

Introduction.

It does seem remarkable that a distinctive breed of goose, such as the Sebastopol is, remained un-noticed by travellers and fanciers alike, and was not described until a pair attracted the attention of the Press when they were exhibited in Great Britain for the first time in 1860.

However, from 1886, and up to the present day, some authors have written with ambiguity regarding the initial importation of the Sebastopol Goose. At the present time (2014), the British Waterfowl Association's statement on this subject relies solely on Edward Brown's (1906 & 1929)^{3&4} un-attributable accounts; and the Domestic Waterfowl Club, although citing W. B. Tegetmeier (1873)¹⁹, dismisses the account as implausible.

In this paper, all known facts relating to the of origin of Sebastopol Geese (as first exhibited in England), their discovery, importation and distribution, and the people involved in this episode in waterfowl history, are brought together for the first time.

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2014

Chapter 1. Tracing the arrival of the geese into Britain.

The First Press Reports.

The first press notice of Sebastopol Geese in England appears in *The Field*, in a review of the poultry show held in the North Wing of the Crystal Palace, on the 1st - 4th September 1860; which states the geese were the property of Mr. T. H. D. Bayly.^{21.}

The Cottage Gardener reviewed the poultry show that same week:

This will be the place to mention two most remarkable *Geese* exhibited by H. D. Bailey [sic]. They were sent to him from Sebastopol, and are certainly unlike anything ever seen here before. The head, neck, and bodies, to the middle of them, are like ordinary white Geese. From this part the feathers assume quite a different character. They have the same appearance as the ends of the wing-feathers of the Black Swan, curling and twisting like a corkscrew; but there is also another peculiarity which is not shared even by the Black Swan. It is, that many of the curled feathers would appear to be detached from the quill, and float like streamers or ringlets. This is the sort of introduction that has our best sympathies; because, if it became general, it would add much to the appearance of our yards and commons, and with a more attractive plumage would still secure to us all the valuable properties we prize in our ordinary breeds.^{20.}

The Illustrated London News (ILN) also reported on the Crystal Palace Show, giving a little more detail; and included an illustration of the geese by Harrison Weir:

Amongst the geese there were two curious specimens from Sebastopol, exhibited by Mr. T. H. D. Bayly, of Ickwell House Biggleswade. These birds are somewhat smaller than those of this country at a mature age, but but [sic] they are of the purest white and the most perfect form, whilst the more conspicuous portion of their plumage is of a curly nature, affording a very striking contrast to the ordinary English goose. The feathers on the back are curled and frilled upwards; the secondary feathers of the wings are elongated and twisted, also the tail coverts. These geese were sent to Mr. Bayly by his uncle, John Harvey, Esq., who had been cruising in the Black Sea before he went to Tyre, where, as our readers may remember, his yacht, the *Claymore*, was of great service in defending the town from the Druses. Lord Dufferin brought them to England in his yacht from Sebastopol. Their weight when sent to the Crystal Palace was eleven pounds each. These geese were, without doubt, the most curious and singular of the novelties of the Show, and as such they figure in the accompany [sic] Engraving.^{22.}

These reports alone, all published in 1860, are attribution enough for stating the geese in the possession of Mr Harvey came from Sebastopol; that they were conveyed to England by Lord Dufferin, and Mr. T. H. D. Bayly was the first exhibitor of the breed. The date of their importation is revealed in other documentation.

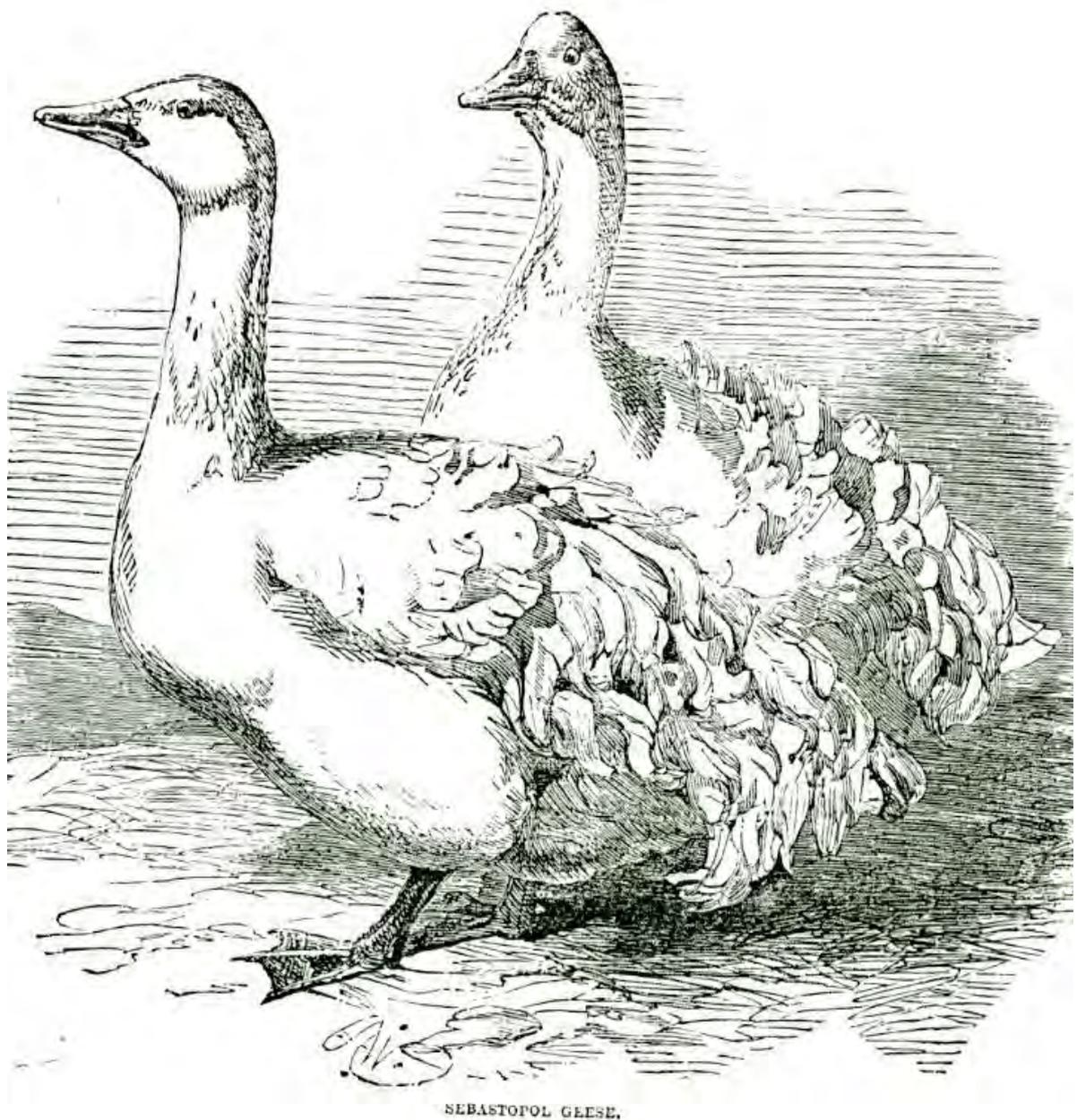


Fig.1: *The Illustrated London News*, Sept. 8th 1860, p.231.

The Bayly / Harvey Connection.

Thomas Harvey Dutton Bayly was known as ‘Harvey’. He was orphaned in 1846, aged seven years, and went to live with his mother’s brother, Mr John Harvey (VI) of Ickwell Bury, near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.¹⁵ [Separate chapters are devoted to Mr. Harvey Bayly & other possessors of Sebastopol Geese].

The Harvey / Dufferin Connection.

At the time of the adventure related here, women, whether in society, or not, followed the dictates of fashion and, when the circumference of the crinoline skirt was at its zenith, we must marvel at their resourcefulness when embarking on any excursion; especially one involving the ‘high seas’.

It had been customary for Lord Dufferin & his mother, Helen, Lady Dufferin, to spend their summers at the family estate of Clondeboyne, in Ireland. However, the summer of 1859 was to be different. They determined to cruise in the Mediterranean Sea and sailed from Portsmouth in the *Erminia*,*¹ Lord Dufferin’s recently purchased 220 tonne steam-yacht,⁵ arriving at Alexandria, Egypt, on December 9th, 1858.²³

Coincidentally, at Southampton on the 29th December 1858, John Harvey (VI), Esq., with his wife and two children, his wife’s sister and a cosmopolitan crew, set sail in the *Claymore*, a 130 tonne steam-yacht, for a cruise in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. They arrived at Gibraltar on the 8th January; and departed for Malaga, and beyond, on the 14th February 1859.¹⁷

The *Erminia* had sailed by way of Cadiz, Gibraltar, and Malta, and arrived at Cairo in January 1859, where George Hay, the Earl of Gifford, joined the party. They then journeyed up the Nile to Karnack, where Lord Dufferin conducted excavations and acquired some ancient artefacts to enlarge his collection at Clondeboyne.^{9&18}

Lord and Lady Dufferin reached the Golden Horn and Constantinople (Istanbul) on 3rd July, having sailed from Cairo via Alexandria, Rhodes and Bodrum. On the 14th July the *Erminia* moored at the quay of the British Ambassador’s summer residence in the beautiful bay of Therapia (Tarabya, a northern district of modern Istanbul), on the European side of the Bosphorus.⁷

Foot-note: *¹ Under the flag of the Royal Yacht Squadron and previously owned by Lord Ellesmere, the *Erminia* had been used in February 1855 to carry supplies from the Crimean Army Fund to the Allied troops fighting at Balaclava. *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine*. 1880 : 704.⁶



Fig. 2. Therapia

John Harvey's party visited many ports of call on their way from Malaga and arrived at the Golden Horn on the 7th August, where the *Claymore* also moored alongside the quay at Therapia.^{12 & 24.} Accounts indicate it was quite a society get-together. During their stay at Therapia, Lord and Lady Dufferin entertained at the Ambassador's residence; Lord and Lady Bulwar and John Harvey and his wife being among their dinner guests.^{9.}

The Harveys continued their voyage up the Bosphorus to the Black Sea on 21st August. In the September, Lord Dufferin set sail for Mount Athos and its monasteries, and then on to Beyrout; from there he rode to Damascus.^{9 & 18.}

Lady Dufferin, meanwhile, had remained in Turkey where "she unfortunately fell very ill at Therapia". On recovering from her illness, Lady Dufferin made her way to Athens to await the arrival of her son and received the gracious attentions of the British Minister to Athens, Sir Thomas Wyse §² and his niece, Miss Winifrede Wyse.^{8.}

Foot-note: §² Sir Thomas Wyse [1791-1862] was a highly regarded Irish politician, diplomat and academic figure. He died in Athens in 1862, having held his post for 13 years, and the King of Greece accorded him a public funeral. After his death, his niece edited and published his remaining manuscripts. *A Compendium of Irish Biography*. Alfred Webb, 1878.

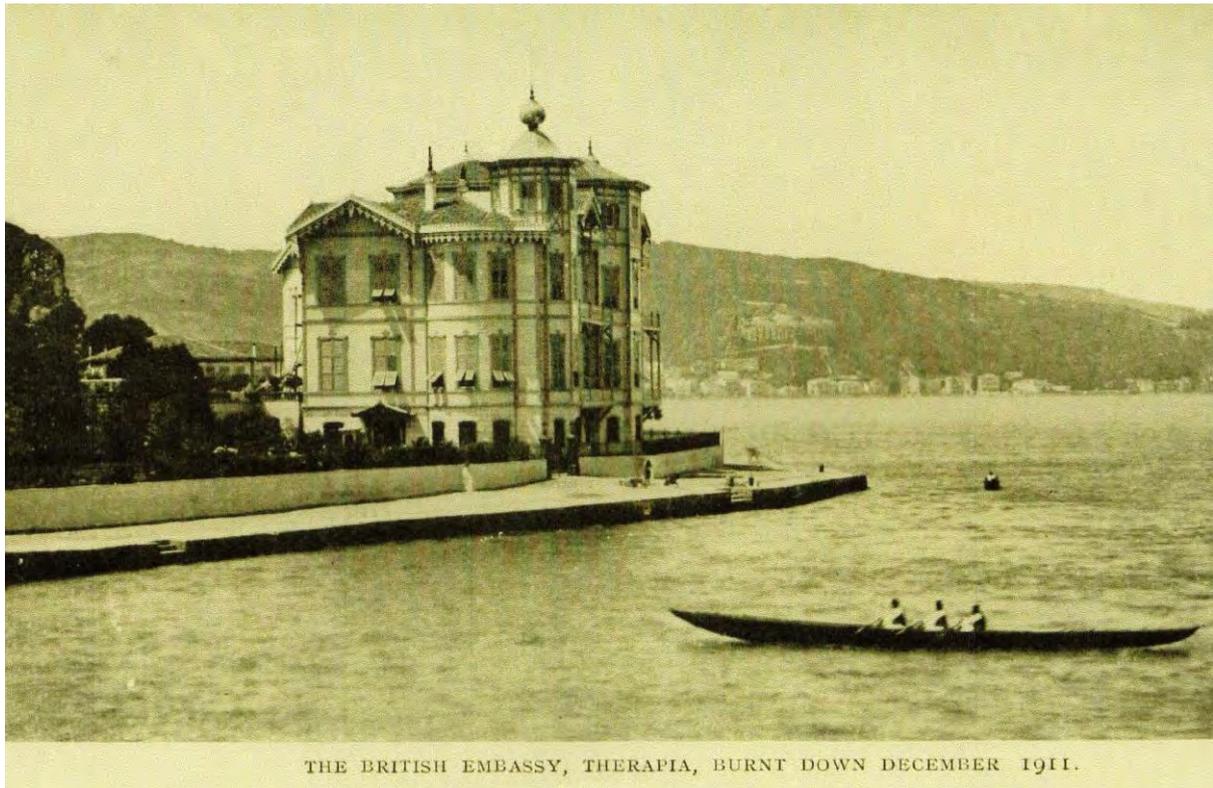


Fig.3. The West Wing of the British Embassy, Therapia, showing part of the extensive walled garden (in *My Russian and Turkish Journals*. Harriot, Marchioness of Dufferin & Ava. 1916:128.)

The Harveys, Sebastopol, Colonel S—. and the geese.

Whilst cruising the Black Sea in the autumn of 1859, the *Claymore* put into the port of Sevastopol, on the south-eastern coast of the Crimea Peninsula; the Peninsula, itself being practically an island. During the Harvey family's three-week stay at the port, they visited many sites connected with terrible Crimean War of 1853-56; on one occasion making an excursion to the cemetery at Cathcart Hill and St. George's Monastery, situated to the south-east of Sevastopol. Mrs Harvey later published an account of their expedition:

From Cathcart's Hill we drove to Kerani [sic], a desolate little village lying amongst the hills near Balaclava. . . . we were most kindly welcomed by Colonel S—

. . . . We had a pleasant luncheon at Colonel S—'s, and the live stock of the yacht was increased by the kind gift (rather to Mr. Harvey's horror) of a pair of quite lovely geese. We had not believed the usually despised goose could be so beautiful a bird. These geese were white as snow, had backs and wings covered with long curling feathers like ostrich plumes, and had bright pink bills and feet; but for their unfortunate voices they might have set up for swans. Our dear birds, however, did not approve of being summarily torn from the paternal pond and packed in a basket, so they hissed and cackled all the rest of the day in a thoroughly goose-like and provoking manner.¹³

John Harvey, being aware of his nephew's keen interest in live-stock in general, determined on making him a present of the two geese and they were taken aboard the *Claymore* for eventual shipment to England.

The ruinous state of the once magnificent port of Sevastopol eventually brought a depression over the entire party, and they set off in search of new sights. Touring around the southern Crimean coast, they left Yalta on the night of the 13th September, reaching the port of "Sinope" (Sinop, on the northern coast of Turkey) on the 24th September, where, due to the severe weather conditions, they were obliged to remain.

By the 2nd October the weather cleared sufficiently and they proceeded westwards along the Turkish coast; and once again the elements turned against them. A violent storm raged through the night and when it abated the party found themselves off "Cape Karempi" (Cape Kerempe Burun, Turkey).

Mrs Harvey recalls:

In the afternoon [Friday] we bethought ourselves of our unfortunate menagerie, and went to see how the poor creatures had fared during the storm.

The unlucky geese had been great sufferers. Little they thought when they left the peaceful farmyard at Karani [sic]^{*3} of what was in store for them. The water had so constantly been over the fore part of the vessel, and the cold had been so great, that the men had good-naturedly taken the poor things to the fore-castle.

One luckless goose, however, either from fright or from having imprudently committed a slight excess in drinking half a bottle of turpentine, had been seized with fits, and remained in an alarming state for many hours. We were very much grieved, thinking her last moment had come, for she was lying on her back, kicking in a deplorable fashion, when, with a supreme effort, she dragged herself into the coal-hole, and convulsively began to swallow some bits of coal.

We left in sadness, thinking this could be the last expiring struggle; but an hour later we received a bulletin to say the patient was not only alive, but better, and in the evening she was pronounced convalescent, her remedy having proved most effectual.

However, between the fits and the coals, our friend presents a lamentable spectacle; the fits have caused her wings to twist inside out, and the coals have given her such a sooty tinge, that not a trace remains of her once beautiful snowy plumage. Saturday morning we anchored off the Watergate in Sevastopol harbour.

Before entering the Bosphorus we met the English man-of-war kindly sent by our friends at Constantinople [Istanbul] in search of us, for our lengthened absence and the tremendous gale had alarmed them for our safety.¹⁴

A few days later the *Claymore* arrived back at Therapia, and once again moored at the quay of the British Ambassador's summer residence.

Foot-note: ^{*3}Karani appears on the *Plan de la Chersonèse* by Capitaine Charles Alexandre Fay, French Staff Officer. Published 1867 by J. Dumaine, Imperial Librarian, Paris. It had been an Allies Camp and is west of Balaclava.

The Geese are transported to Britain.

Lord Dufferin re-joined his yacht at Joppa in late October and sailed to meet his mother at Athens; where he once again encountered John Harvey and his party, who arrived on the 14th November, 1859. The Harveys stayed on board their yacht and were called on by Lord Dufferin the following day.

In late December John Harvey, along with Sir Thomas and Miss Wyse, accompanied Lord Dufferin on a visit to the ancient monastery at Pentelicus, 16kms north-east of Athens; recorded in the Dufferin journals as being “very pleasant.” The group were, by then, well acquainted and before departing from Athens on the *Erminia* bound for Britain, Lord and Lady Dufferin presented Miss Bremer (Fredericka Bremer, the Swedish traveller & author, whom they met at Sir Thomas’s ²), Miss Wyse and Mrs. Harvey, each with a framed photograph.

John Harvey’s intention was to continue to cruise in the Mediterranean, and the two geese he had received at Karani were given into Lord Dufferin’s care, to be forwarded to Britain. Lord Dufferin had already sent a vessel, ahead of the return voyage to England, to the port of Syracuse, Sicily, to purchase some pigs on behalf of Lord Tweeddale.^{§4}

On the 31st December, 1859, the *Erminia* arrived at Messina, Sicily, and Lord Dufferin took possession of the pigs intended for Lord Tweeddale.

By the 2nd January 1860, the Dufferin party sailed through the dangerous Straits of Bonifacio, and sighted Sardinia and Corsica, before arriving at Marseilles. Here Lord and Lady Dufferin disembarked; leaving their yacht to make the passage back to Britain, rounding Spain and Portugal. They, meanwhile, chose a faster route for their return home and, on the 4th January, they journeyed overland by train via Lyon and Paris; finally arriving in London on the 27th January 1860.^{9 & 18.}

The *Erminia* arrived back in Britain in the spring of 1860 with her the cargo of pigs for Lord Tweeddale, the two geese for Harvey Bayly, and the Egyptian artefacts destined for Clandeboye.

End-note to Chapter 1.

John Harvey and his party continued their cruise in the Mediterranean and reached Beyrout in May 1860. As mentioned in the *ILN*, the *Claymore* berthed at Tyre, Syria, on the 9th and 10th June 1860, at a time of terrible sectarian massacres in the region, and put up the pretence of being a British man-of-war.¹ This action dissuaded the Druses from attacking the town and

§4 The Tweeddale’s being the Earl of Gifford’s family.

butchering the inhabitants; for which John Harvey received the gratitude of its inhabitants and both Houses of the British Parliament.¹⁶

Mrs. Harvey dedicated her first book, *Our Cruise in the Claymore* (1861)¹¹, to “Dear Lady Dufferin”. She wrote several more ‘travelogues’, as well as fictional works and died in 1898 at Ickwell Bury.

Lord Dufferin [1826 -1902] enjoyed an eventful and glittering political career; he was a favourite of Queen Victoria’s, and became a Gentleman of the Bed Chamber. In the summer of 1860 he was appointed British Commissioner to investigate the events in Syria. In 1872, he was appointed as the third Governor General of Canada; where he and his wife, Harriot, were visited by John Harvey in 1878.¹⁰ Mr. Harvey died one year later, following a long illness. Lord Dufferin was appointed Viceroy of India in 1884, and retired from Public Life in 1896.

Helen, Lady Dufferin [1807 -1867] was born into a sparkling social and literary world; her grandfather was the celebrated Irish playwright, Richard Brinsley Sheridan. She was a song-writer, composer, poet and author. As well as being admired for her wit and literary talents, she was a fashionable beauty and a well-known figure in London Society of the time. Widowed in 1841, she was pursued for many years by George Hay, the Earl of Gifford [1822-1862] and, after the Earl was involved in a serious accident, they eventually married in 1862. Lady Dufferin died at Dufferin Lodge, Highgate, London, in 1867.

Harvey Bayly continued to enter his Sebastopol Geese and other poultry at shows around England for a number of years before his love of hounds and horses took precedent. He died in the most tragic circumstances in 1889.

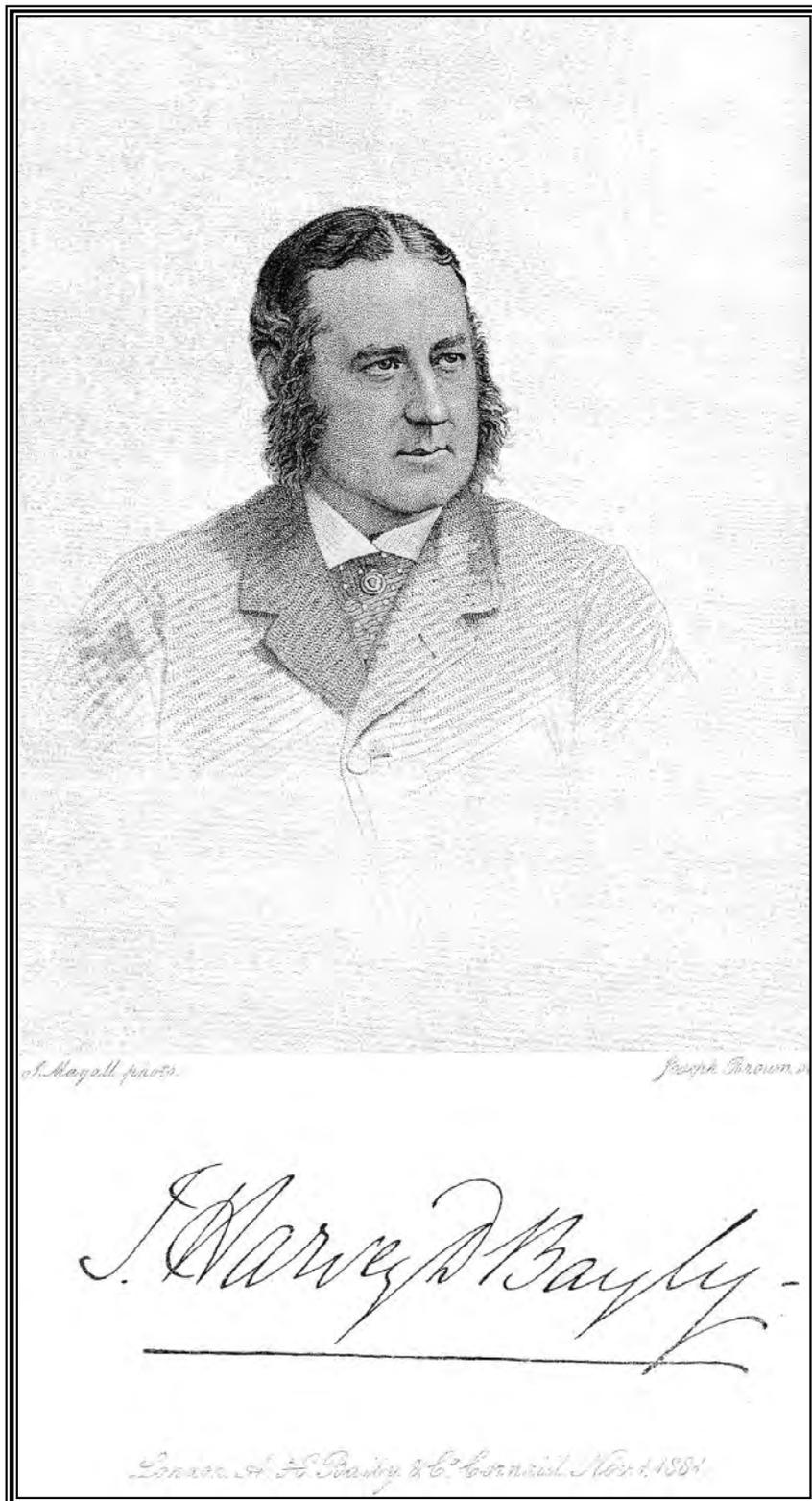
Acknowledgements.

I am indebted to ‘Lindy’, the Marchioness of Dufferin, for her kindness in permitting access to Lord and Lady Dufferin’s personal journals; and my especial gratitude to Lola Armstrong, Curator & Archivist at the Clandeboye Estate, for seeking out & transcribing the portions which have proved invaluable in settling issues which, until this time, had evaded elucidation.

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Thomas Harvey Dutton Bayly



The First Exhibitor of Sebastopol Geese.

Born on the 30th March 1839, ‘Harvey’, as he was known, was the only child born to the Bristol merchant and banker, Thomas Kington Bayly. Harvey’s mother, Elizabeth (sister to John Harvey of Ickwell Bury, Bedfordshire), died in 1844; and his father died at Falmouth on returning from Madeira in 1846, leaving an estate valued, at that time, of £40,000. In their day, both his father and his uncle, John Jasper Leigh Bayly, had held the office of the Sheriff of Bristol and obtained considerable celebrity as ‘gentlemen riders’ among members of the Duke of Beaufort’s hunt.

Orphaned, aged seven years, Harvey was surrounded by an extended family of numerous relatives and went to live in Ickwell House, near Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, on one of the estates belonging to his uncle, John Harvey; he was later educated at Eton and Christchurch College, Oxford.

After leaving Oxford, in the late 1850’s, he regularly exhibited poultry, waterfowl, dogs and horses; gaining prizes with all forms of live stock, including Sebastopol Geese and his Call Ducks, which were noted to be particularly fine. He enjoyed some success with his race-horses, but his especial interest lay with fox-hunting and this took precedent, to the exclusion of him exhibiting poultry and waterfowl, from around 1864.

He later took up residence at Edwinstowe House, Ollerton, near Newark, Nottinghamshire; this move brought him close to his paternal grandmother, Susanna (née Kington; widow of Robert Bayly; re-married to Maj. Gen. John Whetham of Kirklington Hall, Southwell, a village a few miles south-east of Edwinstowe); and into ‘the Dukeries’, the centre of the fox-hunting community on the ducal estates surrounded by Sherwood Forest.

He became a Justice of the Peace in the counties of Bedfordshire and Nottinghamshire, and was, from 1867-1872 and 1881-1889, Master of the Rufford Fox Hounds, where he implemented much improvement in their management and breeding; he introduced the first “Puppy Walking Class” at the hound shows. His knowledge of horses and hounds was thought unparalleled and his stud of hunters was of the highest class, bringing him many wins in the show-ring. Harvey also had success with his Race Horses; but his heart was always with hunting and he gave up ‘the turf’ after a few years.

He sat on numerous committees, and was as much to be seen at the shows as an exhibitor, as he was as a judge. He was an excellent shot and a popular figure in both country-life and London society, alike. As a bachelor with no small fortune, he was possibly thought to be ‘a good catch’ for any woman of his social standing ~ he was ranked, by wealth, to be among the top 10,000 in Britain.

His grandmother died in March 1870, at ninety years of age, and, in that year, Harvey made a Will containing a bequest to the Rufford Hunt and an annuity of £100 to his chief huntsman; the residue of his estate he bequeathed to his uncle, John Harvey, and, on his demise, to his cousin Beatrice.

However, in the spring of 1888, he had a change of heart and revoked the bequest to the hunt committee in a codicil to his Will. By this time Harvey had become very concerned at the shortage of foxes as quarry for the hunt; caused, it appears, by neighbouring land-owners neglecting to preserve sufficient numbers of foxes on their estates, and early in 1889 he resigned his post as Master of the Rufford Fox Hounds, to take effect at the end of that season.

On Saturday, January 26th 1889, whilst he was out riding, he and his horse took a bad fall and following this accident, although complaining of nothing more than a sprained wrist, his demeanour was noticeably altered; and thereafter he drew little enjoyment from any of the matters which had once occupied him so fully. According to Mr. Robert Hart (house-steward and confidential clerk to Harvey Bayly, with thirty-seven years service) he became pre-occupied with the thought of having to give up his hounds.

When Harvey left Edwinstowe House to catch the train to London from Tuxford Station, on Friday 1st February, Mr. Hart considered his master to be in very low spirits and thought he might be seeking medical advice in town.

That evening, Harvey arrived at sleeping apartments at 44 St. James's Place, run by Mr. Alfred Wilkins; he had stayed here on previous occasions, usually taking his main meals at his near-by club, Boodle's, 28 St. James's Street.

On Monday, 4th February, Harvey was attended by Dr. Bernard Holt, of 14 Savile Row. Harvey spoke to Dr. Holt of his concerns regarding the lack of sport to be had in the hunting field, and of his recent riding accident. After giving him a thorough examination, Dr. Holt could find no symptoms of any specific ailment; although he, also, noted that Harvey, who had lost a considerable amount of weight over the past three weeks, was dull and out of sorts, and he prescribed a medicine to alleviate such feelings.

Later, that day, Harvey confided to Dr. Holt that he was somewhat better, but still feeling below par. Dr. Holt instructed Harvey to increase his medicine from two to four times a day, and advised him to dine in his chambers. To this suggestion Harvey replied that it was so very dull to do so, and said he declined to dine at his club as he was known there to so many people. The good doctor there-upon invited Harvey to dine with his family.

Harvey duly arrived at Savile Row at seven-thirty that evening. He ate a very good dinner, and begged his leave at ten o'clock, stating he had very much

enjoyed the evening; at which point Dr. Holt enquired whether he should call on him the following morning. Harvey replied that would not be necessary as he was feeling very much better, and returned to his sleeping apartments at St. James's Place.

On the morning of Tuesday 5th February, shortly before nine o'clock, Alfred Wilkins took a cup of tea, some letters and a newspaper to Harvey's room and, finding Harvey still in bed, enquired whether he would be seeing the doctor before he got up; to which Harvey replied in the negative, adding he felt very much improved and would be returning home later that day, and would take his bath and dress at once.

Wilkins delivered some hot water to the apartment around half-past nine, to find Harvey out of bed and, having already moved the hip-bath to the centre of the room in anticipation of the arrival of the hot water, was applying some cold-cream to his chin, as he always did, in preparation to shaving himself. On enquiring which train he might be taking, Wilkins was told by Harvey that he would be leaving Pall Mall at eleven o'clock and he had ordered breakfast at his club; with that Wilkins left the room to allow Harvey to finish his toilette.

At half past ten, Henry Spring, a porter at Boodle's Club, arrived at the lodging to inform Wilkins that Harvey's breakfast was ready. When they arrived at Harvey's apartment they found the door to be locked. Alarmed at being unable to obtain a response to their repeated knocks at the door, and Harvey not having been seen for the past hour, Wilkins, fearing he may have suffered some form of fit, resolved to look through the key-hole. He discovered a most disturbing sight. He could see, in the middle of the apartment, the figure of Harvey Bayly lying face-down in a pool of blood. Wilkins immediately alerted the house-hold and sent for police assistance. At the corner of St. James's Street, opposite Marlborough House, Inspector Elliott, a sergeant and constable of C Division were engaged with. They returned to the lodgings and forced open the door to the apartment.

Upon entering the room it was immediately apparent to the company that Harvey Bayly was in a desperate state. There were wounds to his neck and he had lost a great amount of blood. He was, however, still alive and the police officers rendered temporary aid as best they could, while Dr. Holt was sent for. On being turned onto his back Harvey regained consciousness and muttered that he had not had his breakfast. Inspector Elliott quickly applied a handkerchief to the wounds in an attempt to stem the flow of blood. Harvey pulled at the handkerchief and struggled so violently that two policemen could hardly hold him down and he had to be restrained by fastening his arms to his sides by means of a sheet being tied around him.

Following this procedure, Harvey pleaded repeatedly to those attempting to assist him “Loosen my arms, and I’ll be quiet.”

Whilst awaiting the arrival of the doctor, Inspector Elliott surveyed the scene within the apartment. The visual evidence suggested Harvey had gone through the usual process of his morning toilette and was standing at the wash-stand when, for no known reason, he severed the blood vessels in his neck using his own razor. The basin was nearly filled with blood and it appeared Harvey had held his head over the vessel until he could no longer support himself, for, when he was found, his feet were positioned at the base of the wash-stand and his body was stretched out across the room; his right arm hanging over the side of the bath, at the bottom of which was found the razor.

Dr. Holt eventually arrived at the scene at half-past one. He ascertained his semi-conscious patient had applied the razor to both sides of his neck, cutting deeply enough to expose his spine. The loss of blood was too great for any hope of a recovery and Harvey Bayly died a few minutes later. That evening the body was placed in a ‘shell’ (cassette) and removed to the district mortuary in Portland Street.

Mr. John Troutbeck, Coroner for Westminster, held an inquest on the body of Harvey Bayly on Thursday 7th February in the Board-room at the Poor Law Offices, Portland Street. All those involved in the incident were present and related their evidence.

Robert Hart travelled from Edwinstowe, primarily to take charge of the funeral arrangements, and gave his evidence; saying that Harvey Bayly was, to his knowledge, of a sober character and had never suffered a day’s illness in the all the time he had known him. He stated although he noticed a change in Harvey’s manner, he considered him the last man in the world who would take his own life, and that Harvey had never spoken of such an act.

Harvey’s second cousin, Philip Oliphant Kington Blair-Oliphant, of Datchet Lodge, Windsor, told the court he had known Harvey since childhood and reiterated what Hart had said: Harvey had led a quiet and sober life and was of all persons most unlikely to voluntarily take his own life. He had visited Harvey’s bankers on the previous day, Wednesday, and established that Harvey’s financial affairs were in a perfectly satisfactory state. He knew nothing, however, of Harvey’s concern regarding his hounds.

The Coroner briefly summed up the evidence, and mentioned he had known of cases where persons had been seized with some sudden mania or impulse when their will was not capable of resisting, and it seemed clear that

this was such a case. He considered the deceased had no other motive than this, and suggested the jury would come to the conclusion that at the time Harvey committed the act he was not sane. The jury returned their verdict: Harvey had taken his own life “while labouring under temporary insanity.”

His body was returned to Ickwell Bury and interred at the parish church of Northill, on John Harvey’s estate, on Saturday 9th February, 1889. The funeral, conducted by the Rev. F. Pott, rector, and the Rev. A. Wanton, curate at Northill, was attended by a great many mourners from all parts of the country. At either side of the coffin walked Robert Hart (house-steward), the stud groom, the huntsman, the whipper-in, and other servants belonging to Harvey’s hunting establishment.

Harvey Bayly was forty-nine years old, un-married and financially secure. His Will was proved by his executors, Robert and Charles Lindsell, on 1st March, after his horses were sold-off in several lots by Tattersall’s, and the hounds dispersed to other hunts. Harvey had managed his finances extremely well; and in spite of his extravagances regarding his horses and hounds, his personal estate was valued, at the time of probate, to be in excess of £43,000; more than £2m in current times.

His death passed practically un-noticed by the main-stream Press; eclipsed, that week, by tragic events which shocked Europe to its core ~ the deaths at Mayerling, Austria, of the Crown Prince Rudolph and Baroness Marie Vetsera.

However, the obituaries in *The Horse & Hound* and other periodicals present an image of Harvey Bayly as a kind, considerate individual regarded with affection by all who had known him.

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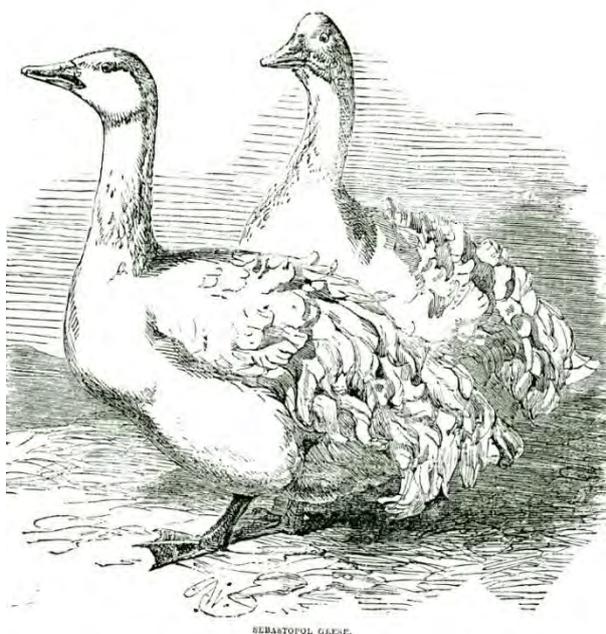
The Standard, Thursday 7th March 1889: 5.

The Times, Friday 31st January 1889: 9.

The Times, Friday 8th February 1889: 10.

The Sebastopol goose in Great Britain.

Much that has been written, and generally accepted, regarding the emergence of the Sebastopol Goose on to the ‘poultry arena’, has been speculative or merely the repeated errors of previous authors. It is hoped this summary will set the record straight.



As has been shown, the first reported importation of the breed occurred when John Harvey sent a pair of smooth-breasted, trailing-feathered, red-beaked, white geese from Sebastopol, on the Crimea, as a gift to his nephew, Thomas Harvey Dutton Bayly, via Lord Dufferin’s yacht, the *Ermina*, and they arrived in England the spring of 1860.^{20 & 25}

Left: from *The Illustrated London News* (ILN) Sept. 1860.

From the autumn of 1860 onwards, Harvey (as he was known) Bayly regularly exhibited his Sebastopol Geese at the major British poultry shows and very soon “several pens”, i.e. pairs of birds, were to be found at the shows.

Whether due to badly lit venues or to personal perception, the beak colour of the Sebastopol Geese exhibited at this time is described as being “yellow” by the reporter for *The Field* (1860)²⁴.

As Harvey Bayly’s birds were accepted as being the only specimens imported into Britain at that time, it remains unexplained how, in 1863, a number of pens of geese, resembling those exhibited by Harvey Bayly, are reported on at the South of Ireland Poultry Association Show; these were entered under the title of *Danubian Geese*. Nothing is known of the origin of these birds but, from that time onwards, Irish breeders regularly offered their birds for sale in the British poultry-press, in both white and in grey colour-forms. It is possible such birds could have been selected from among those entering Ireland from Continental Europe as part of the fattening trade, as

mentioned by Edward Brown & Bruno Dürigen, and only coming to notice when Harvey Bayly put his birds on display.^{5, 11 & 27}

Around 1864 Harvey Bayly disposed of most of his poultry to engage in his favourite pursuits ~ horses and hounds; his friend and neighbour, Henry Savile took-over his waterfowl and continued to exhibit Sebastopol Geese over the next five years or so.⁵

William Tegetmeier includes the breed in the first edition of *The Poultry Book* (1867)¹⁸, in which he repeats, almost verbatim, the account from the *ILN* (1860), but omitting some details of their importation and the colour of the beak and feet. However, Elizabeth Watts, also writing in 1867, furnishes information on the flesh-colour of the breed: The bills are flesh-colour, and the legs and feet deep ruddy orange.²⁹ This corresponds with Mrs. Harvey's account published four years later. She says of them:

. . . the live stock of the yacht was increased by the kind gift (rather to Mr. Harvey's horror) of a pair of quite lovely geese. We had not believed the usually despised goose could be so beautiful a bird. These geese were white as snow, had backs and wings covered with long curling feathers like ostrich plumes, and had bright pink bills and feet.¹³

In the second edition of *The Poultry Book* (1873), Tegetmeier adds to his text on the Sebastopol Goose a brief sentence, taken from Darwin, which has caused a little confusion regarding the date of Sebastopol Geese arriving in Britain.^{9 & 19}

Lewis Wright repeats Tegetmeier's (1873) text, thereby lending credence to its accuracy; he also presents an engraving of birds (Fig. 5.) which he states had been displayed in the *Jardin d'Acclamation*, Paris, many years previously (This is discussed in a later chapter), and says:

⁵ Foot-note: Henry Savile was a prominent figure in horse-racing circles. When the Derby was run at the present Epsom Race Course for the first time in 1872, his horse, *Cremorne*, won by the narrowest of margins and helped to save the family's fortunes, as his owner, who had fallen upon hard times, had bet his entire estates upon his horse winning. That same summer *Cremorne* also won the Grand Prix de Paris. In all, *Cremorne* ran twenty-six races, winning twenty and finishing second four times. As homage to the noble equine, when *Cremorne* died in 1883, the family interred his remains at Rufford Abbey, where he lays today along-side the graves of the family's dogs.

The average weight of Sebastopol Geese is about ten pounds each. The first specimens were imported from the Black Sea, whence the name is perfectly appropriate. They breed freely with common geese, the progeny generally showing the peculiar plumage in a modified or inferior degree. It is worth notice, as showing the analogous character of the plumage to that of the Frizzled Fowls, that in some specimens the feathers on the neck are also actually reversed, though this is not usually the case.³¹



SEBASTOPOL AND GAMBIAN GEESE.

Fig. 5. *The Illustrated Book of Poultry*. 1872/3.

Charles Darwin, writing on the diversity of forms within domestic waterfowl, refers to Abraham Bartlett, who at the time was Superintendent of the Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) collection at Regent's Park, and he displayed before the Society in the February of 1860, the head and neck of a goose with the feathering growing in a reversed direction.⁹ It is this reference that The Domestic Waterfowl Club takes as proof such geese had arrived in England prior to the Harvey/Bayly importation; it is possible but, so far, not provable that this was the case.²¹

The evidence to refute such a claim is as follows:

- 1) Darwin does not link this reference with his discussion on the plumage of Sebastopol Geese.
- 2) There is no documentary record of the breed existing in Britain (including Ireland) prior to the Harvey / Bayly importation.
- 3) As Harvey Bayly received just one pair of geese in the spring of 1860, it is extremely unlikely he had one slaughtered and then sent a part of it to Bartlett; if so, it has to be considered how he was able to exhibit a *pair* of Sebastopol Geese at the Crystal Palace Show that autumn.
- 4) Abraham Bartlett, prior to his appointment with the ZSL, had made a living as a taxidermist, and it seems unlikely that he would dismembered a specimen that could have been mounted and sold, in favour of exhibiting just the head and neck of what might have been a very singular specimen.

It is most probable that Bartlett's specimen was something other than a Sebastopol Goose.⁶

In Britain, from the late 1870's, the breed was represented in two distinct forms of plumage; one following the smooth-breasted, trailing-feather type of the Crimean imports, and the other displaying extended and curled feathers over the entire body, excepting the head and neck.

Harrison Weir sketched some of the Hon. Lady Dorothy Nevill's* Sebastopol Geese (Fig. 6.) prior to her vacating her Hampshire home, the Dangstein Estate, near Petersfield, Hampshire, in 1878.

⁶ Foot-note: The Domestic Waterfowl Club is also mistaken in its statement that Sebastopol Geese "*may occasionally be short tempered having the Russian fighting Geese / German Kampfganse in their makeup.*" There is no documentary evidence to support this statement; on the contrary, most authors have described the breed as being quiet and docile in temperament. If the Domestic Waterfowl Club has knowledge of any introduction of foreign blood into the breed, this must have occurred in recent times with indiscriminate breeders being responsible.

Weir says of Sebastopol Geese:-

These, though small, are peculiarly attractive, and by some thought beautiful, . . . They were first imported into England by a well-known poultry and waterfowl Fancier residing at Biggleswade, about the time of the Russian War, now some fifty years ago. Coming as they did, from the neighbourhood of Sebastopol, they were accordingly so named by their owner. If not ornamental, at least they are peculiar, having the wing coverts much twisted, curled, and elongated, while the primaries and secondaries are singularly formed. . . In colour they are mostly of a mottled grey, with more or less white. They are neat and compact in form, hardy in constitution, but not over-prolific. Though scarce in England at present [1901-2], they are said to be fairly common in some of the northern parts of Russia.

The white which are the most fancied, and certainly on a lake or pond with varied verdant surroundings, and in the meadows or tangled bush environments, they present a most pleasurable appearance. The best and most useful hitherto seen have been some thus owned, and others bred at Daugstein [sic], the late beautiful home of the Honourable Lady Dorothy Neville [sic], where, though a singular adornment, they were grown for table purposes. When fat they usually weighed ten to twelve pounds, while in flavour the flesh is remarkably rich, and of the highest quality.³⁰

*In Weir's text for *Neville* read *Nevill*, & for *Daugstein* read *Dangstein*.⁷

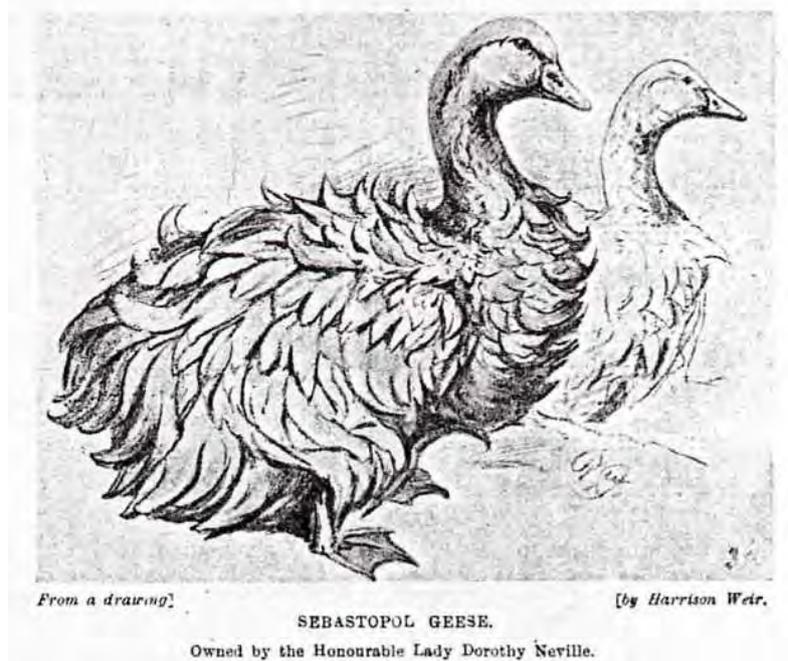


Fig. 6. *Our Poultry.*
1902.

⁷ Foot-note: Lady Dorothy Nevill [1826 - 1913] née Walpole, had swiftly married her cousin Reginald in 1848, following an alleged incident in a summerhouse that ruined her reputation and prevented her from ever being received by Queen Victoria. Shortly after their marriage the couple purchased the Dangstein Estate, near Petersfield, Hampshire, England. The architect of the house, Mr. Knowles, had made an attempt to construct a dwelling in the form of a huge Grecian temple for one Captain Lyons. Weir's sketch of the Sebastopol at "Daugstein" was made at some time prior to the sale of the house in 1878 (necessitated by the death of her husband who, in an attempt to curtail his wife's expenditures, left most of his fortune to their children and Lady Dorothy received a life interest in Dangstein and an annuity of £2,000 together with an annuity from her marriage settlement) when many of the tropical plants growing at Dangstein were acquired by the Administration of Monte Carlo and the King of the Belgium's.

From the first announcement of this breed in England, in 1860, it appears to have been in the domain of the upper-classes. Harvey Bayly and his friend Henry Savile of Rufford Abbey, Nottinghamshire, were landed gentry, and Lady Dorothy a somewhat eccentric, but well-connected member of the aristocracy. In such circles the Sebastopol Goose was obviously the one bird that one had to be seen to possess, especially when the breed became favoured by members of the Royal Family.

H.R.H. Edward, Prince of Wales was a regular visitor to Rufford Abbey during the Doncaster horse-racing season, and it is probable that from there he obtained the Sebastopol Geese kept at the Sandringham Estate. In 1883 the Prince and H.R.H. Princess Alexandra presented an assortment of livestock from their menagerie at Sandringham to be sold at the Countess of Leicester's stall at the fund-raising bazaar in aid of the Norwich and Norfolk Hospital Building Fund. The gift included white Angora Goats (from stock originally kept in the menagerie at Buckingham Palace by H.M. Queen Victoria), white kittens descended from a favourite cat of the Princess's, white rabbits and two pairs of Sebastopol Geese.²⁸

Edward Brown, knighted for his services to the poultry industry in 1930, was never certain as to the origin or date of importation of the Sebastopol Goose. In 1893 he says:

SEBASTOPOL, or DANUBIAN. It is under the latter name that we generally see this breed at Continental shows, and that is probably the more correct term, for there does not seem any reason to connect it with the town of Sebastopol. Possibly the name may be explained by the fact that it was brought over to this country about the time of the Crimean War [1853-56] by ships returning from the Black Sea, and the name would be given at that time.

It is clear Sir Edward never acquainted himself with the reports of the breed's importation in any of the 1860 periodicals. Had he followed any of the clues set out in Tegetmeier's or Wright's texts back to these documents, or had seen Mrs Harvey's account, he would have been more enlightened. He describes the breed thus:

The great peculiarity of the Danubian is that the hind-quarters of the bird are covered with loose, shaggy feathers, long enough to trail on the ground. . . . The plumage of

the Danubian goose is pure white; in some specimens grey or light brown patches are to be found, but the correct colour is white. . . They are gentle in disposition, and thrive well with other fowls, being also good foragers and look well after their own living on pastures.⁴

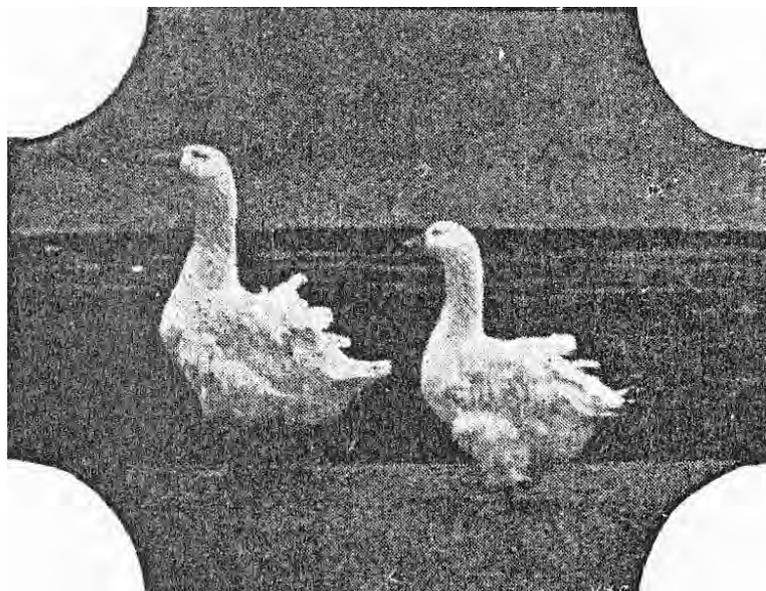
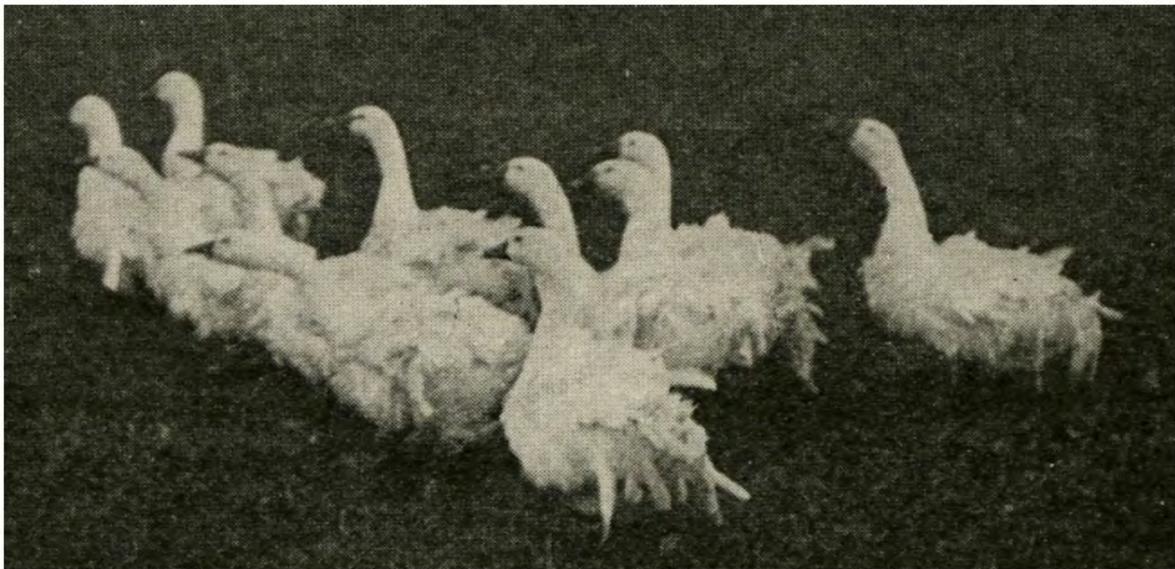


Fig. 7.

In the spring of 1893, the sixteen year old American heiress, Cornelia Martin, married William Craven, the 4th Earl of Craven, in New York and brought a dowry of \$1m into the family funds when she came to England as Countess of Craven.⁸ Cornelia Craven had a keen interest in poultry and waterfowl and was elected as a member of the Waterfowl Club in the spring of 1898. She kept Sebastopol Geese on the moat at her country home, Coombe Abbey, Nottinghamshire; these were bred and exhibited from her collection of poultry managed by William Isherwood. Judging from the photograph (Fig. 7.) of the Sebastopol Geese kept at Coombe Abbey, they lacked the volume of feather displayed in Lord Alington's birds.^{14, 16, 22 & 23}

⁸ Foot-note: Cornelia's parents, Cornelia and Bradley Martin, inherited their unexpected wealth (approx \$151m in today's terms) from Mrs Martin's father. Mrs Martin had a *penchant* for jewellery, and obtained many pieces of great provenance, such as the tiara and bracelets from the parure of diamonds and rubies which Napoleon I gave to his second wife, Empress Marie Louise; and those reputed to have once been in the possession of Queen Marie Antoinette. Cornelia Craven inherited the gems on the death of her mother in 1920, but the tiara and bracelets vanished from public gaze until Cornelia's own death in 1961, when her personal possessions were sold at Sotheby's Auction Rooms.

Lord Alington was a friend of H.R.H. Edward, Prince of Wales (later to become H.M. King Edward VII), sharing interests in horse-racing and the Prince visited his home at Crichel, Dorset, where Sebastopol Geese were kept among a collection of white animals and birds; and these were photographed in 1905.^{8 & 26}



Lord Alington's birds in 1905

.....

Edward Brown wrote again on the breed in 1906.⁵ His preferred name for the breed being *Danubian* Goose, and giving its nomenclature in various languages:

English: Danubian or Sevastopol;
French: Frisee or Sebastopol; *German:* Lodengans*;
Italien, Spanish: Danubio.

It appears the type-setter had difficulty in knowing which language favoured 'v' in the spelling of the name; and mistook the 'ck' in the spelling of *Lockengans* for a 'd'~ a mistake that has been repeated in texts as recent as 1999.

Of their origin Brown says:

We have been unable to obtain any reliable information as to the origin of this race of geese, which appears widely distributed in the countries surrounding the Black Sea. . . . These birds were first seen about the time of the Crimean War, and the earliest specimens imported into England were received in 1859. Whether they came from the Sevastopol district there is no record, but that name was given to them then. Later

the term Danubian has been adopted. . In England the race has not attained any great amount of popularity, but we have seen them frequently in Continental exhibitions. . . The Danubian goose is very quiet in temperament.

The description is given as:

In body these birds are long in comparison with their depth, more like a duck, and they are very level with the ground, the neck is of medium length, fine for a goose; head like that of the Embden, except that the bill is rosy-red, as are the legs and feet, the eye is bright blue. The peculiarity of this race is that the wing and back body feathers are elongated, frequently trailing on the ground, the long feathers are very slender and often curled, as they are not webbed they have a somewhat dragged appearance, another result being that the birds cannot fly. They, however, are active walkers. Weight: males, 10 to 11 pounds, females, 8 to 9 pounds. In colour the majority of specimens are white, and they are certainly the more pleasing in appearance. We have, however, seen many specimens on the Continent of Europe in which grey or light brown patches were present. The plumage colour is very uncertain, and the Whites are due to careful selection. Among some of the earlier imported birds a few had a small tuft on the top of the head, and we have been informed that many birds having that decoration are to be found in Southern Russia and Asia Minor.

Edward Brown continues to propound his theory of the breed's earlier importation in his books; and it is this 'expert's' text that many authors have mistakenly accepted to be correct. Unfortunately, Brown, who has been so disparaging about the lack of references in other authors' works, gives none himself in the case of Sebastopol Geese. In his 1929 work, he says:

Origin.—No information is available as to its origin of this race of geese. They are widely distributed in the countries surrounding the Black Sea. . . During visits paid to Hungary and the Balkan countries numbers of birds with loose feathers were met with in the regions of the Lower Danube.⁹§

History.—These birds were first known to British Breeders at the time of the Crimean War [1853-56], and the earliest specimens imported are stated to have been received in 1859. Whether these birds came from Sebastopol, as the name then given implied, is not known. Later the name Danubian was adopted.⁶

Brown remains as blinkered as ever on the original importation and, without giving any references, makes statements he cannot possibly substantiate.

⁹ § In this region, in 1878, it is reported: "Further are flocks of beautiful Danubian geese, all white, with long silky plumes fluttering at the side and on the back of the bird, seemingly ready to be detached and blow away by the wind."⁷

The Sebastopol Goose was regularly exhibited at poultry shows in England throughout the 19th century, although no official description existed to serve as a standard for the breed and they are not mentioned in any editions of the Waterfowl Club's Standards 1892 – 1897.¹⁰

At the turn of the 19th century the fortunes of the Sebastopol Goose in Britain began to wane and, by the 1930's, they had become very scarce.

Reginald Appleyard of the Priory Waterfowl Farm, Ixworth, Suffolk, was one of the few people to persevere with the breed.

In his book *Geese*, first published in 1933, and in his promotional pamphlets throughout the 1940's, Reginald Appleyard presents a photograph (Fig. 8.) showing long-feathered, smooth-breasted white geese, and says:

This variety is now rare, and should really be placed under the heading of ornamental geese; yet it is just as good as other varieties from a table point of view. Medium-sized, snow white, lots of long feathers on its back and long feathers hanging down, often touching the ground; hardy, free breeder, very fertile, very quaint and out of the ordinary, and most certainly arouses the interest of all who see them.²

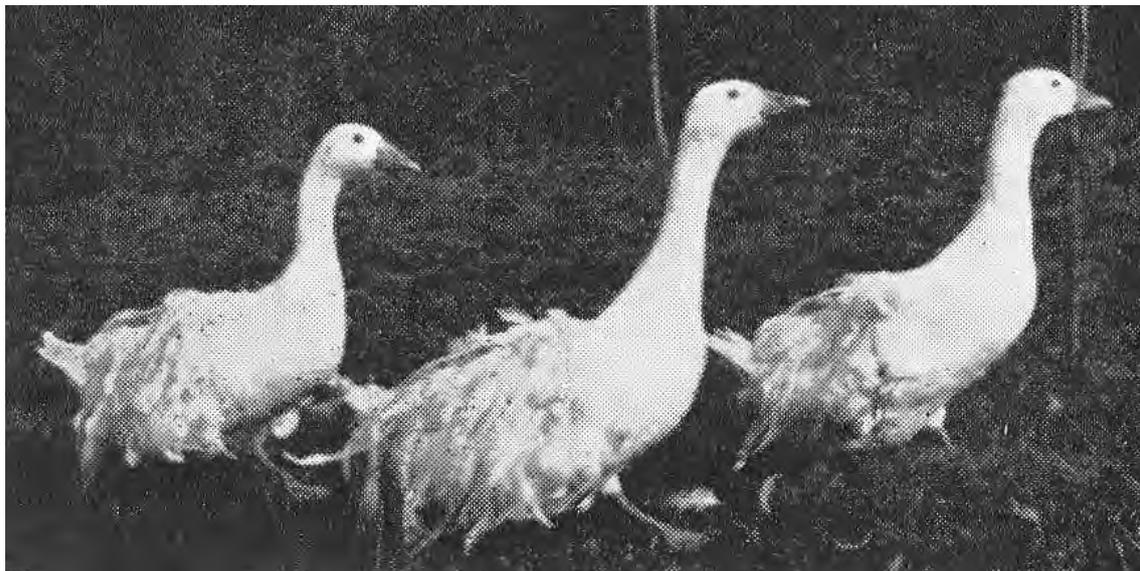


Fig. 8.. “A trio of Sebastopol Geese. The flowing mane of feathers, more pronounced in some than others, makes this variety most attractive.....”
(Reproduced by kind permission of Mrs Margaret Hundy, elder daughter of Reginald Appleyard)

The Sebastopol Goose had become so scarce that it is absent from the list of breeds obtainable from members in the Year Books of the British Duck Keepers Association (1949) and the British Waterfowl Association (BWA) (1950); and only Reginald Appleyard lists the breed in his advertisements in these publications.

Following the end of WWII, the breed became more or less moribund in mainland Britain, and when Lt. Col. A.A. Johnson took over the Priory Waterfowl Farm on Reginald Appleyard's retirement, there were none left on the property.

However, Reginald Appleyard knew where examples of the breed could be obtained, and relayed this information to a young man he had encouraged in waterfowl husbandry since first encountering him as a school-boy ~ John Hall of Chediston, near Halesworth, Suffolk.

In the late 1950's- early 1960's John followed his mentor's advice and obtained very representative specimens of the breed from groups of geese that were being shipped from Ireland to the docks at Liverpool, and thence to fattening-yards in Norfolk; these were of the smooth-breasted, long-feathered type.

This was a turning-point in the fortunes of the Sebastopol's survival. John obtained breeding-stock consisting of a white pair and one buff-coloured female with white flight feathers; this buff female was paired with a Brecon Buff Gander and produced all buff offspring, some of which had trailing feathers. From these youngsters the best gander was paired with the original buff goose and by selecting the best-feathered youngsters a good strain of buff-coloured Sebastopol's was established. Like-wise, the best-feathered white birds were selected, and after some years the occasional white female with 'curled' feathers began to appear; eventually a curled buff-coloured female occurred. Coloured forms of the breed have been mentioned by Edward Brown in the 19th century. John Hall maintained breeding-stock and contact with those to whom he sold stock birds, thus ensuring their continuance.¹²



Also, the late 1950's, Enid Manasseh, of Send, Surrey, obtained a different strain of Sebastopol Geese from those available to John Hall; they were of the all-over curly form, and had bright pink/red beaks ~ just as originally described. Unfortunately, Miss Manasseh never divulged the source of these birds to the Public. This strain, having very poor fertility levels, became amalgamated with other stains and eventually died-out in its pure form.

Left: One of Miss Manasseh's birds in 1964.

Enid Manasseh referred to the bird shown as:

The original very fluffy type, illustrated in Lewis Wright's Book of Poultry, 1902, has a longer body and shorter neck than most domestic geese. The other type which is

illustrated in Appleyard's book on Geese, must have been crossed as they are the usual shape for domestic geese and, instead of fluffy feathers all over, have very long feathers hanging down from their back and wings 18ins long. Both types are pure white and their bills and legs may be pink or orange.¹⁵

Regarding the above statement on 'type', it can be seen from the early illustrations (1860, 1873 & 1902) that the Sebastopol Goose displays two forms of plumage development. The "original" type is surely those shown in the engraving in the *ILN* of 1860, which Appleyard's birds resemble.

It was not until 1982 that the Sebastopol Goose appeared in the Poultry Club of Great Britain's (PCGB) Standards. However, the description followed the American Standard of 1938 (*et sec*) ~ the type with all-over curly plumage. The facts that both plumage forms were present in Britain at that time, and the German Standards (1934, *et sec*), while accepting both feather-types, preferred the long-feathered type, appeared to have been over-looked.

To the argument for Standardisation of both types was added the fact Hadlow College, Kent, had established that continuous breeding using only curly-type birds leads to a lack of width in feather, and eventually produces a bird with plumage resembling that of the Silkie Fowl; a most undesirable trait.¹⁷

The BWA was immediately lobbied for acceptance of both feather-types to the Standard; this was achieved in June, 1985, and eventually published in *Waterfowl Yearbook 1987-88*.^{1 & 3} Both types, in White and in Buff plumage, appear in the editions of the PCGB Standards from 1997; and the BWA Standards from 1999. However, the BWA presently continues to accept Edward Brown's unsubstantiated account of the breed's importation.

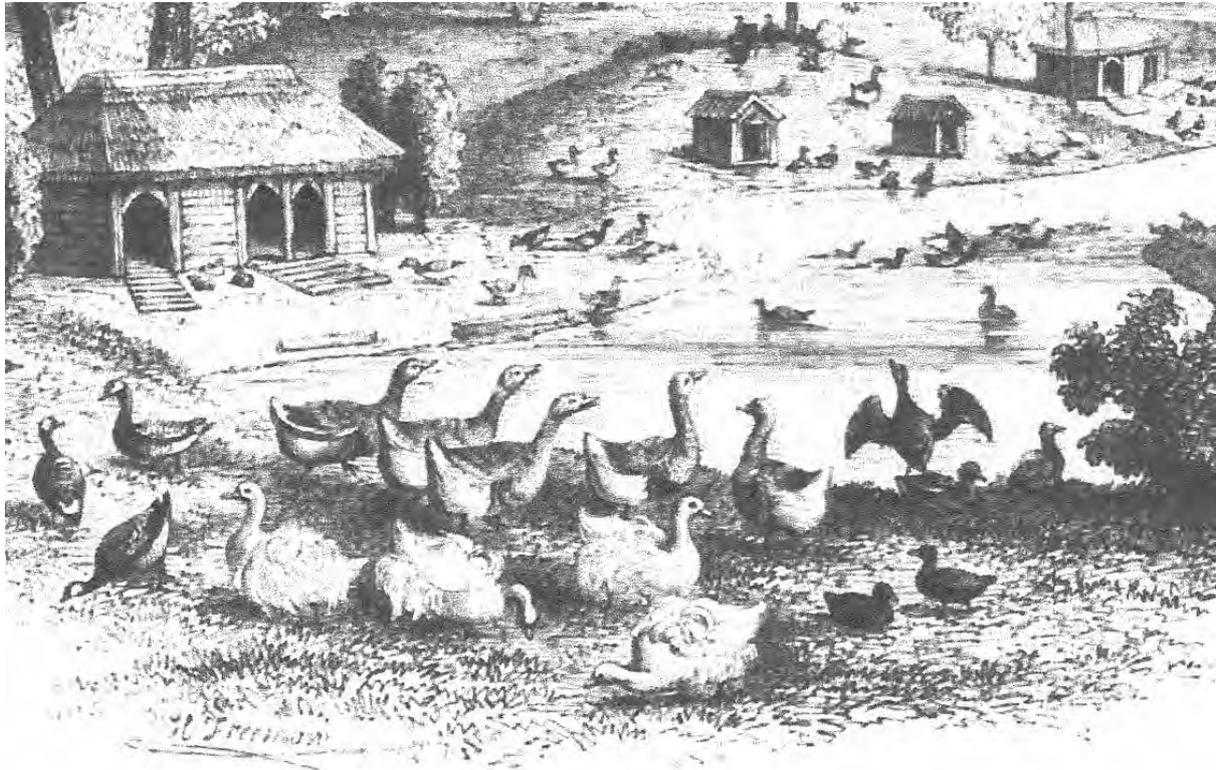
For the most recent edition of the PCGB Standards, the Goose Club was requested to furnish the goose standards. At that time research into the precise manner of the Sebastopol Goose's arrival into Britain was still underway. Lord Dufferin was known to have been responsible for their transportation and arrival in 1860, but the exact sequence of events had not been established & this led to the supposition of his association with the Syrian crisis in that year.

The present-day standard-bred Sebastopol Goose differs from Harvey Bayly's original imports in being required to be a little larger in size and having orange, not red, beaks; and displaying two distinct plumage-forms and a coloured variety. The breed has, at least, achieved its place in the British Standards which should, hopefully, ensure its continued existence.

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The Sebastopol, or Danubian Goose (Oie frisée du Danube) in France.



Les Oies au Jardin d'acclimatation. — Dessin de Freeman.

Fig. 1. (Detail, 1862)

At the same time as Harvey Bayly received his Sebastopol Geese from the Crimea in 1860, such geese were present in the Jardin d'acclimatation, Paris (Fig. 1).^{3 & 8.}

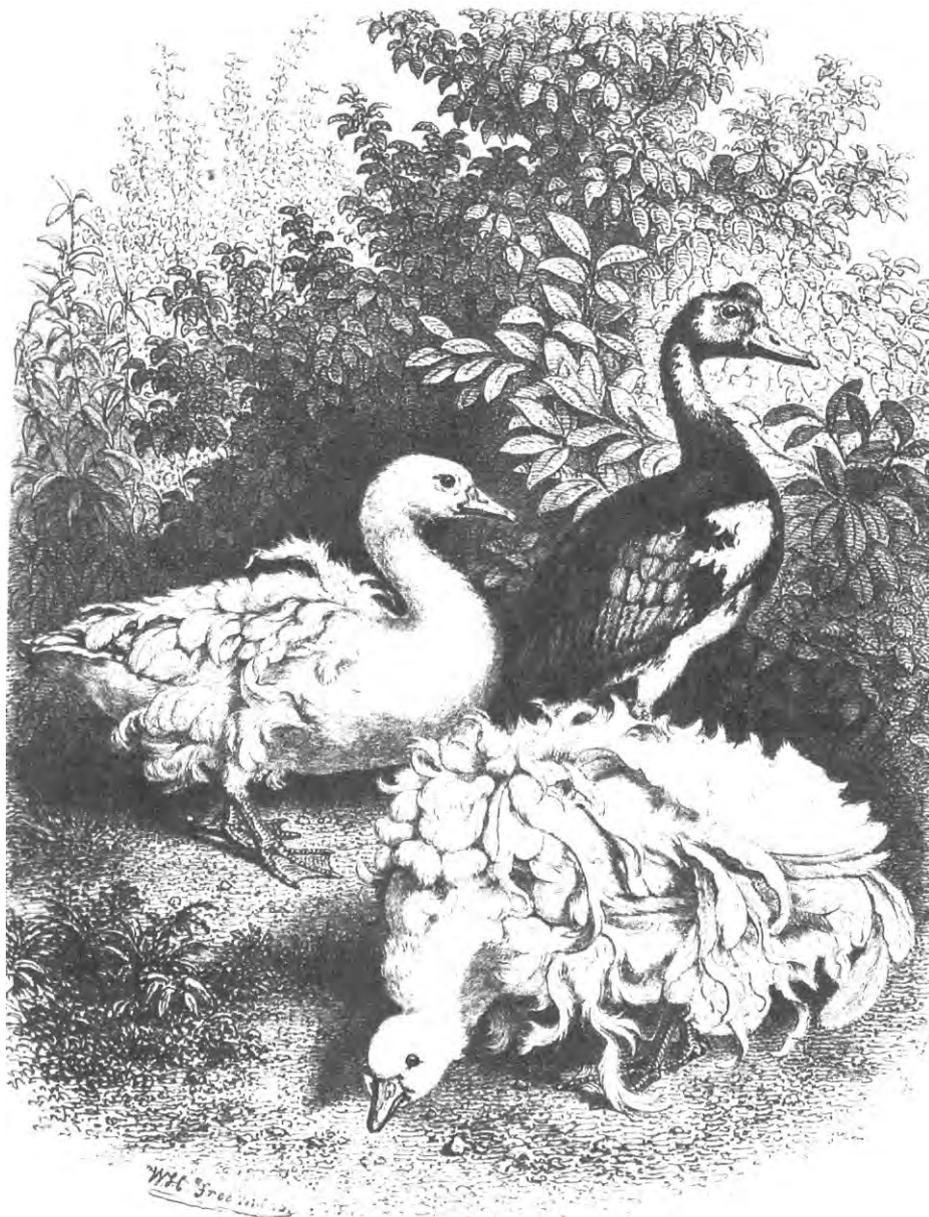
These geese found their way to the gardens through Dr. Delpech, having been donated by the Turkish Ambassador to Paris, Ahmet Vefik Efendi. The Ambassador had previously been involved in the repatriation of the Austrian and Hungarian prisoners of war. It is probably this association with the Ambassador that caused the breed to be also known by the name of *l'Oie de Turque* /*Turkish Goose*, a synonym first used in 1865.^{4 & 5.}

A report on the Jardin (1860–1861) states that two ganders and seven geese were present in the gardens; the geese started producing eggs in February 1861, & had produced 35 eggs by March.^{3.}

Having described the other varieties of geese in the gardens at that time, a contemporary account includes an illustration (Fig. 2.) and states:

Finally, we come to *l'oie du Danube* (which occupies the foreground in our engraving) [Fig. 2.] in colour the plumage is snow-white, the beak and feet of a clear yellow. Its neck is thicker and shorter, more horizontal in attitude, closer the duck. A unique feature, which first attracts the attention of the viewer, is the consistency of its feathers. They are light, so flexible, that they move in the slightest breeze. The bird appears to be buried beneath a mass of feathers that are not adhered to its body. This beautiful species breeds in a domesticated form in the Jardin des Plantes and the Jardin d'Acclimatation du Bois de Boulogne.⁸

(Trans. JMT)



Jardin d'acclimatation. — Oie de Gambie; Oie du Danube. — Dessin de Freeman.

Fig. 2.

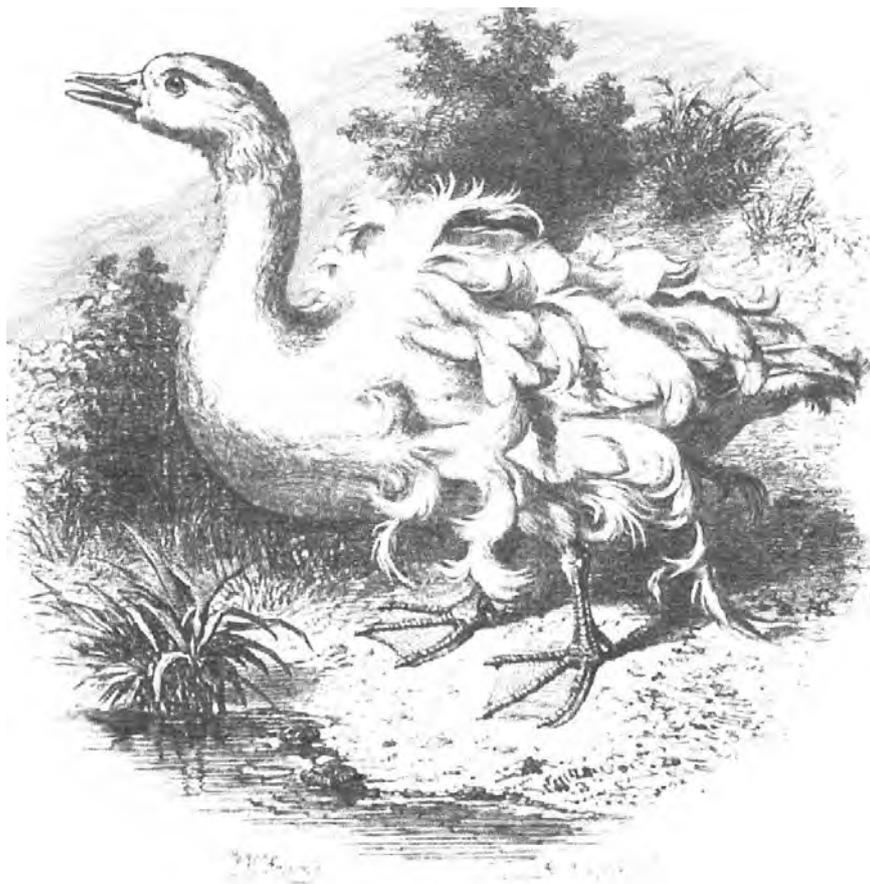
It is this engraving that is used by Lewis Wright in his books published from 1873.^{29 & 30.}

Jules Pelletan writes of the breed in 1862, describing them as:

Goose of the Danube.— A white variety which has the feathers going the wrong way, like certain curly hens. . . . Its feet are yellow; its legs are short and its carriage horizontal.^{24.} (Trans. JMT).

The two descriptions cited above appear to follow that given in the British periodical, *The Field* (1860), in stating the colour of the beak and feet to be yellow; and differ from Mrs Harvey's account of the birds having beaks and feet of a red colour.^{17.}

W. H. Freeman, the artist responsible for both of the afore-going engravings, produced another image (Fig. 3.) that appears in a work of 1864, naming the breed *l'oie frisée de Hongrie* = the Curly Goose of Hungary, and remarks on its large size and beautiful white plumage.^{21.}



Oie frisée de Hongrie.

Fig. 3.

The Jardin d'Acclimatation held stock of these geese in both the white and the grey forms by 1865.¹⁶ This is not surprising, as the species and varieties of geese were not kept in isolation, but together in a large group; and the feather-formation of the Sebastopol Goose has proved to be dominant, in varying degrees, when crossed with other varieties of geese. Surplus stock of the *Oie du Danube* had been distributed amongst amateur fanciers from 1862, and so it was also in a few hands outside of Paris.⁶

However, for those particular *Oie du Danube* in the Jardin d'Acclimatation, 'their days were numbered'.

Having thrived and proliferated in the gardens for a decade, they were to be served-up on the dinner-plate of any Parisian with the money to pay for them.

During the Siege of Paris, 1870-71, due to the Franco-Prussian War, the inhabitants were forced to eat almost anything they could get hold of. Having exhausted stock of any cattle and horses, Parisians' attention was then focused on their pets, and even the rats of the sewers; but even that would not suffice.

Albert Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, then secretary/director of the gardens created by his father, Isidore, entered into a lucrative business-deal with local butcher, M. Deboos, of 173 Boulevard Haussmann; selling-off any of the Jardin's livestock considered to be edible.

It was not a singularly mercenary act; the animals were in the same situation as their human overlords ~ there was very little to feed them on and a general acquisition for food was in place.

The butchering began on 24th October, 1870, with the slaughter of asses, zebras and buffalos. Throughout the October, 187 assorted ducks, geese and poultry were slaughtered; and in the November M. Deboos purchased a mixed consignment of mammals and birds which included ~ a couple of cassowary, 200 francs each; 5 pheasants, 110 francs; 2 Carolina Ducks, 30 francs; a Rouen Duck, 15 francs and an "*Oie du Danube*", 35 francs.

Later, even the much-loved elephants, Castor and Pollux, were not spared; and sold off ~ at 27,000 francs, the pair.¹⁸

Alphonse Gobin (1874) states the *L'Oie du Danube* was imported into England in 1859.¹⁵ It is probable that this statement, and some subsequent ones

following the same text, caused Edward Brown (1906) to give the same erroneous date of its importation.²

The Jardin's collection of animals and birds was re-instated after the Franco-Prussian War and a pair of *l'Oie du Danube* donated to the gardens in 1885.⁷

However, the breed did not come to the notice of the French poultry writers again, until the Grand Exposition in Paris, 1889, when a pair was exhibited in the agricultural section of the French exhibit.²²

It is not until 1895 that another illustration of the breed appears in a French publication (Fig. 4.). Charles Cornevin presents an image that bears a close resemblance to one which previously appeared in the American Press in 1876 (*vide post*), and states the beak and feet are yellow in colour and that the breed was imported into England at the time of the Crimean War, 1856.⁹ Both of these assumptions would seem to be imprecise.

Remy Saint-Loup (1895) gives Gobin's account, thus furthering the inaccuracy, and includes the left-hand figure in the illustration given by Cornevin.²⁵

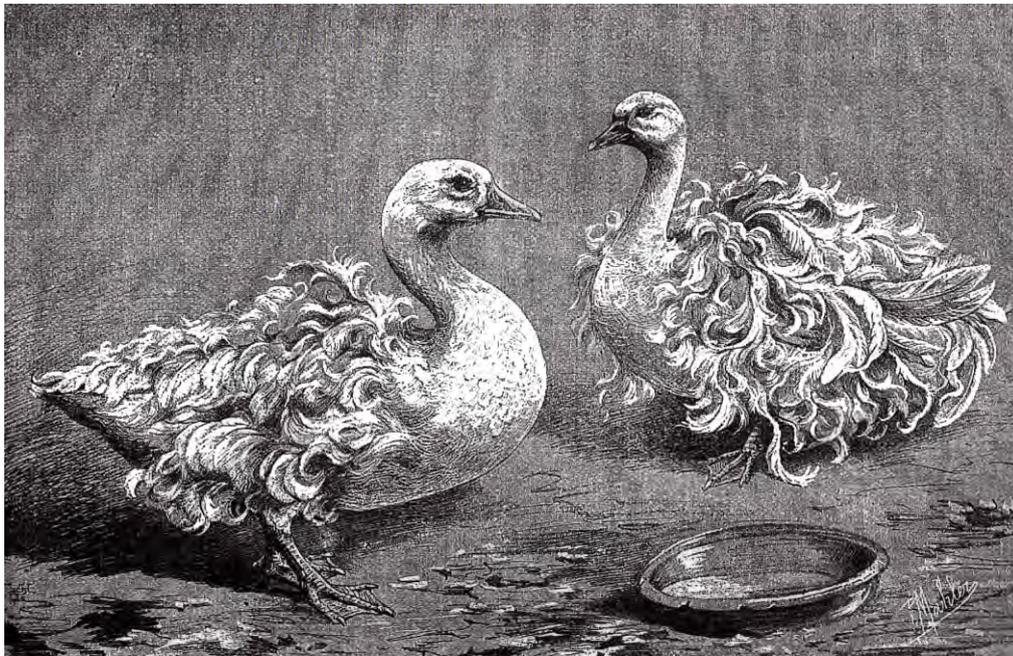


Fig. 4.

It is Pierre Mégnin's (1896) mention of the *Oie du Danube* being first seen in France at the Grand Exposition in Paris, 1889, that has caused authors to claim 1889 to be the very first time Sebastopol Geese / *Oies du Danube* were present in France. Such statements are clearly inaccurate. Mégnin delineates his *Oie du Danube* (Fig. 5.) as a much stockier bird than the preceding illustrations and describes it as having blue eyes, with the beak red-pink in colour and red legs; much more akin to Mrs Harvey's account.^{22 & 17.} Most subsequent French authors follow Mégnin's description.

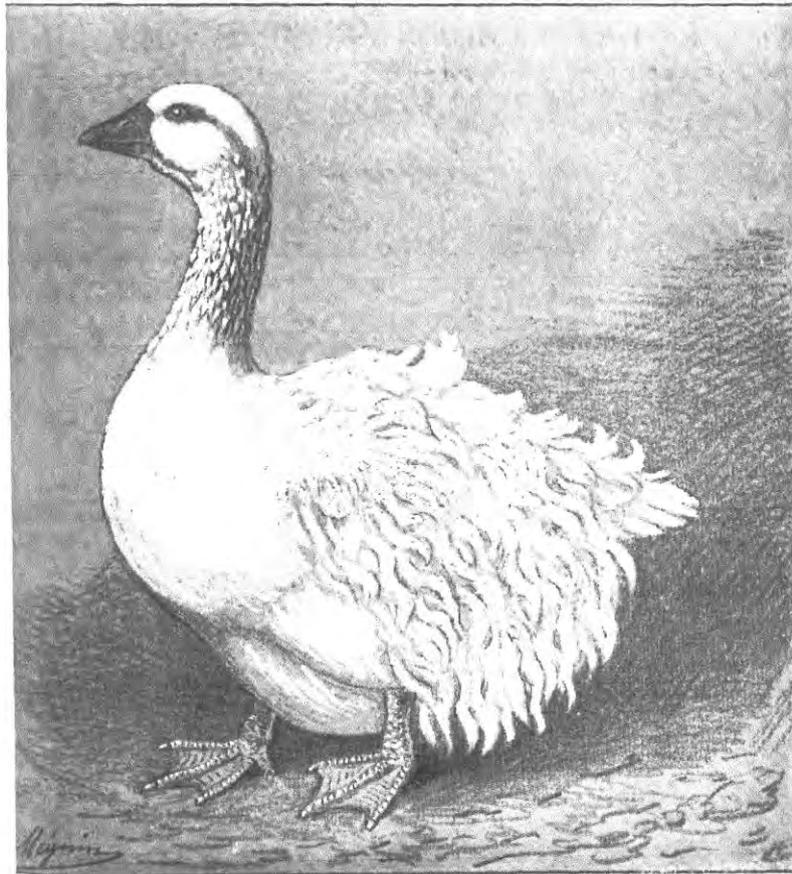


FIG. 4. — Oie du Danube.

Fig. 5.

Alphonse Blanchon (1896) retains the beak and leg colour of the *Oie du Danube -ou de Sébastopol* as given by Mégnin; while Charles Voitellier (1905) merely describes the plumage.^{1 & 28.}

Twenty-six years later (1922), the description remains the same as given by Mégnin, and weights are included as being 3kgs for the goose and 4kgs for the gander.^{26 & 27.}

By 1887 Sebastopol Geese appear to have been widely distributed throughout Europe. An aquatint (Fig. 6.), from a collection of drawings of the East and Italy, circa 1887-1889, by Louis Morel-Retz, depicts a group of the long-feathered, smooth-breasted form disporting in the Aréthuse fountain at Syracuse, Sicily. The Sebastopol geese have now long since vanished from the fountain, but the papyrus continues to flourish.

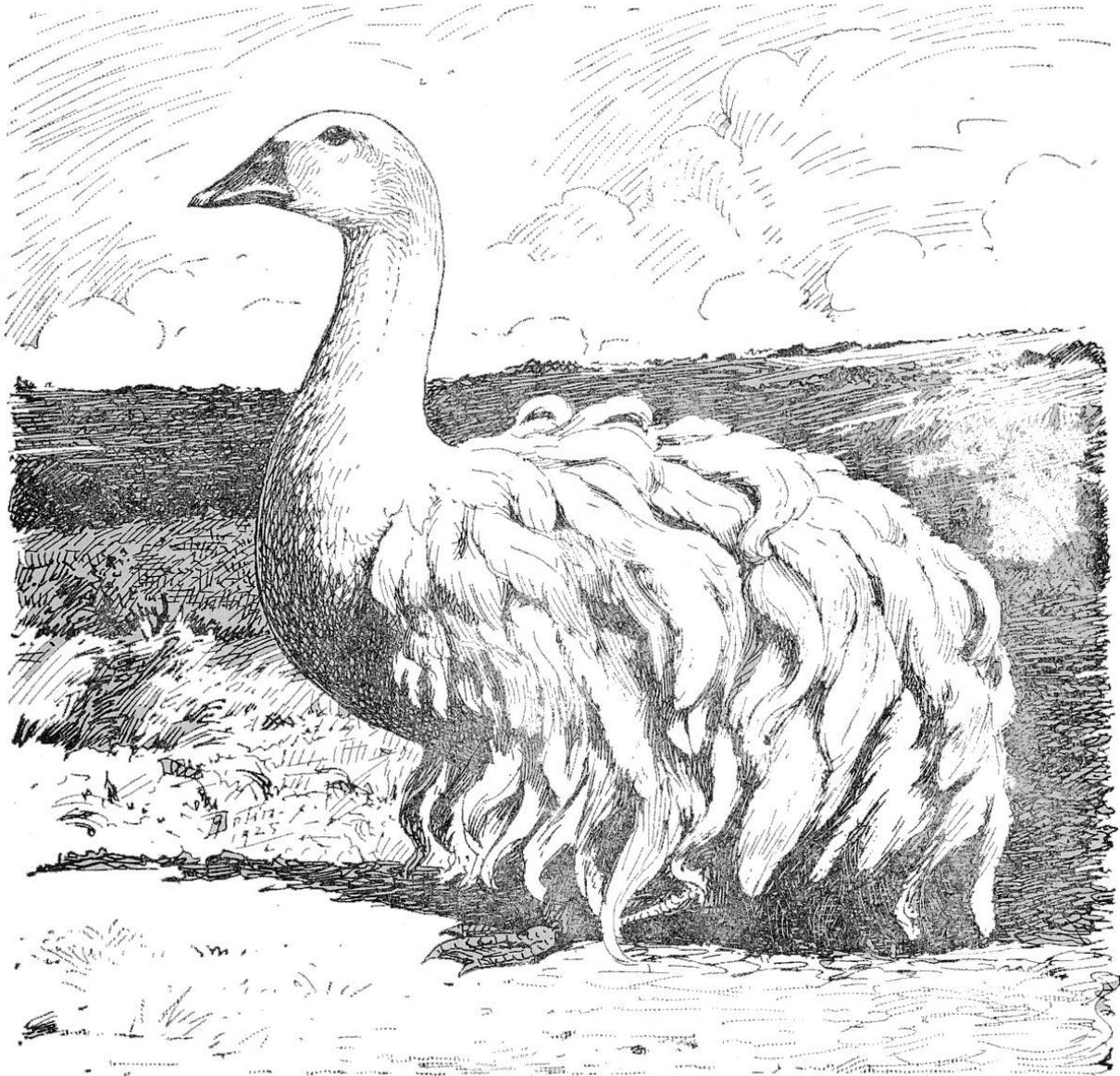


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(Detail taken from post-card.)

Fig. 6.

The Sebastopol Goose (Fig. 7.) as depicted by René Delin, in Belgium in 1925, has a smooth breast and feathers trailing from the shoulders and back that are wide and undulating, reaching to the ground.²³



Courtesy of Denise Moss.

Fig. 7.

The Sebastopol Goose in Germany and Austria.

In the 1860's, European authorities were recognising this type of goose as a unique breed. Specimens arrived at the Munich Zoological Gardens in 1864 and Leopold Fitzinger gives a brief description under the name:

Gelockte oder Locken=Gans (*Anser Moldavius*). [Curled or Curly Goose]

Danube, Moldavia, Wallachia, Turkey. White, with long curled feathers on the back and wings; beak and feet orange-yellow. Known to us only in recent years, but found in most zoological gardens. Its origin is that of the common goose.¹³ (Trans. JMT)

In 1869 the breed was also present in the Hamburg Zoological Gardens; and by 1875 the breed received Imperial patronage and specimens were to be found in the menagerie at Schönbrunn, Vienna.^{19 & 14.}

Bruno Dürigen (1906) describes under the various names of “*Die Locken=, Strupp=, Seiden=, Zottel= türkische, Astrachan=, Sebastopol= oder Donau=Gans – Anser dom. crispus;*” ~ The Curly=, Un-kempt=, Silken=, Shaggy=, Turkish, Astrakhan, Sebastopol or Danube Goose, as an peculiar form of the domestic goose; and speculates that the traffic of vast numbers of geese into Germany from the adjacent countries of Poland & Russia probably included specimens of geese of the Sebastopol type.^{12.}

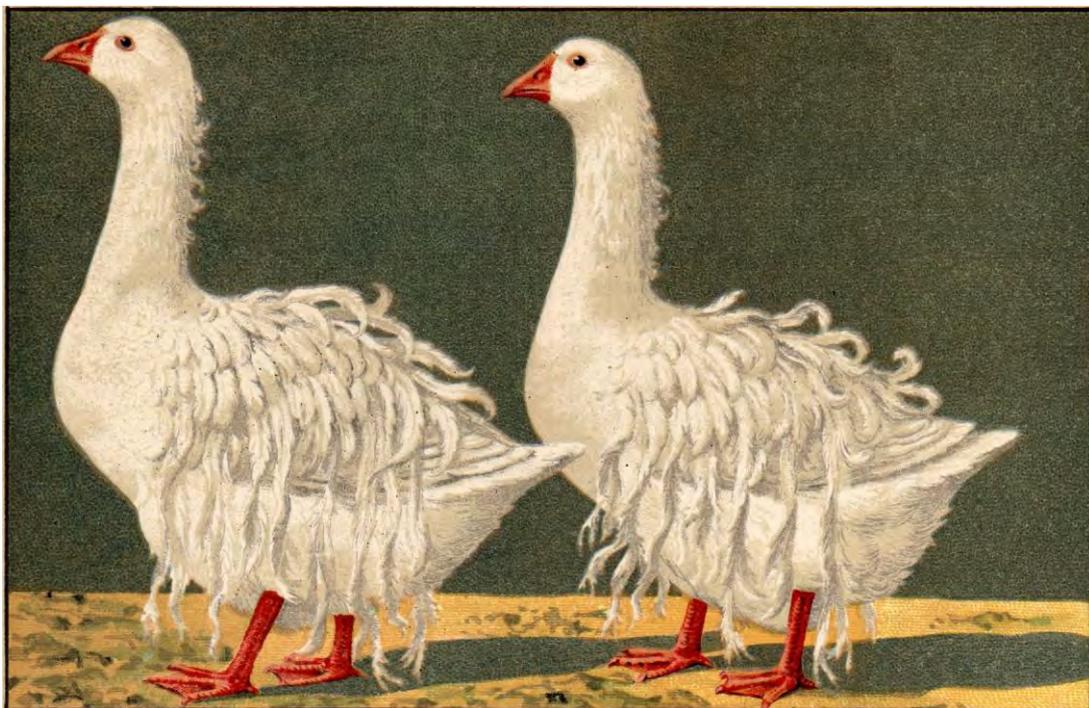


Fig. 8.

The illustration in *Kramer's Taschenbuch* shows geese with curled feathering to the back of their necks (Fig.8.), which is stated to be present in well-bred specimens, and describes only the smooth-breasted type, giving the beak-colour as being pink and the legs and feet orange-red.^{20.}

The German Standards for 1949 contains an entry for Sebastopol Geese (Lockengänse), describing it thus:

Pure white and sometimes showing a small crest on the top of the small, round head. The bill is short; the neck medium-long, straight and appearing strong; the body being short and held horizontal, with a full round breast set somewhat high; the tail short, closed and carried horizontally. The curly feather formation is not uniform. In many birds the feathers flow only from the back, but in most the whole body, with the exception of the breast and neck, is curled. Weights for the gander are 5 - 6 kg, the goose 4½ - 5 kg.

General Impression: A comparatively small, deep-framed goose with a plentiful curl-formation to the plumage and also a tendency for a crest.

Characteristics: Body: comparatively short, carried fairly horizontal. Breast full and round, however somewhat high set. Head small and round. Bill short, neck medium length, straight and fairly strong. Tail short, closed and carried horizontally. (Trans. JMT.)^{11.}

This Standard has remained basically the same throughout the years.

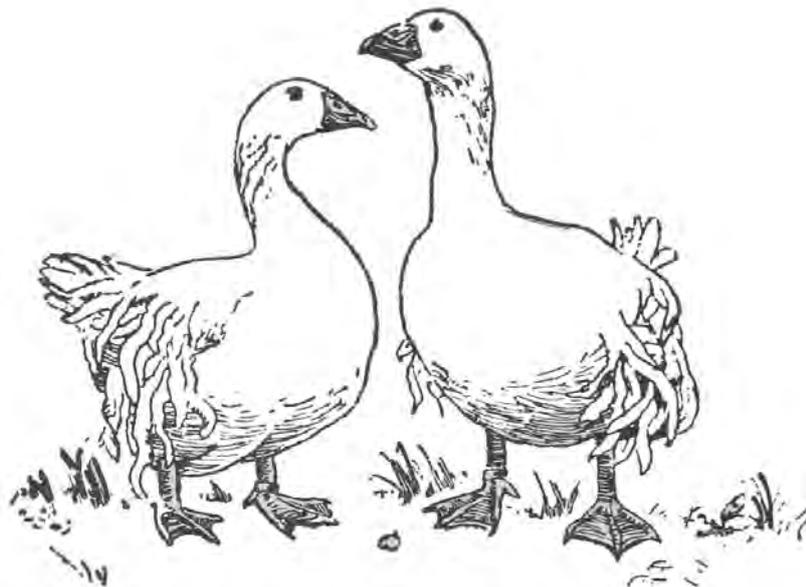


Fig. 9.

In 1974 the eye colour, blue, is added and in 1984 the bill colour is given as “orange-red with a lighter ‘bean’”, the legs and feet also “orange-red”, along with the requirement that the paunch / belly should be only slightly prominent and be single-lobed; a double-lobe being a major failing.

Throughout all of these Standards the same figure of smooth-breasted,

The Sebastopol Goose in North America.

A report of Harvey Bayly's exhibit of Sebastopol Geese at the Crystal Palace in September 1860, appeared the American poultry press in the November of the same year, which reproduced the illustration from *The Illustrated London News* (*vide post*).^{11.}

At the New York Poultry Show, which commenced on the 14th December, 1870, all of the major prizes for European Poultry were awarded to exhibitors from Great Britain, and were sold at auction on the 20th December without a reserve price placed on them. Mr. J. C. Cooper, of Cooper Hill, Limerick, Ireland, who had previously been most successful in gaining prizes at the major Irish poultry shows, also won most of the classes at the New York Show. He won not only the President's special prizes for European Poultry, but also many other trophies, which included a 'First' for his Sebastopol Geese.^{13 & 16.}

When the breed was exhibited at the Bridgeport Show in 1877, one early comment was that: "*those dishevelled feathers, of the Sebastopol geese, look as though their mothers' had been killed in the war, and nobody had cared for them since.*" In the same year, William Simpson, Jnr., presented two Sebastopol Geese to the Central Park Menagerie, New York.^{12.} Simpson was a well-known pigeon and poultry fancier, and breeder of Jersey cattle and Berkshire pigs on West Farms, Westchester, New York, which he ran with his father; he was elected permanent President of the National Columbarian Society from 1872.^{3.}

A report of 1878 features an illustration (Fig. 1.) that bears a strong resemblance to that which later appears in Charles Cornevin's publication of 1895 (*vide ante*), and states:

Sebastopol Geese

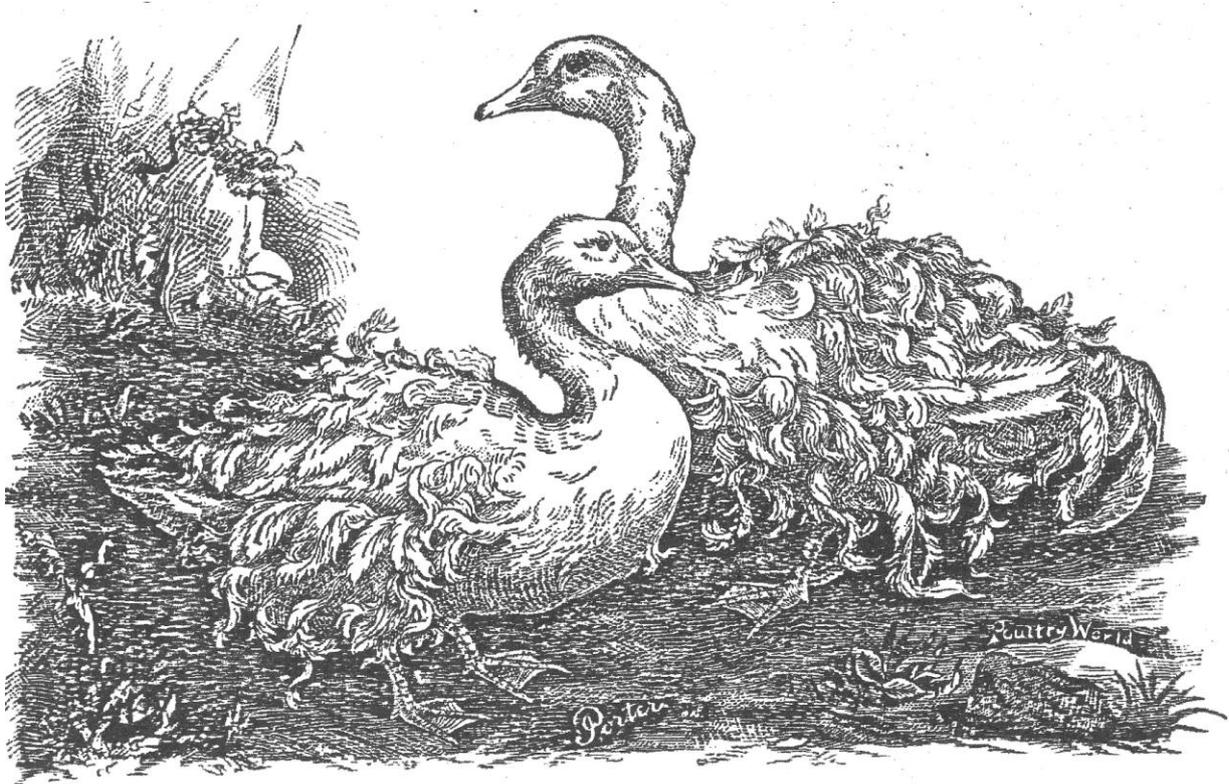
The beautiful but grotesque appearing birds shown in the accompanying engraving, and known, generally, by the above name — although sometimes called the **Danubian Goose** — were bred by C.E.L. Hayward, of Peterboro., N.H., and are very fine specimens of a singular variety. They are, it seems, quite common along the Danube, and appear to be a variety of the common Goose, breeding freely with it, and producing perfectly fertile progeny. The striking peculiarity of these lies in their plumage, which is exceedingly beautiful, a pure white, and somewhat resembling that of the Frizzled fowl, although differing from them greatly, in one respect: whereas, the feathers of the Frizzled fowls are, for the most part, perfectly webbed, and have

considerable stiffness, those of the Sebastopol Goose are much more slender and weak, being, perhaps, more like the feathers of the Silkie fowl than those of the Frizzled.

The least breath of wind is sufficient to move the long curling feathers that, in many cases, trail to the ground. And, as will be seen in the engraving, some of the feathers are themselves split, and divided into narrow filaments.

Mr. Hayward certainly deserves great credit for his endeavours to disseminate in this country, this particular and handsome variety of goose, which came originally, we believe, from the Black Sea ¹⁷.

Mr. Hayward was an importer and breeder of all types of land- and water-fowl; and he later advertised to obtain specimens of the breed in 1887. ¹⁴



SEBASTOPOL GEESE.—Bred by C. E. L. HAYWARD, PETERBORO, N.H.

Fig. 1.

The above illustration re-appears, tided-up, (Fig. 2.) in 1882 with the text:

This goose is remarkable for its peculiar curled plumage, which is best represented in the cut than it can be by verbal description. In size the Sebastopol goose is small, its chief merit being its oddity. In colour it is pure white.

It was first exhibited in England in 1860, by Mr. T. H. D. Bayly, who imported it from Sebastopol. In this country it is sometimes called the Danubian

goose and is said to be common along the Danube. ¹⁹.

In this work there is no hesitation in giving ‘Sebastopol’ as the place of origin.

A further import of two Sebastopol Geese “*from London*” (presumably the Zoological Society) was received by the Zoological Society of Philadelphia in May 1879. ²¹.

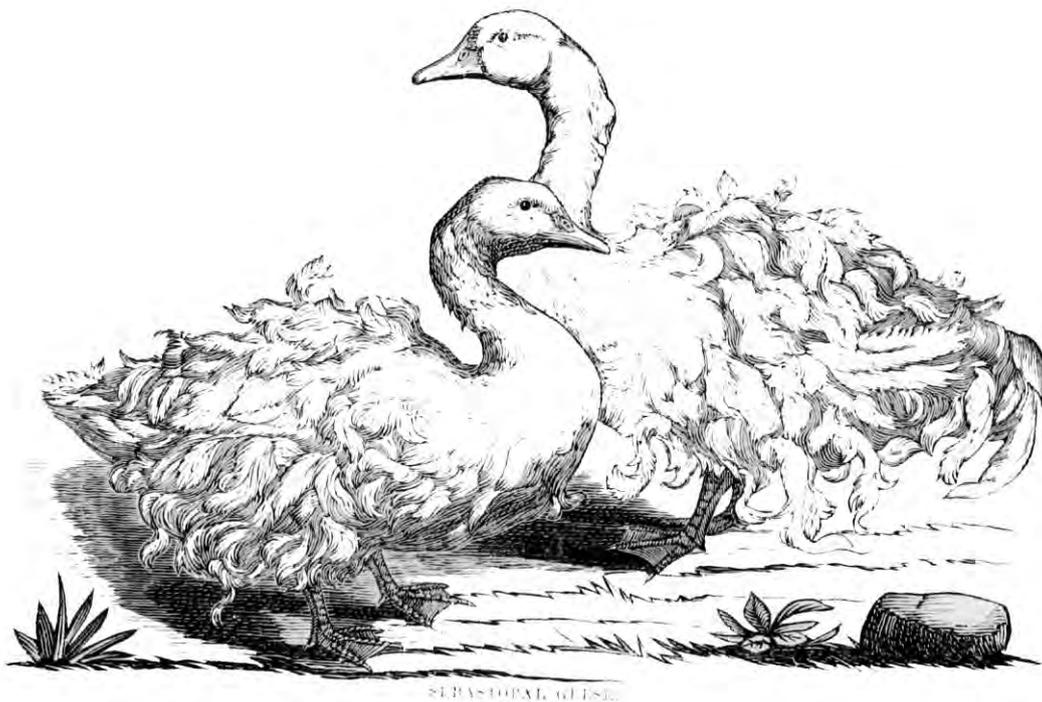


Fig. 2.

The 1878 / 1882 illustrations (Figs. 1. & 2.) are most probably drawn from specimens of the breed as it was found in America at that time.

In 1894 the following article appears with a sketch of a Sebastopol Goose (Fig. 3.):

SEBASTOPOL GEESE.

**They Have a Most Beautiful Plumage and
Rounded Bodies.**

The Sebastopol goose resembles the Embden or German races in shape, although the former is possessed of a little more elegance of form, and is perhaps more swanlike. It is found in nearly all the colours which the German geese show, white and gray, or white alone. The pure white are probably considered the most handsome, and are the only ones sent to purchasers paying high figures, but those with gray upon them would be just as attractive. The distinguishing features in the Sebastopol geese are the long, ribbon-like plumes which grow above the wing bar. These graceful feathers lend a very aristocratic look to their possessors as the wind waves them when the birds are standing, or when floating back upon the water's surface as the birds swim. The city on the Black sea, near which they are found, gives their name. That portrayed here was sketched in the Jardin d' Acclimatation of Paris. The habits of the Sebastopol geese are those of the ordinary breed, and they combine the useful with the ornamental in their beautiful plumage and rounded bodies.¹⁵

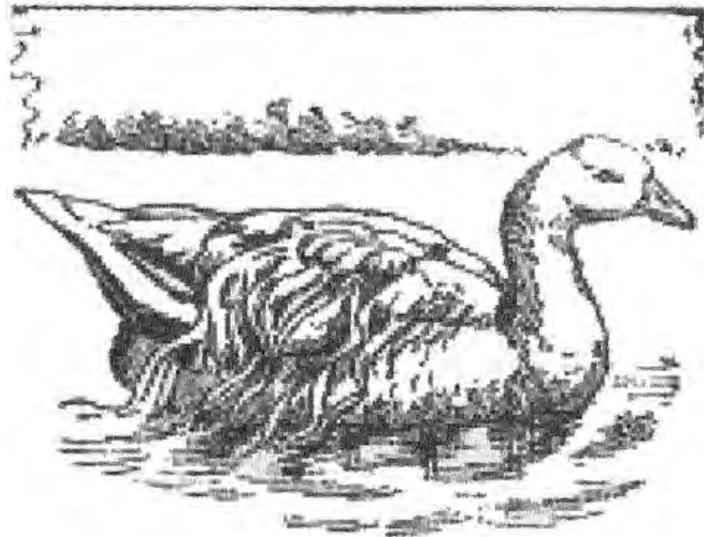


Fig. 3.

The American edition of Harrison Weir's book, *Our Poultry*, entitled *The Poultry Book* (1905), states that the Sebastopol Geese in the USA were very rare, and had been experiencing difficulties with fertility until a Mr. Smith, of New York, mated them to Embden Geese to impart additional vigour; the progeny from the first cross was mated back to the parent line, producing extremely good results.²⁰ This probably accounts for the change in the beak-colour from rosy-orange to the orange and the slight increase of weights, when compared with the original birds.

Sebastopol Geese are mentioned by the experienced poultry-writer, John Henry Robinson, as being quite scarce in the USA in the early 1900's, and he presents the illustration from the British newspaper, *The Daily Mail* (1905), as: “*Sebastopol Geese on an English farm*” (1913) ~ Lord Alington's farm, in fact (v.a.) ~ and the same illustration, once again, as a “*Flock of White Sebastopol Geese*” (1924).^{8 & 9.}

In his work specifically on ducks and geese (1924), Robinson presents images of a Sebastopol Gander (Fig.4.) and a Goose (Fig.5.), but does not state the provenance of the photographs; which is unusual, as elsewhere, Robinson fully attributes the images taken from other sources.^{10.}

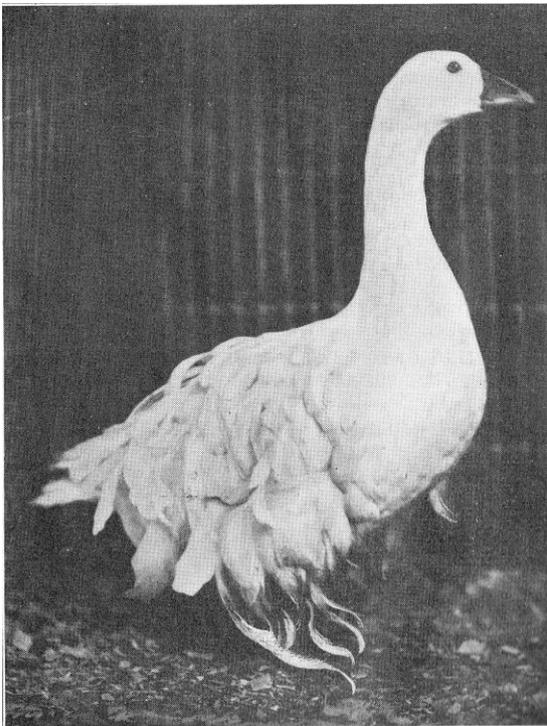


Fig.4.

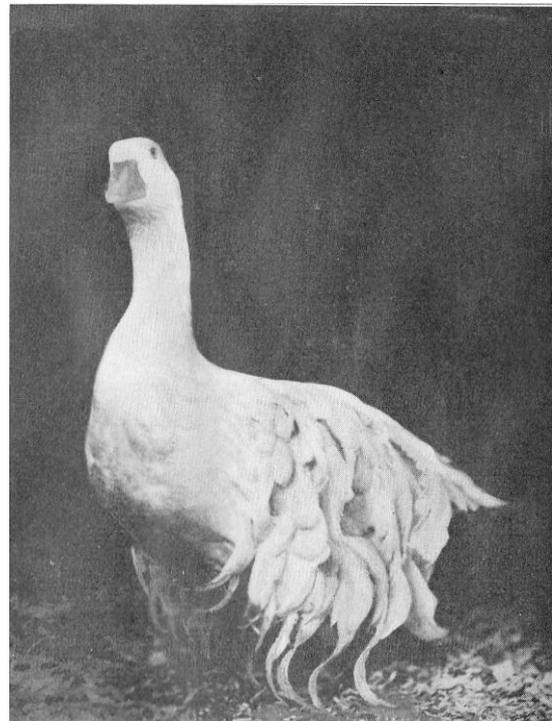
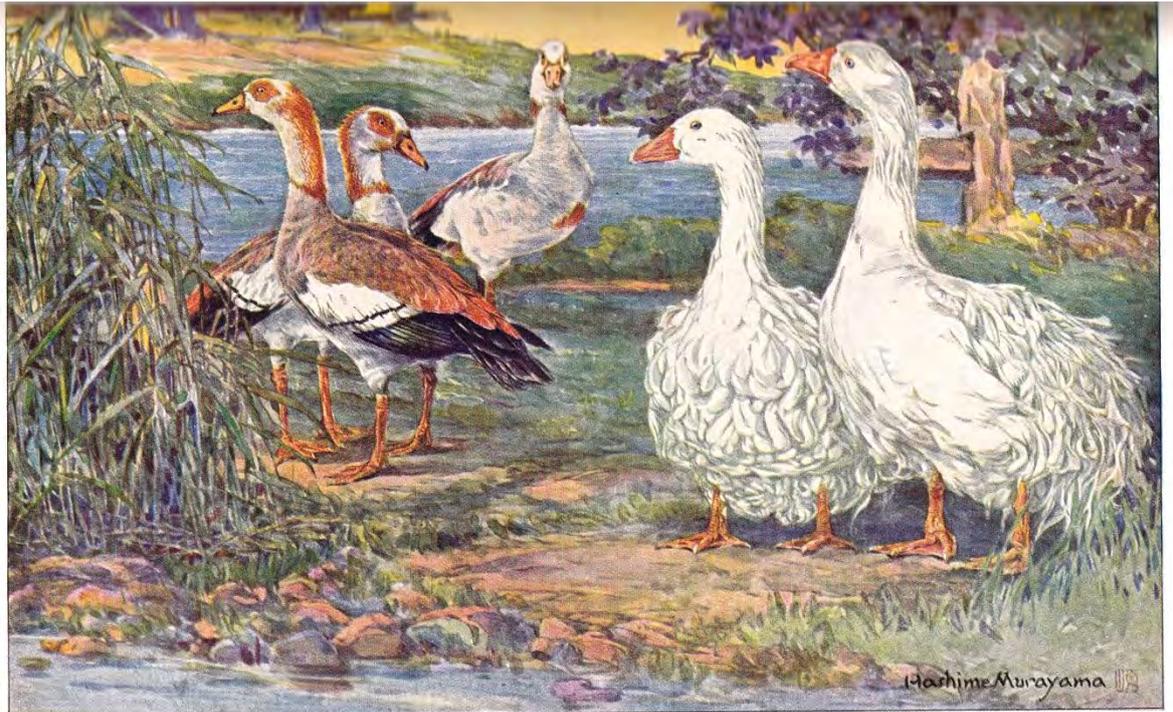


Fig. 5.

The Sebastopol Goose was still rare in the USA when Morley Jull wrote an article for *The National Geographic Magazine* in 1930, which was, at that period, not recognised as a standard breed in the United States. The illustration (Fig. 6.) by Hashime Murayama depicts two geese; one shows breast-feathers that are obvious curled and the other smooth-breasted with curled feathers over its back and sides.^{5.} This illustration appears to be the first to depict the breed displaying curled breast-feathers; all previous depictions are of birds with smooth breasts and trailing plumage falling from their shoulders and backs.



© National Geographic Society

EGYPTIAN AND SEBASTOPOL GEESSE

Painting from Life by Hashime Murayama

The Egyptian breed is a replica of the wild species originally found in northern Africa and along the lower Nile. The Sebastopol goose is noted for its peculiar feathering, giving the plumage over the body a wavy appearance.

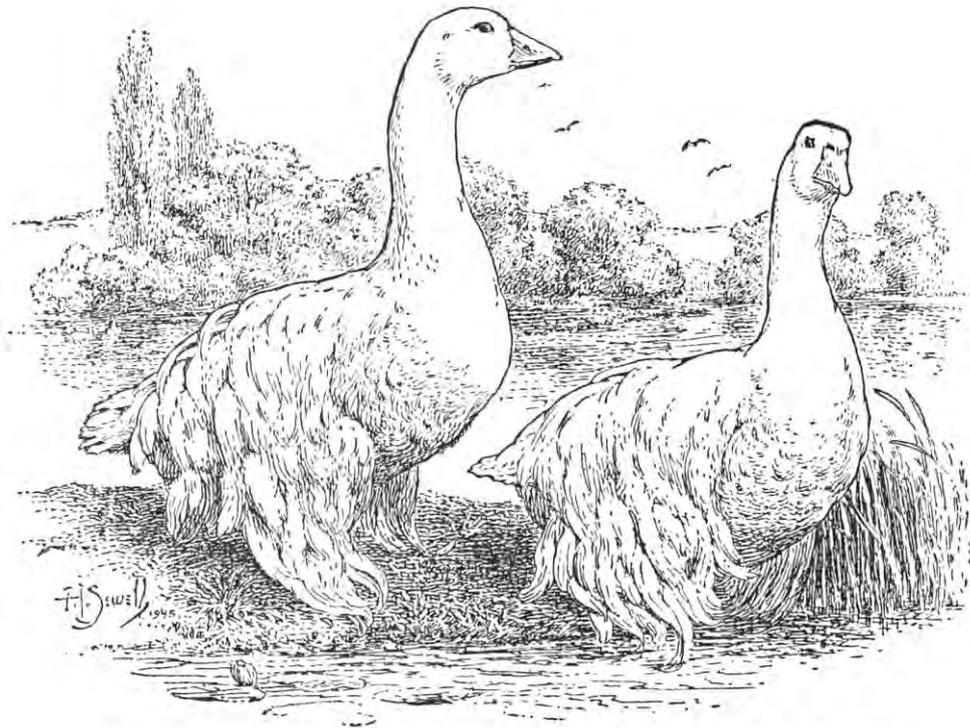
Fig. 6.

The Sebastopol Goose was accepted to the American Standard in 1938, but only in its all-over curly type; the smooth-breasted, trailing-feathered type was not accepted or had been over-looked in the selection process. That Standard fundamentally remains in place to the present day.

Some ten years on from the breed being standardised in the USA, another American writer on poultry, Paul Ives, says of them:

Snow white in color with blue eyes and bright orange bill and legs and feet and long, curved plumes hanging from back and sides, sometimes reaching the ground, and the short feathers of the front and under belly curled closely, . .

Ives description follows the accepted standard, but the illustration (Fig. 7.), drawn by Franklane L. Sewell, shows the smooth-breasted, trailing-feathered type; with the figure of the goose reversed from Robinson's (1924) photographs (*vide ante*) ~ in contradiction to the printed standard. ⁴



A pair of Sebastopol Geese. Original drawing by Franklane L. Sewell.

Fig. 7.

In the years that followed the Standardisation of the Sebastopol Goose in America, the breed fell into a decline; although not 'rare', the breed was in few hands and the quality of the birds was questionable.

However, from the mid 1950's, W.C.(Bill) Garber at his Sunnholme Yards, Simcoe, Ontario, Canada, worked with specimens of the breed and thoughtfully line-bred them into the most remarkable specimens of the over-all curly type to be found anywhere; in recognition of his efforts he was named as the International Waterfowl Breeder's Association's '*Waterfowl Person of the Year, 1979*'.

In 1976, some of Bill Garber's birds found their way into the hands of a number of dedicated breeders in the USA. By sharing their knowledge and their birds amongst one-another, and adhering to the policy of line-breeding established by Mr. Garber, the breed experienced an up-turn in its fortunes. Today, truly outstanding representatives of the breed are to be found and continue to flourish in North America.

The following is reproduced from the International Waterfowl Breeders Association's publication of 2010 by kind permission of Dave Kozakiewicz.

Fondly remembering
W. C. "Bill" Garber

Simcoe, Ontario, Canada



Bill was the kindest and Humblest of men. He bred a number of varieties of exceptional poultry at his Sonniholme Yards over the years but it was his Sebastopols that had his heart and ongoing dedication. He bred and exhibited for the sheer fun of it, but his Sebastopols took the waterfowl world by storm and became the stuff of legend. His home-bred exhibits won Grand Champion Goose and even Grand Champion Waterfowl at such prestigious shows as the CNE, Toronto's Royal Winter Fair and the old National. Bill's birds were regarded "by unanimous acclaim as the very best strain in North America". The quality of the birds and the man himself led to his being IWBA Waterfowl Person of the Year, 1979.

The “Danubian” Goose in Australia.

Under the name of “Danubian Geese”, the breed was first imported into Australia in the early 1860’s by Mr. Edward Wilson of Arundel Farm and Riddell’s Creek, Keilor, Melbourne, and formerly of Hampstead, London, England.

In 1841 Edward Wilson, at the age of 28, left Britain hoping to improve his fortune in Australia. He arrived at Sydney and sometime after settled in Melbourne, where he became a co-proprietor and editor of the *Argus* newspaper; which was to eventually bring him a very large fortune as annual net profits rose to £22,000 by 1872.

On retiring from the *Argus* in 1856, he set up as a model gentleman-farmer, purchasing Arundel Farm, Keilor, near Melbourne, and pursued his interest as an acclimatisation enthusiast, importing species from all over the world to be trialled or released; the stock being cared for by his overseer, John Wilson Anderson.

His sight began to fail, and in 1859-60 he visited England for advice, travelled in Europe and served on the committee of the General Association for the Australian Colonies. It is probable that, while in Europe, Edward Wilson visited the Jardin d’Acclimatation in Paris, where he would have encountered *l’Oie Frisée du Danube*.

On returning to Melbourne, in February 1861, Wilson became a founding member of the Victorian Acclimatisation Society, which was an offshoot of the Victorian Zoological Society, and was largely responsible for the foundation of parallel societies in the other colonies and of nine Victorian branches. Edward Wilson was its first President and forged links with the Jardin d’Acclimatation in Paris, creating a reciprocal arrangement for the exchange of all manner of live specimens; he held the position of President until he relinquished that office in 1864.

In that year the Société Imperiale Zoologique d’Acclimatation (Imperial Acclimatisation Society) of France awarded him with a gold medal: “*in recognition of his indefatigable labours in the cause of acclimatisation.*”¹⁸

1864 was also the first year in which “Danubian Geese” appeared at poultry shows in Australia; firstly at the Victorian Poultry Society’s 3rd Annual Exhibition, held at St. George’s Hall, Bourkes Street, Melbourne on the 4th August. The *Argus* reports:

For common geese, Mr. E. Wilson took the first prize for a pair with which there was no competition, but they were, nevertheless, first class in character, and of remarkable weight. Toulouse and Danubian geese, exhibited by the same gentleman, were also prize-takers. The former have been seen at previous shows. Their principal merit it is their enormous size, and we are glad to hear that they are breeding. The Danubian geese are more of a fancy sort, for their plumage is grotesque, hanging about them in ribbons. They were imported by the exhibitor. ¹

Edward Wilson most probably obtained his “Danubian Geese” from the Jardin d’Acclimatation, as any such geese being sent from England would be known by the name “Sebastopol Geese”.

Another report on the Show states: There were only three exhibits of geese, which comprised a pair of the Danubian species — only remarkable from the circumstance of the feathers on the back being all awry. ²

However, Edward Wilson did not personally attend these shows. In 1862 he again went to England; on the return voyage his sight deteriorated so badly that he returned to England immediately, and late in 1864 he had an operation for cataracts; he regained good vision in one eye, but decided to remain in England close to the best medical aid.

He initially lived at Addiscombe near Croydon, but in 1867 he bought Hayes Place, Kent, the eighteenth-century home of the Pitt family. Surrounded by nephews and nieces he dispensed endless hospitality, aided by a small army of servants; the amenities included a small zoo which contained emus, kangaroos and monkeys. Colonial visitors were always welcome; he was on close terms with the Darwins, Archbishop Tait, Edward Lear and Hugh Childers.

As he intended to remain in England, in 1867 Edward Wilson gave instructions for dispersal sales of all his possessions and live stock in Australia to take place; and his overseer, John Anderson, set about advertising the sale of the Toulouse Geese and six pairs of “Danubian Geese” ~ “from stock introduced into the colony by Mr. Wilson, and which have always taken prizes.” ¹

In the autumn of 1867, H.R.H. Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (2nd son of Queen Victoria and at that time 2nd in line to the British throne) made the first visit to Australia by a member of the British Royal Family, attending an enormous number of official engagements during his stay. ⁶

On the 27th November Prince Alfred ^{10±} attended the Grand Annual Exhibition staged by the Port Phillip Farmers' Society, held at Brunswick, Melbourne. Although the presence of the Prince attracted vast crowds, the Society was in financial difficulties and was wound-up that year; eventually to re-surface in 1890 as the present Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.²

The poultry exhibit was reported to have been low in both entries and in quality; however, those birds that did gain a prize were considered deserving. Mr. Edward Wilson's "Toulouse Geese" and "Danubian Geese", under the supervision of John Anderson, were among the prize winners.⁷

Mr. Anderson's husbandry had been very efficient, for ten pairs of "Danubian Geese" were offered for sale in 1869.¹

Within a year of the cessation of the transportation of convicts to Western Australia (1869), the importation foreign species had also stopped and the Society began displaying exotic animals in its gardens. In 1872 the society's title changed to 'The Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria'; and in 1910 it was granted a Royal charter.

During its period of activity (1861- 1869), the Acclimatisation Society imported and released dozens of alien species into Australia in a quite indiscriminate fashion; European Sparrows to Arabian Camels were tried ~ the rabbit, in particular, flourished and many European song-birds became a considerable nuisance to fruit farmers.

In England, after several heart attacks, Edward Wilson died peacefully at Hayes Place, Kent, on 10 January 1878. His remains were taken to Melbourne and interred on 7 July according to the rites of the Church of England. He was unmarried, and in his will he made twenty-six legacies of £100 a year to long-standing female friends in the colonies; but the bulk of his estate was used to form the Edward Wilson Trust which, since his death, has distributed several million dollars to Victorian charities, especially hospitals. A bust by Thomas Woolner stands in the State Library of Victoria.

In present-day Australia the breed is referred to by the name of "Sebastopol Goose".

¹⁰ ±The following spring, while attending a charity picnic in suburb of Sidney, Prince Alfred survived being shot in the back in an assassination attempt; the would-be assassin was duly hanged.

Summary.

1860: The Sebastopol Goose had not been described in Western Europe until a pair is sent to England from the port of that name on the Crimea Peninsula; it arrives on English shores in 1860 and is exhibited at the Crystal Palace Poultry Show in the September of that year by T. H. D. (Harvey) Bayley.

These birds are white, smooth-breasted, with trailing feathers from the shoulders and back, with reddish-pink beaks and feet.

The breed also appears in Paris in 1860, under the name “Danubian Geese”; and was also known as the “Turkish Goose”, after its donor.

From the 1860’s, onwards, the breed is to be found in collections across most of Europe.

1863: Representatives of the breed had probably made their way to Ireland at about the same or earlier period, as they appeared at Irish Shows from 1863 under the name “Danubian Geese”.

1864: The breed reaches Australia by 1864, in all probability sent from Paris, under the name “Danubian Goose”, when it was exhibited by Edward Wilson.

1870: In 1870 the breed is sent from Ireland, under the name of “Sebastopol Goose”, to be exhibited in America at the New York Poultry Show.

1870-71: The specimens that had prospered in Paris are eaten by the populous.

1879: Further specimens arrive in Philadelphia, USA.

1885: The breed re-appears at the Jardin d’Acclimatation, Paris.

1938: The over-all curly type of the breed is accepted into the American Poultry Association Standards.

1947: Both types of the breed appear in the German Poultry Standards.

1982: The over-all curly type is accepted to the British Poultry Club Standards.

1985: The smooth-breasted, trailing-feathered type is accepted to the British Waterfowl Association Standards.

1997: Both types of the breed appear in the British Poultry Club Standards.

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