945). This can be obtained from Dr William H. Longnecker, Technical Information Specialist, Dept. of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland, USA.

I tried to get hold of a copy of Zeuner but was unsuccessful. However will try through our Libraries. Have a contact with Head Librarian at Newcastle University about 15 miles from here. He has helped me previously.

Once again very pleased to hear from you and would like to keep in touch. I expect more info shortly as I am in the process of contacting my former informants of 3 or 4 years ago to ascertain whether anything new has turned up.

Following is a list of details of references you were interested in.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Division of Vertebrate Palaeontology

PO BOX 6666, 170 WHITNEY AVENUE

New Haven, Connecticut 06511

203-432-4043

January 10, 1984

Dear Mr Plant:

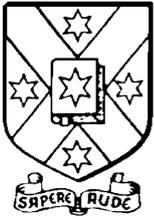
Thank you for your recent letter. Yes, I do remember our correspondence of several years ago and your interests in the Pekin Bantam and the domestic chicken.

In reply to your quest for any new information about discoveries of pre-Columbian chickens in the Americas, I am not able to help you. I rarely peruse the literature on such geologically *young* remains. Perhaps one of my colleagues in Arizona might be able to assist your though. He is Dr Stanley L.Olsen, Department of Anthropology, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 85718, USA. If he can't help you, perhaps he can provide names of others who might.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John H. Ostrom". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John H. Ostrom
Professor of Geology



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Anthropology Department

Box 56 Dunedin New Zealand

8 February 1984

Dear Mr Plant,

I shall try to look out the Ban Chiang chicken bone and send it to you for study. I have only today returned to my desk from Thailand and am coping presently with my accumulated correspondence.

I excavated a site near Ban Chiang in 1981 and will send you the chicken bone for analysis also.

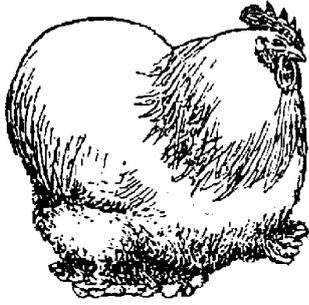
Jenny Cave's address is:

#2,351 Levis Street
Vamier Ontario
KIL 666 CANADA

She wrote a "research essay", not a thesis, so we don't have access to it here. She should be able to help though.

With best wishes,

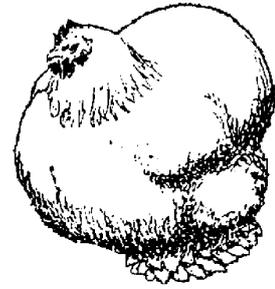
C.F.W. Higham
Professor of Anthropology



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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**Professor Charles Higham - Department of Anthropology
University of Otago - Dunedin - New Zealand**

19-2-1984

Dear Professor Higham,

Many thanks for your letter of 8th February and appreciate your assistance in the matter of chicken bone from around Ban Chiang. I will be looking forward to study the chicken bone for although I am no osteologist perhaps I can gain some conclusions as to what species it may be. I feel that the study of the chicken bones that have been recovered is very important for I as do others believe that *Gallus Bankiva* was not the only antecedent of the domestic chicken.

This is supported by authorities such as Hutt, Punnett, Finsterbusch; Freeman (Brahma Fowl) and Jánossy recovered fossilised bone from the Carpathian Basin in Europe. I am at the moment corresponding with Professor George Carter of Texas A&M University (Dept of Geography) in the US, and he has given me some interesting information on chicken bone recoveries in the Americas.

The section of my treatise (Origin, etc) on chicken bone recovery is coming along and as the bits & pieces I have researched when put together to me appears to make up some sort of sense. I have quoted from your Ban Chiang paper which I hope meets with your approval.

Thank you for Jenny Cave's address. I will write to her. Hopefully she will be able to add to the material I already have on hand.

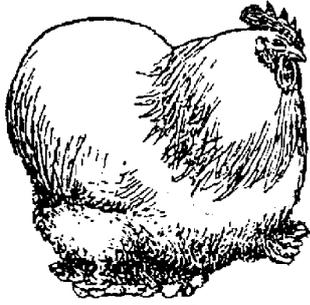
I am sending you under separate cover a complementary copy of my book for your private library *Pekin Bantam in Australia*. In it I touched lightly on the origin of the domestic chicken.

Please overlook the typographical errors etc as I had to type all the stencils and print it myself, as the cost of it being published commercially was beyond my means.

Once again thank you for your assistance. After I see the bones I will let you know what can be ascertained from their study.

Sincerely yours,

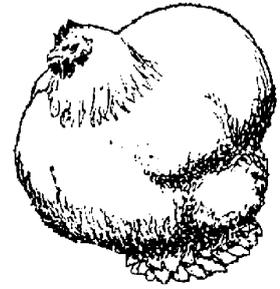
Bill Plant



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54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

21-2-1984

Dear Mr Gary,

Good to hear from you and my appreciation for your thoughts in sending me a numbered copy of the 6th edition of the Standard. I shall look forward to receiving it. I looked through my bookshelves and there are five editions there of the *ABA Standard* and now there will be a 6th, 1969 - 1984, in just 15 years. You can be very proud of your efforts. It must be very satisfying. The other volume you speak of, *Rare and Foreign Breeds of Bantams*, sounds very interesting. Glad to hear the 6th edition is selling well. The color illustrations sound interesting.

In reference to the Standard for the Pekin. We will eventually get to it, possibly perhaps with a few minor alterations. As I said the dissenter no longer comes to the meetings anyway. My son (who is Secretary of the Pekin Club) said only the other day that we should aim to form a Standards Committee within the Club and got things straightened out. When I put in my book that the tips of the feathers in the Mottles should be V shaped it stirred up a few out of their reverie. Reputedly the mottles were made in Australia from Anconas. This has been written and I repeated in my book also. The maker of the mottles has never denied that he used the Ancona, so why shouldn't they be V shaped. How they were made in England I do not know. However my guess is that over there Belgian Bantam was used for I think some of the Belgians have white tips on the feathers. The British Std. for Mottles says just white tips.

OK on your comments on the APA Std.. They did pretty well out of it.

I had a letter from Professor Skinner. He is sending me a copy of the APA Std. and has asked me to review it in our Poultry journal out here in Australia. I will also do this with the ABA Std. If you could let me know the price of it and I guess it will be available from Fred Jeffrey a review may sell a few copies in Australia.

It's a pity there were omissions etc. in the APA Std. but I guess when working to deadlines and lack of cooperation did make the going hard for Dr Skinner.

Glad to hear you were able to attend Columbus and thanks for the information on the show. It will make good copy for the next issue of the Pekin Club *Newsletter*.

Tell George he is going OK with the typing. Good to hear he is learning a bit about the chickens.

That's quite OK about having an aversion to the tape recorder. No problem.

Have been doing some renovations to the house and have set myself up with an 8 foot bench, complete with drawing board and shelf to hold my current research material. Am fitting a Fluorescent light under the self to give me good light which I need because of my eyes. They are still OK but have to go back to the Doctor in March. May have to change glasses again before the eye clouds right over, however they are not too bad at the moment.

Hope your weather has improved. Has been pretty warm here with thunderstorms at night.

Another letter arrived from you since I wrote this so will reply to it separately.

Got the color standard for Black Red etc etc. through our last meeting. Will give you the details in the next letter. We are going to print it in the next Newsletter. As you have always said it is no use messing about with these things. Think we might have things moving at last. All for now.

Sincerely Yours,

Bill Plant

FRANK L. GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

March 5, 1984

Dear Mr Plant,

I was pleased to hear from you. Your letter dated 21 February arrived here on 27 February which was just five days after the postmark date.

I note your continuing problem with your eyesight and am wondering whether you use on a continuing basis, twice a day, Timoptic (timolol maleate, MS&D) 0.25%. Since I commenced using this, any further deterioration of the eye condition (in my left eye) has been halted. The right eye has another problem but I still use the Timoptic in that eye. Will you tell me your experience.

It is of interest to me that you will write a review of the new APA *Standard of Perfection*. I want you to know that I had my housekeeper read to me the whole of it, from cover to cover. I'm certain that you will note that many descriptions within the APA work are not complete. The descriptions do not follow my pattern of describing every section of the bird in both shape and color patterns (proceeding from head to toe) which is a sequence which I follow religiously to be of the maximum assistance to the judge, and breeder, both beginner and experienced.

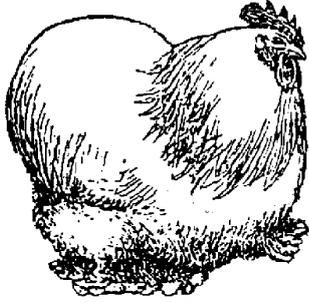
In the color rendering section, I found that several breed pictures were mislabelled. I suppose you will find these yourself. Admittedly, it is nice to have color rendering for each breed but I wonder just how many people will purchase this volume for \$35.00 per copy after the first purchases for libraries and personal collections have been made. I prefer to see something such as our 6th Edition which can market for \$12.00. The APA has never gotten straightened out on the relationship and descriptions of the Booted Bantam and the Belgian Bearded D'Anvers Bantam. They are two distinct breeds. Mrs Banning has told me that the Booted Bantam was used to develop the Belgian Bearded D'Anvers Bantam; thus there are different breeds.

I have recently revised the ABA descriptions of the two breeds to accentuate this differences. You will see them in the next Quarterly of the next Yearbook.

I heartily applaud your attitude to *get on with it*. It is always possible to revise a paper. I'd like to say again that you certainly have my concurrence to use ABA descriptions without alteration. They are complete, including foot feathering. I'll write more later.

Kindest regards,

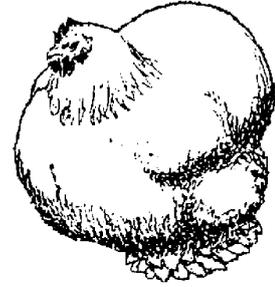




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Mrs Annie Banning-Vogelpoel
Waardenburg - Netherlands

27-4-1984

Dear Mrs Banning,

My apologies for lateness in answer. The books arrived in good order and condition and I thank you very much. Your Japanese book is very good for breeders of this delightful Bantam.

I have been speaking to the Secretary of the Bantam Club of the NSW, this Club having gone into the Poultry book business of selling. The Secretary is also Editor of our monthly journal, the *Fanciers Gazette*. I will write a review for the Gazette which may assist in selling a few copies in Australia. They have supplies arriving shortly so he tells me.

Of course I couldn't read the *Sebright Handbook* but I have Dutch friends here in Maitland (who I think came originally from Limburg) and have shown it to them. They will translate any bits and pieces for me I may need later on. Once again thanks so much. It is really appreciated.

Glad to know that my book arrived OK. Would be interested in your comments after you have read it through. I am at the moment working with Loyl Stromberg of the US supplying information on Australian breeds for a proposed book he hopes to publish an Encyclopaedia of fowls of the world. Hope you are keeping well.

Sincerely,

Bill Plant

Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher

PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222

PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

May 8, 1984

Good Morning Bill:

Will appreciate your forwarding this....*news release* to the leading fanciers poultry magazine or newspaper there in Australia.

HOW IS YOUR RESEARCHING PROGRESSING
...on the origin of chickens?

In appreciation of your help and co-operation,
will be sending you a complimentary copy of the new Color Poultry Standard....plus a new small Poultry Disease Booklet.....plus a few copies of our catalogue.

1984 * THE START OF A TREMENDOUS SEARCH
for informations and exceptional color pictures for "POULTRY OF THE WORLD"

IN JULY...expect to have our new book on peafowls printed --1985, the SWAN BOOK, so a vast amount of work ahead.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELPS.





AMERICAN POULTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Poultry Science Department - 1675 Observatory Drive
MADISON, Wisconsin 53706

June 19, 1984

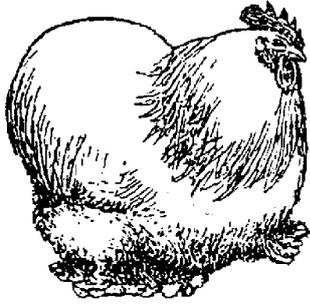
Dear Mister Plant:

Sometime ago a letter was forwarded to me concerning Mrs. L. Hering of Saratoga, California. Mrs. Hering has passed away. She donated a good bit of her material to Kansas State University at Manhattan, Kansas. A Professor, Paul Sandford, there is very knowledgeable about the inventory of things she forwarded to them. I believe that plus a lot of material assembled by Prof. Payne (deceased) while he was at Kansas State is now in storage there. The future of this material is very much in question at this time.

Several of us here in the US have assembled quantities of old poultry material and now don't know what to do with it. Perhaps we can recruit some new collectors to carry on as we phase out. However, the costs for space, insurance, etc. are almost prohibitive when you get into large collections.

Sincerely yours,

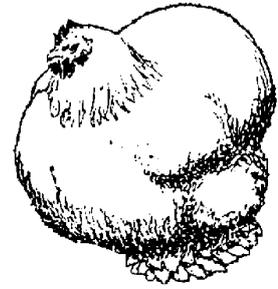
John L. Skinner
Archivist - Official Historian



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



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**Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA**

29-6-1984

Dear Mr Gary,

I guess you have been wondering what had happened to me, but unfortunately I have had some personal problems, which right now I will not burden you with and consequent lye both with correspondence and most other things have lagged badly. However I've begun to get things straightened out mainly with myself although not being in a very happy frame of mind, life must go on.

First re your letter of January with comments on the material I submitted to you re our Pekin Color standards.

The final paragraph in your letter sums up the situation exactly, that was that I have to write up these standards in this fashion, not so much to mollify my immediate associates but most of the breeders we have in Australia. I'm afraid our Australian breeders and exhibitors are way behind in their thinking when compared with your people in the US.

However on the brighter side the draft which I sent you was accepted by our Pekin Club executive at a recent meeting. We made a few minor alterations, e.g. eye color to be red or reddish orange which I think is a step in the right direction and which I feel you will also agree.

We decided that the color standard for Black Red, Blue Red Brown Red, Birchen and Wheaten be published in the Pekin Bantam Club of NSW *Newsletter* as the Accepted and Recommended Plumage Pattern for judging of these colors in Australia.

In this we feel we are quite correct in doing, being the Specialist Club of the breed as there is no National organisation in Australia to handle this sort of thing.

At our last meeting: we decided we will continue on with straightening out the BLUE color pattern which has been very confusing from time immemorial.

So it looks that at long last persistency is paying off.

Our President, a particular friend of mine works with me on these projects. We agree on most things and my son who is Club Secretary can now see what we have been working towards, so I'd say we will reconstruct the whole Pekin Standard along the lines that I published in my book when I was working in conjunction with you. It now looks as the work done has not been in vain.

A Plymouth Rock Specialist Club has been formed and I had the President to see me and loaned his some of the APA and ABA Standards which he was looking for. They have decided to formulate a standard for the Plymouth in Australia which is a move I think in the right direction. When I obtain a copy I will pass one on to you. I think they are covering both Light and Dark Barred.

Another bit of good news is that I received a letter from our Club Rep. in West Australia who first requested we do some something about these colors. When they get confirmation from us as a Specialist Club they will put classes for these colors. They now have this conformation, so I would say we are at last making some ground in forming our own Australian Standards. However there is still a lot to be done.

Referring to your further letter of March I am using Timoptol ophthalmic solution timolol 0.25% sterile twice a day and it is quite effective in keeping the pressure down behind the eyes. My eyes at the moment sightwise are fairly stable. The cataract on my left is still growing slowly, the doctor told me a couple of weeks ago that I could be 12 months before he has to remove it. They are now using what is called an implant method here in Australia which is apparently very successful. A friend of mine has had both his eye done this way and is very happy with the results. Will write again soon.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

12 July 1984

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your letter dated 27/6/84 and I am glad you received the booklets in good order. Thank you also for writing a review, it is a good thought fanciers at the other side of the globe reading about the booklet.

You really did a good job with *The Pekin Bantam in Australia*. In your introduction you write about "Cochin bantams" from the US. I think I have this book from the ABA written or edited by Roy Van Hoesen, 1945, 46 pages. In fact it is a collection of articles by several authors, J.B.Hamilton on history, Z.R.Prentice, B.O.Schilling on type, W.F.Caskey on mating, Henry P. McKean, Art V.Granger on size, E.S.Porter, *Northeast Poultryman* W.H.Silk, Paul W.Benz, George Wege, H.Thomforde, H.C.Fisk, Claude A.Lillie with a *bit of early history*. I'll quote his little article.

"When the Anglo-French expedition sacked the summer palace of the Chinese emperor in Pekin, China in 1860, among the spoils sent back to England were specimens of bantams that had previously been bred and owned exclusively by the Chinese emperor.

They were very small, red in color, had feathered blue legs, and five toes on each foot. Because of their origin they became known as Pekin bantams.

Their similarity to Large Cochin fowls in so many respects eventually led fanciers to attempt to breed them in exact duplicate of the larger fowls, but in bantam size. The color was changed from red to buff, the legs from blue to yellow and with but four toes on each foot. This took considerable time and hard work, but was eventually accomplished, and today we have not only buff Cochin bantams, but all other varieties of Cochin bantams in exact reproduction of the large Cochins."

Other authors: George Fitterer, an article from ABA Bantam culture Course, C.L.Sibley on the blues, Jack Stahl on mottleds, and cuckoo, W.H.Brown, P.A.Gregg, M.N.Capp, Joe Davin, C.A.White Jr., *Pacific Poultryman*, R.K.Price on Columbian Cochin bantams as a very rare non-standard variety without a single information about the creation of the variety. There is now a reprint of the Cochin bantam book dated 1979 price 1.50 in English pounds. I found this on the book list of Veronica Mayhew, The Vicarage, Kidmore End, Reading, Berks, England.

Your part of Pekin history in your book is good reading and I like books with many quotations. I wrote you earlier that in my country we don't consider the Cochin bantam to be a real miniature of the large Cochin fowl but we think it is an original bantam as you do. From time to time I write to Mr Skinner about these problems and he agrees the Cochin bantam not to be a miniature of the large fowl because of the difference in type.

There is also the historical story of the breed. Mr Skinner is planning to visit Europe this fall and I think I'll meet him and his wife in October at the Utrecht *Ornithophilia* Show. He was here a few times more.

From the illustrations of your book I learned that there are very good Pekin bantams in Australia, better as the birds from South Africa. I read that Mrs L.Hering had passed on. I always got a Christmas letter but not the last years, so I think she was not so healthy the last months of her life. She could read my books a little, she had Dutch ancestors, and used a dictionary.

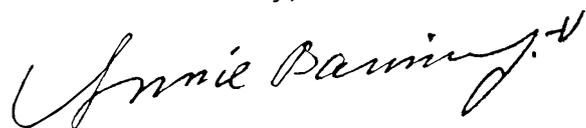
Our summer is not so good as we want. This weekend there was a heatwave after days we had to use the c.heater. It ends with thunderstorm and many trees uprooted.

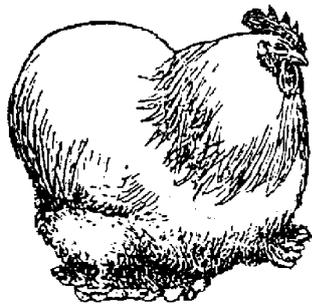
Today it is 15 July, we went to Friesland a part in the North of our country to pay the last honour to an aunt of my husband. Now back to your book. About the Origin of the domestic fowl there are modern ideas to be found in books of Dr A.L.Hagedoorn, a Dutch scholar in genetics and his books are translated in English. It was his conviction, the large variety in type and color of domestic fowl finds its cause in crossings of wild breeds of jungle fowl. Primitive men could have kept a from nature tame junglefowl (*Gallus sonnerati*) and after emigration these birds taken into places where crossings took place with related wild fowl as Bankiva.

So the tame breed became variable and it was possible by selection to breed different kinds. It is possible extinct breeds of wild fowl had a contribution to the now known breeds of poultry.

Mr Plant, I enjoyed your book and there is a lot to write about. May be later.

Sincerely,

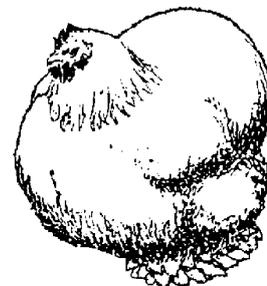
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annie Banning". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Annie Banning".



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

5-8-1984

Dear Mr Gary,

Hope you are keeping well after the bad winter. We had one bad spell during the winter, but feel we might have an early spring. I have sent you via Surface Mail a copy of my latest contribution to the literary world, the first book in the series on the *Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl*. It is book 2 on *Chicken Bone Recoveries*. I also included a copy of the Standards we put out on the Colors -Birchen, Black Red etc. We first published it in the Pekin Bantam Club of NSW *Newsletter* and the feedback so far approves of our efforts.

We are going through all the colors as applicable in Australia, and I think will then straighten out the Pekin Standard overall. It will finish up very close I think to the one we worked on a few years back when I discussed it with you. There may be a few minor changes, but our committee is sold on your America format, describing the male and female separately. We are then going to publish a Manual on the Pekin Bantam as applicable to Australia.

We had our Annual Show last Sunday with an entry of 310 Pekins, quite successful we thought. The Leghorn and Ancona Clubs show in conjunction with us. There were 201 Leghorns and over 150 Anconas, making a total of over 660 birds in 3 breeds.

I am making an application to our State Government for a financial grant to carry on with my research and publications. I would like to get the Histories of our breeds developed in Australia in print. However unless I can get some sort of support, for financially I can't afford it. I need to have the typing and printing done so that I can get on with the job of putting all the material together.

Had a letter from Fred Jeffrey the other day. Have a bit of information for him which he is interested in on RIR x Black Pekin.

The doctor told me last time I saw him that it could be 12 months before I have to have the cataract removed. There does not seem to be much change over the last 12 months. I am still using the drops.

The next color in the Pekins we are going to tackle is Blue. We don't have self blues in Australia. Our Blue Pekins breed the same as the Andalusians. I will let you know what we get up to about it. All for now.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

August 7, 1984

Dear Mr Plant,

I thank for your letter which arrived some days ago and it is nice to learn you have a Dutch friend. We also have a family in Australia, cousins but not in your part, but in Victoria and South Australia, the latter came in your country at the same time as your friend, after serving the Dutch Army in Indonesia. His name is S.Banning. There are also children of cousins who have gone to Australia and live here now.

Friesland is a part of the Netherlands as NSW is a part of the Australia. There are Frisian Fowls here. Vierlanden is a part of Germany, in modern poultry books only Vierlanden Ducks are mentioned. I found one remark in an old Dutch poultry book on Vierlanden Fowl, written about 1909. It is a normal, common breed, may be crossing with a single comb and a type like a Hamburger fowl. That is all.

I wrote 2 books of about 200 pages on Poultry bantams, and in the first book about 4 pages I spent on domestication, origin, distribution and history of poultry and I quoted Dr A.L.Hagedoorn. He was a famous man on genes and evolution. He visited many countries, studied domestic animals, he also was a breeder and I could follow his ideas very well. He was a modern scholar and practical. Darwin was a genius and he is the father of the evolution. But evolution is the same thing as domestication.

This week we start the new judging season. In fall the first shows start, but now we judge young birds without a show. The weather is good, not hot but round 20° Celsius. There is a change of rain.

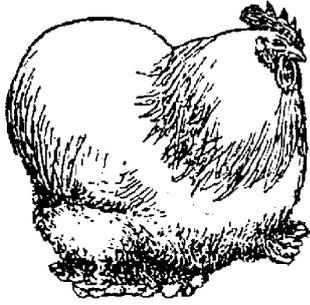
I have a pair of Chinese geese and I let the female breed on 6 eggs. Now there are 5 young goslings and it is good to see how careful the parents are for the new-born.

In our former Dutch Standard, Temminck's *Gallus giganteus* is mentioned with an illustration to Finsterbusch. There is also a part on Araucanas, from which is nothing known with certainty. But it is sure that European fowl is imported into Chile, which must have been mixed with the original exclusive Araucana with the eartufts. The original Chile fowl must have had the blue egg color. Van Gink, the well known Dutch poultryman who wrote the text for the standard, writes here were Castillian types, Spanish game types, Oriental game types, Asiatic types with beard and feathered legs, European crested types, and frizzles. I am curious to read your opinion on Araucanas.

Later I'll write you after I have studied your writings. Your breeding season must start soon now, so I wish you lot of breeder luck.

Sincerely yours,

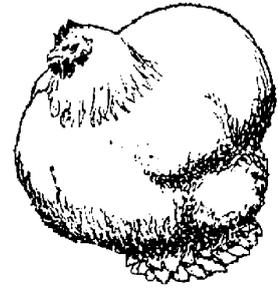




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



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**Mrs Annie Banning-Vogelpoel
Waardenburg - Netherlands**

7-9-1984

Dear Mrs Banning,

Nice to receive your letter of August 7th and fine on your cousins in South Australia and Victoria. My friend was also in the Dutch Army in Indonesia after World War 2.

Thank you on the information on Friesland and also Vierländen. My reason for asking about this is that it was written that the fowls on Ester Island were described as looking like fowls similar to the ones in Vierländen when Roggeveen discovered Ester Island (1722). I think Vierländen is near Hamburg?

Fine on your 2 books and Dr Hagedorn. I agree that he wrote very good books. I think he visited Australia at one time during his career. I do have I think a couple of his books. I agree with you that Hagedorn was very practical with his ideas on breeding and also your remarks regarding Darwin. Unfortunately Darwin did not have the benefit of knowing about Gregor Mendel's experiments on inheritance. Darwin was a great observer. However before Mendel's papers were rediscovered by De Vries and Bateson and later Punnett and used poultry breeders weren't sure why certain things happened when breeding poultry.

You mention going to Limburg judging. My friends here in Maitland come from Limburg. Fine on your Chinese geese. I am hatching chickens at the moment. I have the incubator and will brood them, then they will go to my son's place. He lives about 3 miles away from me.

OK regarding the Araucanas. I will be interested to have your comments on my theory of the origins of the Araucanas.

We are working on breeding new colours in Pekins here in Australia. This season I am putting an OEG Pile over a Black Pekin male. A chap in the North of the State mated Rhode Island Red and Black Pekin last year. The results were good. He will now cross brother and sister of the offspring and in this second cross the colours will segregate and hopefully some Black Tailed Red will turn up. Of course it will take a few years to get the Pekin type. A chap in New Zealand whom I write to is working on Silver Pencilled Pekins.

Our summer is coming up with days of 20 degrees Celsius. It should be quite warm by the end of the month.

Next weekend my son and his wife, President of the Pekin Bantam Club of NSW and myself are travelling about 90 miles north of here to the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of one of our old Pekin Breeders. He is 82 years old and has been a great supporter of the Club over the years. At the function we are presenting him with a Life Membership badge and a plaque in appreciation of his past support.

All for now. Looking forward to hearing from you anytime.

Sincerely,

Bill Plant



George CARTER

Professor at Texas A&M University
COLLEGE STATION TE 77843 - USA

October 14, 1984

Dear Mr Plant,

Origin and Evolution has arrived. Herewith a note or two on it. On the Dutch and their carriage of chickens. I still think of that as a possible, but not a probable. The Malay Naked Neck chicken with its enormous bones, is found all over South and Central America and Mexico. It does not seem a likely distribution resulting from a Dutch introduction in Southern Chile.

On the location of Picuris Pueblo. It is one of the northernmost Pueblos - in Northern New Mexico - a state in the United States. The people of Picuris clearly had the chicken before the time that they moved onto their new site, the present Picuris Pueblo.

I regret that you consider my paper on the chicken invalid speculation. We shall see. The chicken bones present at Picuris at 1400 AD, it seems to me, clearly proves the case of the pre-Columbian presence of chickens in America. When you add the linguistic evidence, religious usages, etc, the conclusion of multiple introductions before 1500 seems indicated. We would have more evidence, I think, if the idea of the post 1500 introduction of the chicken were not so strongly held. I hope that your work spurs the kind of attention to the chicken bones that they deserve.

I will not argue the Dutch case with you. It is purely speculative that they brought chickens. They may well have, but there is seemingly no evidence that they did. That chickens of the appropriate type are present, is no proof at all given the clear evidence of Asiatic contact with American pre-Columbian times. The Malay Naked Necks are not limited to Chile, or its environs, but they are wide spread, clear up into Mexico.

The Finsterbusch quote is clear off the mark. The fowl that he enumerates are not limited to the area that the Dutch pirates occupied but are found clear up into Mexico. His facts are faulty, and so his reasoning is incorrect.

I have recently reviewed Paul Shao's work on comparing Chinese and American Indian art, with asides on Indonesia, Malaya and India. The evidence is overwhelming, beginning at least as early as Shang and Chou times, the Chinese were colonizing America, coming by sea. If I used the same line of reasoning that you do for the Dutch (opportunity equals introduction) then Mexico, Central America and South America should have Asiatic Chickens from at least 1500 BC onwards.

It seems highly probable that chicken bones have frequently been recovered in American archaeology. Many have been discarded as intrusive. Others simply thrown away. Others simply never identified. My hope is that your work will lead to more attention being paid to these invaluable bits of evidence.

Sincerely yours,

George F Carter

FRANK L. GARY

5 BARBARA DRIVE
CROSSWICKS, N.J. 08515
AREA CODE (609) 298-7762

CHAIRMAN
STANDARD COMMITTEE
AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

November 26, 1984

Dear Mr Plant,

I am looking at your letter of 29/6/84 and your book, *The Origin History and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl (part 2), Chicken Bone Recoveries*, 1984, which I received in the mail about three weeks ago.

Due to my failing eyesight, I needed to await having someone read it to me and this can be done only in a small amounts because of the unfamiliarity of the reader with the text. Thus, I have delayed writing you. From your letter, I am happy that the use of Timoptol seems to have things under control and that surgery is not imminent. In my case, my eyes are gradually getting *worse* and during a recent visit the Sheie Institute in Philadelphia, I have been advised that nothing can be done to help; implant would not be possible because e of a condition of *nearsightedness* which I have been handicapped all my life.

I have obtained to your book on the Origin, Evolution etc of the Domestic Fowl and compliment you on your efforts to assemble all the data available concerning the introduction of chickens into various parts of the world. I sympathize with you and recognize the frustrations you must feel in getting responses and incomplete data from the various investigators on the subject. I commend you for being diligent and persistent in accumulating and codifying the data. As you say, perhaps in the lifetimes beyond ours, someone may find all the answers. I certainly can tolerate your digression over the Araucana since the blue egg, the pea comb, the ears tufts and the rumplessness create mystery about their precise origin.

In listening to your book, I came to the conclusion that you can improve the presentation by the use of annotation (numbered) with more limited quotations that are most pertinent. The complete reference would be included in an appendix. The quotes as used seem to detract from you *story* thread. I might also suggest that you might get some volunteer assistance from a nearby college or University in the fields of proof-reading and construction from students in the English Department. You won't have to make so many apologies which, I think, detracts from your text.

I admire your efforts to attain some uniformity and adoption of standard in Australia and would encourage you and your son to be persistent about them. I will be happy to review any information you may develop. There is one thing that I do not agree with! In the Australian descriptions, more than one eye color is permitted in a given breed or variety; this would certainly not be tolerated in the United States. Proper breeding techniques will overcome this variation.

Sincerely,



Sally Rodwell
46 DUXFORD ROAD - WHITTLESFORD
CAMBRIDGE CB2 4NQ

9th December 1984

Dear Mr Plant,

Many thanks for both your letters and for your work on the origin of the fowl which arrived a little while ago. I was delighted to receive it. I have delayed writing to you, hoping as each month went by, that I would be able to tell you what I was planning to do. Sadly it has all come to nothing but I think you will be encouraged to know that there is some interest amongst British archaeologists in the issue of the origins of the domestic fowl,

As a result of my own work, and the claim by Professor Zhou that North China was the first place where the fowl was domesticated, I was interested in pursuing the topic for a doctoral dissertation. In particular I wanted to make an analysis of the bones of wild junglefowl and domesticated species collected by Charles Darwin from China and Southeast Asia which are now stored in the British Museum at the Ornithological Sub-Department at Tring. Because I have a husband and two children to look after I could not easily travel abroad to do my research and it occurred to me that I could do some useful work here in Cambridge. Dr Colin Harrison, a palaeornithologist at Tring, and author of works on British and European fowl, was interested in the larger issue and he felt this would be a profitable piece of work. Don Brothwell, at the Institute of Archaeology in London, is also interested in fowl in antiquity and he was the natural choice of supervisor.

Unfortunately Geoff Bailey at Cambridge and Professor Colin Renfrew considered it a totally unsuitable piece of research. Nonetheless, encouraged by my college tutor, I put in an application to the Department of Archaeology. The application was turned down by Professor Renfrew and so Don Brothwell then suggested I should go to London University. This was rather inconvenient for the family and so it was decided I should apply to the Department of Zoology at Cambridge. In the meantime I had been awarded a British Academy 2-year major state studentship to pursue the work. I was in the process of preparing an application to the Department of Zoology when my husband was recruited by STC Telecommunications and asked to go to Hong Kong. (We are both Chinese speakers) It seemed to be in the family's best interests that he should take the job so we will be going to the Far East in the New Year. I have had to relinquish the British Academy award but I hope to continue archaeological research of some sort in Hong Kong.

When I next go to London I am planning to see Don Brothwell and show him your book because he will be the person most interested. Dr Matt Ridley, editor of the *World Pheasant Association* journal was also interested in the proposed research and you might find him a good contact. His address is: 10 Clifton Gardens, London W9.

I enclose a copy of my paper which is to be published next year in the 5th volume of the *IPPA Bulletin*, and a more recent article by R.D. Crawford contained in Ian Mason's book *Domesticated Animals*, (I think) and published this summer. I think you may find it useful. With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Rodwell.
—

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

January 21, 1985

Dear Mr Plant,

Reading your second part of the book about evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl, I have got a deep respect for your research on these subjects.

On page 9 of your book, you quote from the letter of Prof Carter and he mentioned the Dutch book of R.Houwink *De Hoenderrassen* or *The breed of Fowl* as I translate the Dutch title. This book is well known here from libraries and collectors of old poultry books and the Dutch Poultry Association has a plan to re-edit the book, but the price will be very high, about 200 guilders, that is about 60 dollar now.

Houwink was a shopkeeper in colonial produce, a grocer. He was a poultry fancier like you and me without an academic training on the subject of his book (4 parts). But he had read all the books about it. He admired Darwin and also Mendel, whose laws on heredity were re-discovered in the first years of the century. In his book (1909) he quote all the older writers on poultry as Temminck (1817), Bechstein (1801), Aldrovandi (1600), Columella (2 b.C.) and many others. For your study the part of the fossil bones is important. So Houwink quotes Prof L.H.Jeitteless (Zool. Garden 1873):

"New research has proven that in the tertiary period species of fowl existed in Europe. In the younger period (quartary), the period of the mammoth, there were two varieties of a Bankiva-like fowl contemporary of people. Fowl in the latter stone period became extinct and in the tertiary period was introduced again. Poultry has been spread in prehistoric time from further India and China to Middle and East Asia. Poultry was known as the Celts and Teutons long before the Roman empire was known and it came not to the Celts and the Teutons people via Italy, but direct from the Orient through South Russia Poland and Hungary, with the people when they were invading Europe."

Houwink also quote Victor Hehn's book *Culture plants and domestic animals in their coming from Asia* (1902):

"There is a close relation between the languages of all old people and the names of domestic poultry. The Teutons call the chicken *hana*, all Teutonic tribes know this name. In Dutch *haan* (cock), hen (hen), hoen (fowl). Slavonians and Lithuanians have always lived apart from the Teutons they gave the chicken an other name."

Houwink writes that he visited the Museum of natural history at Leiden, and he found there a very large collection of the 4 well known wild jungle fowl with their skeletons, also several very important crossings of these 4 jungle fowls and crossings of the jungle fowls with domestic fowl of Java. So he could compare skulls and legs of wild Jungle fowl with crosslings and tamed Bankiva's and fossil skulls and legs, which are described by Prof L.H.Jeitteless. He quotes:

"Gallus of the tertiary period. GALLUS BRAVARDI found by Bravard in volcanic tuff of Ardes near Issoire (France), Puy de Dome (Pliocene period) piece of a chicken leg. This Gallus variety stand in size between peacock and domestic fowl according to Gervais. It resembled much a leg of a tamed fowl. Gervais found earlier piece of a leg at Cadillac, not the same as *Gallus bravardi*.

GALLUS ÆSCULAPII Phasianus Archiaci. From the Miocene period of Pikerni near Athens (Greece). Bull. Soc. Geolog.d.France 1862.

Gallus of the Quartairy period. GALLUS FROM THE BELGIAN CAVES. Schmerling found in the caves in the surroundings of Luik (Liège) remains of domestic fowl among bones of extinct animals: elephants, bears, hyena's etc. Size of a domestic chicken and a smaller one but same variety.

GALLUS OF THE BELGIAN CAVES SMALL VARIETY. A.M.Edwards found in the caves of Lhern (Ariège, France) among bones of bears, rhinoceros, foxes, a complete leg of a cock male, but a little shorter as a Bankiva male, but a little brooder. The spur was weak, seems to have been long. The leg resembles much the one Schmerling found.

Gallus of the young Quaternary period. Dr P.Rütimeyer found in the pile-dwellings dated in the bronze age in Switzerland a leg of a cock male, at Morges at the lake of Geneva. Dr Rütimeyer believes that this fossil looks as from a younger age. Also were found chicken legs in the terremare and palafitte of Parmeci and in the terremare of S.Ambrogio, places almost equal to the pile-dwellings" Palafitte = pile-dwelling, terremare = bottom or soil of a lake.

This was Houwink about the fossils of chickens in Europe found before 1909. It proves that in Europe there lived poultry in the time between the ice ages and the climate must have been tropical in that time.

Comparing the skulls of wild jungle fowl with species of skulls Darwin describes in one of his books, Houwink concluded that the skull of Bankiva of Darwin must have been a tamed Bankiva because it was larger as the skull of the wild jungle fowl. So far Houwink's book.

It is worth mentioning that the late Van Gink, the famous poultry illustrator, sketched a part of the illustrations in Houwink's book. Van Gink was very young when he did this, it was its start in this art, that he did his whole life, and of course his later illustrations proofed to be much better as his first work. Van Gink had a job at a bank at that time, but he resigned from the bank to be able to sketch full time. He studied poultry science and was a well known fancier and a poultry and pigeon judge. He wrote several books and was editor and writer of poultry magazines. In the Dutch standard of 1960 he wrote about the oldest Dutch breeds of poultry:

"The Drenthe fowl, being in the first years of this century almost extinct, are a part of the old European common fowl, together with the Frisians, Groninger Mew, East Frisian Mew, Hamburger, Campine and Ardenner fowl. From their origin is little known. First it was supposed, these old European fowl were the descendants of the Bankiva jungle fowl, tamed in East Asia and via different routes come to NW Europe. Later research gave motive for the development of a theory that the European fowl are the tamed descendants in Europe living wild fowl, which are, in contrast to the Asiatic wild jungle fowl, totally extinct since long. Further one goes more and more to the opinion, that the domestic breeds of poultry don't are descended exclusively from the Bankiva and probably are descended from more different breeds of wild fowl.

Crossings have proofed that the wild species are fertile among themselves. In form and statue as in type of feathering is little difference. Concerning colour and pencilling, there are certain resemblances and certain differences". So far the text in the Dutch standard of Mr Van Gink.

I think we owe the large knowledge of jungle fowl in the Netherlands to the fact that Indonesia was for centuries a part of the Dutch Kingdom. The jungle fowl were studied at Java by Dutch scientists and all the knowledge is stored in libraries and Museums as in Leiden, the town with the oldest Dutch University.

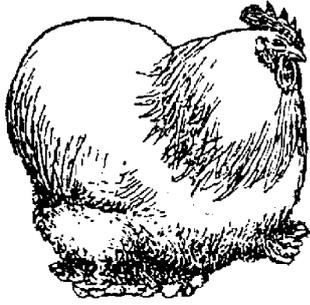
We had 4 weeks of very cold weather with snow and ice and I am very glad that it was raining yesterday and now we can see the green grass again and I could open the chicken house this morning and let the birds out in the garden, I had to keep the birds in the house because of the strong freezing. The coldest night it was -24°C and this we don't have for more as 20 years.

I do hope you understand the quotations from Houwink's book and the quotation from the old Dutch Standard. There are countries or places where is it not possible to talk about the origin of life, people can believe the Bible and take this to the letter. I have a fellow-judge who wants not to talk about evolution, only about Creation. This must be the reason that there is not so much written about the subject, but there many proofs to believe other developments of the live on earth.

On your side of the globe it is summer now and we saw on TV, it is hot and it is burning there. I hope not in your surrounding. With a Friendly greeting.

Sincerely

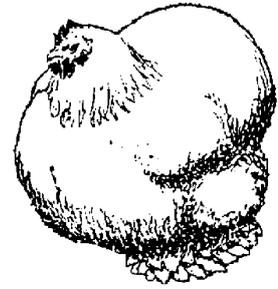




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
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Mr Frank Gary
Crosswicks - N.J. - USA

18-2-1985

Dear Mr Gary,

Nice to receive your letter and know that you received the book OK. Your letter was dated 21st November 1984 and I received it on I think the 21st January 1985. It evidently came per surface mail, taking just on 2 months to arrive.

Sorry to hear that your eyesight is still failing and nothing can be done for it. It certainly does make things difficult for you with your correspondence amongst other things.

I am still using Timoptol which is keeping the pressure problem in check. However, my doctor advised me late last year that the cataract is now ready to be removed and that at the same time he would put an implant lens in my eye. I was to enter hospital on the 3rd December last year. However, here in this State of NSW we are having problems with a confrontation between the doctors and the Government. It began because of the Medicare arrangement set up by our Federal Government. There are only urgent operations being done in the General Hospitals and the situation is becoming quite serious. It does in fact appear to be a stalemate and I have no idea when I will get my eye done.

Thank you for your comments on my *Chicken Bone* book. You are certainly correct in saying that many frustrations are encountered gathering information. The problem is I think that scraps of information are written in the form of papers etc, but have never been coalated which is necessary for it all to make any sense. I don't think I was able to find all the relevant information on the chicken bone bit, but I am hoping that someone who may read my book will come forward with further facts and will be encouraged to continue on with the study.

If I can get on to it the next booklet will be Book 3 on the *Gallus species*. I have much material which I have collected as well as conclusions of my own. It's just a matter of putting it together and getting it into print. This of course costs money as I have to do everything at my own expense and the return from sales have hardly covered costs of the books, so I made application to our State Government for some form of assistance, with a negative result.

I sent a copy of the chicken bone book to our mutual friend, Mrs Banning in the Netherlands, and received a letter from her the other day. She provided me with some further information in relation to facts I had mentioned which were quite helpful. I can add this as a supplement in the next book, referring it back to Book 2. As you say we wont discover the answers in our lifetime, but perhaps the information recorded may assist someone to further study the subject.

Thank you also for your comment on my presentation. I realise I have some shortcomings in that direction and I always welcome comment which may make my writings easier to read. As I have not had any academic training, I should endeavour to get hold of someone to proof-read my material. I think however it would be necessary to have someone who has knowledge of the subject for it to be satisfactory.

Also your comments re getting uniformity of the Standards. I very much doubt we will ever have as good as your Standard in the US. Nevertheless I feel as far as the Pekin Bantam is concerned there is an improvement.

I received a long letter from a friend of mine taking me to ask over the color standard so far. He does not agree with me in some respects. However he and I usually have a discussion rather than an argument. Over the years he and I have had many such discussions on different aspects of poultry breeding etc. I am going to discuss his thoughts through our Pekin Club *Newsletter* and answer his comments that way. Some of his arguments in my opinion are not very strong. I think I can come up a counter in most cases and perhaps the discussion through the Newsletter will encourage other Pekin breeders to come forward with further comment. Perhaps we may all learn a little more from it. I have always encouraged through our Newsletter (of which I am Editor) I have always welcomed constructive criticism. I will send copies of these Newsletters to you when the discussion begins.

Yes, I quite agree with you regarding the eye color question. We have at least cut the eye color in the Pekin down to Red, Orange Red. Even then judges put up birds with Brown eyes. It's pretty hard to educate them. I'm not sure whether I sent you a copy of the completed standard for the Brown Red, Black Red, Blue Red Wheaten and Birchen, am enclosing one with this letter. We will eventually go through all the other colors for the breed and then work onto the standard (type, etc) for the Pekin itself. It will probably follow the suggested standard I had in my book (which you and I discussed previously). It may need a few minor alterations but as far as I am concerned the format (as in the ABA Std.) is the only way.

I had hoped to do Histories on the indigenous breeds of Australia but will need some assistance. I have plenty of material. It's a matter of sorting it all out. I have a couple of chaps in mind who may be interested in cooperating. The only problem one of them lives right up North in Australia close to 2,000 miles away. That would have its difficulties. The other fellow is close handy. It will be necessary to have someone go through all the old *Poultry* papers and sift out the relevant information so that I can coalate it into some sort of readable history. Hopefully I will get onto it. If something isn't done, the information may be lost for all time.

Well that's about it for the moment. Hoping you are keeping well and the winter has not treated you too badly. Our summer has been very hot and dry.

Sincerely yours,

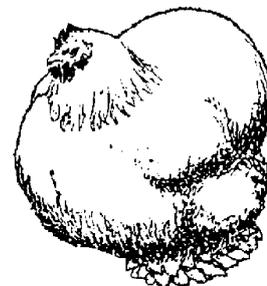
Bill Plant



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54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
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Australia



Amateur Radio
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Mrs Annie Banning-Vogel
poel
Waardenburg - Netherlands

20-2-1985

Dear Mrs Banning,

Thank you for your letter of 21-1-1985 and also your card at Christmas. I'm afraid I've been behind my correspondence and writings over the last few months due to family problems but intend to endeavour to get things back to normal as soon as I can.

I appreciated your comments regarding book 2 of my series. I don't know when I will get more of the books off the ground. It is pretty time consuming putting everything in order as well as being expensive.

Thank you so much for the information contained in your letter. It is very helpful as I was not aware of the facts you have given me. When I do book 3 which will be on the *Gallus* species I will include your information as it will be relevant to book 2. I will give due acknowledgement as to its source.

I have not done book 1. It will deal with the Dinosaurs etc. There is not much doubt now that the Birds descended from the Dinosaurs. I have Darwin's books and numerous books on mendelism. There is no doubt Mendel's experiments were very thorough and he solved the secrets of heredity. I have books by Bateson and Punnett on this subject. They proved Mendel's work as did I think De Vries. It's a pity Mendel's work was not known to Darwin, who was a great observer who perhaps would have risen to greater heights if he had known of Mendel's experiment.

I have based a lot of my writings and thoughts on Darwin, Mendel, Thor Heyerdahl (distribution) and Finsterbusch. However I cannot agree with Darwin that ALL domestic fowl had *Gallus Bankiva* as their origin. I feel there is too much evidence otherwise.

My hope is that someone who reads my book may come up with further information as you have done which will lead to us finding perhaps some answers.

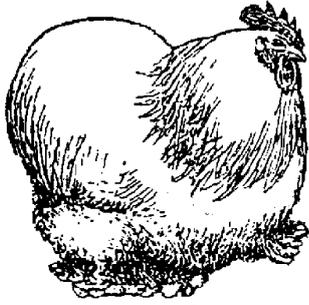
You didn't comment on my theory of the origins of the Araucana chicken. I would appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

Yes, I have seen from the TV reports that it has been a very bad winter in Europe. I'm afraid it wouldn't suit me that 24°C. We don't have snow here fortunately. This summer we have had some very hot weather and very little rain. There have been some very bad forest and grass fires throughout Australia, hot so bad in our immediate area fortunately.

Once again thank you so much for the information you sent me. It is much appreciated.

Regards.

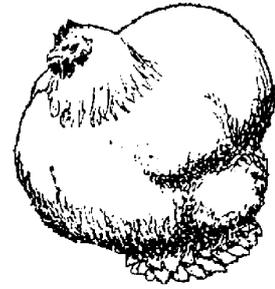
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



Amateur Radio
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**Mrs Sally Rodwell
Whittlesford - Cambridge - England**

10-3-1985

Dear Mrs Rodwell,

Thank you so much for your letter of 9th December and the papers. Congratulations on your paper. It contains some very interesting information. I hope this letter reaches you at Cambridge. You may have already moved out to Hong Kong. I guess this letter would be forwarded on to you if you have moved. Please let me have your address in Hong Kong as I would like to keep in touch.

I am enclosing a photostat from a book by one of our Australian writers who wrote many books of his travels throughout Australia and other parts of the world. I have collected most of his books which are very interesting. He is somewhat of a historian you might say. This information I feel could be of interest to you if you could get across to Taiwan which is not so far from Hong Kong.

Just a couple of weeks ago I was fortunate to get the opportunity to view the private art collection of a chap in Newcastle (20 miles distant from me). It is the only time the collection has been open to the public. It is in his own home and is considered to be one of the best private collection of this kind perhaps anywhere in the world. The value is hard to estimate.

Of interest to me was a couple of 10th century Persian ceramic plates, one of them particularly which had on it design of a fowl, so close to the present standard of the Modern Game Fowl that it was remarkable. He offered to let me photograph it some time in the future. I will endeavour to take the opportunity.

I am pleased to hear that more interest is being taken in the origins of the domestic fowl amongst the British archæologists. There is still a lot to be learnt on the subject, a lot of gaps to fill.

It's unfortunate you will not be able to pursue your work in England with British Academy award but perhaps as they say *one door closes and another opens* and as you speak Chinese this fact will be a big advantage in the Far East and I feel there could be opportunities to carry on your studies, especially if you can get across Taiwan.

You mentioned you would show my book to Don Boothwell of the Institute of Archæology. I thank you for passing the word along. If he would like a copy I would be only too pleased to send him one. Would appreciate some comments from him. I will contact Dr Ridley as you suggest. I thank you for the contact.

I have also obtained the addresses of another couple of contacts one in the US and one in China. Perhaps they may provide further information. Monash University in Melbourne all helps in assisting to find some more answers to fill the gaps of what we know at present.

I hope the next book I can do in the series will be on the *Gallus species*. In it I will add a section from the feedback received from book 2 (*Chicken bone recoveries*).

What is happening is what I had hoped for and is further information on the subject will come forth from other sources. Being here in Australia does in a way isolate you from many of the sources of information. It necessitates making contacts in other parts of the world and endeavour to gather material.

The overall subject of the domestic fowl is really a very comprehensive subject, more so than many people realise and my endeavour is to coalate and hopefully get into print as much as I can on the subject while I am around.

Perhaps I have left it a bit late as I'm coming up to 64 years of age but I'll do what I can while I'm here. I have quite a deal of material to work on. It's getting it together is what takes the time.

Best of luck for the your future in the Far East and please keep in touch.

Bill Plant

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

20-3-1985

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your letter of 20/2/85. I have been thinking it over for a while. And I remembered an article on Araucana in the *National Geographic Magazine* of September 1948 written by Vosburgh under the name *Easter egg chickens*. The Author wrote it because he was fascinated by a earlier large article in the NGM of April 1927 *The races of Domestic Fowl*, 30 pages, by Jull with 67 illustrations and 29 paintings from live by Hashime Murayama. One of the paintings shows 3 Araucanas, rumpless with ear tufts, laying blue eggs.

In the 1948 article it's written about research on the breed by Dr Alexander Wetmore, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Vice-Chairman of the National Geographic Society's Research Committee. I quote:

"The origin of the blue-egg-laying characteristics is unknown. One story is that chickens which landed from a wrecked vessel crossed with the Tinamou, a small South American member of the ostrich tribe, which is virtually tailless and lays colored eggs. However Dr Wetmore, a distinguished ornithologist told me that he believed, this would be biologically impossible. He is convinced that the Araucana like all other American breeds, is derived from chickens imported to the New World from the Old."

One of these days I read *The Chicken Book* written by Page Smith (historian) and Charles Daniel (biologist) in 1975. The story these Americans wrote on Araucana is very interesting. I'll quote:

"We have already assigned the earliest chickens, at least tentatively, to India, the Chinese mainland, Southeast Asia, and, by diffusion over sea-lanes to the Pacific islands. But by the time of the Spanish conquest of Mexico the Incas were thoroughly familiar with chickens and the name of the last Inca, Atahualpa, was the Quechua name for chicken. Thus evidence and common sense are strongly on the side of the *pre-Columbian chicken*. The only question that remains (and one that probably cannot be answered with any certainty) is whether the chicken was indigenous to America, that is to say whether birds closely related to the chicken were domesticated by tribes of the Americas or whether they had been brought across the ocean by Polynesian sailors or even, perhaps, by the Egyptians themselves.

In support of the *indigenous chicken* it might be pointed out that grouse and chickens are so closely related as to be almost indistinguishable in their bone structure. Certainly, the South American Araucanas have a decidedly grouselike appearance.

In addition the Araucanas bear a striking resemblance to Asiatic breeds. The pure Araucanas are rumpless and melanoid (black in pigmentation). I suspect that chickens were in fact brought to the west coast of South America by venturers whose voyages are unrecorded in any historical annals. These birds may very well have mated with native grouse.

What is most striking of all, and perhaps gives the strongest support to the theory of indigenous South American chickens, is the fact that the Araucanas are unique among breeds of chicken in the world for their green and blue eggs. Moreover they take their name from the ruggedly independent Indians of the Chilean mountains who remained remarkably free of western influences until the end of the nineteenth century, when the first Araucana chickens were identified.

Perhaps the last word can be left to José de Acosta, a Jesuit missionary who wrote in 1590: "I must say I was astonished at the Fowls which without doubt were kept there even before the coming of the Spaniards, this being clear by the fact that the natives have names of their own for them, calling a hen *gualpa* and an egg *ronto*."

A later visitor noted: "In the first accounts we have of the conquest, we frequently hear of hens and the name leads us to believe that they were like our own; this, however is not so and only the birds of Paraguay and Tucuman were somewhat similar to ours."

You want me to comment your theory on Araucanas. It is a good theory but I also like the theory in the *Chicken Book*. It is possible to cross a chicken and a common pheasant and have fertile descendants. So, why not a grouse x chicken cross. It is rare and it is possible to get infertile birds, but there are crosses which proofed to be fertile.

The ISBN number of the *Chicken book* is 0-86547-067-7 and the price is 12 dollar.

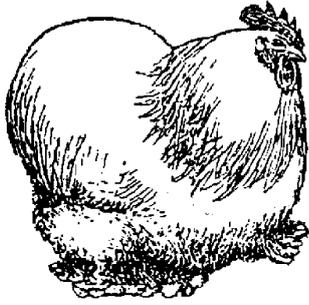
In the old Dutch standard, which I quote earlier, the Araucana are listed under wild fowl. This list covers *G.bankiva*, *G.lafayettei*, *G.sonnerati*, *G.varius*, *G.giganteus* and Araucana. I think to consider Araucanas an original wild breed, which is crossed with Asiatic and Spanish domesticated fowls is also a good theory. You know that the fauna on the different continents is not equal in America, Africa and Australia the development of the fauna is not equal to the development on Eurasia each continent has an own fauna and therefore South American chickens can have developed on their own way and differ from other chickens.

I have the first eggs of the season in the incubator but in spite of the date it is not spring here. We had some snow this morning but now it melted.

Nice that you have your Easter shows and meetings in Australia. Here it is a quiet time, but this week I'll talk about bantams with slides at the poultry club here.

Sincerely, and have a good time there at the other side.

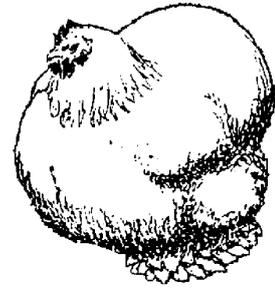
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annie Parving". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Professor Roy Crawford
University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon - Canada

9-4-1985

Dear Mr Crawford,

Foe some years I have been doing private research on the origin, evolution, history and distribution of the Domestic Fowl (Chicken) and recently received a copy of your work *Domestic Fowl* which I believe was contained in Ian Masson's book *Domesticated Animals* published recently.

This came to me from Mrs Sally Rodwell of Cambridge - England (who I think is now domiciled in Hong Kong). Mrs Rodwell also sent me a paper of her own entitled *China's earliest farmers: the evidence from Cishan* which will be published this year in the 5th volume of the *Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association Bulletin* (Australian National University).

I was very interested in your paper and I have obtained myself some of the papers you referred to in your bibliography. A couple of papers I will obtain.

I also regularly correspond with Professor Carter who has tendered further information to me, although he has done very little work on the chicken subject since his paper on pre-Columbian Chickens in *Man across the sea*.

Mrs Rodwell's paper brings forth new material wherein she has done an analysis of Professor Zhou Ben Xiong's work in excavations at Cishan and other sites in Northern China only recently.

Chicken bones in quantity were recovered at these sites the dating of which is around 5000 BC. This will throw a little more light on the origins and early domestication of the chicken.

I myself first wrote and published a book entitled *The Pekin Bantam in Australia* 187 typescript pages (1982), which did touch lightly on early history of the Domestic Fowl in general.

Through my researches in this cause I also collected material which I am using for a series of books on the *Origin* etc etc of the fowl.

I have (1984) completed and published (30 pages) book 2 of the series entitled *Chicken bone recoveries* concerning the informations I was able to find and am now receiving some feedback from this book (which includes Mrs Rodwell's paper).

I had hoped that this would occur for I believe there should be more information around if only it can be located.

I find the whole subject quite fascinating (being a breeder of exhibition fowls) though also frustrating because it entails quite a deal of writing seeking information but enjoying just the same.

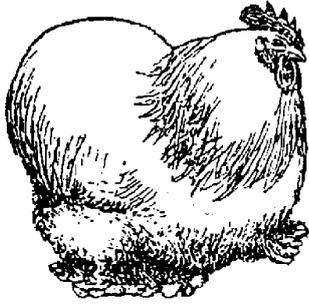
The difficulties with the chicken bone situation is that there appears very little further study is done on the bones recovered: This I consider is important as I firmly believe there were more than one species as Charles Darwin suggested (*Gallus Bankiva*) involved in the evolution of the Domestic Fowl as we know it today. The differences between the Asiatics (Brahma, Langshan, Cochin), the Malay and *Gallus Bankiva* seem too great for just variation.

If you would care to have a copy of my *Chicken Bone* booklet I would be only too pleased to send you one. It may be of interest to you and yours Colleagues.

Hoping to hear from you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

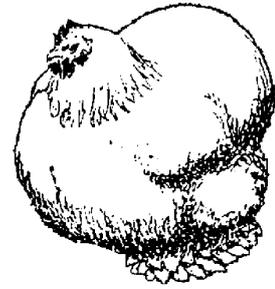
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Professor George Carter
Texas A&M University - College Station- Texas - USA

15-4-1985

Dear Professor Carter,

First I must apologise for not answering your October letter. I have had a number of personal family problems over the past months and consequently my correspondence, writing etc have fallen behind. However I can see the light at the end of the tunnel and my life is getting back near to normal once again.

I thank you for your comments on my *Chicken bone recoveries* and the further information you supplied. Thank you also for correcting the location of Picuris Pueblo as being in the State of New Mexico rather than in Mexico itself.

You spoke of me regarding your paper from *Man across the sea* on the chicken as being invalid speculation. It was not me who thought along these lines. I had only quoted from a personal communication I had received from Dr Roger C.Green, Professor of Prehistory, the University of Auckland, New Zealand. I don't think any of information I have received from yourself and others of this subject is invalid. It all has its place I feel, when all these pieces of information are put together hopefully they will add up to something.

I am hopeful that the information I have put together in the *Chicken Bone* book will indeed encourage others to do further study. I think you and I both agree that further bones recovery is very necessary for us to gain any ground.

I have had some feedback from the book and of special significance was the copy of a paper from Mrs Sally Rodwell of Cambridge, England. It is entitled *China's earliest farmers, the evidence from Cishan*. You will note I mentioned Mrs Rodwell in *Chicken Bone recoveries*. She advises that there is now some interest being shown by British archæologists in the issue of the origins of the domestic fowl.

Her paper covered work of Professor Zhou Ben Xiong who excavated faunal remains from Cishan and other sites in Northern China. Much chicken bone has been recovered and carbon dated around 5000 BC. This would probably be the earliest chicken bone yet recovered and opens up new avenues I would say.

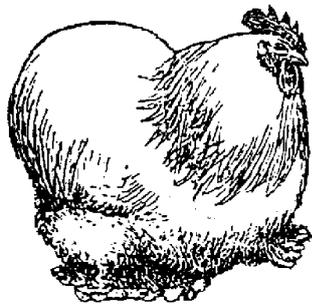
Professor Higham of the University of Otago in New Zealand promised to send me chicken bones recovered in North East Thailand but nothing has arrived as yet. Perhaps he is away on another trip.

Mrs Rodwell is showing my bone notes to a chap at the Institute of Archæology in London whom she feels would be interested so perhaps some more information may come to hand.

I am still continuing with my writing and research hoping to get more people interested in following up the subject of the origins etc of the domestic chicken. If I can do this I will feel that I have achieved something. Hope this letter finds you well, and sorry I've been so long answering. Hoping to hear from again in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

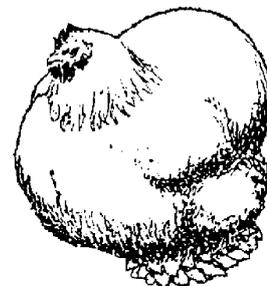
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Mrs Annie Banning-Vogelpoel
Waardenburg - Netherlands

15-4-85

Dear Mrs Banning,

I thank you very much for your informative letter of 20-3-85.

Your reference to the *National Geographic* of 1927 and 1948 cause me to take them off the shelf and look them over and to my amazement found that page 387 and 388 has been torn out of the 1948 Easter Egg chicken article. I had never noticed it before. The page had been taken out before I bought it. I was looking for the bit about Dr Wetmore that you mentioned and it just wasn't there except I can see where it has been torn out. By the way I believe Dr Wetmore is now deceased. Therefore your information is very interesting for me.

I thank you also for the quote from *The Chicken Book* by Smith and Daniel. It is very interesting. I can recall when doing the research on the Pekin Bantam I began looking to the grouse as being possibly involved. From memory I think one variety of grouse has feathered legs. I must check back amongst my books and papers on this point. I am much obliged for this information. It could be quite a possibility grouse x chicken. I will look further into this possibility.

Professor Carter spoke in the chapter on pre-Columbian chicken in *Man across the sea* of the very rapid diffusion of the chicken in South America after the Spanish arrived. It spread so quickly that it is suspect suggesting that there were pre-Columbian *indigenous* chickens in South America.

Thank you for your comment on my Araucana origin theory. I am chasing another lead which may help the theory, a paper by R.G.Somes Jr.(1978b): *Ear tufts: skin structure mutation of the Araucana fowl* - Journal of Heredity - 1969 pag 91-6. My local library is getting a copy for me. I will still find any explanation for the rumplessness.

From F.B.Hutt *Genetics of the fowl* (1949) "it was illustrated by Aldrovandi (1600) and labelled as Persian Fowl". Brown (1906) quoted a correspondent statement that near Liege in Belgium there was a breed called Rumpless, or Hedge Fowls (with no tails). Castellò (1924) while investigating the origin of the Araucano Fowls of Chile found that the Indians of that name preferred rumpless fowls rather than the ones with tails. These identical reports come from two different continents. There are apparently differences between hereditary rumplessness and non genetic, but congenital type which appears sporadically (Landauer, 1978).

However I will have to gather further information as to whether rumplessness is genetically linked to blue egg and pea comb to substantiate my theory.

I do have a book, *Araucana Poulterers Handbook* written by David Caudill (1975). He covered a lot of ground however without going into it I find the subject becomes somewhat confusing. I will have to read it thoroughly.

Yes, the fauna etc from different continents do certainly differ and have their particular traits as you say. I will just keep working along hoping more definite information comes to hand. I find it very satisfying collecting all this information. In the long term someone may unearth some more facts that will give us the answers we are looking for.

OK your weather, we are just starting to feel the coolness of winter, but of course do not have the harsh winter like you do. Have had some lovely days over the past month. So until next time all the best to you.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher

PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222

PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

April 24, 1985

Good morning Bill:

VERY GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU!

With family complications....can appreciate your not writing.

WITH ME....my concern is health. My brother just returned from the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester for surgery. The Doctor found me okay....but from here on, there will be a DOCTOR CHECK*UP ONCE A YEAR! If either my wife, or my health were to be badly affected....the goal of publishing these planned books....could quickly fizzle.

ENCLOSED IS A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM MAINLAND CHINA. This man writing....is with a publishing house. He pursued my question with this information. Was originally referred to him via the US EMBASSY there in China.

NOW * RUSSIA IS THE PROBLEM!

Several letters written to specific "POULTRY PEOPLE" in Russia, have been ignored. What bugs me too....is letters we have sent to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow;...have not been answered.

PRESIDENT KRISTER ECKLUND of the World Poultry Science Association has promised to help. At a special conference he would be talking to TWO POULTRY PEOPLE....from Russia. Perhaps his personal contact / will help. Lets hope so.

WITH SOME COUNTRIES, it is rather obvious they have nothing to offer.

JUST RECENTLY... sent \$36.00 to a publishing firm in FRANCE....to get their leading poultry book.

WILL LOOK FORWARD...to your comments on tools made in Australia. As told you previously, I do not have or raise CHICKENS, but have a number of hobbies.



MR. C.C. YANG

12, LANE NO. 4, - YAN QING ROAD SHANGHAI, CHINA

23rd March 1985

Dear Mr. Loyl Stromberg,

I am very glad that you are interesting in the books I recommended in my last letter. I'll arrange to buy them for you when are issued.

Knowing that a large and significant book, an encyclopaedia - "Poultry of The World" under your compiling and to be published in the future, I wish you will achieve great success. of course it is my pleasure to offer you any of the useful reference materials of Chinese chicken breeds for comprehensiveness and accuracy.

Frankly speaking, as I know, there are few informations on the three breeds - Cochins Langshans and Brahmas, but, one article, named "the past, Present and Future about Selection and Breeding of Langshan" (about four thousand words, which might be for your reference on some aspects, had been published in "Poultry" magazine in 1979. If you are interesting, I'll manage to duplicate or translate it for you: Besides, from card catalogues, I discover an article, named "The History of Chinese Chicken Breeds". If it is valuable, I would like to write to you later.

It is a place name? But, there is no town called this name at Shanghai suburb. May it be denoting chicken weight in catty? Catty is a Kind of Chinese weight unit of which Chinese pronounce very similar to "Chin".

It is needed further reference to answer your questions. I wish you advise me How and When the "Cochin" has originated? Who denominated



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCE

SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

Phone: (306) 966-4128

Fax: (306) 966-4151

April 25, 1985

Dear Mr Plant:

Many thanks for the very interesting letter on origin of chickens. My work of which you have a copy was published as Chapter 42 - *Domestic fowl* in: Mason, I.L., editor, *Evolution of domesticated animals*, Longman, London and New York, 1984, ISBN 0-582-46066-8. I also authored chapters on turkeys, and geese, in that volume.

If you have difficulty in locating the references which I cited in the chicken chapter, I would be pleased to send xerox copies from my files. Certainly some of them were difficult for me to locate.

I am especially interested in whatever information you can pass along concerning Chinese findings. Research workers in the western world are badly handicapped by not having good access to oriental literature. The only reference that I could locate when working on the chicken chapter was the one by Ping-Ti Ho (1977), that consisted of a chapter in the C.A. Reed book *Origins of agriculture*, Mouton: The Hague and Paris. That chapter described chicken bone finds in Northern China which were radiocarbon dated to about 4000 B.P. Unfortunately there was no clear indication in Ho's account whether these finds represented wild chickens or a domestic form, hence my own conclusion that the evidence indicated at least that junglefowl had a much wider distribution in former times than they do at present. I will be very interested in reading Mrs. Rodwell's work when it is published since it probably pertains to this question.

I would be most interested in reading your work on *Chicken bone recoveries* and thank you for offering to send me a copy.

Preparation of the book chapters for Mason was a joy, and a welcome diversion from my usual teaching and research work in single gene genetics and animal genetic resources conservation. My interest continues and I would very much enjoy continuing correspondence with you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R.D. Crawford".

R.D. Crawford, Ph.D.,
Professor



British Museum (Natural History)

Tring Hertfordshire HP23 6AP

Telephone Tring 4181/2/3

Sub-department of Ornithology

29. 4. 85

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your letter concerning the Domestic Fowl. While identifying fossil bones I came on remains of a *Gallus* species in the middle to late Pleistocene of England, not apparently associated with human activity.

I considered that these were not of the same species as the Indian Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* and, as you will see from the enclosed separate, I named the new bird *Gallus europaeus*.

I summarised slightly more complete evidence on truly fossil *Gallus* for a book on domestic fowl in archaeology which is being prepared by Dr Brothwell of the Institute of Archaeology in London.

When I prepared an Atlas of the birds of the Western Palaearctic (Collins 1982) I listed some of the distribution patterns resulting from the Pleistocene glaciations of Eurasia as a whole. In many instances two species occurred, a western and an eastern one, on either side of the cold Tibetan-Altai barrier.

In some instances a third species was also present in the Indian region south of the Himalaya.

In the case of the Junglefowls there appeared to be a pattern like the last, and I commented in the enclosed paper on the apparent absence of the third species in eastern Asia. Sally Rodwell's finding of the junglefowl bones in a Northern Chinese stone-age culture, eight thousand years ago, unconnected with the Indian birds and antedating the assumed domestication of the Red Junglefowl by several thousand years, appears to provide the missing part completing the distributional pattern of these forms. By analogy with other species groups it seemed most likely that these had, in isolation, achieved the rank of separate species.

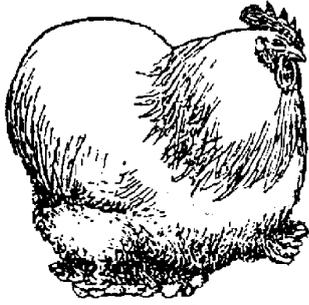
If the European Junglefowl survived the last glaciation, then the finds of very early *Gallus* in Europe might be referable to this species and not, as had been assumed in the past, evidence of the early spread of domesticated Red Junglefowl. It screws up the picture.

If the hypothesis is correct then the full range of domestic breeds at present assigned to *Gallus gallus* might conceal the presence of three separate genotypes or hybrids. I had hoped that Sally Rodwell would have been able to write this up as her Ph. D. thesis but she appears to have run into difficulties.

I would be interested to see your booklet on bones, but as some comments in my paper indicate, a cautious re-appraisal is needed in a number of cases, particularly for 19th century identification.

Yours sincerely,

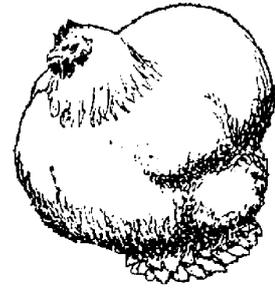
Colin Harrison



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Professor Roy Crawford
University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon - Canada

30-5-1985

Dear Professor Crawford,

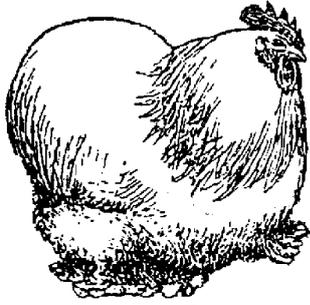
I thank you very much for your very welcome letter of 25th April. I must apologise for the delay in answering your letter but I have just spent some time in hospital having an eye operation which had some complications thus restricting my activities. I have sent you a copy of my *Chicken Bone Recoveries* under separate cover by surface mail. It will take a little time to reach you per that medium but should arrive OK in due time. I may take you up on your offer of copies of some of your references if I experience any difficulties. I will try through our channels out here first. Thanks so much for your offer. I would be most interested Ping-Ti Ho's paper as I believe lots of our answers may come from China and as you say the Oriental literature is not easy to come by. I have written recently to a suggested contact on mainland China but as yet received no reply.

I received a photostat from a book from the University of Tokyo some years ago but it is in Japanese (old style I believe). If you have any means of getting it translated I would be only too pleased to send you a copy. I have no way of knowing whether it contains any useful information. It's the old story regarding Ping-Ti Ho's find. No intensive further study on the bones recovered. Further study is necessary for us to obtain answers.

If you have any difficulty obtaining Mrs Rodwell's paper I can get a copy of the relevant chicken information. I think these discoveries in China throw new light on the early history of the Chicken. We may have to revise our thinking to some extent. I believe much more interest is being shown by British Archæologists in the origins of the Domestic Fowl. This is most encouraging. I recently received a letter and paper from Dr Colin Harrison of the British Museum. Fossil remains recovered in England and studied by Dr Harrison was considered by him to be a different species of Jungle Fowl which he named *Gallus europæus*. His paper came from *Journal of Archæological Science* 1978, 5, 373-376 and may be of interest to you. I noted your interest in genetics. This is another of the subjects I am interested with regard to the Domestic Fowl. I have for many years been involved in the breeding of domestic fowl for exhibition and some few years back did some practical experimental work on introducing the Columbian pattern into the Pekin (Cochin Bantam). I did a paper on my work. A close friend of mine did work on making Leg-Bars and Anco-Bars. There is also a paper on his experiments. We had difficulty finding any information on the Anco-Bars. The only paper was written by Lamoreux. However my friend did meet with some success. If you would like a copy of these two papers I could send them to you.

The study of genetics is very fascinating. I only wish I had begun study on the subject 20 years ago. I am now of 64 years of age so don't think I'll find time to get too involved. I have the literature, Punnett, Bateson, Hutt and others, but not having had an academic background find some difficulties in understanding the finer points. Your suggestion of continuing our correspondence is very acceptable and I will look forward to doing so. So hoping to hear from you in the not distant future, sincerely yours,

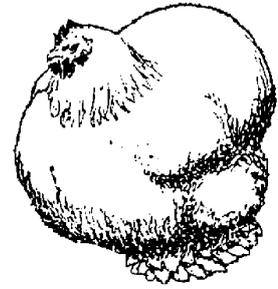
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Professor George Carter
Texas A&M University - College Station - Texas - USA

20-6-1985

Dear Professor Carter,

I recently received a photostat copy of an article entitled *Before Columbus* which appeared originally in the *Ellsworth American* and was reprinted in the *ABA Quarterly Newsletter* and written by yourself in which you discussed my writings. Thank you very much for the write up. It gave me great satisfaction to know that the work of collecting material for my researches on the origins of the domestic chicken does have some value.

I have received quite an amount of feedback from my *Chicken Bone Recoveries* most of it very valuable and interesting. This will also be published hopefully later this year as a supplement to the next book of which I am preparing the manuscript at the moment. This latest book will cover the *Gallus species* or as much material as I can gather.

I am putting forward a theory that the Bankivoids - Malays - Asiatics (Brahma, Cochin, Langshan) are different species probably stemming from an extinct ancestor but following different lines of descent. We need to get those archæologists studying the chicken bones intensely to get the answers. By the way, what type of magazine is the *Ellsworth American* you might let me know when next writing.

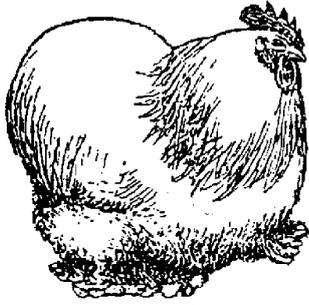
I am a bit handicapped at the moment as I recently had an eye operation, which normally is a simple operation. However mine developed a complication which may take some time to correct itself.

I can however still write. I'm not sure whether I told you previously that chicken bones have been recovered in recent times by Professor Zhou around Cishan, Northern China, dated around 5000 BC. This rather throws a lot of the earlier information into confusion but does I think throw more light on the subject.

Hope you are keeping well and looking forward to hearing from you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

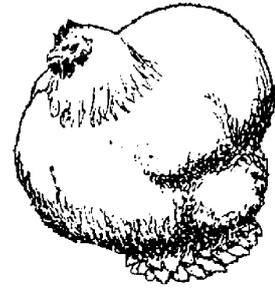
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Loyl Stromberg
Pine River - Minnesota - USA

21-6-1985

Dear Loyl,

Thank you for your letter and enclosure from China of 24th April. Once again I'm late answering and my apologies. I will tell you of this shortly.

First of all I'm sorry to hear of your brother's problem. I do hope everything is OK with him. A friend of mine recently had surgery (a lung removed). He is OK at the moment but he had to spend some 5 weeks in Sydney for the treatment. He hopes to have the all clear with one week or so. They are in the process of building new modern unit for after care at a hospital in Newcastle 20 miles from here and it should be in operation shortly. They have been morning in the equipment only this week. Glad to hear your report OK.

The reason for my lateness in answering is that I have been in hospital (early May) to have a cataract removed from my eye and a lens implant. It is normally a simple operation and there are hundreds of operations being performed. However I developed complications after the operation. There was a haemorrhage behind the eye.

I had to return to hospital to have more work done as there is still a doubt whether the sight will be as good as it should be. The doctor just couldn't say whether I would have any sight in it or not - I may still have to go to Sydney to have a scan. However the sight is coming back. My other eye was never good but I can need. I write OK but can't drive my car at the moment . I have to go back to the doctor next Tuesday. It had me worried.

The mainland China is good. I have written to a contact in China. No reply yet, but hoping.

Do you have enough from the tape I sent you on the Australian breeds or do you want more?

A friend of mine is researching on woodworking tools made in Australia. I have been speaking to him tonight on the phone. He tells me Ictan wood chisels, Cyclone make carpenters hammers, Hytex make tomahawks Australian made. He is making further enquires. Hope you have some luck with Russian contacts might be hard though.

I'm working on manuscript for next book *Gallus species* with a supplement from the feedback on *Chicken Bone* book which has been very interesting. Get all you can from China. I think it should tell is a lot.

Will write again shortly Loyl.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant



25th June, 1985

Dear Mr Plant,

We have not yet collected any coelurosaurs. These are the group to which Archaeopteryx is most closely linked. Indeed more than one skeleton of Archaeopteryx has been classified as a small coelurosaure for years, until the faint impressions of feathers were noticed.

It seems most likely that feathers were one of the earlier bird characteristics to develop, and the skeletal changes followed. However, none of our material bears upon this interesting investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Curator of Geology.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

CLAYTON VICTORIA AUSTRALIA 3168

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

CHAIRMAN: Professor B. E. Hobbs

TELEPHONE 03 541 0811 EXT 3791 - TELEGRAMS: Monashuni Melbourne - TELEX: Monash AA 32691

26 June 1985

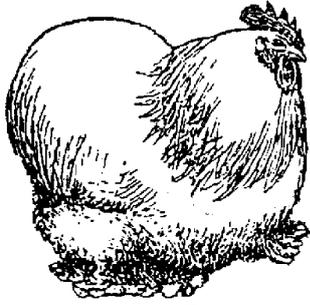
Dear Bill:

Thanks for your letter of long ago. Yes, I would like another copy of your chicken-bone book.

One other person you might like to contact is Mr. Hou, Lian Hai at the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology, Academia Sinica, P.O. Box 643, Beijing, People's Republic of China. He may be able to give you some information on SE Asian excavations.

All the best,

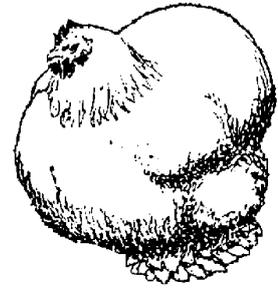
Pat



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Dr Pat Rich
Department of Earth Sciences
Monash University - Clayton - Victoria

28-6-1985

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your letter of 26th June. Good to hear from you again also thanks for the address. Fine business. He is the bloke I want to get to.

However yesterday I had my first break through to mainland China, receiving a reply from Dr Han Defen (who you recommended). He is a friend of Professor Zhou Ban Xiang who did a paper on the excavations at Cishan North China where he did the excavating. It's a very important paper, as the material (chicken bones etc) were dated around 5000 BC. I have the analysis of this work by Sally Rodwell (Cambridge).

However Dr Han Defen is sending me out a copy of Zhou's paper as well as copies of photographs of earthenware models of chickens also found in the area (dated around 3000 BC I think). These discoveries open up new fields and will be very helpful in my study.

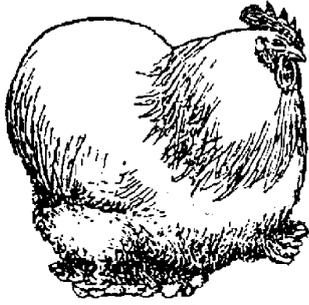
Hou,.... Lian Hai is at the same Institute as Han Defen so I should be able to make contact OK. By the way Dr Han Defen asked me to pass his best regards to you.

Hope you are keeping well and by the way is it your husband that recovered the fossil etc down there. I noted it in one of the magazines.

Enclosed is a copy of the *Chicken Bone* book. Have just about finished the manuscript for the next book *Gallus species* which will include a supplement to the bone book. All the best now.

Sincerely yours,

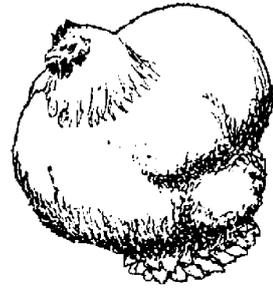
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Mrs Mary Wade
Curator of Geology - Queensland Museum
Gregory Terrace - Qld

28-6-1985

Dear Mrs Wade,

Thank you very much for your letter of 25th June in answer to my enquiry re the fossil recoveries in Queensland. Also many thanks for your information re relationship of *Archæopteryx* and the *Coelurosaurus*.

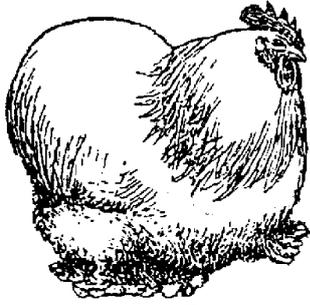
I would be appreciated if at any time information along these lines turns up amongst any of the recoveries which may be made in the future you might advise me.

I am enclosing a copy of *Chicken Bone Recoveries* (1984) which may be of interest to you and some of your colleagues. I might add that since publishing this book more important information on the subject has come to hand. This will be published as a supplement to my next book in the series which is entitled the *Gallus species*, hopefully before the end of the year.

Once again many thanks for your attention to my enquiry.

Sincerely yours,

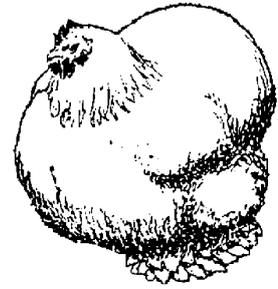
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Professor Charles Higham
University of Otago - Dunedin - New Zealand

30-6-1985

Dear Professor Higham,

You will recall I corresponded with you some time back regarding chicken bone recoveries, and last year I sent you a copy of *Chicken Bone Recoveries* being part of the study I am doing on the origin, evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl.

I hadn't heard from you and was wondering whether it arrived OK. I would like to have your comments on it.

You did mention in one of your letters that you may send some of the chicken bone you recovered in North East Thailand over to me. It would be interesting to do some study on it in an endeavour to ascertain the actual species it may belonged it to.

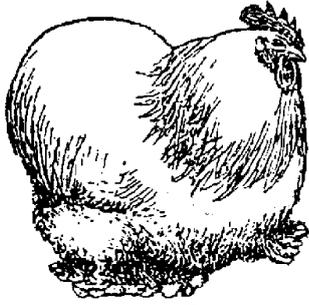
You gave me a Canadian address of Jenny Cave who did a paper on the dating of chicken bone in the Pacific area. I wrote but received no reply from her, the letter was not returned to me. Would there be any possibility of obtaining a copy of her paper? I would like to study it.

I have received feedback in the way of information from my chicken bone book, some of it I feel very important. You are probably aware of the recoveries around Cishan in Northern China by Professor Zhou Ban Xiang in recent times, animals, chickens etc, the dating around 5000 BC.

I am in process of preparing the manuscript for my next booklet entitled the *Gallus species*. This will include a supplement containing the further information I have received regarding chicken bone recoveries. I hope to publish this before the end of the year. Hoping to Hear from you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

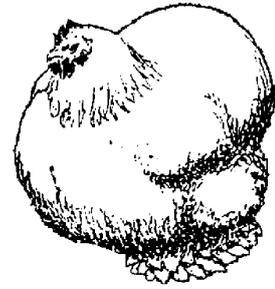
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John Skinner
University of Wisconsin - Madison - USA

3-7-1985

Dear Professor Skinner,

Thought it was time I dropped you a line to let you know of my research progress. I hope you received the books I sent you some time back: *Origin, Evolution, History & Distribution of the Domestic Fowl*, *Chicken Bones Recoveries*. I would appreciate any comment you may have on it, and perhaps there may be something you can add to the information contained in it. Since publishing it last year and sending a few copies out I have received some quite important feedback from it, which I will include as a supplement in the next book of the series entitled *Gallus species*, the manuscript of which I have almost completed.

Of recent times there has been chicken bone recoveries in Northern China, dated around 5000 BC which throws new light on the Origins etc. of the Domestic Fowl. I have some of the relevant information concerning these finds and have established contact with mainland China. My contact is with Dr Han Defen of the Institute of Vertebrate Palæontology and Anthropology in Beijing who has promised to send me further information and a copy of the photographs of earthenware chicken models dated 3000 BC from this same area. This should prove very interesting. These discoveries do sort of throw some of the earlier writings on the origins, movements etc. of early domestic fowl into a little confusion. It would be most helpful if it could be definitely established what species of chicken these new recoveries belonged to it.

I noted in *Poultry Press* that Fred Jeffrey of the ABA is looking towards retiring from his ABA position as Secretary. I feel he has done a very good job while he has been there. Do you know anything of Frank Gary? I have been corresponding with him for some years, but although I have written to him some letter time ago, haven't received anything from him for some time. I realise he is getting on in years & his eyesight has failed.

Hoping you are keeping well yourself and would enjoy hearing from you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

Department of Poultry Science

1675 Observatory Drive

MADISON, WI 53706

608-262-9764/1243

July 11, 1985

Dear Mr. Plant:

Yes, I received your book on the *Origin, Evolution and Distribution of Domestic Fowl and Chicken Bone Recoveries*. I must confess that I glanced briefly at it, wrote down a book review which I published in the *American Poultry Historical Society's* newsletter and have intended to go back and read it in greater detail. As of now I have not done so. I think you have taken on a tremendous project there to collect and consolidate some very interesting material. I'm certainly glad to see you do it. It is going to be a great building block when you get it all put together. It sounds like your contact in China has been quite beneficial to you and I trust you will be able to hold that party's interest over a period of time because I believe a lot of things are just beginning to open up in China.

The 1985 edition of the *American Standard of Perfection*, again in color, is on the presses. I've been quite involved in getting that thing put to rest.

I've also been very busy trying to get my own affairs in order prior to retiring in September of this year. In that connection, I am attempting to catalogue and classify and sort through some 16,000 pieces of poultry literature in my basement. There are obviously some duplicates there which I will be offering to whoever is particularly interested. If you have some friends that are collecting poultry literature, you might have them drop me a line indicating what they are specifically interested in. Should I come across it, I will be glad to contact them.

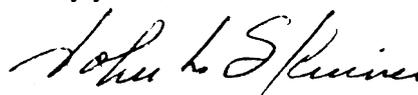
You raised the question regarding the American Bantam Association and Fred Jeffrey. Yes, Fred is stepping down after 10 years. He's done an excellent job of being the prime mover in the American Bantam Association. I have been contacted relative to being Ns successor but I have promised myself that I'd get current with more of these little personal jobs of mine than I am at the moment before I take on any additional projects.

Mr Gary is a very hard-working individual but of very advanced age. He is hampered by being almost totally blind. I think this is a case of the American Bantam Association would do well to get Mr. Gary to train a successor but enable him to step down gracefully knowing that somebody else would be filling his shoes. I sort of have the feeling that after a person has done a job he is entitled to do a bit of kibitzing from the sideline. I think maybe that is the position Mr. Gary should take at this time because he has certainly given more than expected service to the American Bantam Association. No organization should get the feeling that it is dependent on one individual to make it go so we do need to think about some turnover from time to time.

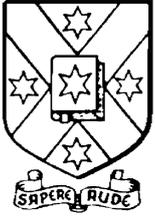
I'm not attempting to raise very many chicks this year but I do have a few little Cochins to command my attention from time to time. Now that they are about half grown, they are as you know in some of their cutest stages of development.

Did I send you a copy of the 1984 revision of my Bantam circular which is NCR #209. If not, I'll be glad to send it to you as I feel that our artists in ag journalism at the University of Wisconsin did a rather nice job of copying the likeness of several breeds of bantams. Drop me a line when you have time and perhaps in the future I'll be able to do a little better job of staying current with our correspondence. It is always a pleasure to hear from you.

With best personal regards, I am sincerely yours,



John L. Skinner
Poultry and Small Animal Specialist



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Anthropology Department

Box 56 Dunedin New Zealand

19 July 1985

Dear Mr Plant:

I have forwarded your letter onto Professor Higham in Thailand (where he is at present conducting an excavation). I told him I would try to find a copy of Jenny Cave's paper on the dating of chicken bone in the Pacific area.

In this respect I have spoken with her ex-Supervisor/lecturer, Dr Foss Leach, who informed me that the paper which you require was a stage 3 essay and not really meant for circulation.

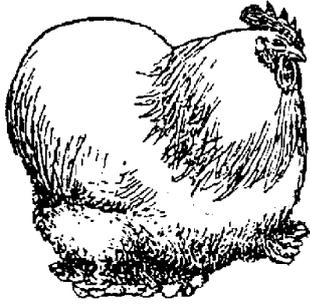
I have contacted her parents here in Dunedin regarding her address (just in case you were given an incorrect address or an old one) which is:

Meadowlane Road
Box 1028 RR No. 1
Cumberland KOA ISO
Ontario
CANADA

I hope you receive a reply from Jenny Cave the next time you write to her.

Yours sincerely,

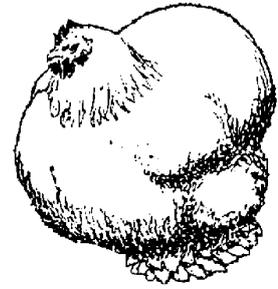
Lynn Marsh
Anthropology Secretary



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NSW
Australia*



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**Mr Lynn Marsh
Secretary - Anthropology Department
University of Otago - Dunedin - New Zealand**

24-7-1985

Dear Mr Marsh,

Thank you for your letter of 19th July and the information contained in it. Also thanks for forwarding my letter onto Professor Higham. Hope he makes some interesting recoveries in Thailand.

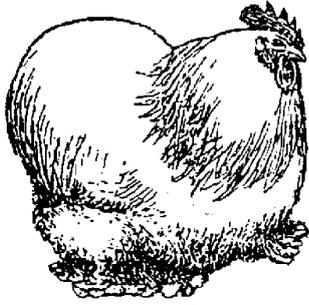
You might make a note for him for when he returns that if he has any information relevant to my studies he might let me know. It would be appreciated.

Thank you for your efforts in locating Jenny Cave's address. It is different to the address I previously wrote to so I will try again. I would like to get in touch with Miss Cane.

If the essay is not for publication, she may however be able to assist with some information. Once again your assistance in this matter is most appreciated, I can assure you.

Sincerely yours,

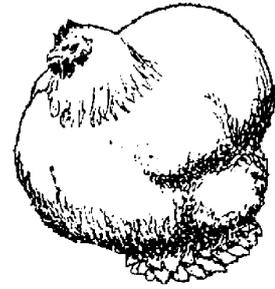
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Loyl Stromberg
Pine River - Minnesota - USA

24-7-1985

Dear Loyl,

The *Pea-Fowl* book arrived today for which I thank you very much. I have only had time to seen through but can see it is a must for any Pea-Fowl fancier.

The colour plates are excellent and the aver all information very good. I will endeavour to publicise it out here. Will do a review for our *Fanciers Gazette* and also one in our Pekin Bantams Club Newsletter might get you a few customers - can't guarantee anything.

I will contact people I know near here who run a small wild life park. They may be interested in obtaining a copy. Congratulations on your effort.

I have made a contact in China at the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology at Beijing (Peking). it is a very important one for me. It would not serve your purpose for your Encyclopaedia but I am working on that and may have something for you a little later on.

The chap I have contacted has sent me a paper on the discovery of chicken bones dated at 5000 BC which predates earlier bone recoveries, apart from fossil remains. He is also sending further material. I well keep your informed. I think the situation with mainland China is becoming better. I saw Ronald Regan welcoming the Chinese Leaders to Washington on the TV news tonight. I will do what I can to get info for you.

I am still having problems with my eye after the operations. May still have to go to Sidney for Laser treatment eventually. However I believe it will be OK in the long term. I am able to drive my car again around town but wouldn't venture in to real heavy traffic.

I have almost completed the manuscript for the next book *The Gallus species* with a supplement containing the information received since the *Chicken Bone* book went out.

I have a lot of very important information for this supplement.

Hope you are keeping well and thanks once again for the look.

Sincerely yours,

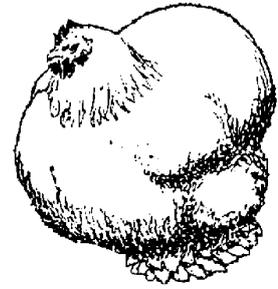
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John Skinner
University of Wisconsin - Madison - USA

31-7-1985

Dear John,

Received your newsy letter and nice to hear from you. OK regarding the *Chicken Bone* book. Would appreciate a photostat copy of your review of it from the *Poultry Historical Society's* newsletter and no you didn't send me a copy *NCR # 209 - 1984 revision of Bantam circular*. This would also be appreciated.

Yes, the *Origin, evolution* etc etc is as you say a pretty heavy project but I am plugging away at it. My aim is to collect what material I can, add to it a few conclusions of my own, then publish it and hope that someone who reads it can add a little more. This in fact is what is happening as I have received quite a deal of feedback since I sent out the *Chicken Bone* book to various people etc. I have almost completed the manuscript for the next book in the series *The Gallus species* with a supplement of the extra chicken bone information.

So far my contact on mainland China has been very good. She has sent me a copy of the paper regarding the chicken bone recovered over there in recent times, photographs as well. This bone, dated around 5000 BC predates anything else already dug up. Therefore a lot of rethinking will be necessary on the earlier recoveries. It is quite an important discovery. The chap I have contact with Dr Han Defen of the Institute of Vertebrate Palæontology & Palæoanthropology in Beijing was a classmate of Professor Zhou Ben Xian who wrote the paper and did the recoveries. She has also promised to send me copies of photographs of earthenware models of chickens dated around 3000 BC. These should be interesting.

Some of the paper is in Chinese characters but I have organised one of our local medical practitioners who is Chinese to do the translation for me. We have quite a number of medical doctors in Australia of Chinese, Pakistani and Indian origins.

As far as I can ascertain at this stage the recoveries in China belonged to the Red Junglefowl and according to measurements given comparisons would support this. However I think very intense study should be done on the bones to be sure of this.

I have also made contact with Dr Colin Harrison of the British Museum (Department of Ornithology) in England. He has identified a new species from recoveries in England which he named *Gallus Europæus*, very similar to *bankiva*, but there is a difference apparently. These recent recoveries screw up the picture somewhat as against earlier writings but do begin to fill in some gaps, which is good. It's quite exciting actually to have this information coming to hand.

Yes, I think the situation with mainland China is easing for I saw Ronald Regan welcoming the Chinese President to China on the TV news just the other day. I think China holds many of the answer we are looking for.

As you will note in my chicken book I have listed the aspects of the overall subject I hope to cover. Amongst them is *Later History of the Chicken*. In that book I will endeavour to cover the history in the different continents etc.

Although I do not have a copy of *The American Poultry History* I feel the history from your country would be adequately covered in that book, so rather than delve into it, when I come to that point I will refer my readers to *The American Poultry History*. I am going to ask Mrs Banning Vogelpoel of the Netherlands if she will do the chapter on European History. She is well versed on the history etc from that area.

With regard to Fred Jeffrey I have observed over the years the work he has been doing with the ABA. I guess he is in his seventies now and I have been corresponding with quite a long time and I think he was around 64 when he took on the job. He has been most helpful with advice on colour breeding of which he has an extensive knowledge. I guess as you say you need a little time to get your own affairs up to date when you retire. I retired some years back and am now 64. I could do with 8 days in the week to do all I want to do and the days aren't long enough even then.

I have also corresponded with Frank Gary for some years. He first wrote to me requesting information on the Australian indigenous breeds, as unfortunately in Australia we don't have a national organisation as you do in the States (APA+ABA). I provided him with the information he was looking for and he used it to compile a standard for the Australian Game, Australian Pit Game and Langshan (which is different to your Langshan) and Australorp Bantams, using our standard which he put into the American format. We also cooperated compiling a suggested standard for the Australian Pekin Bantam, the counterpart of your Cochin Bantam. I published this suggested standard in my book. The British Standard is still used in Australia but it's a little but crazy in lots of ways and not very specific. I like the American format dealing with both male & female.

I have a very high regard for Mr Gary when it comes to standards. He has a very forthright approach and he gave me which I think was a bit of very good advice early in the peace when he said: *Just go right ahead and do it, don't fiddle around & don't worry about the cynics.*

I followed this advice when I published this suggested *Pekin Standard* and also of recent times when I was delegated by the Pekin Bantam Club of NSW of which I am heavily involved to research the material for a colour standard for Black Red - Wheaten - Blue Red - Brown Red & Birchen. We were requested to set up guidelines by some of our members as these colours are now being exhibited in Australia.

I had to do some heavy research but eventually came up with a result which satisfied our committee. We went ahead and got it on the track and published it as our Specialist Club recommended standard for these colours. We have had very little adverse comment but of no consequence.

Mostly the comment has been good. Our move is following Mr Gary's advice i.e. just go ahead and do the job. We will now be working on all the colours for the Pekin. I might add the British Standard was of no use at all in my endeavours. They have no description for the Blue Red at all. They talk of a Birchen Duckwing. What this is I wouldn't know and from enquiries I have made amongst some of our foremost OEG breeders can't get an answer either a Birchen is crow winged (i.e. no markings in primaries or secondaries) whilst a Duckwing's primaries & secondaries are marked to form a wing bay when the wing is closed. In my opinion a Birchen & a Duckwing are two different ball games. I can't see how the two can be linked together.

I think as you do that someone should be trained by Mr Gary to take over for his knowledge of the subject should be passed on. I haven't heard from him for quite awhile. I knew that he was well on in years and his eyesight has failed. I think he has to depend on his son in law to write his letters and his house helper to read his mail. I certainly have enjoyed corresponding with him and he has been most helpful with his advice.

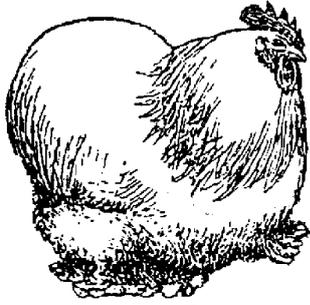
I will send with this a copy of the *Standard* I have been discussing. Would appreciate your comments. I do have a friend of mine in Queensland who is busily collecting Poultry books. His interests are mainly in Game Fowl and Cockfighting. I will give him your address and he can write to you know.

I'm afraid I have rambled on a bit this time but trust you will bear with me.

Hoping you are keeping well. Please let me know your private address as I would like to keep up correspondence after your retirement.

Sincerely yours,

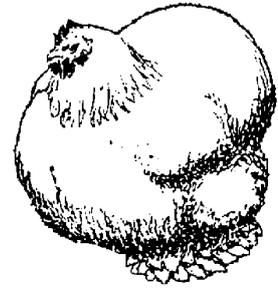
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**Prof Stanley J. Olsen - Dept of Anthropology
University of Arizona - Tucson**

5-8-1985

Dear Professor Olsen,

Last year I sent you a copy of book 2 *Chicken bone recoveries* part of the series. I am writing and publishing on the *Origin, evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl*. I hope you received it in good order. I haven't received any reply from you regarding it and thought possibly you may have been away on further expeditions as I know this does occur with you.

If you have received the book OK, any comments you may care to make would be appreciated. Also you may have further information relevant to my subject that has come to hand since I last heard from you.

I have now almost completed the manuscript for the next book in the series entitled *The Gallus species* and hope to publish it before the end of 1985. This book will also include a supplement covering the further information I have obtained in feedback from the *Chicken Bone* book some of which is quite startling.

Of recent times I have been corresponding with Mrs Sally Rodwell of Cambridge, England, now domiciled in Hong Kong, who did a paper analysing the work of Professor Zhou Ben Xiang around Cishan in Northern China. I have also obtained a copy of Professor Zhou's paper *Amongst animals etc* quite on amount of chicken bone was recovered. This material is dated around 5000 BC!

This predates other earlier recoveries so it will probably need some reassessing of the earlier writings on the subject.

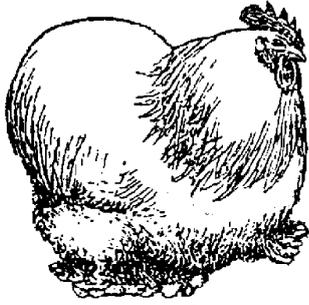
You are probably aware of this information. I will be including it in the supplement of this next book as I feel it is most important material.

I have been most encouraged by the feedback I received from the *Chicken bone* book for I always felt there was much more information around than what I had been able to collect. This has proved correct.

Hoping you are keeping well and hope to hear from you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely yours,

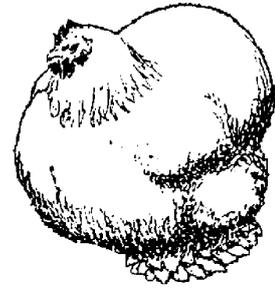
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Professor George Carter
Texas A&M University - College Station- Texas - USA

6-8-1985

Dear Professor Carter,

Received your letter of may 11th a couple of days ago on 31st July. It came per surface mail which accounts for the length of time in transit. Good to hear from you once again. I wrote to you on the 20th June. That letter will probably be waiting for you when you return from Maine in September as well as this one. Answering your May 11th letter. As you mentioned in your article *Before Columbus* in the *Ellesworth American* in these type of studies we have to be a bit flexible with our thinking and as you mentioned in your letter *people can get stuck in academic ruts and react with anger at the people that grimp out of the ruts.*

With these recent discoveries in North China of chicken bone dated 5000 BC I guess we will have to jump out the ruts. These bones predate anything previously dug up by about 1500 years. I have made a contact with a chap at the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology in Beijing (Peking) China. He has sent me a copy of the paper of the North China recoveries (photographs of leg bones etc also). I have made arrangements with a local Chinese medical doctor here who is going to do the translation for me, probably next week. This is a very important discovery I feel. Professor Higham of the University of Otago in New Zealand is in Thailand again doing some digging, some might get some more information from him later. He promised to send me bones from the first dig there some years back.

I have almost completed the manuscript for my next treatise in the series entitled *The Gallus species*. This will also contain a supplement on the chicken bone book as a lot more information has come to hand since I published it last year. You certainly have a busy time coming up between now and Christmas with your trips to Massachusetts and Utah. Glad your heart surgery went OK. I have to go to Sydney the week after next to have laser treatment on my eye. Hopefully it will come good in time. I am only 64 but hope to keep going awhile yet as I have plenty of writing to do.

Thanks for the chart at the bottom of your letter on the movement and the interchange of fruit, animals, plants etc between the continents. Will probably use it when I get onto the Distribution book. Well, that's it for the moment. Always good to hear from you. Take care of yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

Department of Poultry Science

1675 Observatory Drive

MADISON, WI 53706

608-262-9764/1243

August 12, 1985

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your very interesting letter. I'm in sort of a hurry with schedule of judging of agricultural fairs this time of year so this will be short.

Enclosed is a copy of the *American Poultry Historical Society* newsletter where I referred to your book #2. Also, enclosed is a copy of the recent Bantam circular I mentioned to you. We also have a new one out on waterfowl. If you are interested, I can send you a copy of that.

Under separate cover I'm sending you a copy of *American Poultry History 1823-1973*. Please accept it with my compliments.

Sincerely yours,



John L. Skinner
Poultry and Small Animal Specialist

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

28-8-1985

Dear Bill,

Just a quick note with the enclosed paper where I show the *Pattern* gene is responsible for the pencilled and *autosomal barred* phenotypes.

In other words the gene which turns the Black Red Male into a Black-tailed Red Male (Db) also changes pencilling into transverse barring. I have submitted a series of papers on plumage patterns to *British Poultry Science*, and only hope they approve.

Ron Wright of South Australia invited me to judge at their show next year, but regretfully I had to decline, so even though I would like to have seen the birds down under, and meet the fanciers I couldn't justify the personal cost.

I hope you get cracking with the breeding side again, that is where I get most pleasure.

My wife has been appointed Secretary of the Poultry Club of Great Britain so there certainly is some poultry matters at this home. She has been doing the job series last November and quite likes it. I hope you like the papers.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clive".



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCE

SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

Phone: (306) 966-4128

Fax: (306) 966-4151

August 30, 1985

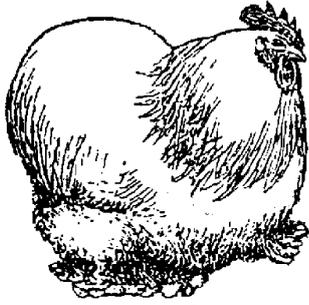
Dear Mr Plant:

Many thanks for your letter of 30 May 85 and for a copy of your manuscript on chicken bone recoveries. I have now had an opportunity to read the manuscript. I enjoyed it very much and wish that I had had access to it when preparing the review chapter for Mason's book on evolution of domesticated animals. You have done some remarkable sleuthing and have been marvellously successful in gaining access to some very obscure documents. I can find no general fault with your interpretations. As you clearly indicate, all of the evidences are fragmentary at best and firm conclusions are not warranted at this time. Let us hope that with passing time more pieces of evidence will accumulate so that eventually firm conclusions can be reached. I have no further information on the topic beyond that given in Mason's book. But can pass along comments on a couple matters.

A former graduate student from Chile is interested in the blue egg and ear tuft traits and in their association with indigenous Chilean chickens. She has either returned to a faculty position in Chile or will be soon. She wants to do some local sleuthing and perhaps with time she may be able to extend our knowledge. She told me that the Araucana people are extinct - they strongly resisted authority of the Spanish in the early days of colonization; to solve the problem, the Spanish granted colonizing rights to a group of rough tough Germans and there soon were no Araucana people. She told me that the blue egg trait is presently very common in local chicken stocks of Chile but she did not know about the ear tuft trait, I continue to wonder whether some important clues might be found in relation to single gene characteristics. Thus far I have found no evidence that the blue egg trait occurred historically other than in South America. I have heard that the mutation might have occurred independently within this century in Scandinavia but this has not been documented. Comb type variation raises some questions. My own observations are that the mutation to rose comb is Mediterranean and the mutation to pea comb is south-east Asian. Combination of the two gives walnut comb, which is currently characteristic of Malay chickens, but I wonder how long they have been walnut-combed. One of the genetic complications is that rose comb is not easily fixed in a population; homozygous rose comb males are effectively sterile, heterozygotes are fully fertile and thereby ensure that the single comb condition remains within a population. Pea comb reached Egypt very early, and my interpretation as given in the Mason book is that this was an exotic introduction which did not persist. When did rose comb reach the Far East? I wonder if it was very recently and was inserted into Malays only a short while ago. It is unfortunate that we have no record of comb type in the first Araucanas described in the technical literature. Linkage with pea comb and blue egg may be a clue, but the linkage is not complete and recombination is fully possible; as for instance, the research flock of Araucanas with which I have been working has both blue egg pea comb individuals and blue egg single comb birds.

I expect to be undertaking a very major writing assignment in the next several years and will have occasion again to consider origins and dispersal as part of that work. And so I am especially happy to have had the opportunity to read your work. I hope you will keep me informed of any future developments. Yours very truly,

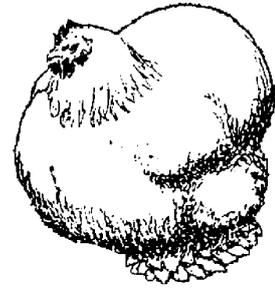
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Cranford".



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
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John Skinner
University of Wisconsin - Madison - USA

14-9-1985

Dear John,

Received your letter and 2 enclosures for which I thank you very much. Yes, the waterfowl booklet would be most acceptable. It could prove handy for reference although I am not a waterfowl man myself. I really appreciate you sending me a copy of *American Poultry History 1823-1973*. I will be most indebted to you, I can assure you.

OK on your judging appointment at the moment. I have done a little judging but will not be doing any more. I'm afraid I don't have the temperament for it and apart from that my eyesight is not good enough, I had a cataract removed from one of my eyes some four months ago which had complications and I'm still having problems. I can't expect to get a great amount of sight in it unfortunately. As I think I told you I am working on the next book *Gallus species*. I will have the supplement to it ready shortly which covers the further chicken bone information I will send you a copy of the supplement when it is ready. The whole book should be ready by Christmas. The information I received from the China connection throws the earlier documentation on the origins into chaos as it is dated around 5000 BC.

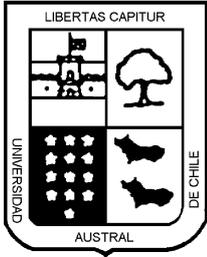
I have made an approach through my local parliamentary member to the Federal Government for some of financial assistance to continue my research and publishing. However I'm not very confident but no harm in trying. They are pretty hard to crack. I had no luck with my State Government.

I noted with interest the activities of the APAS which is very commendable. There was anyone some few years back tried to do something of that nature in Australia. However it appears to have fizzled out which is unfortunate. At the time I offered assistance as I have some 800 copies of a newspaper called *Poultry* which was published in Sydney from 1918 to 1970. If I don't run out of time I intend to do histories of the four breeds made up in Australia using these papers as a source. They contained some very good information both for the commercial industry and the fancier.

If this information is not recorded it may be lost for all time. I'm afraid in Australia it's hard to get someone working on these sort of things. Of interest perhaps to you is that the recently formed Plymouth Rock Club of Australia have compiled and published a standard for the Plymouth Rock in Australia. If you would like a copy I will photostat it for you. They have the American Standard as a basis for they borrowed some of my earlier American Standards while compiling their Standard.

We of the Pekin Bantam Club of the NSW are in the process at the moment of setting up the colour standard for the Pekin (Cochin) Bantam in Australia. When we finish the colour we will revise the standard (British is used at the moment) overall for the Australian Pekin. The copy of your letter inadvertently came with the other material so am enclosing it for your file. Once again thanks for everything. Had my first hatching of chickens to 27-8-85. Good hatch too. Spring is on the way. Will be able to get my shirt off and darken up the skin. Regards,

Bill



Universidad Austral de Chile
Instituto de Zoología
Casilla 567 - Valdivia

Valdivia, 24 de Septiembre, 1985

Dear Mr Plant,

I acknowledge receipt of your kind letter and unfortunately we do not know about archaeological findings related to *Gallus* species; there are for the moment no concrete antecedents, but possibly they have not been registered in the field. Oldest archaeological sites are not older than 14,000 years in Southern Chile.

As you well mention, the Araucana breed is somewhat clouded and polemics about it are still going on. I am enclosing you a photocopy of an endemic article (you got to find somebody who knows Spanish) which may help you for cross referencing and also local Chilean information. As you notice they talk even about a different species. Research on egg colours reveals that it is a metabolic problem of biliary secretions on bird egg shell, probably similar to other wildbirds which have also blue eggs.

I am sorry not to be able to help you with more information. We would be glad to receive your booklet for our University library; we do not have much material an *Gallus* species.

With my best wishes, sincerely yours,

Dr Roberto P. Schlatter
Professor

Department of Poultry Science

1675 Observatory Drive

MADISON, WI 53706

608-262-9764/1243

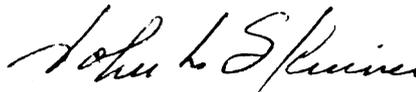
October 18, 1985

Dear Mr Plant:

After re-reading some of your material I wrote to Mrs Banning regarding references to fertile second and third generation Avian Hybrids. Her reply is enclosed. I'm afraid some well meaning, highly respected individuals may have been making comments based upon phenotypic observation rather than sound genetic evidence - but then that may be only my opinion too. At any rate, a copy of her replay is attached (#1).

I told Dr Bitgood of your interest in his reading and he commented as shown in attachment (#2).

Best of luck,



John L. Skinner
Professor (Emeritus)

Poultry Science Department

1675 Observatory Drive
MADISON, WI 53706
608-262-9764/1243

Memo to: John Skinner

From: Jim Bitgood

October 15, 1985

In response to our conversation of several weeks ago in regard to the possible monophyletic origin of our domestic fowl from *Gallus gallus* (Red Jungle Fowl), the following information is provided.

Weiss and Briggs (1972) found that the Red Jungle Fowl carried a genetically transmitted viral genome of subgroup E specificity that was indistinguishable from that found in domesticated chickens.

Frisby et al. (1979) reported that domesticated chickens carry the genome of the endogenous retrovirus RAV-O as DNA sequences that were integrated into the host chromosomes and transmitted through the cell line. Molecular hybridization of RAV-O cDNA showed 80% homology in the genomes of the domestic chicken and the Red Jungle Fowl. *G. sonnerati* (Grey Jungle Fowl), *G. varius* (Green Jungle Fowl), ring necked pheasant and Japanese quail all showed less than 10% homology. Further, restriction enzyme digests showed several distinct fragments of DNA hybridization to chick retrovirus cDNA in both the Red Jungle Fowl and domestic chicken, however no fragments related to the chicken retrovirus were found in the Grey, Green or Ceylonese Jungle Fowl (*G. lafayettei*). The authors theorize that the RAV-O retrovirus was introduced into the Red Jungle Fowl after speciation occurred, but before domestication, probably within the last million years.

Of further interest, using molecular hybridization on chicken chromosomes, Tereba et al. (1981) showed that the ev-2 locus, which codes for the prototype RAV-O genome, is in the middle of the long arm of chromosome 2.

References

- Frisby, D.P, R.A. Weiss, M. Roussel, and D. Stehelin, 1979. The distribution of endogenous chicken retrovirus sequences in the DNA of Galliform birds does not coincide with avian phylogenetic relationships. *Cell* 17:623-634.
- Tereba, A., L.B. Crittenden, and S. M. Astrin, 1981, Chromosomal localization of three endogenous retrovirus loci associated with virus production in White Leghorn chickens. *J. Virology* 39:282-289.
- Weiss, R.A. and P.M. Briggs, 1972. Leukosis and Marek's disease viruses of feral Red Jungle Fowl and domestic fowl in Malaya. *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 49:1713-1725.

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

Mr John Skinner
Middleton - Wisconsin - USA

September 29, 1985

Dear Mr Skinner,

I received your letter of 9-18-1985. I also got a copy of Mr Plant's supplement to chicken bone recoveries, and you understand he was asking me a lot on this subject. So first I wrote the letter on Houwink's book and the *Dutch Standard* information. But he also wanted an answer on the Araucana question. And a comment on his theory. But this is very difficult for me. His theory is good as the theory in the *chicken book* written by an historian and a biologist (a grouse x chicken cross). But to answer your question I think I was not as positive in my answer as in Mr Plant's book. I think to remember to have used the word *if*. If it is possible to cross a chicken and a common pheasant and have fertile descendants so why not a grouse x chicken cross.

About the fertile descendants of a pheasant x chicken cross I remembered an article in our poultry: magazine *Avicultura* from years ago. It was written by Mr J.L.Meijer, I believe you have met him when he visited your country, His story which he wrote around 20 years ago is never denied by other authors in the paper or by the people he mentioned in his article.

During a holiday he visited a fancier Stutvoet at Doesburg, who told Meijer the start of his Brabanter breeding:

"25 years ago there was a farmer who lived near a forest and he kept a few Leghorn hens without a male. On a day one of his hens came out of the forest with 2 very shy chickens, a white one and one with a pheasant colour. Stutvoet was interested in the 2 little birds and could have them. But when the birds were large enough to miss the hen the coloured chicken was set out in the forest and he got only the white bird. Stutvoet gave it a place in an aviary, was very shy and became a white hen with a kind of leaf comb and a beard. These details was given to the Institute for the poultry culture at Beekbergen. The director Ir. de Vries studied the bird but could not be sure that she was indeed a crossling of a white Leghorn hen x pheasant male.

Mr vd Heuvel, who accompanied Mr de Vries, gave the advice to try to mate the bird to a male Brabanter, which he could get from Mr Sliepenbeek from Nijmegen. So the hen was sitting next year on her own eggs and when Stutvoet was controlling the nest on the 21st day the bird started to hiss like a pheasant. So he contacted the wellknown genetic scientist Ir.Hagedoorn, who confirmed after examining the descendants (there were pheasant coloured chickens born from the Brabanter x white crossling) and knowing all the fact of the bastard hen, that here was indeed a fertile bastard of a chicken and a pheasant. During 8 years Stutvoet was breeding this hen and he got white, black and blue Brabanters from her descendants".

October 1, 1985

Pheasant x Chicken

There are some loose ends this story as the unknown sire. There are a lot of wild pheasants in our country and a cross is possible if there is no cock walking with the hens. But a first cross gives equal chickens, so the male bird must have been a crossling himself. The wild pheasants are all crossed; *colchicus torquatus*, *mongolicus* and *versicolor*. He could have been a chicken x pheasant cross himself.

The Leghorn hen also can have been a crossling, f.i. white x brown Leghorn. So it is possible that she had a brown and a white chicken. May be there was a pure pheasant egg in her nest.

In the books of Hagedoorn he writes that the chickens from a chicken x pheasant cross are not fertile. There are also animals as horse x donkey with unfertile descendants. But there are crossings with fertile descendants. Canary x black head siskin crosslings are fertile for the males. They can be bred to canaries. There is a rule in fertility of bastards, when only one sex is fertile, than it is the male when it is a bird and it is the female if it is a mammal. Fertile bastards are dog x wolf and hare x rabbit.

Our bastard was a fertile female, but this was possible if her father was a fertile crossling.

I believe this story, I know the people (some) which are involved. and this cannot happen so easy in a poultry research institute but very rare in the free wild nature. I have not the exact date of the *Avicultura* magazine, only the page with the article for saving room.

It is hardly to believe to judge 1230 birds a day and I am glad to have here a judge-association to protect us. When there are more as 90 chickens on a show, there must be a second judge. We may do 80-90 birds, no more. I do hope they pay you for the amount and not for the hours.

Congratulations with your state of retirement. I reach that date last April and got a pension. Because of the emancipation man and woman get each ½ pension, it cost the state nothing more, but it feels good for women.

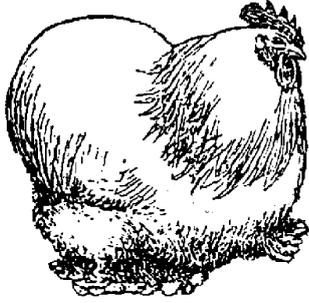
The day after tomorrow we have to judge at *Ornithophilia*, there are not so much birds as past year, but enough. At the end of this month Dale English visits me for a while and we went to Hannover (W-Germany) to visit the large show at November 9. There will be other Americans.

I read your address in *Poultry Press* and know you are selling a part of your books. I am interested and have a few dollars in USA, royalties for the Japanese Bantam book. So if you have a list I like to see it.

I do hope you'll visit Europe sooner or later and I can offer you a bedroom for a while. It is beautiful weather now, an Indian summer, It makes a lot good after the cold summer we had. We hope Jean and you enjoy your retirement and make a good time of it.

Sincerely yours,

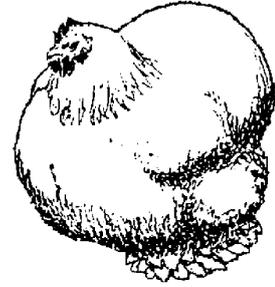




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
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John Skinner
University of Wisconsin - Madison - USA

29-9-1985

Dear John,

I thank you for your letter of September 18th. I'm pleased you received the *Supplement* and your comments are most encouraging, I can assure you. Many thanks for giving me mileage in the historical society newsletter.

Over the years that I have been doing this research I had hoped it would prove to have some value. Being so scattered made the going difficult. It needed to be collected somehow to make up the picture. I'm sure then is still a lot of material around that still needs to be found. One thing leads to another. For instance your information regarding Dr Bitgood and the blood groupings of chickens. I was not aware of this. I will be looking forward to reading his references. I knew it had been done with humans as Heyerdahl mentioned taking blood samples in *Aku Aku*, his story of the expedition to Easter Island in an endeavour to determine antecedents of the population.

In the *Gallus species*, which I hope to have out within the next few months, I deal with the osteological aspects of the chicken. Not that I have any qualifications in this area, but I lean on C.A.Finsterbusch *Cockfighting all over the world* to make the point - the difference between the Bankiva and the Malay - in bone structure. I will send you a copy when I print it.

Professor Solheim of the Department of Anthropology University of Hawaii has invited me to write an article for *Asian Perspectives*, journal of archæology and prehistory of Asia and Pacific, published by the University of Hawaii as the general nature of my research covering that area. I only hope I don't run out of time to get all this material I haven't still sorted out but I am working on it.

Fine on your White Cochin Bantam. As I think you know my son and I have been breeding Pekin Bantams the counterpart of your Cochin in Australia for close an 20 years. We have done very little the last 2 years but are back into them this year. David lives a couple of miles away from me and has the Blacks, Whites and Blues. I have the Cuckoos, Brown Reds here and hatch the chickens. We have some early chicks this year and at the moment they are doing pretty well. Spring is in the air. Would not fancy battening down for your Wisconsin counties. Fortunately we don't have snow here.

Hope your retirement goes well. Guess you will have plenty to keep you busy. Am enclosing photos from our *Pekin Club Newsletter* and some of the 1984 Animal Shows birds which you may find of interest.

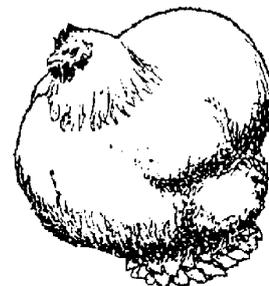
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
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Dr Clive Carefoot
Preston - England

1-10-1985

Dear Clive,

Received the paper on plumage pattern for which I thank you very much. Have glanced through it but will work over it in full as soon as I get the chance.

I have been handicapped over the last few months since I had an operation to remove a cataract and install an implant of lens in one of my eyes. Unfortunately for me I was 1% of the 2% that have any problems from this operation. It is now 4 months since I had the original operation, had to go back in hospital a week later for a further operation, and was in hospital again a fortnight ago for another slight operation on it. I'm on some pretty heavy medication at the moment. I feel like I've been through the mangle.

I hope your other papers are published in *British Poultry Science* for I think from my limited knowledge on the subject you are breaking new ground all the time.

OK on invitation to judge in South Australia. It would be nice to see you out here but I can appreciate the cost angle. I would dearly love to visit the UK and also the States, but I just can't afford it. I just haven't seen a lot of Australia as yet as its a big country out here. I saw New Guinea and New Britain during World War 2, but of course that was no pleasure cruise.

Yes, we are getting back into the Pekin breeding this year. In fact have chickens already, the earliest I think we have ever had them. Both my son and I as I think you are aware have had our domestic problems over the last couple of years, but things are running better for both of us at the moment. He has some of the birds at his place (about 3 miles away) and I have some here. His business affairs are also running smoother now and hopefully within the next 12 months he will be in front financially.

Fine business on your wife taking over the Secretary's job of the Poultry Club of Great Britain. Looks as though the main subject at your place will be poultry.

I note Fred Jeffrey is giving away the Secretary's job of ABA. Dare say he needs a break. He has done a very good job while there and is not getting any younger.

You will note the enclosures with this letter. First of all a copy of the supplement to the *Chicken Bone* book which will be included in the next book *The Gallus species*. This I hope to have printed before very long. The manuscript is almost complete.

Quite a lot of feedback came from the *Chicken Bone* book most of it very important. It screws up the picture somewhat when compared with earlier documentation. My contact in China proved most helpful. You might care to comment. I still can't get any financial assistance to continue the research and publishing. With your letter came a letter from the Minister of Science of our Federal Government advising nothing available for this sort of work.

It's becoming increasingly difficult as the research requires a lot of writing overseas and of course the cost of paper etc. Something might turn up one of these days and make things easier.

One of our Pekin Club members has began working on Barred Pekins. I am enclosing the plan he is working to and also a photo I took of the result of his 1st cross Light Barred x Black Pekin at our show in July. You might comment and make any suggestions you think may be necessary. You might send the photo back when you write again.

Through our Club *Newsletter* we have been encouraging breeders to work on new colours. One of the chaps is working on RIR x Black Pekin. From the 2nd cross (brother x sister) he obtained a percentage of good coloured birds. We would have to call them Black-tailed Red Pekins.

Also enclosed a page from our latest *Newsletter* with photos of birds from 1984 Annual Pekin Club Show including the Grand Ch. (Black Hen). It's hard to get a fowl to stand right for taking photos.

Well Clive that's about. Once again nice to hear from you. Hope you and your family are keeping well.

Sincerely,

Bill Plant

Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher

PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222

PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

October 28, 1985

Good Morning Bill:

Can you have the enclosed relayed to your leading poultry fanciers newspaper? However, have a feeling in your researching...that you have come on to some interesting pictures....drawings.

IN JUST A WEEK

we will be on our way, with a group of 18 to attend the World's Largest POULTRY SHOW in Hannover, West Germany. 20,000 entries is typical, NO SHOW....in the USA, will compare with it.

THEY HAVE A WONDERFUL MAGAZINE

published twice a month, with excellent color pictures. It features chickens, PIGEONS, game birds, cage birds....and pets. It is terrific. Again, nothing like it here in the USA.

HOPE YOUR EYE SIGHT IS BACK TO NORMAL!

Such scares me! Without my health, without health of wife....which also includes eye sight....and HEARING, would be impossible to accomplish the books I plan in the future.

HAVE A SUPER SPECIAL DAY!



What did the early chickens look like?

Some question Darwin theory, origination from Jungle Fowl.

By: Loyl Stromberg

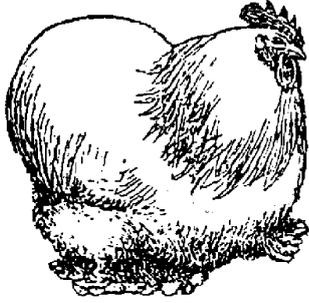
Many years ago Albert McGraw of Alabama sent me a "tattered" old chicken book, printed before photography. There was no binding, the book not complete, the pages were held together by strands of thread. The illustrations were very simple by our modern standards were artists renditions. At first I thought the book might have originated in England, but note the name of a Chicago publisher, no longer in existence. Also, a few ads in the back, featuring small egg shipping cartons, that many shippers now would welcome.

This book mentions chickens most of us never have heard of Bolton Grays, Chittagongs, Blue Duns, Cochin Chinas and Shanghais. The last two mentioned, naturally brings to mind our Cochins, but the pictures of them have no resemblance to the Cochins of today, none with feathered shanks. Their "type" would never make one even think "COCHINS"!! A few of us do not accept the Darwin theory that all our chickens originated from the Jungle Fowl. It does not seem logical that this theory fits the Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans.

It has occurred to me that perhaps we can get some idea as to what the early chickens looked like from ancient paintings of rural and barnyard scenes. Many of our breeds were developed through the 1800's. Perhaps not all that important, still it would be interesting to have some idea of what chickens looked like, before the breeding of our many exhibition chickens. Am sure they would not be all the same. Likely, varying from one country to another. Varying as to artists.

I've taken some preliminary steps to check into it with a good "contact" at the Wilson Library in the University of Minnesota. He reports there are considerably over 100 books in their library on the subject of ART. Perhaps next winter when it gets down to 30 to 40 below here in Northern Minnesota I'll drive down to Minneapolis for a few days to check into this angle, at this extensive Library.

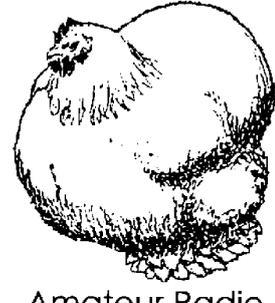
In the meantime, I'd be interested to hear from someone, curious as I am, who might do some checking at their public Library. Most libraries have copy machines, so it is important to get copies of the pictures found in those art books, of the chicken or chickens portrayed in the painting. Write me at Pine River.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



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**Lynn Marsh - Anthropology Secretary
Anthropology Dept. University of Otago
Dunedin - New Zealand**

7-11-1985

Dear Miss Marsh,

You will recall I wrote some few months back and you kindly provided me with Jenny Cane's address in Canada.

I wrote to Miss Cane at that address and have received a reply from her. She informed me that unfortunately her paper was packed away amongst her books and papers in Dunedin so therefore she could not help me.

She did say however that there was a copy of her paper in the Anthropology Department Laboratory in 1973 and next time she wrote to Helen Leach at the Anthropology Department she would speak to her about it.

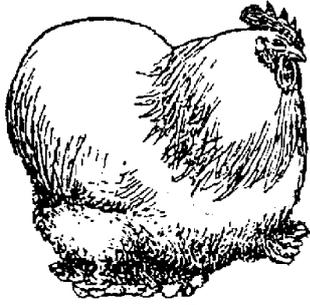
It took quite awhile catching up with Miss Cane but thanks to your assistance we eventually made the grade.

I hope Professor Higham comes back from Thailand with good tidings. I have no doubt he will.

Once again thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

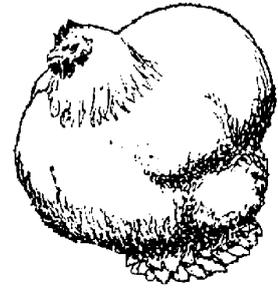
Bill Plant



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**Dr Green - Prof in Prehistory - Dept of Anthropology
University of Auckland - New Zealand**

7-11-1985

Dear Dr Green,

You may recall some years ago I wrote to you seeking information relevant to my private researches into the origin, evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl, you sent me papers you had written on the Lapita sites in the Pacific at that time and also mentioned Miss Jenny Cane who had done work in this field. I have eventually caught up with her. Unfortunately the paper she did is packed away in Dunedin as she moved to Canada.

I did send you a copy of *Chicken bone recoveries*, the first part I published in the series of my studies last year and have recently published a supplement to it which contains further material to hand over the past 12 months.

I had not heard from you, but Dr Jim Specht of the Australian Museum advised me you had been working at Watom Island and then had gone overseas so probably this is the reason.

Perhaps at Watom Island something may have been recovered relevant to the *Gallus* species during your visit as previously Dr Specht told me a leg of a chicken was recovered there.

Therefore if there is anything you may feel would assist in my studies I would appreciate hearing of it.

You may of course not be back in New Zealand as yet, but I will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant



College of Agriculture And Natural Resources
Department of Nutritional Sciences
Box U-17, Room 214 - 3624 Horsebarn Road Extension
Storrs, Connecticut 06268

November 8, 1985

Dear Mr Plant:

I am very sorry about the extremely long delay in writing back to you. Things seem to get misplaced in the summer and I only recently came across your letter of last summer. I wish to thank you for the booklet *The origin evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl. Part 2 chicken bone recoveries*. I read it with interest and commend you on digging out this information.

As to the origin of the Araucana fowl, I have no pet theories of my own. I have read what others have guessed at, but as you say it is still a hit of a mystery, it is truly a unique bird. I am not aware of any other breed that has ear-tufts and lays the blue egg. Most breed traits are fairly wide spread, but these two are not. Most interesting. Also the rumplessness trait, although not exclusively Araucana, is not very wide spread. This breed is truly an interesting mystery.

As for the linkage between pea comb and blue shell color, I sometimes think that people try to make too much of this. When we say that these two traits are linked, we are only saying that they are located on the same chromosome and in this particular case they are very close together (see chromosome 1 on page 51 in the Registry). The pea gene might have been introduced into South America as you suggest or it may have mutated there as you suggest the blue gene did. They are both dominant genes and thus would be easy to select for once they had appeared. You mentioned one of my papers on the Araucana breed. We have done quite a bit with this breed and thus I am sending you a complete set of papers on this work for your interest under separate cover.

Your comment about the FORWARD in Bulletin 469 was appreciated and most particularly by its author, my wife. She wrote that several editions ago and I have used it ever since. We would be most happy to have you use it in your Club's *Newsletter*. Good luck in your breeding efforts and once again I am sorry about the delay in answering your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph G. Somes, Jr.
Professor of Nutritional Sciences

Colin Barker

2 Crawford Avenue
TENAMBIT 2323 NSW - Australia

18-11-1985

Dear Bill,

I'm afraid your article is a bit out of my depth as well but I've made a few enquiries at work which should help.

A retrovirus is simply a class of virus, while endogenous means that the genome (or chromosomes) of that virus had once got into the cells of the chicken and stayed there by becoming part of a chicken chromosome. Once part of a chicken chromosome this part of virus is then inherited by future generations. Apparently it doesn't actually do anything but is simply stuck there as part of the chicken cell.

The 80% homology in both the Red Jungle Fowl and the chicken have this part of virus in the 80% of individuals. The Grey Jungle Fowl population however has it only 10% of the individuals.

Restriction enzyme digestion is a method of breaking chromosomes into smaller pieces of DNA. It's apparently the basis of a lot of genetic engineering techniques. By this method they have shown that identical pieces of viral DNA (part of viral chromosomes) exist in the chromosomes of both the Red Jungle Fowl and the chicken, but not in any of the other species of Jungle Fowl.

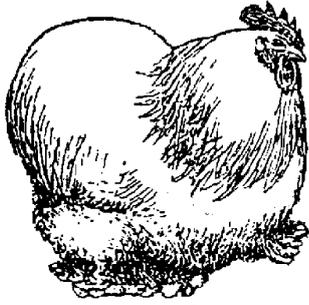
All this has led the authors to think that this part of virus found its way into the Red Jungle Fowl after it had become a separate species to the other Jungle Fowls (which is why they don't have it) but before any Red Jungle Fowl were domesticated.

The presence of identical pieces of virus in the same proportions of individuals in both the Red Jungle Fowl and the domestic chicken suggests that they both have common ancestors in the not too distant past.

I hope this will be of some use to you. I'm afraid I'll be in England for 7 weeks as from the 23th of November so unless the post is very quick I may not be able to clear up any thing that I haven't explained very well. Ros Ryan at the Black Hill laboratory would be your best bet for any more help that he's extremely difficult to catch these days: he's one of the Directors.

Yours sincerely,

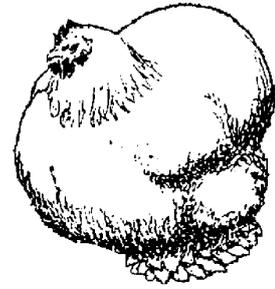
Colin Barker



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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Australia



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**Professor Ralph Somes Jr.
The University of Connecticut - Storrs - USA**

1-12-1985

Dear Professor Somes,

I thank you for your letter of 8-11-85 and the information contained therein. Pleased to hear you received the *Chicken Bone* book. Enclosed is a supplement to it containing further material to hand since it was published. This supplement will normally be included in the next book to be published, next in the series, *The Gallus species* hopefully during 1986.

Yes, the origin of the Araucana does appear to be somewhat a problem. I will look forward to receiving your material. Thank you very much for your thoughts in this matter. It appears that as I think you have stated the traits apart from the eggshell colour all seem pretty unstable.

I received a letter from Professor Schlatter in Chile who sent me a paper which referred to the Araucana but it was written in Spanish, I can't read Spanish, however he estimated little is known of the origins. There were references to writings on the Araucana in this paper but I think they would also be in Spanish.

Dr Crawford from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, told me he had a Chilean student who was going to do some investigating on the Araucana. However the student advised him that the Araucana Indians themselves were extinct so that wouldn't help much.

I have been corresponding with Professor John Skinner who has recently retired from the University of Wisconsin. He sent me a memo from Dr Bitgood, geneticist at the University of Wisconsin, regarding an attempt through a physiological route based on blood grouping etc to trace the ancestor of the domestic chicken.

I am afraid the terminology of the memo is way above my head, but the geneticist and veterinarian from our nearby commercial chicken processing establishment has simplified it for me a little. I have a little knowledge of genetics. Would like to be more skilled in the science as I have found it most helpful in the breeding of chickens. Dr Bitgood reference however will serve as another avenue to pursue in the quest of ascertaining the origin of the chicken.

Thank you for permission to use the forward from bulletin 469 and congratulations to your wife. A job well done.

I have found over the years I have been seeking knowledge in the field of the domestic chicken I have received much assistance from people who have passed on their knowledge to me. Two people come to my mind who you would now, are Fred Jeffrey and Clive Carefoot who guided me some years ago when I was experimenting with the Columbian pattern in Pekin (Cochin) Bantams. They put me on the track and although I didn't finish up with Columbian Pekins typewise if the experiment had been carried through I would have. Following their advice I had their colour pattern fixed. It was just a matter of repeating the process to the type being obtained with our Pekin Bantam Club out here. We passed the knowledge onto other breeders who in turn are using these methods with other colours.

Some of the information in the supplement is very recent and throws new light on the diffusion of the domestic chicken. The Chinese connection has been most helpful.

Regards,

Bill Plant

George A. Stout

6 CHESTNUT HILL COURT
GINNAMINSON, NJ 08077

9 February 1986

Dear Mr Plant,

I regret that I must write this letter. The letter carries to you a notice that Frank L. Gary, Jr., Crosswicks, NJ, passed into eternal life on December 31, 1985, He was laid to rest in the North Crosswicks Cemetery beside his wife, Ruth, and eldest son Frank III, on January 4, 1986.

The 7th Edition of *Bantam Standard* was off the press and sent to him on December 10, 1985, by Mr Fred Jeffrey who has retired as Secretary/Treasurer of the American Bantam Association. So, this is the last edition which will be done under Frank Gary's editorship and with Fred Jeffrey making all arrangements for publication. There has been a changing of the guard.

The new Chairman of the Standard Committee, appointed by President Johnny Batson, is Mr. Clell Agler, 3407 Bean-Oller Road, Delaware, Ohio, 43015. Any matters that concern standards should be forwarded to Mr Agler. Another member of the Standard Committee appointed by Johnny Batson is Ralph J. Sheriff, Jr., Rt #3, Box 392, Piedmont, SC, 29673. A new Bantam breed, the Vorwerk Bantam, has just been admitted to *Bantam Standard*. During review of the description, Mr Sheriff made comments that demonstrated he is a careful thinker and excellent judge of bantams. Frank Gary was impressed with his work. The new ABA Secretary/Treasurer is Mrs Eleanor Vinhage, PO Box 127, Augusta, NJ 07822, USA.

I guess you are aware that I, Frank Gary's son-in-law, have been typing his letters for the past six or seven years; there was his letter to you on January 9, 1984 which conveyed that information. Along with Frank's son, ALAN, we have been sorting books and correspondence and all sorts of data Frank accumulated. All your correspondence and his replies were kept in a special folder. I take the liberty of returning it to you under separate cover. None of the family has an interest in chickens; should there be papers you do not care to keep, please destroy them.

By associating with Mr Gary over these years, I couldn't help but developed some interest in his work of writing descriptions. I suspect that is over. I intend to continue a series that he started on the History and Development of the American Bantam Association that Bob De Lancey, Poultry Press had started to publish.

I hope that by this time you have had whatever operation was necessary to help your vision, I also hope that your son will someday take up your interest in the chicken and further your work. In the event that you have any question with which I can assist don't hesitate to write.

Sincerely,



GEO

**AUSTRALASIA'S
GEOGRAFICAL MAGAZINE**

176 South Creek Road (P.O. Box 651), Dee Why, NSW, 20099, Australia. Telephone 9810466 - Telex AA21546

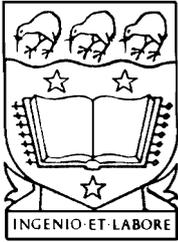
21st May, 1986

Dear Mr. Plant,

Thank you for your letter and kind words about GEO. With regards your query on archaeological diggings in Anuradhapura, a call to the Sri Lankan Consul at Wynnard House in Sydney assures me that he may have information available if you are willing to pay his place a visit. Otherwise I suggest you write to him or telephone him on 29 5313, or you could also call the High Commissioner in Canberra (062) 953521.

Unfortunately my own research for a small article on the ancient cities did not extend that deeply, and I do not recall coming across any material on chicken remains. Thank you for the book. There may be a story for GEO on it, someday, specially the Australian chook!

Yours truly,
Alfredo Roces
Editor.



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

PRIVATE BAG · AUCKLAND · NEW ZEALAND · TELEPHONE 792300

Department of Anthropology

24th March, 1986

Dear William Plant,

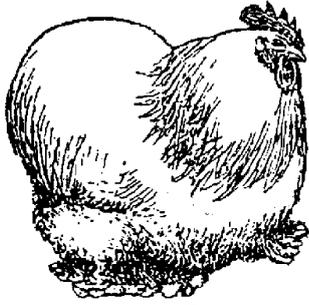
I have now returned from a year's Research and Study Leave and am catching up on delayed correspondence. I did indeed receive a copy of *Chicken Bone Recoveries*, which was the result of your studies, and have had occasion since to consult it once or twice, and have a student looking at it now. Thus we would be most interested to receive your supplement to it, if you could spare one.

I did indeed follow in Jim Specht's footsteps and continued with a further excavation last year in his site 8 at Watom. The results were very successful. But I have not yet analysed the bone, though I will this year. We definitely have more pig, so more chicken would not surprise me. I will let you know in due course.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

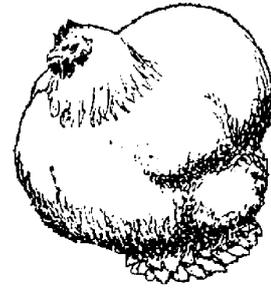
Dr R.C. Green,
Professor in Prehistory.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Professor John L. Skinner
Middleton - Wisconsin - USA

7-4-1986

Dear John,

I received your letter and enclosures from Mrs Banning and Dr Bitgood for which I thank you very much. The letter from Mrs Banning is interesting. I checked back on her original letter and found that I did quote her in my book. It did not occur to me at the time regarding the pheasant x chicken and fertility of resultant offspring. I have made an initial search through my literature here but have not found anything on it. I'm glad you picked it up for I'm endeavouring to get whatever I write as correct as possible. I will however investigate the matter further. I doubt whether much experimental work has been done in this field and the information from Mrs Banning is quite interesting as the Pheasants and *Gallus* do have a relationship. Although I know little of the grouse. I have always had a feeling it may have been involved with the Asiatics (Cochins, Langshans, Brahmas) for I think the grouse has feathered legs: I will have to find out more about it. There is one thing about this study I have been doing, there is always something new turning that leads something else. This does however make the exercise interesting and also makes a basis for discussion from which we can perhaps all learn a little more...

I thank you also for the paper from Dr Bitgood. I'm afraid the terminology is above my head but I have contacted someone to explain the terminology to me. However it does appear the Red Jungle Fowl working along these lines seems to be the main species when considering the domestic chicken and *sonnerati*, *varius* etc more or less subspecies. I might have this wrong but I have quite a few books on genetics etc and will look up some of the terms and endeavour to simplify it down. It is indeed another avenue for study on the origins of the domestic chicken and each piece of information in this field is of much value.

Since I wrote the foregoing, past week I have been in contact with a chap I know near here who runs a Wildlife Park. He advised me that he knows a chap in South Australia also runs a Wildlife Park who crossed a Ring Necked Pheasant with a Domestic Chicken. I have written to this fellow in an endeavour to obtain some details of what occurred with the offspring.

Also I have contacted a geneticist at the nearby Poultry Breeding and Processing Establishment who is going to endeavour to explain the terminology of Dr Bitgood's paper for me also.

I received the book *American Poultry History 1823-1973* in good order and condition. For this I thank you very much. I can assure you it is most appreciated. I have not as yet had time to go through it but can see the value of it in recording the history through the years.

Unfortunately I don't see anything of this nature being done in Australia. We don't seem to have the dedication out here that your people in the US have. Here they wait until it's too late and all the records are lost.

There was talk some few years ago by the Government Departments of Agriculture to do something of this nature, but it just fizzled out. I at the time offered to give what assistance I could as I possess quite a number of old *Poultry Newspaper* published in Sydney from 1918 to around 1970 which would have provided a lot of information. I know there is also a complete file of a journal published in Victoria available in that State which would have been useful. However unlike the US there appears to be very little published on Poultry in Australia in the 1800's. I do have A.J.Compton's *Australasian Book of Poultry* (1899) which would provide quite a lot of valuable data.

However I think out here if it were a Government project it would involve so much red tape that it could get logged down. I have ideas of doing the histories of the Australia Breeds, i.e. Australian Game, Australian Pit Game, Australorp, Langshan (Asiatic version) but as I've probably told you previously obtaining funds to carry out the research and publishing is my stumbling block.

What I have done so far I have had to do at my own expense and there has been little return to fund further work. I have so much material here that needs to be coalated and put down in print that it frustrates me at times, for I feel a lot of this history will be lost for all times.

I am still pursuing avenues for funding these projects. My local member of the Federal Government is working hard for me and although we recently received a knockback from one Government Department he is trying another. I have a bit more meat for the sandwich with the *Supplement* just published that may help.

Also I have made enquiries with a couple of Foundations who are sending me details of their guidelines for funding projects. The *Winston Churchill Foundation* in Canberra I believe provides fellowship grants for research overseas for non-academics such as myself. Although this is perhaps not what I really had in mind it could be helpful in furthering my studies. However being 64 years of age may be against me when it comes to something like this. However I will carry on as best I can for I find the study most interesting and satisfying and hope that I can contribute something to the overall picture of the *Gallus* species.

I congratulate you and your officers of the American Poultry Historical Society on the excellent job you have done compiling this book. I can appreciate the work that has gone into it. I will be looking forward to receiving a copy of your review of my researches in the *American Poultry Historical Society's Newsletter*.

All for now. My kindest regards.

Regards
Bill

George A. Stout

6 CHESTNUT HILL COURT
CINNAMINSON, NJ 08077

17 April 1986

Dear Mr Plant,

Your letter of April 4, 1986 arrived and was greatly appreciated. My wife, Pat, commented on your fine writing and I know she appreciated your remarks about Frank Gary's attention to detail.

I expect that there will be a flurry of efforts to alter the Bantam Standard since Frank is gone. He always resisted that tendency in some who want to combine the Shape of Male and Shape of Female. I see by the latest Quarterly that the Cornish breeders are at it. Naturally I intend to write to the ABA in my effort to preserve the fashion that Frank found good. I guess I've become a self-appointed guardian.

I'm mindful of the troubles you have had in Australia in the absence of a national organization. My comment follows the line that Frank used when he advised you to publish without seeking wide concurrence. Why not start an organization? In my reviews to write the history and development of the ABA, I have found that it stems from a group of 14 who first tried to stay within the *parent* APA but later found no satisfaction and went separately. I would doubt that anyone would object to your using the constitution and by-laws altered to fit your land. Frank always told me that the important elements were to recognize the rights of the members to comment and act, the need for the Board of Directors to conduct business openly (his numbered proposals) and to pay attention to the making known the winners at the shows, particularly the big ones. Sure there were other things. But the effect is obvious in the *ABA Quarterly* in the *From the mailbag* column and in Fred Jeffrey's starred tins and master breeders listing. Frank might have said "Do it, forthwith!"

I got a letter a couple of weeks ago, I'll not say from whom, but he related how he had attempted to find a detail in the *APA Standard* which took him ten minutes: his check against the *ABA Standard* took him thirty seconds to locate. Frank loved his system and believed it only common sense for everyone else to do so.

Have fun down under and enjoy the winter approaching. I'm looking forward to the sun and summer!

Sincerely,





TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

The Texas A&M University System - Poultry Science Department

COLLEGE STATION 77843

April 24, 1986

Dear Mr Plant:

Please excuse this long delay in answering your very interesting letter of September 1, 1984. I have had it on my desk such a long time with every intention of replying to it tomorrow, but like so many things, tomorrow never came. I've really not got to do any in-depth research on the origin of the domestic fowl since the early 1980's because of a change in my administrative responsibilities. However, I have never lost interest in the subject and am very interested in the out come of your paper on the *Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Chicken*. I know that it will be an outstanding piece of work.

Right after receiving your letter, I secured a copy of *Cockfighting All Over the World* but I have not had a chance to study it. I do hold many of the same beliefs that you do in regard to the origin of the domestic chicken. There are just too many differences in the Silky for it all to have come about by selection.

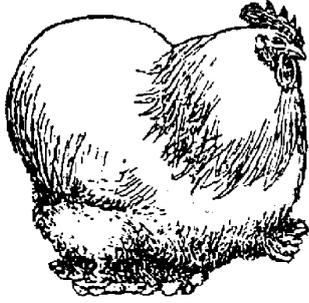
I had a short visit with Dr George Carter just this past weekend at a poultry show. He is in very good health and is jovial as ever. I feel that he is still very interested in tracing the chicken in the new world.

Best wishes for every continued success. Please let me hear from you sometime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Cawley".

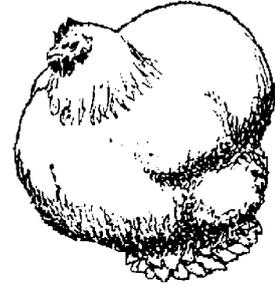
William O. Cawley
Extension Poultry Specialist



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Dr Clive Carefoot
Preston - England

3-5-1986

Dear Clive,

My apologies for not answering your letter of 24-12-85 sooner but I've actually had pretty rough year one way another, consequently my correspondence has lagged. However I'm starting to catch up on it and I am feeling a little better.

Perhaps I told you on operation on my eye last May to have a cataract removed and a lens implant. Normally a simple operation. However I was not so lucky and finished up having three operations as well as laser treatment. Really I'm lucky to have the eye at all. The overall sight has improved but not as much as it should. The side effect from the anaesthetic and heavy medication affected me psychologically and as I have had over the past few years a number of personal problems and am living on my own I didn't help.

However I think the worst is over and I guess there are plenty worse off than me. As they say *You saw the man with no shoes, then you saw the man with no feet.*

I am beginning to get my act together again and have completed the typing of the material for the *Gallus species*. This discusses the Jungle Fowls and the possibilities of the Malays and Asiatics (Cochin, Brahma, Langshan) being different species to Gallus Bankiva etc.

Yes, you and I are at different ends of the spectrum in our studies, however both I feel are necessary and if we can contribute something to the overall picture I'm sure we will both get satisfaction from it. As you are aware, my knowledge of genetics is pretty limited. Both, you and Fred Jeffrey, have assisted me in understanding the basics. This has been much appreciated.

You know it surprises me that poultry breeders I know here in Australia .mostly have no idea of the value of genetics in the breeding of fowls. The majority of them have no desire to learn about the subject either.

Glad to hear that you have *Creative Poultry Breeding* off the pad. There is no doubt the cost of publishing is expensive. I don't know how many copies you had printed. Glad to know that you are getting some return. Hope it works out alright cost wise is the reason my efforts are put out in a pretty amateurish form. I just didn't have the money to get a good job done. I just felt I had to get it into print and it was the only way I could see of doing it.

I have been endeavouring to get some financial assistance from the Government, but I don't have much hopes, only negative replies.

Yes, I think it is a wise move to sell them privately, from what I can gather publishers are not the easiest to deal with.

Would like to get a copy of the paper from *British Poultry Science*. You sent me a paper previously. I guess this one follows it on.

I was invited to prepare a paper on my researches concerning Asia and Pacific area by Professor Solheim of *Asian Perspectives* who is the Editor. It is a journal published by the University of Hawaii and relates to the History and Anthropology of the Pacific and Asian area.

I prepared a paper which I sent over to them. The answer was that a copy would be sent to an eminent palæontologist in England for review and after some editing and rewriting it should be suitable for publication. This figures as you would be aware of my rambling style of writing would need some work on it to suit the format of a scientific journal. Hopefully however I will get my message across.

OK regarding the trip to Australia not materialising. Unfortunate but something may crop up in future years. I can't see myself ever getting over to your side of the world as much as I would like to.

A chap who is a geneticist at a nearby poultry processing firm went to the UK late 1985. I gave him your address. Don't know whether he made any contact with you.

Thank you for checking out the Barred information. I will pass the further info onto the chap who is working on them. I was aware of the fact the Cuckoo was a fast featherer. Some years ago Fred Jeffrey asked me to check on the Cuckoo Pekins here as regards the rate of feathering. I did this and found that they were fast featherers using Hutt as a reference.

Well Clive, must press on. Good to hear from again. We are coming up to winter here but it is very dry, in fact inland and further Northwest have had a drought.

All the best now.

Regards
Bill

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

3-5-1986

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your supplement to *Chicken Bone Recoveries part 2*. I find your research interesting, but I am afraid I couldn't become as absorbed with it as you are. I like to look forward to see what could be done, but I do appreciate you do need to know where you are going. However I can and do appreciate the painstaking work needed.

After six months of almost continuous proof reading which just about exhausted me I finally got *Creative Poultry Breeding* book from the Printer and bookbinder on November 10th. I am delighted that up to press at a cost of £ 20 sterling + postage I have just recovered half of my printing costs to date (since I don't pay for the final lot of binding until they are done).

The point that is most rewarding to me is that these sales have all come by recommendation from one fancier to another since I am selling them privately, having had them published privately in good quantity hardback to avoid needing publishers.

Fred P. Jeffrey helped by going it a good review in the *ABA Quarterly*. I have also got another paper coming out in the *British Poultry Science* in the new year. This is the one in which I show that the addition of Columbian *Co* gene to the double laced genotype produces a single-laced (or laced) one. It is a parallel paper with the *Db* one.

The idea of our visiting NSW and South Australia has, I'm afraid fallen through. The proposed show did not materialise.

On your barred Pekin the method you have been given is basically sound but it does not come the two important facts:

1 - To obtain quality barring you need relatively slow feathering, if not you get cuckoo. So you must always select the best barred to keep this.

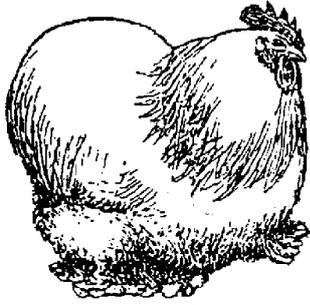
2 - At the stage you are if you repeatedly use a dark barred male (B, b⁺) as opposed to the light (B,B) you will have ½ black progeny, but ½ equal black and white barred in both sexes. This is the way to breed darker cockerels as we do in England.

I could go on at great length about quality barring, and indeed did in my book.

I return the photo which is a creditable start.

Best wishes.

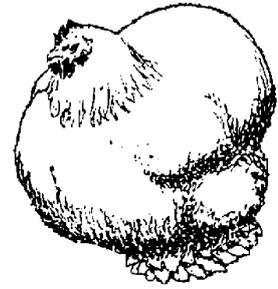
Clive Carefoot



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Station VK2AMM
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Professor William Cawley
Texas A&M University - College Station - Texas - USA

6-5-1986

Dear Professor Cawley,

I was very pleased to receive your letter of April 24th 1986 and I realise what it is like keeping up with the correspondence as mine lagged somewhat during last year as I had normally simple operation on my eye to remove a cataract and a lens implant. However I suffered complications over quite a lengthy period. However it would appear that things are getting back to normal and I'm catching up on the backlog.

First of all I'm pleased to hear that Professor Carter is keeping well: I have corresponded with him over a number of years discussing the origins etc. His letters have always been a delight and my image of him was as you describe him, a jovial type of person. By the way if you happen to run into him again, you might mention he sent me a letter with comments on my latest paper.

He used some of my material as a basis for an article he wrote for *The Ellsworth American*, a newspaper from Maine, I think it is on pre-Columbian chickens. He has been most helpful during my studies.

I'm glad you have a copy of *Cockfighting all over the world*. I feel Finsterbusch brought forward a wealth of information regarding the differences between the Bankivoids and Malay. He was a great student of the game fowl and anyone would find it hard to dispute his arguments.

I'm enclosing two of the papers in the series of Origin, Evolution etc. The series will not be done in chronological order but the overall the result should fit together.

I would appreciate your comment on these papers and perhaps you may have something to add. I have completed the manuscript for the next in the series, entitled *The Gallus species*. It discusses the Jungle Fowls and suggests the Malay, Asiatics (Cochin, Brahma and Langshan) are distinct species when considered against *Gallus Bankiva*.

I am hoping to publish this during 1986. I will certainly send you a copy when I do.

My researches have been done privately and I have to publish the papers at my own expense as well as typing the stencils and printing them on a duplicator. A printer friend of mine does the plates and covers.

You may find the *Bone Recoveries* of interest for as you will observe the recent information from China somewhat scrams up the picture when considered against earlier documentation. However there is still a lot to be learnt.

Dr Green, University of Auckland (New Zealand), has recently been digging on Watom Island and in a letter from him he says more bone has been recovered there again.

Also Professor Higham of the University of Otago (New Zealand) has been back to NE Thailand again. I am writing to hear what he may unearthed over there this time. I was invited to prepare a paper on my researches covering the Asia and Pacific region by Professor Solheim editor of *Asian Perspectives*, a journal on prehistory and anthropology of that region and published by the University of Hawaii. I have sent the manuscript over and after some editing etc it hopefully will be suitable for publication. Unfortunately my researches are confined to collecting the documented material on the subject and putting it together. I don't have any opportunity of doing field work for I am not involved with any academic institution.

I have bred exhibition chickens for many years, compiled and published a book on the Pekin (Cochin) Bantam. Whilst doing this I found that the whole subject of the origin, evolution etc of the chicken became quite interesting and challenging so carried on with the work which I have found most satisfying. I have some good friends who have provided me with relevant material but as you can imagine being down under here in Australia it takes lots of letters overseas to gather this material.

However when the material is pieced together I feel it does help somewhat. There are still a lot of gaps to fill in yet however.

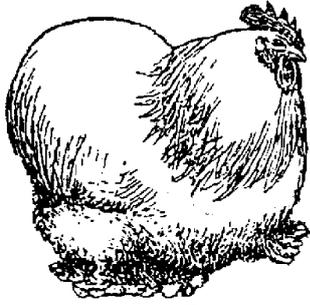
I have just turned 65 and have been retired from my normal work for a few years so I will have to keep at it for. I also would like to publish the breed histories of our Australian created breeds, i.e. Australian Game, Australian Pit Game, Australorp and Langshan. Our Langshan is different to yours in the US (Ref. *ABA Bantam Standard 1981* - 5th edition) under Chinese Langshan. I have the material on hand, but have had difficulty with funding for the publishing. My approaches for a Government Grant has had a negative result. However I will continue on as best I can and hope one day a philanthropist will turn up.

I would appreciate your comments on my work as I think it was Loyl Stromberg who advised me I should make contact as you had been doing study in this field: the distribution of the chicken when eventually get to it should prove interesting: Apparently the pre-Colombian situation in the Americas is still not cleared up.

I feel Thor Heyerdahl's sea voyages proved that diffusion could have occurred East to West across both the Atlantic and Pacific pre-Columbian but there still doesn't seem to be any positive evidence with respect to chickens.

All for now. Sincerely yours,

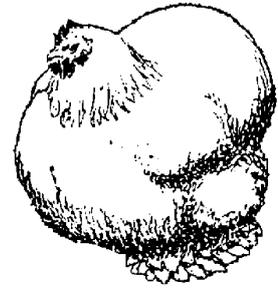
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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NSW
Australia*



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**Mr Alfredo Roces
PO Box 651 - Dee Why 2099**

27-5-1986

Dear Mr Roces,

I thank you for your letter and information of 21st May. I will take your advice and make contact with the Sri Lanka Consul.

I do not visit Sydney regularly and it may be necessary to make an appointment to see the Consul so will give then a call or write.

It may be worthwhile following up Anuradhapura archæological diggings for I have found during my research that it is necessary to follow up any lead that arises in the hope it yields some fresh information and fills another gap.

I will be working on books concerning the histories of the Australian created breeds of fowls in the near future. This work will take some time. I however in the meantime as soon as the opportunity arises I will prepare a paper covering this subject of the Australian breeds in a broad sense and send a copy to you which you may find suitable for a story.

Keep up the good work with Geo. We all need to know more of our own and surrounding areas.

Once again thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

26 May 1986

Dear Bill,

I am sorry to hear you have not had the best of a year, but feel confident that you will soon be back to your old self again. It's certainly true what you say, that there are always people who are worse off than you. You have to look forward. I am sure that why many poultry breeders live to a ripe old age they want to see next year chickens.

I would like a copy of your paper in the Hawaiian publication. The funny thing is that once it is in print it is official. Before that it is just a theory. I had trouble working it in the form the scientific journals wanted, but fortunately the assistant editor of *British Poultry Science* was most helpful (even through some times he was cruel to be kind). Consequently I am very pleased with the finished article, especially the paper I have enclosed. The style needed for scientific journals is very short, sharp and to the point. Unfortunately one wouldn't have many friends if one either talked a wrote like that.

Your local geneticist did not contact me - mind you my knowledge is really confined to plumage colours.

On reading your letter or rather the reunion with your army pals I can now picture you in *A town like Alice*. I thought that was a very good book and film.

Perhaps we should send you some of our water: we have had virtually no spring, it's rained nearly every day. The ground is saturated and the trees etc are very late this year. However perhaps it's better than being roasted.

Hope things continue to improving.

All the best,



Dick ROMANOWSKI
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY 3217
VICTORIA

1-7-1986

Dear Mr Plant,

A friend recently sent me a copy of your pamphlet on chicken bone recoveries, and I am interested to find out if you have completed any other parts of your series on poultry, as the amount of research you have put into what I have seen would be worth the cost alone!

I am very interested in domestication not just of poultry, but of all domesticated plants and animals. Although I am a zoologist, this is just an interest (my field is mainly marine and freshwater studies), as you point out, in Australia we are a long way from where all the research is being done!

I'd be very interested to hear if you have any new information on Araucanas, or any information you didn't include in your pamphlet.

I'd also like to comment on my own interpretation of the information you put so much effort into accumulating.

You have stated that the blue egg is a simple mutation resulting from the mixture of Asian and American birds. Although this isn't my main area of study, I find this unlikely.

The mutation is probably a single event of some kind, and therefore doesn't need a hybridisation between two isolated population of domestic fowl to create it. It is more likely to have been present in either the American or Asian fowls you believe to have been mixed.

I'll come back to this point later, as I'd also like to comment on the general consensus (in archæology) as to how poultry arrived in South America.

All *reputable* references to poultry in South America make the blanket statement that no pre-Columbian chicken bones are known and conclude that these birds were first brought to South America by the Spanish.

There are some possible pre-Columbian poultry remains, but not reputable archæologist seems to want to examine and date them accurately, and the reason for this is interesting in itself.

It is probable that humans arrived many thousand of years ago in the Americas, Via Bering Strait. There are a number of people who believe the first humans in the Americas may have arrived on the order of a hundred thousand years ago, but there is absolutely no evidence for this.

However Bering Strait was last exposed on the order of 10,000 years ago. If the last *natives* of America arrived in this time, and if they brought poultry with them, the domestic fowls were domesticated 10,000 or more years ago, which is far earlier than any other animal is known to have been domesticated .

I think this is why everyone is avoiding paying much attention to possible pre-Columbian chicken remains, if they were pre-Columbian, the discoverer would be embodied in far more controversy than simply proving chickens didn't arrive with the Spanish would suggest!

Of course, there is some possibly of them having been brought in by sea at a later stage, but such affords at proving maritime contacts as the *Ra* expedition haven't been very impressive.

Personally I would say that if chickens were domesticated in Asia much further back than is presently believed, and a small group were taken across by humans in the last interglacial period (when Bering Strait was dry), this would be the ideal circumstance for a mutation such as blue egg-shells to appear. Only a very small population would have been carried, which allows rapid genetic drift to occur (where mutations, unusual genetic efforts spread quickly because there is only a small population for them to spread through).

In addition, if these birds were carried to America (being bred on the way, of course) ten or more thousand years ago, there would likely be some unusual mutations, not all of them obvious.

I don't doubt that Asian birds were brought to Chile at much later dates than the original fowls, and bred with them, but I don't believe that is likely to be the source of the blue egg mutation.

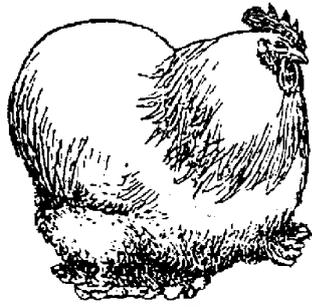
One interesting comment to add to this article by Sauer (which I am trying to chase up) refers to blue egg laying, black boned chickens in both South America and Asia. If I can get hold of it, I'll send you a photocopy of the relevant bits. However, I have not otherwise heard of any blue-egg layers except in South America.

You have mentioned a theory which has never been researched, which is that the blue colour is a result of losing the red from brown coloration.

However, the blue colour is a separate mutation altogether, brown and tinted eggs have the colour on the surface only, it is deposited after the egg is formed. The blue colour however is a part of entire egg shell, it is a mutation of the shell-forming parts of the oviduct, and not just added after. I might also add that no combination of red and blue gives anything like brown!

I hope you find my comments of interest, and I am eager to hear if you have published any further parts of your planned series.

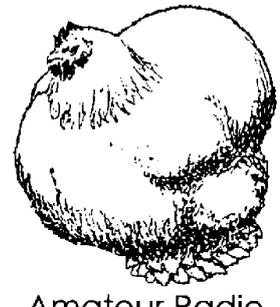
Regards, N.R.R.
NICK ROMANOWSKI,



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since 1965

William J. Plant

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NSW
Australia



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Nick Romanowski
School of Psychology
Deakin University - Victoria - Australia

14-7-1986

Dear Nick,

I was delighted to receive your letter and comments on the origins etc of the domestic fowl. Good to know that there is someone else in Australia is interested in the subject.

As you were loaned the *Chicken Bone Recoveries* I am enclosing a copy for yourself as well as a copy of the *Supplement* to it which contains feedback from Chicken Bone Recoveries and further information that came to hand. As you will observe this information proved I feel was of quite an important nature.

I have also almost completed the printing of the next book in the Origin etc series *The Gallus species*, which discusses the Jungle Fowl and the possibility of the Malay and Asiatics (Brahma, Langshan, Cochin) as being distinct species from the Bankivoids. I will send you a copy when ready (about middle of August) Hopefully there will be other books in the series:

- 1 Covering the evolution of birds from the Dinosaurs through Archæopteryx etc
- 2 Early and
- 3 Late history of the domestic fowl, and
- 4 Distribution and diffusion through the world.

In 1982 I also published a 187 pages book on the *Pekin Bantam in Australia*, not connected with the origins series. Your comments were very interesting and I would like to use your information in the *Gallus species* with due acknowledgement of course. If you let me know fairly quickly I will still be able to get it in at the end of the book. My idea is to put all comments, theories etc such as yours together in print in an endeavour to stimulate further interest and comment on the subject. This has been working for as you will see from the *Supplement* quite a bit of ongoing material come out of *Chicken Bone Recoveries*.

Fine you being a zoologist but having an interest in domestication of plants, animals etc. I guess you have access to Darwin's *The variation of Plant and Animals under Domestication* (my edition is 1896). Another good reference is *Man across the sea* put out by the University of Texas. It discusses most things in separate chapters. Professor George Carter of Texas A&M University did the chapter on the question of pre-Columbian chickens.

I correspond with him and he has been most helpful. He believes there were pre-Columbian chickens etc but he says most of the authorities think chicken bones as being intrusive just as you say. They don't want to know therefore no dating no evidence.

Eventually we may get someone over there to stand up and he courted your comments via Bering Strait I think would fall in with George Carter's idea. He is Professor of Geography. I have received a letter from Professor Cawley also at Texas A&M and have sent him my material. Waiting for his comments. He is not a good correspondent I am told but I believe very knowledgeable on the subject. I have also been told he is doing a book on the Araucana don't know how far down the track he is.

Regarding my hypothesis on the blue egg shell origin I was aware that the shell is blue right through, George Carter suggested the red brown but I have however received a bundle of material on the blue egg subject from Professor Ralph Somes of the University Connecticut. He has done quite a bit of research on the subject. As soon as I get the chance I will photocopy it for you and send it on. The origins of Araucana is still somewhat clouded as is the existence of pre-Columbian chickens in the Americas. I have written to South America but received nothing really on the Araucanas. I believe the Araucana Indians themselves are now more or less extinct so this may make the road a little harder.

I realise my hypothesis is not conclusive by any means. However someone who reads it may have something to add to it. We have so much to learn yet.

I am not an academic myself. My interest stemmed from exhibiting and breeding fowls and I have found the subject quite fascinating and challenging. Yes, our problem here in Australia is that we are not close to the action and it is necessary to do a lot of writing overseas in an endeavour to obtain material. I have a pretty extensive library of old poultry books but that is not good enough. You have to chase the information.

I have a couple of contacts in New Zealand, Dr Green, University of Auckland who has recently been up to Watom Island and Professor Higham who has last year been to NE Thailand again for the second time. I am waiting to get reports from them.

I would be pleased to have a copy of Savers's paper. If you have the references as to when it was published in, I might be able to help getting hold of it. I have a good friend Dr Longnecker at the National Agricultural Library in US. He may be able to locate it.

Your thoughts on the possible entry of chickens and people to Americas via Bering Strait is strengthened by the discovery of chicken bone in Northern China (5000 BC) and I believe a current travels north from Japan in the Northern Pacific then South down the West coast of the US. Lots of possibilities.

I believe Heyerdahl's theories of sea travel are quite sound. *Ra*, *Kon Tiki* and later *Tigris*, at least he proved it could have happened that way. The unfortunate thing is that it's very hard to get conclusive evidence. I have been pushing the point that ongoing study should be done on any bones recovered.

The overall subject covers so many of the sciences which makes it so much more interesting. I have been researching perhaps for some 10 to 12 years and will carry on as long as I can. The drawback is I have to do the typing, printing on a duplicator and funding (which is beginning to run dry). I have had no success so far obtaining funding for the research and publication. I have made approaches to both State and Federal Government.

Let me know if I can use your comments and I would be interested to receive your comments on the *Supplement*.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Plant

Dick ROMANOWSKI
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY
DEAKIN UNIVERSITY 3217
VICTORIA

23-7-1986

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for the two editions on *Chicken Bone Recoveries*, the supplement contains many interesting ideas!

I'd be very grateful if I can get Somes' papers on blue eggs, when you have the time to photocopy them. I couldn't find the reference on blue egg layers in Asia at home, but I'll add it on at the end of this letter tonight, in Geelong, before I post it (the book in Geelong).

I don't know whether it has much information, but at least it may lead to an original article referring to Asian blue egg layers.

If you hear more on Prof Cawley's Araucana book, I'll be very interested in that also.

Oh, yes, you're welcome to use my letter as you like, though these aren't much new or unusual in it!

I'll be reading and rereading the *Supplement* for a while, absorbing parts of interest, but two things particularly caught my attention.

First, as a taxonomist (this is the study of classifying living things) I must say that the article on *Gallus europæus* is very suspect! The coracoid bone is a very minor one to be basing a whole new species on! In addition, this one bone was only compared to 5 corresponding examples of *Gallus gallus* and that doesn't prove a lot! Now, I haven't seen the bone itself, and birds aren't my field, but parts of this supposedly different bone are missing, and these are supposed to be among the most distinctive parts. However my comments don't necessarily mean a lot. I'm only going on that was written. Even so, there are a lot of new names made up every year or very flimsy evidence, and all they generally cause is confusion and argument until they're rejected, and unless more solid evidence turns up, *Gallus europæus* will be a *has-been* very quickly. Which is not to say that there is no such bird, but only that this evidence seems very weak. I certainly wouldn't put it more strongly until I see the original paper.

The most interesting part of the supplement was the suggestion that Araucanas may be a grouse/domestic fowl hybrid! It certainly has some potential for explaining a number of unusual features.

The comments on ear tufts on pp. 19-20 seem relevant here.

Working with fishes, I have often found, or read about, hybrids which fail to develop past a certain stage. What usually happens when a lethal trait shows itself is that the combination of two different, but poorly matched, genes (from the two different species) do not form a *balanced* gene which will do what it should, because they are incompatible. When the creature reaches a stage when the incompatible gene combination is needed, it fails, and death or physiological damage may result. Thus, some hybrids always die at a set stage of development, they are lacking genes capable of doing the job they should.

Not all hybrids are lethal incompatible genes may show themselves at all stages of development. Some may prevent the hybrid from even occurring in the first place, while others may not be lethal or even harmful, but may make the hybrid sterile.

Somes refers to ear tufting in Araucanas as the heterozygous expression of a single dominant autosomal gene. In other words, the two parts of the gene must be of two different kinds for it to work. If the gene is homozygous (has both parts the same) the gene is a complete prenatal lethal, i.e. no eggs will hatch!

He also states that even the heterozygous combination is lethal in 20% of cases, however, prenatal death occurs for a number of reasons in poultry, 20% not being so uncommon, so this may not be relevant.

This could possibly be explained by some unusual hybrid gene, requiring two different forms of itself to be united before they can work properly as one. However, it could also be the result of inbreeding (e.g. a lethal recessive).

I'll try getting hold of the relevant paper, and see if anything is certainly intriguing!

Thanks again for the two booklets. I'll be thinking and reconsidering a whole lot of information, and I'll be in touch again soon.

If I can find the reference Sauer mentions Asian blue egg layers in, I'll write it below.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. R. L.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

C.O.Sauer, Agricultural Origins and Dispersals, (p.58?), 1952

Dick ROMANOWSKI

RMB AB 366
COLAC 3250
VICTORIA

1-9-1986

Dear Bill,

Just a quick note to acknowledge your last letter. I've been on holiday for a couple of weeks (first time in 3 years!) and I've had lots of correspondence/orders etc to catch up or since getting back.

Thanks for the poultry book addresses. I'm following these up for some of the older books such as Tegetmeier, etc, as I'd like to have a few of these in my own reference collection.

Cawley's article on the Araucana sounds very interesting from your comments. I'd love to get a copy if I can find it. This breed has long been a favourite of mine, and I now have some good-quality birds so I'm keen to follow up whatever I can on them.

The holiday accidentally ended up rather *chooky*, which wasn't planned at all. We stayed on a property in Mallacosta (Vic) which had a wide range of breeds-something I hadn't known about when we booked to go there. Neither Jan (my wife) nor I have ever been keen on Bantam breeds with the exception of some of the Cochin bantams.

I was interested to see the Cochin bantams (which I always think of as Pekins) as there were some good ones there. We also were much taken with some Belgian bantams (Millefleur, Barbue d'Uccle) and bought 5 very nice birds. As the car was completely packed out, I had to post most of our clothes home on the last day to make room for birds.

Kindest regards.

N. R. K.



College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Nutritional Sciences
Box U-17, Room 214 - 3624 Horsebarn Road Extension
Storrs, Connecticut 06268

January 29, 1987

Dear Mr Plant:

I was just putting away some books the other day when I came across your booklet that you sent me back in August. I hadn't quite finished reading it and so it had not gotten into the book shelf before this. So I finished it right then. I do not recall if I ever wrote you thanking you for it, and so, if not then I am doing that now! I enjoyed this *supplement* to your first book and although I have no particular comments I would say keep up the good work. Bringing together that kind of information is a valuable contribution.

Enclosed is a booklet that I have been putting together over the years that may be of interest to you.

Best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph G. Somes, Jr.".

Ralph G. Somes, Jr.
Professor of Nutritional Sciences

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

August 26, 1987

Dear Mr Plant,

I have a cryptic note from George Carter stating that you have done much work on the origins of the chicken.

I hope you will give me a recent reference so I can get access to your work.

While I am interested in the chicken, my main focus is on the Muscovy duck. If you have some ideas on precolumbian transpacific passage of the Muscovy, and also on the probable dispersion around the Pacific by the Portuguese and others? I would be most grateful for them.

I have a short history of the Muscovy which includes origin and dispersals in my computer. If you would like a copy, I will be happy to send you a printout.

I have recently sent a copy to Dr Donkin at Jesus College, Cambridge. Until this summer I have not been aware of his work and am amazed to learn he has a 160 page manuscript on the origin and dispersal of the Muscovy which has been stalled at a printer for the past two years with no prospect for publication in sight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "E".



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCE

SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

Phone: (306) 966-4128

Fax: (306) 966-4151

September 2, 1987

Dear Mr Plant:

Thank you for the note of 18 Aug 87 just received, and for notice that you are sending me your new work on Gallus species. I will very much look forward to receiving it and reading it.

I am greatly embarrassed to have to advise that your file of correspondence and papers has languished on 'that corner' of my desk for these many months, awaiting days of great leisure in vain. I did indeed receive your *Part 2 - Chicken Bone Recoveries* and the *Supplement* to it, and have scanned both but have not had an opportunity yet to digest them thoroughly. I am preparing now to leave on a two months' tour of eastern North America to visit authors who are contributing chapters to the book which I am editing. I will be taking your file along with me, and surely will have long hours to myself then to review and consider your work. I hope to include a review of it in my chapter on origin/evolution/diversity in the new book.

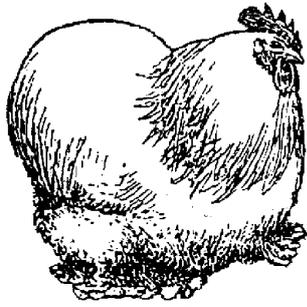
As perhaps I told you earlier, I have undertaken the task for the Poultry Science Association of preparing a new reference book on poultry breeding and genetics. It is to be published by Elsevier of Amsterdam, hopefully in 1989 or very soon thereafter. I am serving as editor and also writing some of the chapters. Colleagues internationally are preparing chapters for which they have special expertise. The work is divided into five parts biology, qualitative genetics, immunogenetics/molecular genetics/genetic engineering, quantitative genetics and selection, and applied breeding and selection. It probably will comprise two volumes.

I have had recent correspondence with Barbara A. West, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD concerning Chinese involvement in origin and dispersal of chickens. In that correspondence I indicated your interests and provided her with your address; you may be hearing from her. I hope that action was alright with you. Hopefully will have critical comments on your work to pass along within a few months.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R.D. Crawford".

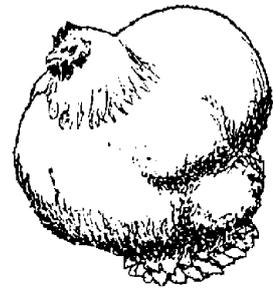
R.D. Crawford, Ph.D.,
Professor



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



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Dr Edmund Hoffmann
Canning - Nova Scotia - Canada

9-9-1987

Dear Edmund,

Thank you for your letter of 28/8/87 and pleased to hear that George Carter is still buzzing about. I haven't written to him for awhile, but will be doing so shortly.

Yes, I have been doing a bit of research and fossicking around over the years but I'm afraid I can't help you too much on the Muscovy. I can't recall it turning up in any of my material.

However, I do have a fairly comprehensive collection of old books and Poultry papers around and I will endeavour to find some useful material for you. I am enclosing photocopies from some old books but don't whether it will be much help.

It would appreciated to get a print out of your Muscovy Duck paper, for anything in this area of study is of interest to me.

I have been working on a series of booklets covering The Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl and have published three parts of it so far. I am getting a bit long in the tooth – 66 years old – so don't know whether I'll get through it all. Believe me, it covers a lot of territory when you consider it on and overall basis. I feel I have broken some new ground by collecting a lot of material and putting in one place. It is very satisfying, but at times frustrating and it's very hard to finish up with much positive evidence. Also some of these fellows go out and dig out bones, then don't do any follow up work on them. Being out here in Australia makes it difficult as there aren't very many doing work in this field and we are away from the action. There are however a couple of fellows doing a bit of fossicking around in the Pacific and Thailand. They are from New Zealand. I am hoping to hear from them again shortly on any new information.

I am sending you two of my booklets of the series, and under separate cover by surface mail a book of 100 pages, also in the series on the Gallus Species – Jungle Fowls with my compliments. The last mentioned will take awhile to reach you but mailing costs here in Australia are very high for anything with a bit of weigh, air mail.

I have just started doing a book on the four breeds of chickens created in Australia. It is our Bi-Centenary Year of British settlement next year, so I am trying to finish it for 1988.

I have quite a bit of material on the Distribution question of the chicken and a few ideas of my own, but again very little positive evidence. Will get onto that as soon as I can.

The Pre-Columbian question regarding the chicken in the Americas doesn't seem to be settled, although George Carter tells me there could have been contact.

I think you might have to make some contact with South America for your Muscovy Duck project. However that would not be easy. Although I wrote to number of Institution over there and only got response from one source. Can't help you at the moment re diffusion in the Pacific. The Dutch moved around between the Dutch East Indies and west coast of South America, but I don't think would be much help.

It appears that the Muscovy originated in South America but like most other things not written record.

Regards Dr Donking's unpublished material nobody seems to want to publish the sort of stuff we are about. I did all my own printing etc, otherwise I never would have got off the ground. It's a hard road but appears the only way to go. My finished product is pretty rough as you will see, but at least it is in print.

Talked to a fellow in Nova Scotia a little while back via amateur radio but can't remember where he lived. Don't hear too many from your area.

I will endeavour to find a bit of info for you but won't guarantee anything.

All for now. See you next time.

Regards

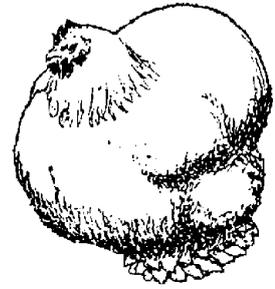
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**Dr Edmund Hoffmann
Canning - Nova Scotia - Canada**

21-9-1987

Dear Edmund,

I found the attached amongst my files. Hope it may prove useful. I have found during my researching that any scrap of information is sometimes useful as it may fit in with the information already on hand.

Much information collected is often contradictory with other info but this is the name of the game.

I have found many of the old time authors of Poultry books didn't do much research themselves. They just followed on from the other fellow.

Do you have access to books of Wright, Tegetmeier, Wingfield and Johnson etc? If not, I may be able to assist as I have a fairly comprehensive Poultry library.

Hope the other material arrived OK. The Jungle Fowl is on the way per surface mail.

All for now.

Regards

Bill Plant

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.
GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

9-10-1987

Dear Bill,

Apologies for not replying sooner but I have been rushed off my feet lately.

Thank you for your kind comments on my book. You will be able to see it cost me an arm and a leg to publish it but I am pleased to say the demand has made it all worth while. I felt there was a need for such a book, and it was in me so it just had to be done.

Our summer has been atrocious , but we are quite used to that.

On your colour standard my personal view is that a breed does better with only a few colours. On the other hand anyone should be able to breed what they like. I also don't like *permissable* standards. I believe they should be right or wrong. Of interest is that in the UK eye colour of Pekins can vary from light yellow through orange to red. I note you require red or orange red. May I hazard a guess that with yellow legs you get the latter.

I have only had the time to scan through your Part 3 book. I will devote the due time during Xmas. It seems very well researched and a most useful reference for people interested in origins.

May I suggest to contact the publishing authority and get an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) so that if someone is interested they can find you.

Best wishes,

Clive Carefoot

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

October 20, 1987

Dear Mr Plant,

I am glad to hear from you again, and I do hope your problems solved now. I am looking forward to your coming book.

I can understand the needs of an own Standard for Australian breed chicken. Speaking on Pekins, we have in our country no blackred/wheaten or blue red, brown red, splash, barred and columbia. The other colors you mention you have standardised and also pearl-gray (lavender) and blue mottled.

The fancy is very alive and each year during the national show new creations are showed, hoping to be standardised.

This summer my husband was very ill, but is recovered now. Formerly he always accompanied me when I was going to the shows to judge. But this fall after being so ill, he decided to stay home. So I miss my driver and secretary on the shows.

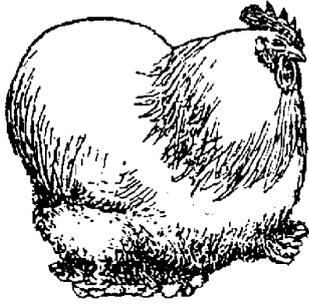
I go by train now, I cannot stay home when I did promise to do the job.

Mr Stromberg is a regular writer now. He is asking a lot about the breeds in Europe, because of his intention to write an Encyclopaedia about chickens of the word. For me a monograph of a breed is more valuable because is a small booklet is always more information of a breed as in Encyclopaedia, in which is only possible a single page and a picture of each breed. But I look forward to that book.

In fact, beside the beautiful *American Standard*, the rare notes so much chicken manuals with other as standard facts about the breeds. And I miss a good article in the *Poultry Press* about the breeds.

Best wishes and kindly regards,

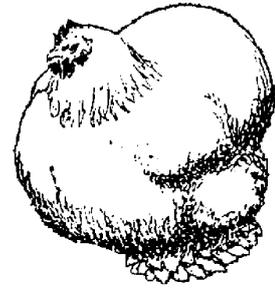




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Dr Edmund Hoffmann
Canning - Nova Scotia - Canada

27-10-1987

Dear Ed,

Received your Muscovy print out yesterday for which I thank you very much. You have certainly put some work into seeking out the information. I can appreciate your efforts. I have not read through it thoroughly as yet but it would as with all this work of research establishing the ways and time of diffusion seems to one of the stumbling blocks. I have discussed this with George Carter and he seems to be of the opinion that there is evidence of many contacts with the New World pre-Columbian times. He maintains that many consider new evidence intrusive. I would interpret this as they don't want to rock the boat. I have encountered somewhat similar problems as there have been chicken bones recovered both at Watom Island (North of the New Britain) and in NE Thailand. I have been promised samples of the bones but in the case of Watom Island they have been mislaid. The Thailand bones have not arrived. If I could get hold of these bones I think I could get the assistance of an osteologist at our University Medical School in Newcastle and compare them with Finsterbusch's deliberations and perhaps ascertain what they may have come from *Gallus gallus* or otherwise. The problem is as I see it is that these fellows who dig them up do not attach much importance to chicken bones, yet I feel a lot could be learned from them.

You will note when you receive my *Jungle Fowl* book that I have put forward the hypothesis that instead of all domestic chickens being descended only from *Gallus gallus* (Red Jungle Fowl) that perhaps there were three lines of descent from an extinct ancestor giving us the Bankivoids, *Gallus giganteus* (Malay) and Asiatics (Cochin, Langshan, Brahma).

So to get any further with this hypothesis it is necessary for the recovered bones to be studied in depth. However through my writings someone may be encouraged to pursue this avenue. Whether I am right or wrong does it really matter as long as we can establish just what the situation is. I feel however that my hypothesis does have a case, but of course no positive evidence.

You spoke in earlier correspondence re diffusion in the Pacific area. There is not much information around on this score. It would appear from the little bit there is that the diffusion may have come from the direction of Asia as chickens in parts of Polynesia appear to be descended from *Gallus gallus* (Bankiva).

A young lady from New Zealand did some work on dating in Pacific some years ago but has moved to Canada. I have been in touch with her but unfortunately all her notes are packed away in New Zealand.

At the moment I am doing a book on the *Breeds of Domestic Fowl Created in Australia*. When I finish that I will be getting on to Diffusion question and sort out what material I have.

I think I mentioned earlier it feel Thor Heyerdahl's voyages have great significance. From memory I think he carried a duck with him across the Atlantic on the *Ra* expedition.

Kimball's articles were very interesting and have given me some ideas.

Some 18 years ago as you will observe in my *Jungle Fowl* book I contacted Zoological Gardens in Asia who have in their collection Jungle Fowls. I may contact them again and perhaps seen if any new developments have come to light.

Although frustrating at times I find the study fascinating and satisfying and a number of my correspondents have told me the work of collecting the material and putting into one package does have some value. I will just keep on working on it as long as I am able.

Had a letter from George Carter (in haste as usual). He tells me that the evidence is mounting supporting early contacts with the Americas, a lot from Japan, Norse, Ireland, Celtic.

He says the Oceans were highways at least by 3,000 BC. I would like to meet him. I think it would be quite an experience. I have asked him for a contact to obtain a specific details.

I am an *ham* radio operator (from 1939). I have frequent contacts with Japan and will ask one of my contacts if he can organise someone at the Universities over there in an endeavour to gain some info at that end. So it goes on the quest for further info. However I'm enjoying it. All for now.

Regards.

Bill Plant

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE DOMESTIC MUSCOVY DUCK

Edmund Hoffmann - Revised draft Oct 20, 1987

Some say the Muscovy is not a proper duck at all. Bonnet mentioned all the ways in which the Muscovy differs from domestic ducks and concluded *nevertheless these geese are always listed as ducks*.

The truth is the Muscovy is unique

A tropical jungle duck built to roost in trees at night, Muscovies are quite distinct from either the common duck or a goose. In an evolutionary sense they branched off the main line of descent that produced the common duck in the Miocene epoch perhaps 70,000,000 years ago (Johnsguard). Compare this date to emergence of the humanoid family 14,000,000 years ago and anatomically modern man 40,000 years ago.

Relatives of the Muscovy - Other Cairina species

Delacour considers the Muscovy, *Cairina moschata* and two other perching ducks, *Cairina scutulata* of Southeast Asia and *Cairina hartlaubi* of West Africa to be three species of the same genus. Johnsguard does not include the latter among the Cairina.

One can see *scutulata* in collection in both England and the US including the Washington DC Zoo. *Scutulata* is about the same size as *moschata* but lacks the marked difference in size between the sexes. Hybrids between *scutulata* and *moschata* have not been reported but since both species cross with *Anas platyrhynchos*, the common duck, it seems possible. This is a mating yet to be made.

Hartlaubi is reported to be very beautiful, but has not apparently been successfully reared in captivity. The Brazilian Teal, also a perching duck, looks like a small edition of the Muscovy, but is not a relative and belongs to a different genus.

The story of the Muscovy misname

As an import from South America, this duck had no traditional name in the Indo-European languages and none, of the many names they have been given, are very apt. The name Muscovy, now commonly used in English is so inappropriate one can only conclude the poor duck has been misnamed. This should not be surprising, the Muskox suffers the same libel.

The scientific names of the Muscovy are *Anas moschata*, named by Linné, 1758, and the current name, *Cairina moschata*, Fleming in 1822. Hollander feels Fleming's choice of the name *Cairina* reflects Aldrovandi's statement that the Muscovy first reached Italy from Cairo.

In Egypt the Muscovy is called the *Sudani* which means nothing more than black. Kamar believes the *Sudani* is shown in Egyptian wall paintings dating back to 4000 years BC. I have seen the picture and must confess I do not find the evidence conclusive.

Johnsguard does not agree that Fleming's choice of a name has any special significance. He wrote in those days (1822) it was not surprising to name a genus without specific justification. The name *Cairina* is almost certainly not derived from Cairo, but its origin is not at all clear. I tend to believe Gotch. He suggests that *Cairina* may be derived from Cairu Brazil, the suffix *ina* meaning from or of.

Phillips comments on the disagreeable associations of the name Muscovy and explains its origin as the error of a translator who, reading *Anas moschata* in Latin, carelessly translated it into French as *Oie de Muscovie*, goose of Muscovy. The French have had the good sense to ignore the error but, like pink lemonade, the bogus is often more viable in English than the truth.

Phillips suggests that the Muscovy could be a corruption of *Muysca*, the name of a tribe of Indians living on the Mosquito coast of Nicaragua which is to say there is no connection between Muscovy and musk at all. Sauer opts for *Muisca*, Indians of Colombia.

According to most of the older authors, see Brown, the name Muscovy is derived from *Musk* duck. While the Muscovy has no musk gland and no odour of musk, the idea that the males, at least, do give off the odour of musk has persisted over the years from the days of Belon, 1555. Apparently one author copied from the previous author none of whom actually sniffed a duck.

Old lies never die. But I have had the experience of driving several hours in a closed auto with 3 old Muscovies males in a crate behind me. It would be wrong to leave the impression Muscovies had no odour. One can smell an unpleasant odour alright, about the same as the odour of chickens but no stronger. In any case the odour is not of musk.

Earlier in this century, Robinson and later Grow, prominent waterfowl authorities in the USA concerned with the slander implied in the name, made a valiant effort without success to change the name of the Muscovy to Brazilian duck or *pato*, its name in Portuguese.

The French call the Muscovy *Canard de Barbarie*, which refers to North Africa. It is meaningless, but like many exotic names it has the connotation that the Bird's origin was *outside* France, i.e. foreign.

The Germans have two distinctly different names for the Muscovy, one *Flugenten*, flying duck, the other *Warzenten*, wart duck, referring, of course, to the fleshy red caruncles of the Muscovy males.

In South America, the ancestral home of the Muscovy, many descriptive names are used in local areas usually along with the name *pato*. Mendez listed 26 different names common locally in parts of Panama. *Pato real*, i.e. royal duck, was most widely used.

The Mandarin Chinese name for the Muscovy is simple *fang ya*, or foreign duck. In the Taiwanese dialect however, the name is *Ahn-min-ah*, red faced duck, which has the merit of being unmistakably descriptive.

Domestication

Domestication of animals can be defined as the process of taming a wild species and its adaptation to and adoption of life with man.

A background to the domestication process

In the absence of written records inferences must be drawn from other evidence, much of it quite circumstantial. It is helpful to speculate on the circumstances involved in domestication so as to understand why certain species have been successful as domesticated animals while other species have not.

The relationship of the development of civilization and domestication

Development of agriculture must precede settlement because there will not be enough food nearby to feed the people. And a civilization cannot develop until some of the population can be freed of the daily chore of finding food so time can be devoted to religious and social organization, manufacture, and the construction of buildings all of which are the basis of a culture. But agriculture depends on the prior domestication of plants and animals probably centuries, perhaps millenniums, before.

Is it surprising to conclude that most of the animal and plant species we use today must have been domesticated by Neolithic or Mesolithic man?

However, nothing in this scenario infers that the domestication process was part of a deliberate plan by early man to achieve civilization, however dimly perceived.

Contrary to the common wisdom, animals were probably not domesticated for food by disparate starving people. Hungry people would have slaughtered the animals rather have domesticated them.

The circumstances involved in the domestication of the various species inevitably differ. Often it is suggested that birds, including the Muscovy, were domesticated for sport or religious rituals. I think this notion ignores human psychology. Some animals and all birds would have been domesticated first as pets and companions as a response to the care-taking urge of man. This is something more than companionship as with a dog. Man has an urge to husband.

Animals were domesticated by people who were comfortably settled, with food and leisure time to spare. The adopted animals served as camp scavengers, insects killers, and *watch dogs*. It was only much later that they were used in religious rituals, and sport (cock fighting).

Preadaptive traits of animals and the domestication process

Of the 144 species of waterfowl, only the duck, goose and Muscovy duck have been domesticated. Why were so few domesticated? Because most wild species are not suitable for domestication. For example, some species do not reproduce well in captivity, other remain wild and unchanged after years of being bred in captivity.

Several traits determine if a species is suitable for domestication. Lack of one or more of these traits may preclude successful domestication.

Preadaptions that favor successful domestication

If the animal does not require a specialized diet it is easier to feed in captivity.

If the mating behavior of the species is promiscuous rather than monogamous, the animals are easier to reproduce in captivity and inbreeding is less of a problem.

If the young animals can fend for themselves at birth, they are not only easier to raise, but easier to tame because they do not learn fear from their parents, or, reared apart from their parents, will imprint on humans.

If at least some individuals are reasonably docile it is easier for them to lose the natural wildness, essential for survival in nature. When these individuals reproduce the species is selected for a quiet temperament.

Some species of animals are naturally tame, but lack, like the Curassow and Fulvous duck in South America, some of the other prerequisites to domestication. Thus, only a very few wild species were naturally preadapted to domestication.

The Muscovy, remarkably, has all the qualities required for life with man. Most importantly they are dependably broody for hatching eggs and fiercely dedicated to their ducklings. They are sedentary and loath to leave the locale where they are fed. The Muscovy can be considered as self-domesticating.

Surplus food and leisure time as preconditions to domestication

A society must have the luxury of surplus food before domestication of a wild species of animal can succeed. This is especially true in the case of non-grazing animals like birds who compete directly with man for food.

On the other hand, easy access to food is a powerful incentive for the animal to cohabit with man. The probable circumstances of domestication in Middle and South America illustrate this point. The Proto-Indians began to convert from gathering to growing food before 7000 BC. They were marvellous farmers who domesticated 30 varieties of vegetables including most of those that feed the world today. There is botanical evidence that suggests corn (maize) was already a tame plant by 5400 BC.

Hunger was no problem for these people. Because they had corn as well as other vegetables, a family could grow enough food to last for a year with only 10 weeks labor. There was a surplus of food.

The Muscovy living in the wild (and incidentally, the turkey, although limited to Northern Mexico) was easy to capture and tame. Man had surplus food and leisure. Conditions were ripe for domestication.

Unfortunately the New World, so rich in suitable plant species, lacked suitable animals for domestication. Beside the small dogs the immigrants had brought with them from Asia, Middle Americans had only turkeys, Muscovy ducks, and bees. The Peruvians had the additional advantage of cavies (Guinea pigs), the alpaca and the llama. Early American man did not have many species of animals to choose from.

It is impossible to determine exactly when the Muscovy was domesticated. Birds rarely leave preserved fossils and bird bones are not a top priority of archaeologists. We do know that both the Muscovy and man have lived in the New World for a long time. Wetmore has evidence of the presence of the Muscovy during the Pleistocene period. Recent datings show man's presence at least 30,000 years ago, in the middle of the last ice age. The first men must have crossed the Alaska-Siberian land bridge long before then. This means that domestication could have occurred earlier than our current estimates.

Previous estimates of probable dates of domestication of all animals are being pushed back farther into the past as a new analysis is made of the evidence. Moreover, in the past, two errors were made that bias estimates against earlier dates. First, not enough lead time has been allowed for the development of plant and animal husbandry proceeding the emergence of an hybridation. Second, the early *classical*, anthropologists based their estimates on the appearance of the animals on the pottery or frescoes of a civilization which is interesting but too long after the fact, meaningless for our purpose.

There is a normal tendency to think that the Muscovy was domesticated in recent times because our written knowledge dates from the time of Columbus. Students agree that the Indians had Muscovies but I detect an inference that domesticated Muscovies were in their view a recent development. Even today, we overlook, with our European point of view, the many very sophisticated civilization of the New World, some of which existed long before the Golden Age of Greece.

Domestication of the Muscovy

Part of the problem of studying the Muscovies that they are not, even now, well known. Two recent books on domestication of animals, one written as late as 1972, do not mention the Muscovy. This is an amazing because the ubiquitous Muscovy can be seen in farmyards all over the world and one would think the most untutored observer could not confuse the Muscovy with our domestic puddle duck. In the light of this inattention, what evidence of the Muscovy has been overlooked?

Sauer, a serious student of dispersal, thought the Muscovy had been domesticated in the many sheltered basins of fertile land in what is now Columbia, where a high civilization, still mainly unexplored, had declined before the arrival of the Europeans (see his map). Perhaps, but the Muscovy, like the Mallard, is so easy to tame that domestication probably has occurred many times in various parts of Middle and South America.

The first domestication must have occurred long before 3500 BC. Lanning describes elaborate ceremonial buildings built in Peru as early as 2500 BC (4500 BP) and includes the Muscovy among the domestic animals present before the emergence of this first culture.

Lanning thought the Muscovy must have been domesticated somewhere in Peru from whence it spread over the New World. It seems unlikely that the Muscovy could have been domesticated in the Andes. The natural habitat of the wild Muscovy is along the streams of tropical jungle so one would not expect to find wild Muscovies either on the dry cool eastern coast of Peru or in the mountain streams of the cold, high Andes. A more logical theory would be to say that Muscovies, already domesticated, had arrived in Peru by sea from the jungles of the north, perhaps from Ecuador. This is consistent with our knowledge that the very earliest inhabitants of Peru were fishermen who sailed up and down the coast of South America in their balsa boats.

The most probable scenario

Sauer was probably correct. The Muscovy was domesticated by natives living in semi-permanent camps along the rivers of the jungle. There were plenty of vegetables, largely root crops, and fish and game in abundance. The turkey, domesticated in Northern Mexico, would have been fed maize, but I am inclined to think the tame Muscovy was fed the many available root crops and the many kinds of squash.

Primitive people have a deep interest in the understanding of animals. In their leisure, the women of the settlement domesticated Muscovy ducks not for food but as *barnyard* pets in response to the basic *caring* urge of man. Wilder reports that South American Indians are noted for their interest in birds. Besides the Muscovy, they keep tame Fulvous ducks, Curassows, and Comb Ducks. While the latter three species are very tame, they have not been domesticated probably because they do not reproduce well in contact with man.

The old Spanish name of the Muscovy is *patos caseros*, i.e. house ducks, and today, as I look out my window, the Muscovies seem not to have changed much in all those years. While our domestic ducks are out foraging in the orchard, the Muscovies are content to *hang around* the farmstead.

Other evidence

Mendez quotes personal correspondence from Mr Cooke reporting bones dating from 300 BC to 500 AD in a precolumbian culture of Panama.

The first historical mention of the Muscovy describes the use of dried Muscovies by the Incas in their religious ceremonies. It is very fashionable to believe that religion was the motivation of domestication but I don't find the argument very persuasive. Shamans were not long range planners that would undertake so long term a project. No, I think they made use of the material at hand.

While the Inca empire only dates from 1200 AD, it, like the Aztec empire, was only the last of a long series of older cultures. The Muscovy must have arrived in Peru centuries before.

Delacour wrote that Muscovies were being raised in large numbers by the Indians long before the discovery of the New World. He quotes Oviedo, who in 1514, saw local Muscovies of different colors and noted the well developed facial caruncles which Delacour associates with domestication.

The Indians of the West Indies may have had domesticated Muscovies as well. Columbus and his men reported the islanders had *ducks as large as geese*.

Evidence of domestication of the Muscovy from Indian sources

Tenochtitlan, which eventually became the capital of the Aztec Empire, was first settled in 1325 AD and the new, barbaric arrivals supported themselves by trading fish, frogs, ducks and other lake products to people of the more advanced city states nearby for corn and beans. The ducks were probably Muscovies because as Whitley has described, the Muscovy played an important role as the inspiration of the masks of the Aztecs and was their major source of feathers as well.

Although anthropologists have traditionally seen the Mayan agriculture as totally based on plants, vegetables and corn, recent reevaluation of the literature by Gallenkamp shows that, centuries before the Spanish conquest, the Mayans had domesticated turkeys, ducks, bees, and had semi-domesticated deer. The species of duck is not mentioned but it is logical to assume they were indigenous Muscovies.

There is no question that the Mayans had domestic animals in the period immediately following their conquest by the Spanish. About 1550 AD Bishop Landa, the infamous monk who burned all extant Mayan books in his blind religious fervor, wrote that the Mayans raised a certain kind of large white mallard (sic). Tozzer translates this as the Muscovy duck *Cairina moschata*. Landa also mentions that the Mayans had large numbers of fowl, bred a kind of domestic dove, and the coatimundi, a racoon like animal.

It is conceivable that these Muscovies of the Mayans were of post Hispanic introduction, but the presence of the white mutants suggests the Mayans had a longer association with the birds than a few turbulent years in a collapsing society.

Dispersion of the Muscovy around the world

After the discovery of America, the Muscovy quickly spread to France and if its South American origins were ever known they were soon forgotten.

The first European description of a bird that is unmistakably a Muscovy appeared in *Histoire de la Nature des Oyseaux* by Pierre Belon, published in Paris in 1555. Belon called them *Canard de Guinea*, nor surprising when you consider he called the turkey *Coq de Indie*. One of his contemporary ornithologists thought Muscovies as indigenous to southwest France. Had he seen feral Muscovies there?

Belon's description of the Muscovy is an important historical document. Part of its charm lies in the fact that Belon was describing the bird without preconception or prejudice.

Note that he didn't know the Muscovy was supposed to have the odor of musk. His paper has been translated for me from Middle French by Claire De Rycke and reads:

The Big Duck from Guinea

Not so long ago in France, we started to feed and breed a kind of medium size duck, between a goose and a duck which does not make any noise while quacking, even more its voice is husky, as if its lungs were wounded. There is already such a big quantity of these ducks all over our country, that we feed them in the cities and we started to sell them on public markets to use them in feasts and wedding parties.

This female duck is shortlegged, the male is higher than the female. These ducks are numerous and have various feathers, (colors), sometimes the female is one color and the male another color. So we can say that the male is sometimes white, sometimes the female is white, sometimes both are black, sometimes both are of various (mixed?) colors. This is the reason we cannot describe simply their colors like a normal female duck commonly they are blacker than with other various colors.

Their beak, as usually for ducks and geese, is hooked at its end, short and wide, having a red crest (comb!!!!!!!), not like a cock but these ducks have a tuberosity, that is to say like a swelling or protuberance between the two holes of the beak through which they breathe, and it looks like a red cherry.

On the two sides of the head around the eyes they do not have any feathers but they have like a red leather from the same kind as the cherry we said they wear on top of their eyes. It is a sufficient mark to distinguish them.

This bird has such a big genital member which is as big as a big finger and long between four and five (?) and red as blood.

If were not so costly, we would breed them more than we do because if we feed them as much as they want they lay a lot of eggs and in a very short time they have a big quantity of ducklings. But we are afraid that feeding them as they want would cost too much.

Their meat is not worse nor better than the one of a duck or of a domesticated goose.

Apparently, Muscovies had become very popular in the 50 years after arriving in France. In contrast, I have been able to find a reference to their arrival in or culture in Spain. Kamar claims Muscovies arrived in Europe from Egypt but as has been mentioned earlier I do find the evidence of their long time presence there very convincing. Yet, Wilder has made a convincing case for trans South Atlantic crossing in his account of the dispersion of the Fulvous duck from India to South America. Perhaps the Hindu sailors brought the Muscovy back to Africa but there is until now no evidence.

Over the next 250 years, Muscovies were said to have come from various exotic places, Turkey, Guinea, India, Cairo, and even Moscow to name a few. It was not until the 19th century that their South American origin was again reasonably well recognised.

The Muscovy is widely dispersed throughout Southeast Asia, Indonesia, China, Taiwan and the Philippines. Did they arrive by transpacific carriage in precolumbian times? Sauer thought there was strong evidence that several plants like the sweet potato and cotton having been dispersed from east to west and from west to east. Several writers advance the theory that the chicken arrived in South America from Southeast Asia in precolumbian times but there is no mention of the Muscovy.

There is a great deal of circumstantial evidence for transpacific contact but nothing positive. The sea is calm. The ocean currents favorable. And favorable in both directions, depending whether a northern or southern route across the Pacific is taken. The peoples of the Pacific Isles from Hawaii to New Zealand have much in common and their maritime talents are well known. The Norwegian, Thor Heyerdahl, sailed his balsa boat from Peru to Polynesia. There is ceramic evidence of contact between China and Japan with South America some feel over a long period of time.

A more logical scenario, however, is to think that the Muscovy was dispersed to Africa, the Far East and the islands of the Pacific by Portuguese traders or even by the notorious Dutch pirates who preyed on them. The tame disposition of the Muscovy and their tolerance of a wide variety of foods makes them an ideal source of fresh meat for the Captain and officers on a long voyage which may account for their rapid spread around the world but I wonder if they took advantage of the opportunity.

In the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Far East, the Muscovy is considered to be a foreign duck which suggests a fairly recent arrival.

As early as 1715 an important breakthrough in use of the Muscovy had been made in Taiwan. Written records show that the Taiwanese were producing hybrids from mating the Muscovy male to domestic ducks in order to combine the meat of the Muscovy and the good egg production of the domestic duck. A commercial use had been found for the *household* duck. For the first time Muscovy duck was established as a food.

Robinson reports there had been no mention of Muscovies in North America before 1845, when some were described on a farm in St Catherines Ontario. Subsequently, three exhibitors showed birds at the Boston Poultry Show in 1849.

Commercial use of the Muscovy

Although the Taiwanese had learned to increase production of duck meat centuries ago by making a hybrid combining the best progress was slow to come.

It is sometimes written that the Muscovy was the most popular table duck of the western world before the arrival of the Pekin from China about 1870. The story goes that the more rapid growth and better feed conversion of the Pekin enabled it to replace the Muscovy.

This story is a myth. The Muscovy duck could never have enjoyed widespread popularity because it was of necessity a seasonal product limited to the few ducklings that could be produced on general farms. The Pekin duck has the advantage of higher egg production and of being non-broody. Pekin ducklings, as compared to Muscovy ducklings, can be produced cheaply all year 'round, making them suitable for intensive production of large numbers.

First use of Muscovies for mass production in the western world began only recently in France. Windowless houses are used to control the environment which makes it possible to greatly improve egg production per Muscovy breeder duck while the development of a vaccine for Derseys disease made it feasible to successfully grow large numbers of Muscovy ducklings of several ages on the same farm.

The success of the French Muscovy duck industry is the result of a remarkable cooperative efforts by the farmers and the government research establishment, Institut Nationale Recherches Agricoles (INRA). Partly as a result of this cooperation, Muscovy markets in spite of being more expensive to buy. And the *mulard* has replaced the goose as a source of *fois gras*.

Commercial production in Israel has begun more recently by Moshe Tomarkin and others in an attempt to develop an industry producing fat livers, *fois gras* by force feeding Muscovy hybrids. Their efforts to develop special markets for the meat by-product are noteworthy, especially the *kosher* bacon and ham made from smoked Muscovy meat. The red, smoked meat of the Muscovy is delicious, leaner and tastier than pork.

But, in the rest of the west, Muscovy meat is virtually unknown.

A short history of Muscovy breeding

An Italian ornithologist, Professor Taibel, at the University of Pisa, Italy, was the pioneer student of inheritance of plumage color. He has been ably succeeded in recent years by Drs Fedeli Avanzi and Isabella Romboli who have a greatly expanded research program. Thus, Pisa continues to be the prominent center for the study of the Muscovy.

Professor W.F.Hollander, at Iowa State University, USA, and Colonna Cesari, France, have also made important contributions to our knowledge of inheritance in the Muscovy.

Selection for meat traits was begun in France, 1955, by the monks of Bellefontaine Abbey who continue to keep Muscovies to this day. About 1970 Grimaud Frères, Roussay, began breeding Muscovies and, over the years, Muscovy breeding in France has been pretty well centralized in their hands.

Other French Muscovy breeders of importance are Bernard Gourmaud, Couvoir de La Seigneurtière, Viellevigne, who specializes in white Muscovies, and Avi Bocage La Frontière, Les Herbiers, who breed a color sexing cross.

In North America, the Webfoot hatchery of Mr and Mrs Lewis Day, Elora, Ontario, Canada, have been breeding commercial white Muscovies for more than 20 years. They began with stock purchased from a fancier at a poultry show and have developed the only commercial meat strain in North America. Recently, Grimaud of France has begun to a venture to breed Muscovies in California.

In Southeast Asia, the Muscovy is very important in Taiwan and to a lesser extent in Australia. The long time resident *native Muscovy* of Taiwan, a colored bird, has been replaced by newly imported white Muscovies for use in crossing with the common duck to produce a white hybrid. In the early 1976, a large importation was made in the USA although the birds probably originated in Canada. Later, a second importation of the white variety was made from Holland. There have been recent importation of white Muscovies from France.

The native Muscovy of Taiwan now enjoys only a limited market for making a traditional medicinal *ginger* soup eaten by men to increase their resistance to cold.

In Indonesia the Muscovy is used in a very unusual way, to brood and rear native ducks.

Since Australia has been behind a genetic iron curtain since 1955 when all imports were banned, their Muscovies may by now be distinctly different than the European or North American white Muscovies. However, the data of Brewster, 1974, reflect a rate of growth and muscle yield comparable to that of Muscovies in Europe and Canada.

There is apparently considerable interest in Muscovy production in the sphere of Russian influence, but readable reliable information is not available, to me at least. When seen in the rest of the world, the Muscovy is a barnyard bird.

Role of the fancier

The Muscovy really never made it with the fancier and showmen. The few birds seen at the poultry shows both in the Us and UK, are shown as curiosities. I am advised that the Muscovy is the least popular waterfowl among British breeders. Sadly, it is rarely included in US waterfowl collections.

Yet, the essentially mute Muscovy has much to recommend it to the backyard hobbies. Certainly, the neighbors cannot complain about the noise they don't make. The Muscovy is dependably broody and the meat of young birds is a special treat, more than can be said of most fancy birds. The Muscovy has been neglected by the fancier and commercial duck industry as well. It is worthy of more attention.

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

3-11-1987

Dear Bill,

By an amazing coincidence I mentioned your name in a letter to Fred Jeffrey and before mailing it got one from him mentioning you. This is surprising because I have known Fred since we were at Rutgers University in 1940 but we have not corresponded much until the last 5 years. I don't need to tell you he is a good head.

I have read your mimeographs on the domestic fowl with great interest and eagerly await the jungle fowl book. The Muscovy papers you sent me were surprising but not really full of new information. I had already photostat Kimball's paper on the origin of the fowl before Fred's letter arrived. He probably has already sent them to you but I'll enclose them just in case. Kimball was probably right about the interbreeding of the four species but wrong because he didn't deal with an extinct ancestor. Hutt at least dealt the whole deck.

I only met Kimball once and was not impressed but in retrospect he was a unique man. Fred knew him very well. I think they imbibed a few martinis together and discussed Sherlock Holmes. My problem is that color patterns are just not my game.

I have not had access to the old books you mentioned but I could because we have good interlibrary loan and it would not be too much trouble to go to the Poultry Library at Beltsville USA. Part of my problem is just what you mention, they copied from one another. I have however gone to the National Biblioteck in Paris and translated Belon's papers on the Muscovy duck. He couldn't copy from anyone cause he was first. I confess I never looked to see if he did anything with the fowl. I recall he described the turkey and called it *coq d'Indie*. The middle French is hard going for me and the book is so old 1555 they will not permit you to make a photocopy.

You did not I think mention Johanssen of Oregon. I understand he was in India this summer tracking the fowl. If he is new to you will send the address. I suppose you have checked Mason's book, don't remember who did the chicken but my pen pal George Clayton handled the dicks and well. His paper on the *Effect of Artificial Selection on Reproduction in Avian Species*, 1973, J.Reprod.Fert.Supplement 15:1 gives an interesting angle to the question of natural selection under domestication. He missed the boat on the origins though thinking only the four species were involved. But after 8 years of searching and no help from Fred, I found in this paper an explanation of the origin of the name bantam!

I will send you the Muscovy paper one of these days but must do some updating. I see you don't use a word processor. In a way that is good. It's too hard to change anything so one tends not to. But with the document stored in the computer and being easy (after you get organized) to change, never want to do a print out until I have put in the latest wrinkle.

I am 73 and since you have so much time I suggest you get a simple computer. I think I would not bother with this study if I did not have a computer. It's just too difficult. I hope this finds you well. Be of good cheer.

Ed. Hoffmann

P.S. Hope my little story on the Fulvous interests you.

IMMIGRANT FROM INDIA

The Fulvous Duck is widely distributed in the Americas. But it is an East Indian not a native America species. Fulvous is one of eight species that make up the genus *Dendrocygna*. They are somewhere between a goose and a swan in the same sense that a Muscovy is between a goose and a duck.

Not much is really known about Fulvous. Delacour wrote of *the scanty knowledge of its habits and behavior*. Its name seems contrived. Fulvous just means brownish tan or *tawney* color. It is called a Tree Duck but is much less arboreal than the Perching Ducks and rarely roosts. It is called a whistling duck but it takes some imagination to imagine their squeaky voices as a whistle.

Fulvous is naturally a very tame duck (but not the tamest of the species), and therein lies a fascinating story. From time immemorial the Indians of Central and South America have kept tame ducks as household and village pets. This is not so unusual, the natives of East Africa and of Bengal keep tame ducks as well. Besides being companions and a response to the human *caring* urge, these animals serve a very useful purpose as village *watchdogs*, to sound the alarm, scavengers, insect and snake killers and as a live source of feathers.

South American Indians are fond of the Fulvous Duck, the Muscovy, and the Curassows as pets. This raises the question, Fulvous and Curassow, although just as tame, not domesticated?

The answer lies in the *preadaptive* traits of each species. The Curassow fails the test straightaway because the female lays only two eggs and is not dependably broody when living in contact with humans. The Fulvous lays more eggs but is monogamous (meaning the eggs may not be fertile) and Delacour claims they *never succeed in rearing their young* and that their rather small ducklings are better entrusted to a bantam hen.

Delacour feels that Fulvous ducklings fall an easy prey to vermin and should be reared in rat proof enclosures. This inspires me to note that the rat arrived in the New World with Columbus. They could not have been a factor in the failure of the South American Indians to domesticate Fulvous.

On the other hand, the Muscovy is promiscuous, an indeterminate layer, i.e., if eggs are destroyed the duck lays some more, a dependable natural incubator, and a fiercely protective defender of her young. In a way the Muscovy is self-domesticating.

The Fulvous duck has the greatest range of any species of bird. It is found from California to Argentina, East Africa, Madagascar, India, Ceylon, and Burma. There is no variation in the appearance of Fulvous over this very wide range. The birds of South America look the same as the birds of India and they interbreed freely.

This means that the widely separated populations have not been apart more than a few hundred of perhaps a thousand years, a moment in geologic time. It is 4000 miles from East Africa to Brazil. Fulvous is not salt tolerant nor a migratory flyer like the Mallard. How did Fulvous get to the Americas?

Glenn Whitley did a PHD Thesis at the University of Texas on *Tame Birds in the Americas*. He used linguistics to trace the spread of Fulvous in South America and found that, whatever the language of the local Indians, their names for Fulvous tend to fall into two groups of cognates. Each group of names for Fulvous can be traced back to one of the tribes of natives who once lived in the Amazon basin and subsequently spread over South and Central America. And the names in one group resemble the name for Fulvous in Bengal, the names of the other group resemble the name for Fulvous in Burma.

It is now widely realized that boat building and navigation began in Southeast Asia long before the Vikings sailed West.

Hindu traders regularly sailed to East Africa so it is not surprising to learn that tame ducks with Hindu names are found in East Africa as well as in India. But the trail of the Fulvous Duck suggests that the Hindu traders probably extended their voyages on to South America. Did the Hindu discover America many centuries before Columbus and bring the Fulvous with them?

This idea should not stretch the imagination too much. Favorable ocean currents would bring the Hindu sailors from the west coast of Africa to the East coast of Brazil in same vicinity from which the two Indian tribes and their tame ducks dispersed over South America. Whitley also notes that the native fisherman at the mouth of the Amazon still use a Hindu-type aft with a Hindu name.

Written history seriously limits the possibility of understanding the past and we must depend on archaeological and in this case linguistic evidence. This theory is admittedly based on purely circumstantial evidence, but isn't fascinating that a duck would provide the clue?

Oh, in case you wondered, if the Hindu sailors travelled south along the coast of South America, they would have picked up a favorable current that would have taken them back to the Cape of Good Hope.

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

Nov 5, 1987

Dear Bill,

I had not thought to be writing you again so soon. But our Canadian poultry fanciers' paper arrived today with the story I enclose.

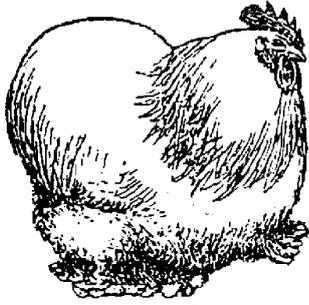
As usual it is poorly documented and I doubt that the editor could help you much.

I don't take *Fancy Fowl* which is a slick British publication. I suppose I could locate the address if you can't. I don't see it advertised anyone so perhaps it has folded.

I have reworked the history of the Muscovy and reread the print out this morning only to find some new things to revise. That's the problem with computers, I won't hold this up for the history.

Regards.

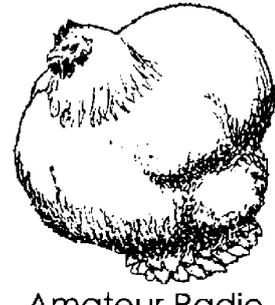
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Ed. Hoffmann".



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Dr Clive Carefoot
Preston - England

12-11-1987

Dear Clive,

Received your letter recently and nice to hear from you. I have been pretty busy here also working on the breeds created in Australia book which I hope to complete early in 1988 as 1988 is our Bi-centenary year in Australia.

Have been away to Brisbane for a short holiday which was very pleasant. The main purpose of the visit was my uncle's (my father's brother) birth day. He reached the age of 100 years and is travelling pretty well. He and I had a few rums each night I was there. Visited a few fanciers friends of mine on the way home.

Have to get the *Pekin Club Newsletter* out this month also. No rest for the wicked.

Glad to hear the Poultry Club going well. I am now Assistant Secretary Pekin Club. My son has been Secretary for quite awhile. However his business doesn't give him much time to spare so I handle the correspondence etc which takes the load off him. We had a very good show in July in conjunction with the Ancona and Leghorn Clubs: 730 birds overall in the three breeds which isn't too bad. Each Club runs its own show but in the same Pavilion. We run it at Newcastle (about 20 miles from Maitland) and it has become quite an event each year.

Regarding the *Colour Standards*: we do use the word *permissable* from memory with the edging in the Blue Pekins and dusky legs in Black Pekins. As far as the Blue Pekin is concerned an anomaly appears to exist. In Australia it has been the practice to follow the *British Standard* which calls for no lacing (I prefer to call it edging) in the Blue Pekin. However it also calls for darker hackles in the male. I have never found out how the Blue Pekins are breed in England. I would suspect double mated to get clear females. However our Blue Pekins in Australia are of the Andalusian Blue make up and if we were to be consistent they should be laced as is the Andalusian. The argument has been going for perhaps 30 years in Australia about the Blues. Some of diehards say they shouldn't be laced yet these same people exhibit birds that are laced. Occasionally you do get female that are pretty clear of lacing but they are more grey than blue. It is very rare to get a good shade of blue that is clear of lacing. In actual fact we are trying to breed something against what it normally is. This is why we used the word *permissable*. I think dusky legs in the dark breeds of Pekins would fall in the same category. The B.P. Std allows this in Pekins.

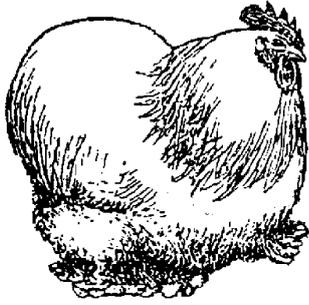
Regarding the Red, Orange red eye: we have found of recent years many Pekins have had brown eyes and it's taken a while to clean up the eye colour has improved. I can't say we get much yellow eye but do get what is considered a light eye. A light eye in a Pekin out here is considered a defect and breeders make every effort to darken it up.

As far as the eye is concerned I would have settled for just a red eye for I remember the late Frank Gary who was Chairman of the Standard Committee of the ABA when writing to me some years ago and discussing the why and wherefore (whilst the research was being done for our standard) Frank would not compromise anywhere along the line. If it was to be red it was red.

I was surprised that you have received the part 3 of *Gallus species* as I sent by sea mail which usually takes quite awhile. Will be interested to hear your comments when you have studied it. Re the ISBN number I obtained ISBN for all my publications. May have omitted putting it on your copy.

Frank Fogarty in my opinion is doing good work on the barred Pekins. He said he sent you some feathers and photos but hadn't heard from you. He thought perhaps the feathers may have been confiscated. He is a versatile chap in more ways than one and will be doing a paper on the barred project. He has a very practical approach and is forever searching for knowledge on the subject.

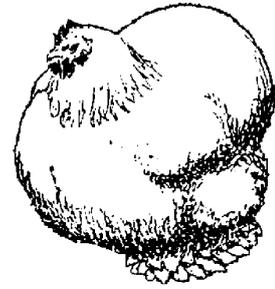
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

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54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
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Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Dr Edmund Hoffmann
Canning - Nova Scotia - Canada

17-11-1987

Dear Ed,

Received your mail (both letters) today for which I thank you very much. Yes I have been writing to Fred Jeffrey for some years and he has been most helpful whenever I have sought information from him. He is most knowledgeable in colour breeding, a subject which interests me more than somewhat. His book *Bantam Chickens* was very good. Every poultry breeder should have it on their bookshelf.

I was most interested in the photostats you sent me. I have not had time to study them in depth but will do so. I have not seen Kimball's material before so this will be new for me. I have heard of him however.

The other material from *Feather Fancies*. I knew this was in the pipeline but didn't know it was so far advanced. Loyl Stromberg who has my book on the Jungle Fowls asked me to send a copy to the Editor of *Feather Fancier*. Loyl said F.F. was going to do an article on the subject. This I did only last week. He would not have received it by the time that article went to press. I could find nothing new in the article. No one seems to come up with a story as from what *Gallus Bankiva* came from.

I don't think the heading is quite right *The Evolution and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl*. I think when we speak on evolution we have go back a long way and distribution occurred much earlier than covered in the article.

No I have not seen Mason's book (1984 I think), but I do have a copy of the chapter on domesticated chicken. It was written by Professor Crawford of the University of Saskatchewan but I'm afraid nothing new turned up there either. He didn't break any new ground from what I could see. I sent him my Chicken Bone (supplement notes) and did not hear from him from quite some time until I wrote again when he advised he had not had time to study it. I have now sent him the Jungle Fowl but perhaps I have thrown cat in among the pigeons both with those booklets for as you will note my *Chicken Bone* (supplement notes) brings forth the later evidence to hand of China 5000 BC, NE Thailand 3500 BC recoveries. This somewhat changes the scene of the early documentation regarding domestication of the fowl.

Higham said that in Thailand chickens were buried with humans (whole skeleton of chickens) so they must have been domesticated there at 3500 BC.

I would like to get in touch with Johannson. I wrote to him some years ago but never received an answer. Would appreciate his current address. He was in Oregon I think.

I have done a lot of homework in my researches and it's a hard road. However the only way is to keep scouting around and I think in the long term it pays dividends. When the relevant material is put together in one package as I have endeavoured to do it does make some sort of a story. My writings are not literary masterpieces by any stretch of the imagination. All I can do is to present facts that I have learned. I have had not former training in the field of writing. However if I can put up some information someone else may be able to do something with it.

If you ever want any information at all write to DR W.H. (Bill) Longenecker. I think he is still there. He was most helpful to me and is only too happy to assist any research.

OK re your translation in Paris. Afraid I wouldn't be any good at the translation but if I could get into some of those places I am sure there would be something to learn.

I don't have a word processor or computer. Will have to battle on. Would like to have a photocopier. I printed my previous books on a Gestetner duplicator, hard road.

Will be interested in the Muscovy duck details when you get it updated.

Scanned through your *Immigrant from India* story and was very interested in the possibilities of distribution across the Atlantic to the Americas.

I have still to do section in my Origin etc series on Distribution and Diffusion and do have some ideas on the subject. I am a great fan of Thor Heyerdahl and his voyages by raft and papyrus boats across Pacific, Atlantic and later from the Garden of Eden down the Persian Gulf to India, then across to Africa. In my opinion Heyerdahl proved that it was possible movement could have occurred in the manner he used well before Columbus. The argument I think still goes on re pre-Columbian chickens in the Americas.

I would like to contact Glenn Whitely you might have his full address? Your article does raise points of interest. There is no doubt there a lot of questions to find answer for.

Ok re your age. I am 66 but fortunately have kept good health so far. Hope it stays that way. Only problem my eyesight not the best. My regret it that I did not begin this work earlier in my lifetime although I have been breeding chickens in conjunction with my son for over 20 years and this has been a good background. There is so much to learn, so much we don't know. However I find the work very satisfying.

Hope I haven't missed anything from your letter. Thanks once again for material.

Regards,

Bill Plant

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

Nov 26, 1987

Dear Bill,

Just a fast note to answer your questions.

1. Kimball died long ago. He never wrote a book but many articles including several for *Poultry Science* on breeding various feather patterns. Fred has a bibliography on him.

2. Glenn Whitley had an address on one of his papers. 1233 Quantock # 10 St Louis Missouri. I wrote to him there this summer. I have had not reply but the letter did not come back. George Carter may have some ideas on a better address: Dr George Carter Route 7 Box 1395 Bryan Texas 77802.

3. I could not agree with you more. To stint with *Gallus gallus* is unimaginative.

4. Johannson's address is: Carl Johannson, University of Oregon, Geography Dept Eugene Oregon.

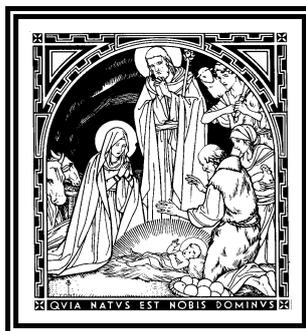
5. Carter told me that this is one of the best men on chickens: Tokao Nishida, Veterinary Lab. University of Tokyo Bunkyo-Ku Tokyo 113 Japan. May be you have cited him and I didn't know.

Best regards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed text "Best regards."

*Behold,
a virgin shall be with child,
and shall bring forth a son,
and they shall call his name
Emmanuel...*

MATTHEW 1:23



*May the joy and peace
of Christmas
be with you now and always*

Dear Bill, hope the Holiday season is a happy one for you and yours. I've enjoyed reading your material. You are an energetic fellow.

Winter has set in far goal in Wisconsin. My Cochins and pigeons are looking past the heater to the snow flakes outside. I'm still trying to retire but activities from my past seem to catch up with me regularly.

Merry Christmas 1987

John L. Skinner

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

December 26, 1987

Dear Bill:

Well, your opus arrived for Christmas. I can't tell when it was sent because I don't know how Australians write the date, with the month or the day first. Anyway you note enclosed was dated 10/9/87.

I have read it several times. It's a lot to digest and I must say you have put in a lot of time effort and money. Good work.

I don't mind the occasional typos but I do wish you would supply a bibliography.

I note you do not include the paper by Vires' J.B., 1939. The origins of the European *Dung hill cock* Proceedings of the 7th World's Poultry Congress 437. I suppose those present considered him some kind of a nut but I think you (and I) would at least consider his point of view. Perhaps you have covered Ghigi and Houwink both in Jull's book?

Who is Willoughby whom I understand lived about 1670 and wrote a book about chickens? Who was Temminck? Do you have Tegetmeier? If so what does he say about Muscovy? Do you have a better reference to "Historia Natural" (page 20)?

I have a lot of fun studies on the domestication of several animals and I would have thought this is a natural extension of your work. I may have been a professor once but I am very skeptical of the opinions of the so-called experts who apparently never stir out of their chair to look at the bird. Also the ones who mindlessly copy from a previous author without any attempt of analysis or resynthesis of the ideas. There is a paper in *Duck Production* by a Hertzell of Australia on domestication in ducks that is pretty superficial. I wrote him what I hoped was a gentle letter but he obviously does not want to be confused by the facts.

I've been struck recently by the fact that ducks geese and quail remains are common in some archaeological remains but no fowl. George Carter contends that the fowl was not used for food but for sport and ritual. I wonder if they might not have been treasured most for use as an alarm clock? When I stay in villages in Taiwan, I am always awakened by the crowing of the odd rooster that someone has in their back yard.

Forgive me if I have sent you the enclosed previously but I want to make the point that I don't think artificial incubation was invented to hatch chicken eggs.

All the best for the new year.

Ed. Hoffmann

A relationship between artificial incubation and domestication?

The Egyptian tomb pictures show ducks and geese (and quail) but not fowl. Likewise, study of the evidence from Tepe Ali Kosh in the near east, dated 7500 B.P., yields a long list of animals including ducks and geese, partridge, but no pigeons or fowl. If these species were so important, was artificial incubation developed to hatch the eggs of species less dedicated to natural incubation than the fowl?

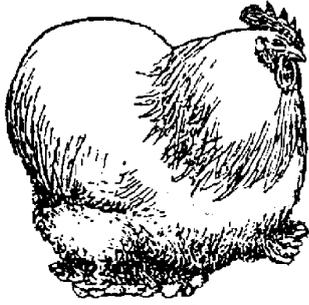
Wetherbee wrote about coturnix quail: "It is ironic that this, the first bird species domesticated by man, (The Mastaba Mereruka, Pt. 2 University of Chicago Art Institute, Sakkarah Expedition, 1938), should only in the 20th century be recognized for its potentialities as a pilot species for biological laboratory research."

If true, this contradicts the Japanese story that coturnix were domesticated as a song bird only 800 years ago (the most recent instead of the first domestication of domestic birds.) and his inference supports a reference by Perez to the effect that artificial incubation was initially used more successfully in China and Japan for the incubation of quail eggs than for chicken eggs due to the shorter time required for incubation, 16 days, and also because the particular conditions, humidity etc, obtained from those methods of incubation were more suitable for quail eggs than for chicken eggs. The Chinese and Japanese preserve even now according to Perez the recipes for wood and barro (mud) required for the incubation of quail eggs.

Rather than accept the speculation of Perez as to why artificial incubation was more necessary for quail and duck eggs, I propose a more simple explanation. Artificial incubation was invented to solve the problem of hatching eggs of those species that were not dependably broody.

Contrary to what we have presumed, the ancients (and artificial incubation is a very ancient invention) would have felt the need for incubators to hatch duck and quail eggs rather than chicken eggs. Slough nesting ducks are careless about where they lay their eggs. Moreover, species vary in the inherent intensity of broodiness from those that fail to breed at all in captivity to those that lay eggs but fail to brood them and on to species that lay but brood in a desultory way, to species like the fowl, most of whose breeds are dependably broody and to species like the Muscovy which is tenaciously broody.

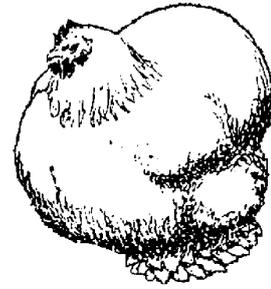
Ducks of most of our domesticated ducks don't care where they drop their eggs nor do coturnix quail.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Professor John L. Skinner
Middleton - Wisconsin - USA

28-12-1987

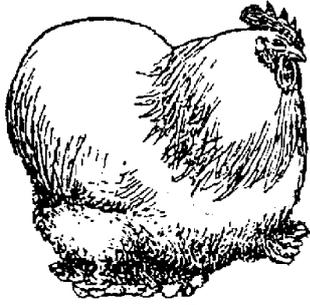
Dear John,

I thank you very much for your Xmas greetings and nice to hear from you. Yes, I'm still plugging away with the research and have a couple of new publications out shortly: one compiled on *OEG Colors* which were originally published in our old *Poultry* newspaper on a weekly basis some 50 years ago. I have put them in one package. They were written by one of Australia's all time greats in the Poultry world in Australia, A.J.Compton. Also later in 1988 I hope to have completed *The Breeds of Domestic Fowl Created in Australia*. The unfortunate thing is that I have to do all the typing, printing etc myself as I can't obtain any financial assistance. And of course the quality of the end product does not rate very highly. This slows me down somewhat as I have stacks of material which could be published if I just had to coalate it and not have to do the printing etc and of course some finance. However this is a challenge.

A letter later I will send you a copy of our *Pekin Bantam Club Color Standard*. It is close to completed, only have two colours to do. I have been involved heavily in this doing the research on it. It was needed we will be revising the type standard also as the *British Standard* is not very explicit. This may be of interest to you. The late Frank Gary was a tremendous help to me. I had very high regard for his ability. Also one of our Club members has been doing some really useful work in producing Barred Pekins in Australia. He has gone about the job in a very methodical way and although he has a way to go yet is making good progress.

He is preparing a paper on this project and I will be printing it for the Pekin Club. We are producing it in the interest of the breed. I will send you a copy when it becomes available. I haven't seen the text as yet but am pretty confident it will be good material. I have been in close contact with this chap throughout his project. Yes, I guess it would be hard to find the White Cochins amongst the snow. I realise it gets pretty cold in Wisconsin at this time of the year. OK on truing to retire. I jeep pretty busy. I wonder how I ever had time to go to work. Hope you had a good Xmas and best wishes for 1988.

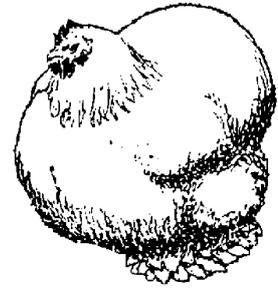
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Dr Edmund Hoffmann
Canning - Nova Scotia - Canada

28-12-1987

Dear Ed,

I thank you for your letter of 26th November and the addresses. I will endeavour to make contact with them. I have been writing to George Carter and Fred Jeffrey for some years and enjoy my correspondence with them. George writes a very humorous letter and Fred has been most helpful with information on color breeding.

I will try Johansson again. I did not receive a reply to a letter I wrote some years ago.

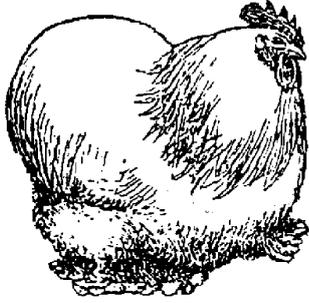
OK on Kimball. I think I have some of his papers amongst my files. I will speak to Fred about him.

Regarding the starting off from *Gallus gallus*. Everyone seems to evade the issue taking the easy way out, but as you say not very imaginative. There has virtually been no work done on the subject of what *Gallus gallus* come from and it's hard to determine how to start. I think I will have to get onto some of the ornithologists. They may be able to help. The problem I find is that although they dig up a bone here and there, there is no after study done on the material. Being in Australia also makes it hard as out here I am away from the action.

Hope you have enjoyed a good Xmas. Best wishes for 1988.

Regards.

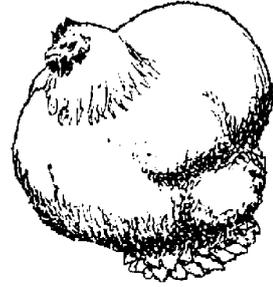
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**Mr Frank Fogarty
Taree - NSW**

28-12-1987

Dear Frank,

Thank for letter of 17-12-87 with enclosures. First of all I forgot to enclose the Barred photostat in previous letter.

Your comments noted also Carefoot, and difference of opinion between Carefoot and Sheridan, yes it is virtually two different ball games.

Your comments on open etc barring noted. Looks as though we should make that note in standard. You are certainly becoming a geneticist with modifying genes etc etc. I will set you up with Wolf next year when you come down. The modifying genes will throw them.

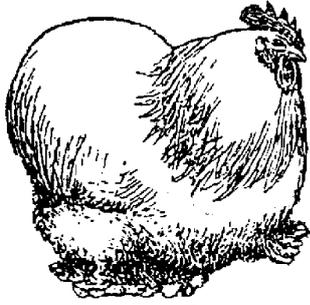
OK re the feathers from Carefoot. I always had the impression he was a perfectionist. Fred Jeffrey once told me that when he visited Carefoot he saw the best marked Partridge Wyandottes he had ever seen. It would be nice to have marking like the photostat you sent.

I'm a bit behind with correspondence so will have to get on with it.

Going over to David to photostat illustrations for OEG Colors from A.J. Compton on Wednesday. It's about 35 pages all told and will probably stir a few up. Will send you a copy.

Hope you had a good Xmas and have a prosperous 1988.

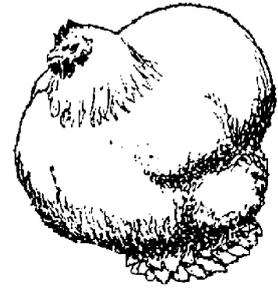
*Regards
Bill*



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since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
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Dr Edmund Hoffmann
Canning - Nova Scotia - Canada

11-1-1988

Dear Ed,

Received your letter of 26 December today 11 January. Although Air Mail it certainly lacks awhile. Hope you enjoyed Xmas.

Pleased to hear you received *Gallus species* and thank you for your comments. I quite agree it should have contained a bibliography of references and I forgot to put in even a contents list. Realised after I printed it. However I'm afraid I'm always in a bit of a rush to get things done but having seen so many book with a reference list there is no excuse for me not doing this.

I do not have any academic background in fact I only spent three years at high school but even so I should realise the importance of references at the end of the story.

Regarding my not including paper by De Vries although I know of him (I think he and also Bateson much to do with realising the importance of Mendel's papers). I was not aware of his paper you mentioned. Unfortunately there is probably a lot of material on the subject I am not aware of and I appreciate someone such as yourself bringing this to my attention. It's pretty difficult getting onto a lot of this material when one is not connected with an Institution such as an University etc. I guess there would be more opportunity if I was able to pursue the channels in one of the Institutions. However after publishing *Chicken Bone Recoveries* and sending some copies out I found that within 12 months I had received enough feedback of references to make up the Supplement to it. I do not mind anyone telling I left something out. In fact I look forward to it as it gives me further avenues to explore.

This study of the domestic chicken in all aspects has become my way of life and I will continue searching for information as long as I am able.

Regarding Willoughby I obtained a facsimile of his book from England some years ago and have enclosed a copy of the title page plus a few notes on the Muscovy and also a sketch: it is quite a large book as you can see by the size of the pages and about 2 inches thick (many drawings of birds) you will note the old style English spelling (they used F for s). The sketches are well done I feel. I'm not sure whether it was Willoughby who drew them.

Yes I have Tegetmeier and have had a cursory look through the duck section but he does not appear to even mention the Muscovy. I will check further.

However I also do have Wingfield and Johnson *The Poultry book* also written around 1850's in England and have found a couple of pages on the Muscovy. I will get them copied and send them on to you.

Regarding references to *Historia Natural*. Afraid I can't help. You will note I had quoted from Finsterbusch (*Cockfighting all over the world* - 1929). However you will also note Buffon's name is mentioned. I followed this up and located *Buffon's Natural History* (1808 Edition) in our State Library in Sydney. I managed to bluff my way into that section (like getting into Fort Knox) and under surveillance they wheeled all of the volumes out (about 15 from memory) on a trolley and allowed me to look at them. I was only interested in the chicken bit and found some information. They would not let me photocopy the pages but arranged to have them photographed which were sent to me in due course. Buffon (I think he may have been a Frenchman) visited Guyana (French), South America, I think in the 1770's and he said there were wild cocks and hens in the jungle. I have not used his material yet. It will come in when I do the Distribution story. If you can locate Buffon's work I am sure somewhere in it he will have something to say on Muscovy.

Regarding Temminck. A naturalist who went to Asia as far as I can ascertain and wrote a book about it. He is the one that spoke of *Gallus giganteus*. I have seen the title of this book but can't remember it. I will perhaps eventually track it down. I am not sure of his nationality. I asked a Dutch friend of mine and he says it sounds like a German name. Would like to know a bit more about him myself.

Regarding being skeptical of some of the experts. I may have mentioned it before but I feel that many academics could perhaps make their way easier if they were to move a little out of their own particular field of study. To me this seems the only way to go. I may be wrong but I have found that with the research I have been doing it has been necessary to branch out into quite a very wide field from repairing steam engines to making tools, gigs etc or working on machines and welding etc. I even had the job of building a small experimental steam turbine. I don't know whether this is a good example but I feel we must be flexible.

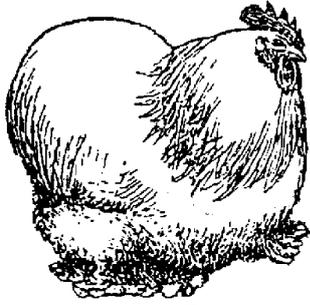
As you say not a lot of chicken bones are located in the archæological remains. I put it down to perhaps the frailty of the bones and feeding the scraps to the dogs etc. Then again are they being identified correctly or as George Carter says is it that they are considered intrusive in the scheme of things.

Thanks for the incubation paper. Will look it over. We have the scrub turkey and scrub fowls (not *Gallus*) in Australia who build mounds to incubate their eggs, just as the turtle covers them with sand and the bird builds a nest and lets nature carry on. Will talk about that later.

Best wishes for 1988.

Regards.

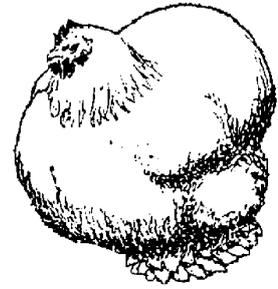
Bill Plant



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since 1965

William J. Plant

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**Mr Glenn Whitley
1233 Quantock # 10 - St Louis Missouri 63125**

13-1-1988

Dear Mr Whitley,

I recently had communication from Ed Hoffmann in Nova Scotia - Canada - wherein told me you had done a thesis on Game Birds in the Americas.

My interests lie in the field of the Origins, Evolution, History and Distribution of the domestic chicken.

I have been doing private research for some 12 years on the above subject and have published some of the results of my research.

I thought perhaps your work may have touched on the subject. I am concerned with and as I am always seeking further information decided to write to you. I have found that any information whatever such as bone recoveries, movements of civilisations etc etc can have a bearing on the distribution of chickens, domestic animals and the like.

It is very difficult to obtain positive evidence on the subject and therefore have found it necessary to explore any possible avenues.

Perhaps you know of someone I could contact who may be able to help.

I have myself published three books/booklets in a series on the subject of Origins etc. If these would be of any interest to you I would be happy to send copies to you.

Hoping we may be able to exchange notes of mutual interest to us both.

Regards.

Bill Plant

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

July 20, 1988

Dear Mr Plant,

The books arrived here in a very good condition and I thank you very much sending these to me. You did a good job in compiling, editing and publishing the articles of the late Mr Compton. I enjoy reading all those articles in the book.

That article of Mr Marshall (Oct 21, 1922) also is very special. His critical notes on the poultry plates of Ludlow are totally right, but Ludlow changes in the external of the fowl, you know this by comparing early work of Ludlow and later work of Ludlow. As so many poultry artist, Ludlow made his plates just as the instructions of the writer of the book. In his time of life the English Game fowl grow higher and higher on the legs to the time the breed was split up in the former type (Old English) and new type (Modern English) the latter being not without Malay blood. Ludlow was not a game breeder and that drawing of 1889 was not his best, but I feel the fault is more to blame his employer. There is a book *Lewis Wright's Poultry* by Dr J.Batty (1983), containing 80 color plates of Ludlow. Half of these are from the first edition of Wright's famous book of poultry and the others are 25 years later. Comparing the plates one can see differences in the breeds during a short time. Ludlow has his own style in his plates, some parts overdone, too large combs, eyes or crests, bodies angular, but he made the plates as wanted. Later artist made better work; Sewell did a great job and later Schilling and Van Gink.

Thanks to your book I found the color of my own Old English Game fowl. I have black breasted brown reds. Here I enter these in the show under the name Goldnecks. It is difficult to find the right name on rare colors. I gave you earlier comments on your fine book on *Chicken bone recoveries*.

I do hope it is better with your eyes now, or you can find a reader for my letter. Is there a chance to have a transplant now?

I am very glad with your file of book.

It happens that I have two babies-Cochin bantams (2) from imported eggs only two weeks now but promising birds. By seeing the wings it must be a pair. They are mottled. I never had them earlier. I never was breeding so late in the season, but I have eggs in the incubator. In fact this is too much work for me.

Wishing you the best, sincerely,



Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

September 16, 1988

Dear Mr Plant,

I received your second tape and I can say you this tape was quiet and clear spoken and very well to understand. I must apologise writing back so late. But many letters came in and it costs less time to answer a letter as to answer a tape.

What you told about the real Australian breeds of poultry is very interesting. For us in Europe we only know the Australorp as an Australian breed of poultry. 10 days ago I permitted myself a free day and I went first by train to Utrecht to see over a lot of books and found a pretty book about quails, pheasants, jungle fowl and other wild fowl. Later that day I took another train to Amsterdam and found a book *The King of Fowls* by Mark Marshall, second edition published by Saiga Publishing Co. England 1981. First published in 1958 in Australia. You must know this book or the original Australian copy. It contents forwards, an introduction, a ballad by Young Tarpot and chapters on Australian Game Fowl, Old English Game Fowl and varieties and the Australian Pit Game Fowl, 5 color plates and some black drawings by the author. I have not read it all now, but it seems very interesting for me. I do hope that you can read my letter yourself this time; or are you still waiting for the transplantation?

About 20 years ago I got a years file of *Grit and Steel* with some vary good articles on Japanese breeds of Game fowl. But also a lot of local game news, useless for me.

What you say about more languages we learn, I must say English is a world wide language and the Dutch area is small only the Netherlands, half of Belgium and some of South Africa. So we have to learn more and the best is English, but I also learned some German and some French, which is nice for reading poultry book from these countries. English is my best foreign language, I understand German very well and my French is poor.

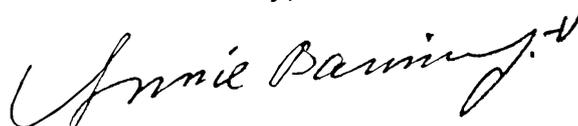
I am sorry for you that you had to miss the lecture about the investigation of Mr Langdon (I hope I understand this well).

Don't apologize for my trouble to listen your tape. To speak slowly and clear is very tiring and on the last part of the tape I can hear you are tired and the tape is less understandable. But you and I do the best we can and we can hope that in the future you are able to use the typewriter again.

I got the 1988 Yearbook of the ABA and there was in an article of George Carter Before Columbus. The point is Chickens were carried to America at one time from India and at another time from Japan, and there could well have been other introductions which have escaped notice. The article was reprinted from North American, Ellsworth, Maine. There is nothing new in the article, Carter corresponded with Hoffmann about the Muscovy duck and later Hoffmann asked Carter's opinion about Finsterbusch's theory about the Malay type fowl and the jungle fowl. I think most amateurs with a little interest in fowl know about the different types of fowl. In fact 3 groups, the jungle types, the *Malaoid* types and the Cochin types. And all the different mingled types of poultry.

Bill, I wish you the best with your eyesight and I really hope that meanwhile your problem is solved. I am entering my busy time now, doing one or two judge jobs a week and doing my work on the chickens and the house in my spare time. But understand, I love it do it, and that takes us busy.

Sincerely,



W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

31st December 1988

Dear Bill,

I am fulfilling my New Year's Resolution to get up to date with my letter working by replying to your 2 tapes. I can only apologise for not replying to your first one ages ago; my excuse is that I have been so busy this year.

I am delighted your operations seem successful, I hope you will be able to read this fairly soon. In answer to your questions I will try to write without frills so that the answers may be more clear.

Question 1

Birchen Duckwing OEG

There are indeed two type of colours, crow-wings and duck-wings with various modifiers.

a) the basic black-red is modified to Duckwing by silver genes (S) hence just black-red female and one type of Duckwing Female, but black-red male, Golden Duckwing Male and Silver Duckwing Male.

b) also the basic black-red is modified to Pyle (or Pile) by dominant white (I).

c) a blue-red is a black-red with blue substituted for black.

All these are Modern Black-Reds or OEG Partridge-Bred Black-Reds sometimes called Dark-Reds.

d) the Spangle OEG is the same Dark-Red with mottling mo/mo genes (recessive).

OEG have Wheaten Black-Reds with wheaten females which the addition of a blue gene produces Blue-Red Males but Blue-Tailed Wheaten Females.

The basic Brown-Red (really only two colors lemon and black which must be a misnomer) is a crow-wing. It can be modified by:

1 - the addition of silver S to form Birchen

2 - the addition of Bl to form Lemon-Blue i.e. a Brown-Red with Blue substituted for black

3 - the addition of S and Bl to form a Silver-Blue i.e. a Birchen with blue substituted for black.

Quite by chance I heard of the word *Birching* in connection with Duckwing for the first time only a month or so ago. I attended a lecture given by an expert colour breeder of Modern Game. The word *Birching* (I'm not sure whether there is a *g* or whether it is *Birchin*) is used to signify a yellowness in the silver of the shoulders of a Duckwing, together with rusiness on the wing bows. He tells me, I have checked today, that my interpretation is correct and derives from the old breeders of both OEG and Moderns.

I do agree with you there cannot be a breed colour Birchen - Duckwing, the two terms are mutually exclusive, but it does seem that a yellowish and reddish Duckwing would be identified by its defects and termed a *Birching Duckwing*. I hope this helps solve your problem.

Question 2

I do not appear to have received Mr Compton's description of colours. I enclose a copy of the colour description for Modern Game from *Bantam Poultry Standard*. Also a photocopy of the colour standard for blue-red, lemon-blue and silver-blue adopted in 1985 by the (British) Poultry Club. So you see, Bill, we are of some use, we have done it for you.

Question 3

Birchen or Grey

Our OEG classes are usually this way, a Grey being a Birchen without lacing. In OEG they do not seem to care about colour and most Brown-Reds are only partially laced, with most *Greys* being neither Birchen nor Grey.

As far as shape is concerned the OEG standard often referred to as *Carlisle type* because the OEG Club has always held its show at Carlisle in Cumbria (Cumberland) near the Scottish border, and defends their interpretation. The *Oxford Club* has virtually the same standard and defends its interpretation as the original fighting fowl. In practice mediocre Carlisle type frequently win the Oxford or *Pit Game* classes.

Question 4

Blue eggs

Yes the pea comb gene P is still closely linked (5%) with the blue eggshell gene O, denoted O for Olive because in the presence of a brown egg shell background an olive green egg results, blue egg shell colour only being present when otherwise the shell would be white.

I understand your argument about Malays being in Araucanas, but I'm not sure that it is correct. Mutations occur surprisingly frequently and it is possible for several occurrences of the spontaneous mutation. Thus the evidence of a common gene is not *evidence beyond all reasonable doubt* of a common ancestry. The rumpless bit surprised me because until the importation of Araucanas, Rumpless OEG bantams or *Rumpies* were the only rumpless fowl in Britain and were judged for OEG properties too. I was surprised they were supposed to be a Japanese breed!!

Kindly give my regards to Frank Fogarty, and please encourage him to keep on learning, he's the man that doesn't like to be called an expert isn't he?

In your first tape you primarily asked about Blue. I have done considerable research on blue plumage in the absence of silver or red. I'm convinced there are 3 basic types as follows:

1 - Lavender, caused by the recessive lavender (lav) genes, which prevents the distribution of the pigment granules to the keratin of which the feather is composed. Thus we see black pigment granules through an opaque layer which gives us the lavender appearance. Because the black saturates the inner layer, there are no black breaks in lavender as there are in ordinary blues. Lavender also dilutes orange to shaw and red to buff, i.e. it changes a Millefleur Belgian to a Porcelain.

2 - Laced Blue - really black-laced blue as in Andalusian - produced by Bl/bl+ i.e. one blue gene on a suitable background. In the reprint enclosed I showed this to be E/E Co/Co (Ml - Pg/Ml - Pg) where:

E is the Extended Black allele at the E-locus

Co is Columbian

Ml is Melanotic (F.P.J.'s recessive black)

Pg is the pattern gene responsible for ordering

and

3 - Self Blue as in Cochin, Wyandotte, also produced by Bl/bl+ on a suitable background. I am at present investigating this background but think it will purely and simply be E/E without the other genes. These self-blue throw splashes and blacks, and frequently have black flecks in the blue. This is because the blue gene acts by reducing the quantity of black pigment granules, and altering the shape from cylindrical to round so allowing them to be viewed through keratin. However if they lie on the surface the effect is to allow black, hence the breaks of colour.

Obviously most Splashed throwing Blues are intermediate between Andalusian and true self-blue, such as Blue Orpingtons etc. This lends further credence to the multifactorial assessment of the various Blues.

Now Bill, I have tried to be explicit but still brief so that when you put this on tape you will only have the essential bits put before you. In that way it must be easier to understand.

Now to a little of my own work. I have been systematically working through the patterned feathered fowl with a view to understanding their genetic background. An amazing picture of interdependence is being built up, all of which adds up with your subject, the history of the make up of these breeds.

I have another paper in press demonstrating the Spangled Hamburg to be pure for E (Db - Ml - Pg) i.e. the supposed spangling gene (Sp) has its effect produced by (Ml- Pg). The breeds now established are as follows:

Partridge Wyandotte e^b Pg
Laced Wyandotte e^b Co (Ml - Pg) - note the Co
Double Laced Barnevelder e^b (Ml- Pg)
Double Laced Cornish e^{Wh} (Ml- Pg)
Pencilled (Barred) Hamburg e^{bc} (Db - Pg)
Barred Fayoumi E Co (Db - Pg)
Spangled Hamburg E (Db - Ml - Pg)
Andalusian E Co (Ml - Pg) + Bl/bl+ for Blue Andalusian

The question remains, and the only major question, is what about the five *dominants* E, Co, (Db - Ml - Pg).

By crossing SSH and Andalusian, each with 4 dominants, I will in the F₂ generation extract the 5 dominant phenotypes, which I guess is the laced-tailed lacing of the Sebright. Time will tell, but if that is so then all the major distinct feather patterns will have been successful analysed.

Well Bill, 12 pages handwritten from me is no mean achievement. I hope it keeps your mind occupied during your recuperation which I hope is quick, steady and above all completely successful.

All the best for 1989.

Yours,



Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

January 9th 1989

Dear Bill,

Today I received your card of Maitland, but earlier I got your letter, which I planned to answer this evening, when my husband has to play in a bridge team to hold the first place in the competition. Thank you for both.

In the letter you wrote "...the rumplessness in the Japanese chicken is different to the European chicken..." (you quote me) but this should be the rumplessness of the Araucana chicken is different to the European chicken. You know, the Araucana has a vertebra more as other rumpless fowl.

But first I must say I am very glad that your eyesight is so much improved that you are able to read again. Here we had a good time with Christmas. The Poultry Club of Meteren, 2½ miles from here, organised a fancy faire and we played there for hours winning nothing till we won 3 turkey within half an hour. So I had 2 in the oven for Christmas dinner when our daughter with her family joined us. The judging season walks to its end, only one job at the end of the month. I am glad because I did 25 judgings and I am going to reduce the number of the jobs. I try to stay nearer to Waardenburg because I don't like to travel 6 hours of a day.

I got breeding eggs from an American friend and have made breeding pens now for the new Modern English Game bantams and I have rised a pair of mottled Cochin bantams which I never had before. They are very good birds. I also get some Marans bantams which they are very rare (French breed). My birds did well on the 2 shows in Waardenburg and Meteren. First my old cock (OEG bantam) became champion and on the second show my Welsumer pullet took the cup. It is too much work to enter my birds into the large shows. Thank you for copies of the winning birds of the Pekins, beautiful birds indeed.

Sincerely yours,



Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

Jan. 30, 1989

Dear Bill:

Well your tape presented a real problem to me. I am not electronically inclined, don't have a tape recorder, or even a tape player in my car. The last of a vanishing race. I priced a tape recorder in the stores but didn't want to pay that much to listen to one tape.

Anyway, I took it with me when I visited my son in November on my way to Saudi Arabia and the Far East. I felt kind of stupid when he told me to play it on his car radio.

Your tape made me very sad because you especially need your eyesight so much.

Yesterday I again referred to the copy of Willoughby for which I have you to thank and I determined I would write no later than today.

I finished the manuscript on quail and have a proof. But the duck manuscript will take forever. I enclose a little revision on the origin of the name Muscovy which reflects my current thinking.

Perhaps you can get someone to read it to you.

Well I won't strain your eyes any further. If you feel inclined send me another tape, I won't be so tardy listening to it because now I know the ropes and realize they play perfectly well on a car radio and I can easily find one of them.

All the best.

Ed. Hoffmann

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

February 1st, 1989

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your letter dated Jan 27 which was very good written. Enclosed I send you 2 clippings of a German poultry paper with pictures of 2 rumpless female chickens, the Kaulhuhn is a common European rumpless and an Araucana. It is easy to see that the last has a longer back, because she has one vertebra more as the Kaulhuhn has. That one vertebra is special for the Araucana. I have a book on Japanese fowl. There is a breed which is rumpless, the Uzura-0 chicken. There is also a rumpless variety of the Japanese Bantam or Chabo. Pictures are in the famous poultry number of the National Geographic Magazine of April 1927. Rumplessness has a lethal factor when breeding the birds. Therefore breeders often bred a rumpless bird to one with a tail. Therefore these varieties throw birds with tail from time to time which keep them able to duplicate.

Japan, being islands, imported all kind of chickens before 1636 and developed the birds in their own way. There was no contact for more as 200 years with other countries in this period, it was forbidden to built vessels and to sail for the Japanese. The only contact they had was with the Dutch trade center on the small island Decima. This period lasted from 1636-1865. Japan cannot have been so important in exporting poultry during that time, but there are signals of Japanese poultry in the Netherlands on old paintings from that period.

In the book of Houwink from which I quoted about the chicken bones, there is also a part on the poultry culture in Australia round 1909. He writes for his book (part II - 1909): "The oldest type of fowl in NSW is the Asiatic type, imported centuries ago by sailors and bred by the people of Australia. It was a certain Game Fowl, from which the beautiful Australian Game is bred and his miniature the Australian Game Bantam. A wild fowl (chicken) never existed in Australia.

It is remarkable that in this country suddenly the beautiful English and American breeds of chickens are imported, which very easy adapted the climate and became profitable. So the last 15 years the poultry culture increased very well in a more or less American way to an important part of the agriculture. There are large farms with a very important flock of poultry. The poultry culture equals the English and American points."

End quotation. There was an egg contest for 2 years old hens over 2 years. The breeds were: Langshan, cuckoo and buff Leghorn, white and buff Orpington, light brown Leghorn, silver and white Wyandotte, black Orpington, RIR, buff Wyandotte and Minorca.

In that time there were known here 2 real Australian breeds of poultry: the Australian Game Fowl and the Australian Game Bantam.

That's all for today. We are fine. We have no real winter till now. I have a lot of eggs from my birds. Keep on with the good work.

Sincerely yours,



Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

February 1st 1989

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I do hope it is better with your eyes now, or you can find a reader for my letter. Is there a chance to have a transplant now?

I am very glad with your file of books. It happens that I have 2 baby-Cochin bantams from imported eggs only 2 weeks now but promising birds. By seeing the wings it must be a pair. They are mottled. I never had them earlier. I never was breeding so late in the season, but I have eggs in the incubator. In fact this is too much work for me.

Wishing you the best, sincerely,



Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

March 23, 1989

Dear Bill,

Delighted to hear from you and learn of your recovery. Good luck.

Your comment on the need to take a general approach reminds me that George Carter sent me a paper today on *The tardy domestication of the duck*. I had been unable to find it and am away too much to use interlibrary loan. Anyway the author is a medievalist and concludes that the duck was not domesticated until the middle ages. Well and good but this neglects the east. I think ducks and quail must have been domesticated at least by the time of the invention of artificial incubation because neither species is dependably broody under domestication while the chicken is. Can't imagine the need to invent incubators for the primitive chicken.

I was stuck in Bangkok last month trying to get a seat to Taiwan and went to the zoo to kill time. Saw *Gallus bankiva* there and was struck again by its small size and furtiveness. If the early use of the chicken was for fighting I am sure it depends on their being from another much more aggressive progenitor.

Crawford is editing a book on Avian Genetics with different people doing various sections. He sent the Muscovy section to me for review. I thought it so bad I told him I couldn't do it. Hollander had done the same thing. Guess he is having his problems.

Will look forward to you paper on chickens in the Pacific.

Do you have?

Herre W., and M. Rohrs, 1983. Abstammung und Entwicklung des Hausfuegels. In Handbuch der Gefluegelphysiologie Teil 1 Mehner and Hiartfield eds Karger Basel and London, pp 19-53,

said to contain information on the origins of the chicken duck and turkey. If you get it let me know.

Be of good cheer!

Ed.

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

29-3-1989

Dear Bill,

Thank you very much for your letter received a couple of weeks ago, and especially for the excellent news that your sight is improving slow steady progress is probably the best way in the long run, the fable of the tortoise and the hare!! Your amateur radio contacts must be a great source of contact and help get you outside of yourself.

On *Modern Game Standards*, some of the later accepted standards on *blue* variations are not in the 1982 edition, but have been accepted by the Poultry Club of Great Britain in the form I sent you. Therefore when the next version takes place they will be incorporated unless further change takes place.

No alteration to the OEG standard has been made since the 1982 edition, but we have a curious situation with OEG in that ANY COLOUR is standardised without specific description and shown under AOC. In fact a local fancier has won the Championship 3 times in 6 years of the OEG show with colours no one has been able to describe.

A curious situation also arises in that in the standard, and in popularity, OEG large fowl colours are non popular in large fowl. The large OEG colours are more closely related to the Modern Game Bantam colours, giving credence to the theory that the original English Game had their *legs sketched* to become *Exhibition Game* and later *Modern Game*, with new colours being developed on the old type to produce OEG bantams.

I am at present trying to re-construct the laced-tailed lacing of a Sebright from the F₂ of two genotypically established breeds, the S.S. Hamburg E co⁺ (Db - Ml - Pg) and the Andalusian E Co (db⁺ - Ml - Pg). The F₂ is homozygous for E Ml Pg and segregates only at the Co and Db, so the analysis is quite simple. But if, as appears most likely, the genotype of the Sebright is E Co (Db - Ml - Pg). then your historical research will show the supposed synthesis as recorded in Fred Jeffrey is correct. Interesting!!

Best wishes. Yours,

Clive Carefoot



25th April 1989

Dear Mr. Plant,

The identification and recording of the bird bones from Ban Chiang is now complete, and you will be pleased to learn that there were three distinct sizes of Gallus: small junglefowl size, males and females; large domestic Malay hen size; and an intermediate form. But the puzzling thing is that ^{although} in the very earliest levels only junglefowl are found (not surprising), the large ^{presumably} domestic Malays appear in the middle of the sequence and then disappear in the later levels, leaving only the junglefowl and intermediate forms.

I had expected a progression from junglefowl to intermediate to large Malay, but all three co-exist during the middle layers, and then the Malays disappear. In your capacity as fowl breeder of many years standing, I would be very grateful for any comments you may have on this little mystery!

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Vest
Dept. of Zoology (BMNH)

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

May 14, 1989

Dear Bill:

This rainy Sunday I picked up your *Chicken in the Pacific* for a second reading.

Who was Langdon? Do you have a copy of his lecture. I would like to get a copy.

Are there fowl in the Pacific that lay blue eggs? Naked necks?

If I am asking questions that are answered in your writings, please forgive me. But you do have a mass of material and I am basically interested in ducks.

Could you give me a more complete reference to the O'Strander book on the Jungle Chicken?

I will be keenly interested in the translation of the origin of the chicken from the Japanese.

Having reread your material I am going to send it on to George Carter who is more into bones and linguistics than I.

Please let me know if you would like a copy of my history of the Muscovy duck in which I reveal the source of the name and my ideas on the dispersion of the duck around the world.

Also do you have the paper on the wild chickens bantams actually of the Philippines which appeared in the Yearbook of the American Bantam Ass'n some years back? If not, whistle. (There are also wild chickens in the mountains of Taiwan, also small.)

Your reference to Darwin prompts this:

The jungle fowl has a single comb. Your Giant Malay type has a pea comb. Do you see any survival value to either?

Isn't naked neck a Malay trait?

If you learn anything about the domestication of the duck from your Chinese or Japanese contacts, please pass them on.

All the best.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the typed text.

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

28-7-89

Dear Bill,

How nice to receive a letter from you, but this pleasure was saddened by your news that you most probably will need another cornea operation.

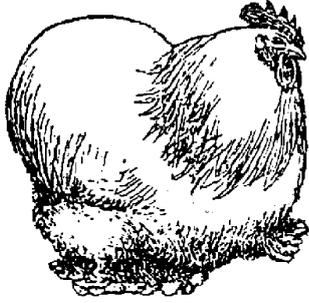
It is interesting how small the world is for poultry fanciers. In addition to writing to you I have recently written to New Zealand (3), Moscow, California, Canada, Dallas, Texas, Germany and South Africa. Most peculiarly of all we supplied the feathers to the British Museum for the reconstruction of the Archæopteryx. I think they went to Dr Barbara West too.

Yes, poultry research is never ending. I was successful in constructing a laced-tailed laced Bantam similar in pattern to a Silver Sebright but laced with blue instead of black. This was from the F2 of Blue Andalusian x Silver Spangled Hamburgh.

I sincerely hope everything goes well for you in your eye problem.

Best wishes,

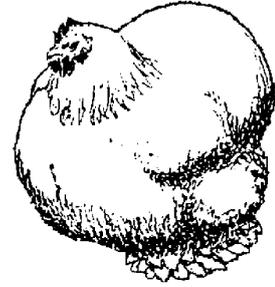
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clive".



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Professor Roy Crawford
University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon - Canada

1-10-1989

Dear Professor Crawford,

Thank you for your letter of 2/9/89. I will be pleased to have your comments on the *Chicken Bone etc* papers. I feel the China recoveries are important when considering the diffusion question.

It is interesting to hear of your projects with the books, very challenging. I don't know whether you aware of Dr Clive Carefoot book, of Preston, England, *Creative poultry breeding*. I have been corresponding with him for some years. He has done some good work in the field. Others well versed on the subject of Poultry Genetics are Fred Jeffrey, North Amherst - Massachusetts, and Professor Ralph J.Somes Jr. of the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

Yes I would be pleased to hear from Barbara West of the British Museum especially if she is interested in the Chinese connection. I feel that is where we will find a lot of answers.

I have temporarily halted work on the Origin etc project, only because of the fact I am engaged on the project discussing the breeds of Domestic Fowls created in Australia. I wish to complete this by 1988 as it is a project for Australia's Bi-Centenary year (1988) which I feel makes it relevant at that time.

I hope to continue on with the Origin etc series again next year. Hope you have a successful trip around eastern North America. All for now.

Regards,

Bill Plant

Thor Heyerdahl

Ph.D. - OSLO

28. 12. 1990

Dear Mr Plant,

On a brief visit to Norway I found your letter of 16 November with various enclosures, for which I thank you.

I am off to start a new archaeological project in the Canary Islands in a couple of days before I return to our major site in Tucume, Peru, in February, and as I find a deluge of mail accumulated here waiting for my answers, I have to be very brief:

I have been corresponding with my old friend George Carter about the earliest breeds of chicken, a problem which has interested me for many years. I have been unable to throw any new light on the problem, and I have personally never seen the blue eggs of Easter Island chicken. However, I may now report that blue-egged chickens are still to be found in the area around the Tucume pyramids where I personally live in the Lambayeque valley, North Peru. I have two blue chicken eggs blown out and preserved in my own residence at Tucume, and blue-egged chickens are locally available for inbreeding and research for those who are sufficiently interested and able to devote time for such a project.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

Wed, Jan 2, 1991

Dear Bill:

Its been a long time since I've heard from you. In fact I think since you kindly put a review of my book in an Australian Magazine, for which I thank you.

This summer I ran across what I perceive a interesting story on the African goose. I enclose a copy and a picture not my best but you get the idea.

My work on the Muscovy continue. New information coming in and perhaps more important better insights of my part.

But so much for me. What is new on the chicken origin front? I note that Veronica Mayhew has a copy of Finsterbusch, *Cockfighting all over the world*. Have you seen it? As I recall he postulated the existence of a now extinct giant fowl called *Gigantus* (or something like that) to account for the larger breeds of fowl.

I wish you good health and happiness in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'E' and 'H'.

THE CHINESE ORIGIN OF THE SO-CALLED AFRICAN GOOSE

Comparison of the domestic brown Chinese goose with the wild swan goose of Asia, *Anser cygnoides*, suggests that the Chinese breed is merely a domesticated version of the now rare wild bird¹. Both are remarkably alike in size, stance, and plumage pattern: a graceful brownish grey goose with a small head set on a long slender neck, black bill, orange legs and feet. Their distinctive color pattern is surely the most beautiful of all domestic geese. The dark brown crown on the head and hindneck contrasts with the pale brown of the throat, sides of head, and foreneck. In adults a narrow whitish band appears around the base of the bill. The sexes are alike in plumage color.

Notwithstanding these similarities, the absence of a frontal knob at the base of the upper mandible in wild Swan geese led Petrov to reject the idea of consanguinity of Swan and Chinese geese. Undoubtedly influenced by the fact that several Russian breeds of geese feature prominent knobs, he argued that the Chinese goose is a Russian variant of European geese and had therefore evolved from the wild Greylag goose, *Anser anser*.

Since then cytological descriptions of the chromosomes of Chinese and the Swan goose by Bhatnagar, 1968 and Belterman and DeBoer, 1984, respectively, prove that the Chinese goose is, in fact, a domesticated swan goose.

But, because the outrageously misnamed² African is the largest variety of geese and the Chinese is the smallest and because the African features a prominent dewlap unlike either the Chinese or the wild Swan goose, the case for the Swan goose being the antecedent of the African goose has been less convincing. The common wisdom of poultry historians was expressed by the eminent Edward Brawn who believed that the Chinese goose had reached America by way of Africa, (to account for the name?), and that, in America, Chinese geese were crossed with the Toulouse geese to create the much larger African variety. Thus the African goose was considered a mix of Chinese and European geese.

Not true. The data of Silversides and coworkers, 1988, albeit indirectly, confirm that the African goose is, like the Chinese goose, descendant from the wild Swan goose. All three manifest a unique inversion of the fourth autosome not present in the karyotype of domestic geese descendant from the wild Grey Lag.

Having established the Swan goose as the progenitor of the African goose, the question remain, where indeed did this massive Chinese breed evolve? Certainly not in Africa where it is unknown to this day.

On my tripe to South China, I have been on the lookout for a native breed which might have been the original source. It has been a discouraging quest. Although small Chinese geese are ubiquitous in China, I found none as large as Africans. Any larger geese were always of an imported European breed.

At long last I have found a likely prospect! In the rural villages of Swatow, an area of South China with its own dialect and distinctive cuisine, there are small flocks of very large geese which pasture the verges of the small plots and country roads. Ganders can weigh as much as 12 kilos at 2 years of age. Their resemblance to the African goose in size, color and posture is unmistakable, (although admittedly somewhat lacking in refinement and the uniformity of color pattern of our modern Africans). These geese are called Tze Tau, *lion head*, an obvious reference to their large head and dewlap³.

¹ A shy and wary bird of the steppe and mountain lakes. An endangered species now greatly reduced in range, Breeds in Manchuria and winters in South China. Fortunately, the swan goose can be successfully propagated in captivity.

² The name is of American origin. In 1793 the French naturalist Buffon described a rare swan-like goose which he called "L'Oie de Guinea" a name which, (according to on), Bement, 1845, choose to translate as African goose in the belief that the sound of "Guinea goose" in English did not do justice to the dignity of so majestic a bird. Buffon's use of the name Guinea should not necessarily be construed as indicating African origin for, in his day, "guinea" was frequently used to signify unknown or non-European origin. Incidentally, Buffon's 1793 illustration of an "African" - type goose, complete with knob and dewlap, is evidence for arrival of the African goose in Europe before the Chinese variety.

³ The Tse Tau is of commercial importance. Currently, more than 1,000,000 goslings are sent north each year to Shanghai and Peking to be grown out. Breeding is localized around Swatow because of the year around availability of feed in south China, an important cost for so large a goose.

The location of Swatow on the south China coast just across the Formosa Strait from Taiwan is significant because ships loading tea for the western world would have had ready access to these birds and yet would probably not have brought western geese there.

An original discovery? No, it is 150 years too late. In his *The Domestic Poultry Book*, (rarely mentioned by poultry historians), T.B. Miner quotes a letter dated December 13, 1852 from a Mr. Belcher of East Randolph, Massachusetts, USA, in which he describes large geese akin to our modern African geese⁴ and continues, "The breed that I own, was brought from Tchín Tchú, China." Tchín Tchú is the old spelling for modern Chuan Chow a seaport of Fukien a coastal province, Northeast of Swatow evidence that Tze Tau and Tze Tau geese are closely related if not one and the same breed.

This conclusion is inescapable. Not only is the African breed so distant from the wild Swan goose of Asia but its distinctive appearance indicates it was created in China by deliberate selection. Our so-called *African* goose by-passed that continent completely and arrived in the western world from China, looking much as they appear today.

⁴ The "African" had reached England sometime before this date. Wingfield and Johnson describe the exhibition of large "Hong Kong" geese. But, as in France, the African variety did not become popular among waterfowl fanciers.

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

Feb 23, 1991

Dear Bill,

Your letter has caught up with me here where I am attempting to see a genuine wild Muscovy.

Where is Finsterbusch's reprint available? If you will give me Dr West's address I will try to track her down if I get to London again.

I have Crawford's book, too big but excellent in most cases. I thought his origins lacked ingenuity!

You may want to correspond with

Prof Xiangpin Qiu
Poultry Research Station
Sichuan Ag.University
Yaan Sichuan 625014

He took a Ph D at Iowa in 1946 and contributed to *Poultry Breeds in China* now sold out. I contacted him re *Lion Headed Goose*. He had a lot of history of the Muscovy in China and may have something on chicken origin. I had the Muscovy and Goose sections translated but not the information on chickens.

Hope this finds you well and working.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Ed. Hoffmann".

Dick ROMANOWSKI

RMB AB 366
COLAC 3250
VICTORIA

20-4-1991

Dear Bill,

It has been a long time since I have heard from you. I have been busy myself for the last few years, as you will note from my change of address, building a house, a nursery, and studying. Somewhere along the line we seem to have lost contact.

I now have enough time free to breed more chooks, and I've been reading the two booklets you put out in 1984 and 1985 (Part 2, *Chicken bone recoveries* and the *Supplement*). Have you put out any more volumes in the series; if so, could you let me know which ones are finished and how much they would cost including postage.

Regards.



Dick ROMANOWSKI

RMB AB 366
COLAC 3250
VICTORIA

1-6-1991

Dear Bill,

I have two other books I want to get down on paper, hopefully in the next year. One is in bamboos, grazzes, reads and rushes, and the research for it is almost complete. As it is only a fairly short book, I plan to write it over three of four months. The other book is on aquaculture, and will take twice that time (although the bulk of the research is done) because it will be a longer book.

After that, I would very much like to follow up my interests in poultry in greater detail, and if I had access to yours materials it would make the book very much more authoritative. However, a book of this kind would have to be published in both our names, perhaps with me as an editor rather than a co-author, as you will have undoubtedly done most of the work.

I'd be interested to hear your thoughts on this. One (minor) point which I need, some idea of is how much volume of material would I be needing to store, and is it arranged in any particular way?

Once the house I am building has been finished, I will have a very large area of storeroom available, so that shouldn't be too great a problem unless you have a houseful of correspondence!

I'd like to follow up more of the Malay/Cochin/other breeds as possible separate species, but I'll leave that until next letter as I want to read your junglefowl book again and think about it further, first. Also, I'm looking after our little daughter today, and I fear I've neglected her long enough already!

Regards,

N. R. K.

Dick ROMANOWSKI

RMB AB 366
COLAC 3250
VICTORIA

17-6-1991

Dear Bill,

I was really pleased to get your latest volume (\$10 enclosed, by the way), and to hear that you're soldiering on despite some eye troubles. I can't imagine how I would have coped if I couldn't see to read for any length of time, as reading and correspondence are so important to me. I'm not surprised you found it frustrating, and I hope your sight holds up for you.

The Jungle Fowls volume is very well done. It's better set-out than the previous volumes, and it's really full of excellent information. I've read it several times already and I'm always noticing new information each time. The only problem with my copy is that page 10 is blank. Would it be possible to get a photocopy of this page? No rush.

I'm particularly interested in the separate origin theories for the Asian breeds of fowl. The impression I had the first time I saw a Malay Game was of a whole new species of bird unlike anything I'd seen before. Whether it's true or not, it certainly bears close consideration.

Egg colour is always a special interest of mine, which is why I keep Araucanas and Welsummers (I have been selecting Welsummers to get the proper brown eggs which so many strains now lack, and their egg colour is now very close to that of a Barnevelder). The impression I have had from my reading has been that all brown-egg breeds are either Asian, or have Asian blood in them.

This certainly is another aspect which suggests that Asian and Western pure breeds are very different. I'm not so convinced that there were two now-extinct Junglefowl which were the ancestors of different Asian breeds. Many of the Asian Types have strong similarities (e.g. large size, ground-dwelling habit, brown eggs, comb-types, etc) which suggest a single common ancestor rather than two different ones.

If the ancestors of Asian and Western stocks are different species, this could almost certainly be shown by electrophoresis. Of course, you pointed out the main problem with this would be obtaining absolutely pure stocks. It might still be possible, though. For example, many English strains of Dorking may still be pure, laying white eggs, having distinct skin colour etc. A number of Dorking strains in Australia have Faverolles mixed in, so are no longer pure as Faverolles definitely have Asian blood.

It should also still be possible to obtain some pure Asian stocks in China, but this means that any researcher wanting to do work of this kind would have to travel both to China and to England (or any other country in Europe where pure stocks of Mediterranean/European breeds still existed).

I've been trying to get more information on Araucanas, in particular the book by Caudill. Do you know of anyone in Australia with a copy? It has long been out of print, so I am eagerly trying to get hold of a photocopy. I've also tried contacting the British and Canadian Araucana Societies in the hope of picking up a second hand copy but no luck so far.

You mentioned the paper you received from Cawley in the USA. Would it be possible to obtain a photocopy of it from you, or his address to contact him directly? I'd be happy to pay any costs, of course.

The information you have been getting on pre-Columbian chicken bone recoveries and the older recoveries in Thailand etc sound very promising. I am looking forward to hearing more about this when you print the next volume. You mention new information coming through from China, and that has to be an important source of information. Completely off the record (because I have no evidence for saying it), I would not be surprised if chickens in China and parts of Asia turned out to be among the very first animals even domesticated on earth. Certainly, they would have required less effort and elaborate fencing (etc) to keep them as domestic animals than large and dangerous animals such as wild cattle, bears and wolves!

I've had a long day, so I'll sign off, now. I'll be re-reading volume 3 a few more times, and thinking a bit more about it too; there's quite a bit there to absorb, and you're obviously put a huge amount of work into it. I'll be looking forward to further volumes and to hearing from you again fairly soon.

Regards,



P.S. I've just read an interesting book on domestic animals and their history, which includes a large chapter on Fowls. It is a detailed summary of what is definitely known, and what is not known definitely, about fowls, including pre-Columbian chickens. Although it is basically conservative, the author keeps an open mind and includes alternative ideas, and gives many references. I'll send you a copy when I have a chance to photocopy it.



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCE

SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

Phone: (306) 966-4128

Fax: (306) 966-4151

October 25, 1991

Dear Mr Plant:

Thank you for the letter. It was a pleasure hearing from you again. I was pleased to learn that you have had access to *Poultry Breeding and Genetics*, if even for only a short time. Thank you for the very positive comments about it. That project seems far distant now, but I still carry some of the fatigue. I have not heard from Miss West in about two years. I suspect that she was made redundant at the British Museum along with many others. I had hoped to try locating her when in England in late August, but I had the flu and had to keep my head down the whole time. I expect that the work on chicken bones from Thailand will reach print sometime, and if it comes to my attention I will send a copy to you.

I have had recent correspondence with George Carter, and had hoped to visit him in Texas in early August but unfortunately he was planning to be elsewhere at that time. He told me that he is now editing a book *Sacrificial Birds of the Southwest* that will include solid documentation of pre-Columbian chicken bones in Southern United States. (Hoffmann has sent me the McKusick paper too, many months ago, and have heard nothing from him since). When and if Carter's book comes available, I will alert you about it. Yes Dr. Hutt was very pleased to see my book in print, and he made some nice comments about it. Sadly, he is now a very ill man, mid-90s, and in a total care nursing home. I understand that he is lucid for only a few moments at a time. Such a pity that a great man like that has to have such an ending.

I have retired now from the University at least partly to allow more time for work on rare breeds conservation, both internationally and at home. I am Vice-Chairman of the new group: Rare Breeds International, and have the secretariat here, along with the secretariat for Canada Branch of World's Poultry Science Association. I am still teaching part-time, and have a temporary office at the University although I work now mostly at home. I will continue to utilize the University mailing address. Best wishes and much energy in your work.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R.D. Crawford".

R.D. Crawford, Ph.D.,
Professor Emeritus

Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher

PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222

PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

October 29, 1991

GOOD MORNING BILL:

It has been a powerful long time since being in touch with you. Recall you writing about making contacts in Singapore, Indonesia.....Thailand. Certainly a credit to you for all your researching.

A SPECIAL YEAR.....with completion of my work on "POULTRY OF THE WORLD". But then....a set/back. The publisher who for four years strongly interested to publish the book backed out due to bad economics....the recession, plus the high cost to produce the book with 673 color pictures.

Now....have a firm in Canada who is very much interested to publish it.

THEN A BAD YEAR:

September 26th my dear wife passed away....I miss her so much. It helps to keep busy.

I AM NOW COLLECTING CHICKEN FIGURINES,
ROOSTER CARVINGS....porcelains.

Perhaps you can help me????

Am enclosing \$10.00 to show good faith to pay for it. NO RUSH! When you find one that is good, please let me know as to the price and will send the \$\$\$\$ price difference.

My collection is extensive. Some day it will go to a poultry museum.

SNOW IS IN THE FORECAST HERE.

My guess is that you do not get snow in Australia. Enclosed is a sheet that will give you an idea as to what: "POULTRY OF THE WORLD" is all about.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.





DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCE

SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

Phone: (306) 966-4128

Fax: (306) 966-4151

May 28, 1992

Dear Mr Plant:

Many but belated thanks for sending me a copy of your *Further notes on jungle fowls and Pacific*, which arrived here in mid-February. I am still not fully organized with work stations at home, and things tend to get buried. Bit by bit I am getting caught up and getting things arranged in an orderly way.

I am especially pleased to have copies of the de Vries and Castellò papers from the *7th World's Poultry Congress*. For whatever reasons, I have never been able to locate those proceedings despite searching many libraries in Canada and elsewhere. They are both papers that are historically important. I enjoyed the long series by Elliot Kimball. He was indeed a character. He appeared on the poultry genetics scene when I was first starting out, and I heard him speak once. He upset many apple carts. Some of his work has withstood the test of time but much of it has not. He suddenly seemed to lose interest in poultry, and plunged into crystallography where he made similar waves. And then he died at a relatively young age. He apparently made his living as a ghostwriter for magazines such as Saturday Evening Post. I also thoroughly enjoyed the very long series of letters and articles by George Carter. I tried two years ago to meet up with him, without success, but still hope to arrange a visit sometime. He continues to write to me occasionally insisting that he has evidence for pre-Columbian chicken bones; I hope his book will be published soon and that I get to read it.

I am revisiting the pre-Columbian controversy yet again. This time as the Inaugural Lecture for the *World Meeting on Domestic Animal Breeds Related to the Discovery of America* to be held in Cordoba, Spain in September/92. That stuff is sheer fun but still not adequately proven to my mind. My health continues to improve, and I continue to crank out written things. I was to a meeting of FAO in Rome in April to give a paper about poultry conservation needs in Third World countries. I completed yet another poultry history chapter for a forthcoming book on the world's poultry industry. And have started work on a chapter for a new book on Canadian animal agriculture - history of both livestock and poultry this time. I hope you are well and able to continue with your work. I Would appreciate hearing from you.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Crawford".

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.

**GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE**

"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

20-6-1992

Dear Bill,

I am writing this in our caravan on the shores of Lake Maggiore in Northern Italy. Mary and I are on our annual holiday and so I am using the free time to catch up on over due letters to old friends.

It was good to hear from you again, and especially from your son David re your combined efforts on Pekin standards. I was pleased to be able to be of assistance.

You must be pleased that your son has returned near home and is interested in your hobby too. In the words of one elderly local gentleman *It's not too often the chick brings the broody hen a worm*. So when it does happen it must be all the better.

These academics get moved from job to job and probably forget all about their last project, hence the absence of a reply from Dr West. That was the main reason I did not go into the academic life and did the research I wanted do privately. Hence I could do what I wanted since I was paying for the food.

The sight of a good bird is something special and once instilled into a Fancier cannot be erased. I sincerely hope David gets them good enough to make you feel really pleased with them.

I have cut back this year with the pressures on my time, but there seems a chance of something good amongst the chicks I have. So need you may be I will increase numbers again.

Best wishes with your endeavours.

Sincerely yours,

Clive Carefoot



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCE

SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

Phone: (306) 966-4128

Fax: (306) 966-4151

August 12, 1992

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for the balance of your *Further notes...* which arrived a few days ago. I enjoyed reading through them. One day no doubt I will have occasion to call on them to support some of my own writing. Meanwhile, I will tuck them all away in the spot for things reserved to do *next year*.

I am fighting deadlines now for a book chapter on history of Canadian animal agriculture, and for my paper to be given at the 500 year meeting in Spain. These and a backlog of correspondence re Rare Breeds International and World's Poultry Science Association. So goes retirement.

Our summer, such as it was, is nearly over. There has been no hot weather at all. Crops look good thus far but gardens are poor. There can be a killing frost any night now. I have been busy with haying and have an abundant store for winter, although already I am feeding hay to the sheep and goats and there are many months to go until the grass grows again.

If anything of interest to you arises at the meeting in Spain I will pass it along to you.

Meanwhile, continuing energy and enthusiasm in your work.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R.D. Crawford".

R.D. Crawford, Ph.D.,
Professor Emeritus



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND POULTRY SCIENCE

SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

Phone: (306) 966-4128

Fax: (306) 966-4151

October 23, 1992

Dear Bill:

A note to thank you for the letter of 27 Aug 92 and for your new booklet on *Rare breeds and others*. I particularly enjoyed reading the section on Exchequer Leghorns; much of that information was new to me. I saw the breed only once, in the 1950's in Belgium of all places. They are probably long since gone.

There is indeed an Australian rare breeds group. For your information the address is:

Australian Rare Breeds Reserve,
Mrs. Carole Lomas,
Snig Hall,
Gidgegannup,
Western Australia 6555

The Cordoba meeting was hectic but good. I no longer find travelling easy or enjoyable, and so I am happy to be home again.

I gave a paper on origin and diffusion of turkeys, from the Americas to Europe and back again. Most of the audience was cattle people but I got a few interested comments. It will be published in due course in a Spanish journal with wide circulation and may stimulate some interest eventually. I included Charmaine McKusick's work on separate domestication of Merriam's turkey, and all the questions that raises.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R.D. Crawford".

R.D. Crawford, Ph.D.,
Professor Emeritus

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.
GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE
"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

26-6-1993

Dear Bill,

Yet another short note on our annual holiday. This time we are overlooking the sea in North West Spain. I use the rest *to catch up on hobby correspondence* I was very interested in your last letter relating your son's interest which generated yours. With me I wanted a rabbit when I was nine, but Dad had banties as a boy and suggested Barred Rock Bantams. I still have the same strain with only two injections of fresh blood in 43 years. My grandfather had Houdans for one 60 years and use to exchange breeding cockerels each year with two other fanciers on a round robin bases A-B-C-A. The last year they did it all the men were old so with the combined ages of 248 years. They were fanatics of the breed.

I was encouraged by a very experienced fancier in the village who was 65 years older than me but treated me as an adopted grandson and I repaid him well by helping him with his birds until he was 90, six weeks before he died. He begged me to carry on with his Partridge Wyandotte bantams (exhibition females) which I have done ever since. I have worked hard at them and improved them. He also inspired me into make silver pencilled Wyandotte bantam, which I did 26 years ago and took me 12 years to get like partridge. Now they are identical in quality and some of the best bantams around. So it just goes to show *catch them young*.

I hope things are keeping well with you and look forward to a letter sometime.

Best wishes. Sincerely yours,

Clive

P.S. I wont talk about cricket, we don't play it any more.

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

July 17, 1993

Dear Bill:

I hope this finds you well and happy. For my part I have undergone an operation for lung cancer this winter. I am told the prognosis is good but it is a constant worry, just don't want to go!

Hans Schippers sent me a well written story on Chinese Geese by Megg Miller published in *Australasian Poultry* June/July 1993.

I do not have the address of either the author or the magazine and I hope you will forward my story on the African goose on to her.

I was sent a manuscript by the Texas University Press last fall for appraisal. Written by George Carter. I sort of tore it apart and since then have been deluged by paper by Carter. With my illness I have not had the energy to wade through them but hope to one day.

My paper on the *Natural History of the Muscovy Duck* continues to evolve. If you would like a current version please let me know. Ah the joys of computer editing—the paper is never finished.

I hope you have had a chance to read Roy Crawford's paper on the Origin of the Chicken in the book he edited *Poultry Breeding and Genetics*. He of course refers to your work. It is a very large and expensive book and if you have not seen it I would be happy to photostat the chapter on origins.

Well, be of good cheer. A million thanks for the accommodation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

July 17, 1993

Dear Megg Miller:

A friend in Amsterdam sent me a copy of your story on Chinese Geese published recently in *Australasian Poultry*.

I thought you be interested in my story on the African which has been published in various places. I would be happy to have your comments.

For my part I would be interested in any evidence on the effect of the: Chinese on clutch size as you mention on page 5. Does the brown variety actually lay better than the white. The brown are very rare in North America.

As you no doubt know egg production of geese has been increased greatly by the manipulation of light in windowless houses, most notably in France but also in Israel. If you would like some information on this please request it. I thought you were guilty of one sin of omission when you did not mention that the wild swan goose does not have a knob and that the knob is apparently the result of selection by the Chinese. Of course the same perversity is reflected in the Lion Headed Goose (African but the Swatow version) which I find grotesque.

I do hope you will find time to write.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed. Hoffmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Ed. Hoffmann".

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

August 20, 1993

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your letter of July 27th. I have sent the paper to Meg Miller.

And thanks for your encouraging words on the question of my health.

An update on the *Natural History of the Muscovy* is enclosed. I hope you will give me the benefit of your criticisms and comments.

I do not have a copy of Mc Kusick paper. It was returned with the manuscript I reviewed for the University of Texas Press. I sort of unloaded on Carter who is I think too speculative and have had a blizzard of polemics from him.

I greatly appreciate the copy of *Duck and Geese* which you compiled and sent to me. I am sure I will refer to it somewhere.

All the best.

Ed.

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

13-10-93

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter.

This is just a short note to pass along the following from George Carter:

Patrick Kirch, University of California, Berkeley, knows about or has lots of archaeological chicken bones from Polynesia back to the Lapita Culture of 1500 BC. The man studying them is David Steadman at the New York State Museum, Albany, New York.

Bill, I realize that, in case you want to contact these people, these addresses are not the best but I think the post would make an effort to deliver a letter from Australia. If you have a problem I will call the Museum and get a better address.

Hang in there. After ail, I am 79 and have just had a bout with cancer. But I am one day back from Saudi where I am breeding some interesting chickens. Fascinating or I wouldn't go. It is a inhospitable place.

I consider you my dependable friend in Australia.

Ed. Hoffmann

Printed January 20, 1994

The Mongrel a superb Goose

Hagadoorn, the distinguished Dutchman who was among the first to apply the fledgling science of genetics to practical animal breeding, wrote, "In America and Canada hybrids between Canada ganders and the domestic goose command a special price in some markets. The hybrids of which the female parent is the China goose are very strong and quick maturing and are perfectly fertile. From the hybrids a very variable population can be bred in which it would be probably possible to find material for the making of novel breeds if such were wanted."

His statement aroused my curiosity. Here was a chance to get some new genes into the domestic goose which although one of the first animals to have been domesticated by man has failed to improve in recent years to meet modern standards of efficiency in meat production.

Alas! Dr Hagadoorn was wrong. The Canada x domestic goose cross is not fertile. It produces a sterile hybrid like the progeny from a donkey x horse or, less well known. The mule duck of Taiwan (called *mulard* in France) from the cross of a Muscovy male and a common duck. Any domestic goose can be used as the female parent; the hybrid does not require use of the China goose.

Eben Prime, Augusta, Maine and Lloyd Ramsey, Kensington, Prince Edward Island, raise the Canada cross and attest that the hybrid is sterile. Gray, the authority on bird hybrids reports no instance of a fertile hybrid from the cross. This is not surprising when one takes into account that the Canada goose is not a goose at all but a Brant, an *Anserinae*, a subfamily of *Anatidae*. Our domestic goose is *Anser anser* (except for the China and African breeds which are *Anser Cygnoides*, Swan Goose). The mongrel is from the cross of two genera not closely related.

However, when one door closes another opens. Even though the hybrid cannot reproduce it has a great deal of merit in its own right. It makes a unique and delicious meal. Commonly called the "mongrel" goose the hybrid has a long tradition as a gourmet dish in New England, Southern Ontario, and Prince Edward Island. But, with the advent of highly specialized commercial farming after World War 2 production ceased. Lloyd Ramsey remembers when trucks came up to Prince Edward Island every year to pick up mongrels from small farmers destined for Boston and the Christmas dinner.

Besides Mr. Ramsey, a Mr. Mc Fadden of Bloomfield, PEI, still raises mongrels so the technique is not dead. Their trade comes by to get these delicacies before Christmas just as in years gone by.

The mongrel is larger than either parent and combines the better traits of each. Its a meaty bird, especially in the breast. It has less fat than the domestic goose and the fat is marbled through the meat rather than concentrated under the skin. The hybrid grows rapidly and matures early. A Canada goose lays only 8-12 eggs per year; a domestic goose depending on the breed and strain will lay 30-50 eggs. In producing mongrels the better meat quality of the Canada is combined with the better egg production of the domestic goose. Fortunately the mongrel resembles the Canada enough to be readily recognized as genuine. It would be difficult to counterfeit.

To produce mongrel it is necessary to induce Canada ganders normally considered to be monogamous to mate with domestic geese. Imprinting must begin early in life. The ganders are raised with domestic females and never see their own kind. Matings are made in the fall that the gander is 2 years old. About 50% of the matings are successful at this age the remaining ganders should be ready for mating when three years old. Of course some ganders never take a mate but this occurs in the wild as well.

Infertile eggs due to failure to mate are a major problem. Besides imprinting to break down psychological barriers, quiet familiar surroundings with plenty of room for each pair are necessary. Interference among pairs must be avoided. A small pool is thought to result in more successful copulations. When the Canadas do mate the eggs are more often fertile than eggs from geese mated to domestic ganders who mate more often but with less success.

A good well adjusted gander is very valuable. Lose one and it may take years to find another. Ramsey's best gander would mate with three domestic geese a season even after having been previously mated to a Canada goose.

Hatching and rearing procedures are the same as for domestic goslings which is not to say there are no problems. Ramsey uses broody Araucana chicken broodies for hatching goose eggs. Each hen covers only three eggs. A Muscovy duck might be better!

Here is an interesting sidelight. Ramsey found that the goslings from the cross of Canada ganders with Emden geese could be color sexed at time of hatch. The female's down is grey with some black in the neck and the male's down is light grey in color. Apparently the incompletely dominant sexed-linked blue dilution gene of the Emden dilutes the grey pattern of the Canada, Jerome, 1970.

Ramsey himself still thinks there is a chance of obtaining fertile mongrels. He says that they have not been given a fair test because, "people eat them don't keep them." He thinks a mature female mongrel will lay a few eggs but that the hybrid males is sterile. (But maybe the eggs would not hatch.)

In the past the growing of mongrels was a small farm enterprise, a cottage industry. But if we can learn from the success of the male duck in Taiwan use of artificial could make feasible a unique and delicious dish for our affluent society.

References

- Gray, A. P., 1958. Bird Hybrids, Commonwealth Bur. Animal Breeding and Genetics, Edinburgh Tech. Comm 13
- Hagadoorn, A. L. and Geoffrey Sykes, 1953. Poultry Breeding. Crosby and Lockwood, London
- Jerome, F. N., 1970. Inheritance of plumage color of domestic geese. Proceedings of the World's Poultry Congress, Madrid



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
405 HILGARD AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-1606

February 15, 1994

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for the copy of *The origin, evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl, part 3, the Gallus species*. It is a good deal of interesting information and I expect to peruse it in more detail. I found especially interesting the account by your friend as to how the natives trap or used to trap as more will Red Junglefowl in Burma.

I enclose a copy of the repertoire on Red Junglefowl vocalization you asked for, and I am also enclosing a reprint you may find of some interest in Red Junglefowl in Malaya and Thailand.

I think the process of domestication may still be going on, and this article gives the evidence for this notion.

The most recent reviews of domestication of chickens that I know of are those of Crawford in 1990 (the first chapter, page 1-42, in *Poultry breeding and genetics* edited by Roy Crawford, published by Elsevier in Amsterdam, Oxford and New York) and by Stevens in 1991 in *Genetics and evolution of the domestic fowl*, by the Cambridge University Press in New York. Crawford seems to favour Darwin's view but concludes that one or more species of Junglefowl are contributing to the origin of the domestic fowl. L. Stevens concludes that more than one species of Junglefowl was involved. Crawford especially considers the Red Junglefowl the major ancestor of most domestic chickens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas E. Collins".

Professor of Zoology
retired.

26-4-1994

Dear Mr Plant,

I have now assembled here the Ban Chiang chicken bones. Would you like me to send them to you for your consideration?

I might take some expense to get them through Australian Customs and you may have to have access to a quarantine laboratory.

Let me know. They fill a small box 20 x 10 x 15 cm.

Charles Higham



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

3-7-1994

Dear Mister Plant,

First of all excuse my English.

I am a physician, cardiologist, born in Italy in 1942. I am writing a book of poultry genetics because in Italy doesn't exist a specific book in this matter, nor exists a Poultry Standard. The ignorance of Italian breeders about the poultry genetics is very great. So I have resolved to write this book .

Today I have finished in reading your Part 3 of *The origin evolution ...The Gallus species*. I have found your job very interesting and I have made clear many problems.

I am incompetent in this specific matter, but I agree with you that there are 3 types of fowls, this statement is scientifically difficult, but I think that it's true or near to the verity. As you say, it is necessary, even in natural sciences, to use in the judgement the instinct of the simple man of the way.

If the people thinks that we are offspring from the monkey, this may be true. I never had accepted in my subconscious that the Malay was a offspring from Bankiva! Nevertheless this is the current idea into the Italian breeders! The difference is as *chalk and cheese!*

I want to suggest to You a correction.

In Latin the LEG is *CRUS*, nominative case and neuter. The genitive is *CRURIS* (of the leg - plural *CRURUM*, of the legs), not CRUSIS. Excuse me.

Do you can indicate to me where I might find information about the particular coloration of the Yokohama? The male can carry an imperfect e^b (or e^p) gene, but the female seems carrying the e^+ gene. This is a pied subject and the literature is very scant.

Do you wrote a book about the origin of Bantams? If so, send me, please.

I thank you very much.

Sheri McEvoy

July 4, 1994

Dear Mr Plant,

I am an artist who has read your work on Chickens (vol. 2) and wonder if you have any objection to my using the text, or parts of it I mean, in a painting on chickens, and a fabric print.

You may call me on 02-9551078 if you want more details, or reply to the above address if you would be so kind as soon as possible, as I am travelling to China, New Guinea and Fiji, and am interested in man's interaction with chickens. You may like to come to my gallery exhibition in Sydney in May 1995, where I hope to hang the completed works.

Yours sincerely,



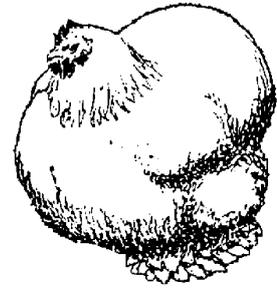
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Phone (02) 955 1078 Fax (02) 955 2055**



Breeding Pekins
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William J. Plant

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Australia



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

12-7-1994

Dear Elio,

I was most interested to receive your letter and I thank you for your comments. The correction of the word CRURIS (leg) instead of CRUSIS is much appreciated. I do not have knowledge of Latin and got the word from a book I had. Thank you very much for your help.

I have not done a lot more work on the research of the Origins etc. over the last couple of years as I've been busy on putting together information on Australian created breeds. However I did receive a report from Dr Barbara West of the British Museum who studied the chicken bones from North East Thailand dated around 3500 BC. The discovery of these bones was made by Professor Higham from New Zealand. There were 3 types of bones:

- those of the Junglefowl (*Bankiva* species)
- larger bones of the Malay type
- an intermediate size, possibly the Aseel.

Unfortunately I did not get a find report from Dr West giving the actual measurements of the bones. I have written to Professor Higham who I hope will be able to supply this information. This may provide some positive evidence regarding *Gallus giganteus* (Malay) being a separate species. I have been researching this subject from some 15 to 20 years. It is most interesting but frustrating. I am enclosing complementary copies of a couple of my papers which you may find of interest. I will send another booklet on Chicken Bones when I get some more printed.

I am now retired but worked as a mechanical setter in the engineering industry. I was born in Australia in 1921. I congratulate you on your efforts in putting together a book on genetics. It is a very interesting subject. I wish I had studied more when I was younger. I will provide some information on books you may find useful as references. I am enclosing the standard for the Yokohama from the American Bantam Association Standard. I will search for further information in my files and send it on.

Fine on your comments on not having a Standard in Italy. We do not have a standard Australia either except we do have standards for the 4 breeds created in this country, i.e. Australorp, Langshan, Australian Pit Game and Australian Game.

I am involved with the Pekin (Cochin) Bantam Club of New South Wales and we have compiled a standard for this breed which is used in our shows. We have published a book containing this standard and on in depth study of the Pekin Bantam. It also contains articles on genetics. I am enclosing a brochure. Also enclosing a list of booklets I have published, reproduced from old files an different breed histories.

No, I have not written a book specifically about the origin of Bantams. Only on the origins of the Pekin Bantam. I will seek out further info for you, and if there is any way I can assist please let me know. I would like to keep in touch with you and hear of your progress. All for now. Regards,

Bill Plant

BOOKS THAT COULD BE GOOD REFERENCES FOR YOU,
FOR YOUR GENETICS PROJECT:

MENDELISM by R.C.Punnett

Should be available second hand from

Veronica Mayhew

Trewena - Behoes Lane

Woodcote - Near Reading RG8 OPP - England

CREATIVE POULTRY BREEDING

Available from Dr W.C.Carefoot

Cliveden - Sandy Bank - Chipping

Preston PR3 2Ga - England

A very good book on Poultry genetics available from the Author.

BANTAM CHICKEN AND GENETICS

by Fred.P.Jeffrey

97 Pine St. - New Amherst

Massachusetts 01059 - USA

A very good book probably available from Author

LIST OF BOOKLETS AVAILABLE FROM W.J.PLANT (AUTHOR COMPILER)

Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl

Chicken Bone Recoveries 1984 - 27 pages \$ 6.00 Aust

Chicken Bone Recoveries (supplement) 1985 - 24 pages \$ 6.00 Aust

Gallus species · Jungle Fowl 1986 - 98 pages \$ 10.00 Aust

Old English Game Colours from A.J. Compton 1988 - 31 pages \$ 6.00 Aust

Ducks and Geese 1991 - 58 pages \$ 10.00 Aust

Some History of the Chinese Langshan in Australia 1992 - 96 pages \$ 12.00 Aust

Rare Breeds and Others 1992 - 119 pages \$ 12.00 Aust

Some Poultry History of Australia 1992 - 83 pages \$ 12.00 Aust

Australian Pit Game 1991 - 58 pages \$ 10.00 Aust

Extracts from old papers on Old English Game 1991 - 42 pages \$ 8.00 Aust

History of the Australian Game \$ 12.00

Mottle Gene \$ 5.00

Prices in Australian dollars and include postage within Australia.

Unfortunately half postage is required on overseas orders as Australian postal rates over 500 gr. are quite expensive unless a weight of 7 kilograms is reached



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

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☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

3-8-1994

Dear Mister Plant,

I am without words to thank you.

The Supplement is very interesting and I need of further information about the very interesting matter of the origin of the Europeans chickens, the Araucana, the recent recoveries in China.

Also the book *The mottle gene* is very interesting and I have much appreciated the work of Ralph Somes.

I received today some books from Veronica Mayhew. One of these books is that of Crawford, *Poultry breeding and genetics*. I wrote to Mrs Veronica to find the 3 books you have indicated to me.

I would receive your following books:

The Australian Pekin Bantam - AU\$ 45

Chicken Bone Recoveries 1984 - AU\$ 6

Australian Pit Game - AU\$ 10

The total amount: 61 AU\$. To mailing it's better you say me its amount and also the true total amount. I will send you the Australian dollars after you sent me the books.

I have nothing to send to you to requite your books and your kindness. If you need anything from Italy, tell me.

I am waiting for notices about the origins of Bantams, the Yokohama's colour and about the report of Barbara West. My book is going ahead.

I thank you very much.

Sheri McEvoy

August 17, 1994

Dear Bill,

Well, I have been to Xian. Seen the chicken bones in the Banpo Museum. They look just like chicken bones you and I would see, only shiner.

The Government has preserved the site of this particular village 6,000 years old, with 10,000 sq. meters of the 50,000 mts site under cover of a *Langar* type building.

What is interesting is that the houses sound to be built very close together with the land under cultivations extending from it, just like the villages in China today, and the village houses on stilts in Malaysia I saw in the mountain area, the Cameron Highlands, with white, brown and black chickens running around under the house stilts.

The Banpo site had an area designated as the stock compound; originally found in, where the droppings of animals was found. However, I doubt if the chickens would have stayed there, or may be at right only, as the villages in China have chickens running in the lanes between the houses, and through the houses as well.

There is a match of archæological sites in the Xian area; the Emperors lived there for centuries before moving to Peking with the Manchurian take-over, and the area is broad and fertile. My guide said that only a small section of the Banpo Village site has been excavated, as with the 8,000 warriors, and other sections, were of the Emperor's tomb next to the 8,000 warriors, where all his concubines (1,000 in all, some had not men met him!) were buried alive; his kitchen staff and many thing he required to take to *heaven* has not been excavated yet, as the Chinese, the guide (an enthusiastic young communist) said, do not have the technology as yet to excavate properly, and they do not want help from the Japanese who have offered, as the Americans, but have accepted help from the Germans (although in real Chinese style, they have accepted token assistance from all these countries). They do not use students assistance either, as do other digs around the world.

The former who reported the Banpo Village remains, rather than run his plough through it, was remanded by the Government 40 YUAN, or about \$ 7.

So I am sure there is a wealth to uncover. I have enclosed a magazine which may interest you.

The farmers ant in China is amazing and generally depicts chickens. I will send you some photographs if you like.

I'll be in touch. You can contact me through my office. Thank you for your help. Sorry for the erratic script. I'm mid flight 747 over the South Chine Sea.

Best regards,



Level 23 'Northpoint' 100 Miller Street North Sydney 2060 Australia
Phone (02) 955 1078 Fax (02) 955 2055

AMERICAN BANTAM ASSOCIATION

97 Pine St., N. Amherst, Massachusetts 01059

Fred P. Jeffrey, *Secretary*

August 29, 1994

Dear Bill:

Glad to hear from you and to hear that the Pekin book has sold 500-600 copies. I think this very good for a breed book.

It is true that our Barred Rocks, both bantam and large, are slow feathered and along with this they have excellent barring. Nobody can doubt this. However the problem is not quite as simple as rate of feathering. In 1980 when I visited the huge Cologne show in Germany I made notes on their Barred Leghorn bantams which had just as good feathering and as good barring as our Plymouth Rocks. All the Leghorns I have worked with are fast feathered. I really do not know if the German Barred Leghorns are slow feathered or not. In the USA we have some Barred Cochins which approach but do not equal the Barred Rocks in quality of barring. I am told that they have a sort of intermediate rate of feathering.

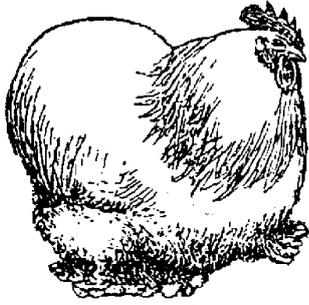
I have tentatively decided that the important difference between quality of barring in cuckoo as compared with barred is the gene at the E-locus. In Barred Rocks it is e^b and in Cuckoo Old English it is e^+ . You are welcome to quote me on this point in your newsletter but as you see I am lacking proof of this theory. If this theory is correct then you see one must cross with the idea in mind that it is necessary to incorporate $e-b$ from the Barred Rock.

One of our fanciers, Bob Padula, made a nice Mottled OE from crossing Black OE with Spangled OE. His address is 640 Fletcher Road, North Kingstown, Rhode Island, 02852. His work would suggest that the gene for mottling in Blacks is the same one as found in Spangled. You might wish to write to him.

I still think that the best way to improve type in Buff Pekin is to cross Buff with Black and then run a large second generation. There has to be a lot of waste but that cannot be helped. I would not cross with Blues or Whites. I am the first to agree that we do not know the exact genotype of the Buff Pekin so it is possible that there might be merit crossing with Buff Orpington. Perhaps your friend is on to something. Should the Buff Orpington be used I would agree that it should not be used beyond the original cross for reasons of type and skin colour.

Sincerely,

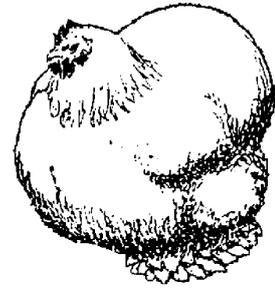
F. P. Jeffrey



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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NSW
Australia*



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

4-9-1994

Dear Elio,

Received your letter and book order and must apologise for the delay in answering as I have been away on holidays only just returned home.

I am enclosing *Chicken Bone Recoveries* with this letter, but on account of the weight of the other 2 books I will send them by surface mail. Unfortunately this method may take up to 8 weeks to get to you but it is our normal way of sending the Pekin book overseas. The overseas air mail rates for anything over 500 gms. is very expensive in Australia. I hope this meets with your approval.

The whole cost will be \$ 65 Australian. This will cover cost OK. Fine on getting of Ray Crawford *Poultry Breeding and Genetics*. This is a good book bringing a lot of the literature up to date. I have been corresponding with Crawford for some years. He cited my work in his chapter on the origin of the chicken. You may have to obtain *Creative Poultry Breeding* direct from the author Clive Carefoot. I will give you his address. He is an expert of colour breeding in chickens.

I am glad you found my booklets interesting. I will have more booklets available shortly.

Any comments you may have when you receive the books, will be welcome.

I will look for further information on the Yokohama and let you know if I hear anything of Barbara West's report.

All for now.

Regards,

Bill Plant

Edmund Hoffmann
Canning, Nova Scotia
Canada BOP 1HO

September 5, 1994

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter. I have spent most of the summer in Saudi except for three weeks in July when I cut my hay. I'm just been home a week and on Sept. 29 will go back to Saudi to check on my birds and then on to Shanghai for two weeks to do a feasibility study. While in Shanghai I will certainly take time to check on what you call my *colonies of geese*.

In regard to having access to the chicken bones excavated in Thailand: I urge you to contact Charmion McKusick (Route 1 Box 35D, Globe Arizona, 85501) to whom bones speak. Mind you I have no idea of her possible interest but she certainly has the expertise you lack.

I will send her a copy of your letter and of this letter to you and mention that George Carter is a long time correspondent of yours. And I will send copies to George as well.

I now have both the Tsiaya, an egg laying breed and the Kiaya, the breed which supplies the female for artificial insemination with Muscovy semen to make mule ducks, in Saudi. The toleration of the ducks to 45-47° daily is testimony to the marvellous efficiency of their feet as radiators of heat. These birds have only a shed with a Corrugated steel roof and a tiny pond but the females are laying 75%. I have no taken the temperature of the water but the temperature of the water in fish ponds in Saudi is 8-10° less than the ambient temperature.

Be of good cheer!

Ed.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

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16-9-1994

Dear Mister Plant,

I received your letter and your book and I think that it will be very useful in completing the information about the Araucana's origin. In Crawford's book I saw your name and your references. When I have seen your name, I have imagined your happiness to be in this Bible of Geneticists, and I also think that it's just. Your works about the bones recoveries is very important and is very fascinating. My compliments.

About the books who are travelling by surface mail, no problems. I wait, in this moment I have several English books to read to complete the ideas of my book who is at a good point.

I send the cheque with this letter with other 5 AU\$ for bank's expenses.

Around the Yokohama colour I have found nothing neither in the book of Crawford neither in the book of Stevens. I hope for the book of Carefoot.

The book of Carefoot *Creative Poultry Breeding* is coming from Madam Veronica and it will arrive in these days. Yes, it's arrived today, but it's without index and thus it's difficult for me find the Yokohama.

Today arrived also the book of Fred Jeffrey *Bantam Chickens* and at the page 201, RED SADDLE: "The only breed variety is Yokohama. This is a rare variety which is probably some sort of a pyle with spangling added. Bodies are white in both sexes but breasts are colored -- brown with white spangle in male and salmon red with white spangle in female. In view of the fact that both sexes have similar patterns one would expect the columbian gene to be present and the white bodies suggest the presence of dominant white"

It's frequent to read in American Authors *pyle* instead of *pile*, but I think that this is a mistake. What you think? Pile is the other side of a coin, in Italy we say "testa (head) e (and) croce (cross)" Pile, in a fowl, is as a negative of a B&W photo of the black breasted fowl. True? This is the unique explication I have found in a old breeder's paper of 1915.

Crawford frequently speaks of the Fayoumi breed. Do you may give to me any information about this race?

My cousin is a radio amateur, not in your frequency, but he has a friend who may contact you. Do you transmit always, and in what frequency, and in what hours?

In September 27th I, and my in breeding right arm, Eduardo CANI, we go to the Netherlands to the national show in Utrecht and also to contact some breeders friends and Doctor Gankema who have written a recent book on poultry feathering colour. The Dutch are teachers in breeding the dwarf and also in genetic combinations. We will see the news!

Eduardo is a Brazilian and Italian citizen. His ancestors was from the north of Italy. Also Eduardo is dreaming Australia, like I'm I wrote in my book that Eduardo said me: "When I was a little boy I collected in the country the eggs of the hens, and these hens not was of pure stock, they was a crossing, and their egg was green, blue and brown". I think that this fact indicates that the Araucana was crossed with country fowls. Eduardo is born in the south of Brazil, in the State of Santa Catarina, at 600 Km from Iguaçu Falls. The Chile is not very far and also the pampas of Argentina.

Excuse my English who is too poor. I write directly in French, but the English is still hard. If I go enhance in this language, I will express many other thoughts. Do you came in Italy for holidays? One day or other I think come to the Australia .

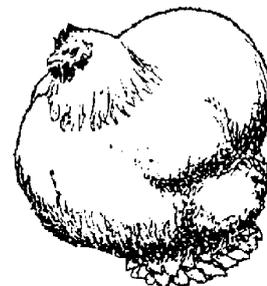
Best wishes to you and all your family. I thank you very much.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

24-9-1994

Dear Elio,

I thank you for your interesting letter and cheque. I hope the other books don't take too long to reach you. Please let me know when they arrive and any comment you may have.

Yes, I was happy to receive the recognition from Prof Crawford. It made me feel that my efforts over the years had not been wasted. I trust that my work may assist others who wish to pursue the subject. I do have a deal of further material which I did not publish. Perhaps I may make a copy of the material for you at some future date. Do you have a copy of my booklet on *Gallus* species - Jungle Fowl? I have the feeling that you do. Veronica had some of them for sale. You may have obtained one from her.

I am pleased you have received Clive Carefoot's book. I am sure you will find both his and Jeffrey's books most interesting for your study.

I received a letter from Fred Jeffrey a couple of weeks ago with some interesting information on my present research which I will write about later.

Glad you found some information on the Yokohama. I will search for some more.

Regarding the word *Pile* our English language is somewhat complicated at times. We spell this word PILE. The Americans PYLE. English word COLOURED is American COLORED. CENTRE is American CENTER. The Americans spell the word the way it is pronounced. We don't always do it this way. Also many English words are spelt the same have different meanings and pronounced differently for example the word ROW can mean to ROW a boat or ROW pronounced differently means to make a noise. If you would like I could perhaps make a cassette tape explaining some of these things. I do not speak any other languages unfortunately except the Morse code which is involved with my amateur radio.

Speaking of this, fine on your cousin and friend of his being radio amateurs. I have spoken over the years to many amateurs in Italy as well as other countries all over the world. I am enclosing my card for cousin and will make a few notes on the back of it. They will understand the frequencies I operate on and will know the times when conditions are favourable for contact with Australia. At the moment we are at the bottom of sunspot cycle (11 year cycle) and conditions are not good. However within a couple of years things should improve. Perhaps we may talk with each other one of these days.

Your trip to the Netherlands sounds interesting. I am sure you and Eduardo will gain much informations. I used to correspond with Anna Banning Vogelpoel in the Netherlands. She was very knowledgeable and wrote on Japanese (Chabo) Bantams. I haven't heard from Anna for some time. I hope she is OK.

Fine Eduardo being Brazilian. I guess the coloured eggs I believe are spread pretty much around South America. It seems to be the only stable trait involved with Araucana.

Much as been written on this breed, but as far as I can ascertain no one has come up with a positive answer to the origin of the Araucana. I have my theory as you would be aware from my booklets, but it is not necessarily the correct answer.

Nobody appears to have been able to get hold of what could be classed as a pure Araucana. Some have pea combs, some are rumpless, there is variation in the type of ear lobes, nothing remains stable. I have a lot of material that has been written on the breed. Still nothing definite as to how they originated.

However there is some interesting stuff amongst. One of our academics out here suggested they originated on Easter Island. When I questioned his theory he became quite upset. Heyerdahl advised me that when he first visited Easter Island and stayed there for some months, there was no sign of blue eggs on Easter. Perhaps one day I put a lot of this information together but I don't think it would serve much purpose, I think it would upset some people.

The Fayoumi breed at the moment I do not know. I will go through my files and get in touch with my Japanese radio amateur friend. It sounds like Japanese name. It would appear that you have some friends in some European countries as perhaps you may be able to obtain some information for me.

I am presently investigating why we don't get good distinct barring in breeds other than Plymouth Rock. I thought perhaps it may be the difference in slow and fast feathering. I wrote to Fred Jeffrey about this and he said he didn't think it was as simple as this but told me that when he was in Cologne in 1980 he saw Barred Leghorn with every but as good a barring as in the Plymouth Rock. Could you find out perhaps whether these Leghorns are slow or fast feathering? I guess they would come from Germany or Holland.

I am enclosing a complementary copy of a small booklet on Old English Game colours. It might explain PILE. Pile, Duckwing, Blue Red, Black Red. Same pattern but colours different.

Please excuse writing. My eyesight is very poor. I am suffering from glaucoma and macular degeneration. I have had 2 cornea transplants on one eye and the other eye has never been much good. It slows down my activities to some extent. However I keep fairly good health otherwise I am 73 years old and hope to be around for awhile as I still have a lot of work to do yet.

Regards.

Bill Plant



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

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15-11-1994

Dear Mister William,

Excuse me for this long silence, but I am been busy in correcting the part of my book regarding the plumage colour, and this chapter is very hard and difficult. Now I am going a little rapidly on skeleton, bill, shanks, skin etc.

In these days I have had the opportunity to read an article about *Mononychus* and I send you a photocopy, it is written in Portuguese, I know this language, and if you are interesting and you find nobody who can translate to you, I may synthesise in another letter. But I think that you know this argument. If you need, you may read the name of the scientists. You have contacts with all the world! When I have seen the picture of this little dinosaur, I have told to me "Mister Plant without doubt will be very happy seeing as this animal is similar to his Malay!". The *Mononychus* was much spread in Mongolia!

Going to the Netherlands, in Germany, in the city of Marburg, I have contacted Mister Vits who is a fancier of long crowing cocks. He breeds Totenko, Tomaru, Denizli. He gave me the article about phylogenetic studies on the Japanese native breeds, an I send you a photocopy.

I have found the explanation of the word *pile* in the book of Jeffrey: it becomes from an araldic figure, and I think that it may be true.

About the Yokohama colour I think I have collected some information in the Crawford's and in the Carefoot's books: it is the colour of the *Bankiva*, where the mahogany gene is restricting the black in the tip of the red feathers, after the dominant white males the substitution of the black. The *Mh* gene has a spangling action too.

About the *Bankiva* I have an ask: in the book *Van Gink Poultry Painting*, Mr Van Wulfften Palthe writes that red junglefowls are usually monogamous. In the book of Grzimek I have read that's the Green Junglefowl monogamous. I have read again all your book about the junglefowls, but the *Bankiva* has many hens, has an harem! Please, do you may confirm to me that the *Bankiva* is polygamous and that the *Gallus Varius* is monogamous? Thank you.

Sorry, but you have not enclosed your card of radioamateur for my cousin. I wait in the next letter. But overall I am sorry for your eyes! You have many scientific notices to give to all of us.

I am waiting for the new computer because I have decided to be the editor of myself with a laser printer in B&W, with a colour printer of my cousin. The images become from my slides. With a compact disk in now possible manipulating the photographs, and I think made colour pages separate from the text. In the text I will put images B&W captured with a scanner using a new edition of software Word from the Microsoft. I am impatient as a child to begin! I hope terminate this job, and you will be the first person to receive the book. When? I don't know!!! The winter here is very long and it's good working in home!

I thank you very much. Wishes for your eyes. And wishes for your barred Pekin...



Dr. Elio Corti

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19-11-1994

Dear Mister William,

I write suddenly to you because I have another ask.

In September I sent a book's order to Mrs Veronica including *The Araucana Poulterers Handbook* - David Caudill - 1975, telling that you are recommending this book.

She answered that this book is very difficult to find and that 2-3 years before she had another copy, but not now.

Do you may find this book for me in Australia? If yes, please send by air mail, because I need not too later.

If you don't find this book, do you have the possibility send the photocopy of the chapter regarding only the classification of the varieties?

I have asked to Veronica if the Brunson's book *A guide to the beautiful Araucana* was exhaustive, but she don't is an expert on Araucana. Do you know this book, do this book is useful and may substitute the Caudill's book? Please, help me in this problem.

In the other letter I have forget tell to you that I have found that the Fayoumi is an Egyptian breed.

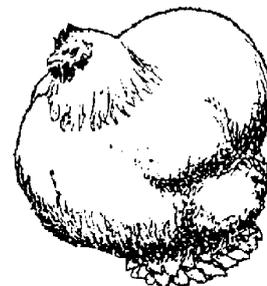
Newly I thank you very much.



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

2-12-1994

Dear Elio,

I thank you for your letter, photocopies and also the card you sent me from Utrecht. It seems you met some interesting people in the Netherlands. I used to communicate with Anna Banning Vogelpoel in the Netherlands but I haven't heard from her for some time. She was very knowledgeable on chickens.

I apologise for not sending my card for your cousin last time but I remembered after I had posted your letter. I have marked the frequency bands I operate on. Your cousin will understand, as regards times he will know when times are right for communication.

You seems to be getting on well with your book and I think it best you edit it yourself. The laser printer sounds very good. Will it be in English or your own language?

I cannot read Portuguese but I might be able to find someone who can translate. The only name I recognised in the Dinosaur article was John Ostrom of Yale University who I have corresponded with in earlier years. He has done a lot of study on the Archæopteryx, the first fossil bird.

I haven't gone through the material on the Japanese birds yet but I do have a beautiful book with large colour photo of Japanese chickens and text on them, some of which has been translated. It was sent to me by a Japanese radio amateur who was also a chicken farmer.

Regarding the situation with the *Gallus Bankiva* I believe it is pretty sure that *Gallus Bankiva* (Red Jungle Fowl) had a number of hens around him. I will have to search information about *Gallus varius*.

I am sending photocopies of part of the paper written by Nicholas Collias of the University of California - Los Angeles. Collias studied the Red Jungle Fowl in the wild in Malaya and Thailand and his text I think answers your question. I would say that *Bankiva* is polygamous. I will try and find information on the *varius*. I will endeavour to get a copy of a colour photo of the *Bankiva*.

I received your other letter regarding the Araucana. I think Caudill's book will be difficult to obtain. It may be available in the United States. However I will get the chapter copied and send it to you. Catty Brunson's book is useful. Different to Caudill's. If you write to Loyl Stromberg, tell him I advised you to write. I think he might be able to supply the Brunson's book. Title is *Araucana - rings on their ears*. Stromberg may also be able to help you with Caudill's book.

I have other material here on Araucana which I will get copied for you and send it on. There is a paper by William Cawley of the Texas A&M University, some pages in Spanish from South America and some other material I have collected.

I have concluded that the Araucana is no way near pure breed. The origin is unknown and attempts to gather pure Araucana specimens have been unsuccessful. I have proposed a possible answer to the origin in my Chicken bone booklet based on the genetic link between the Pea Comb and the Blue Egg Shell (Punnett). However this is only an hypothesis but I haven't read anything that offers a logical answer to the origin.

An Academic from the Australian National University who I used to correspond with, prepared a paper where he suggested the blue egg Chicken may have originated on Easter Island. The evidence shows that this is very unlikely. I told him so and I believe he was must upset that I disagreed.

You will note with some of the material I am sending to support my argument. Thor Heyerdahl confirmed there were no blue egg shelled chickens on Easter Island when he took his expedition there.

The only trait that seems to be reasonably true is the blue egg shell. Even then the colours the colours vary. Some have Pea Combs, some have Straight Combs, some are Rumpless, some are not. There are a number of variations in the ear tufts and it appears nothing except the egg shell can be relied on to breed true. Cawley in his paper summed the situation up pretty well I feel.

Easter Island I think has the blue egg trait evident now in their chickens but of course these would no doubt have come from Chile who controls the island.

It will take me a week or so to get the photocopying done and will send it all together.

I think I have answered all the questions you asked. I will endeavour to find out something on *Gallus varius*. Give me a little time.

I will look for a Caudill's book but I don't think there is much chance in Australia. The US might be the best place to look for one.

So until next time. Have you received the Pekin book yet? Sea mail takes awhile unfortunately. All for now.

Regards.

Bill Plant



Dr. Elio Corti

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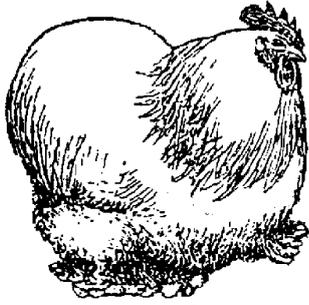
28-12-1994

Dear Mister Bill,

I received your letter with the radioamateur card. I have given the frequencies to my cousin, and he will give them to his friend licensed to transmit by radio. I am waiting the card of this person to send to you, but because the time is running and the end of the year is coming, I will send the greetings card that I have build with the new computer, scanner and laser printer. Excuse the snow, because I think that in Maitland never the snow falls.

I have also received the book of Cochin, is very nice, and when possible I will read it and I will give you all my impressions about it.

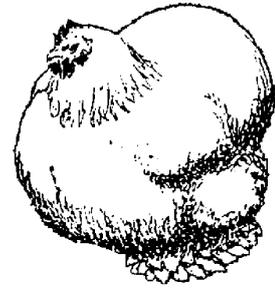
I will write to you later; for the moment good new year.



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**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

7-1-1995

Dear Elio,

Thank you for your letter and good wishes, also the other material. Your laser printer does an excellent job. You should be able to print your book with it.

Pleased to hear that you received the Pekin book. I will be looking forward to receiving your comments. You may find some information of interest as there are a few articles on genetics.

If you wish to quote any text from it that will be OK: All we ask is that it be acknowledged as to the source and author. Also that you advice us. We would feel honoured if you found anything in our book that you may find useful.

I have some material being copied for you but there has been some delay. My own copier is out of order at the moment. I will send it to you as soon as it is available.

You are correct, we don't have snow here in Maitland. Christmas Day it is usually very hot. 1994 it rained all day.

Best wishes for 1995.

Regards.

Bill



Dr. Elio Corti

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25-1-1995

Dear Bill,

I send you the book edited in occasion of the Jubilaem of *Ornithophilia* in Utrecht; I think that you will appreciate this history of a century of Netherlands poultry life, adorned by Van Gink's illustrations, painting's masterpieces and synthesis of the animal's characteristics.

This book is a very small thing comparing with your interest for all my problems and the very precious advice.

Also I send the catalogue of our recent national show. From the animals number you may understand that the poultry fanciers here in Italy are very few, because the love for the animals isn't a tradition as in the North European countries. Our federal association is one year old and our President, who send the catalogue to you with his compliments, is a very serious person. I think that he will resuscitate the Italian aviculture, very active in the beginning of the century.

Finally I send the card of the friend of my cousin, who is very active also during the night. I think that when the atmospheric conditions are appropriate, you will contact him by radio.

I profit to send other things: a page demonstrating how many fonts are available for the laser printer and every font may be enlarged 72 points, as the animals in the Punnett's square, made by Eduardo. The cock in this page isn't a font, but a vectorized image, which may be enlarged without seeing the dots of the non vectorized images.

The other pages are a test for the text editor Microsoft Word release 6.0, and is an exercise to learn this text editor; the most difficult part in this job is joining text and graphics. But slowly I will be winner! These pages are few fragments of the future genetics' book and will be given to the participants to the Poultry Judge School, which begins in march and where I will be the genetics' teacher!

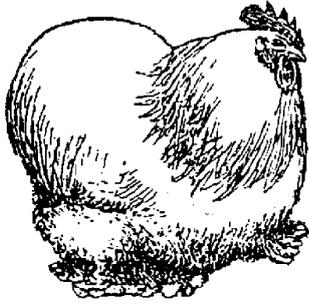
Other interesting experience is the page concerning the Sundaic, from the Finsterbusch's book. With the scanner now it's possible capture the text in various languages and store in electronic file for manipulations. The acronym of this method is OCR (Optical Character Recognition), very useful. During the transcription, the computer verify also the orthography! Miracles of the electronic art!

In the past years, when my wife was living, my hobby was the macrophotography, and I was processing the slides myself and colour printing from negative. I have collected many subjects of the mountain's flora, flowers of my area and even insects, including butterflies. Now my macrophotography is limited to the fowls!

The last week I saw in TV a movie picture ambiented in NSW at the beginning of this century; the subject was the rescue of the farm of miss Richard (?), with horses, desert, sea, hills... A dream for my eyes, which a day I will realise!

I am waiting for the photocopies and I thank you very much.

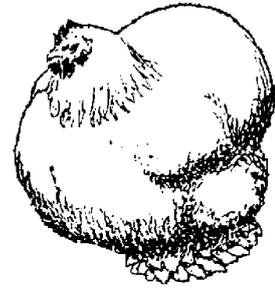
A little consideration: when I will have your age, I would have your energy and perseverance in writing letters to the friends!



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

16-2-1995

Dear Elio,

Received your letter, the book and photographs. For this I thank you very much. Van Gink's drawings are excellent and the book overall is top quality. Although I cannot read Dutch I think I may be able to get a little translation done.

The photos of your flora are really top quality. I have always been interested in trees, shrubs and the likes, having many years ago operated a business propagating and selling this sort of material.

The other photo of yourself and late wife etc. are much appreciated. I am enclosing a recent Australian Poultry magazine and would draw your attention to pages 24 and 25 where you will find out what I look like.

Also at long, last I am able to send you the material I promised. I hope that the material from the American publication is what you required. The origins of the Araucana are very clouded and I feel will always remain so.

Your printer certainly does a top job and your book I am sure will finish up very well.

While I think of it. Dr A.L.Hagedoorn from the Netherlands (one in conjunction with Sykes) wrote a couple of books concerning Poultry breeding which I feel sure you will find useful in your researches on poultry genetics. I think Veronica Mayhew would have them in stock.

I don't think I mentioned this before. I will keep a lookout for Baroso I1VBI. I do make contact with Italian stations from time to time. Please thank your President for the copy of the national Catalogue.

Yes, I am coming towards 74 years of age and still have much to do in my researches and publication of booklets on different breeds reproduced from the early files. I will keep going as long as I am able. Of course progress is rather slow these days because of my poor eyesight. I have difficulty reading and my writing is not as good as I would like because of the eyesight.

I suffer from glaucoma and macular degeneration and can only hope that the eyesight will not get any worse. I was born with one of my eyes of poor vision and have had cataracts removed from both eyes. When the first cataract on my good eye was removed some years ago after the operation, blood vessels behind the eye ruptured causing somewhat of a problem. However this repaired OK and my sight was OK for a couple of years. The cornea clouded over possibly caused by interference from the lens put into the eye. I had a cornea transplant which was not successful. Then had a second transplant which held in for some years. However the eyesight is impaired, giving the effect that I am looking into a fog.

My own specialist surgeon has been most helpful and has sent me to some specialist friends of his in Sydney who are top men in their field. They have done everything possible. I had to have laser treatment some little time back. However I manage as I have a machine here that assists me with my reading. It does slow down my work.

Otherwise I keep OK at the moment. I had a little touch of angina a few years ago, but medication has kept in check so far.

I have some other material which may be of interest for you which I will copy for and send on later.

With my amateur radio activities I have contact each day with a number of crouching yatchmen, mostly American. Previously some of them have collected material on the chicken in the Pacific. Some of them in the next season are going into the Indonesian area and will be making observations on the Jungle Fowl in that area. We might get some interesting information.

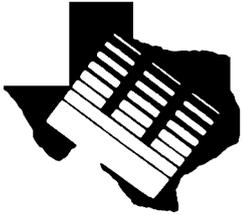
I am a bit behind with my correspondence at the moment, so will close now so I can get this material ready to put in the mail tomorrow.

N.B. Professor Cawley's article which is enclosed sums up the Araucana pretty well I believe.

Thanks once again for the material, much appreciated.

Regards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".



George CARTER

Professor at Texas A&M University
COLLEGE STATION TE 77843 - USA

Feb 16, 1995

Dear Bill

Ed Hoffmann sent me the Japanese paper. It does not make sense to me. But I freely admit that I am an *ignoramus* in DNA and for that matter in most statistical matters.

But it does seem that they contradict themselves in their final sentence in their abstract: "hens of other RFLP types also contributed to this event."

Ed tells me that you have written on the chickens of Polynesia. Can you spare a copy?

I find that Pigafetta says of the Philippines. The chicken is called *mona*, and in the neighboring islands *moa*. For Malaysia he gives Ayam for chicken. So the names have not varied a syllable in 500 years. And there is not a trace of moa in America.

In South America, Atahualpa turns out to be a compound name. Ata is chicken in Ecuador and there are many variants. Hualpa is chicken without variation throughout the Inca Empire. This suggests relative frequency for the chicken in the Inca area, antiquity for the chicken in the Ecuador area. The connotations are: creation, authority, etc. hence appropriate for the Inca. Even today chickens and eggs are given to honor someone in the Andean area.

Our book on the chicken in America is stopped pending C14 dating of bones. American archaeologists are adamant: NO chicken bones in America before the Spanish! We have a prospect of an eagle bone, a macaw bone and a chicken bone, all from the same Pueblo ruin - Salado phase - well pre 1540. I will be negotiating an AMS C14 dating of these.

I went through the *Handbook of the South American Indians*: 3 volumes. Chickens mentioned a number of times, noted as NOT EATEN, difficult to maintain because the vampire bats attack them- and No One ever thought to ask: So why did they keep them? And of course, not a mention of what the chickens looked like. I find that blue egg laying chickens were and in part still are all over South America and clear on up into Honduras. Similarly for the melanotic chicken.

All the best.

George F Carter

The Chicken Group

Thanks to Ed Hoffmann I have the DNA report on the unity of the chickens. *Evolution-Chickens*, Akishinomiya, et al Proc Natl Acad Sci. USA 91 12505ff 1994 Now if I just really understood it!

I am a bit startled to see Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds Cochin, Jersey Black Giants and Araucana listed as Western!! Except for the Araucana all of these went "West" in the 19th century. And how in the world could anyone put the Araucana in the Western Group?? Indian Game is another. Old English Game-Western. The other surely Malay Leghorns and Minorcas are representative of the earlier Western chickens, I think because the illustrations from Egyptian through Greek etc show a small chicken with showy tail and single comb. etc. Cochin bushy tailed, peacombed. Malay drooping tailed and strawberry comb, or use some term that suits Hoffmann for the Malay comb.

Argument number One. Hoffmann thinks that all breeding ended with the Romans and there was nothing but Dunghill fowl. Reply. The Dung Hill fowl probably were the basis for the later European breeds prior to the introduction of the Asiatic fowl during the *Hen Craze*. And the Romans are credited with introducing the five toed English meaty fowl, and it is still there. There was such breeding for the Medieval Abbeys have records of hens obviously selected for egg laying and it looks as if the English also bred for a meat fowl.

Asiatic. More difficulties. Only the ancient breeds in Japan have *jidori* in their names. The bantams are said to be 16th or 17th century introductions from Malaya. They also consider the Malays as post European contact birds. Black Silkies. Surely good Asiatic. C.F. Marco Polo and others. Any bird labelled Ayam is probably from Ayam Malaysia White Leghorn as an Asiatic representative seems to me to verge on nonsense. Houdan Asiatic?? I wonder on what basis? So

I get a sense of No Historic background.

Then I recall that at Bang Chang, Cambodia the first domestic chicken was a Malay type. Then the Jungle Fowl type appeared. Then hybrids. And then the Malays disappear. This in a letter from Barbara West. I must write to see if this is in print by now.

Then I have struggled to understand the cabalistic data (all statistics are mysterious to me). I find White Leghorn and Nagoya diverging sharply from the others, and varying together while the Hiroshima Leghorn does not vary with the *Other* White Leghorn. WHY? Is the Nagoya-Malay-Japanese group (Gifu-jidori Thai Bantam and the Ayam Katai) relation to the Mediterranean White Leghorn real? If so??

Obviously I have a differing kind of view of this whole thing. Chickens were in America long before 1500 AD. The Japanese chickens are very different from the Chinese chickens, today. The Japanese did not get Chinese chickens until the end of the 19th century, and then got them from England!!! The Bantams and Malay types they state arrived after contact with the Europeans in the late 1600's? (I am not stopping to look it up).

So. Copies to go the rounds. I am adding Lee Cartwright here -TAMU, Poultry Science. I am trying to interest him in DNA on archaeological chicken bones from America. He is our DNA poultry man.

George F. CARTER, T&M Geography, College Station, Texas 77843

I would suppose (hypothesize-guess) white Leghorn-Nagoya reflects an original relationship deriving from an early spread of small chickens went to the Mediterranean and North to Japan, something related to the Jungle Fowl.

If Hiroshima white Leghorn does not vary with the other white Leghorn, I would think that any reasonable scholar would start asking question.

After thoughts

I have read over what I have said and penned on a thought or two, and then thought maybe I can state my thoughts a bit more - hmmm - not stridently - but critically.

If one takes as Western ,obviously Asiatic birds (Cochin, Langshan etc) and compares them with Asiatic birds then one is of course NOT going to find differences.

If the White Leghorns in Japan are different from the White Leghorns in Europe, but the White Leghorns of Europe are like the Nagoya (and what is a Nagoya?) then WHAT is being measured?

I looked at figure 4. White Leghorn and Nagoya vary together remarkably, and differ from the rest equally remarkably. 157, 225, 243, 256, 261, 310. Of the 24 elements for six, these two are very different. As I stated early on, I don't understand.

And I have difficulty with Green Jungle Fowl?? Is this the Javanese critter that lacks paired wattles, has a gut half the length of the other fowl, has a bare throat and a bare stripe down its breast, is extremely leggy, short winged, and has overhanging brows, a drooping tail, etc.? Commonly called a Malay??

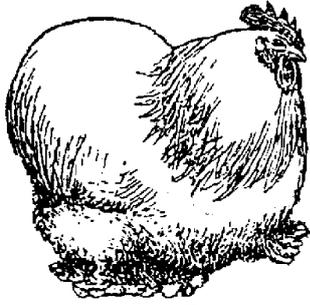
But is this not the bird that the locals cross breed with their other chickens in order to get more color?? (Japanese papers) ((Don't the Japanese scholars speak to one another??))

And is this not the exceedingly long legged bird so visible in the Philippines, and late to arrive in Japan?? And despite friend Hoffmann every reference that I find to this bird is accompanied by *fighter* and when I show pix of chickens to Asiatic students here (with no prompting) they immediately point to the Malay and say that is the fighting chicken.

I really should go to some cock fights for I don't understand one statement: "Once they grab hold they never let go". So how do they fight? I have read: Mediterraneans fight in the air. Malays fight on the ground. Med have upturned spurs. Malays have straight spurs.

I obviously am enamoured of externals, and do not understand what is going on here.

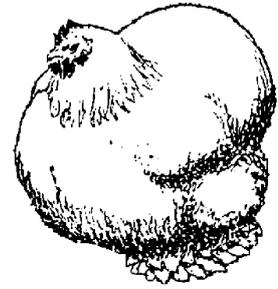
George F Carter



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

20-2-1995

My dear Elio,

I am enclosing some material which may be useful information for you in compiling your book on Poultry genetics. There is a paper entitled *The subspecies of the Red Jungle Fowl (Gallus gallus gallus suffices as the matriarchic ancestor of all domestic fowl)*. I received this recently from my friend Hoffmann from Canada with whom I correspond. I have not studied this in depth as yet and I doubt whether I will be able to understand it as my knowledge of genetics is not good enough to understand the processes of DNA testing and interpretation is very poor. I have never had any academic training. I think you will be able to understand it.

Hoffmann's comment was that this paper settles the question of ALL domestic chickens are descended from the Red Jungle Fowl as suggested by Charles Darwin. However I am not convinced as you would be aware from my writings. Let me know what you think after reading the paper.

I have been going through my files and have taken copies of some papers by Clive Carefoot and also a letter I received from him a few years back in answer to some question I have asked of him.

I have a great deal of material in my files and I will search for more. Also enclosed is a list of Elliot Kimball's publications which the ones marked I have. If you would like any or all of them please let me know and I will copy them for you. Just quote the number alongside the articles. I have my copier going now, so no trouble to make copies.

My filing system here is not very good so I will have to search around for other material an poultry genetics which I know I have got here somewhere. All for now.

Regards.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

24-2-1995

Dear Bill,

I received all your material very very important and interesting. I think that a day I will go the Chile who is not far from the south of the Brazil: the Araucana is a very fascinating mystery.

I write concise now because I have read in your letter that there are fiends of you going in next season into the Indonesian area because of the Jungle Fowls. Some months ago I have been in a tourist agency to have dépliantes about Australia and Indonesia: only to dream a little. Another dream is go to see the Jungle Fowl in its habitat.

I don't know if it's possible aggregate myself with your friends, I don't know if they are glad to have another person together. If they need a physician... a cardiologist...

Do you may ask if they are glad? If yes, when and from where and if it's a trekking etc...?

I am busy with my hospital and I need know the date with a anticipation to agree with my colleagues.

Indonesia is not far from Australia. May be we will see... I am waiting about this adventure...

I write to you later, few days.

Excuse my English of today!



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

1-3-1995

Dear Bill,

I have finished today the translation and the adaptation of the very interesting material about the Araucana, which is a true great mystery. As you have written, we must wait for a scientist with the courage in dating the bones found in Chile. We are waiting...

I wrote my compliments to Mr Cawley because his job is very clear and easy to learn. I have posed to him two asks: if is exact *Quetro* or *Queteros* or both, because I have seen that the Latin of Caudill is a particular Latin, for example:

vulgarus is wrong; right is *vulgaris*

veridis ---> *viridis* (green)

I also asked from mister Cawley if he knows the origin of the name *de Artez*.

So, now I have a job for you, and you are the guilty. I hope you accept this initiative, may be with the help of your son or of other interested people... Three weeks ago I have collected a list of Italian surnames containing the root *Gallo* (cock) *Gallina* (hen) *Pollo* (fowl) and *Tacchino* (turkey).

When yesterday I have achieved your matter about Araucana, and also because I have read in the book of Finsterbusch that in England there are many localities remembering the chicken, my desire is to complete my job with a research in the census files of my city and even make a comparative study with English, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and German surnames.

For the Holland and the Germany I have friends of mine in these States, but in the England I know nobody who may help me. I don't know personally Miss Veronica. However I ask from you if you accept this job. As you may see in my list, the surnames with *Tacchino* are very very few, the surnames with *Gallo-Pollo* are numerous, a surname is "Pelagalli", in English Cocks stripping, peeling, other surname is "Mangiagalli" Cocks eating. An University's Professor was *Gallo Gallina* (his surname was Gallina).

From the numbers of the surnames it's clear that the *Gallus* is present in Italy from many centuries (or becomes from the people of Galli?), and I have baptised the persons with these surnames *Italian Atahualpas*! The turkey arrived in Europe only in the XVI century and this fact may explain the few surnames with this root.

If I will have a little time to spare, I will extend my researches for duck and goose, but with my profession I handle many surnames and I don't remember surnames with these roots.

4-3-1995

Dear Bill,

Yesterday I received your letter with precious matter, very precious, and I thank you very much. I don't know how get quits with you! The Carefoot's letter and jobs are a treasure!

I have a surprise for you, but I don't tell you about this thing, only I say that it's a book and that in the catalogue Veronica writes that "...still a few for sale". I hope that she has still a copy for you.

I will write to Veronica in these days for the book of Hagedoorn, which is present in the catalogue.

By chance, do you have the possibility to find in Sydney or anywhere the Registry of poultry genetic stocks of the Connecticut University? Veronica don't has, from many months, and I need.

I have read the interesting article about you in your beautiful *Australasian Poultry* magazine, and I think that I go make the subscription. In this article I have known many interesting things about your life, your son and your old Bob. All very interesting, and I hope a day to visit you. Your son, what race is breeding now?

Please tell to Mr Robert Johnstone that his English is very clear, very easy to reading and understanding, also for me who am not an anglophone. If you give me the authorisation, I will propose the publication of the translated job in our federal newspaper. I think that it's right that the Italian people knows persons as you are.

In these days I have received the letter of Professor Scossiroli, a geneticist, who has accepted to analyse my job. For me this fact is very important and my engagement becomes greater. Today I will compile the index as he has asked from me.

I send you the revision of the Caudill's Latin. A little exercise of Latin syntax with which I went back many years, when I was younger. Excuse if this job is in my language, but I think that you may understand the essential. It's difficult for me translate this job in English.

About the Kimball's jobs, I accept all you have. All the titles are very interesting, and our ideas ever need to be compared.

I send you a little photocopy from a book of 1928 which is hard for your eyes. Also the greats like Van Gink go in mistakes. The label in the pedestal is true, the caption is wrong. Today this fact becomes an precious error!

I wrote today to Mr Stromberg to receive his book about the Araucana.

The last ask: I think that the job of Latcham cited by Wilhelm Ottmar may be very interesting. Do it's possible for you find this job?

I read the new very interesting investigation of the Japanese school, but I need few days to give an answer to you what I'm thinking about this problem. I need to go over the mitochondrial biology. Later I write my ideas to you. In the moment I may tell you that I have understood that this job demonstrates that the fowl was domesticated in the Indonesian area and, if I well remember, this possibility is reported in any page of your books.

To resume, I need, if possible:

All the matter of Kimball

Registry of poultry genetic stocks

The surnames of *English Atahualpas* - The papers of Latcham

I thank you very much. My kindest regards.

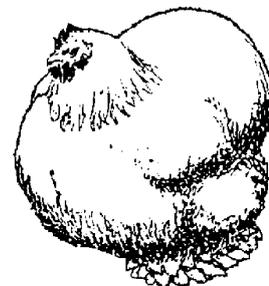




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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

7-3-1995

My dear Elio,

Thank you for your letter and pleased to hear you received the material OK.

As regards the Araucana situation I thought at one time I might pursue the issue but I don't believe it will ever be solved. A fellow, I think was Bustos, went looking for birds to carry out a study with some years ago, but couldn't find anything that appeared pure Araucana think he did collect some birds which were a motley lot which in my opinion wouldn't be much good to conduct a study with.

The only trait that seems anyway stable is the Blue Egg Shell, some are Rumpless some are not, the earrings are of different formations, some have straight combs, some strength combs. Not very satisfactory. The origin is unknown. I put forward a theory in one of my books on their origin. I could be right or I could be wrong. As I think I mentioned Bill Cawley summed the situation up pretty well. I think I sent you a copy.

Regarding the people going to Indonesia I will explain the situation. They are not going all together but mainly chaps and their wives on cruising yachts and where and when they will visit is unpredictable. They will probably be going at different times as they are on cruising yachts. These yachts usually finish up in Thailand and then sail into the Indian Ocean. They have promised to make some observations for me if the opportunity arises. I'm afraid it would not work out the team up with them. These people don't have a set timetable, a lot depends on weather conditions. However I am hoping to get some interesting info from them.

I am enclosing the copy of a paper on the Jungle Fowl which may interest you. I received a letter from the Netherlands the other day inviting to contribute articles for an English language magazine relating to chickens, pigeons, animals etc. for publication. Soon I will have a new publication available on the History of the Australorp in Australia. I will send you a copy. Must press on now.

Regards.

Bill

P.S. Also enclosed:

Skeleton of normal domestic chicken

Skeleton of Shamo (Japan); I would expect to be much the same as Malay.

With your medical Knowledge could you study these and give your opinion of the differences in the make up of the skeletons which might consider them separate species or subspecies??



George CARTER

Professor at Texas A&M University
COLLEGE STATION TE 77843 - USA

March 10, 1995

Dear Bill,

I will make an immediate return with more later. Here is some data from a German source. In case you do not read German here is a translation of the summary

1 - 1276 bird bones from the Roman deposit at Magdalensburg

2 - The greatest number, 78.4% are *Gallus gallus*. The hens were all in all somewhat smaller, the cocks somewhat similar in size to other Roman finds. The chickens were on the average larger than those in La Tène (Iron Age, a very interesting comment for this would be ca 1500 BC) time and in the Middle Ages. The hens were smaller than recent egg layers (breed not specified, but assumed to be White Leghorns by GFC). The cocks do not fit into this. The strong sexual dimorphism is very pronounced, differing from the other Roman finds. One must be dealing with Capons.

Abbreviations:

- A Anzahl - number
- Ba comparative material, Natural History Museum, Basel,
- Bd greatest distal breadth
- Bp greatest proximal breadth
- Dp greatest cross section
- Gl Greatest length
- I index least breadth of diaphysis times 100 over greatest length.
- M comparative material from collection Tieranatomischen Instituts München

On the DNA work. First I do not understand it. Second, it seems self contradictory. Third they do not specify what breeds. Fourth they are treating the 19th century meat birds of Europe as Western birds, but they are specifically Chinese birds. If I can find it I will include my discussion of this. Cant And it at the moment. Will send when I do. The find the White Leghorns of east and west give contradictory results—and they don't discuss this. It seems a good case of lab men with absolutely no cultural historical sense.

On Barbara West. She lost her job. I got in touch with her momentarily by writing via the museum and asking them to forward it. The chicken book languishes for the anthropologists attack it so severely that publishers wont touch it. We will get it out one way or the other and you will be on the top of the gift list.

McKusick is the best bone specialist and I will try to get the Ban Chiang bones sent to her. Momentarily we are trying to get C14 dates on archaeological chicken bones—absolutely demanded by the archaeologists. They do not trust their own excavations.

I will read your papers with great interest. Yes I have read *Cock Fighting*.

On names. Moa never appear in America. Pigafetta with Magellan gives: *mona* and in the adjacent islands, *moa*. Then he gives *ayam* for the Malay region. The names haven't changed a syllable in over 500 years.

Atahualpa, the last Inca, was named Chicken-chicken. *Ata* from Ecuador, and *Huaipa* from Peru. A most honorific title.

More later.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

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29-3-1995

Dear William,

I have still available all my hospital's vacations of the 1994.

I decided come to Australia to meet you directly and talk with you about all the problems concerning the fowls....and whatever argument...

This decision obviously is subordinated to your business and if you like me to come visit you.

This morning I have reserved my flies with British Airlines as follows:

Departure from Italy via London: Saturday - May 6

Arrival in Sydney: Sunday - May 8 at 5.05 am

Departure from Sydney: Saturday -- June 3 at 3.10 pm

It's only a reservation; I will confirm and book the ticket only after your answer.

During my stay in Maitland I like remain with you, or visit some locality that you indicate to me, may be by aircraft.

One thing only: I don't would be a problem for your life of every day.

If you like that I come in Australia, please write me soon, to give me the possibility of planning the trip and the ticket.

I ask- from you the reservation of a place in a little hotel in Maitland, possibly not far from your home. For me is good also a private room to rent from a family.

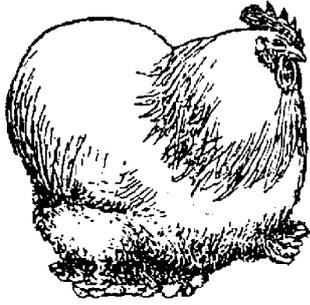
From Sydney to Newcastle do it's better to use an aeroplane or bus or railway?

To fast enter in touch with you, please give me your phone number.

I have read the Japanese article about the *unique ancestor* based on RFLP: it has opera many interesting and difficult problems that I am achieving in these days and that I have understood nearly quite. For the moment I send the articles from the Grolier encyclopaedia which are very clear. This encyclopaedia is in a compact disk (CD) and by the computer is very easy to handle for search. We will tell directly about this argument when I am in Australia, and I will explain all my ideas. By letter it's a little difficult.

About Kimball's articles: you may wait for send to me, because I may take them directly.

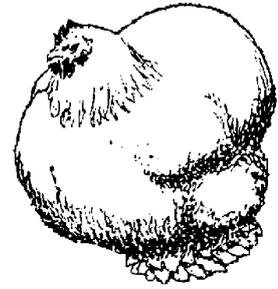
My kindest regards. Please indicate to me if you need anything from Italy.



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NSW
Australia



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

1-4-1995

Dear Elio,

I received your letter and material and request. Thank you very much. I also received the Van Gink book from Veronica in good order and condition for which I am most appreciative. It was a very nice thought and gift from you.

I am only too happy to send information to you because over many years a lot of people have sent me information and I am pleased to be able to send some of it to others if it will help in their researches. I believe the best way to learn is the information exchange.

Now your request regarding the surnames. It will probably take me a little while to organise some information as I am not sure of the best way to approach the job. However I have a friend who at one time was Chief Librarian at the University near here. I will ask him the best way to go about the job. He should be able to advise me.

My friend Professor George Carter tells Atahualpa was the last of the Incas: chicken-chicken ATA from Ecuador and HUALPA from Peru.

I do have a copy of the *Registry of Poultry Genetic Stocks* which I am copying for you. I will send this. As there are many pages it will reach you in different packages. Also I will copy Kimball's papers and send them on. I am not sure if I have anything by Latcham. I will look through my books.

I am pleased that the information I sent was useful. Carefoot is a very knowledgeable fellow. I have been corresponding with him for some years.

The postcard of Valenza was good. It is an old city I would think. My city is old as far as Australia is concerned as the country has only been colonised for just over 200 years. Maitland was one of the early settlements. My son's home is over 150 years old.

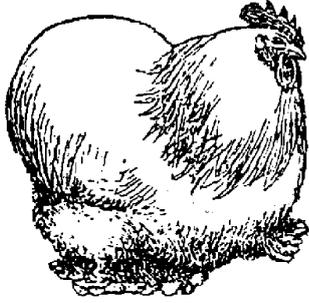
My son is still breeding Pekin Bantam but is not doing a lot with them right now. He is so busy with his work. I do not have any bird now. It is too difficult as my eyesight is very poor. I have been invited to contribute some articles for a Dutch magazine, *Avicultura*. I am enclosing a brochure. It is an English language magazine.

Fine on writing to Stromberg on Araucana book. I wrote to Veronica to advise that book arrived OK and mentioned that if she had a book of Punnett *Heredity in Poultry* she might let you know. It is quite good.

I have just published a booklet on *Australorp History*. I will send you a copy in due course.

All for now. Regards.

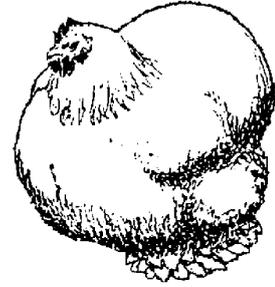
Bill



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



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**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

10-4-1995

Dear Elio,

Just a short note in answer to your letter regarding a trip to Australia. It sounds good to me.

I would give you the opportunity to look through my files for information you may require. I would be pleased to have the pleasure of your company.

I will organise accommodation arrangements after my consult with my son and daughter in law. I guess you only are coming?

Regarding getting from Sydney to Maitland: Train may be OK or aeroplane. I don't think I could meet you at the airport but will write again as soon as I can work something. It is only about 2½ to 3 hours trip by train to Maitland.

I am sure you will find information amongst by books and files. I will write again soon. My telephone number is 049-326579.

Regards.

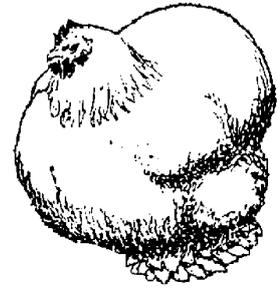
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**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

18-4-1995

Dear Elio,

Just a short note with information on getting from Sydney to Maitland. I have enquired with the Domestic Airlines, who run the service between Sydney and Maitland. They have a service leaving Mascot (Sydney) at 8.50 am. You will have to get from the International Terminal at Sydney Airport to the Domestic Terminal at the same airport. I would expect there would be transport from one terminal to the other. The aircraft used on this service is an Irwin engine 9 seater. It usually arrives in Maitland around 9.30 am. We can meet you at Maitland airport. If you should choose this way of travel you may be able to look on it through your travel agent. If booked 7 or more days before the flight it is not so expensive. The name of airline is Yanda and bookings are made through the Ansett system for the travel agent information. The time it leaves Sydney should give you plenty of time after going through customs and immigration.

There is another alternative transport and that is by train. I will give you these details. To catch the train it would be necessary to take a taxi from Sydney airport to Central Railway Station in the city. There are two first trains which you can catch to Maitland Railway Station:

XPT EXPLORER, leaving central at 11.05 am arriving Maitland 1.38 pm

XPT to GRAFTON leaving central at 11.35 am arriving Maitland 2.01 pm.

Seat booking are also necessary on these trains. The trains are not as expensive as flying. We could meet you at Maitland station. You will need to telephone me regarding whichever you choose.

Regarding accommodation my son and daughter in law are going to accommodate you OK.

I'm not sure what your full plans are whilst in Australia, but will work out when you get here. I have been speaking with a friend of mine who has been experimenting with Barred Pekin. He lives 100 miles north of me and probably stay a night or so with him. This fellow will surprise you.

My son lives only a 2 or 3 miles away from me and will enjoy talking chickens with you. We are looking forward to meeting you.

Regards.

Bill

P.S. You stated arrival Sunday May 8. Monday is May 8th. Please confirm.



George CARTER

Professor at Texas A&M University
COLLEGE STATION TE 77843 - USA

April 26 1995

Dear Bill

There has been a gap in our correspondence I had a stroke about two months ago. I had to regain my speech, ability to read, and finally to write, though still with some difficulty. Many thanks for your many mailing, all very helpful. What can I do for you? I have a number of the Japanese papers. I have little success so far in getting dates on chicken bones, but we are going on trying.

On origins I am firmly in your camp. I think that the Malay is quite separate from the others. It seems to be that there are basically three races. I used Race for broad groupings Breeds are minor groups, today the result of breeders work.

I find your comment that the length of the gut in the Malay is half the length of the rest of the chickens be most important. What is your source? I have never read Darwin and Tegetmeir and their argument - (I am sure that it is in the library).

I must go back and re read Ball on Polynesia. I will one of these days be asking you for help on understanding the kinds of chickens described by Pridgen(?) in cock fighting in South America. They are all said to be *Malays* including the melanotic chickens in this and called fighters. In everything the Malay is different. No wattles! Short gut. Prefers open sites. etc I at times wonder if the birds could even fly - marrow and interior structures in their bones?? True?? This defines a bird on the verge of becoming flightless and that normally appears in island locations with few predators.

I have listed some of the characteristics of the major races: Cochin as one type, Mediterranean as another, and the Malay the other. The Mediterranean seems to be closest to the Wild. The Cochin looks like a chicken with dwarf characteristics (short legs and legs) but very large heavy bodies, and I would think of a Chinese selection for a fluffy feathered, feathered legged with head feather puffs, and a heavy body—all excellent adaptation to cold. This includes tames, perhaps because they were kept close as they would have to be in a cold winter area Even the reduced combs would be advantageous in avoiding freezing They are also notable for not stopping laying as soon as the cold sets in. So I think of them as cold adapted chickens I would bet if we had information on the Russian types that they show very much the same traits.

As is obvious I do not think in the normal tracks, and Hoffmann falls into a frenzy when he reads my aberrations I will include a scribbly table of differences and similarities. And of course the chickens in Indians hands in America come out Asiatic. More later I did want you to know what happened.

Original - small Jungle Fowl

Malay - later crossed by Jungle Fowl - increase in size? See below.

Blends

Cochin x ? = Brahma - other large breeds?

Or is the size Malay x ? whatever?

A substratum of small near wild chickens is common.

Large size is local - Mostly NE Asia?

Malay really does not give *size* - only *length*, they are not heavy.

It looks more and more as if the large, heavy breeds are a cold adaptation that arose in China.

A friend South India described the chickens as having only a little more meat than a pigeon.

One report said to be in a recent study of Hawaii that Polynesian only brought the Malays for ritual wild examples still on the island.

The antiquity for man in Hawaii has just been moved 500 for so centuries.

Enough. This is thinking on paper. Thoughts are not the Ten Commandments, but trying out ideas.

Would like to have copies of some of the Japanese papers? Lots on the Jungle Fowl, lots of measurements.

I would conclude (subject to change any days!):

Mediterranean ca 1500 BC chickens carried to the Mediterranean probably first to Egypt. Oddity: the relative rare (?) white eggs layers with the type introduced close to the wild. Learned incubation from the Egyptians developed the non-brooders for continuous laying. This type persists. Breeds for eggs and meat maintained the Medieval time in the Monasteries.

China Very early introduction. Development of a cold adaptation type. The Cochin. Though. Spreads inland Siberia-Russia to Eastern Europe. Orloff as the type? A cold type before the later heavy types were selected out?

Malay An island form. Developed in considerable freedom from predation. Was following the Moa pattern, loss (income) of flights, beginning of giantism, specialty on shore, an abundance of proteins (crabs, crawfish, worms, etc). Develops a short gut adapt to protein diet.

Questions crossed with Jungle Fowl? Extreme form then goes extinct? Or, the present Malay is it?

Notes

India today has many very small chickens, Philippines, Polynesia, very small either wild or very close to it. Japan *native races* are small. Only these chickens incorporate dori/tori names the introduced chickens. 16th century introductions never have dori in their names. The Chinese chickens reached China in the 1890's from England!

Major Groups (Races)

	Mediterranean	Cochin	Malay
egg	white	brown	brown
eggs vary	white, cream (usually called tinted), brown, rare in America only blue green. Somehow: preference or accident of introduction, white in the Mediterranean		
tail	showy \uparrow 30°	short	showy \downarrow 30°
fighting	in air	little?	on the ground ¹
character	flighty-nervous	tame	?
spurs	upcurved	strait	strait?
wings	proportions	very short	small?
	like wild flyers		
legs	proportions	very short	very long
	like wild flyers		
posture	normal	normal	very erect
body	light	heavy	light for size
broody ²	none	good	good
gut length	normal	normal	$\frac{1}{2}$ of normal
preferred habitat	wood field	farm yard	upon, even beaches ³
feathering	tight (smooth)	fluffy	scant
wattles	paired	paired	absent ⁴
puffs	none	common	none
feathered legs	no	yes	no
use	used	In Asia in general largely ritual	the same as Cochin?
religion	identical religious uses common through Asia (an appear in America)		
names	enormous variations recorded by Wallace. Elsewhere a great uniformity: Polynesia one word, Malay one word, Chine one word, Ecuador several, Maya many.		
<p>1 - I read they cold and never let go</p> <p>2 - implies a very long period of use of artificial hatching and enormous specializing on egg production</p> <p>3 - suggests an island origin</p> <p>4 - naked throat and naked strip extend down the breast</p>			

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18-5-1995

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your letters and for the copy of *The Australian Pekin Bantam*, the *Club Newsletter* and the *Australorp History*. I have also written to your son, thanking him and mentioning that we have made grateful use of your permission to reproduce articles from the book. We have also reviewed the book in the latest issue of *Avicultura*, which will be coming off the press early next week. I will of course send you a copy.

I look forward to hearing from you again soon and to receiving your articles. Best wishes.



Lesley-Ann Dupré

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Phone and fax: (44) 1234 712023.

Europe and rest of the world: Avicultura, PO Box 86, 3958 ZV, Amerongen, The Netherlands.
Phone (31) 343 -481693. Fax (31)343- 481443.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

15-6-1995

Dear Bill,

First of all I thank you once more for all I have received from you but independently of information the best I have received is a sincere FRIENDSHIP, in capital letters. This fact is a treasure which enriches my life.

I am working directly at the computer with the corrections made in Australia. I sent the article translated together (enclosed) to Mr Bartlett. I hope that the characters of the *Speciation* are sufficient for your eyes: they are 13 points high. If not sufficient, you tell me for reprint and for the future. We are preparing the other article for Bartlett.

I have made your catalogue, sent also in Germany, and when you need update it, tell me. In one moment is done.

The tree which gave the name to the Brazil is *Caesalpina echinata*, called by the Portugueses *pau brasil* (post red like embers, and embers in Portuguese is *brasa*). The red colour is only inside of the tree.

I don't assign the letter because the envelope is for a printed matter. My greetings to all disable people, David, Vivian and Bob.

I embrace you. I write soon.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

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☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

19-6-1995

Dear Bill,

I hope all well with you. For me all good, the computer is working and is not crazy. I am organising all the Australian information. There is a very plenty of them! But are all useful!

My colleague was visiting Veronica and her fowls. He told that they are leg feathered, but don't know the name of the breed. Veronica had only one book, but the book I needed: *The races of the domestic Poultry* by Edward Brown. Thus you may break off the remaining photocopies of this book.

On the contrary Veronica don't know the book *The man across the sea*, and in this way it would be very good if you could photocopy the chapters regarding the fowl and the corn. Thanks.

In this moment I'm completing the part about the molecular evolution. This chapter ends with the speciation, and so I'm using the Kimball's material. If the experience of the text transformation by scanner has been good, a day I will transform for you some parts of an English genetics book written by Stevens Lewis, *Genetics and evolution of the domestic fowl*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1991. This book is very easy to understand and I think that a researcher as you are must be updated. You may find the correlation between the palaeontology and the chemistry.

I have a problem in my mind. For the solution I send you the copy of the letter I'm sending to the Scientists of Aboriginal Language. I would like also know what you are thinking about this argument.

For the bibliography of my book I need the complete references of the book of Prof Rich. Have you written to her about the Malay?

Do you might give me news about the Pekin cock I operated at the Tony's farm? Is it better or not? In my observations and in my experience I find that often the Pekins (overall the hens) show serious sinusitis. What tells your experience about this? If even you are confirming this observation of mine, then it would be possible to think that there are anatomical conditions explaining the high rate of this disease. Other fowls show sinusitis, but not seriously like the Pekin does.

Among the Cochins I have bred only the buff. Other observation is that frequently the chickens of this colour hatch with a malformation of a leg, which is in hyperextension. What tells your experience and the experience of other Australian breeders? This ask because, for example, the gene *creme* is not a good gene for the life. Or the buff is independent from this leg anomaly?

A last ask. Do you know if there exists a stamp with the *brush turkey* female? Because in the section about the behaviour I write about the lost of broody instinct, and in Italy there is the President of the Deputies (a woman) who has lost this instinct and she is quoted in my book. I have learn many interesting things with you.

Excuse my English, but a progress is that I am writing nearly without dictionary's help.

Valenza, 19-6-1995

Dear Sir,

The following words are for Professor Dixon, or Ramson, or Thomas, but I don't know their addresses and I send to you my letter, with the prayer to send to the attention of one of these Linguists.

During the month of May I have been guest of Mister William Plant of Maitland (NSW) checking into his endless files to achieve some arguments of my book.

During my stay in Australia I have purchased some books about the Aborigines, enclosed your book *Australian Aboriginal Words in English* to have a little knowledge of your World very far geographically and culturally from our old, too old Europe.

Among the battles about the first introduction of the fowl in South America (Columbus or not) there is the linguistic evidence that nearly all the Aborigines of this country called the fowl with a name not correlated with Spanish or Portuguese language: it is *walpa*, and Mister Langdon of the University of Canberra is a Master in this argument.

I was visiting the Sydney's Museum like a *hunter* of some interesting book. Here I found the big treatise of Professor Rich about the fossil recoveries of Australasia. In Australia there are not fossil recoveries of the fowl! The fowl was unknown to the Aborigines, as I may understand also from the word *juku-juku* or *jugi* used for the chicken, borrowed from *chook*. I think that it is the same problem of *tharraki* for turkey. In Italy many families have as surname different derivatives from *Gallus*, but there are not families with a surname borrowed from turkey, because the surnames was yet fixed when this animal arrived from Central America.

Now, I need a confirmation, for my book, by Professor Dixon or others Linguists, that in the Aboriginal languages of Australia there not exists an original word to call the fowl, but that the equivalent words are all borrowed from English or other languages. I am not a Linguist, and I cannot affirm one thing that is only a supposition, may be near to the truth.

I thank you very much and excuse me. Kindest regards.

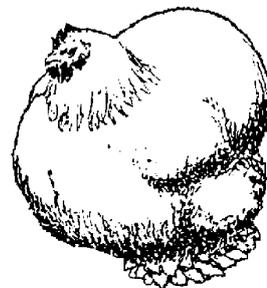
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Orlando' or similar, written in a cursive style.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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NSW
Australia



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

24-6-1995

Dear Elio,

Thank you for your letter, master copy for the letter head and the catalogue master. They are very good. Thank you. Also the other material. I haven't had time to read it yet. I like you am very busy in this moment. I did the copying which enclosed. I had a little trouble with a few of the sheets but I think it is all done. I cut some of the surplus paper off the photocopies to save weight. You may have to sort it into order. I didn't do Brown, as you said you may be able to get the book.

Frank was able to purchase a second hand guillotine for me, not very expensive; this will enable me to turn up any of the books I publish if necessary. They will look better.

We had the Maitland Poultry Club Show last Sunday. It went quite well. You might be able to do something for me. I have been talking with our local member of the Australian Government and told him I wanted to publish my material. It may be possible to obtain some assistance from the Government, perhaps a good photocopies, some financial assistance and the assistance of someone to help me sort out my files. I have to go to his office shortly to discuss this with him. He will try and help.

I need references from people I have corresponded with to prove that my researches have been useful. Could you write a letter heading it *To whom it may concern*. stating that your trip to visit me was to obtain information that was not readily available in Europe and that you spent many hours searching and copying my files. If you could do this it would be much appreciated.

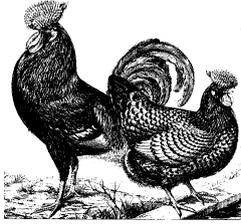
I am going to ask Carter, Carefoot, Jeffrey to do this also. OK regarding Eduardo. I guess you will be pleased to have him back in Italy.

I have not had time to write to Rich yet but will do so as soon as I can. Joyce and her husband have gone away for a month on holidays. It has been very cold this last week, the coldest days for some years.

Enclosing an article on French Game Fowl. It may be useful to you.

Must press on. All the best.

Bill



SONDERVEREIN

der Redcapszüchter

1. Vors. Rüdiger WANDEL, Am Herrenfeld 20
35037 MARBUG, Tel. 06421/31176

June, 25th 1995

Dear Mr Plant,

First of all I have to tell you many, many thanks for the most kind offering of several books I just received by my friend Dr Corti Elio from Italy! At the moment I'm only able to reciprocate with some more or less actual copies of German fancier journals to give you a little impression about German poultry keeping. But I promise, to send you as soon as possible a special book about the German breed of Pekin Bantams which we call "Zwerg- Cochin" ("Zwerg" means "Bantams") although everybody knows that Pekin Bantam isn't the miniature version of the Cochin.

This book made in co-operation with the German Club will surely give you an excellent survey of the state of German breed. I have to subscribe it to the publishing house which will need perhaps two or three weeks.

Today and in my knowledge about that breed I can tell you, that the "Zwerg-Cochin" in Germany is standardized in the following twenty colours at the moment: Buff, White, Black, Mottled, Blue (without lacing), Lavender, Red, Cuckooed (but near to your Barred!), Buff White Cuckooed, Brown (may be you call it Black Red), "Braungebändert" (the hen is like your partridge one, but lighter in ground colour, the cock is more or less red with a black tail!) Silver Duckwing, Silver Pencilled (like Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks!), Birchen, White Columbian, Blue White Columbian (the black marking of the White Columbian is blue!), Buff Columbian, Golden Wheaten (may be you call it Wheaten Black Tail), Silver Wheaten and Blue Buff Columbian (the blue version of Buff Columbian like White Columbian - Blue White Columbian): Other colours are just in standardising procedure (like Porcelain) or still in development (like for example Blue Mottled).

Pekin Bantams in Germany are rather popular and, of course, have similar long tradition to the English one: 300 or more birds at the Clubs show are no exception. If you are interested in getting in touch with the German Club please notice the following address of its president: Dietrich Aschenbach Triststrasse, 20 13437 Berlin. Knowing him in person I'm quite sure he's able to speak the English at least a little bit or has some one to translate.

I think that Dr Corti has told you about my biggest problem at the moment: Just preparing a handbook of all the large breeds around the world the manuscript has to be finished on July 31st. At the time Elio told me he would go to Australia I really haven't know anything about three other special Australian breeds beside the famous Australorp which has made a world wide "career" and is one of the most popular large fowl's breeds also in Germany today. if I would have known about the existence of Australian Pit Game, Australian Game and Chinese (Australian) Langshan before: I would have told Elio to ask you for more detailed information about their history, their standards, their popularity and so on, of course.

Because the type writer seems to be near to his death please excuse me going on by hand. You must know that the large majority of German breeders knows nearly nothing about the state of poultry keeping in England and USA like the English and Americans know nearly nothing about our general situation normally: one reason may be the language barrier. The other one, of course, the concealed suspicion between elder people like me who haven't gone through the war and learned English at school, of course, or still much more by English speaking pop music don't possess that kind of contact fears. So let's hope for a better future in this circumstance!

But at the moment for example only a few people in Germany possess the British, French or American poultry standard like I do; But even people like me haven't heard more about the Australian breed than perhaps some short indications in the Australorp history - please excuse us! But my book will have the pretension to mention poultry breeds from all parts of the world. So I was glad to know about Dr Corti's contacts to you when I found some short notices about the Australian breed and your three special breeds beside the Australorp in an English fancier journal ("Fancy Fowls") two weeks ago and the first time at all.

Again I thank you very much, indeed, for the very well made and interesting three books respectively booklets you're sent me and which I will enjoy as soon as having time enough to read them very calmly:

But unfortunately no one delivers me the information about Australian Game, Pit Game and Chinese Langshan I would need for my book so urgently! These are the actual standard words, some important facts or dates about history, popularity, number and terms or colours, body 2 weights, number of eggs a per year, colour of the shells or some other interesting things around those breeds.

You must know that I won't have more place than round about one page for every breed in the book because it should include more than 250 breeds. So it's impossible to write about every breed because nobody would buy a book of 600 and more pages especially since we will try to show most of the breeds in pictures! But those may be 10 or 15 sentences about every breed should express all the important things.

So my very important question to you is: Would you be so kind or would you be able to explore those facts about the three breed's actual situation and send it to me - can be written by hand in catch words, of course! - as soon as possible (because of the "deadline" at July 31st)? If you can't, please will you send me the booklets about those three breeds (Nr. 4, 6 and 10) which you're offering on the back page of your Australorp booklets is prevailing for historical nature. So my be those booklets wouldn't be correctly that what I need?

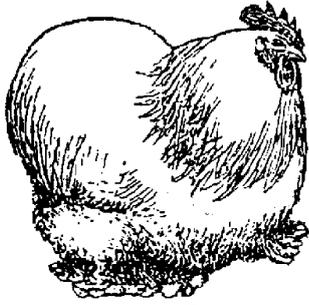
But if we should go this way, please would you let me know how to pay the money for them to you (by letter by bank and so on)? And one last very important thing: Because those breeds never appeared at Europe, me and my friend Josef Wotters who is publisher of the book and one of our best German photographers had never any chance to catch them in Celluloid any where: So we would need some pictures from Australia urgently! These absolutely mustn't be professional ones but as better as dearer, of course! If there should be any copyright by the photographer, please let us know - of course we will pay for it!

I hope I won't waste your time unduly by all those questions and entreaties to you: But I think this will be the last chance to introduce the Australian breeds too, in becoming way in that first more or less complete survey of breeds world wide! So please help me to find the suitable place for your native breeds in that book!

I hope that time won't run out before you could be able to help me I look forward to hear from you again.

Yours sincerely,

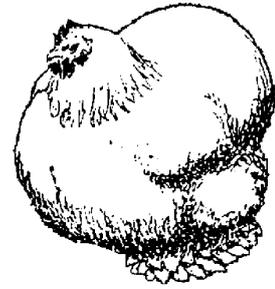




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William J. Plant

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Australia*



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**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

4-7-1995

Dear Elio,

I hope the photocopies arrived OK. Today I received a letter copies of the German Small Animal Breeder and some German Poultry etc. magazines. Also some interesting information about the Pekin in Germany. Good information.

I am sending copies of my booklets on Australian breeds as Rüdiger Wandelt, from Marburg, is compiling a book on Poultry breeds.

I understand from your letter that you are able to obtain Brown's book. I will copy from Carter as soon as I can. I have been very busy with our annual show and catching up on correspondence.

I am going to Frank Fogarty place Saturday/Sunday, there is a Poultry show out where we went to see the Brush Turkeys.

I went to see the Government man yesterday in an endeavour to obtain some assistance from the Government to document all the material you suggested. He is going to make some enquiries and see if anything can be done.

Also went to eye doctor today. I have to have some laser treatment done on one of my eyes. I hope to be going to Brisbane for a few weeks in August. The weather should be good up there at that time of the year. It usually is.

Tony tells me there is still a lump on the bird you operated on, but it is OK. I had to get the veterinary to Bob. His ear swelled up. He is on medication and the swelling is going down and seems much better. He sits in front of the heater each night.

I am enclosing a Newsletter (current). My article on barring, mottling etc. appears in it. I will add to this in the next issue and bring in the information on thyroid.

Our Pekin Annual Show in 3 weeks time at Newcastle work to do for that. I may have told you I obtained a copy of Encyclopaedia Botanica in Newcastle OK. I still have to write to Rich. Have been too busy. Hope Eduardo gets back soon.

Regards.

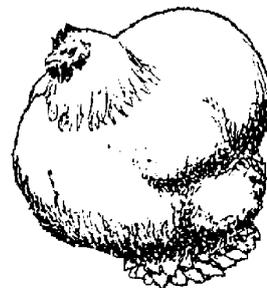
Bill



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Rüdiger Wandelt
Marburg - Germany

4-7-1995

Dear Rüdiger,

Your letter and material arrived today for which I thank you very much. Your information about the Zwerg Cochin is very good and I will be looking forward to the further information.

Unfortunately I do not know the German language but have a fiend who ca give me a little help.

I was interested to have that there are 20 colours standardised in Germany. We are going to prepare standards for *Furnace* (Brassy Backs and Crele) shortly.

My son and I have been involved in the Pekin Bantam for around 30 years. I am 74 years old my son is 44 years old.

Unfortunately my eyesight has failed badly over the last 6 or 7 years which makes things difficult to do at times.

We are both executive officers of the Pekin Bantam Club of New South Wales (Australia) and have been in this position for some years. I have been newsletter Editor for 20 years.

I am enclosing a couple o issues of the Pekin Bantam Club of NSW Newsletter. You may feel free to reproduce material from the Newsletters as well as the books on the Australian created breeds I am sending you.

All I ask that due acknowledgement is given both to the origin of the article in the first instance as well as acknowledgement as coming from my booklets.

I am only too pleased to be able to assist your in your endeavours with your book. I think my information may help. The booklets to you are complementary. Thank you for the address of the German Cochin Club.

I enjoyed having Elio Corti visit me for 4 weeks. He was able to gain much information from my files which I have been gathering together from around 25 years.

I am very busy at the moment as we have our Annual Club Show coming up in a few weeks.

I will write a longer letter later.

Regards.

Bill Plant



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

6-7-1995

Dear Bill,

I received the photocopies. Thank you very much. This treatise of *Physiology* is out of print! May be I find 2 new volumes of Freeman, very heavy, 450 pages each, *The domestic fowl* (1984) but I am waiting to know what matter is treated inside. Good that we have photocopied from your books!

When you change your books catalogue, send me one corrected copy and I made updated.

Your correspondence book is beginning today: a friend of mine is available to write the hand-written letters and your letters. I think that it's better begin now because my book is like a Bible. I have collected new information in the Pavia University about fowl behaviour and I think that a day I may explain the behaviour of the mother hen with her chicks. But in this moment I have achieved the molecular evolution and I must update with the hormones evolution with an article found in Pavia,

I hope that the Government will help you in the edition. Edition of your correspondence only or also of the previous books? If also of the previous books I need begin in scanning them.

I send only the remaining dollars because the phone card I sold to a woman in Milano who is collecting these cards from all the world!

Veronica wrote in her new catalogue that she has available the book of Wright: 925 Pounds!!! You have a capital in your library!

I have in my mind a thing, and I write now. I will be very happy if you accept a gift from me for the next spring (Italian spring): to you come to Italy. Without any discussion the ticket will be my gift for you.

I think that Eduardo don't come back to Italy, from first of January 1996 I am free from my work in the Hospital, but I am not free from the animals. It is impossible for the moment to think what will be the solution of this problem. Thus, I think that it's better you come to Italy, my mother also said. No problems for the fly. You must ask for the accompaniment because of your bad eyesight and the trip will be very easy. One thing you must only remember: not a fly for no smokers!!!

The spring in Europe is very nice, you may stand here 2-3 months and we go to visit Italy, Veronica, Carefoot, Netherlands, Germany and so on... I would be very pleased in showing you the world where I live, this old, too much old Europe.

For the moment I keep my home in the city, and there are rooms and beds available here or in hobby farm. If you would like come with Frank or Marie or Bob as you prefer. The invitation is open to all of them... but only one thing: I wait for you without doubt. Tell me YES. No problems for the clothes, not heavy baggage with you. By night we stand home, we not go to the night club! Moreover, I think that some clothes of mine are well for you.

Dear Bill,

I was waiting for your answer to my second letter. The mail is going very quickly in this moment: 7 days. From your letter I have understood that the Government is available also for the previous book. No problem, all will be done.

I send a part of a book edited by William Montagna and Funan Hu. I think that you may find new ideas for your next article about thyroid. This is not an easy argument but I think that in this chapter you can understand many things because is written in easy way. The fowl is quoted only once, but the biology is the same of that of the man and you can compare with the part about thyroid of your physiology books.

Sorry for Bob, but sorry overall for your need of laser treatment. I hope all well with you, by all my heart.

I am very happy for your contacts with Germany. I think that we have open a new door of Australia in Europe. Remember that in December, in Nürnberg, there will be a big-big show: more than 70,000 animals!!! This number tells you that the German people is a great breeder and that the megalomania is a part of the psychology of this people. *Deutschland über alles!* The Germany over all people! We hope that there not exists a new Hitler.

I hope also that the letter *To whom it may concern* is good. If not, you send me the reviewed edition and I will correct.

Good stay in Brisbane. But remember: Italy is awaiting for you.



To whom it may concern

Valenza (Italy), 11-7-1995

First of all excuse my English. I am very happy to have been guest of Mister William Plant in Maitland during the past month of May. I was corresponding with him from July 1994 and he has helped me very much with information very useful for my book about Genetics of Fowl that I am writing and achieving.

During my stay in Maitland, I have found an endless mine of information within the files of Mister Plant, information very difficult to find here in Europe, also through Miss Veronica Mayhew from England, specialist bookseller. Checking the files of Mister Plant I have found answers to many suspended questions for which I don't know where to search. If the numbers have significance, in the airport I have paid an extra baggage of 20 kg!

But, I think that Mister Plant has another very interesting source of information, because this source is an history of the evolution of scientific discoveries: his correspondence. Correspondence with Scientists from all the world and I proposed to Mister Plant to collect in a book chronologically. I think that this book will be better than a classic treatise, because is spontaneous and alive, not aseptic as the Scientists' style.

I have photocopied his correspondence and I have began the input in computer to obtain a master copy. The job is a little hard, may be also a little long. But I think that the scientific world and Australia cannot lost this treasure.



Avicultura

Avicultura®
for the small livestock breeder

14-7-1995

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your letter of the 3rd of July and for sending me the copy of your latest newsletter.

I must apologise: I thought that I had already sent you a copy of the *Avicultura* with the articles from your excellent book and the (short, unfortunately) review of it. As it appears from your letter that was not the case, I shall enclose a copy with this letter.

I will look forward to your articles and hope that Dr Corti's visit was profitable for you both.

Best wishes,



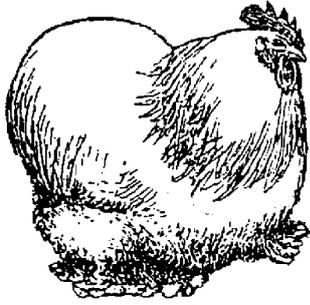
Lesley-Ann Dupré
Editor *Avicultura* UK

United Kingdom: *Avicultura*, Olney Park Cottage, Yardley Road, Olney, Bucks MK46 5EJ.

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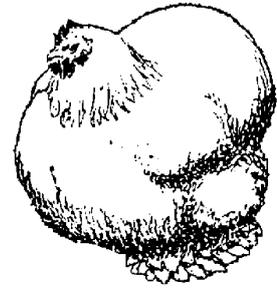
Phone (31) 343 -481693. Fax (31)343- 481443.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

18-7-1995

Dear Elio,

Hope everything is well with you. Here I am very busy as our Pekin Show is on next Saturday and Sunday and I have been doing some preparation work for it. I have away to a show around Frank's place and stopped with him over night. In about 3 weeks I will be going to Brisbane for the big show and visit my cousin. I will stop in Brisbane for about 3 weeks.

I have copied Carter's chapter of chickens for you which is enclosed. I still have to do the section on corn (maize). Will send it to you when it is done. I think you would have to send to the University of Texas Press to get a copy of *Man across the sea*.

I had a letter from a chap in Queensland who is breeding different colours in Old English Game. He might come up with some useful information. I hope Eduardo has returned to Italy and can look after the farm. I guess that would be plenty to do there.

I still haven't written to Rich or completed the article for the Dutch magazine. I have been busy with other work.

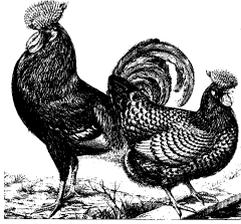
I can't remember where I noted the number of times a broody hen moves the eggs each, but will search for the information. The next booklet I will publish will be on the Rhode Island fowl but that wont be for a month or so. I have to set it all out. I hope you were able to obtain Brown's book. It's quite good.

I think I told you I received a package from your German friend with some newspapers and magazine. I sent him my booklets on the Australian breeds as he is writing a book on the different breeds.

Well, I must press on. Joyce is coming back from holidays tomorrow. It's been pretty quiet here over the last month. Hope the computer is going OK and you are keeping well.

Regards.

Bill



SONDERVEREIN

der Redcapszüchter

1. Vors. Rüdiger WANDEL, Am Herrenfeld 20
35037 MARBUG, Tel. 06421/31176

23/07/95

Dear William,

First of all many thanks, indeed, for your most kind letter and all excellent help you gave me! At the moment I really don't know how to reciprocate. But at one of the next evenings I'll try to reach the president of the German Pekin Bantam Club to ask for new and further information beside the promised book which I hope will be on its way to you.

Round about two weeks before I was stopped suddenly in all my efforts to get the "hand book" ready until July 31st by a telephone call from my friend and "boss" Josef Wolters telling me that the appointed printing-office wouldn't be able to print in this year because of an intervened commission. So I don't need to be ready before next year's spring which is a big lightening for me, of course! So I don't have to go on in extreme hurry like I had to do till now and will be able to have my investigation much more profound.

But never the less there are some very pressing engagements which normally would have had to wait until finishing the manuscript of the "hand book" but on the other hand should have done several months (!) before. for example a couple of show reports about nearly half a dozen Club Shows from 1994 for the three German fancier journals. Normally you have to send those manuscripts until the end of the March being the deadline. In this year I got special rights by way of exception because all editors knew about my time pressure in circumstance with the "handbook". But now I have to do all those things having priority.

So please give me another two or three weeks to find out all you should know about breeding Pekin Bantams in Germany! You will hear from me again as soon as I will be ready in reporting about the last year's show season (shows in Germany are only held from September until January).

At last I wish you all the best and very may your Annual Club Show be a success!

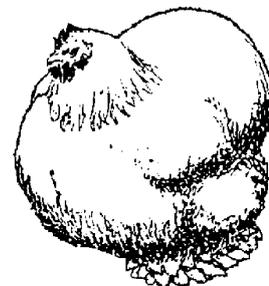
Regards,



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William J. Plant

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Australia



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Lesley Ann Dupré
Editor Avicultura - UK

25-7-1995

Dear M/S Dupré,

Thank you very much for the copies of *Avicultura* one of which I have passed onto my son David.

First of all I must congratulate you of both the quality of the production and the contents - Both I give top marks.

We thank you for your review and mention. I am sure it will be of much assistance to us and we are only too happy to be of assistance from this part of the world.

Only few days ago we held our Annual Pekin Club Show together with the Leghorn and Ancona Clubs. All told around 700 birds were scheduled between the three breeds. It was a successful event once again with exhibitors travelling from there of the eastern States of Australia. We should have some Pekin photographs a little later on. Still haven't finished any articles for you although I have them drafted out. My humble apologies for that but you will get them.

As well Dr Corti was here for a month going through my files and copying much material. I feel his visit was profitable to both of us for whilst going through my library he discovered material that was most useful to me also.

Over the last couple of weeks I have been busy with preparations for our Show as both David and I are involved in the administration of the show. It involves a lot of work.

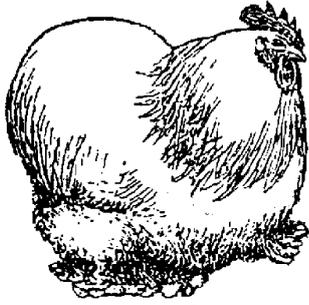
I correspond with quite a number of people which also takes some keeping up with.

Now at the age of 74 years I'm not as quick with things as I used to be but at the same time. I enjoy what I'm doing and find it most satisfying. Thanks again.

Until next time.

Regards.

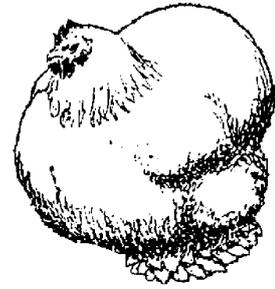
Bill Plant



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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Australia*



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

1-8-1995

Dear Elio,

I thank you for your letter and information. Tony and Frank have told me they have also received letters from you and David received a card.

I am overwhelmed by your invitation to visit you in Italy. For this I will always appreciate. I think I will be able to come providing my health keeps OK. I will make enquiries regarding passport etc etc. I think your European spring would perhaps be around the month of April. I would like to leave it until around the end of April as I like to see my friends with whom I served in the Army in Sidney during. Let me know if you think this would be a suitable time. We can arrange a particular date a little later on. It would be interesting to talk with Carefoot etc. He is very knowledgeable.

I am going to Brisbane next week for about 3 weeks. I meet many poultry breeders at the show up there and enjoy the time with my cousin and family.

Bob is OK now. I had to get the doctor to him who gave him medication which took down the swelling in his ear and cleared up the skin problem on his back.

We had a very good Pekin Show at Newcastle last weekend. David and I were very busy organising. There were 3 breeds: 260 Pekins, 200 Anconas and about 300 Leghorns. Just the 3 breeds. Frank came down and we had an enjoyable weekend. The weather was quite good also.

I have not heard any more from Germany yet, but expect a letter shortly. Thank you for the reference, very good. Fred Jeffrey also sent me a reference. I have not heard any more about my approach to the Government, I do not know whether I will have any success, but it is worth trying.

Noted you are working on my material. I am been very very busy answering enquiries once I have had orders for my booklets and have to get Tony to reprint some of them.

Could you do on your computer a front cover master copy for my next booklet on Rhode Island? I will enclose a layout, no need to worry about any picture on it. I will fix that just the writing. I hope to publish this one shortly.

Joyce and Max have returned from their holiday, they enjoyed it. It has been very cold here this winter. I will be looking forward to getting into the warmer weather in Brisbane. The weather is usually pretty good up there at this time of the year.

OK on cost of Wright's book. I knew it was pretty expensive. The cost of old books has risen over the last few years. I was lucky when I bought mine. The price was quite low and our exchange rate was the opposite to what it is today.

OK on Eduardo. I guess you will be pleased to see him back in Italy to look after the animals. I have not read the material on pigmentation yet, but will get onto it when I get the opportunity. I had a letter from Stromberg the other day. He mentioned about the genetics book of Crawford. Also had a letter from a chap in the Unites States ordering 2 Australorp books. That's about all for now.

Regards.

Bill

AUSTRALIA

VK2AMM

54 BONAR STREET, MAITLAND, N.S.W. 2320



TO CONF. QSO OF

AT G.M.T. UR SSB/CW

TRANSMITTER *FT101E* ANT. *Bill*

FREQ. USED W. J. PLANT

7mb - 14mb - 21mb 28mb



"AUSTRALIA'S
MICKEY
MOUSE"



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

16-8-1995

Dear Bill,

Very good in receiving your letter. I am very happy you have accepted my invitation for Italy. I rang now to the travel agency and the tickets are of two different types: 2 months, 6 months of validity. Let me know the date of your meeting in Sydney.

My book is again running around the molecular genetics. I hope your stay in Brisbane was very good and that you saw plenty of nice chickens.

My kindest regards also to the big Bob. Please, tell to Joyce that I am waiting for a letter from Spain and after I will write to her.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

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4-8-1995

Dear Bill,

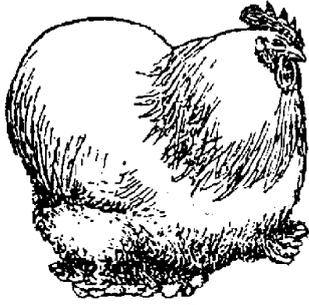
It was a very great joy in receiving the wishes for my birth day from all of you. Now I am 53 years old (or young?) with some problem to set my future life of retired. A very great disaster to have a Government like this we have. When a people is ready and formed to give orders shortly by all the experience of the past years, this people must stop. This is the life, but you know that, like you, I am very busy with all my interests and hobbies, but sometimes this is not sufficient.

In a separate envelope I send a tasting of your future book. The title is an idea of myself and could be different. May be that this title is soft, but it is expressing Australia by the word *chooks*. Let me know what you think. The book is yours.

I think that this book must contain the answer from Rich, and so you must write to her as soon as possible, because the problem of the Malay is the crowning of all your researches and theses.

I wait for your comments about the future *Chattering on chooks...*

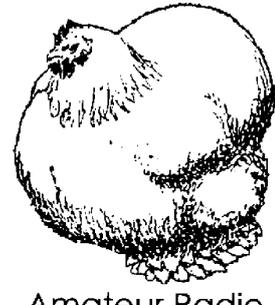
My kindest regards and appreciations.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

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NSW
Australia*



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**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

10-9-95

Dear Elio,

My apologies for not writing sooner but I have been very busy since returning from Brisbane. There was quite a deal of correspondence to catch up on with requests for information etc.

Thank you for all the informations. I am making separate files for the different informations I receive from you.

Regarding my coming to Italy. It would not be for any longer than 2 months and about the time it would be difficult for me in February as Joyce goes in holiday each February. I like to be around the house while she is away and Bob also has to be taken care of. I think would still be cold in February. It would be OK after the 25th April. The actual date can be decided on if it is OK with you. This would be the spring in Europe. So if this time OK I will work out on actual date.

Thank you for the Rhode Island cover. I think however I will use the American illustrations by Schilling instead of the Dutch illustrations as we use American type here in Australia. That will be no problem. It turned out very good. Thank you so much.

With regard to the front page for the letters book perhaps we might require another title. I hadn't really thought about it as yet.

Chooks I think is just a term used by Australians and as this book would probably go to overseas countries and Universities as a Reference book, the *chook* title may not be understood. Anyway I will think about it. However it turned out very well.

I had a letter from Rudi in Germany. He has had a delay on the book he was sending me. Fine on the letters from Ukraine - Crawford - Stromberg. I will file them separately.

While in Brisbane I met a fellow who I have known for many years. He is at the Queensland University and very knowledgeable in genetics, particularly with poultry colour breeding. He showed me some of the birds he is breeding. Very interesting.

Frank's dog Husky is expecting pups next Saturday. Frank says she looks in good shape. Your trip to Russia should be interesting. How will be language for you?

I have completed one article for the Dutch magazine *Avicultura*. Still have another one to do. Have also had material to do for our Pekin Club magazine.

We have had some very unseasonable cold weather over the last week or so, looking forward to the warmer weather. I can't handle the cold weather.

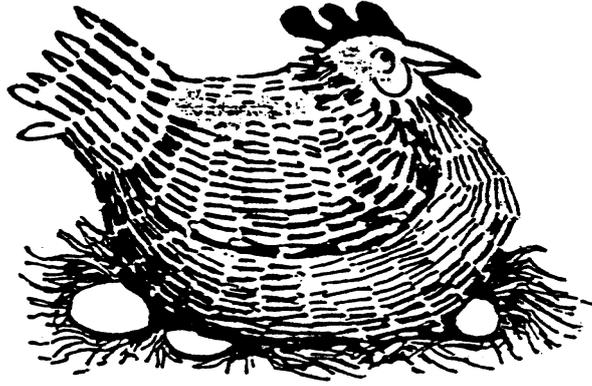
I have started putting the Rhode Island booklet together. It will take a little while yet but should come up OK. I haven't heard any more from the Government about assistance yet but will be making more enquiries.

Hope your book is making progress. It is a big job but will be worthwhile. I hope you get to meet Stromberg. He is a very busy person. I hope that his book gets published soon.

I have not written to Rich yet. Pat Rich is a lady. Her husband is also a palaeontologist. They are both into Dinosaurs. They are Americans and have been working in Australia for some years. All for now. Will keep in touch.

Regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.



Russell J Parker
PO Box 242
TENTERFIELD 2372 - NSW
Australia

30th August 1995

Dear Mr Plant,

Re: Jungle Fowl in the Solomon Islands.

Your name was given to me by Rod Harris who says that you have done extensive research on Jungle Fowl in the Pacific region.

I have been associated with the Solomon since 1968 when I first worked there for the Commonwealth Bank and since then I have maintained an active interest in that country at many levels.

Last year I published my first book which is the life story of a native Chief in the Solomons. My fascination with the Solomon Islands people continues but I am also very interested in their wildlife some which is unique to that country. Naturally it is also under threat from logging and land clearing and any work which can be done is useful.

Besides my lifelong passion for the islands I have also been interested in birds but particularly poultry. In fact you could say I am *chook mad* and my ultimate dream would be to have a breeding station on an island in the Solomon.

Very little work has been done on the birds of the Solomon's in recent decades although it is more urgent every day. I do not have the technical knowledge or resources to attempt to prepare any worthwhile work on the birds unfortunately.

However my interest in poultry keeping naturally guides me towards gathering information about the jungle fowl there.

I have heard a couple of stories from the Solomon's about where they might be but I am desperately in need of information about them which has been recorded so far.

I hope that you may have some material that you can let me have access to. I would be willing to pay a reasonable amount of or photocopying, postage etc. if necessary.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Russell



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

21-9-1995

Dear Bill,

I am very pleased in hearing you again. Good that all is running well with you. My letter is short because in this moment I am organising myself for a trip: the next week I profit of an opportunity which was in my mind from many time: to go to Brno (ex Brünn), Ceska Republica, the city where lived Mendel. A friend of mine (his wife is native of this country) is available for this trip and so we have fixed the departure at September 28th and I will be again in Italy October 3rd. Brno is not too far from Valenza, approximately 1,500 km and we go by car.

Before my departure to Brno I will finish the part of molecular biology and evolution to give to a young woman, physician, from Valenza, who is working in the National Research Centre (CNR) in Pavia, the city of my University. She is available to review my work, may be whole, and I must print this part of the book for her. She was in Canada during two months and came back a couple of weeks ago. She is a molecular geneticist and is studying overall the problems of the cancer.

Re the Russia no problem for the language, one week ago they have ringed to me and the English of Dr Zacharov was 100 times better that mine and, overall, I never have had problems to go in foreign countries, because I have learned that the mimic is better than the words. Obviously I think that during the workshop there is a simultaneous translation.

Good for your trip to Italy, you must only fix the date after April 25 - 1996, and I will organise your voyage. Sooner is better, because when here is hot, it is a humid hot. Yes, we fix a stay of two months. Please, let me know also if you are available to begin your journey from England in visiting Carefoot.

For the title of the book no problems. With the computer we may change whatever we want. I am working on your correspondence, and I think, letter after letter, that this will be a very interesting and important document.

I have ringed in this moment to Loyl and he is not coming this year to Hannover for the show, but the next year, October 6^h

1 collect all the correspondence you received after my departure from Australia

2 write a little biography about the most important correspondents, collect also photo of them, also all the material which is good put in the book to enrich it

3 please let me know about the problem of the signatures

4 write soon to Mrs Pat Rich (I know your mistake through the correspondence!)

I have spoken by telephone with Professor Prota from Naples (pheomelanins), a very good fellow, and I have promised that we go meet him when you in Italy.

Please, let me know the name and the address of the fellow of the Queensland University who is working with poultry colour breeding. May be I need to resolve some question and problem with him.

Now I have two asks:

1- I must be sure that Darwin, during his voyage, never was in Araucania. You must check his book of the trip around the world, because this fact may be very important: if he not put his feet in Araucania's ground, it was impossible for him to describe the blue eggs.

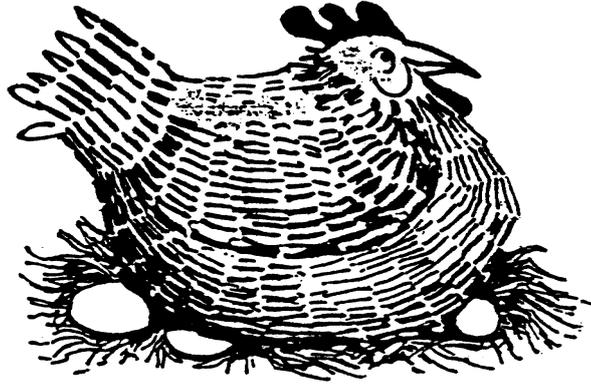
2 - About pyle-pile: the two sides of a coin are called face and pile?

I have entrusted a friend of mine to ask for the actual number of the Araucanian Indians. I am waiting the answer and after I tell you the result.

Handling your correspondence there is a big exercise for me to learn a little better the English language. I hope to hear from you soon, with the date of your departure fixed approximately by yourself. That's all for now. I am again waiting from Spain to send the text to Joyce. My kindest regards also to her and Max. Obviously, also to Bob.

Do you like my new headletter? Remember of my thought about genetics, to correct it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'P. M. ~'.



Russell J Parker
PO Box 242
TENTERFIELD 2372 - NSW
Australia

22nd September 1995

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for the very interesting material on Jungle Fowl in the Solomon Islands.

I am enclosing some copies of information you may not have. The Phillipino stories are from Gery Coady.

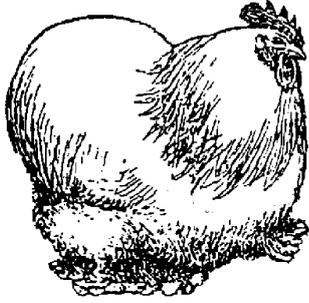
The newspaper story is from a US ornithologist.

I have recently more contact with. He is active in the Solomons and writing a field guide on SI birds.

I'll write again when I have more time.

Thanks again.

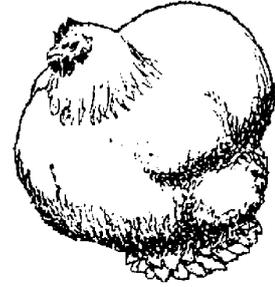
Russell



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54 Bonar Street
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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

28-9-1995

Dear Elio,

The book from Stromberg arrived yesterday in good order and condition. For this my many thanks. It is a good book with all the update information.

I have made use of it already to check up on *Brachydactily*, missing toe joints on outer toe. However it does tell me much more then Hutt. We have this problem in Pekins. There seems to be a link between feathered shanks and missing toe joints genes. Unfortunately the evidence is not very conclusive.

I have written to Pat Rich and sent her a copy of that material in Portuguese you sent me some time ago. She may not have a copy.

Frank's dog Husky had 6 pups, all females. Mother and family doing well. Bob has ear trouble again, so we have put him back on medication.

I have enclosed copy of a paper by Morejohn which I don't think you have. It could be of interest for your book which I hope is progressing well. Also copy of a paper by Kimball which a fellow sent me. I think it is very interesting.

It has been quite cold this week with some rain. In Sydney much rain and strong winds doing much damage. Tony's eldest daughter is getting married this weekend so I guess Tony will be pretty busy. I am preparing the Rhode Island booklet. I will send you a copy when completed. Tony has to reprint some of my other publications I have sold a few lately.

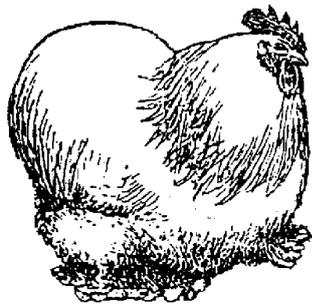
Hope every thing is going well with you and your book is taking shape. These things take some time everything has to be checked and rechecked. The papers I am sending will be dispatched later when I go by the Post Office. I can post this letter around the corner.

I will be making enquiries about getting a passport etc etc shortly. I don't think there should be any problem...

I have more letter to write, so will close now. Will write again soon.

Regards.

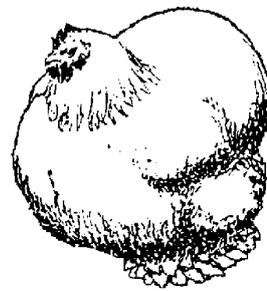
Bill



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

9-10-1995

Dear Elio,

Nice to receive your letter of 21-9-95 and you would have returned from Brno by now. I hope you had a good trip. Perhaps you visited the monastery where Mendel carried out his experiments.

Regarding Darwin visiting Araucanian territory I have enclosed a copy of *The voyage of the Beagle* on account of his trip around the world. You will find the information you require in the book. I had 2 copies so you keep this one. If Darwin saw any blue eggs, it could have been in Punta Arenas at Cape Horn. I think this is where Castellò first noted blue eggs.

I like your letter head and envelope and the type of your letter is easy for me to read. Fine on your friend who is going to read your work. Pleased to hear that you are making progress. OK on your contact with Russia and also Stromberg. Stromberg age is 80 years now but still seems to be going OK.

I will write biographies of correspondents where I can get enough information and will put aside any correspondence, not a great lot at the moment. I have written to Pat Rich last week. I sent that Dinosaur information in Portuguese you sent me. It will be interesting to talk with Professor Prota. I noted his work was cited in *Poultry Breeding and Genetics*.

The address of the fellow at Queensland University is
Ian SMITH - 161 Logan View Road
LOGAN RESERVE 4133 - Queensland - Australia

I will be interested to hear about the Araucanian Indians.

I have obtained a form so that I can obtain a passport. I will do this when I get a photograph taken. I have worked out a date for travel if time is OK with you:

leave Sydney Monday 29th April 1996

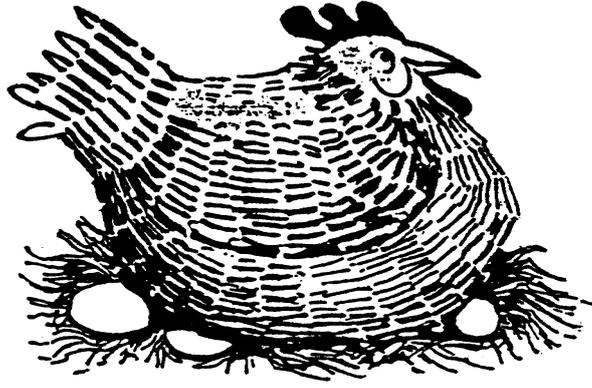
leave Italy Monday 24th June 1996

I need to be home around this time as Joyce and Max are going on holiday. Let me know if these times OK. If you think we visit Carefoot and Veronica in England first before I go to Italy let me know and I will write to them when we know for sure. Whatever you decide is OK for me. I will get myself organised with medical insurance, passport etc etc.

I am sure you will find information in Darwin's book. All for now. Best regards to your mother.

Regards.

Bill



Russell J Parker
PO Box 242
TENTERFIELD 2372 - NSW
Australia

9th October 1995

Dear Bill

Thank you once again for the wonderful information.

I'm enclosing an envelope which may be of interest to you. It was part of my philatelic mail from the Solomon Islands.

My searching continues for locations there where there are recent sightings or knowledge of jungle fowl.

One of my long-time friends who was very knowledgeable about local wildlife died accidentally a few years ago and his father too died recently. They were both long-time residents of the Solomons who were experts on the natural wonders of the country and married to local women. My mate was quoted in the Honiara Bird Guide by Jim Tedder as there being feral fowl on Santa Anna. That was published well connected to that island.

I am not sure whether I mentioned in a previous letter that a Solomon Island friend who trained in Natural Resources at Gatton Uni and returned to a job with the Environment & Conservation Dept told me of his childhood in the Reef islands when they used to trap the jungle cocks by using domestic cocks as bait.

The trapped cock birds were then used in cock fights before and after school. This was at least twenty years ago though and he has not been home to his island for several years.

As the Reef islands are in the vicinity of the places visited by Mendana, Quiros and also the French who were wrecked I have an interest in the query as to whether any feral or jungle fowl originated from population migrations or shipwrecks. My Solomon Island Travel handbook briefly mentions feral pigs from the shipwrecks!

I also wonder too whether DNA testing of any birds found would reveal any information. You will probably be aware of any work done in this field. Generally I guess poultry is not as important to most of the world as it is to you and I.

Recently I saw a TV programme which shows Australia at the forefront of DNA and genetic work especially in the preservation of endangered species around the world especially in the preservation of endangered species around the world so someone in that area may be interested.

Two particular items which I noticed in the Phillipino articles I sent to you were the need for awareness of breeding and moulting seasons especially to identify pure jungle fowl.

Are you able to advise me what these periods are likely to be for jungle fowl in the Solomons please.

As already mentioned my long term dream is to liver in the Solomons and set up a poultry breeding station. This also includes the location and study of the jungle fowls.

My poultry interest lately have all been geared towards formulating a plan for poultry keeping in island villages.

In the past Agricultural authorities in these countries (usually advised by experts from the northern hemisphere) have introduce softfeather purebreds such as RIR and Australorp plus hybrid laying strains. These naturally too "soft" to withstand the rigours of the tropics and casual husbandry efforts.

My theory is to introduce game breeds along with a good layer such as New Hampshire and develop a more self reliant bird for the village free range. This theory has been supported by a similar effort by the late Allan McArdle in India for UNICEF, Professor David Farrell Qld Uni, Paul Gilchrist (both experienced in the tropics) and Rod Woolford, my tutor for the Poultry Husbandry Course I completed.

Therefore I feel that I am on the right track also having developed suggestions for feeding from local ingredients. I have investigated the various quarantine requirements etc and I am now in a will have five different strains of Hampshire to meld and three game lines based on OEG and Pits as well as my own secret ingredients.

My preference is to be on the receiving end and I already have orders for chickens from other interested parties on that end too.

I look forward to your comments and answers to my queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the start of the 'R'.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

15-10-1995

Dear Bill,

Received your letter and after two days your very interesting information. Where you find all these things? You are unique! I will read them later, because I am preparing myself for Moscow. Two words about Ceska Republica. In this moment they have all as we have, but the prices are very low. For example: the Italian cigarettes I smoke cost 3,200 It£ each box of 20 cigarettes, the same quality in Ceska Republica costs 1,320 It£. I have entrusted my friend whose wife is of that country to buy for me, because he is frequently visiting this country. Also the books and magazines are very cheap: the poultry magazine *Chovatel* costs 16 KC (Crown Ceska), 0.80 AU\$, and I send you a copy for your files and to show to the members of your Club. This magazine is edited monthly and is present in all the bookstalls. This fact demonstrate that they have a poultry culture different than in Italy. One copy send also to Mr Bartlett, together with the article about Italian poultry situation, finally finished, and the same article I send to you because you may find yourself inside.

I was visiting the monastery of the Augustinians in Brno where Mendel lived and achieved his experiments. Very interesting, and hope with your machine you may read some part of the booklet concerning with. In the afternoon of the same day I was where Mendel is born, Hyncice, ten home spread in the green, about 80 km from Brno.

I hope the introduction is without mistakes, and to compare I send your manuscript. You have some choices, with and without signature. Your correspondence is at a good point, sometimes find words I not understand, but when in Italy you may help me in the correction. May be I need some new photocopy because sometimes few letters are incomplete. But before I must achieve in writing and after I send you the little list of what is missing.

Good you have written to Pat Rich. About the problem of missing toe in fowl may be a day I can help you in reading what I have written in my book. This is not the moment, the Russia is near! My book is running, but during this interval between the two travels I have achieved some correspondence, the article for *Australasian Poultry*, have written a letter in Ceska language (naturally not translated by myself) and I assure that it's easier write numbers than this language, full of accents and other symbols. I have found a software in this country, made in England, and now is possible for me write the languages of Eastern Europe, the Russian, the Hebrew and the Arabian.. The cost was low, about 100 AU\$. I hope you may find interesting information in the Crawford's book, both about fowl and poultry in general. In my opinion this book is a Bible, very useful because it contains many references.

Good to hear that Husky was mother. Now Frank is busy with 6 pups. Tomorrow I give the Frank egg material to analyse at the Pavia University. Before I have taken some photo and I will show them in Italy. In Pavia in this moment is a part of my book to review, the part concerning the molecular genetics. After Moscow I will achieve the melanins and the part about the fowl behaviour. An ask, do David has received the book regarding melanins of Prof Prota I have sent him?

I hope Bob now is keeping better. All my animals (2 dogs, 1 Ara and 1 Indian Blackbird) are good in health, also the fowls in general. Yesterday was the birthday of Eduardo and he has ringed to me and told that some Sebright, Bearded d'Anvers and Japanese Bantam born from Italy eggs are very nice. In this moment Eduardo is working with his mother and he don't now in what way programming his future. We wait....

I must be sure that Darwin, during his voyage, never was in Araucania. You must check his book of the trip around the world, because this fact may be very important: if he not put his feet in Araucania's ground, it was impossible for him to describe the blue eggs. Have nice days, and let me know the date of your arrival....

Ted Schurmann

Inbarendi
R.M.B. 610
INGLEWOOD Vic. 3517

Tues. morn. 17 October, 1995

Dear Bill,

My sincere thanks for the Australorp History, an excellent reminder of the great achievements of this grand old breed - "old" when we consider the Australian poultry sphere anyway. I was interested to see that you had included the "Bravo, Queensland" piece, you mentioned my good memory, well I suppose it is sound enough for some of those 1920 & 1930 happenings, but not so hot on the day before yesterday.

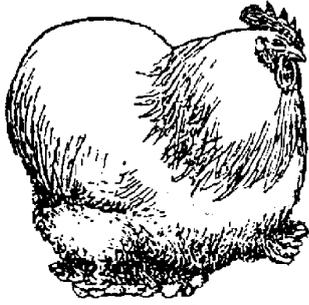
I appreciate very much the work that went into this and hope it receives due recognition. I'm glad you touched on the original naming of the breed, interesting looking back to see that it took so long to catch on, I recall that even during the late war years, the South Australian G'ment plant at Parafield was still calling them Black Orpingtons in official papers.

Yet at the same time, as I saw when I was in England late in the war, people over there gave it its proper name, although I remember, there was one only Australorp in the national laying test at Surrey, Eng., when I visited. At the same time, I did not see a single Orpington while I was there. People did talk of Orpington, because the last of the V bombs fell on Orpington, Kent, where Cook, the breed's founder once hung out. I put all this in an article I wrote for Poultry at the time - my records show it was in the issue of 23 Sept. 1946. At the time I was struck by the huge range of breeds being raised commercially, not for show, over there. there were great numbers of Leghorns, both Blacks & Browns as well as Whites, and every heavy breed imaginable. Except Orpingtons!

Must not prattle on, happens when you get on to poultry: I was interested to hear of your reading assist, appliances and my hope is they will go at least some of the way to easing the sight handicap.

My best wishes go with this and again thanks for your kind gift of the History.

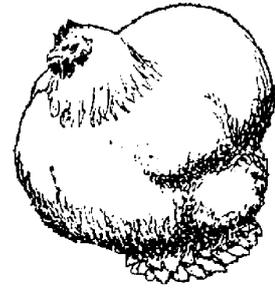




Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

24-10-95

Dear Elio,

Received the material yesterday and your letter today. Thank you very much. The introduction is quite OK. Thank you. I am now waiting on Tony to copy the rest of the material, then I will put the book together and will send you a copy. I will then work on a Plymouth Rock booklet as I have some interesting information on this breed.

By now you will have the answers to your asks as I sent you a copy of Darwin's *Voyage of the Beagle* and a suggested date for travelling to Europe.

I have not read the article yet for the Bartlett but will do so. Thank you for the magazine. I will show it around. Of course I could not read the other article in Czech language.

I am sure David received the book OK although I have not seen it yet. He has been very busy with his work over the last few weeks but that is the way it needs to be.

OK on the cost of cigarettes in different countries. They are very expensive here, mostly tax. I found the book on monastery very interesting. I may do a short article on Mendel for our *Club Newsletter*. It was good you were able to visit the monastery where Mendel worked and the town where he lived. According to the booklet he studied many subjects and also put forward the idea of sunspots affect the weather which has proved to be correct. The sunspots also affect short wave radio communication. Work in 11 years cycles. Most interesting that Mendel talked about it.

Husky had trouble with milk fever. Frank had to take the pups away from her. However she is now OK and so are the pups. Two of them are gone sold, I don't know whether Frank will set her up again.

The trip to Moscow should be interesting, you are certainly getting around. Bob is going OK. He is not very active, but seems OK. Joyce and Max going away for a month of Saturday, so it will be quiet here. All for now.

Regards.

Bill



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

5-11-1995

Dear Bill,

Received your letters dated 9 and 24-10-95. Good you are writing biographies, and remember that you must bring to Italy not only the letters you received after my departure, but also your replies.

May be one day I write to Ian Smith about some problem. For the moment I am waiting answers from the USA.

Happy that the introduction for RIR is OK. Don't send me this book, because you annotate it together the other things you must bring to Italy. I'm interested in seeing it, but I can wait, so you don't spend money.

Thank you very much for the Darwin's book regarding the voyage of the Beagle. Don't exists an Italian translation, and soon I will search inside the argument I have in my mind. When done, I write my findings.

Glad to hear that you will write an article about Mendel monastery. I hope to receive every issue of your *Club Newsletter*. The last issue I have is of June 1995.

When in *Mendelianum*, the museum into the monastery, they indicated to me a book of an Italian author, Federico Di Trocchio, the title Law and case in the Mendelian Genetics. I have bought it two days ago and not read obviously. The resume: after the formulation of the chromosomal inheritance theory there was an ask: in what way Mendel, who nothing knew about chromosomes, selected 7 characters independently segregating? May be that the most famous Abbot of science falsified the results of his researches? This book explains that Mendel nothing falsified, but explains also in what way the experiments was done in a total different way as Mendel narrated to us. The proposed reconstruction explains all the found incongruities and of some biographical circumstances which in other way are not understandable. From the theoretical point of view the fact that the genetics were founded on the probability-count, rather than on purely biological considerations, gives to Mendel the role of population genetics founder rather than founder of the genetics strictly called. But overall we must consider that the genetics is not an undeterministic science.

So, very interesting. Every day some news. And several news from Russia. I quote in other pages the letter I sent to Loyl, because for me is too long writing in English, and this letter contains nearly all I have to tell you about this new experience.

Dear Loyl,

I have not words to thank you about your idea to write to Dr Romanov to help me in some way for may genetics poultry book. The invitation for the workshop in Moscow was a very luck's stroke. I had the possibility to know some interesting people. *In primis* Dr Romanov: his kindness is very very rare, his patience also, and his interesting for Poultry is very deep and in expansion. By Dr Romanov I have known Dr Irina Moiseyeva from Genetics Institute in Moscow, and a poultry breeder, Dr Blistanov from Saltykovka near Moscow, and I think that we will have a great cooperation in genetics and in breeding.

Irina needs several information, also about old Italian breeds of fowls, because she is working on the origin and correlation of various breeds. Romanov brought in Moscow the 3 books of Bill about the origin and bones recoveries. The books was photocopied and I think that they will be very useful to Irina's researches. The books was sent as gift to Romanov by Bill, and this because I sent to Bill a photocopy of Romanov's letter where he was inviting me to Moscow's workshop, after your suggestion to help me in some way.

Sometime I think that **we are in the middle of a magnificent tornado**. All began with a Latin correction to the first book of Bill, Gallus pluma **cruris** instead of Gallus pluma **crusis**. These are the ways of the life.

I sent a first envelope of information to Irina and I am preparing several other, and I am waiting for information about old Italian breeds from Florence by Fabrizio Focardi. When I have all this material, then I give to translate in English or in Russian. The job of Irina about the Italian breeds is connected also with a work of the FAO.

The economical situation in Russia is very bad and Irina thinks that never they will see the resolution. The Government don't give money and the researches are nearly stopped, may be only in some field. For example, may be that the Russia is spending a great amount of money in army.

So, I send as curiosity the paper of Irina about Orlov breed. In this way you may understand that the desire to build something is very big, but they have not what use.

I know that you are a Mecenate, a manager. The last proof is the big *bundle* I received when I was in Moscow. Very interesting books, and the book of Jull contains arguments I was searching from several time. What telling about the splendid table-cloth? You are ever a **crazy man!**

Now, because you are *crazy*, I suggest to you to be *crazy also with Russia*. Dr Moiseyeva, who has lost his husband 6 years ago, is a very simple and informed woman. If you may help her, this would be right. For example, I know that Dr Romanov received from you the Crawford's book about Poultry Genetics, and this may be one good idea also for Irina. For example, I am preparing photocopies of several parts of the book of Finsterbusch about Game Cock, and even, parts of the English translation of the job of Aldrovandi.

This is only an idea and a suggestion. But, you must know how many they earn. The minimum in Russia it's 100 US\$ per month. Dr Baranov from Developmental Institute of Biology in Moscow (where they hold the very interesting workshop) earns 50 US\$, and Dr Romanov in Ukraine 40 US\$. Please don't permit to understand to Romanov that I told to you about his salary. He has a great dignity and I don't will offend him. But this is the reality! I don't know how many earns Dr Irina, but I think a similar amount.

I give you the addresses to use for an express mail. I think that it's a particular service offered by the University.

Dr Irina MOISEYEVA

for letters:

GEN 460
PO Box 289
Weybridge
Surrey KT 13 8WJ
UK

for books and other materials:

GEN 460
Suite 999 - 3 The Quadrant
80 Church Street
Weybridge
Surrey KT13 8DL
UK

Bill Plant will be in Italy during *Entente Européenne*, when we hope be able to present the Italian Poultry Standard, if ready. The meeting will be hold in Bergamo (near Milano), a beautiful city, and I have in mind to sponsor the travel of Romanov, if he isn't busy. For the moment he nothing knows about my idea. I think that this opportunity is very interesting non only for Romanov, but also for our Federal Association: observers from Australia and Ukraine.

Dr Blistanov was a manager in pharmaceutical field and was the coordinator of the hunting hobby of Nikita Krushov. He is also breeding a hunting dog, the *Pointer*. In my hotel's room we hold a very interesting meeting: Moiseyeva, Blistanov, Romanov, Corti. The meeting was gladdened by abundant vodka, tomatoes, roasted Yurlov (a breed of long crowing which now has lost this trait), food prepared by Blistanov. A very interesting meeting with Romanov interpreter between me and Blistanov. I have promised to him eggs from Italy.

Here I quote part of the letter written to Dr Romanov (33 years old):

...the very interesting for me was to knew you, a fellow very rare to find, with a big dose of patience in supporting all my asks and researches, ever prompt to help and with a constant kindness very rare to find today. Every people is running and running, never stops to hear and help, never like discuss and go in depth of various arguments. Sorry, my English is too poor to permit me communicate easily with you. I hope in the future to be able in expressing to you my thoughts without you be tired in hearing mistakes difficult to codify and decodify... I can synthesise in few words my thought about you: during this year I have had two unexpected strokes of luck.

The first was Bill Plant, known only by letter and through a little telephone call. It's not necessary to add other words about this argument. The second luck's stroke was known you, and I don't know if you also will be present at the workshop. I can tell you that I hope that the motto there is not the 2 without the 3 will be true. I hope close the year with the resolution of some important problems when I go to the Brazil.

Bill, you was very kind in sending your books to him. He was very glad, and brought them in Moscow, and telling about the origin of the domestic chicken with Dr Irina Moiseyeva, I invited Irina to photocopy your books, without your permission, because she need very quickly of the information you collected. She is doing a job about the correlation of the origin of different breeds, and when the job is done may be we can see that your theory about Malay is true... I enclose an article of Irina. I have not read again, but may be it's very interesting. I send a copy to Carefoot too.

In the letter addressed to Stromberg you can know the salaries in the East of Europe. So, I send you 100 AU\$. With this money please send (by air mail) to Dr Romànov your magnificent book about Australian Pekin (with compliments of Plant and Corti written inside). The rest of money you may use to send all other your books, overall that on goose, because Romànov is overall interested in this moment on this argument, and he knows personally Hoffmann.

I think that Romànov will write to you asking information about *Anser Novaehollandiae*, because I told him that your library is an endless mine.... These informations because he is building a genealogical tree of the geese.

Every day I and Romanov was telling about you in remembering your words: some progress today... Also Romanov was preoccupied in giving me the possibility to find all want. And so happened. Without him my stay in Russia would be very difficult. His patience resolved everything. We was also to the animals market, a very interesting market.

I wait for the answer about your ex libris to finish it.

Now we tell about your trip. I have reserved the British Airways flies Sydney-London and vice versa as follows:

departure from Sydney: fly BA 10 - 29 Apr at 15.15
arrival in London; 30 Apr 7.45 (local hour)
departure from Milano: fly BA 569 - 24 Jun at 19.35
arrival in London at 20.10
departure from London: fly BA 9 - 24 Jun at 22.25
arrival in Sydney 26 Jun at 5.25

I will come to London to wait for you, and we will fix later the duration of your stop in England. Today I write to Carefoot telling about your trip. Logically, I write to Carefoot that the program of your arrival is only indicative for the moment. But the date I think may be the same.

I received a very nice, a rare nice letter, from Napoli (Naples), from Professor Prota, and I cannot translate to you because it's difficult to give the same air. The information I sent him about plumage colour, and the enclosed feathers, introduced him in a very interesting field. He was stopped at the feathers of the New Hampshire of which he and his school studied the pheomelanins. He is waiting for us. I think that from Prota may become some interesting news about the pigments. I have ready to send him several feather with brassiness, the brassiness described by Easom Smith. Nobody tells about the chemical nature of this pigment.

Glad to hear that the family of the dogs is now going well. For Bob, to look him active, you must prepare a tasteful *Risotto alla Milanese*....or *Ai Quattro Formaggi*.... and so on...

My kindest regards,



W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.
GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE
"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

11-11-1995

Dear Bill,

I write my *annual* letter on holiday some what belatedly this you because we have been having executive house alterations this summer. Hence we have grabbed a week in the warmth, leaving frost and ice back home in England.

I am still working with the chocolate gene which segregated from black Orpingtons. I now have got both sexes in good colour and shape.

In addition I have shown it to be a sex-linked recessive gene. So it is not a gene which has been recorded before. I hope the gene will be preserved, because it would look nice on the Orpington shape and could be interesting for Prof John Brumbaugh to study. He is the expert at finding how things go "wrong" in the pigment process.

How did the Pekin book get on I have recommended the procedure you adapted to several other Breed Clubs secretaries. *Creative Poultry Breeding* is now fully sold out. Perhaps it will be more appreciated when it is History but I must confess I have been very happy with the interest it has created here. There will not be a reprint, I don't think.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,



Avicultura

Avicultura®
for the small livestock breeder

16-11-1995

Dear Mr Plant,

Please find enclosed a set of *Avicultura* magazines, produced so far.

We are extremely grateful for all the help and encouragement you have given us that, in order to express our thanks we will be sending you a copy of the magazine every month.

We hope you will enjoy browsing through and reading *Avicultura*.

Thank you so much for all you have done.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E.B. van Vliet

United Kingdom: Avicultura, Olney Park Cottage, Yardley Road, Olney, Bucks MK46 5EJ.

Phone and fax: (44) 1234 712023.

Europe and rest of the world: Avicultura, PO Box 86, 3958 ZV, Amerongen, The Netherlands.

Phone (31) 343 -481693. Fax (31)343- 481443.



Др Михайло Николаевичу РОМАНОВ
 УКРАЇНСЬКА АКАДЕМІЯ АГРАРНИХ НАУК
 ІНСТИТУТ ПТАХІВНИЦТВА
 БОРКИ УКРАЇНА
 Mikhail ROMANOV
 Poultry Research Institute
 Borky, Zmiiv District, Kharkiv Region 313410 - Ukraine
 Fax: (05747) 3 49 58

November 17, 1995.

Dear Mr Plant,

I am very happy to receive your kind letter of September 7. It is a real surprise and is generous of you to send me your valuable investigation on the domestic fowl origin. Some comments of mine will be given below.

First, I would like to mention that I have good and interesting contacts all over the world. I mean for example Mr Hans Schippers and Mrs Anna C. Banning-Vogelpoel from The Netherlands, Prof Willard Hollander and Mr Loyl Stromberg from the USA, Prof Roy Crawford and Prof Edmund Hoffmann from Canada, Mr Björn Hedman from Sweden, Dr Elio Corti from Italy, and many others.

In October I had a pleasant opportunity to meet your Italian friend Dr Elio Corti personally during his visit in Moscow. It should be told that this opportunity was rare and I appreciate his willingness and patience in realizing this chance. As for me, it was one of the deepest impressions in my life and, frankly speaking, Dr Corti is a unique man, one of few I have ever met. In the course of that Moscow sojourn we took part in the International Workshop on Studying Natural Populations at the N.K. Koltsov Institute of Developmental Biology, visited Dr Irina Moiseyeva at the N.I. Vavilov Institute of General Genetics, Russian Academy of Sciences, met Dr Alexandr Blistanov, Republican Category Expert in Cynology, Trophies of the Chase and Fowl, visited the Museum of Darwinism, Tretyakov Art Gallery, Moscow Kremlin, Bird Market, Interregional Centre 'Plemptitsa' ('Breeder Poultry') and many other interesting places.

I am sorry that Dr Corti experienced some confusion due to either specific features of Moscow, Russia, Russian people and Russian life. But I think somewhat of his experience is helpful and will allow to extend his contacts all over the world.

Re your surveying the history of chicken origin, I greatly appreciate your results. It is an excellent attempt to analyze available facts and findings relevant to the problem and synthesize an original view to this vague subject of domestic fowl domestication. As to the text itself, it is reading like a thrilling detective story. To my mind, your reviews and views are absolutely fairly and deservedly cited in Crawford's 'Poultry Breeding and Genetics' (1990). Although I have not finished reading all three books you sent me, I would like to express some of my thoughts and propositions.

The Part 2 (1984) is rather sharply interrupted on the Page 26, the conclusions being not presented, though indicated in the contents as given on Page 27 (not existing). I guess that it would be better if every chapter and part would end with clean-cut conclusions and assumptions.

A hereditary scheme on Page 7 might be accompanied by gene symbols according to the Mendelian laws as follows:

P	Rose	X	Pea	
	$R/R p^+/p^+$		$r^+/r^+ P/P$	
		↓		
F ₁	Walnut	X	Walnut	
	$R/r^+ P/p^+$		$R/r^+ P/p^+$	
		↓		
F ₂	Walnut	Rose	Pea	Single
	9	3	3	1
	$R/- P/-$	$R/- p^+/p^+$	$r^+/r^+ P/-$	$p^+/p^+ r^+/r^+$

On that same page you described the blue eggshell gene O. In Crawford's 'Poultry Breeding and Genetics' the estimate of linkage between this gene and pea comb gene P is revised to be four map units and the major pigments responsible for the blue or green shell colour are reported to be biliverdin, a zinc chelate of biliverdin, and the protoporphyrin IX, a haemoglobin porphyrin found in brown shells.

The white/brown shell colour is inherited as a multifactorial trait and may be influenced by modifying genes (Benjamin, 1920; Punnett and Bailey, 1920). So Professor G.F.Carter's suggestion on Page 9 that white is all colours, brown the result of a red-blue mix, and blue the result of suppressed red is not correct.

Are you familiar with Chapter 1, 'Origin and History of Poultry Species', from the book 'Poultry Breeding and Genetics' edited by Crawford (1990) and the following article: West, B., and Zhou, B.-X. (1989) Did chickens go north? New evidence for domestication. *World's Poultry Sci.J.*, 45: 205-218.

These materials confirm, supplement and expand your research. For example, Barbara West and Ben-Xiong Zhou described 90 sites in Eurasia with evidence for domestic fowl before the 1st century AD and postulated that the earliest European material may be derived from China via Russia that is in accordance with Prof L.H.Jeittless (1873) quoted by Houwink (Page 4 of your Supplement to Part 2,1985).

As to Victor Hehn's quoted remark on that same page that "Slavonians and Lithuanians have always lived apart from the Teutons, they give the chicken another name", please find enclosed my translation from a Russian article by T.Auerbakh where you can discover some additional information on the subject.

On Page 10 of the Supplement you mentioned the Latin name of bean goose as *Anser fabilis* L. but the second word should be written *fabalis*.

Chow Ben-shun cited by yourself further on Page 11 is more known as Ben-Xiong Zhou. This is the same man. But I should note that neither he and West nor Crawford (1990) indicated in their above papers the recoveries of chicken bones in Northeast Thailand.

In addition to reviews of yours, West and Zhou (1989) and Crawford (1990), I am enclosing an information on the chicken recoveries in Siberia. It seems to me that they are unknown for English speaking and reading public.

Herewith please also find a copy of Moiseyeva's article on the hierarchical system of the species *Gallus gallus*. The address of Dr Moiseyeva is:

Dr Mrs I.G. Moiseyeva
N.I.Vavilov Institute of General Genetics
Russian Academy of Sciences
3 Gubkin Street, GSP-1, Moscow 117809, Russia

Do you know one more paper on the subject written by the famous earlier geneticist C.B.Davenport: Davenport, C.B. (1914) The origin of domestic fowl. *J.Heredity*, 5.

Unfortunately, I have not its copy and do not know numbers of pages. All I am aware of is that in that paper the existence of another extinct species, *Gallus giganteus*, is assumed which might be a wild ancestor of the domestic fowl that marked the beginning of the Malay breed.

When Dr Corti and I were in Moscow, we failed to find one old Russian geneticist, Professor Serghei G. Petrov, an alive legend. He was born on December 18, 1903 and collaborated with another famous Russian geneticist, Professor Alexandr S.Serebrovsky. By the by, Petrov worked at the Institute of Genetics (now N.I.Vavilov Institute of General Genetics) where he prepared the Doctor of Biologic Sciences Thesis 'Origin and Evolution of the Domestic Fowl' (1944). So, it would be very interesting to establish contacts to him but I am not sure about his today's mental condition and knowledge of English. His addresses are:

Professor Serghei G. Petrov or Professor Serghei G. Petrov
Apt.16, 22 Bazovskaya Street Apt.34, Block 2
Moscow 127412, Russia 45 Dmitrovskoye Shosse
Moscow 127550, Russia

Maybe, Dr Moiseyeva could assist in this matter and find him or/and his DSc Thesis.
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or assistance.
Anticipating the receipt of your reply.
With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



Enclosures

P.S. Could you help me in looking for any information about the cape barren goose, *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* Latham, ostensibly domesticated in Australia.

Poultry Farming in Ancient Siberia*

By R.Nikolayev

From the Russian magazine: *Ptitsevodstvo* [Poultry Farming]

No.6, p.48, 1957

(Translated by M.N.Romanov)

In 1951 the archaeological expedition of Moscow University worked in Altaian Steppe in Khakasia**. It carried out excavations of the burial vaults of III-IV centuries AD. In one of them the remains of clothes, plaster masks, dishes and other subjects were discovered which were intended by ancient people for furnishing their relatives left for the next world. The deceased were even provided with food-stuffs. A white mass lain with the thick layer near the burials attracted the archaeologists' attention. What is this? Is this really egg shell? The finding was carefully packed and delivered in Moscow where the scholars determined that these were really remains of domestic fowl eggs. Now the explorers paid a special attention to bronze pins of II-I centuries BC found in Khakasia and decorated with the depictions of seating cocks (see a drawing). The earlier findings of leather applications depicting cocks from ancient Altaian burial-mounds were remembered, too. Then long before Christ, at the Tagarsky Age, peoples of Southern Siberia bred domestic fowl. Art of poultry breeding may be borrowed by Siberian population from China where already in the III century BC ducks and chickens were utilized, if one takes into account that Southern Siberia was closely connected with China.

In the VI-X centuries AD poultry breeding was kept on by old Khakasians, descendants of Tagarsky people. There are depictions of searching chickens on Soulekskaya Rock related to those times. Later on, P.S.Pallas, visited Siberia in the XVIII century, noted that amidst the Khakasian tribe of Koibals "many... have wooden houses in the winter and among those living in yurtas some keep chickens".

In the literature of XIX century there are indications that Khakasians raised various poultry including geese, ducks, turkeys and chickens. In the XVIII century chickens were also bred by Khantians (Khants) near the river Ob. It is interesting that the name of chickens in Khakasian, "tagakh" or "tan'akh", is very close to that in Khantian "tavakh". Possibly such a coincidence is due to having gone back to a common old root.

History of poultry farming in Siberia corroborates once more that from time immemorial Siberian peoples laid the foundations of a high, distinctive culture that has flourished brightly nowadays.

Fig.: Bronze pins with depicted cocks

* The article was reprinted from the newspaper 'Krasnoyarsky komsomolets', Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

** A region situated on the left-bank side of Upper Yenisei river and administratively formed Khakasian Autonomous Region in the southwest of Krasnoyarsk Territory. The regional administrative centre is Abakan (*M.Romanov*).

EXCAVATIONS FROM 'GREAT SOVIET ENCYCLOPAEDIA' (GSE)

(Briefly translated by M.N.Romanov)

GSE, 2nd ed., Vol.2, 1950: "Altai ... and adjacent to it territories were settled several millenaries ago by a number of local, ancient Asiatic nationalities that later on amalgamated with different Turkic and then Mongolian tribes. In the course of many centuries the Altaians did hunting, stock-breeding, partly crop-growing as well as mining. The Altaian goods from iron, copper, silver, gold, and various precious stones got into China, Turkistan, Iran as well as Eastern Europe".

GSE, 3rd ed., Vol.25, 1976: "**Tagarsky Culture**, an archaeological culture, spread in the VII-III centuries BC in Minusinsk Hollow, area of Krasnoyarsk and eastern part of Kemerovo Region. Its name derived from Tagarsky Island in Yenisei river near Minusinsk. The Scythian type of arms, horse attire, bronze cauldrons and mirrors as well as the animal style in arts were inherent in T.C. The area of T.C. dispersion is one of the largest seats of bronze-foundry production in Eurasia. The T.C. monuments are earth burial-mounds. Physical type of T.C. people is Europeoid".

(This information may point out that in the past the considered part of Siberia had stable connections with both China and countries located to the west including Eastern Europe, *i.e.* these good trade relations might facilitate the dispersion of poultry from China via Altai (as an intermediate site) to Turkistan and Iran as well as to Eastern Europe. Thus a new evidence for Jeittless-Houwink-West-Zhou theory may be taken from these facts and Khakasian findings.

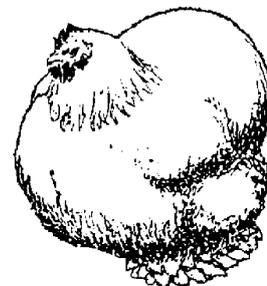
M.Romanov.)



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Australia



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

26-11-1995

Dear Elio,

Received your letter with the order for Romanov. I have packed the order with *Pekin Book* plus 6 of my own books and a *Club Newsletter*. Plenty of information for him to read. I have been to the Travel Agent and checked. They told me the cost is the same with British Airways and Quantas. They advise to use Quantas to London and BA from London to Milano. It can be all incorporated in the same ticket. However, they are writing a letter setting out all details which I will send to you for approval.

They can arrange my insurance and advise necessary to obtain French visa in Case I have to pass through French territory. Visa not required for Italy, Germany, Holland. I have form and photographs to apply for passport.

OK on writing to Ian Smith. He is not a good correspondent. OK your comments regarding Mendel, an interesting subject. I will put together small article on Mendel for our Newsletter, not a technical article. You were fortunate in making up with Romanov and Irina, I was most surprised at their low salaries. They must find things very difficult. Thank you for the paper on the Orloff chicken. I have started studying it but need more time. From what I have studied so far (regarding traits) I would expect that one of the ancestors of The Orloff would be the Malay. Most interesting.

Glad to hear *The voyage of the Beagle* arrived. I think you will find your answers in the book. By the way would you check through my letters if you have one from Dr William Cawley of the Texas A&M University. I think there was a letter from him which I cannot find. If you locate it would you send me a copy of it.

Regarding *Ex Libris* issue, you ask for motto: ALWAYS PROGRESS. OK?

Thanks for the copy of the letter to Loyl Stromberg. Most interesting. You may meet him one day when he goes to Europe. I must write to him again. I received a number of copies of *Avicultura* magazine (small animals, chickens, rabbits, pigeons, cattle etc). This is an English version of Dutch magazine. They have reproduced one article from our Pekin (we gave them permission) and I have submitted 2 articles for publication. The quality of this magazine is very good, particularly the colour photographs.

I do not have the Rhode Island book ready yet. Waiting on Tony for printing. The *Poultry Breeding and Genetics* is very good book. I have copied bits out of it for David, but of course if he needs to read sections he can take it and do so. It brings most of the literature up to date.

It seems that your *Italian Standard* is nearing completion, which is good. I have hopes that we will eventually have our own *Australian Standard* one day. However it will take a lot of work to do it properly. The British Standard which is used a lot here in my opinion is not satisfactory in this country.

Fine on Professor Prota. It will be good to meet him. We will learn from him. It would be good to hear your voice on the telephone and news that my material is making progress. You must be very busy sorting out your genetics book.

David is going to put together an in depth book on Old English Game fowl in Australia. It will take a little while but I can assist him from my files and some research. The OEG situation in this country is very fragmented. It needs someone to do an analysis on the matter.

We have had much rain which is good, headed badly. Joyce and Max arrived home the other day from holiday. Bob was pleased to see them. David and Christopher OK. Very busy. They have hatched many chickens.

Until next time.

Regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent loop on the 'B'.

Enclosing Pekin Club Badges and Club Spoon which I should have given you when you were here. Joyce also encloses telephone cards which she thinks you collect.

Also received *Zwerg Cochin* book which Rüdiger from Germany was sending to me.

Pat Rich

353 Coventry Street - South Melbourne 3205
Phone 696 6924 - Fax 696 6923

30-11-1995

Dear Bill,

Thanks for catching me up on your activities. It's always good to hear from you. I'm glad the contact with Dr Hau was useful.

With regard to the Jungle Fowl cheek again with Hau. This should have occurred in Asia somewhere and Chinese work may prove most useful.

Best of luck and a very Merry Christmas. I'm not working on birds much any more, mainly on dinosaurs!

Pat

RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

N.I. VAVILOV INSTITUTE OF GENERAL GENETICS

DR. I. MOISEYEVA - FAX. 007 (095) 135 12 89
GUBKIN ST. 3 - 117809 GSP-1 MOSCOW B-333, RUSSIA

01 December 1995

Dear Mr Plant,

Your concerns about the origin of domestic chickens were voiced to me by Dr Corti and Dr M.N. Romanov during their visit to Moscow of October this year.

They also handed to me three books written by you on the subject for me to make copies:

- 1) W.J. Plant. Supplement to "Chicken bone recoveries", part 2, 1985;
- 2) W.J. Plant the origin evolution history and distribution of the domestic fowl, part 2, 1984;
- 3) W.J. Plant. The origin evolution history and distribution of the domestic fowl, part 3, 1986.

I consider that the problems of the origin distribution, evolution and the centers of the domestication or formation of chicken breed types are very interesting field of scientific research. These problems are connected with the history of the human civilization, culture, with the national customs and traditions. Unfortunately the literature on the subject features many discrepancies. Some years ago I began to study such literature and faced much difficulties resulting from insufficient information and using by authors the evidences of one sort.

Enclosed you will find a book and two articles on the history of creation of the Russian chicken breeds.

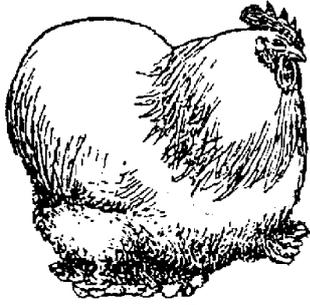
This information may be of interest to you.

I suppose that the general ways of selection are the same all around the world but each breed has its own peculiarities being the part of the culture of the nation that created it.

With the best regards.

Yours sincerely,

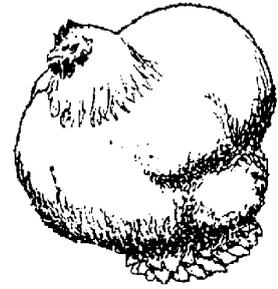
Irina G. Moiseyeva



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Australia



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

12-12-1995

Dear Elio,

My apologies for not writing sooner but I have had a problem, it is a very painful problem: shingles, which I am told is a virus of chickens pox which lays dormant for many years and then can activate in the nerve ends under the skin. I have a rash around my stomach and back. The doctor put me on a course of antibiotics which don't appear to be very effective. I have not felt like doing very much at all over the last week or so. Very painful.

Thank you so much for the Christmas cards and envelopes. They are very good. You are so kind to me. The pages you sent also are good. I have been thinking perhaps a good name for the book would be *Research notes on the Domestic Fowl*. What do you think?? I would organise sketches of Red Junglefowl, Malay and Cochin for the cover page.

Regarding the Ex Libris design: looks OK. Enclosed details from the Travel Agent. They suggest travelling Qantas Sydney to London and return, British Airways London to Milan and return. This can be organised in same ticket. Cost Qantas and BA is the same. Unfortunately there are no cheap deals. I would organise airport tax, visa for France, insurance etc here.

No visa required for UK, Italy etc, only for France just in case I had to travel through that territory. I am enclosing copy of letter from Travel Agent for your approval. I am working on the passport. Should be no problem there.

I have the Rhode Island material ready for printing as soon as Tony gets time. I had a letter from Rich. She suggests I write again to China which I will do shortly. There may be further information. Also had a letter from Carefoot. He is working on a new gene, chocolate. I advised him we may visit him.

I sent the material to Romanov. He will have plenty to study. The Pekin book plus I think 6 of my books. It must be very hard for them in Russia as they don't get very much money. It must be hard for them to live. I have not read all of the Orloff paper yet but it seems very interesting.

I think I told you about the Dutch-English magazine. In the latest issue they published one of my articles (copy enclosed). I have not heard anything from the Government regarding assistance for research but will keep working on it.

I will write more later. The medical problem (shingles) has slowed me down. I have not felt like doing anything much at all. I hope you and your mother have a very happy Christmas and new year. I will be spending Christmas with David and Chris. Joyce with her family from down the way. Her other will be coming from Sydney. All for now.

Regards.

Bill

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Vol. I N 8 - 1995

Thoughts on the origins of domestic fowl

For over twenty years I have been carrying out research into the *Origin, Evolution, History and Distribution of the Domestic Fowl* and, although I have published some of the results of this research, the over-all study requires a lot more work to be done.

Unfortunately, there does not appear to have been much work done in this field in the past. Although material has been published, it generally follows on from Charles Darwin's deliberations that all domestic fowl are descended from only the Red Jungle Fowl - *Gallus bankiva*. Many writers have taken this for granted, without doing any further research into the subject. With all respect to Darwin, who did some very great work, I find it hard to understand his thinking on this matter. As far as I can see, he offered no explanation to the question of where the Red Jungle Fowl came from in the evolutionary process which was, after all, his forte.

I collected all the material that I could locate throughout the world but was not satisfied that the Red Jungle Fowl was the sole progenitor of our Domestic Fowl. I firmly believe, as do others who have studied the subject, that there were at least three lines of descent from an extinct ancestor to form the nucleus of our domestic fowl of today.

We have, of course, 1) the *Gallus bankiva* and associated species: *Gallus sonnerati*, *Gallus lafayettei* and *Gallus varius*, 2) the Malay, *Gallus giganteus* (Temminck) and 3) the Asiatics (Brahma, Langshan, Cochins), which I choose to tag as *Gallus pluma cruris* (feathered shank). The make up of the aforementioned are as different as chalk and cheese and I find it hard to come to terms with the fact that these other species, as I would prefer to call them, could evolve from the Red Jungle Fowl alone. As a source of reference, I would suggest the reader go to C.A. Finsterbusch's *Cock fighting all over the world*.

During recent years, information has emerged which does, I believe, shed a different light on the general movement of the domestic fowl. Originally, the first mention of domestic fowl told us that they were present in the Indus Valley at around 2500 BC, migrating first to the east and then north to China. However, that has all changed. Excavations done by Professor Higham of the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, in North East Thailand uncovered chicken bones at a burial area at Ban Chiang. These bones were dated around 3500 BC and, in the different layers, three different sizes of bones were discovered. They were identified as the Jungle Fowl, Malay type (large) and an intermediate size which could possibly have been the Aseel. This supports the theory that the Malay is a separate species. At a later date, more chicken bones were unearthed at Cishan in Northern China. These were dated at around 5000 to 6000 BC!! The bones from China appear to be of Jungle Fowl nature and I believe are considered as such. I do not know of anyone who has done any work in linking these three findings together and doing any study on the matter. My research has been of a private nature and consequently has its disadvantages in comparison with a researcher who is attached to a University or some such institution. One thing that have found in my quest is that it has been necessary to explore allied subjects and sciences to gather information - a most satisfactory procedure, with surprising things cropping up in the strangest places.

There has always been a problem regarding the presence of chickens in the Americas prior to Columbus. The opinion was always that there were no chickens in pre-Columbian times. However, Professor George F. Carter of the Texas A.&M. University has never subscribed to this theory: over the years he has collected evidence which is strongly in favour of chickens being in the New World prior to Columbus. He has rocked a few boats and encountered quite a deal of opposition in this field.

The matter of chicken distribution in the Pacific is of course of a later dating. It would seem that there is a possibility of distribution both from the east and for the west. Thor Heyerdahl proved with his *La Balsa* raft expeditions that a possible source could have been from the east. There does, however, seem little doubt that much of the distribution came from South East Asia, moving eastward from island group to island group. From my observations through yachting fiends, the chickens in the Fiji group and west appear to be a motley lot, although evidently stemming from the original Jungle Fowl of South East Asia.

As mentioned previously, I have collected quite a deal of material but even so, there are really no positive conclusions that can be reached. This, I believe, is because of the fact that too few people are involved in the study of the origins of the domestic fowl. I have followed some leads which looked promising but ended up against a brick wall. All we can do is to keep searching, hoping for a breakthrough. I believe we need to move on and seek the origin of *Gallus* itself - before the Jungle Fowl. The project will be difficult, because no-one has ever taken the subject on. I have endeavoured to give some idea of what we know of the origin of the domestic Fowl, but this is really only scratching the surface of a very satisfying but sometimes frustrating study. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can add anything to this matter.

(W.J. Plant)



JEROME J. PRATT

JUDGE OF POULTRY AND ORNAMENTAL FOWL
RETIRED
3000 Meadowlark Drive
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

December 13, 1995

Dear Mr Plant:

I obtained your address from Mrs Dupré of AVICULTRA magazine.

Your article, *Thoughts on the origin of domestic fowl*, compares to my findings. In my judgement too many *scientists* got carried away with Darwin's speculation on the origin of both the domestic chicken and the domestic pigeon.

For more than 55 years I have been searching into this matter and have had a dozen or more articles published on the subject. An example is enclosed.

I have visited your country, but the last time was about 20 years ago.

Sincerely,

THE ENIGMA OF THE CHICKENS ORIGIN

By Jerome J. Pratt

The origin of the domestic chicken (*Gallus domesticus*) aroused my curiosity since I first started to study the Standard of perfection as a teenager. Dr J.P.Schneeberger's experiments with fertile chicken-pheasant hybrids stimulated me to write an article on Hybridization which appeared in the 1939 American Pheasant Society yearbook. My next article on the subject *Was It The Junglefowl* appeared ten years later, April 1949, in Modern Game Breeding Magazine. Simultaneously, I had another article *Origin of Fowl Challenged* appear in *The American Poultryman*. I did not then or do I now accept the claim that all domestic chickens are the progeny of a single source, the red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*). It is an example of where if scholars repeat a theory often enough it will eventually be accepted as fact.

In the same issue of *The American Poultryman* mentioned above, Harry Atkins wrote: "We feel certain that many of our fowl are not directly from the junglefowl, but have a mixture of pheasant blood in the lines. I have photographs and data of a domestic line of fowl in which there were distinct infusions of pheasant blood starting with an old black hen. In several generations we were able to develop a silver pencilled pattern with a crest."

The photographs mentioned by Mr Atkins were taken by Arthur O.Schilling in 1941. The negatives are in my files with Mr Schilling's handwritten note stating: "These are negatives of cross bred birds that Dr Schneeberger has. They are direct crosses on chickens and pheasants which he made to prove our domestic breeds have pheasant blood in them. I handled all these birds and found them all to appear to be cross-breeds."

Now we have archaeologists supporting the single source of origin theory. In the November 1989, *World's Poultry Science Journal*, a paper by Barbara West and Ben-Xiong Zhou appears under the title "Did chickens go north? New evidence for domestication." Ms West is with the British Museum in London, and Ben Xiong Zhou also known as Chow Ben-Shun is with the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

A summary of the West-Zhou thesis is as follows:

"Using archaeological evidence for chicken domestication from China, Asia and Europe, as well as palaeoclimatic evidence from China, it is concluded that chickens were domesticated from the red junglefowl *Gallus gallus* in Southeast Asia well before the sixth millennium BC and taken north to become established in China by c. 6000 BC, whence they were later introduced to Japan via Korea during the Yayoi Period (c. 300 BC - 300 AD). Domestication occurred in India much later (c. 2000 BC?), either independently or as a diffusion from Southeast Asia. Although the Iron Age was the main period for dispersion of chickens throughout Europe, they were already present in some areas during the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age. It is proposed that the earliest European material may be derived from China via Russia. Because the key is likely to lie in central areas of the USSR, the findings of positive or negative evidence for the theory will depend on the interest of archaeologists working in the Soviet Union. Their collaboration is invited."

I wrote to Mrs West pointing out that the conclusion chickens were first domesticated in Southeastern Asia from the red junglefowl, *Gallus gallus*, infers, but probably not intentional, that the *Gallus gallus* is the sole progenitor of *Gallus domesticus* which I cannot accept. I stated, "There is enough circumstantial evidence manifested in morphology, physiology, and ethology to support there is a missing link in tracing the ancestry of the domestic chicken."

An abrupt reply from Ms West let me know her support for *Gallus gallus* as the sole progenitor was indeed intentional. In other words Ms West is satisfied that all of the world's fossilised bones have been discovered. I guess she isn't aware that palaeontologists are discovering new fossilized material constantly.

In the radical differences in various breeds of chickens occurred only through mutation and selection. why, hasn't the archaeologists been able to locate bones which show the progression of change? There is an amazing difference in the tarsometatarsi of the German Creeper and the Langshan in divergence from the jungle fowl. We can speculate the Creeper may be a *Gallus gallus* mutation which was developed through selection. But it would be a lot more difficult to trace the ancestor of the Langshan.

After writing the articles mentioned in the first paragraph I attended the Government's Strategic Intelligence School in Washington, DC. Here I learned that much of what can be applied to making economic and resource deductions can be applied to natural history as well. Information gathered from encyclopaedic analysis based on anatomical analogy can tell us as much if not more than a few fossilized bone fragments as it relates to the evolutionary process. With such reinforcement I am prone to give weight to circumstantial evidence as well as theory.

I can accept that some games, Mediterranean and similar breeds have evolved from the *Gallus gallus*. According to Wright, Temminck described a junglefowl called *Gallus giganteus* from Malay as an extinct race which seems to be a more reasonable ancestor of the Asiatic and large Oriental breeds. This I believe is the missing link. I have no doubt about the pure ancestry of the black Sumatra which originated from a specific source. Notes of Henry van Oordt on file in Rijks-museum van Natuurlijke in Leiden, The Netherlands, indicate that a bushfowl, *Gallus sumatrensis*, is extinct in the wild, but has been perpetuated as a domestic variety.

Our current understanding of evolutionary relationships has been largely derived from studies of comparative morphology. but new techniques are appearing. We may someday be able to trace the ancestry of the various breeds of domestic chickens to their wild source if we focus on DNA molecules. The DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) molecules encode the genetic information of an organism. But then if the *Gallus giganteus* and other species became extinct and no fossilized material is ever discovered there will still be a piece of the puzzle missing.

Except for the Sumatra, at present all we can say is that *Gallus domesticus* is a descendant of an unknown source. The scientists will continue to advance theories and some will offer them as fact. But those of us engaged in poultry husbandry are not always going to agree with scientific theories.

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Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

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17-12-1995

Dear Bill,

Very happy in receiving badges and spoon of the Club. I like very much these things, and I will keep them as a great remembrance of the nice days passed with all of you.

Finally I have seen the slides of my holidays in Australia and I will print them, not myself, because I have not the possibility to do this, I can only from negative. This was a choice when I needed to by the developing machine.

The phone cards of Joyce are very nice, and now I desire to collect them, because I have other two phone cards from Ceska Republica which are very beautiful. Yesterday, from Ceska Republica, I received a very appreciated gift from Ing Tulacek: the poultry standard. For the moment I know only that Ing Tulacek is old as you are, and the rest of the long letter is in the hands of Karolina, the woman of my friend Giovanni - (John) who has accompanied me during the trip in Ceska Republica. When translated, I will communicate to you the subject of the letter. think that you will meet Ing Tulacek when, in May, in Bergamo, near Milano, there will be hold the *Concilium Ecumenicum*, the Entente Européenne, of all the Presidents and Secretaries of Poultry Breeders of Europe. I told to my Federal President about your presence in Italy during this period, and he will be very happy to have you as guest at this meeting. Also the Ceska standard is with Karolina, but when will possess newly, will photocopy some drawn which are very beautiful.

The *ex libris* are narrow, but it is because the shape of the image is long. I think that is OK. The most difficult point was in writing obliquely always and progress. I have tried in different ways, but for the moment this is the best I can offer to you. In other envelope you can find some articles, one is by Irina Moiseyeva about Russian breeds. have now a photocopier and think that have resolved the problems for your eyesight in enlarging the papers. Enlarged also you will find the small part of the book of Darwin, *The voyage of the Beagle*, where I have found a reference to the fowl in South America. I have read with sufficient care all this part about South America, but the sole fowl he has met is in the enclosed page. Please, if it is not too hard for you, check yourself if what I affirm is true. So, not Araucana, not blue eggs during the visits of Darwin to the Chile and to Northern territories.

Good you have sent all the books to Romanov. I think that they will be very useful to him. I am waiting from him a reply to my letter and to all the materials I have sent, but nothing. In this moment, Sunday 13 o'clock, nobody is at home answering to the telephone. I will try again.

I informed Carefoot about your trip to Europe. When your Travel Agent will give the right information and we will know what to do, I will inform Clive exactly about your arrival.

My biggest compliments for your article on *Avicultura*. It is very clear, plain, very deep and easy to understand. I have sent it in Russia and Ukraine, even in Naples to Prota, and I think that they will be very happy in receiving your paper. I have noted cruris, the cause of my first letter to you!!!

Avicultura is a good magazine, as you tell, overall because the photos are very nice. But the Editor is not caring of the precision, and when not busy and when I have collected some other mistakes, I will write to him. Also the Editor of *Fancy fowl* is not accurate, as you may seen about **XV111** instead of **XVIII**, for example. Some mistakes are difficult to avoid, but other only require a bit of patience. Differently, *Australasian Poultry* is very good on this point of view. And I can say that also the articles, in this magazine, are always interesting and various.

About Tony, please let me know if they have received the coins I have sent, because if the coins was lost, so I need send them in other way when I have others. Also for me was very good in hearing your voice, and excuse me if my English is ever an English of a child. Your material is in progress, yes, I am very busy, and even if I retired December 2nd (because of remaining holidays of this year, and I will officially retire January 1st) my days are ever full, they have few, too few hours, as also you expressed frequently in your correspondence.

Six days ago I was in Pavia to give another part of my book to review, and I hope to enter in touch with the Poultry's Scientists of the University of Milano to review the specific genetics of the fowl. I have spoken by telephone with Dr Pignattelli, a colleague of Romanov, Secretary of the Italian Branch of the WPSA (world poultry ??) as Romanov is for the Ukrainian. Our conversation was very interesting, and overall he is interested in people writing about the fowl. So, he is organising a meeting with Dr Cavalchini of Milano to review the special genetics of the fowl.

I wrote to Hoffmann and he has kindly replied to me. You will find his letter in the other envelope. I quote a part of the letter I wrote in replying to him:

Dear Dr Hoffmann,

My compliments. I hope, when I will be young as you, to be young as you are! The world is your home! China, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Paris.... Overall, you are young in the soul.

Enclosed you find an article I have read during my fly to Moscow, and I think that you are a clear exemplary of our human species possessing several genes of long life.

My book is not very long because I spend much time about the origin of the fowl, but because it is a treatise of all that the breeders must know to understand what is a molecule, a color, a guanine, a carotenoid, the glaciations, the trans-Pacific connections etc. Here, in Italy, the literature about all these problems is very scarce and very few people knows the English language. For example, I know very well the French (and I don't use nearly never this language for my update and for correspondence), I have studied a little the English myself before to begin the University, with a little practice in Kenya and Australia. I know the Portuguese because I was in Brazil during 3 months. But, the Italian breeders sometime know only the dialect!!! In this way, if they will affirm that it's impossible to find information, this fact will not be true. My book will be a *Summa Gallicana*, as it exists the *Summa Teologica*!!! In this way it was also possible for me to better understand the medicine, my work.

Hoffmann is a very interesting fellow, and hope one day to meet him. About Professor Prota, will write to him today, and will ask from him an affirmation which is every day more necessary: there is only one type of cells producing feather's pigments (melanins) not two types. I quote the important conclusion based on biochemistry observations, referred in Prota's book I have sent to David:

the marked difference about the pigment's colour is based in a genetic difference of the levels of GSH (glutathione, a substance rich in sulphur) and not on the type of the melanocytes which are present.

I will send him also papers regarding plumage colour genetics and even feathers, especially white feathers with brassiness, hoping that he will accept to determine the nature of the compound responsible of the brassiness.

Good for David working about OEG in Australia. This fact is very interesting, and signifies that David is going a little better with all his problems. If I can help him in some way, please let me know.

You have had rain, we have had snow, no too much, and now the rain has dissolved it. I hope to have a little bit of snow for Xmas. So it's better stand home at the warm!

I am not sure, but may be that in January I go in Brazil. I have ringed to Eduardo to prepare a trip to the Araucània, but I have seen that, in the map, by air directly, they are nearly 3,000 km. But have one idea to realise: during the travel by car, may be along the Paranà river, to stop in some farm asking if there are blue-green eggs or not. You know that in the Eduardo's area there are these eggs, and this area is the Atlantic coast. But, previously I need wait for my mother recover from wrist's fracture happened 8 days ago. May be this is done at the middle of January. I will inform you about my movements.

I will write to Joyce directly in sending some music tapes, and telling about collection of phone cards. I embrace you with all my best wishes for the arriving new year, which will seen us again together, in Italy. What was the Xmas gift for Bob? A *Risotto ai 4 formaggi*?



Avicultura

Avicultura®
for the small livestock breeder

7-12-1995

Dear Mr Plant,

Evelyne van Vliet sent me a copy of your recent letter to her. I am pleased that you are still enjoying *Avicultura*. Your *Club Manual* is proving very useful as a source book and your articles are welcome. I have had several enquiries for your address from people who wish to respond to your article on the origins of poultry.

I do hope that you will be able to include us in your itinerary when you visit Europe next year, and that the trip will prove to be useful.

Yours sincerely,



Lesley-Ann Dupré
Editor Avicultura UK

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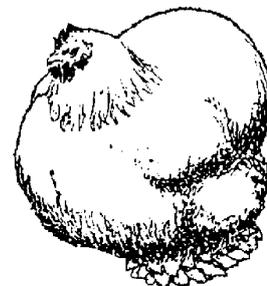
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Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

2-1-1996

Dear Elio,

Received the *Ex Libris* stickers and other material for which I thank you very much. The stickers were very good and I have started putting them in my books. It will be a very long job as I have so many books as you know. I will reproduce the stickers on the photocopier. Pleased to know that you received a letter from Hoffmann. He is an expert in the field of ducks ad geese.

I don't think he agrees with me about the origins of the domestic fowl. I believe he supports the single ancestor (*Gallus gallus bankiva*). However he has been most helpful.

I received communication from Romanov, and Irina from Moscow. She sent me a book in Russian. They were both interesting letters. Romanov should have the books by now. He will have plenty to read. He is most knowledgeable.

On article of mine on origin, evolution etc appeared in *Avicultura*: I had a letter from the Editor who advised me that there had been some enquiries for my address. As the result of this I received a letter and a copy of an article from this fellow in Arizona in the US who has been studying the origins for a long time. I am sending him my Origins books and should get some more of his articles. He apparently agrees with my line of thinking on this subject. I expect further communications. More contacts for us. Very good.

I have the passport form and photos fixed and will take it to the Post Office for processing this week. When I get to London I would like to see Veronica Mayhew who lives not far from London, and Carefoot. He is up in Lancashire near Liverpool. Also the British Museum of Natural History which is in Cromwell Road in London. Although I don't think Dr West is still there, I might be able to get some information about the Chinese chicken bones which we studied from the Dept of Zoology.

Also my ancestors came from a place called Deptford which I think is more or less an outer suburb of London. I am seeking information on them. I am told Somerset House in London might have information of this nature.

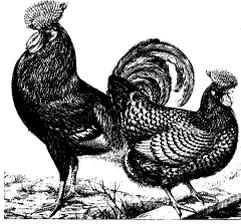
I am enclosing a copy of the current Newsletter. We should have another one ready in a couple of months. I spent Christmas with David and Christopher, a quite time but most enjoyable.

I received a book order from veronica the other day for sale in UK. I will have to get more Australorp books printed. Rhode Island book is now ready for printing when Tony gets some time. Must press on. Happy 1996.

Regards.

Bill

This letter should have been posted a couple of weeks ago. The letter was put aside and I forgot to post it. My apologies. I will be writing again very soon.



SONDERVEREIN

der Redcapszüchter

1. Vors. Rüdiger WANDEL, Am Herrenfeld 20
35037 MARBUG, Tel. 06421/31176

January 4th, 1996

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your letter. I was glad to hear that the book from Germany Pekin Bantams/Zwerg Cochin has reached you without problems. Unfortunately I didn't find the time to answer before Christmas and the new year because I'm always very busy in that time of year. For example we had our "National Show of the Century" with 70,000 birds at Nürnberg one week before Christmas. I took part in it with 28 birds of my breed (10 Redcaps, 6 porcelain rosecombed Leghorns - we call them "Italians" in Germany - and 12 white and silver duckwing Creeper Bantams in the class of still non-standardized breeds) and was also very busy in noting down for my show report in one of our fancier journals the whole time trough: By the way that tremendous number of entries will probably never be repeated because it seems to be an unique exception and the friends at Number presumably won't be ready for such a lot of number of the birds at our greatest shows (Hannover and National) is between 20,000 and 25,000 entries. The old "world record" with 53,000 birds was from 1989 in Nürnberg too, which is the only place to have such gigantic shows.

Did I already tell you that the "Handbook of Chicken Breeds" had to be put off until this year's summer? It's because the printing office had got a very large and very urgent commission which had to be done first. So I hope to be ready with it round about in June.

Another reason for being so late now in answering is the coldest winter since nearly 20 years we are suffering from at the moment: Every day it needs a lot of time to than my car which has no garage and of course all the different drinking possibilities

for my birds. So I hope it will become better soon: And to hear about the hot Australian summer season from you makes a little bit envious under the circumstances.

Elio has sent me a letter just before Christmas but I didn't find time to answer him, too, until yet. If you are planning to visit him year in Italy, perhaps it will be possible for me to meet you there because Elio as well as other Italian friend have invited me several times but until yet I was always too busy to visit them. I hope it will become better in 1996, may be after I've finished the "handbook". Although it's a little late now I wish you all the best for a successful year 1996 and most of all for your eye sight!

Regards,

Avicultura

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for the small livestock breeder

9th January, 1996

Dear Mr Plant,

I would like to start by wishing you all the best for 1996.

Thank you for your letter of the 21st of December with the latest edition of your Newsletter. The photographs were also welcome and I hope that I will be able to use them in an article on foreign shows (or *shows throughout the world*).

Your trip to Europe is starting to get closer. I it must be exciting! My address and telephone number (when I'm not at the office) are: Boslaan 8, 3958 GZ AMERONGEN, tel. (0031) 0343-454863 and I look forward to meeting you if you manage to find time to visit the Netherlands.

The extra information on the Heyerdahl expeditions was interesting and if I have a spare corner, I shall try to put it into an upcoming issue of *Avicultura* as an *addendum* to your article.

Kind regards.



Lesley-Ann Dupré
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JEROME J. PRATT

JUDGE OF POULTRY AND ORNAMENTAL FOWL

RETIRED

3000 Meadowlark Drive
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

January 18, 1996

Dear Mr Plant:

I appreciate your prompt reply to my letter concerning the origin of the domestic fowl and your publications relating thereto. As you say, it appears we are on the same wavelength on this subject. Personally, I place very little credence in work such as that of Dr Barbara West.

Perhaps you will find the enclosed copy of an old article on hybridization interesting. I later tried crossing a silver pheasant cock with a red junglefowl hen, but there was no natural mating.

There is no doubt in my mind about the Sumatra being a domesticated junglefowl. Recently this new fowl, the Saipan Junglefowl has shown up, but I haven't tried to learn what it is or where it came from. It is being advertised at some very high prices.

I can understand health problems slowing you down. I was born in 1910 and have had cataract surgery in both eyes. About ten years ago I was diagnosed to have glaucoma and macular degeneration, however, both have responded to treatment and have not worsened. I use Timoptic drops for the glaucoma and by taking 25,000 units of Beta-Carotene a day the macular degeneration has been stabilized. Otherwise, I am in rather good health for my age.

I started judging poultry and pigeons in the late 1930s and last year was the first year I hadn't judged a show. After judging for 50 years I decided to retire, but would still do one or two small shows a year until 1995.

Keep up your good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome J. Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



JEROME J. PRATT

JUDGE OF POULTRY AND ORNAMENTAL FOWL
RETIRED
3000 Meadowlark Drive
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

January 22, 1996

Dear Mr Plant:

So far I have only had time to scan your publication on the Jungle Fowls. Are you acquainted with *Jungle Fowls From Pacific Islands*, by Stanley C. Ball in 1933? It was originally published as Bulletin 108, by the Bernice P. Bishop Museum and reprinted by Kraus Reprint Company of New York. I ordered a copy from the Bishop Museum in 1972 and my order was forwarded to Kraus. The order worksheet is still in my copy, so I have made a copy for you .

During World War II, I served in the Army Pigeon Service. So was interested in the pigeons displayed in the Australian National War Museum in Canberra when I visited there. Two of the birds had been awarded the Dicken Medal for gallantry by the British Government. However, I was not able to learn much about the Australian Army Pigeon Service.

Two of my friends have had connections with the Taronga Park Zoo in Sydney. Jack Throp was director, and Kerry Muller curator of birds. Kerry is now director of the zoo in Wellington, New Zealand, and Jack is back in the States. We also became acquainted with the Robertsons at the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary near Brisbane.

I mention these things, because as a chicken person you are probably interested in other form of animal life. Poultry, game birds, and wildlife have been my lifetime vocation. After the War, during the occupation of Germany, as a military government officer I was in charge of the Munich Zoo and Circus Krone.

You say you plan to chase up some loose ends in the United Kingdom, some of my old books came from used book stores in London. I just paid \$100 to have the binding repaired on my two volume set of *Our Poultry* by Harrison Weir.

Sincerely,

WRITER CHALLENGES ORIGIN OF FOWL

The America Poultryman - April 1949

By Capt. Jerome J. Pratt

MANY OF OUR READERS WILL REMEMBER CAPT. JEROME J. PRATT, KNOWN TO US AS JERRY. THE LAST CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION HE ATTENDED WAS AT PITTSBURGH, PA. HE WAS ALSO AT OUR CONVENTION IN CHICAGO JUST BEFORE PITTSBURGH. HE HAS MADE A CLOSE STUDY OF BREEDING AND WHILE SOME OF HIS STATEMENTS WILL BE OBJECTED TO BY SOME, WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT MANY OF OUR FOWLS ARE NOT DIRECTLY FROM THE JUNGLE FOWL, BUT HAVE A MIXTURE OF PHEASANT BLOOD IN THE LINES. I HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS AND DATA OF A DOMESTIC LINE OF FOWLS IN WHICH THERE WERE THREE DISTINCT INFUSIONS OF PHEASANT BLOOD STARTING WITH AN OLD BLACK HEN. IN SEVEN GENERATIONS, WE WERE ABLE TO DEVELOP A SILVER PENCILLED PATTERN WITH A CREST.

CAPT. PRATT AND HIS GOOD WIFE ARE DOING A WONDERFUL JOB. THE MRS IS PRACTICALLY SUPPLYING ONE ORPHANAGE WITH CLOTHING AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES. THEY ARE GETTING A LARGE SHARE OF THESE SUPPLIES FROM SCHOOL AND CHURCH GROUPS IN KANSAS AS A RESULT OF A LECTURE GIVEN BY A TEACHER WHO WAS IN GERMANY LAST YEAR. CAPT. PRATT SAYS THEY RECEIVE MANY SUPPLIES FROM TIPTON, INDIANA. THE OAKES MANUFACTURING CO. HANDLED THE SHIPPING AND THE PIONEER SEED CORN FURNISHED THE PACKING MATERIAL. WE HOPE TO HAVE FURTHER ARTICLES FROM JERRY.

HARRY ATKINS, SECRETARY,
AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION

Documentary evidence leads us to believe that there has been a keen interest in the breeding of chickens according to a certain standard since the beginning of civilization. The American Poultry Association has been the recognized authority for established standards for chickens in the United States and Canada since 1874. Over 50 breeds of standard-bred fowls are described in the association's "American Standard of Perfection", a guide and textbook on the subject published by the organization.

All of these breeds of chickens and an additional hundred or more breeds and varieties of domestic fowls found in other parts of the world, not recognized as standard-bred in America, are believed to be descended of a common ancestor, the red Indian jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus* or *Gallus bankiva*). There are several species of jungle fowl, however, invariably for some unknown reason the early writers on the subject of the domestication of fowls gave full credit to the red jungle fowl as the sole foundation of domestic fowls.

I take exception to this concept on the origin and development of domestic fowls that has caused us to accept this one particular variety of jungle fowl as the seed our billion-dollar industry has grown from. In my opinion the skilful breeding of man, aided by evolution, could not have possibly extracted so many different characteristics from a single source in the short period of time that elapsed the beginning of civilization and the first mention of a domestic fowl that possessed very little resemblance of the jungle fowl.

I believe our present day chicken is the result of a pheasant-jungle fowl hybrid, with one exception, the Black Sumatra. It is highly possible that the domestic Sumatra fowl descended directly from a distinct native jungle fowl or Sumatra and is as pure blooded today as when first discovered on that island many years ago. Perhaps the Minorca, Leghorn and other Mediterranean breeds are primarily of jungle fowl origin, but not necessarily the red variety, as it is reasonable to assume the Sumatra fowl contributed to size and color of at least the Minorca. Of course, this statement is refutable by those claiming the White-faced Black Spanish as the original of the Mediterranean breeds.

We hear of giant game fowls, such as Shamo, Aseel, Malay, etc, as being important in the foundation of domestic poultry, furnishing the basic blood for all the dual-purpose and meat breeds of chickens. Without much drain of imagination, it is my conclusion, that these large games possessed pheasant blood rather than that of pure jungle fowl. Their massive size could have easily been the result of a cross-breed, while I doubt very much if the inbreeding of a single species could bring an increased sized in such great proportions.

Inbreeding or linebreeding often reveals recessives because relatives are likely to carry the same recessives and so afford more chance for them to meet and become expressed in the offspring. Crossbreeding brings forth in the offspring the dominants of both parents, providing new combinations not only of established germinal factors, but also of such mutations as occur, and so affords opportunity for relatively rapid germinal change.

The theory of breeding and hybridization could be discussed a number of views that would fill many volumes. Line-breeding and inbreeding have been one of the most controversial topics in the field of animal breeding for many years.

Actually anyone breeding a pure blooded flock is inbreeding inasmuch as all fowls within a breed have some relationship, however, for practical purposes we define inbreeding as the mating of fowls that are more closely related than the average of their breed. All inbreeding is linebreeding and all linebreeding is inbreeding, but the real intent of linebreeding is to mate back to an outstanding individual to retain a high

degree of relationship to the individual. This method of breeding is necessary in the origin of a breed to develop the desired characteristics that may be brought out through crossbreeding.

Support for my theory on the origin of the domestic fowl is based on the results of experimental breeding of hybrids by the late Dr J. P. Schneeberger of Ossian, Iowa. Fertile hybrids from chickens crossed with silver pheasant, ringneck pheasant and Amherst-golden pheasant were obtained by Dr. Schneeberger. In an experiment where a mongrel bantam hen was crossed with a silver pheasant cock a fowl was produced that was more than twice as large as the combined weight of both its parents. Such an increase in size could never be produced through the mating of fowls of the same genus. This is an example of hybrid vigor often observed in first-generation hybrids, but never yet fully explained.

From a single hybrid source, Schneeberger, through selections and linebreeding produced three distinct breeds of chickens in as few as three generations. One family had the size, color and type of the early Silver Pencilled Plymouth Rock, another family would easily pass for Golden Duckwing Leghorns and the third resembled an Old English Game. A cross of Amherst golden pheasant-chicken hybrid to the first-generation ringneck pheasant-chicken hybrid mated back to a three-fourth chicken resulted in Mottled Houdans, complete with a well-shaped crest and the extra toe. In view of these strange results it is quite possible that the giant games mentioned as contributing to our present day farm flocks could have been pheasant-jungle fowl hybrids rather than pure blooded birds produced through the result of selective breeding from the same genus.

Hybrid fowls lose the pheasant characteristics rapidly, even the first cross could be mistaken for a common barnyard fowl. Their actions are similar to those of at Yokohama or Phoenix fowl, which is generally accepted as a chicken. A study of longevity revealed that a first-generation chicken-pheasant hybrid has a very short life-span, usually less than two years. Death is apparently of natural causes as in old age.

Hybridization has little, if any effect on egg production. Apparently linebreeding, environment and feeding governs the number of eggs any fowl will lay. In this respect it should be pointed out that flock averages of one hundred seventy-five eggs per year was obtained from Polish fowls over a 100 years ago. A captive bred pheasant, one or two generations removed from the wild will lay over a hundred eggs in a season if forced for production.

The incubation period of a pheasant-chicken hybrid is usually that of the pheasant, according to the Schneeberger experiments, but decreases to 21 days, the normal period for a chicken when crossed back to a chicken. The incubation period for jungle fowl varies with varieties and as a breeder of Black Sumatra fowls for 15 years I discovered their eggs would hatch one or two days before Barred Plymouth Rocks in the same tray of the incubator.

The domestic fowl adheres closely to the incubation period of 21 days for all breeds to indicate they are of a common source of origin. Jungle fowl of various varieties have different incubation periods, however, they all fall into the same genus. Actually, ornithologists classify jungle fowl and pheasants into the same family, so we must consider domestic fowls right along with them. Unlike jungle fowl, pheasants are divided into a number of genus or species, each genus having a slightly different incubation period.

The crossing of two different genus of pheasants invariably results in offspring of sterile mules. It is rare to find a fertile hybrid pheasant and much rarer a chicken-pheasant hybrid. This condition is known as heterozygous, it is formed by gametes or germ cells dissimilar in regard to a given character, or characters, and producing gametes dissimilar in regard to the character, or characters, in question. Dr. Schneeberger searched far and wide for years before accomplishing his desires in obtaining a hybrid that would lay fertile eggs and then only specimens sired by a pheasant were discovered. To the best of my knowledge there has never been a fertile hybrid produced from a chicken male mated to a pheasant hen.

To explain genetically, the reason a hybrid does not reproduce is that the number of chromosomes in the germ cell of the chicken differs from the number in the germ cell of the pheasant. The matured germ cells of the chicken, can unite with the matured germ cells of the pheasant to produce a fertile egg. However, when this fertile egg becomes a mature bird, the uneven number of chromosomes makes the maturation of live germ cells extremely rare by either the male or female hybrid.

It is just as difficult to obtain fertility from the offspring of a fertile hybrid crossed back to a pheasant as it is from a pure chicken in a similar union, while fertility is readily obtained from a fertile hybrid mated back to a chicken. It appears that the germ cells in the domestic fowl are of closer character to the hybrid than the pheasant. I cannot explain why one side should appear to be dominating. However, I believe the strong characters are inherent from the jungle fowl, therefore, the basis for the belief that the chicken is of pure jungle fowl origin.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

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26-1-1996

Dear Bill,

Big confusion with the mail. Your letter mailed December 18 arrived around 10 days ago, the letter you forgot arrived right after 9 days. I reply to these two letters and you don't reply too sooner, you must await for my reply to the last letter you are writing or mailing.

The scientific name of Shingles is *Herpes zoster*, i.e. approximately, *snake* (serpent = serpes = herpes - i.e. wandering) & *belt* (zona in Greek). In Italy it's also called Fuoco di Sant'Antonio, St. Anthony Fire, because St. Anthony the Abbot, born in 250-252 in Egypt, suffered of this illness. The illness becomes from the reactivation of a herpes virus, the same of the varicella of the boys (chickenpox), and this virus may stay quiet years and years in the sensitive nervous spinal cells. One day this virus, irritating the cells, gives pain and eruption in the skin by a reflex way, because the virus is not in the skin, but in the nervous sensitive ganglia. Good that now you are better. I can tell to you that you are again young and in good health, because the old people and the emaciated people don't have pain, or only few pain. Small but important consolation!!!

Don't worry about the cover of your correspondence book. You prepare the sketches of the fowls, and for the title no problems. We will have time to discuss and to try with graphics.

Travel Agent. I have informed my travel agent about the price and it seems too much expensive. When he will have the new prices of the season, cheaper I think, it's possible to send you the ticket pre-paid in Italy, assurance enclosed. But, no problems, will resolve this point. You must only prepare yourself in writing to Carefoot (done), Veronica, British Museum (Barbara West, if possible), and I suggest also Annie Banning Vogelpoel, because think that we go around on the Continent by car, and the Netherlands is in my plans. Try to obtain from Annie when she is available, so we may program our trip.

A little suggestion. You will be guest of the *Entente Européenne* in Bergamo where they are present all the Presidents of the European Breeders. I hope to have something from Brazil to give as remembrance from South America and Fighting Cocks Clubs. In the same period when you are in Valenza, will be present also the mother of Jeffrei, the half-nephew of Eduardo. She will bring from Brazil something for these Presidents. To you the choice of this little thing from Australia. I think that the Presidents will be around 15-20.

Don't forget the sketches, the last correspondence, the biographies. Later I will send a list of some letter which is unreadable or lacking of little part. So, you can photocopy what is missing. I hope you will receive soon a reply from China as suggested by Rich. This is very important, because your line is to demonstrate that the Malay is becoming not from Bankiva.

For assistance from the Government I think that they are all useless words. The Government looks only where is possible to gain money. And our fowls are not money. They are only for crazy people.

Received the photocopies of Somes' book. Thank you very much, even for other enclosed things (Aboriginal culture and the article of Jerome Pratt). This material of Pratt may stay at your home, because put it in your book directly. I need only of your reply to Pratt.

My compliments for your Newsletter. I can tell you that the person working on it, the pagemaker, works very well. Who is this fellow?

I read in the last page that you have 3 months of holidays in Italy. Yes, I prefer 3 months!!! Two months are too much few. Let me know, as sooner as possible, if it's a mistake or if your ticket will be for 3 months. Very interesting the article of David about brown-red Pekin. I await for the prosecution. In one letter you told me about the problem of the toes in leg feathered fowls. I have found the references of material you have:

Carefoot: at page 88 - Crawford: page 227 - Brachydactily (By)

I think that you can resolve all your doubts. In separate envelope I send an article written for the Dutch friends of the Club of Belgian Bearded. You can find your name inside.

Sorry, but the article I wrote for my Association about my stay with you in Australia is in Italian language. If David find somebody who is able to read and translate contemporaneously, I think that it may be an interesting article.

About the *ex libris* I will prepare and cut for you. I have a master copy of 16 *ex libris* per page. And it's difficult for you to cut them. They are enclosed in the other envelope.

Now I quote the problem I'm mailing to Hoffmann. This is an interesting problem, similar to that of Atahualpa.

Now, a little problem about which I desire your ideas. I think that you are competent not only in Muscovy duck (as your superlative job demonstrates) but even in other problems regarding animals as turkey. In this moment it's open a bridge Valenza-Paris-Lisboa about the etymology of the word *peru* as is called the turkey in Portuguese, only by this word, and the female is *perua*. My thesis would demonstrate that the Portugueses called the turkey *Ave do Peru*, may be in contraposition of the Spaniards, who called it *Pavo*. My thesis arises from the affirmation reported in Crawford's book: Schorger (1966) states that they (turkeys) were present in Peru before arrival of the Spanish and may have been taken there from Nicaragua.

Do you agree with Schorger? I don't know his works, and I think that it's a little difficult for me to find them. I am also studying the history of the Amazonas conquest by the Portugueses. They were in Peru, in Quito, now Ecuador, in 1637, when Teixeira overstepped the Tordesilla's line. The presence of the word *peru* in India, in Dravidian language, is too much easy: Goa was Portuguese. Interesting also the true possibility of the arrival of the turkeys via Asia. As you can read in Latin (from the ancient book I have, printed in Pavia, Ticinum in Latin, because of the river), the turkey was called *Gallos indicos, seu calecutenses*. *Calecutenses* not from Calcutta in Bangladesh, but from Calicut (today also called Kozhicode - 420,000 inh.), near Goa, Kerala State. If you agree with Schorger, then *peru* for turkey becomes from Peru. It would be easier for the Portugueses to call the turkey Mexican bird, Spanish bird. They called it *peru*. Each nation called the birds in different ways: *Numida meleagris* is Guinea fowl in English, *Galinha d'Angola* in Portuguese, *Faraona* (note the abbreviation, right is *Gallina del Faraone*) in Italian. And *Faraona*, is not the wife of the Pharaoh, but it's implied the word *Gallina del Hen* of the etc.

The same is for *peru*, which was *Ave do Peru*. But, when the turkey was called *peru*? Because I think that the Portugueses knew this bird the first time in Europe, when Colombo or others took it in Spain. Why the Portugueses preferred *peru*! In the beginning of 1500 they don't was in Peru, but only in 1637.

Note the big confusion about the birds' names in 1779: *Gallos indicos.....alii ex Numidia primum venisse volunt*. others tell that the first time these cocks came from Numidia. But, Numidia is the land of Guinea fowl !

Right is this German Archiatra of the King of England, Georg Gottlob, when he tells about India: *quos ex India (seu novo orbe)* i.e. or from the New World. This annotation and specification is a clear contraposition to *calecutenses*, because Calicut is in India, the old India, the true India. The German *Welscher Hahn* is most generic, because it means Foreign fowl. This *welscher* may becoming from anywhere.

Yesterday, when I was in Pavia, 58 km from Valenza, to enter in the first touch with the Editor, I found a very interesting thing: in Lithuania the turkey is called **Kalakùtas**. Obviously, from Calicut. The Professor who gave me the information told also that the Lithuanian language is an old interesting language, i.e. Indo-European of Baltic group.

Do you think that I must enter in touch with Charmion McKusick, or Schorger? If yes, do you have their addresses?

The editor told me that my book will be divided in 3 books, 350 pages each. I think that the previous title I said you, *Summa Gallicana* would be the right title.

Dear Bill, I enclose also the photocopy of this interesting old book, telling about birds as medicaments.

I am writing to Prof Carter to obtain unpublished material about precolumbian chickens in the Americas, as suggested by Edmund.

I am awaiting for your last letter. Don't reply to this. I embrace you.



The Dutch Friends

1-1-1996

I prefer open this article, kindly requested by the President Hans Heemskerk, in saying that I am very pleased and honoured in writing to the Netherlands' Friends. But, I would like remember together with you the first time I was in your land, in 1981, when, with my late wife, I visited nearly the whole your country, and I was astonished in looking what a people was able to realise in fighting, better than a fighting cock, against the natural adversities represented by the water and by the sea. What I can tell in front of the Afsluitdijk? I have a pocket-altimeter I used when, younger, I was walking in our Alps, and I brought it to the Netherlands to measure if truly there was an area laying below the sea level. Yes, it was true. I visited your big and small enchanting towns, and in the zoological Gardens in Alphen I had the first contact with the love you demonstrate towards the animals, but in that period of my life I was unaware of *hoenders*, and only ten years later I began in knowing the various breeds, their beauty, and finally the great competence of the Dutch breeders.

Here, in Italy, the breeders are fundamentally divided into two factions: the admirers of the Germany, and the admirers of the Netherlands. I can put myself in the second category, and I have my good motivations.

An example: never I saw Andalusians better than I find in Zuidlaren show, edition 1994. A perfect lacing, present also in the legs. Another example: my Federal President, Maurizio Tona, told me that an Italian fancier, owner of a group of Bearded d'Anvers Quail arising from your Association's Breeders, had the luck to breed a very nice female, and that never he saw a similar female.

I think that it's almost useless to continue in telling about the high quality of the animals you breed. I would like search with you the reasons of this. I know that in the Netherlands you are able in breeding animals very hard to bring up, for example, the Gouldian Finch, *Erythrura gouldiæ*. This art is not only developed towards little birds, but also in the field of the cattle, and even in Poultry. This art becomes from an ancient animals' love, it's a *naturalistic* culture owned by your people, and it's very striking how many shows of animals and overall of poultry, and related special Clubs, you are holding during the year. Yes, the Germany recently had its biggest show in Nürnberg, the last catalogue's number being 70,566. But, Hans wrote to me that in Zuidlaren this year are awaited 11,000 subjects, and if we compare the inhabitants and the surface of the Netherlands with these of the Germany, I think that the biggest show is yours. Obviously I have not checked these data, and I let to you the pleasure to do. I think that I am not too far from the truth.

The love for the Poultry is wonderfully expressed by the excellent hand of Van Gink, and only seldom the English Ludlow may be compared with him. The sketches of Van Gink are a treatise of the variety, we don't need to read the text to understand what is already clearly expressed and synthesised in the image. This is culture, a very deep culture. Deep culture expressed in an excellent gift received from Mister Klaas Van der Hoek: the book *Fryske Hinnen*.

Another argument I am analysing in my future Fowl Genetics book, is that about the small, right size, of the Dutch Bantams. I think that all of you are aware that the sun's light is very important for the chickens' growth, and that the different temperature your fowls have in respect of our Mediterranean animals is compensated by the duration of the day during the good season. But, the latitude of Northern Germany is even your latitude, and so the most important reason of the right dimension of your Bantams is apparently in your capacity and perseverance in selecting. The large fowls are large also in the Netherlands as they are in Germany, and this fact demonstrates that it's the selection and not the light the main factor of the difference between the Dutch and German Bantam subjects.

Your people is very particular. From immemorial time the fowls have entered closely into human life in a variety of ways. From the aesthetic standpoint, members of various human races have busily occupied themselves in evolving plumage coloration in bewildering variety, and have also produced changes in feather structure and body type that demonstrate the relative plasticity of the original stock of our feathered friends. I can call the Dutch people the actual vanguard in studying, in searching, in creating and, overall, in accepting all the novelties. For example, I personally know that in Germany there exists a struggle between old and young breeders, but the law is dictated by the aged people, who possess the experience, but is also conservative, seeming that they are fearing the news. Sometime I think that it happens as in our Catholic Church, where the Pope is contrary to the priests' marriage, and almost all the priests are favourable. The future is of that people who was able to choose the best, even the news. And your Navigators are teachers in this field. And your flexibility is underlined by another thing.

Few years ago, I don't remember when, I read in an our newspaper that the Dutch was ready to change their language by the English language. I remember that I thought: look, this people is able to renounce to his language, not because the Dutch don't love the language of their ancestors, but because they are very practical, they are Pragmatists.

You have a big teacher in Genetics, i.e. Dr Gankema, and often I referred myself to his book to find the true way in the complex field of the genetic composition of the various plumage colours and patterns. And I think that Dr Gankema is giving to you, transformed by the science, what you have prepared to him with your breeding passion.

I can add something to my meditations in saying that another very important thing I found in the Netherlands it's the spontaneous kindness everywhere. This is a treasure which is not written in your standard, but which is the basis of anything.

I would like finish this conversation quoting part of the Bill Plant letter I received from Australia 24th September 1994:

Your trip to the Netherlands sounds interesting. I used to correspond with Anna Banning Vogelpoel in the Netherlands. She was very knowledgeable and wrote on Japanese (Chabo) Bantams. I haven't heard from Anna for some time. I hope she is OK. I am presently investigating why we don't get good distinct barring in breeds other than Plymouth Rock. I thought perhaps it may be the difference in slow and fast feathering. I wrote to Fred Jeffrey (USA) about this and he said he didn't think it was as simple as this but told me that when he was in Cologne in 1980 he saw Barred Leghorn with every but as good a barring as in the Plymouth Rock. Could you find out perhaps whether these Leghorns are slow or fast feathering? I guess they would come from Germany or **Holland**.

At this point, where are my considerations on Dutch Breeds requested by Hans? Very few words, but I think that the quality of the Breeds are *hatching* only from the quality of their Breeders. And the Dutch people is a people owning an excellent quality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. M. L.', written in a cursive style.

W.C.CAREFOOT, M.Sc., Ph.D.
GENETIC CONSULTANT
SPECIALIST POULTRY BREEDER
EXHIBITOR AND JUDGE
"CLIVEDEN", SANDY BANK, CHIPPING
PRESTON PR3 2GA
England

26 Jan 1996

Dear Bill,

I write somewhat belatedly to offer a welcome to you at Chipping. I would think that your best bet to come to us is by train from London to Preston (main line) where I would collect you.

Given notice I would arrange Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast family close to us. in a beautiful modernised place relatively inexpensive. I could also take you to see other breeders if you wished. We will firm up when you know your plans.

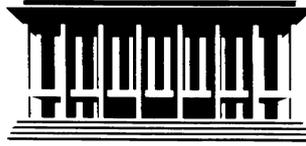
If you contact Ian Smith: my chocolate gene is a sex-linked recessive. Ziehl and Hollander isolated a dun of similar appearance which was dominant and an alternative to I^d dominant white This may be of interest to him. It appears my chocolate is similar to khaki in Ducks, chocolate in Muscovies and pigeons.

Your question on brachydactily is answered on P. 88 of *Creative Poultry Breeding*.

I will send a copy of this letter to Dr Corti as I have to reply him as well.

All the best,





**NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**
CANBERRA ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA

31 January 1996

Dear Mr Plant,

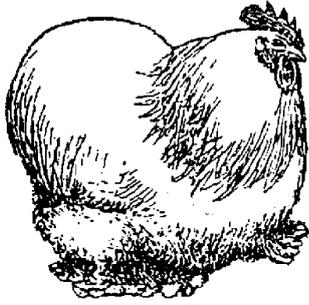
Thank you for your recent letter, asking my advice on what avenues you might pursue to obtain some form of financial assistance to continue your private research on the origin, evolution, history and distribution of the domestic fowl. I have discussed this matter with several of my colleagues. While we all agree your research is undoubtedly important, I regret that none of us can think of any sensible advice to give you on whether you might obtain funding support.

The National Library of Australia is not of course a funding body for private research, and those Government agencies we can think of all seem to offer competitive programmes attached to publications and/or formal research programmes of some type or other.

I have over the years had similar requests addressed to me, but as I say never been able to identify any appropriate funding sources. I am sorry I cannot help you in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

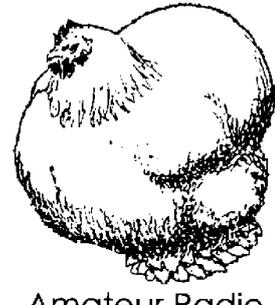
Warren Horton
Director-General



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

1-2-1996

Dear Elio,

I have been very busy, busy in answering letters as I have been receiving quite a few. I got behind while I had the shingles (5 weeks) but now I have recovered and feeling much better.

I have another contact from the US who read my article on *Avicultura*. He is interested in the origins of chickens and pigeons. I sent him material and he has sent me some. I will send you a copy of the material when I get the opportunity.

I have to reply to Moscow, Ukraine and Rudi in Germany and have had work to do on the *Club Newsletter*. We are getting orders from Veronica for the Pekin book think it will sell well in the UK. I had a letter from Veronica. She gave me details of how to get to her house just out of London.

The Rhode Island book is ready to print and I received orders for the Australorp and OEG Colours books from Veronica. I have to get Tony to print some more of these.

You mentioned you may travel to Brazil. I think it would be difficult to get to Araucana territory and also difficult to find any good Araucana chickens. Someone went down there some years ago and could not find any birds that were even close to pure breed. I think the Araucana is a very mixed up race of chickens. You should find blue eggs in Brazil. That seems to be the only trait that breeds true.

Romanov gave me some very constructive comment on my work. He is very knowledgeable. He wrote a long letter and sent me some material. I would enjoy meeting all the people at Bergamo and also Professor Prota. I think there would be much to learn from these meetings.

The Czech Standard sounds interesting. All countries seem to have standards except Australia, I contacted a fellow I knew who before he retired was head Librarian at the University in Newcastle, asking his advice as to what procedure I should use in an endeavour to get some assistance for my researches. He advised me to write to the General Director of the National Library of Australia and explain my situation. I have done this and hope that I might get some ideas. He also suggested other avenues, so I am also going to contact a representative here in Australia of the *World Poultry Science Association*. I think Romanov is involved in this organisation. I have lodged my application for the passport. It should not take very long to arrive I am told.

I have put the *ex libris* stickers in some of my books. It looks good. Tomorrow I start again with the old people. There has been a vacation over Christmas period. Joyce and Max are going on holidays again on Saturday for one month.

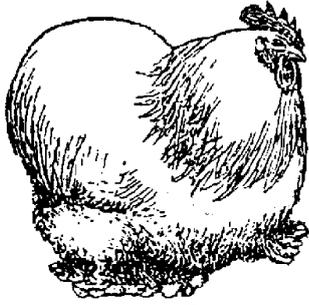
I hope your book is progressing well. Stromberg tells me his Encyclopaedia will be published in March. There should be some interesting information in it. Pleased to hear you made contact with Hoffmann. I haven't heard from him for sometime. He travels a lot to check up on his experiments. We have had some very hot days but this summer the weather is very unstable.

I hope the material I sent you a couple of weeks ago has arrived OK. I have another aboriginal book. I will send you later. I think if there had been any blue eggs around Darwin would have noted them. Romanov told me there is a Darwinism Museum in Moscow. I guess you visited it. Should be interesting.

Must press on. Will write again soon.

Regards.

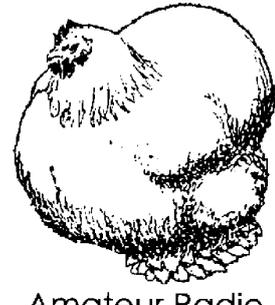
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent loop on the 'B' and a long tail on the 'l'.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



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**Jerome Pratt
Arizona - USA**

7-2-1996

Dear Mr Pratt,

Thank you for your letters and interesting material. As the pheasants and the fowl are virtually belonging to the family the possibilities are certainly that there could be a link in the line of descendants.

It seems to me that no where in the literature can you find any attempt to pursue the ancestry of Gallus gallus (Red Jungle Fowl) itself:

The early writers, Wright, Tegetmeier etc etc all pushed Darwin's belief that the domestic fowl descended from the red jungle fowl. FULL STOP.

If a story is repeated enough times it is believes. I believe some scholars even today still stick to this theory. However growing in numbers are the people who doubt it: The evidence is building up that there were possibility 3 different species which came down the line of decent from a common extinct ancestor.

Where Darwin's theory breaks down is that it is in contrast to his evolutionary ideas that everything obviously evolved. He offers no explanation as to what the Red Jungle Fowl evolved from. They are still running around in the jungle. What I believe we need now is to investigate from whence the Jungle Fowl came from. I'm not sure where we have to start but I believe it needs to be done.

I have to read trough your material again; I have a fair bit of stuff coming in at the moment and having difficulty keeping up to it.

I have correspondents all over the world exchanging information with me. Unfortunately some of it in foreign languages which I have difficulty with.

I'm afraid I haven't had anything to do with pigeons. However I found your material interesting. During. World War 2 I served in the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (Army) for 3 ½ years, 2 years of which were served in New Guinea.

I will make some enquires regarding the pigeons used in the Australian Army. I believe they were. I was born in 1921 have had problems with eyesight for same years. The last 8 years the sight has failed badly. My doctor tells me that the optic nerve in one of my eyes has been damaged by the glaucoma and of course the macular degeneration.

My other eye has been faulty since birth. The centre of the retina is damaged. I have had cataract surgery on both eyes and a cornea transplant on one of them. My doctor has done all possible for me.

I have some literature regarding the Saipan Game bird which I will locate and send you a copy. It appears to me it is essentially a Malay.

Over the years I have acquired many contacts overseas with people interested in chickens in overseas countries, e.g. Fred Jeffrey, Prof. George F. Carter of Texas A&M University and others in the USA as well as others in Europe. I find there is increasing support and evidence that the Malay and Jungle Fowl perhaps have different roots. I am firmly convinced that they did, especially after reading Finsterbusch *Cocks and Cockfighting all over the World*. Finsterbusch made a definitive study of the subject.

I also have recently received info from a Russian geneticist who appears to think along these lines.

I have found this a very interesting although at times somewhat frustrating subject. My archives on these matters - origins - poultry genetics - breeds - and my poultry library is now quite considerable.

OK re your repairs to *Our Poultry Weir*. I do not have this book although I have access to it through a friend of mine. I have Wright, Tegetmeier, Wingfield and Johnson and others. They also cover much of the some territory.

My son is also involved in chickens and shortly will be beginning the preparation of a definite study on the Old English game in Australia It will probably be a couple of years before it becomes available. We are into the process of researching the material for this project.

I may have told you that I am visiting Europe during 1996 at the invitation of Dr Elio Corti of Valenza in Italy: He spent a month with me last May and copied much material from my files- I hope to meet some of the people I have corresponded with in the UK an perhaps the Netherlands. This will be most interesting.

Over the past 12 months the amounts of correspondence and exchange of information has increased considerably and I have be to work and to keep up with it. However it is all good value for the exchange of information in a subject such as we are interested in is essential.

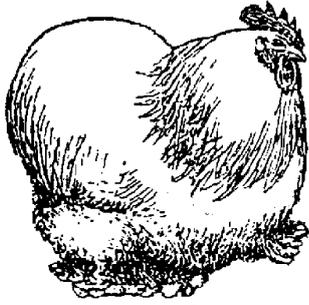
By the way thank you for the info on Ball's *Jungle Fowl of the Pacific* - a handy publication. I obtained a copy some years ago which was a useful addition to my library.

I think I have covered the points of your letters I will study the info further when I get mail cleared up and probably have some further comment.

All the best for now.

Regards.

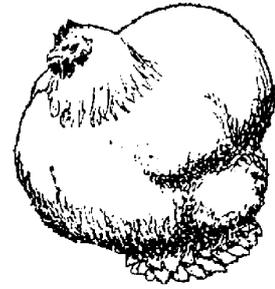
Bill Plant



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Dr Irina Moiseyeva
Moscow - Russia

8-2-1996

Dear Dr Moiseyeva,

First of all I must apologise for not writing sooner but I have been indisposed for a while and only now trying to catch up on my correspondence as I write to many people.

Thank you for the book and the other material. I cannot read the Russian language but I will endeavour to get some of it translated.

I have been researching the Origin Evolution History and Distribution of the domestic chicken - poultry genetics - history of the breeds for over 20 years and have collected quite an amount of material on these subjects during those years. Together with my son I have breed exhibition fowls for nearly 30 years.

It has been necessary for me to make contact with many people all over the world in the course of my researches.

I am not an academic and I am not an expert in the field of poultry genetics although I do have some knowledge in the subject and have carried out experiments in colour breeding in poultry. I only wish I had made in depth a study of genetics earlier in my life.

I would appreciate a comment on my papers on the Origins etc I still have further material not published.

From your article on the Orloff it would appear it shows many traits of the Malay. It is good that people like yourself are doing in depth study on different breeds.

I have a fairly comprehensive poultry library with many authors just following along from those before them, not doing any further study. This is not good enough. Much research needs to be done.

I hope to be visiting Dr Corti in Italy during May/June this year. He is very busy with his book on Fowl genetics. I am pleased you were able to meet with him. He visited me last May. I correspond with Dr Clive Carefoot in England and Fred Jeffrey in the United States- They are both very knowledgeable in poultry genetics. I hope to meet with Dr Carefoot when I go to Europe.

I will be looking forward to comments from you and thank you once again.

Regards.

Bill Plant



Museum of Victoria

16 February 1996

Dear Mr Plant,

Thank you for your letter of 7 January 1996. The radio interview you heard was Dr Les Christidis, the Curator of Birds, discussing the find of some finches, collected by Charles Darwin, on his voyage of the Beagle. We also have a lot of specimens collected by Alfred Russell Wallace, including some 'type' specimens. However, these specimens are mainly of Birds-of-Paradise, Kingfishers and Pigeons. Unfortunately, there are no Jungle-fowl in the collection. We have not come across anything recently regarding the origins of the domestic fowl, but will send you some information, should we come across it. Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rory O'Brien', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rory O'Brien
Collection Manager, Birds.

Postal Address
PO Box 666E
Melbourne Vic 3001
Australia

Russell J Parker

PO Box 242

TENTERFIELD 2372 - NSW

Australia



23/02/96

Dear Bill

Re Jungle Fowl

I enclose a copy of a letter received in response to my queries.

Tanya Leary wrote the state of the environment report for the SI Government recently.

Hers' is the most recent info I can find re Jungle Fowl in the SI. Also enclose a copy of the relevant pages from my SI Hand book.

Temotu province certainly seems the place to go.

I am also continuing to enquire with my friends on New Georgia.

Best wishes

Russell



WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

PO Box 150
Port Moresby
Papua New Guinea
Fax (675) 596 392

Mr Russell Parker
PO Box 242
Tenterfield, NSW 2372
Australia

2nd February 1996

Dear Russell,

I apologise for not replying sooner, but I have been on break, and then this past week doing field work.

I was surprised that your friend had difficulty locating parrots in Solomon Islands, with the exception of a few of the rarer parrots most of the Solomon Island parrots are pretty common, in areas which have not been logged. The major threat to birds and in fact all fauna and flora in Solomon Islands is industrial scale clear fell logging, which since I left Solomons appears to be accelerating at an extremely fast rate. To my knowledge, parrots were not particularly sought after by Solomon Islanders for food, although people will eat anything when they are in the bush. They are however commonly kept as pets by villagers. On the other hand a number of common species of pigeon and ground dove are particularly sought after for meat, although I really don't know whether or not this constitutes a threat to any species. Unlike here in PNG, Solomon Islanders are not particularly serious hunters (predominantly pigs and pigeons), most people having access to fairly abundant marine resources. However, I suspect this could change as the population pressure on inshore fisheries increases.

I am aware of wild domestic fowl only on Santa Cruz (Nendo) in Temotu Province. I have only ever seen one, and it was a large, very glossy black individual with quite large tail feathers, I saw this near a village (who's name I forget) on the southern side of Nendo. The village faces the small island of Temotu Noi (also known as Lord Howe, not to be confused with Lord Howe in Ontong Java). They are reportedly quite common however over much of Nendo Island. Local legend has it that these are escapees from Elvira Mendana's days. I vaguely remember something about some one looking at the genetics of this stock or wanting to look at the genetics of this stock, and looking at it's relationship with some 16th Century Castillian stock. But I really can't remember the full story. TI was also told that there may be wild domestic fowl on New Georgia, but I did a lot of field work on this island and never saw one.

I am afraid that this is about all the information I can give you in response to your queries. I hope it is of some use. I wish you well with your poultry endeavours and in locating wild populations of fowls.

Kind regards,

Tanya Leary
Environment Co-ordinator
Kikori Integrated Conservation and Development Project.



Др. Михайло Николаевич РОМАНОВ
УКРАЇНСЬКА АКАДЕМІЯ АГРАРНИХ НАУК
ІНСТИТУТ ПТАХІВНИЦТВА
БОРКИ УКРАЇНА
Mikhail ROMANOV
Poultry Research Institute
Borky, Zmiiv District, Kharkiv Region 313410 - Ukraine
Fax: (05747) 3 49 58

February 24, 1996.

Dear Mr Plant,

Many, many apologies for not replying immediately to your generous package with very valuable gift books of November 11th and kind letter of February 8th. They reached me safely but some events of my life got in the way to do it. This connects with both the whole situation within Ukraine and Russia, and in my personal fate.

In January I was in holiday without pay in Nizhny Novgorod where my parents live and whence I came back to Borky on January 31. I was able to watch deterioration of life conditions in Russia because of complicated economic and political situation, because of military operations in Chechnya and Dagestan. But I dare say that current economic and political situation in Ukraine is much worse. As well as in Russia, people at enterprises and institutions receive their salaries with delay several months later. Bank accounts are empty. Many enterprises and institutions owe the state great amounts of money and close down or send their employees to permanent holiday without pay. I read an official forecast of West-European experts for 1996 that Ukraine will be affected this year by the most severe falling-off of production and inflation in comparison with other countries of the former USSR. We have no future. We do not know what to wait for from both Russian and Ukrainian leaders. We are afraid of possible beginning of second Chechnya in any other region including the disputable Crimea. And all this is also attributed to our Institute in Borky and myself. During three last months there is a bad practice in Borky to disconnect electric power for one or more hours two or three times every day for the purpose of economy drive. As to my salary, in January I received for December only 6,000,000 karbovanets (or 30 USD) but paid them as debts to my friends. As for level of prices, for example, 1 kg of butter costs 1,000,000 karbovanets (5 USD), a dozen of eggs 300,000 karbovanets (1.5 USD) and so on.

So you see how the life is treating me and what a hopeless position I am experiencing at the moment. I do not see any way out. I do not know how I shall continue my work here and earn my living. I do not even have money for postal expenses to write to my friends all over the world, cooperate with them, make xerocopies for them and so on.

Only few buoyant feelings are visiting me and consoling my soul now. Of course, these are love and sympathy of my parents and son who lives apart me with my former wife. Let me express many, many thanks to you for all your assistance and sympathy for me. I am most glad to have such good friends and to know such outstanding persons as you and Dr Elio Corti are. I never forget all your best you and Dr Corti are doing for me. And I hope we will meet each other in May in Italy because Dr Corti invited me, too.

Underneath you can read some of my comments to your interesting books.

Page 21 of your Supplement to Part 2 of *The Origin Evolution...*, 1985: Errata in writing the genus name, *Phasianus* instead of *Phasianaus*, *Phaninaus* and *Phasinaus* given in the text.

Page 22 and 23: You mentioned the Early Cretaceous including *Ambioriiformes* Kurochkin, 1982 and the avian evolution chain. To this I can add that Dr Kurochkin lives and works in Moscow. In the proceedings of the XXI International Ornithological Congress, Vienna, August 20-25, 1994, I have found some interesting articles including Kurochkin's one:

Larry D. Martin (Natural History Museum and Dept. of Systematics and Ecology, Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, USA) - A New Skeletal Model of *Archaeopteryx*

Walter J. Bock (Dept. of Biological Sciences, Columbia Univ., New York, NY 10027, USA) & Paul Buhler (Brandhof 15, D-74417 Gschwend, Germany) - Evolution of Feathers and Flight in Birds

Sankar Chatterjee (Museum of Texas Tech Univ., MS/Box 43191, Lubbock, Texas 79409-3191, USA) - *Protoavis* from the Triassic of Texas: The Oldest Bird

Andrzej Elzanowski (M-P-I. f. Biochemie, D-82152 Martinsried, Germany) & Peter Wellnhofer (Bayerische Staatssammlung. f. Palaeont. und hist. Geologie, D-80333 Munchen, Germany) - Cranial Morphology of *Archaeopteryx*: Evidence from the Seventh Skeleton

Evgeny N. Kurochkin (Palaeontological Institute, Profsoyuznaya St. 123, Moscow 117647, Russia) - Synopsis and Evolution of Mesozoic Birds

Erich Weber (Spezielle Zoologie, Eberhard-Karls-Universitat, Auf der Morgenstelle 28, D-7400 Tubingen, Germany) & Angelika Hesse (Museum fur Naturkunde und Vorgeschichte, Askanische Str. 32, D-4500 Dessau, Germany) - The Systematic Position of *Aptornis*, a Flightless Subfossil Bird from New Zealand

Zhou Zhong (Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology, Academia Sinica, China) - The Relationship of *Archaeopteryx* to Early Cretaceous Birds in China

I will try to copy these articles for you when I can. Maybe, you would like to write to some of these scholars.

Part 3 of *The Origin Evolution....*, 1986, pages 40, 41 and 45:

Hutt and you assume that *Gallus sonnerati* could be involved in the origin of the domestic fowl, *G. domesticus*, on the base of a fact of gene *S* (silver) presence in the both genotypes. However my suggestion is that gene *S* might appear in *G. domesticus* as a homological mutation since there is a known biologic law of homological variation discovered by the famous Russian geneticist V.I. Vavilov (1920) that variation including mutations in the close biologic species is similar.

Page 55: There is nothing of surprise that in the crossing between Black Pekin (Cochin) and Light Sussex about 12% of the offspring resulting from the F2 resembled Light Brahma both in shape and colour - this corresponds to the Mendelian law of heredity. As to "missing" peacomb of the Brahma it cannot emerge in any way because both initial parent breeds, Pekin and Sussex, have the single comb genotype, $r+/r+ p+/p+$.

Page 63: Perhaps you read in Tegetmeir's "The Poultry Book" (1873) that about 1845 large fowls were imported to Europe from China that were called Cochin China and Brahma but these names were, to Tegetmeir's mind, less correct than the other one, Shanghai.

Page 74: Re diversity of chicken breeds as a result of involving several wild varieties, I can again remind the Vavilov's homological variation law. On the other hand, we know about much more pronounced diversity of pigeon breeds having the very fanciful exterior characters that are absent in the wild ancestor, *Columba livia*, including leg feathering, frizzling (as in chickens!) and so on. And these characters were the result of artificial selection of mutations!

Page 79: In the case of blue egg shell colour we can face the same homological variation as the similar colourations were also intrinsic in pheasants. I refer to an article of Martin Silverudd, Deep Lake Gene Bank, S-570 82 Malilla, Sweden in the Proceedings of the 17th World's Poultry Congress, Helsinki, 1984, pages 711-712:

"The existence of hens laying blue eggs was first brought to the general notice of the poultry world by Prof. Salvador Castellò Carreras during meeting of the First World's Poultry Congress at The Hague in 1921 (1). None of the wild species of GALLUS lays an egg which can be supposed to contain the gene for blue egg shell (O). It is well known that hybrids can be readily obtained between the pheasant and the domestic fowl, but hitherto such hybrids have proved to be sterile (1). It cannot, however, be said that the matter has been fully explored, and it is conceivable that at some time or other fertile offspring may have been produced (1).

Punnett (1) noted that polychromatism in the fowls' and pheasants' eggs follows apparently similar lines (white and blue, light brown and green, dark brown and olive, respectively). The green or olive egg shell colour depends on the interaction between O and for brown egg shell.

In Sweden we have had birds laying green eggs since 1956.

"O is dominant. That means, for instance, that in a cross involving three strains (one male strain, and two female strains), we may introduce O to the male strain only, for getting a hybrid laying green eggs. Birds carrying O give egg shells coloured all through, different from the brown egg shell, that have the pigment confined to the outer surface of the shell. Green and olive eggs have a blue inner side of the shell. O gives an equable colouring effect, opposite to some genes for brown eggs, which give spotted shell and other variations. Variations in the green colour (such as brown spotted etc.) depends on genes for brown.

"The original hens of Costa Rica lay an egg of an absolutely brilliant green colour" (1).

(Reference: 1. Punnett, R.C., 1933. Genetic studies in poultry. IX. The blue egg. Journal of Genetics, Vol. XXVII, No. 3: 465-470.)

Page 84: As it follows from Hutt (1949), the genes for silver (*S*), extended black plumage (*E*) and yellow shank colour (*Id*) were taken from other wild jungle fowl species but again what's about the homological variation in the close *Gallus* species? And what is more, on page 85 there is still a Hutt's notice about considerable role of mutations!

Pages 86 and 90: The Tegetmeir's statements concerning great diversity of animals and their increased variation under domestication as well as the role of artificial selection are worth to attract attention with regard to the problem of origin and evolution of the domestic fowl.

Please forgive me for some criticisms regarding polyphyletic theory but it seems to me that we should take them into consideration when discussing this problem.

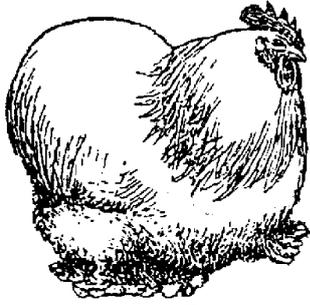
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any information or assistance.

Anticipating the meeting with you in Italy.

Kind regards and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours very faithfully,

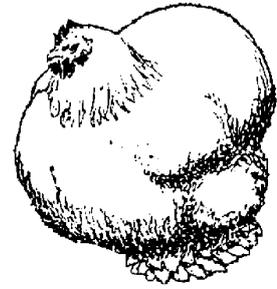
A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'O' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



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**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

3-3-1996

Dear Elio,

After receiving your telephone call I checked my correspondence and could not find evidence of me writing a letter to you since early in February. I am afraid I have become mixed up with my correspondence. My apologies.

It seems that postal service between Australia and Italy is not good. So will write each week and put a number on the letter.

Thank you for the information on shingles, the information on what triggers of the shingles is not well known. I am OK now. The 3 months about my trip in the Newsletter was a mistake. I have many commitments in July and Joyce is going away again at the end of June, so I will have to stick to the original times for my visit.

The fellow who sets out our Newsletter is the same fellow who set out our Pekin book. He does a very good job. David will continue his article in the next Newsletter. He had Champion Bird in the Agricultural Show here in Maitland last week with a Pekin Pullet.

I am afraid I do not know anything about the Turkey. I believe it originated in North America. Hoffmann is the best man on Muscovy Ducks. I had a letter from Carefoot and Veronica. We can get a train to Reading to see Veronica. It is not very far from London. Carefoot gave me information regarding visiting his home. He will take us on visits to other poultry breeders. We can get Bed and Breakfast accommodation near Carefoot.

I haven't had any response from the Government member regarding assistance with my research. We had an election last Saturday and now have a change of Government with a big majority. A good thing, I believe. I contacted a friend of mine who made some suggestions. I then contacted the State representative of the WPSA. No luck there either. It is very difficult to get any assistance unless you are involved with a University or like Institution. They seem to think we are all crazy studying chickens. However I will keep trying.

I contacted the Melbourne Museum (Victoria) and they have specimens of birds collected by Darwin and also Wallace who did much collecting in Malay Archipelago (Indonesia 1850's). I have his book you probably saw when you were here. No specimens of *Gallus*. Mostly Birds of Paradise etc. I was surprised. Wallace may have specimens in the British Museum.

Joyce has some more telephone cards for you. Bob has had a skin allergy on his back for awhile. I have started treating it with a mixture of sulphur - kerosene - vasoline. This treatment seems to be doing some good.

Marie's son has moved out as 2 of his sons have come to live with him. This will be good for Marie. David has some good Pekin and Langshan bantams this year. I think he will win some awards.

I have written to Moscow and to Ukraine. The letter from Romanov was very good. He is very knowledgeable. I have also written to Annie Banning Vogelpoel and asked for her telephone number etc in Waardenburg. I have not corresponded with her for quite awhile. She also is very knowledgeable. I also have the phone number and address of Lesley Dupré, Editor of Avicultura in the Netherlands.

I will endeavour to get the article you wrote on your trip to Australia translated. I have an idea for something to bring for the Presidents in Bergamo from Australia.

I hope your mother's broken arm is OK now. Will finish now but will write again next week.

Ciau.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Annie Banning-Vogelpoel

Steenweg 16
4181 AL WAARDENBURG - Netherlands

March 4, 1996

Dear Mr Plant,

I was very surprised by your letter dated 11-2-1996 and I am glad to know you are in good health. I am sorry to read that your eyesight is not so well.

We had a severe cold winter, which is not ended now. At night it is freezing. This gives me more work in the chickenhouse, and if I tell you that in April my age will be 76, you can understand I don't like extra work. I had always a boy, helping me 2 hours a week cleaning the chickenhouse, but these days boys don't like to work so I do it self. I still do some judge jobs each season, but no so far from home. I send you a photo made past year.

I don't know if I wrote you that my husband died August 1989. This changed my life. I have reduced the number of the chickens by not breeding them, I reduced the number of judge jobs and I have a bit help in the house and the garden. I sold the car; my late husband always drove the car and I could not find the spirit to drive the car myself; it is very busy here with cars and trucks. So I go by bus and train. My daughter visits me each Sunday and my 3 granddaughters are doing well, the first is married and is a Dr psychology, the second is studying for nurse and the youngest (18) is finishing the high school and want to visit Australia before the University.

You are welcome here with your Italian friend. If you come in the Netherlands by plane, you can take the train to Utrecht and from there a stop train to Geldermalsen. The rest you should go by car. If you go by car you take the A-2 and take the exit Waardenburg. This is the easier way. I had earlier visitors from USA and then we picked them up the airport. I have a guestroom with 2 beds. My phone number: 0418-651452.

From the exit of Waardenburg you go left to the roundabout and there you take the way to the right. This is the Steenweg. My house is the second left side, a brick house, between 2 white houses. I like it to meet you.

My youngest granddaughter planned a long trip to Australia after she finished school. We have family in South Australia and in Campbellfield. But I believe she takes a job on several places to see the country.

I do not much on writing, I answer letters but take not initiatives for articles or booklets. I have no time for it. I am slower and need some rest after I did my work.

I do hope you'll have a good time on your trip to Europe and may be see you later.

Kind regards,





Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

11-3-1996

Dear Bill,

The biggest confusion in the Mail. I send newly my letter dated 26-1-1996, because, without reading it, remember that was asking whether you will stay in Italy 2 or 3 months. I need this answer for the ticket. Please answer to this ask, if you have not done after my telephone touch, stressing that your answer is about this letter dated 11-3-1996.

Your book is nearly ready.

One little question: what is the source that the fowls on Easter Island seen by Roggeveen they were Vierlanden Landhuhn used to make up a breed called the Ramelsloher in conjunction with the Andalusian?

I discovered a current mistake about horizontal-vertical diameter of the occipital foramen in Cochin-Bankiva. I will explain here in Italy. I sent my deductions to Hoffmann. I am awaiting from him.

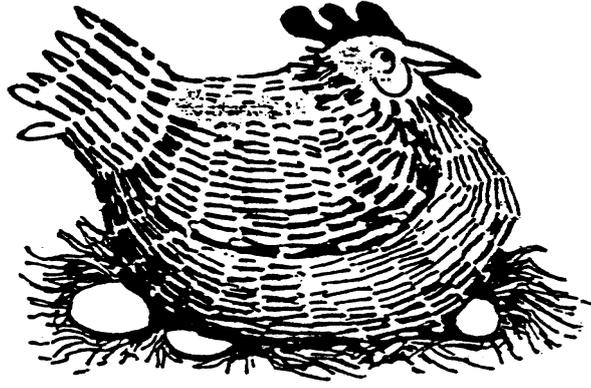
Don't worry in answering to all the above questions if you have not time in this moment. Only answer about your stay in Italy.

Enclosed:

the previous letter

the list of the black holes of your correspondence; please collect this material to bring in Italy. I hope that the list is clear.

I embrace you.



Russell J Parker
PO Box 242
TENTERFIELD 2372 - NSW
Australia

13-3-1996

Dear Bill,

Thank you for the excellent Jungle Fowl information.

Your mention of the are as of Fiji reminded me that I had a photo of a pairs of fowls in an Aviary on Taveuni Island in Fiji.

You can keep the photo. Perhaps it will be of some use even though it is not a great shat my "parrot-man" friend travelled these to see the parrots like in the top of the photo.

Best wishes,

Russell



March 13rd, 1996

Dear Mr Plant,

A long time ago we've had some contacts about Poultry. Maybe you remember. Now I've heard from Dr Corti, Italy You'll visit soon Europe and also Holland. As far as I understood you will visit in May Holland. Hope very much we can meet?

Some days before May 18th and 19th I'm in the USA to visit the USA Poultry Museum, Mr Loyl Stromberg, Minnesota, and some other important Poultry people. Please keep me informed when you come to Holland.

Enclosed a flyer of our Dutch Poultry Museum at Barneveld (yes where the Barnevelder chicken was developed) a snapshot of a nice Poster about the Dutch Poultry Breeds and one of the cover of mij new book

KIPPEN IN NEDERLAND (= Poultry in Holland)

about the Dutch poultrybreed which will be published next April. When you come to Holland I'll compile some Dutch Poultry magazines and other stuff for you.

Please, keep in touch.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hans I. Schippers', with a horizontal line underneath the name.



Dr. Elio Corti

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15-3-1996

Dear Bill,

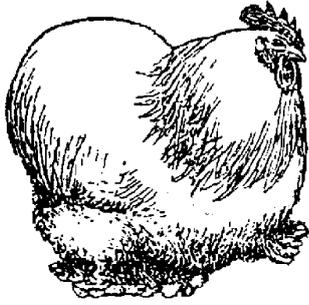
I received your letter N 1 dated 3-3-1996. OK regarding the answers contained. If you have problems for the France visa, it is possible to obtain it here in Italy, because we need other visas for a tour I am organising (a surprise) and we must go in Milano for this problem.

Regarding the Government assistance I send you my best wishes!!! The interest about fowls is a cultural, archaeological, aesthetical and biological item, and so on. But, frequently, the fowl is only that bird in the supermarket ready to be cooked.

Now, a big disaster: I have accidentally erased in the computer the file of my correspondence with you. Impossible to recover, nor other copy in the other computer. The fact is very easy to happen: it's possible to select a group of files to erase, all together. Some days ago, after the last letter I sent you, the replay letter, I erased all the backup files in the correspondence's subdirectory to have a faster copy on the tape. I selected all the backup file, but it happens that if you are pointed on a file not backup, this file becomes enclosed and erased. Have you understood all these pleasures of our electronic time?

In synthesis: you must collect all my correspondence on paper and bring to Italy. Using the scanner and by hand I will rebuild the file. I hope you have again all my letters! YOU ARE MY LAST HOPE.

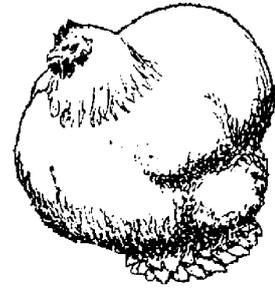
I am awaiting for the letter N 2.



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Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy

16-3-1996

Dear Elio,

Just a short note to let you know the latest. I will send copies of letters next time. I write regarding how to get Veronica, Carefoot and Annie. Good instructions.

I received a letter from Annie if we go there. She would be pleased to see us and has a guest room where we could stay. She is 76 years old and still has chickens. She is very knowledgeable. I think Waardenburg is in Southern Netherlands. I also received a long letter from Romanov with information of further contacts. Romanov told me of the conditions in the Ukraine. My heart goes out to him. Everything is going crazy in that country and Russia. The economy is very bad and his Institute may close down through lack of funds. He told me he is only getting 30 US\$ per month. I have a few US\$ here, I will send to him. It is a great pity that learned people like Romanov may be lost to science. I think he would like to emigrate somewhere else. He received the books all OK and is very thankful for them. He said he would be coming to Italy in May, I think.

I have been very busy getting material ready for *Club Newsletter* as I need to get a double lot reaching for when I am away. Also letters to answer and other Club's business. Tony is printing Rhode Island book which I should have shortly. I think it will be OK

Joyce and Max have returned from their holiday (1 month) and Marie came up the other day. Bob is going OK but sleeps a lot. He is getting lazy. David and Chris are going OK. David is pretty busy at the moment. However they Called in to see me last week. All for now.

Regards.

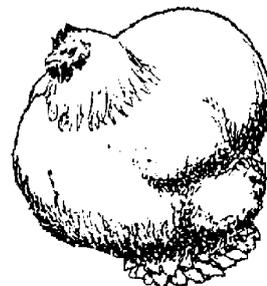
Bill



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**Dr Elio Corti
Valenza - Italy**

23-3-1996

Dear Elio,

Enclosed some information for you. Copy of letters from Veronica, Carefoot, Annie and Dupré. We need Carefoot's telephone number. Sounds OK for Banning and Dupré in Netherlands. Also latest Newsletter.

I have found some of the black holes. I will have to hunt for the rest. Further to phone conversation: leave Sydney Monday 29th April - back in Sydney 26th of June. When you organise ticket please send me details of plane departure and arrival times and relevant information. We are organising something for visitors at meeting in Bergamo.

I received a letter from Romanov. It is very sad the conditions in the Ukraine. We are very lucky in this country. He said he will meet me in Italy.

I have been very busy with Pekin Club work, answering letters and writing articles for Newsletter. I am getting organised for the trip. I have to get a doctor's certificate for health insurance. Joyce and Max will be going on holiday a couple of days after I return.

26-3-1996

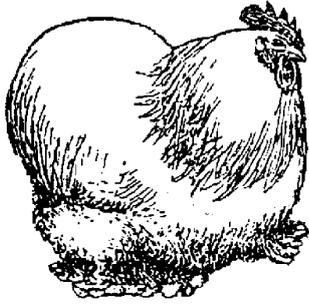
Elio,

I received your letter of 15-3-96 regarding the disaster with the computer. Do not worry. I will organise your correspondence. I am pretty sure I have it all in my file.

Do you have the information from *Further notes on the Jungle Fowl and Pacific?* It has letters from Carter etc. I think you copied it, but I'm not sure.

Regards.

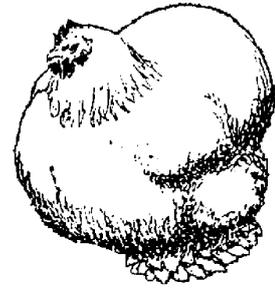
Bill



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**Rory O'Brien - Manager Collections Birds
Museum of Victoria - Melbourne**

24-3-1996

Dear Mr O'Brien,

Thank you for your letter dated 16/02/1996 in answer to my query re specimens of Darwin and Wallace in your Museum.

I am always interested in anything information connected with the Gallus species and would appreciate any relevant information you run across anything in the future.

I have been researching the origins of the Gallus species for some 20 years on a private basis.

I do have a publication covering some of my research on the Jungle Fowls - Gallus species.

If you would like a copy of this I would be only too pleased to send one to you.

Please let me know.

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards.

Bill Plant



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

25-3-1996

Dear Bill,

The mail, this time, was so fast as *Speedy Gonzales*! The post-marks of your letter number 2: departure from Maitland March 18th, arrival in Valenza 23rd. I received the letter today, 25th, Monday.

Two days ago I received a very long letter, a treatise, from Prof Carter. I think that his health is running better every day. He is hoping to date this year some bones with C14. So, may be his manuscript will be printed. When in Italy, I will show you his letter.

Not only Romanov will be in Italy, may be also Irina Moiseyeva, who ringed to me last week. I hope strongly that this will happen.

I received from Pisa, near Florence, from a friend of Hoffmann, a very interesting software, a translator Italian-English. So I am trying in translating my article about my visit to you the past year. For the moment I send only a half of the article. The rest I send when the translation will be done. Then I will send also the diskette. If you agree, this paper could appear in your *Newsletter*.

Please judge the translation, and if it's necessary, we can made a better translation when you are in Italy.

Remember of the address of the Disable People.

Tomorrow I will meet the Editor for my book.

About to meet Veronica, Carefoot and Annie, don't worry. I will organise all these meetings.

Enclosed, a letter of Romanowski which is incomplete and needing to be rebuild. Your book is running on every day. I have had many collaboration by a colleague of mine from Milano, Fernando Civardi, a very clever and knowledgeable fellow. He has read all the letters in checking the biggest orthography mistakes, mostly those regarding the punctuation. You will know him. He helped me so much during the illness of my wife.

I will ring to you when sure that your fly is really that of British Airways.

About the US\$ for Romanov, it is better to give them in his hands. I think that the mail is dangerous in this moment.

My best wishes to David, Chris, Joyce and Max. Obviously, even to Bob.

Do you have begun the count-down of your departure? 32 days!!!

I embrace you.

Galeotto fu il libro e chi lo scrisse.

Galehaut has been the book and who wrote it.

Dante ALIGHIERI - Hell - V Song - verse 137

Dante finds Paolo and Francesca in the ramparts of the hell where the lechers are confined, because...

...one day Paolo and Francesca were reading aside a book dealing with Lancelot of the Lake - one of the Round Table's Knights - as well with his love for king Arthur's wife, Guinevere, with whom Lancelot committed adultery having Galehaut as intermediary of their first contact. Several times Paolo and Francesca looked each other, but when they read about the kiss given by Lancelot to Guinevere, then Paolo kissed Francesca and probably both have been killed by Francesca's husband.

Always of each event is existing the primum movens like for the Universe is existing Who moves the sun and the other stars. The poetry of Dante exceeds the time. If Galehaut has been the book of William Plant, more Galehaut has been Fabrizio Focardi, fellow citizen of Dante, the Runaway Ghibellin: thanks to him a big bagarre broke out.

To each his own, and so the previous inescapable proposition is justified. We will try to clarify the one each other following events. In 1994 springtime I visited Fabrizio living in Florence's outskirts, recompensed by delicious hospitality. I was searching documentation that should help me to clarify some points on chicken's origin. Fabrizio furnished me with the essential information and showed me *The Origin Evolution Distribution of the Domestic Fowl* (1986) of the Australian William Plant and gave me the address of Veronica Mayhew, world's expert in birds' books, old and new, who has her stronghold in London's neighbourhoods.

I wrote to Veronica and she sent me the first of a series of books, so much that at a certain point she wonders whether I'm writing one or two books on chicken's genetics. Sarcastic, isn't it? In the first pages of Plant's book I stumble across a Latin's error: when the Author is dealing with the classification of the domestic chickens in at least 3 evolutionary lineages (Bankivoids, Malays and Asiatics), he is adopting a linneoid terminology, i.e. *Gallus pluma crusis*. I think that it's a typographical error since the genitive of the Latin word *crus*, leg, does *cruris*. In a following page the mistake is repeated. I take note and in a gulp I read a harvest of historical and archaeological data which must have cost very heavy work as in fact it has been.

I don't like to speak on typographical errors, because the extreme pedantry could be offensive, but for love of the science it's incorrect to be silent. Whereas Plant is stating to be glad of possible suggestions, in July I resolve to write to him and with my elementary English I drop an explanatory line.

The Plant's answer is immediate, he is happy of the correction, and, like often it happens, it's an error passing on from a book to another, from a book from which he acquired the terminology.

Summing up: the correspondence with Plant becomes frequent, burdened with difficult questions which Bill sometimes is not able to answer to: in this case he sends me lots of photocopies. I start to be fond of this man, my letters become more and more long and my English less and less distasteful.

One day Bill sends me an issue of *Australasian Poultry*, priceless magazine published in Werribee, in the Australian state of Victoria (its capital is Melbourne). The issue of February-March 1995 contains an article signed Robert Johnstone and titled *Pekin Bantams and Short Wave Radio*, dealing with the hobby of amateur radio that Bill is cultivating since 1939, by which he communicates throughout the world often making up for the serious visual problems because of two cornea's transplants. The radio also allowed him to exchange information on chickens and then to correspond with scientists and breeders, mostly from the Japanese area.

In March 1995 I find myself with still all vacation of the past year and I feel that it could be used in doing a short visit to Australia. At his home Bill might guard a cultural patrimony, and so, thirsty of news to give a final touch to the heavy, pedantic and arabesque treatise on fowl's genetics not yet given birth to, I write to Bill in asking whether I can visit him. The answer is positive. Maurizio Tona, our Federal Breeders' President, aware of my plans, arranges a silver medal for Bill with the symbol of the Federation as well the praises for his daily scientific search engraved on it that represents a University's benchmark even internationally known, what am I telling, intercontinentally known.

May 8th I put my foot on Australian ground after a trip for only no smokers which the misfortune reserved me. From London to Sydney the flight's hours amount to 21 (11 for London-Bangkok and 10 for the final leap to Sydney), with a break of half an hour in the Thai's capital, exploited for at least 3 cigarettes. Out from the Sydney's airport, at the first lights of the dawn, finally I taste a cigarette in company of a native lady, she also dissenting on this prohibitionism of purely Australian taste, since the English one is much more as roses' water, although the idea of this smoke free flight is an offspring of the English British Airways.

For a moment the cigarette makes me forgetting the parmigiano cheese seized by customs because of fear of bacterial importation in a land which already has had and still is having its ecological troubles due to the rabbit's introduction. It's quite useless my affirmation that it's an at least 5 years matured cheese and that the bacterial flora is selected and perfumed like a bud of roses. After the short discussion made painful by my hesitant English, my invitation to the police officer is of to don't destroy that good of God, but to let it dissolve in mouth, as gem of a cheese's stock that would have stood up to the work of the best ice's masters. The answer had been peremptory: it'll be destroyed. Don't be surprised at that. Bill showed me a newspaper's clipping telling about the trial and the fine (90 million of liras) of an Australian gentleman who tried to introduce eggs furtively without the due quarantine.

Only a few time after my return to Italy I could have interpreted a gesture that seemed to me a sign of courtesy: nearly twenty minutes before the landing in Sydney, a steward is going across the seats' rows in brandishing a spray tank which spreads a pleasantly perfumed cloud. I thought: look at, they are perfuming the air also!. On the contrary not, it was the disinfection, a disinfection that, in time, turned itself into a ritual deprived of any hygienic value.

I swear that in Australia you can live at easy, in the Post Office you can find any sort of container for any devilry you want to mail, the trains travel on time, if you book a train trip the cars will stop level with the painted letters on the platform which is levelled to the floor of the wagon and corresponding to the assigned coach, when leaving a station you find a poster announcing in advance the next station, the brawls in front of the airport's Sesamo are quite useless in as two colour videos are giving the images of the two corridors crossed by coming passengers, so you are not forced to wave your arms to be located by relatives and friends.

But there exists some rake-off unaccepted by us, who are Mediterraneans. You have to travel by bicycle with helmet (like in Finland), you cannot smoke neither in airport neither in train because reserved areas don't exist nevertheless almost all people are smoking. On the half-minute stop in a little railway station it's a crowd of people toward the wagon's exit to do a drag on a cigarette in keeping the head out of the door. And the cigarette is not recovered for the next stop like we would do in Italy, extinguishing it on the shoe's sole: they simply throw it away. You must know that, if the gasoline costs 700 liras a litre, the average cost of 25 cigarettes is 7,000 liras [in Italy: 1 gasoline litre = 1,500 liras - 25 cigarettes 3,600 liras on average]. I do think that the prohibitionism has its being reason in the greater government's incomes ensured by the cigarettes' hyper-waste becoming from two smoke's gulps done greedily and helter-skelter.

Taking the Plant's instructions in my pocket, I catch a taxi for Sydney's central station where I book a train up to Maitland, 16,000 inhabitants, around 200 km northwards the capital. Two hours of trip cheered by an infinity of eucalyptuses, lagoons, ranges like our Apennines, grassy spaces of an English green used for golf. The train is on time and at 13:30 o'clock William John Plant, 74 well borne years, and his son David, they are waiting for me at the station. At first sight I read the cordiality in their gestures and in the look. They take me to the Caledonian Hotel, a stonethrow from the railway station, and then we reach the Bill's house, in wood, plunged in the green, in the western outskirts of the town.

Here I will spend hours and hours in catching documentation, often photocopying, sometimes directly translating the more meaningful passages of problems from time suspended which finally find an answer. Pick up and pick up, after a month I'm forced to bequeath to Bill a tracksuit because my suitcase is bursting and my hand luggage, that I throw with indifference - and with a Maciste's air - in front of the eyes of the airport check-in employee, only looking at it it's telling as much it's heavy: 20 kgs. I sketched an excuse to get mercy: "That's because of the science!" They asked whether I was a scientist, I answered half yes and half not, but truly the flight was full loaded and so gladly I paid the excess: if I had acquired what I was jealously carrying to Italy, the price would have been at least ten times so much.

In Bill's company the day was running peacefully, often I was breaking off my searches and we were exchanging our points of view on chicken's genetics, not only, but on the life, sometimes bitter, sometimes cheered by friendship like that was strengthening within us. At midday a small snack, maybe two salty peanuts along with a beer; for dinner I exhibited myself in risotti which ever have been my forte.

Saffron and mushrooms had the approval of the customs, and then Bill couldn't stop himself from communicating via ether to the friends who cast anchor offshore of New Caledonia: "Today very tasteful Italian food, Risotto milanese." And I, suddenly, in background: "...alla milanese...", and I heartily laughed up one's sleeve. Also Bob, the old big dog, didn't disdain my kitchen, licking its moustaches by now hoary when he could attack a risotto with asparagus, or with four cheeses, or alla milanese, or seasoned with garlic-oil-capsicum.

Friday is the day on which Bill, he also handicapped because of his eyes but less than others are, he devotes himself to the meeting of all that people who have had various health problems. A bus of Maitland's Community goes round the town, a trip on a vast territory, not studded by buildings but by cottages of one floor at maximum. I took part to three meetings and I could tell that never I felt myself from abroad. I fraternised immediately and I tried to cheer somehow those few hours I was spending with people that, beyond to own beloveds, they have also lost the well-being.

Few days after my arrival I visited the Newcastle's hospital, nearly 30 km from Maitland. Newcastle is a harbour on the Pacific mainly used for the coal which is plentifully quarried in Hunter Valley where Maitland is laying. Never I saw trains so long and so overloaded by the precious material. So long like in the movie pictures!

The Newcastle's Hospital is a wonderful work of modern architecture, functional, ample, pleasant, plunged into the eucalyptuses, in the surroundings of the city and where a very wide park is stretching: here, without hardships, I admired the ancient inhabitants of this Southern land: kangaroos, koalas, emus, swarms of yellow crested cockatoos, ducks, native hens; no pelicans and black swans, which at the contrary in wildness dot the marshes that often frame the railway. What a capital in black swans! I told to Bill, acquainting him with the cost in Italy of a couple of these birds. In the Bill's garden I saw a rabbit and suddenly informed him, thinking that it was escaped from its pen. No, Bill told, it's only a rabbit which didn't fall into the trap. A year the cat of my sister Joyce lost hind limbs. We have still plenty of them around.

Every day I was acquiring new experiences and material, each day a small or a big progress. Each night about 10 o'clock, when in front of 54 of Bonar Street I was awaiting for a taxi to get the hotel, Bill was asking "Some progress today?", and I did reply yes. It was the truth, like were true the Bill's dedication and the care in order that each day would not to be empty and useless. They haven't been empty days, I swear, repaid over all by a friendship it's difficult to run into. Bill inspires confidence and devotion, more and more difficult good to retrieve.

Halfway of my stay in Maitland we go to Taree, 200 km northwards. The train winds slowly on the rails that skirt rocky hillocks used as grazing. Bill states that there exist cultivated soils in New South Wales, but I don't agree, because never he saw to what kind of chessboard has been transformed our Padana Lowland. They are pastures for cattle and sheep, which represent a big slice of the rural activity. Taree is a little town, 20,000 inhabitants roughly, with a beautiful commercial centre, the Mall, wide streets like in all recently founded cities, recently in comparison with our ones which often are bosting at least of a Roman founder. Here everything began 200 years ago, and they made great strides thanks to the people's mixture. In Sydney is printed a daily newspaper even in Greek.

Frank Fogarty is awaiting for us in the station, he also widower like me and Bill, without an arm, Irish stemmed, a daughter nun, another one in England working with very good results in computer science, two sons. Frank is a man of few words but with a big heart like so. His house is ours. Man of big talent, stubborn like an Irishman, he put on in his own mind to transfer the barred of the Plymouth Rock, the par excellence barred, the most beautiful in absolute, to transfer it into the Pekin, like here rightly they call the dwarf Cochin.

He turned out well: he took dwarf Plymouth Rock, mated it with the Pekin and recovered all latter's characters. His Pekin is barred, our one is only cuckoo. His selection has been iron, so iron that one day, coming back from a stroll to the pens, I tell to Frank that I saw there a dead Pekin hen.

He does reply me that she wasn't beautiful and that he stretched her neck (I was imagining him in stretching her neck with only an arm!) and that he forgot to take away. I blush with shame, because my selector's ability is null and void, I feel myself an unworthy ANSAV member (our Italian Breeders' Federation).

Frank also is worrying about my manias. He accompanies me to a bookshop, a step that cannot be missed out when I reach a new town, he accompanies me to a photographic hunting but I'm able to scrape together only few egrets which crowd in keeping the cattle company to ensure their parasites. But the photographic hunting is too much scanty and then Frank sails for a farm, where turkeys are raised. I think that in Italy I have seen plenty of turkeys, but I'll go to see the Australian ones too! Turkeys aren't any more and so he shows me only the pen where they mate and we go back to home.

In the late afternoon we get out of Taree for about ten kms reaching a relic of pluvial forest, where hundreds year old banyans do lord it, the *Ficus bengalensis*, with a huge foliage having a circumference sometimes of 500 meters, adorned like Christmas trees by restless clusters of fruit bats waiting for the dusk to feed on fruits and nectar.

Finally it turns clear why Frank wants to show me the turkey. It's the brush turkey, so-called because it resembles a turkey - but it isn't - and because it piles up enormous lot of leaves and rubble to build a nest. The Australian brush turkey is the common name of *Alectura lathami* (alectura means tail of rooster), galliform megapode spread along the eastern Australian coastal belt. The eggs are laid the point downwards, the male looks after the rubble airing adjustment in order to slacken or poke the fermentative processes which supply the required warmth to their disclosure. A big natural incubator from which the chicks come out quite self-sufficient and never will know the mother, running freely through the forest.

The photocopies of the correspondence Bill is doing since 25 years with scientists and breeders through the world form part of 20 kgs baggage's excess. As soon as I began to look through the Bill's files I realised how much these letters were priceless: genetic, archaeological and evolutionistic problems are handled in plain epistolary style, not in the irritating academic lilt. I propose to Bill to do a book of them, he hesitates, then agrees, and at present it's in processing: I'm preparing the master copies. Then, the friend Tony Mills, armed with an ultramodern photocopier, will see to multiply the master copies when corrected in Italy by the undersigned and by Bill, because next spring I will have the honour of his visit during two months.

Tony lives in open country, 5 km from the centre, 10 meters from the railway to Taree. He breeds chickens it's worthwhile to see. He is the President of the Pekin Club of the NSW and Bill is its Assistant Secretary, while David Plant is Secretary; they assembled a unique work: the Australian Pekin's standard, result of years and years of searches and correspondence with the late Frank Gary (USA - American Bantam Association), a book that should not be missing in our library, nevertheless it's in English.

How this book is born? In 1982 William Plant published a volume containing general information on Pekin's history and breeding, entitled *Pekin Bantam in Australia*. In the same period, within the Pekin Club of the NSW, it became more and more pressing the request of a formulation of the Australian Pekin colours' standard, because quite a lot of Breeders during the poultry shows each time exhibited new varieties. Meanwhile the Club was picking up information as much as possible about this race, and thus the standard decreed 18 colour's varieties, the type was reviewed making it more easily understandable through plenty of articles regularly appeared in quarterly Club's Newsletter. The authors' dedication was not in providing photographic images, but on the contrary in giving sketches in order the ideal type to be reached. All these things along with the elements on raising and selecting have been assembled in adding basic genetics' information to address the breeder in getting the different colours by the due crossings.

The co-editors picked up all the information patiently scraped together during 12 years, allowing the Pekin's fanciers to have available a complete and exhaustive work from every point of view in which to find an answer for any query. The history of the Club - founded in 1955 - was also restored. Tony Mills and David Plant worked on the section regarding the Standard with David's co-ordination, Chris Hardman put the manuscripts into the computer allowing the publication of the work that came to light in July 1993, spread throughout Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Germany, USA, Italy, Ukraine and France.

Indisputably Tony's breeding offers the opportunity to judge the selecting abilities of the Australian friends: giant and dwarf Ancona carrying very few white even in old birds, dwarf light Wyandotte, giant and dwarf Chinese Langshan black, blue and white (rare), obviously Pekin in nearly all colours, exceptional the white.

In spite of the almost grotesque hygienic precautions on the aircraft, the germs are omnipresent. Strolling between Tony's cages and fences I stumble upon a mottled Pekin cock with a good sinusitis. I ask from Tony whether he is treating the illness: "Yes, by antibiotics." I suggest him to operate the fowl being the sinusitis at a such point that the medication can only to stop the infection's spreading to the surrounding tissues and not to work out the sinusitis. I ask from Tony whether sometimes he has done a such operation. Almost startled: "No!" We prepare a surgical table using the patio of the house being of a suitable height, as sheet a newspaper, as teasel a paper handkerchief, as scalpel half shave's blade, to clean up a crochet. A cut like a Master, a swift cleaning of the pus, and the rooster breathes a sigh of relief, obviously not through the nose yet.

The stench of the abundant and evil-smelling pus will persist in my nose, as usual, the whole day. It was the last day of my stay in Maitland and as I couldn't have news the following day, I wrote to Tony to know about the cockerel. All right and it recovered.

At 8 o'clock of the morning of Saturday 3rd June 1995, Bill and David help me to load up my luggage on the train. Obviously tears are restrained, we are men after all! But we will meet again, I tell me, we somehow will meet again.

Bill accepted my invitation and he will attend as observer the Entente Européenne in Bergamo in 1996.

Valenza, December 8th 1995



Stromberg Publishing Company

Loyl Stromberg, Publisher

PHONE: (218) 543-4228 - 587-2222

PINE RIVER, MINNESOTA 56474

April two, 1996

GOOD MORNING BILL:

Dr Corti has told me of your visiting him for two months. You have much, much to look forward to.

I must admit that I'm not that adventuresome. My overseas travelling always has been with a tour group with a guide to keep us on the right track.

Sad but at this date...POULTRY OF THE WORLD is not yet printed.

The publisher estimates....now for MAY FIRST!! One delay....then another HAS THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN AUSTRALIA....

ever issued a rooster stamp (or stamps) If so....can you get me some. My goal is to do a picture framing of rooster stamps for over the world.

This of course would be for the POULTRY MUSEUM. I now have stamps for Japan, Finland, Rumania, East Germany, Cuba....and two for the USA. Will welcome some rooster stamps if they are available. Some of my stamps were purchased from Veronica Mayhew.

Officially we are supposed to have Spring....warm weather. However, it snowed last night with more in the forecast. Have two feet of snow in front of my office....yet to thaw. Maybe it will happen after Easter????

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY EASTER!





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

P.O. Box G13, Honiara
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Telegrams: MINAF - Phone: 21327 - Fax: (677) 21955

Mr. Russell Parker
P.O. Box 242
Tenterfield NSW 2379 - AUSTRALIA

Date: 27/3/96

Dear Mr Parker,

I have your letter regarding the jungle fowl and will attempt to provide the information requested.

Known locally as Santa Cruz Chicken, bush fowl, Temotu game fowl and probably other names, it is found almost exclusively in Temotu Province. They were said to have been introduced by Captain Mendana when he attempted to start a settlement in Graciosa Bay on Santa Cruz (Nendo) Island in 1595. They have flourished in the environment due to their flying ability and lack of natural predators. It is said that similar chickens are seen in the Banks group of Islands, Northern Vanuatu.

These chickens are commonly seen in villages on Santa Cruz, tethered by a leg. They are caught by snares or nets in the bush. Several I have seen look like crosses between game fowl and domestic poultry. There is apparently no lack of the birds in the wild on Santa Cruz

As a trial of their usefulness in crossbreeding for village type of dual purpose bird, I arranged the purchase of 4 hens and 2 roosters from Santa Cruz in 1995 (\$12 Solomon each). These are now at Tenavatu farm near Honiara but to date we have no progeny. I have no knowledge of any other captive breeding programs.

For more information you can write to:
Chief Field Officer Agriculture Division
Lata
Temotu Province
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Mr Peter Haeo, the Manager of Tenavatu Farm has agreed to take some photographs of the Santa Cruz chickens for you , he will forward them on when developed. Perhaps you could pay him film and processing costs when completed.

I hope you find this information of interest.

Yours faithfully,

Don Moir
Director of Livestock
for: Permanent Secretary
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

4-4-1996

Dear Bill,

Looks like I have finally got somewhere. I will keep you informed and get photos when received. I am trying to get \$ 1500 together for a quick trip to Solomon Islands. Difficult will my son now at University. Best wishes.



Dr. Elio Corti

Medico Chirurgo - Specialista in Cardiologia

Via del Castagnone 30 - 15048 VALENZA AL - Italia

☎ (39) - 0131 - 924278

5-4-1996

Dear Bill,

Received letter N 3. OK for the letters and photocopies you sent. I have not Further Notes on the Jungle Fowl and Pacific. Happy if you bring a copy.

Carefoot wrote to me giving his phone number and a list of train going to Preston. Don't worry about Clive, I am organising all we need.

Later, this morning, I hope to have a definitive answer from my Travel Agent. I will achieve this letter with last and definitive news.

For the moment you must know the following:

1 - Monday April 29th, the same day you are coming to Italy, I am going to London. I will await for you in front of the door of the international arrivals Tuesday 30th at 5.20 o'clock, when the aircraft is landing. To reach the door may be you need spent nearly one hour. No problems for me.

2 - In London is living a woman friend and ex-patient of mine, from Valenza, and he is very happy to give us the opportunity to let our baggage in her home. So, you must organise, before the departure from Maitland, a little quantity of things (clothes, underwear, tooth-brush, etc) to put in my soft bag to reach Preston. The rest of my and your baggage will rest in the home of my friend.

3 - When ready, in the morning of the same day of your arrival in London, we take the train to Preston from Euston Station of London. We have a train each hour, and the duration of the trip is 2 hours and half. Before the departure I will ring to Clive to say him the train we took.

4 - We will stay in Chipping until the afternoon of 2nd of May, because Clive is busy in a business convention beginning 3rd of May. We let Chipping to reach London. We will stop and sleep in the home of my friend.

5 - The day after our arrival in London, it is Friday 3rd. The British Museum without doubt is open, and from this moment I let you to choose what you prefer to do and what you have in your mind. We have available nearly 4 days. May be it's possible to meet Veronica at Sunday 5th of May, or the day before, as you want. May be you desire to visit the city of your ancestors etc.

6 - You must know that I have fixed the departure from England Monday 6th, at 17.45, to arrive in Milano at 20.45 (only 2 hours of fly, because of the different time Italy-England).

7 - I am in touch to purchase a walking phone. When I have the number I will communicate to you. So, if during your fly you need something, you can find me in every moment. Remember that it's forbidden to use this phone in the aircraft, and thus the sole moments it is not operating it's during my fly to London.

Remember that the maximum weight of your NON-HAND-BAGGAGE (the valise) is 20 kgs. In your hand baggage you can put the heavier things, and at the airport's check-in they don't check the weight of this bag.

Definitive fly plan:

AUSTRALIA - LONDON

FLY British Airways N 10

Departure from Sydney April 29 at 15.15

Stop in Bangkok after 10 hours

Arrival in London, Heathrow airport, April 30 at 5.20

LONDON - ITALY

Departure from London May 6 at 17.55 - arrival in Milano at 20.45

ITALY - AUSTRALIA

Departure from Milano June 24 at 19.35

arrival in London at 20.30

Departure from London at 22.25

Arrival in Sydney June 26 at 5.25

1 - You must be in Sydney international airport 2 hours and half before the departure - so, at midday nearly

2 - You must bring your ticket, prepaid in Italy, at the ticket desk of the British Airways in the airport

3 - They know that you are accompanied until London

4 - At this moment the check-in is open. You go to the desk of the check-in of your fly with your baggage, the passport, the ticket, and even the insurance (I think). Here, during the assignment of your place in the aircraft, remember to ask a SMOKING place. I hope that this fly is not whole smoke forbidden like mine. If so, you can smoke only in Bangkok. I will buy the ticket the next week, and when it is ready in Sydney, you must phone to the British Airways desk in the airport to be sure that your ticket is available. I will phone to you when the ticket is ready in the airport.

5 - After the check-in, you are free, but I think that some people is taking you to bring you to the customs.

6 - Remember that it's forbidden to smoke in the airport. Only outward it's possible.

7 - During the fly the best way to pass the time is to sleep. At any moment you need something you can call the stewards. They are very kind.

8 - At the arrival in London you are again accompanied until the police and customs. They will organise, without doubt, even your baggage until the door where I am waiting for you.

Good Easter, even to Joyce, Max, David and Chris.





Др. Михайло Николаевич РОМАНОВ
УКРАЇНСЬКА АКАДЕМІЯ АГРАРНИХ НАУК
ІНСТИТУТ ПТАХІВНИЦТВА
БОРКИ УКРАЇНА
Mikhail ROMANOV
Poultry Research Institute
Borky, Zmiiv District, Kharkiv Region 313410 - Ukraine
Fax: (05747) 3 49 58

May 3, 1996.

Dear Mr. Plant,

I have pleasure to read your kind letter of March 28. It is a great regret for me that I cannot be present at your friendly meeting in sunny Valenza in May. But there were some serious obstacles in arranging visa in time. Besides, I must be in Borky till May 16 in connection with organizing the 2nd Ukrainian Poultry Conference because I am appointed to be the secretary of this conference and this requires a lot of my time and forces. Third, now it is hard time to prepare my Doctor thesis for the official defence that will be held in June.

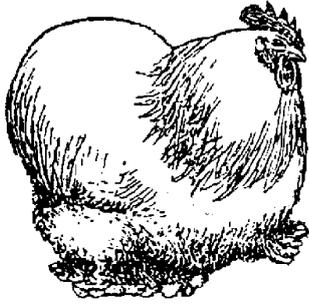
None the less I wish you and Dr. Elio Corti to have a good time in Italy and other European countries. I am most admired by your young activity as well as disinterested hospitality of Dr. Corti.

I am glad that some of my comments to your papers may be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any information or assistance.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Warmest regards and best of success.

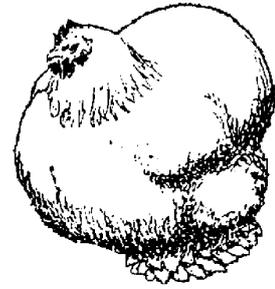
Yours very faithfully,



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
Licenced since 1939

**Head Librarian
Cambridge University - Cambridge**

17-5-1996

Dear Sir,

In 1980 I wrote to your Library requesting information for my research into the distribution of the domestic fowl.

I received a reply from Mr Lees in answer to my query. It was in regard to the visit to Easter Island by Roggeveen in 1722 and contained in Hakluyt Society papers. In an appendix Carl Friederich Behrens spoke of fowls with a likeness to fowls from the Vierländen.

I have noted in a paper by Robert Langdon of the Australian National University in Canberra that his reference is *like those of the Fatherland*. Is this a translation and would it be possible to obtain full quotation from Behrens' appendix? (I.e. the text in original language).

There does seem some confusion about this word. At present I am consulting with Dr Elio Corti on this and other matters.

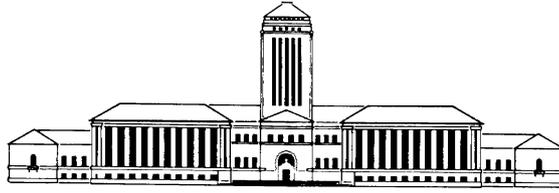
A reply can be forwarded to Dr Corti to his address you find on the envelope.

Thanking you.

Bill Plant

Enclosed the references of Mr Langdon, as follows:

Andrew Sharp (ed.), *The Journal of Jacob Roggeveen* (Oxford 1970), 95; Bolton Glanvill Corney (ed.), *The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe Gonzales...to Easter Island in 1770-1*, Hakluyt Society, ser.2, no.13 (Cambridge 1908), 134.



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23 May 1996

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Dr Corti,
Via del Castagnone 30,
15048 Valenza Al. Italy.

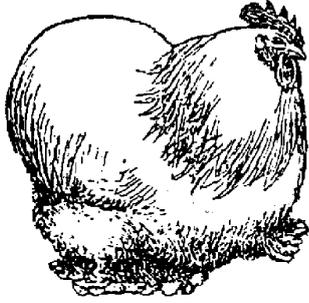
Dear Dr Corti,

In his letter to the Library of 17th May, which Mr Lees has passed to me, William Plant asks us to reply to you.

I enclose a copy of the relevant section from the translation of Carl Friederich Behrens' narrative of Jacob Roggeveen's visit to Easter Island which appears as Appendix I of *The Voyage of Captain Don Felipe Gonzales...to Easter Island in 1770-1...*, transcribed, translated and edited by Bolton Glanvill Corney (Cambridge: Hakluyt Society, 1908). Unfortunately this Library does not have a copy of the German original, *Der wohlversuchte Süd-Länder...*, von Carl Friederich Behrens (Leipzig: Monath, 1739), but it is held by the British Library, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG, to which you may care to write.

Yours sincerely,

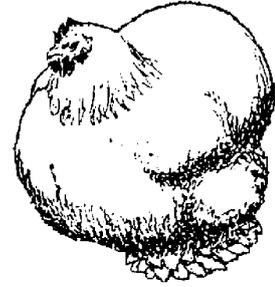
Colin T. Clarkson,
Head of the Reference Department.



Breeding Pekins
since 1965

William J. Plant

*54 Bonar Street
Maitland 2320
NSW
Australia*



Amateur Radio
Station VK2AMM
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**Head Librarian
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4-6-1996

Dear Sir,

Together with Dr Elio Corti of Valenza - Italy - we are conducting research into the origin and distribution of the domestic chicken.

We have written to the Cambridge University Library and were advised to contact the British for further information.

The information we would like is a copy of the original text (in German language we believe) relay to Jacob Roggeveen's visit to Easter Island in 1722 written by Carl Friederich Behrens.

Any assistance will be most appreciated.

Bill Plant



George CARTER

Professor at Texas A&M University
COLLEGE STATION TE 77843 - USA

July 6, 1996

Dear Bill,

I will send this to Australia.

Send me a copy of your book. I will pay. I'm off to Maine for summer. My chicken book was shot down by the Anthropologists! I have been writing a chapter for the England Research Association on *diffusion*.

Interesting recent findings. The jade pieces from La Venta, Mexico, are *marked*. The marks read in Chang Dynasty language and name well known people in China!

My argument runs. The Spanish had Dung Hill Fowl bare legged, single combed, showy tail, held up at 30°, sharp upcurved spurs, and the hen layed white shelled eggs. The Amerinds had Melanotic Silkies - over all of Latin America -, Frizzle Fowl, brown or tinted eggs, blue eggs layers - South America and into Honduras -, mixed bred fowls with many Asiatic features, fluffy feathers, short wings and legs - these I have seen in Mexico. In Japan and India very small chickens, ditto Mexico, probably elsewhere.

Mexican says: "Ours were small". The Spanish could not have brought these for they didn't know them at 1600 AD, except by hear says Aldrovandi.

Names for melanotic chickens are virtually identical in India (Karkuath, Chogo Kara, etc) to the Arawak (northern interior of South America). Names for chicken - Tarahumba and related tribes - Totori, Tori, Tottori. Japanese: Cehua Tori (yardbird, ondori cock, mendori hen. Or just Dori.)

In Japan very small chickens are the aboriginals, many regional variants. Very like the wild Gallus. In Japan they are regional type names.

Religion etc. Most people worldwide would not eat chickens or eggs originally. Chickens are ritual, sacrificial birds. The melanotic is most important. Maya most notable for this. Very close similarity in beliefs about chickens, especially melanotics. Great detail in Carl Johannensen's work. Question? Does this go back to the Chinese Olmec. The Maya are the cultural descendents.

Name of last Inca Atahualpa. Ata, chicken in Ecuador many variants. Hualpa, chicken all over Inca empire, invariant. So the last Inca was named chicken-chicken. Obviously honorific.

All the best.

George F Carter

Edmund Hoffmann
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October 15, 1996

Dear Bill,

Well it is a small small world. I had asked Dr Romanov to translate Mazing paper on the origin of the duck and when it arrived I find that he has been working with you and Dr Corti on a book. His wording suggests that both you and Dr Corti have a book but I assume that it is just a book of Dr Corti because I have had no news of you writing a book. Incidentally the paper by Mazing was not too much. It did contain the fact that his crossing of the Mallard and the Pekin revealed that the white egg color of the Pekin was due to a recessive gene. Of course Lancaster had mentioned that in his review but it is nice to have seen the source.

Loyl Stromberg has sent me a copy of his book *Poultry of the World*. It makes me feel sad because it represents so much effort and yet with a little more editing and scholarship it would have been so much better. It refers to your contributions on origins and in fact grants you a doctorate. Hello Dr Plant. Anyway his pictures are good and I suppose even a bad book is better than none. This reminds me that Schippers was also working on a book along the same lines but I've had no news on its progress. If true, Schippers book will be more scholarly.

I have been neglecting my studies on Muscovy Duck the past two years mostly due to my efforts to breed and sell (the latter a new field for me) pure lines for certain niche markets in China. I have also sold the pure lines for making white tailed brown egg layers, e.g., DERCO bred in Belgium the past 25 years.

One of the more interesting spin-offs of the breeding has been to find in my attempts to make a black tailed red dwarf recessive whites among the crosses of JA 57 and its sexing errors (and only recognized after 6 generations). IO only have 5 white birds - very bad picture enclosed - but I think they will make a very saleable line.

The JA 57 is a wonderful bird and I expect its derivatives to be wonderful too. Dominant white is carried on a very small chromosome and I don't know that it is linked to anything important so no important genes should have been lost from the genome of the JA 57.

Over the past two years I have collected information for a *History of the JA 57* and, as I don't recall ever sending you a copy, one is enclosed. You can see my enthusiasm for dwarfs and especially this one. Bill, I would appreciate it if you would pass the *History* along to Meg Miller after you have read it. Reminds me I have not heard from her in a long time.

About 2 years ago, a woman Chinese "geneticist" whom I have known casually the past 20 years asked me to make a recessive white pure for gold. This was done by mating New Hampshire pattern birds known to carry recessive white. Lo and behold, in the generation in which the pure cc were supposed to segregate about 25% of the chickens have red heads and some red backs although they feather out white as the second picture enclosed will show. I suppose you can recall all those smoky and black pigmented dead white down of White Plymouth Rock chicks.

I think the red heads are pure for *e^{wh}* as well as cc but will not know until I back cross some onto New Hampshires. (NH that do not carry c). Incidentally this breeding work is being done in France.

Dr Corti wrote to tell me of his proposed tour of Europe with you. I connected him with Glenn Whitley who was mentioned to me in a letter from our old friend George Carter - George is still smarting over the rejection of his manuscript. Now he has a new worry - carbon dating does support his contention of the presence of precolumbian chickens. As you may have heard, poor George had a stroke and despite a good recovery he now is more easily frustrated. I've not heard from Glenn in a long time so don't know how things went.

Well I have rambled on for too long. If you did write a book let me know.

All the best.



Taken from a letter written in 1989 to Bill Plant and George Carter because of their confidence in the polyphyletic origin of the chicken.

When Roy Crawford wrote in *Poultry Breeding and Genetics* the latest summary of information on the origin in 1990, he overlooked Hagadoorn.

Overlooked opinion on the origin of chicken

Darwin believed that *Gallus bankiva* must have been the ancestor of all our present breeds of domestic fowl because of their general coloration, single comb and double wattle. In *Animal Breeding* Hagadoorn asks the usual questions: is this *Gallus* a species so easily tamed that it probable that it was taken into cultivation by man? Can we explain the enormous variability and multiformity of our domestic chickens by assuming that one single wild species was taken into cultivation?

Hagadoorn answers that, of the three species of living Jungle Fowl, *Gallus bankiva* certainly does not have the disposition which would cause it to stay around the house where it was raised as a chick. By contrast *Gallus sonnerati* is the only wild species that is tameable.

He writes: "Several of my friends and correspondents have raised chicks from wild-found eggs under domestic hens and two men have bred the birds in aviaries. They are enormously flighty and hard to tame, and they seem to lack the strong homing instinct of our domestic chickens. Chicks running with a hen act like pheasant chicks: they roost early and tend to wander off sometimes abandoning their foster mother, or even taking hen with them, so that she becomes as wild as they."¹

"*Gallus varius* chicks will act in the same way although adults confined to an aviary will become tame enough. *Gallus sonnerati* chicks, on the other hand, (according to Ghigi who has had considerable experience with the wild species) happen to have a strong homing instinct - chicks and adults can be given their freedom and will come home to roost. These facts make it quite impossible to assume that *bankiva* is the ancestor of our domestic poultry in the sense of this being the first species to be taken into domestication."

To Darwin lack of qualities seen in domestic chickens was a strong argument against either *Gallus varius* or *sonnerati* having contributing to the evolution of our domestic chickens. On the other hand wild *bankiva* also differs in some striking points from domestic fowl. The males undergo an eclipse moult. Wild males have peculiarly shaped hackle-feathers, with the tips curving from front to back. In the breeding season the hackles are pointed and yellow; after the seasonal (summer) moult, the hackle-feathers are short and rounded and much less conspicuously colored. e.g. Hagadoorn also observes that the plumage of wild species varies somewhat according to their locality.

¹ Similar to pheasant - bred for 3000 years in captivity and not domesticated yet.

Hagadoorn believed that one species could not have produced the diversity of domestic fowl. This diversity can be explained by tamed *sonnerati* being crossed with one or more of the other wild species. Although it would have seemed absurd to assume in Darwin's time that the appearance of "inheritable" novel characteristics could be considered the result of crossbreeding, Hagadoorn thinks new combinations of genes can account for the great diversity of domestic fowl without the need to postulate the existence of a now-extinct wild species.

Although wild-living species are relatively pure and often not widely different from one another, we must remember that they differ in many dozens of genes. All those genes that are not common property are recombined in the hybrids germ cell in a kaleidoscopic way, so that the resulting potential variability and also the obvious multiformity of the hybrid populations is prodigious.²

Selection of striking looking individuals especially males, is common even among primitive people who otherwise seem to have very little pride in their birds and give them only a minimum of attention. This may account for such traits as rose comb, bare neck, white color, blue eggs?

Refreshing though Hagadoorn's point of view may be, can it be defended? Those who endorse the conventional point of view, a monophyletic origin of the chicken because of Darwin's view put, I think, too much responsibility on poor Charley who, despite his passion for prolixities, did not have time to give the question more than passing attention. But the evidence for the idea that because of the diversity of domestic fowl there must have been another, probably giant, now extinct progenitor, is no more persuasive.

The authoritative Gray's *Bird Hybrids* reports fertile hybrids among crosses between *bankiva* and *sonnerati*, *varius*, and also *lafayettei*, the Ceylon jungle fowl.

Hagadoorn is also the first (chronologically speaking), to my knowledge, to mention that primitive people take an enormous interest in raising young animals and birds as pets and this tradition persists in less developed countries to this day.

He makes a distinction between tame and domesticated species, whether born in captivity or raised from eggs found in the forest. Domesticated species have instincts which bind them to the home. (He did not differentiate between domestic and domesticated species. Domestic species by definition reproduce in captivity. Domesticated species e.g. Indian elephant reproduce in the wild from whence they are captured and tamed.)

References:

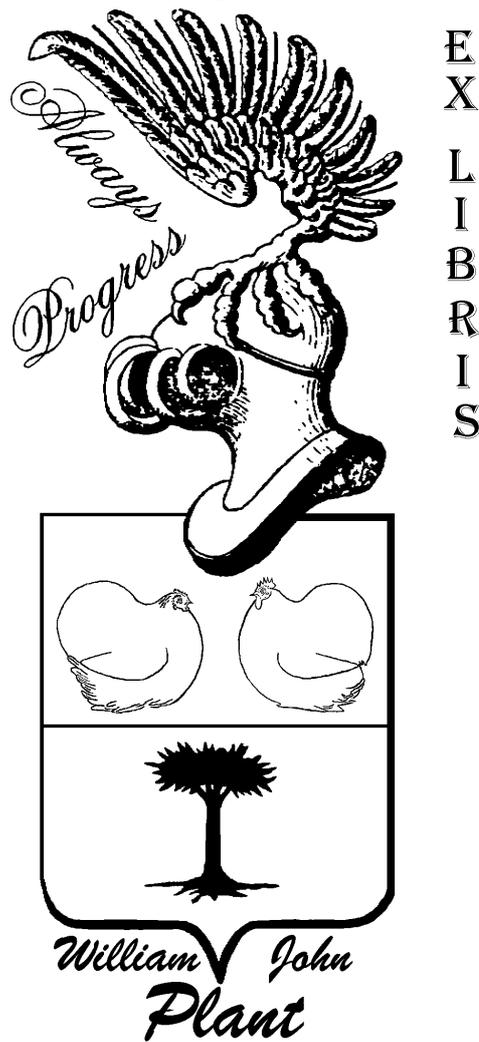
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² Hagadoorn even disputes Darwin's view that the Mallard is the ancestor of all domestic ducks. Allowing for the fact that the Mallard is easily tameable, the diversity of domestic ducks (which is admittedly much less than that of domestic chickens) is the result of species crosses with the Mallard.

Chicken bone recoveries
Chicken bone recoveries - supplement
Gallus species - Jungle fowl
Chinese or Australian Langshan history
Rare breeds and others
Australian Pit Game fowl
OEG colours description by A.J.Compton



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Notes on OEG
The mottle gene
History of Australian Game fowl
Some Australian Poultry History
Ducks and Geese
Australorp history
Rhode Island history



Claudia Deambroggio