

Old Variety Canary: Parisian Frill

HISTORY

All frilled varieties appear to have had common origin in an Old Dutch breed of canary in the eighteenth century. In the early days they were known simply by the general term of "Dutch" canaries, but during the nineteenth century, developments took place in various parts of the continent resulting in several distinct breeds. Originally, the only four breeds were recognized by the C.O.M.: Parisian Frill, North Dutch Frill, South Dutch Frill and Gibber Italicus. Today, the C.O.M recognizes most of the Old Varieties.

BREEDING

Frilled canaries are not usually difficult to breed, some strains being particularly vigorous and free, although as with all canaries, some indifferent breeders are to be found and often with a tendency towards being poor feeders.

MATING

Few breeders in this country have had any lengthy experience with these breeds and detailed information on mating, based on practical experience, thus is lacking. The generally accepted principles of livestock breeding should therefore be applied by mating together the best birds which conform most closely to the required standard. It should also be remembered that even those which do not quite come up to the standard, if well bred and suitably mated, may still produce good birds.

MOULTING

Frilled canaries present no particular problems at molting time and do not need to be color fed for exhibition.

SHOWING

In this country all frilled breeds can be shown in one type of show cage. This is similar in design to that of the Yorkshire but with a flat top instead of a rounded one. Frilled canaries need a certain amount of show training in order that they will be steady and hold themselves up well before the judge.

BREED STANDARD

Description and Standard translated from a pamphlet of the Societe Serinophile "Le Nationals"

The Parisian Frilled Canary is the giant of all known varieties of the canary. It is from 20 to 22 centimeters long, from the tip of the beak to the extremity of the tail, and has a wingspan of 29 to 30 centimeters. It is a well-built bird, robust and vigorous, prolific and a good singer like the common canary. It is

distinguished by several special characteristics which form its show properties. These are: 1. Type. 2. Feathering 3. Elegance.

Type: Its length of body and of feather, its massive contours, dense and soft, form an imposing and harmonious general effect.

Feathering: In the Parisian Frill three types of feather can be found. These are 1. Soft (the most sought after). 2. Ordinary, or semi-soft. 3. Hard. All three qualities of feather can be equally frilled.

Among the voluminous plumage of the Parisian Frill three principal kinds of frill can be distinguished.

1. The Mantle.
2. The Jabot.
3. The Fins.

The Mantle: This is formed by the feathers of the back which are divided by a central longitudinal parting between the two wings to fall as elegantly and symmetrically as possible on each side. The feathers of the mantle must be long and well furnished which adds to the size of the bird. Sometimes they extend well down towards the rump which is a good point. At shows exhibits having "shoulder", that is to say good width of mantle, will have an advantage.

The Jabot: This must be double-sided, that is to say that the frills, long and well-furnished, must adorn each side of the breast and abdomen to form a voluminous frill "shirt-front", symmetrical and in the form of a closed shell.

The Fins: These are composed of two bunches of feathers starting from the region of the thighs on each side of the bird to rise upwards concentrically round the wings. To be perfect, the two fins must be symmetrical and adorned with fine, soft feathers which are long and well curled up.