

EE PIGEON AND POULTRY JUDGES MEETING

TREVISO, ITALY, 27-28 September 2014



Text and photos: Hristo Lukanov (BG)
Breed information kindly provided by Fabrizio Focardi FIAV
and Tiziano Trinci, president of FIAC (Italian Pigeon Federation)

"Nice place, delicious food and unique wine" - in this way with a few words the meeting location in Treviso can be described. In this situation, a number of pigeons and poultry people met at the end of September.

The thing that brought together judges and candidate judges from across Europe was the Annual Judging Seminar / meeting organized by EE. Besides the cozy atmosphere and wonderful gastronomy, our hosts from Italy presented their interesting breeds of pigeons, chickens, turkeys and ducks.

In the 'Pigeon' section, several large Italian breeds of pigeons and some wonderful little Italian breeds were presented. Themes like the filling the European judging cards were discussed at the beginning of the program. Next began the practical part of this topic. All further presentations were about the interesting Italian breeds of pigeons (Viaggiatore italiano, Triganino Modenese, Romagnolo, Piacentino, Ascolano, Cravattato italiano Reggianino and Cravattato italiano Rondone): history, characteristics and current standards.

Below: The participants at the seminar organized by the EE 'Pigeon' section.



In the 'Poultry' section, some Italian poultry breeds like the emblematic Livorno and Valdarno were presented, and apart from that also some other popular chicken breeds. The program was as follows: Theory of the Valdarno and Livorno chicken breeds - Fabrizio Foccardi (IT), Theory Pekin Bantam - Anthony Ré (FR), Theory Italian Turkeys and Anatra Veneto (Veneto Duck) - Andy Verelst (BE), Theory Silkies- Mathieu Leuridan (FR), Different forms of pea comb - Andy Verelst (BE), Theory of the old crested European breeds (Dutch crested and Padovana) - Hendrik Timmer (NL) and Theory Ko Shamo - Urs Lochmann (CH). Of course with a visual presentation of the birds of the discussed breeds.



Above: The participants at the seminar organized by the EE "Poultry" section.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate once again the hosts from Italy for the hospitality. I wish there will be more of such fruitful meetings in the future and I hope the ideas and suggestions that came from this meeting will be realized and help to improve the level of judges from Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

Here is a concise introduction to the Italian breeds.

THE ITALIAN PIGEON BREEDS

Viaggiatore Italiano da Esposizione ~ Italian Show Homer

Origin

The breed was developed at the beginning of 1900, starting with homing pigeons of a size above average, with very developed nose wattles.

Overall impression

In appearance they resemble a robust and muscular homing pigeon, with quite upright stance; a rounded head, characterized by well developed wedge-shaped wattles, increasing in volume in older birds.

Colour varieties: white, black, black mottled head, blue black bar, blue black checkered, blue grizzle, black grizzle, ash red bar, ash red checkered, ash red spread.

Note: The Italian Show Homer pigeon is not yet recognized by the EE.



Above: Viaggiatore italiano.

Below: TRIGANINO MODENESE.

All information on this breed can be read in our December 2014 issue, see <http://www.aviculture-europe.nl/nummers/14E06A02.pdf>





Above: Romagnolo.

ROMAGNOLO ~ Romagnol

Origin:

It was developed at the end of the 1800's, starting with pigeons bred for centuries in the countryside, at farms and farmhouses of the Bolognese and some provinces of Romagna and subsequently further refined. The name 'Romagnolo' was attributed to this pigeon in 1898 by prof. Chigi, given its greater spread in the districts of Romagna. [Romagna is an Italian historical region that approximately corresponds to the south-eastern portion of present-day Emilia-Romagna. *Editor*]

Overall impression:

A large sized pigeon, short, with compact body, with a broad, prominent and well-rounded chest and with horizontal or slightly upright carriage. The legs and toes are heavily covered with feathers. The flight of the Romagnol is quite heavy but not clumsy. The minimum weight, in adults, is 750 grams for females and 850 grams for the males. Measurements: height (from top of the head to the feet) 31 to 32 cm; length (from the tip of the chest to the tip of the tail) 32 to 34 cm. The pigeon in any case must respect the proportions resulting from the above measures, in relation to the structure of the bird.

Colour and marking:

Selves in white, black and spread ash, black barred blue and barred ash red (mealy), blue chequer and ash red chequer (mealy chequer), dominant red with lighter tail and lighter primaries (picture above), black mottled and black tigered.



Above: Piacentino.

PIACENTINO

Origin:

This breed was created in Emilia, and more specifically in the countryside around the city of Piacenza, in the nineteenth century, probably through crosses between indigenous pigeons of large size and Roman pigeons; it is also most likely that crossing with pigeons of the type of eastern Bagdad has contributed significantly to the developing of this breed. It is also called 'Pitone Piacentino' – a name derived from the dialect *Pitton*, used to indicate a pigeon of large size.

Overall impression:

A pigeon with strong but not stocky body, size above average, broad chest, with majestic bearing and expression, robust body, but not squat and carried as horizontal as possible. Its minimum weight is 750 grams for females and 800 grams for males. Its average length, from the chest to the tip of the tail, varies from 34 to 36 centimeters. Its average height, from the base of the foot to the top of the head, is from 31 to 33 centimeters. The pigeon in any case must respect the proportions resulting from the measures indicated above, in relation to the structure of the bird.

Colours: White, black, red, yellow.



Above: Ascolano.

ASCOLANO

Origin: This is the reconstruction of a very old breed, which was mentioned for the first time in a writing of 1768. They were once widespread on farms not only in the Marche (Central Italy), but also in Emilia and in Campania. It is probably the ancestor of the Romagnolo.

Overall impression: A very large pigeon, with broad chest, the body of medium length, the tail is bowed towards the ground, plumage rich, broad, not too tight; the legs and toes heavily covered with feathers.

Colour and marking: Black, white, black tigated and spotted. The black colour intensive and uniform, the neck with a lustrous beetle green sheen. The spotted birds should have the flights and tail as dark (coloured) as possible, the rest of the bird to have a black ground colour with white markings as evenly and equally distributed as possible.

Note: The Ascolano is not yet recognized by the EE.

SOTTOBANCA

Origin:

According to some researchers, the origin of the Sottobanca could be traced back to the fifteenth century. Certainly in the second half of 1800, in the countryside of Modena, through appropriate crossings, pigeons similar to the today's Sottobanca were obtained, which had to respond to the needs of meat production. The name 'Sottobanca' (literally: under the bench/bank) apparently derives from the fact that these pigeons like to hatch their eggs on the ground, between the boxes and benches that are located under porches, in rural farmsteads.

Overall impression:

Large size pigeon, high on the legs, with broad chest and proud bearing, horizontal body, relatively short in relation to the height. The head is adorned with a shell crest and comes with rosettes at each side. Its minimum weight is 850 grams for females and 900 grams for the males.

Colours

Self black, white, recessive red, recessive yellow, black sprenkle (magnano). There are also other important colours (at this time not recognised) that are useful for breeding the others, which are: dun; black mottled head; black derived from sprenkle, with black beak and nails (in self black the beak is horn colour).



Above: Sottobanca. Photo courtesy FIAC, Tiziano Trinci.



Above: Cravattato Italiano Reggianino.

CRAVATTATO ITALIAN

Origin:

An ancient breed, created in the city of Reggio Emilia and bred there for centuries; from its homeland this pigeon also draws the name by which it is commonly called: 'Reggianino' [diminutive of Reggiano] in reference to its smallness and gracefulness. Its origin can undoubtedly be placed at least around the sixteenth century. According to some authors this breed would have been created from crossings of Owl pigeons of African origin, with local pigeons, perhaps the type of the Triganini of Modena. It also seems certain that the pigeons of the variety 'Rondone' have been selected through crosses with Damascener pigeons, with whom they have extraordinary similarity.

Overall impression:

A small and lively pigeon, a domestic breed of graceful and gentle demeanour. It has an angular head, the neck with a well developed Frill (Cravat). The body is short and carried horizontally, the chest and back proportionally wide. It has a tendency to stand on tip toe and is relatively high on the leg compared to other Owl breeds.

It weighs approximately 300 grams and its overall length is between 18 and 20 cm. The sub-variety of this breed (the Rondone) may be a little larger, weighing up to 350 gram and length of 23 cm, they also have a head that is less angular than the other colours.

Colour and marking:

Self-coloured in white, black, dun, brown, recessive red, recessive yellow; blue with black bars; blue chequer; silver with dark bars (*Lattato*) with or without a golden chest colour; silver chequer (*Caprato*) with or without a golden chest; mealy with red bars, mealy chequer, cream with yellow bars (*Pastellino*), cream chequer, grizzle (*Zarzano*) in: black, brown, blue, ash red and yellow. There are also other Reggianini colours: almond (*Magnano*), blue qualmond (*Sgurafosso*), ash spread (*Argentino*), qualmond dun (*Pietra Marmo*), extreme dilute ash red (*Pietra bianca*); probably derived from crossing with other breeds but also from matings between different 'Reggianini' colours. Breed type in these colours is

less refined than in the Standard colours and for the time being, tolerance should be shown with colour and markings.

All colours must be intense and uniform (clear). The bars distinct, continuous and well separated, the chequering distinct and regular. Blues are preferred with a coloured rump (not white). In the ash reds and ash yellows the wing shield must be even in colour with distinct bars, the neck and chest the same colour as the wing shields. Barred birds will be paler, chequered birds slightly darker (to match the ground colour of the wing shield). The *Lactate* and *Caprati* (dilute blue with dark bars and chequering) with a golden (ochre) breast colour, the gold should extend to the whole breast. The *Zarzani* (grizzle) must have white frosting evenly distributed over the ground colour, with visible bars.

The Rondone is commonly considered a subvariety, because of its characteristic type and feather colour. The Rondone is bred in two markings: Rondone *lactate* (with black bars) and Rondone *fagiano* (with chequering, more or less dense, black). The Rondone is characterised by a delicate milky ice colour that covers the entire body, without any unevenness or dark shading. The flight feathers are lead grey(dark) the wing shields the same colour as the body, with dark bars or chequer marking that should always show two dark bars. The rump can be white tinged with blue. The tail colour may be a little darker than the ground colour with a black bar near the end of the tail.



Above: Cravattato Italiano Rondone.

Other Breed characteristics of the Rondone variety: The eye ceres are tolerated slightly more developed in the Rondone, colour in relation to the plumage colour, from white to blue-gray in the Rondone. Beak: always black in the Rondone variety.

Note by Mr. Tiziano Trinci, president of FIAC Italy: Today the standard in use is slightly outdated, and the Italian standard commission has started to refresh the standard. In the old version, the Rondone is considered a colour variety of the Reggianino, but indeed the pigeon is very different for size, height of the legs,

round of the head and bred only in ice colour. Now we have proposed a new standard for the Rondone and we are awaiting the opinion of the EE standard commission. As soon as the Rondone will be approved as a new different breed, we'll separate it from the Reggianino standard and we'll produce a new standard for the Reggianino. Italian and German clubs work together for a common breed line, and now, as you can see around Europe, German pigeons have longer legs than the Italian model. But be careful because the Reggianino is a little pigeon, and long legs mean long neck, so it is possible go out of standard size. I think at the end of this new year we'll have a new standard for the Reggianino accompanied by the official picture of Frindel. For the rest all depends from the ability of the breeders to cooperate to have a unique model in Europe.

For extensive breed descriptions of the Italian pigeons, see http://www.fi-ac.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=12&Itemid=161

ITALIAN POULTRY BREEDS

VALDARNO

Origin

The Valdarno is an ancient breed that originated in the region north of the valley of the river Arno, between Florence and Pisa. It was officially recognized in 1905 by the Italian Society of Aviculture, the official organ of that time.

After the Second World War, it was almost extinct but was officially presented again in 1998 at the National Poultry Championships in Italy.



Above: Valdarno rooster.

Overall impression

Dual-purpose breed, land fowl, rustic, with white flesh, and good egg laying, white eggs. Medium size, rather compact with large comb and wattles and white ear lobes.

Elegant and very lively. They are of great fertility, which is very important in breeding: one cock is enough for six or seven hens.
It is not very heavy poultry: male 2.5 -2.8 kg and female 2 to 2.3 kg.

Colour varieties

Only one variety: black.

The plumage of both sexes, is completely black with intensive green sheen. The down colour is slate black.

The following breed is probably the most know Italian breed:

LIVORNO (LEGHORN)

We have already published much information on this breed, for instance, see:

<http://aviculture-europe.nl/nummers/14E04A13.pdf>

But here is a nice photo of a white Livorno cockerel.



ITALIAN TURKEYS

There are several turkey breeds in Italy, but the problem is that they are hardly known outside Italy and not in the EE standard. We picked one out for you:

TACCHINO DI PARMA E PIACENZA ~ Turkey of Parma and Piacenza

Origin and characteristics

A very precise description of this breed comes from a rich iconographic collection of the painter Gaetano Chierici (1838-1920). There are also mounted specimens in the collection of the Museum of Natural History in Parma.

Different authors described the breed as a turkey of a size somewhat larger than the other local turkeys, with a mostly gray plumage, devoid of iridescent reflections and therefore not likely to be confused with a Bronze turkey. The skin of the turkey of Parma and Piacenza is very white, so that the animals once plucked were easily distinguished from the Romagna turkeys that often had a yellowish skin (A. Vecchi, 1944; G. Cornoldi, 1965). They were once widespread

in the district of the Duchy of Parma sent by rail to large cities like Milan and Bologna. Also the feathers were used in the fashion industry. The colour and marking of the breed are very similar to the American Narragansett and the Spanish turkey of Osca. Weight: adult male 12 kg. and adult female 6.5 kg.



Above: Interesting coloured Italian Turkeys.

Below: Veneto ducks.



ITALIAN DUCK BREED Germanata Veneta ~ Veneto duck

Origin and economic characteristics

Area of origin: Veneto, a region of northern Italy. [The region's capital and largest city is Venice.] The Germanata Veneta duck was derived from the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and its coloration and body form are unchanged. This breed is very rustic, and the female can be crossed with the Barbary duck to produce fat liver for pate. The female of the Germanata Veneta duck produces 100 to 120 eggs per year, which is less than the brown Tsaiya and Pekin ducks (Velez et al., 1996). Age of sexual maturity is 6 to 8 month.

Weight: Male: 3 kg. Female: 2.7 kg.



Above: Presentation of the old crested European breeds (Dutch crested and Padovana) by Hendrik Timmer (NL).

The other discussed poultry breeds (Pekin/Cochin bantam, Silky and Ko Shamo) will be published in one of the following issues. The highlights of the presentation by Hendrik Timmer on the Crested and Bearded Polands has been added to the article on the Bearded Polands by Luuk Hans, which is also in this issue.

During the discussions it became clear that the step to reach one European Standard is not that big a step. Fabrizio Focardi, president FIAV, also informed us that the Italian standards of their poultry breeds have been accepted by E.E. for the new future real European Standard.

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