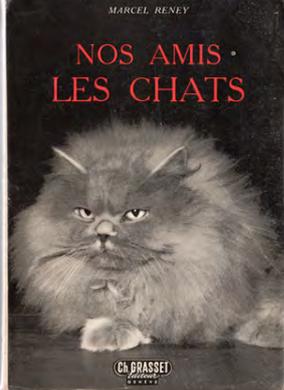


SECRETS OF THE BIRMAN CAT HISTORY REVEALED

Translated and Compiled
by Alwyn Hill

 <p>BUVETTES DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA FACULTÉ SCIENTIFIQUE UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON N° 10</p> <p>LES RACES DE CHATS THÈSE PRÉSENTÉE À LA FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE DE LYON PAR PAUL BÉNÉ</p> <p>1925</p>	 <p>BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE DE LYON N° 10</p> <p>LE CHAT RACES - ÉLEVAGE - MALADIES</p> <p>1926</p>	 <p>VIE A CAMPAGNE 17 Octobre 1927</p> <p>JARDIN DE ROSES ET DE TULIPE</p> <p>1927</p>
 <p>BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE DE LYON N° 10</p> <p>LES RACES DE CHATS</p> <p>1935</p>	 <p>VIE A CAMPAGNE La Revue Pratique avant tout</p> <p>SON ALTESSE le Chat</p> <p>1935</p>	 <p>MARCEL RENÉY</p> <p>NOS AMIS LES CHATS</p> <p>CH. BRASSET</p> <p>1945</p>

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So that your friends can go to the site and download the PDF

Introduction to the collection

Having been given permission to publish an English Edition of the book the Secrets of the Sacred Cat of Burma, a few still available by typing the title to www.Amazon.co.uk, I was always intrigued to know more about the early publications containing Birman Information. Wondering how many were still available the quest began to try to obtain those I could. The internet these days is a valuable tool for researching all manner of things and so it was the best place to start.

I did searches for the Theses written by Jumaud in 1925 and found two copies one held at Harvard University and the other in the University of Utrecht. Surely there would not be one available elsewhere but with luck I found one in an antiquarian book shop in France. It was in uncut condition so unfortunately to be able to read the content I had to cut open the pages which will have devalued it quite a lot, but it was the only way. I have added information on Siamese cats where this breed has been given in the Theses and elsewhere in other documents.

My thirst grew and I began searching for La Vie a La Campagne 1927 again luck was on my side this time from an antiquarian magazine shop in France.

I typed in more searches and came across more books and magazines. Finding Son Altesse le Chat was a real problem because I only had a date and year to go by. To find it took the purchase of four bound books, containing a total of 48 copies of La Vie a La Campagne. two of the books proved useless, but I was able to find the copy required printed in a special Edition. However all the volumes are really interesting if anyone is interested in life in the 1920's French interior design, farming methods, cooking, Chateau interiors, Dog and Cat breeds and a lot more.

Other books were tracked down eventually from different sources. Almost everything was written in French and so began the long process of translation. To ensure they were correct I had them done again professionally by a French linguist.

The books of the Missions of Auguste Pavie have all come from Lotus Press in Thailand. Digital reprints of the 5 volumes for The Gazetteers for Upper Burma 1900 were found on line, as was the India Office List. and I was able to purchase copies.

I do have many later books about Birmans but these don't reveal any new information and some can begin to cloud the original story of the Birman so I think we have here the most precise information there is to be gained.

On this web site I have written short previews of everything but I have provided a PDF file you are able to download which contains the full translated documents which you can read from your PC or from a printed copy.

If you prefer to read using a Kindle or I Pad you can load the PDF to either quite easily. For I Pad send the PDF to your I Pad (cloud) email address. Download either the Adobe Reader app. the iBook's app or the Kindle app and open it from there. For a Kindle itself simply load the PDF from your PC to the Kindle device.

JUMAUD THESES

The Birman description from Dr Phillipe Jumaud Theses 25 March 1925

Like the Siamese this breed, originated in the Far East. Birman cats bred in the temples were heavily guarded and their sale prohibited. However a few years ago, a pair was acquired by ***M Vanderbilt** from which came the subjects that are the basis for our observations.

MANNERS

These cats are very sociable, intelligent, happy, loving following their master like a dog. There are however exceptions and one of the subjects observed was particularly savage.

SIZE

These animals have an elongated body, slender legs, well proportioned. The adult weight ranges between 3 and 4 kg.

Weight of a Birman (male)

5 days	98 grams
8 days	176
15 days	285
1 month	513
2 months	1122
3 months	1350
5 months	1973
7 months	2775
36 months	3950



HEAD

The head is long with large erect hairy felted ears. The forehead is rounded. Males have a thick ruff of creamy white hair styled oddly in the manner of a griffin. The whiskers are long and wiry. His eyes are an intense royal blue, very mobile.

COAT AND COLOUR

The hair is long, the length of hair half-angora and separated on the back as if by a comb. The tail is very bushy and forms a plume. The colour is creamy white, like Siamese but perhaps with more golden tones. The mask, tail, ears, and legs are dark otter and are finished with white gloves stopping below the wrist.

TAIL

This appendage never has nodules; it is long, covered with hair forming a plume, held in the same manner as squirrels.

REPRODUCTION AND BREEDING

Breeding these subjects, we have observed, has been particularly difficult.

***Mme Leotardi** who has had the opportunity to raise multiple litters says she cannot count on raising over one in ten. As for food these animals do very well on boiled fish and cooked salad, others accept raw meat.

SCALE OF POINTS

Here is the scale of points determined for the appreciation of the beauty of these animals.

Coat (length and texture of the hair	20
Colour and markings	20
Head	15
Eyes	15
Tail	20
Body	10
Total	100

** Take note of these names as there is more about them in later documents
M. Vanderbilt & Mme Leotardi*

Jumaud's Theses 1925

The Siamese Cat

This breed originated in the Far East it occurs in Siam (Thailand), English East Indies (Indonesia) and the Malay Archipelago (Malaysia)
In Europe we are now seeing quite a few specimens which were born in England or France.

Manners: These cats are very intelligent and grooming is easy. About the intelligence of these cats (Jumaud carried out relevant research to prove this.)

The Siamese are particularly sensitive to cold which alters their activity level. During the winter season these animals are in a period of semi hibernation which though not always apparent is none the less real. This state of hibernation greatly reduces the resistance of young and adult subjects. (He then notes temperature of the same cats in summer and winter.)

More than 80% of diseases in Siamese are observed during the winter. Because of this a constant temperature of 20 degrees must be maintained in the cattery, reduced cautiously to 15 degrees for adults. I fear below this temperature fatalities are frequently observed. Sensitivity to cold is the cause of many accidents during transportation by rail and absolutely all unaccompanied travel should be avoided. There are exceptions and that is the Marquise de Scesy Montbeliard whose cattery is located in Haute Marne. She reported a case of a very handsome male age 9 (weighing over 4.5 kg) who spent his nights outside in the snow and 20 degrees of cold.

Siamese cats eat mostly fish and boiled rice but they are great hunters and devour their game; they are also very fond of sparrows, mice and rats.

Siamese cats have a very extensive voice they use with different intonations, especially around the period before mating.

LE CHAT RACES - ELEVAGE - MALADIES 1926

E LARIEUX & PH JUMAUD

The Birman Cat

Originating, as the Siamese from the Far East the cat of Burma bred in the temples was severely guarded and their sale is prohibited. However a few years ago ***M Vanderbilt** was able to acquire a couple whose issue currently exist.

MORALS- These cats are sociable, Intelligent, friendly and caressing in the same way as dogs; there are exceptions and some subjects were particularly wild.

SIZE- These cats have long bodies. The legs are thin and well proportioned. The weight of an adult ranges between 3 and 4 kilos.

HEAD- is long with large erect ears covert in felt like hair; the forehead is bulging. The males have an odd cap of cream white between their eyes in the manner of a griffin. The whiskers are long and wiry. The eyes are intense royal blue, very mobile.

COAT- The hair length is half- angora and separates on the back as if combed. Tail is very bushy and forms a plume.

COLOUR- is that of the Siamese creamy white, perhaps with golden tones. The mask, ears, tail and legs are dark otter. All four legs are terminated by white gloves which stop below the wrist.

TAIL- Never presenting with a nodule; forms a long hairy plume raised and carried like a squirrel.

REPRODUCTION & BREEDING- The breeding of these subjects has always been particularly difficult. The breeder should not count on more than one in ten. For food these animals do very well on boiled fish and cooked salad; others accept only raw meat.

SCALE OF POINTS-

Coat (Length and texture of the hair)	20
Colour and Markings	20
Head	15
Eyes	15
Tail	20
Body	20
Total	100

**Note the name M. Vanderbilt again but nothing about him being an American millionaire.*

LA VIE A LA CAMPAGNE 1927 (Article by Dr Phillippe Jumaud)

The cat of Burma is from the Far East. Subjects of this breed, bred in the temples are severely guarded and their sale is prohibited. However, a few years ago a couple were imported by ***Mme Thadde Hadish**. (The couple who began the family line de Madalpour) This couple were probably stolen by a servant of the temple, dazzled by promises and who fled to avoid punishment. Knowing the fanaticism of the Hindus, no one will believe that priests sold her a couple of their sacred animals, not even for a fabulous price.

Major Sir Russel Gordon part of the British troops in charge of protecting the Kittahs in 1898 had the opportunity to observe these sacred animals. He drew up a standard that supports our thesis established in 1925.

More the sacred Birman is very sociable, intelligent, happy to be stroked, obedient to commands following his master in the same manner as a dog. He plays with composure, without the presence of his master he becomes nostalgic. He is a quiet animal and lacks the quickness and fire of the Siamese. He seems to be aware of his sacred origin.

Essential Characteristics

Appearance and size: rather small with a long body and slim shapely legs. The sharp claws are strong but thin and rather brittle. Adult weight ranges between 3 and 4 kg.

HEAD: Is long with erect felt covered ears with white hairs. The forehead is domed the nose is slightly snub. The lower lip is strong giving the impression that the mouth is slightly ajar. The whiskers are long and wiry. Eyebrows are provided, the eyes are a very intense royal blue, sapphire eyes of the legend and deeply melancholy. If the animal is threatened or angry his expression is fierce and reveals that the little beast still intends to be highly independent.

TAIL: The tail is never short, broken, knotted or deviated in any way. At first glance it does not feel like the plume of the Angora. It is not thin it fattens out; one can compare the appearance of the hair to the whip of Setters. The tail is thin at birth but then it thickens. At rest the tail droops slightly and is upturned at the end. When the animal is playing or when he is cross the tail is held at right angles to the body over his back bristling like the huge plume of the squirrel.

COAT: Like Asian cats, the Birman hair is silky and semi long. With a bushy tail that forms a plume like the Angora.

COLOUR: The colour of the mask legs and tail is that of the Siamese, the back perhaps a more bronze tone. When seen in direct sunlight the Birman coat gives the impression of being the colour of burnished gold, hence the name "Golden Cat" the name given by the English who have seen it. Four otter brown legs give the impression of being shod with mittens. It is absolutely necessary for the four white gloved feet to have white until the first phalanx. White peaks rises on the back of the hind legs which gives the impression of short laced boots.

SCALE OF POINTS

Coat:	20 Points
Colour and markings:	20 Points

Head:	15 Points
Eyes:	15 Points
Tail:	20 Points
Body:	10 Points
Total:	100 Points

BREEDING THE CATS:

***Madame Leotardi** observes it has been particularly difficult to breed in her cattery. She had the opportunity to breed ten but claims a Birman male will not breed with Angora cats. **Mme Leotardi** put a beautiful Persian with one of the males. The male flew into a frightful rage and to prevent loss of blood and the poor cat being torn to pieces she covered it with a blanket. Two days later he welcomed and mated a chocolate Siamese.

Offspring from mating Angora cats with Birmans do not resemble the Birman breed. A female belonging to **Mme Leotardi** was accidentally mated by a tabby European short hair produced a completely black, semi long hair female. There is nothing in this litter resembling the mother cat of Burma, not his hair, or colour, or form. Birmans mate easily with Siamese or with the Laotian Lynx cat but the kittens rarely obtain regular gloves. The coat tends to be that of either the Siamese or Laotian.

FOOD: These animals do well on boiled fish and cooked salad. Others will only accept raw meat. They are particularly susceptible to constipation.

To complete this study on the cat of Burma, here are some notes by **Sir Russel Gordon** demonstrating that both Siamese cats and Birmans come from crossing with Annamite cats. *"I think the same as the scientist and explorer **Auguste Pavie** that the Siamese cat is a cross between Birman cats and Annamite cats imported in to the Khmer Empire in the 17 century."*

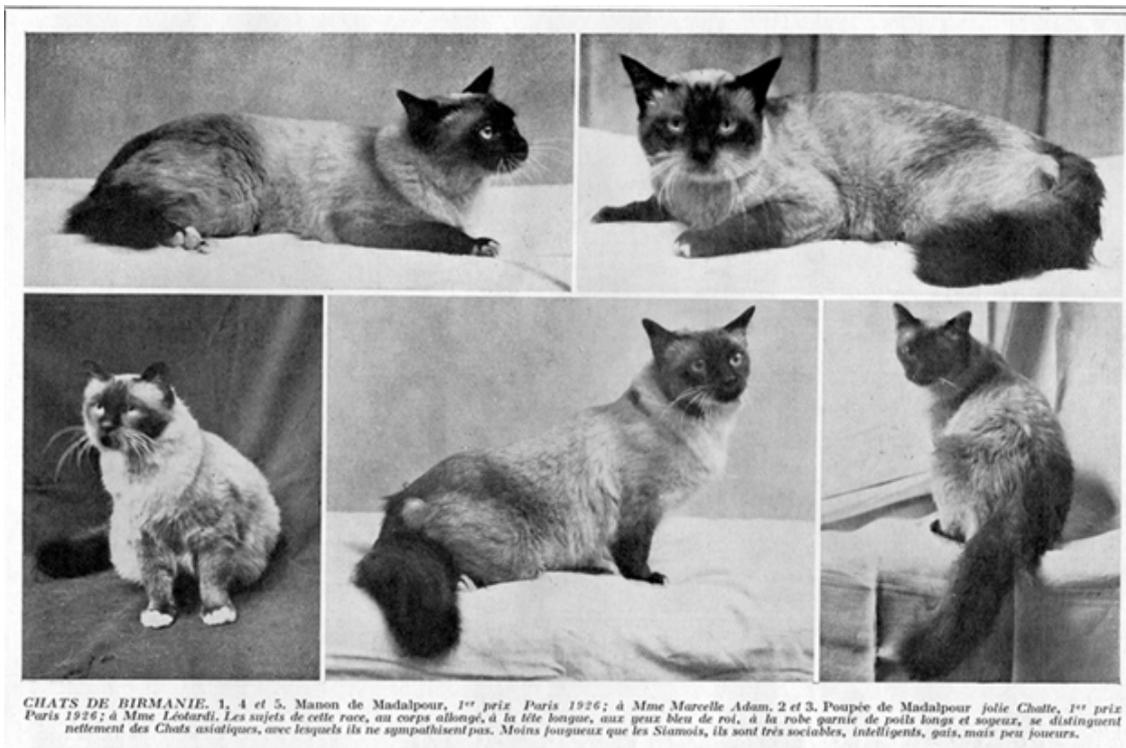
The decline of this Empire occurred when closed under the strict action of the Siamese and Annamites. Already in the 7 century "Thai" (Siamese) had invaded the Khmer (Cambodian & Birman) and developed their power at the Khmer's expense. The Khmer were always resistant to the influence of the Indian Brahman. Their closed religion was absolutely top secret from lay people up to the devoted powerful priests and the venerable "Kittahs." These priests were mercilessly hounded and Killed by the Brahmins in the second Thai invasion in the early 18 Century. Those who could escape fled to the north of Upper Burma, to the impregnable mountains and there founded the underground temple of Lao Tsun. (Home of the gods)

The temple of Lao-Tsun is undoubtedly one of the strange wonders of India, so rare few mortals were asked to contemplate, situated to the east of the lake Incaougji, between Mogaong and Sembo in a semi-desert region with a barrier of impassable walls. In 1898 the last Kittahs still lived there and I was allowed, by special favour, to observe some of their sacred animals. Following the rebellion and during the British occupation based at Bhamo, which was very isolated because of its remoteness from Mandalay, we had to protect the Kittahs against invasion, looting and massacre by the Brahmin. Their Lama Kittah, the yotagi, received me and presented me with a plate representing the sacred cat, with eyes that are actually two elongated sapphires, at the feet of a strange deity (piece 4108 in my Mildenhall collection) and after granting me the favour to gaze upon the sacred cats numbering one hundred and explained the origin to me.

The legend is pretty but it explains nothing scientifically; it is certain that a race of small yellow eyed Annamite cats, with an elegant and graceful shape and naturally short tail were introduced to Burma around the time of the invasion. Studies related

that cat to that of the Isle of Man (Cat without a tail) and this animal had been imported to India by English Sailors during the 18th century

This was observed: Nature has provided that all Asian cats have long fur Angora cats of all colours Persian cats, squirrel cats, Bengalese cats, Chinese dwarf cats on the island of Formosa called “fishing cat” or Japan-cat etc. As it encourages the Arabs and Hindu to protect themselves from the burning sun under large and thick clothes. Alone among his brethren in Asia the Siamese has short fur. In my opinion I therefore believe with some probability that the longhaired cat of Burma is the ancestor of a Siamese crossed with the Annamite cat without a tail imported by the English. There are still lots of copies amongst Siamese individuals who have yellow eyes and a more or less brindled chocolate coat and whose caudal appendage is reduced to a few centimetres. All Siamese have a break and a knot on the tail when it is long. One can still find indications of the crossing of these two very distinct breeds certainly at the beginning. This assumption is justified and corresponds to the claim emitted by several that the Cat of Burma is due to the crossing of the Siamese cat and the white Angora. It is an unacceptable hypothesis and demonstrably impossible to obtain these results by the mating of Siamese cats and other breeds.



The inscription below the photos state that
Manou de Madalpour won 1 st prize Paris owner Mme Marcelle Adam
Poupee de Madalpour won 1 st prize Paris 1926 owner **Mme Leotardi**

*Notes: The name of the person who obtained the cats has now changed from **M. Vanderbilt** to **Mme Thadde Hadish**. This differs from the earlier documents written by Phillip Jumaud. Also note that **Mme Leotardi** owned Poupee de Madalpour*

LES RACES DE CHATS 1935

*This document is from Jumaud 4 edition Book
(The first edition was published in 1930)*

Dr Phillip JUMAUD
President of the Cat Club France

Birman Cat of Burma

ORIGIN: - This breed originated in the Far East. Birman cats bred in the temples are heavily guarded and their sale is prohibited. However a few years ago, a pair were imported by ***Mme Thadde Hadish** (founders for the family de Madalpour); this couple were probably stolen by a servant of the temple, dazzled by promises and he would have fled for fear of punishment, because who knows the fanaticism of the Hindus. No one would ever believe that the priests have sold a couple of their sacred animals even for a fabulous price.

In 1898 **Major Sir Russel Gordon** part of the British troops in charge of protecting the Kittahs, had the opportunity to observe these sacred animals. He drew up a standard that corroborates what I established in my doctorate theses in 1925.

MANNERS: - These cats are very sociable, intelligent, friendly and caressing. Like a dog they obey the commands of their master. These cats like to play and play quietly. Without the presence of their masters, they are distant, distant and nostalgic. Animals that are calm who do not have the vivacity and ardour of the Siamese. They seem conscious of their sacred origin.

APPEARANCE& SIZE: - The Birman cat rather small has a long body thinner legs but well proportioned. The claws are sharp, curved but thin and rather friable. The weight varied between three and four kilograms

HEAD: - The head is long with erect ears covered with white hairs. The forehead is slightly domed; the nose slightly snubbed the lower lip large giving the impression of an open mouth. The whiskers are long and wiry.... the eyebrows are provided too. The eyes are moving and a very intense royal blue (the sapphire eyes of the legend) profound and melancholy. If the animal is threatened or angry, his expression is fierce and reveals to all that the little beast still intends to be independent.

COAT: - Like all Asian cats, the Birman cats hair is silky and semi long like en Angora. Those of the tail are less thick than the Angora and form a plume.

TAIL: - The tail never short, broken, knotted or deviated in any direction. At first glance, it does not give the impression of the plume of the Angora; It is thin, not fleshy the hair and appearance can be compared to the "whip" of the Setter. Making of the tail, thinner at birth it becomes wider. At rest the tail is carried drooping, slightly upturned at the end. When the animal is playing or when he is furious the tail is at right angles to the body, carried over the back like a plume of the squirrel bristling and huge.

COLOUR: - The mask, legs and tail is the colour of the Siamese with perhaps more bronze tones on the spine. Seen in direct sunlight the Birman cat coat gives the

impression of being made of burnished gold. Hence the name “Gold Cat” given to him by the English who were able to see him. Four splendid otter brown legs give the impression of being shod with mittens, gloved fingers of pure white until the first knuckle. At the rear of the hind legs the white goes up to a point giving the impression of short laced boots. The claws are sharp, very curved rather long but fine and brittle.

SCALE OF POINTS:-

Coat	20
Colour and Markings	20
Head	15
Eyes	15

REPRODUCTION AND BREEDING:-

The subjects observed breeding has been particularly difficult. **Mme Leotardi** who had the opportunity to breed several states “do not count on raising more than one in ten. Birman males do not mate with Angora cats.” **Mme Leotardi** presented a superb Persian to one of her Birman males. He went into terrible rage and had to be covered with a blanket to prevent loss of blood and the poor beast in pieces; whilst two days later making the warmest welcome he mated with a Chocolate Siamese. I never recall products between Angora cats and Birmans. One of **Mme Leotardi’s** females accidentally covered by a Tabby Angora produced frightful kittens of which 3 tabby males had short hair, the specimens’ absolutely like European cats and one completely black female which had semi long hair. In this litter nothing resembled the mother cat of Burma, not the hair, not the shade, not the form.

The cat of Burma easily mates with the Siamese or Laotian Lynx cat. But the subjects and gloves are rarely obtained. They regularly present the coat and shape of the Siamese or Laotian.



CONVOITISE: la Siamoise est fort jolie, mais un peu méfiante; pour lui plaire, maître Persan blanc connaît plus d'une sérénade.

The Siamese is very pretty, but unsuspecting; the white Persian knows more than one serenade.

Note the Siamese in this picture has some white on its feet

FEEDING:- These animal do very well on boiled fish and cooked salad, whilst other accept only raw meat. They are particularly prone to constipation. To complete this study we publish a few notes by **Sir Russel Gordon**, Demonstrating that Siamese originate from the crossing of Annamite cats and cats of Burma.

“Actually, I think and the learned Explorer **Auguste Pavie** agrees - The cat of Siam is a cross between Birmans and Annamite cats imports into the Khmer empire in the seventeenth century, when the empire was in decline, rigorously closed by the actions of the Siamese and Annamites.

Already in the 16 century the “Thai’s” (Siamese) had invaded the Khmer Empire (Cambodians and Burmese) developing power at their expense. The Khmer were at all times, resistant to the influence of Brahmanic India. Their closed religion was preserved by the almighty priests and the most venerable Kittahs. These priests were mercilessly hounded and killed by the Brahmins in the second Thai invasion at the beginning of the 18 century. Those who could escape fled to Northern Burma to the impregnable mountains and founded the underground temple of Lao-Tsun (home of the gods).

The temple of Lao-Tsun is undoubtedly one of the strange wonders of India few mortals have been known to contemplate. Located east of Lake Incaougji, between Magaoug and Sembo in an area almost deserted, surrounded by a barrier of impassable walls. In 1898 the last Kittahs were still living there and I was allowed the extraordinary favour to observe them somewhat with their sacred animals. Following the rebellion and during the British occupation of the base at Bhamo, very isolated because of its remoteness from Mandalay. We had to protect the Kittah’s against Brahmin invasion and we saved them from certain massacre and pillaging. Their Lama-Kittah, Ougji Yotag Rooh greeted me and presented me with a plaque representing the sacred cat at the foot of a strange deity whose eyes were made of two elongated sapphires. (piece 4108 in my Mildenhall collection) and after allowed me the great favour to contemplate the sacred cats numbering a hundred and explained their origin.

The Legend is pretty but does not explain anything about the scientific background. The fact is certain, that a race of Annimite cats with yellow eyes, slender and elegant shape, small size, a naturally short tail, at one point was introduced to Burma with the invasion. Certain studies communicated to me by **Auguste Parvie** relate this cat to that of the Isle of Man (tailless cat) and that animal had been imported to India by English traders in the eighteenth century.

This is noteworthy:

All Asian cats have thick fur. Angora cats of all colours, Persians, squirrel cats, Bengalese, dwarf cats of Formosa called “Swimming cats” or the Japan-cat etc. Nature has provided this, just as it encourages the Arab and the Hindu to protect himself from the hot sun under large and thick clothing. Alone amongst his brothers in Asia, the Siamese has sleek fur. I am of the opinion therefore and truly think with some likeliness that the long hair cat of Burma is the ancestor of a Siamese cat crossed with an Annamite tailless cat not imported by the English.

There are still a lot of examples, among the Siamese, individuals having yellow eyes, Fur varying from chocolate to brindle and the caudle appendage reduced to a few centimetres. All Siamese have a break or a nodule on the tail when it is long. One can

still find an indication of the juncture of these two very separate races certainly at the beginning.

This assumption is justified and corresponds to advance that emitted by several, pretending that the cat of Burma is the crossing of the Siamese cat and a white Angora. This hypothesis is inadmissible as well as almost constantly demonstrated the impossibility of obtaining these results by mating the Siamese and other breeds of cat.

NOTE: Having spoken about this with Dr Leslie Lyons, from her research she believes we should look towards the Japanese bobtail cat.

SIAMESE
LES RACES DE CHATS 1935
Dr Phillip JUMAUD

According to explorer **Auguste Pavie**, the Siamese cat is the product of crossing a Birman cat (long hair with an Annamite cat with (no Tail) this cat had been imported into the Khmer empire in the 17 century. It is moreover that some Siamese cats have yellow eyes and where the caudal appendage is reduced to a few centimetres. A break or knot can still be found is the clue to the junction the Birman and Annamite cat.

ORIGIN: - In Europe there are now quite a few specimens imported or born in England or France. The first specimens were observed in France in the garden of acclimatisation in 1885 they were given by **M Parvie** who was resident minister for France in Bangkok.

HABITS: - These cats are very intelligent and grooming is easy. They may learn to open doors and cabinets as well as perform acrobatics. They are very attached to their master, they follow him like a little dog, but it is noteworthy that they are thieves and more independent than other domestic cats.

Many Siamese are very sensitive to music and smells. Some scents attract others upset them (Ether Alcohol Mint...) By comparing subjects of the same race, age, weight and even similar conditions we see that in general the brain is much more developed in the Siamese breed deemed by its intelligence.

The Siamese are particularly sensitive to the cold which, in these animals profoundly alters there activity level.

During the winter season these animals are in a period of hibernation which, though not always very apparent is nonetheless real. This state of hibernation greatly reduces the resistance of young and adult cats.

In Siamese more than 80% of diseases are observed during winter, because of this temperament a minimum constant temperature of 20 degrees must be obtained in the breeding livestock. The temperature can be reduced to 15 degrees for adults. Below this temperature I fear fatalities are frequently observed.

This sensitivity to cold is the cause of many accidents during transportation by train and should be absolutely avoided during the winter if the cat is unaccompanied.

One exception belonged to Mme la Marquise de Scey Montbéliard her cattery was situated in Haute-Marne. I can report the case of a very handsome male 9 years old (weight over 4.5 kg) who his nights outside in the snow in the cold temperature of 20 degrees.

Siamese eat mostly fish and boiled rice but they are great hunters and devour their game sparrows, mice and they are very fond of rats.

The cat of Siam has a widely applied voice they use with different intonations and modulated especially in the mating period. At this time the cries of the females is reminiscent of beasts.

SIZE AND SHAPE: - They are generally smaller than our cats in Europe. The male is substantially larger than the female. The profile is a bit long but elegant and graceful. The neck and legs are thin.

HEAD: - Is always small, wide between the eyes, narrowing between the ears. The forehead is flat and receding, long wide nose. Lips are round and full. Fairly large ears and wide at the base provided with a little fluffy hair inside. The eyes are almost almond shape slanting towards the nose. The iris is a beautiful blue. The eyes have a reddish hue when the animal is frightened or irritated. The eyes are a crucial point and subject to misinformation such as; the animals were inbred and likely to be anaemic, which makes them look paler, less blue. Cats that have eyes that are blue-green or yellow greenish will be tainted by unexpected defects.

The blue eye colour does not cause a weakening of hearing as in another Breed (*Blue eyed white cats*).

TAIL: - Shorter than the other cats in Europe it is straight and thin like a pointer dog, it is short, curved, broken and even twisted like that of a pig. At the base there is almost always a nodule which is characteristic of the breed.

The issue of the tail of the Siamese has been much written about. And to predict the mode of a long tail has employed fanciful arguments, we will not discuss them because they have no scientific basis. By appropriate selection it is possible to fix the conformation and get only long tails. But it does not prevent the scientific nature of the Siamese breed to always have a knot, break or irregularity of some caudal vertebrae. The opinion of the learned professor Cornevin (which has more weight and value than that of sport breeders or snobs) "examination of subjects born in Siam leaves no doubt on this subject. Of more than 500 subjects imported from Siam I examined only 18 who had long tails and two of the latter category had a breakage at the end." Despite the aforementioned, despite the lack of importance they place on the tail (5 out of 100 points in the scale of points) the English have in their standard states that the tail must be long, steep and slightly raised at the end. Belgians tend to adopt the English mode. In France all tails are admitted in exhibitions and in the scale of points no number was attributed to the tail.

HAIR: - The hair is short, soft and silky to the touch. On the face, legs and tail the coat shines. The coat should be flat revealing firm hard muscles as the Siamese cat should not be too fat.

A long-haired Siamese was exhibited at the Cat Club Newburg by M Harvey, who had brought it back from Malaysia. The parents of the cat were apparently common Siamese who produced Siamese kittens with the exception of the specimen with long hair.

COLOUR: - The colour of the adults are one colour, light cream, pale silver grey, light orange or glossy tan these are the preferred colours and the most popular are the clearest.... On this subject here is a story told by Englishman John Jennings who confirms the favour for subjects with pale coats. "The first cats of Siam which were exhibited in London were light coloured with darker faces and extremities. They came from the palace in Bangkok where it was long believed that the King of Siam

maintained catteries for these royal animals at great expense. This was denied by prominent figures and accredited to the Government of Siam. They said that the Royal Siamese cat is a rare variety found in all parts of the country even in Bangkok and surrounding areas. We sometimes find a couple in the palace but there is no official kennel and these cats are looked at as the personal property of the king. This was the case for the old Pekingese Spaniel from old China. Buddhists have a special reverence for the white Siamese or albino animals because it is the preferred form if Buddha returned to earth. Ordinary people do respectful greetings if an animal has a white coat. The belly and underside of the animal is always pale. The back being darker, the head (either whole or in part) the tail, four legs are brown to blackish and blue eyes stand out against the dark mask. The hairs that line the inside of the ears are like white down. Sometimes there is a white spot on the front of the chest between the neck and chest; any sign of a white spot is a sign for disqualification. Collections can be seen in Museum galleries; of subjects with small white spots which mark the ends of the legs in the most bizarre way, around the claws of the middle toe. Whiskers and eyebrows are long very pale hair. Generally there is a blackish spot in the region of the umbilicus it shows very well on a clear coat.

Albinism may occur among the Siamese. Thus a participant CCF M. Fircinai de Cholet recently reported a new case. The observation concerns a young Siamese cat aged 6 months which was all white with pale cream extremities, this cats eyes were red. This small size animal had a knotted tail. Mated many times this cat never re produced.

REPRODUCTION AND BREEDING: - For a long time the number of young born in Europe was very limited because the King of Siam, very jealous of his breeding cats did not export entire males.

The cat of Siam can safely mate other races without extreme danger since Siamese cats are born much smaller than the youth of other races.

Siamese cats come into heat twice a year; spring and autumn sometimes even 3 times in the same year. The heat last for 12 to 15 days often three weeks. It is noteworthy that the female carries about eight days longer than other cats and pregnancy are generally 65 to 66 days.

The cross obtained by mating a Siamese male and common cat in general produces common breeds. In ten observations of this sort once we found a case of the tail produced in the common breed.

At the cat show in Marseilles in 1925 we saw a cat with long hair and the colour of the Siamese breed. The tail was shorthaired and without any nodules.

The number of kittens produced in each litter varies between 2 and 6 and 5 is the most frequent. The average figure represents 38 observations collected by 7 French and Belgian breeders of Siamese cats.

From the age of 4 years the number in each range diminishes and does not exceed 4 on average (personal observations by Mme. Marquise de Saint-Mars)

In the report growth in young Siamese that live on mothers' milk is made rapidly but there are individual differences with the increase of animals placed in the same conditions.

The rapidity of the increase is much lower in young animals that instead of receiving the mothers' milk are subject to a different diet. The same phenomenon was observed in kittens entrusted to cats from other races. In several cases we observed a complete dieback and mortality of 80%.

The young are born white with a small dark line on the edge of the ears. If at the time of birth there is the slightest stain on the pristine coat do not keep them because they are not pure bred. Siamese cats are deemed by a cattery as difficult that is wrong and Mme Marquise de Lingneries who has raised more than ten, tells us that there is no more danger than with other breeds.

FEEDING: - Opinions by breeders are much divided but we want to mention two of them who are particularly qualified because they have raised many very beautiful subjects. Mme Noclain composed meals for her pets, a day of cooked liver (pork veal or beef) cut into small pieces; another day raw minced beef; once a week fish, baked cod or skate alone or with a mixture of bread; another day steak lightly cooked and cut into small pieces.

Mme Noclain has noted that the pale coat persists longer in Siamese cats fed exclusively on fish rather than cats fed with meat. She gives four of five meals a day not offering too much food at once and milk in discretion.

Jennings in his book on cats indicates that food should always be light" everything should be cooked the same, reduced to a jelly" Whether sheep or sheep head or gutted fish all food must be fresh.

THE CLUBS

In France we have a large number of breeders of cats of Siam grouped into Le Club Francais de Chats Siamois (affiliated to CCF) and in England The Siamese Cat Club (affiliated to the National Cat Club).

STANDARD

To conclude this brief study on the cat of Siam below we give the standard scale of points adopted and used by judges.

BODY COLOUR: - The shade of the body must be as pale as possible and preferably cream but the tawny shade is also permitted, without stripes. Spots or marks on the body. The mask, ears, paws, and tail have very clear markings in otter brown. In kittens the mask separated by a fine line and have no stain or defined lines.

The general appearance depends very much upon a good mask that should make the face mostly sable.

In kittens the mask is separated by a faint line it has neither spots nor defined lines and must keep mostly a sable face.

EYES: - must be a bright brilliant blue.

HAIR: - is shiny and lying in a flat layer on the body.

FORM: - The body must be rather long, legs slim, well proportioned.

HEAD: - is long and pointed.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: - Must retain the following features the curious tail thing striking to the eye. It is important that the subject is not too large, which would undermine the slender type so appreciated. Summarised in each of these peculiarities the cat of Siam must be the opposite of the domestic cat. It is distinguished by a short coat contrasting colours and with a nodule on the tail in particular. Note: - Whilst we admit that cats commonly blue, black, white, tabbies

and other colours are cats of Siam the Cat Club of France admits only those who respond exactly to the above Standard.

SCALE OF POINTS

Body colour	20
Size	10
Coat	10
Head	10
Eyes	20
Mask	15
Points report	15
Total	100

Any cat that does not get a minimum of 75 points may not aspire to champion in Cat Club of France.

*Notes- This book establishes without doubt that **Mme Leotardi** did breed Birmans. It also established that Major Gordon was in communication with Auguste Pavie.*

La Vie a La Campagne Son Altesse des Chats 1935

Baudoin Crevoisier

The cat of Burma sometimes called the Sacred Cat of Burma has been known in France and Europe since 1925. The first example imported into Western Countries would have been to France. Currently, the livestock appears to be in regression, the majority of fine specimens' produced for 10 years are gradually disappearing without always being replaced. This state of affairs justifies a recovery.

ORIGINS. The origins of the cat are discussed, despite its name specifies Burma. Several authors have made an animal of Legend and he would seek the Temple of Lao-Tsun as the origin of these beautiful animals.

Apart from the writings of **Sir Russel Gordon** and **Auguste Pavie** no documents can clarify the origin of these cats. After 6 years of personal research and 10 years breeding in France, the cat of Burma still remains as mysterious as its origin, and no important new evidence could be found and therefore studied.

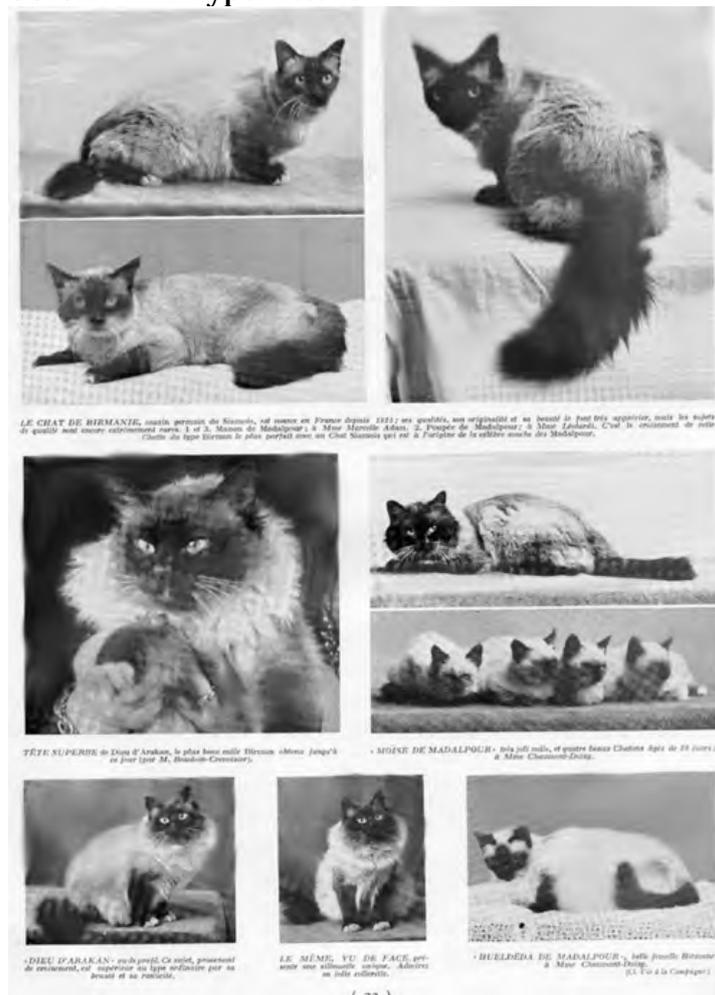
The first couple of Birman cats brought to France by **Mme. Thadde Hadish**, in about 1925, thus come from the temple of Lao Tsun, where these animals are jealously guarded. The male died on the boat during the voyage, and the female which fortunately had been mated, gave birth to a litter of Birman kittens in Nice. Amongst the kittens a female called Poupee was noticed as having the most perfect Birman type.

The female was then mated by a Siamese cat who at the time had been named Cat of Laos... Because of the lack of a male Birman he had to try a test, partially it succeeds. Litter upon litter and selection on selection, the descendents improved. The preference was given to the youth whose appearance was most like the best breeding stock. Thus was formed the strain *des Madalpour*, named after the first male who perished before reaching France.

Assuming that Poupee had been mated by a Siamese, other breeders crossed Birman cats from the strain Madalpour with gloved Siamese that is to say those who had tips of white on their paws. By frequently renewing the blood of breeding stock, they obtained stronger subjects consistent with earlier type Birmans. It was still another branch of the Birman, much higher than the former that currently appears at the first breeding trials.

It is not impossible that the Birman cat is the ancestor of the Siamese cat, or at least a close relative. There are indeed many similarities between the two races: Type, coat colour, eyes, ease of crossing, habit, the cry resemblance. The Birman cat could have interbred with tailless cats formally from Indo China that produced Siamese cats whose tail was broken, bent or truncated proves the introduction of blood from the indo Chinese cat. The white paws are sought for Birman cats and are also common in the Siamese cat. Long-haired subjects also appear in litters of Siamese. These

phenomena are throwbacks to the ancestors, indicating a common origin between these two races. Finally it should be noted that crossing a Birman and a gloved Siamese gives a high proportion of Birman type in the second generation. Crossing them again gives 80% Birman type kittens.



Principle Champions: Since the beautiful *Poupee de Madalpour* other subjects have been named in this wonderful breed. *Manou, Hiramroi, Lon-Saito, Lon-Golden, Ubu, Bijou, Djaipour, Nafaghy, Sitta II, Sita III, Idjadi-Tsun, Yadi*. More recent and far superior in beauty and especially hardiness: *Soleil d'Arakan, Bouli d'Arakan, Dieu d'Arakan*, (the most beautiful and most perfect type obtained so far) *Prince de Rangoon, Reine de Rangoon*.

Prototype of Perfection

HEAD: Large and round

NOSE: Rather short

MOUTH: Almost square with long and thick whiskers, lips slightly parted, revealing strong canines.

SKULL: Domed

EYES: Round set a little obliquely, deep blue

EARS: Long and straight, lined with white hairs.

NECK: Strong, and adorned in the male with a thick mane of long hair.

BODY: Long, massive, carried quite low.

CHEST: Broad, back straight.

LEGS: Rather short and broad.

FEET: Finished with long, sharp claws.

TAIL: Long and straight, with no lumpiness or kinks, very bushy, carried often erect over the body.

COAT: The hair is long or medium length according to the part of the body. It is very long and silky around the neck of the male; long on the sides and stomach too, where it is curly. On the tail, the hair is long and flat. The head is covered with relatively short hair which lengthens on the cheeks, like that of the tiger. The fur is slightly woolly on the back of the thighs. The under coat is thick.

COLOUR: The bright parts shade from dark cream to white on the belly, below the neck, the ruff and paws. The dark parts are otter brown, as are those of the Siamese. The body has golden highlights, especially when the animal is seen in full light; so the English call it the gold cat. The spine is slightly tanned. The mask is very dark. The legs are slightly lighter and end with the purest white paws. The white colouration on the paws is uneven; between the front and back paws. It also forms a "boot" with the highest amount behind the back paws. The tail colour is darker ending with golden hairs.

WEIGHT: The average is 3 to 4 kg. The male is much heavier than the female.

DEFECTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS.

HEAD: Too pointed

EYES: Pale blue

HAIR: any colour other than indicated

FEET: Not gloved

TAIL: Bent or too short or too thin

HAIR: short, hard and flat on the body

ABDOMEN AND CHEST: Tinted.

QUALITIES AND ABILITIES.

The cat of Burma is an excellent companion as faithful as a dog can be. He plays very gently, even as an adult. He climbs and jumps like the Siamese, but he is less nervous and fans believe he is more sociable. He is very intelligent and not inferior in any way.

SCALE OF POINTS

Colour and Markings:	25
Coat:	20
Head:	15
Eyes:	20
Body:	10
Tail:	10
Total	100

BREEDING BIRMANS

The breeding of Birman is easier than any other race of cats The Birman is an indoor cat, but it adapts well to life outside and even seems to prefer this if it is not too chilly. A moderate temperature is sufficient.

His food is nothing special but like all cats he likes meat and it is needed. The meat diet is recommended for Birman. Never the less he does get used to fish and rice but this food is deficient. Give very little milk to adult Birman.

Compose the meals in the following manner: Raw meat 3 days per week, fish cooked in water for 2 days, Sardines in oil for 2 days and at the same time mix with the food crumbled stale bread and green vegetables (optional)

For reproduction, the choice of subjects is quite difficult to breed in these rare elements. The male must be almost most perfect if the female is not, avoid the opposite as far as possible. In this mating you can very well pass the Siamese and get a Birman with gloved paws. Do not breed before the age of 12 months, especially for young females, that is to say after their first call. The young are like Siamese their breeding is the same; the care and food are identical. After one month wean the kittens, give them milk and rice. Then white fish cooked in water, mix with milk and water, always use cooked fish. Start giving raw meat in small amounts, about a third initially, in one meal, then two to get to 6 meals per week. Only give water to drink.

Selection: After the birth of the kittens examine them for notorious defects. Observe the eyes. If they are suffering from a purulent discharge put eye drops in the eyes for two days. If unsuccessful remove the kitten as it could contaminate the entire family. At ten months the kitten takes on the appearance of an adult. The hair begins to grow longer and needs brushing often.

MARKETING: The Birman cat is an aristocratic feline. The cats' beauty is indisputable; its rarity makes it more expensive to acquire. The breeding can be reasonably successful and the success makes you smile. Subjects have achieved great prices. Youngsters sold 2 months after weaning 1,500 to 2,000 francs. Adults vary according to beauty type and perfection. A very good specimen elegant and perfect in all points can be worth 15,000 to 20,000 francs. An average person will pay around 5,000 francs. The prices are fixed in francs and cannot be compared to the price of other race like cats sold for pound in England. Conversely with respect to prices of Persians sold in England, a Birman would cost some 60,000 francs. This is obviously a lot of money. Interestingly some breeders in Belgium and Italy have acquired the Birman. However France seems to be the only country that currently possesses these rare cats.

BAUDOIN-CREVOISIER.

The Khmer Cat Obtained Recently From Son Altesse le Chat 1935

JEAN RIEGER

So named because of its Indo Chinese origin the Khmer presents itself as a variety and type of very different to the Birman despite a few points of resemblance. There are few representatives of this newly formed race and the only known specimens are currently in France.

ORIGINES: 5 or 6 years ago an old soldier returning from Indo China abandoned a couple of young cats of unknown race with a farmer in the Paris region. These cats grew up and procreated in total freedom, there were many births. Care was little and most perished.

In 1934 I was able to acquire the finest specimens from the male origin. The female had died leaving a daughter to maintain and perpetuate the breed. Now many young females give hope and the future of this race seems assured.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Khmer is a good size cat with a strong frame the impression of strength balanced with harmony emphasized by looks and intelligence.

HEAD: Strong Round

NOSE: Rather short and stout.

MOUTH: Small but powerful

LIPS: Joined

WHISKERS: white ticked with brown. Very well developed attaining a length of 14 cms

JAWS: With very strong canine teeth which protrude slightly

CHEEKS: small

SKULL: large

EYES: Round and very slightly diagonal, bright blue, crystal clear and expressive. Appear red in the darkness.

BODY: Long

WITHERS: normal

CHEST: Broad

RIBS: Normal

BACK: Almost straight

KIDNEY and RUMP: Solid

LEGS: Strong and muscular. The front ones slightly arched

FEET: long furred, brown sole, strong sharp claws.

TAIL: Always long and furnished with long hair. Flexible without any breaks or nodules, Carried low with the tip slightly raised.

COAT: Long forming a superb collar around the neck undulating under its belly. The colour is that of the Birman cream shading to dark otter brown on the head. Legs,

feet and the tail have beautiful intermediate tones. The Khmer cat appears to be golden in full sunlight.

The young are born pure white after 3 to 4 days a dark grey undercoat appears which disappears at around 4 or 5 months. The dark undercoat in the young is characteristic of the breed. About 6 months the body is almost white markings are neat and the mask splendid. With age the colour becomes more imprecise because of the dark colour of the hair. (By 18 month the animal is an adult)

Unlike the Birman who must have four legs furnished with white gloves (This obtained by selection) The Khmer must have legs completely brown like the golden otter. Currently a few specimens have white toes, probably because of inbreeding with gloved ancestors. This peculiarity is reserved for the Birman and should be avoided in the future using careful selection.

WEIGHT: a good male should weigh from 4.5kg to 6 kg a Female 3.5kg to 4.5kg

DEFECTS

HEAD: Long

EYES: Too pale or eye disorders

LEGS: Thin

BODY: Insufficient skeletal size or weight

HAIR: Too short.

QUALITIES & ATTRIBUTES

The Khmer is a rare beauty, comparable to the Persian for its beautiful fur, The Khmer cat deserves to be appreciated for its remarkable intelligence and mild nature making it a perfect companion.

It adapts well to apartment life. In the countryside it is an intrepid hunter and there is no better ratter. He loves his master and plays but is somewhat noisy. He gets along with all breeds of cat. His voice is quiet without any wild intonations. He has no defects except those that he is taught.

SCALE of POINTS

HEAD & EYES:	30 points
BODY, LEGS & TAIL:	30 points
COAT & MARKINGS:	20 points
CONDITION:	20 points
TOTAL	100

MANAGEMENT: Nothing special, however when he is young the Khmer is sensitive to the cold. Keep the temperature at 15 to 20degrees for the kittens. The room must normally be large bright and airy.

Give a meat diet. Horse meat or beef is just cooked and served warm in small pieces with vegetables.

Select healthy vigorous and good type cats for breeding. Count on around two litters per year. The female carries for 66 days and the little ones average 3 or 4. Give a bit of milk from a month old and then small quantities of cooked fish and meat with vegetables. Serve this completely by the age of 2 months.

I tried crossing my original Male with common cats Persians and Siamese generally the little ones resemble their mother. However a female Siamese of mine from Saigon gave good type Khmers. The only one whose kittens have dark grey undercoats characteristic of the Khmer. Maintenance of cats of this breed is very easy comb and brush every 2 or 3 days. Use the comb from time to time. No special preparation for competition or exhibitions as a cat should be well kept and always ready to face the judge.

MARKETING

At Exhibitions the Khmer has conquered public favour. The price is not above that of a Persian. Surely this breed is going to experience a significant and lasting place since exceptional beauty and softness have joined in the Khmer.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

There is no special club at the moment but it will be created in a short while.

JEAN RIEGER



LE CHAT ZEZETTE, d'origine indochinoise séduisant surtout du Khmer malgré quelques points de ressemblance. De bon caractère, bien soigné, il donne une impression de force harmonieuse et bien équilibrée. Pur ou presque issu d'un Persan, Prince Pi-You, petit-fils de Roi Pi-You, père de Roi Pi-You, père de Roi Pi-You, père de Roi Pi-You.



LE CHEF DE LA RACE KHMÈRE : Roi Pi-You, d M. Jean Rieger. La couleur de la robe / est une trace évidente jusqu'à un degré de l'origine pure de l'Inde, mais elle est équilibrée à la plus grande mesure, le Khmer est entièrement blanc de l'autre côté.

Principle Champions or candidates
MALES Roi-Pi-You; Prince-Pi- You; Marquis
FEMALES Zezette

NOS AMIS LES CHATS

1947 Marcel Reney *AKA Abbot Chimonin from Switzerland*

The Sacred Cat of Burma

Since I saw the wonderful photo of *Dieu d'Arakkan* taken by a reporter at an exhibition in Paris I have been enchanted, Birman cats more than Persians and Siamese exert a peculiar fascination from which we cannot escape. Their eyes are caressing and sweet, the strange beauty of their fur, their most endearing character making friends differently from all other cats.

Also after 15 years I have not discovered anything enlightening about the mystery of their origins.

In 1926 Ph Jumaud wrote in **Les Chat** "*Originating in the far-east, like the Siamese, Birman cats bred in the temples are heavily guarded and their sale is prohibited but some years ago M. Vanderbilt was able to acquire a couple coming from subjects that currently exist.*" Since then various journal articles and books will add to this short story. Jumaud himself dedicated nearly six pages to the Birman in the 1930 edition of his other work "**Les Races de Chats**. In **Minerva** Dr Fernand Mery published the legend of Sinh the ancestor of the cats from the temple of Lao-Tsun. M Boudoin Crevoisier especially has multiplied his articles, **Revue Feline Belge** in 1931, **Jardins et Basses-Cours** in 1932, la **Revue Feline de France** in 1933 and **Chasse Peche Elevage** in 1935

I have read all these documents without being able to shed more light on the origin of this wonderful breed. I have tried the livestock from M. Baudoin-Crevoisier and now sketch the picture of what we know. But my honourable reader be warned the thirst for the unknown will not be further enhanced.

So ***American Millionaire M Vanderbilt** during a cruise in the Far-East manages to obtain, for a gold reward, a couple of sacred cats. Undoubtedly these were stolen from the Temple of Lao-Tsun by an unfaithful servant. This couple were given to **Mme Thadde-Hadisch**. However the male died accidentally on the boat and the female Sita went on to produce a nice litter of kittens with one perfect one Poupee.

Baudoin said in an article in 1933 "Poupee cannot be mated to a male of the same race. The cat used was a Lynx of Laos belonging to a doctor in Nice a cat resembling a Siamese with very blue eyes. The young being Birman and Laos crosses" By successive crosses the perfect Manou de Madalpour was born, very similar to his mother Poupee."

More information from Baudoin writing in 1935 "The female was then mated to a male Siamese who for the occasion had been named cat of Laos....." It was that in 1933 wanting to get to the bottom of this bizarre story I wrote to the famous doctor in Nice M. Prat. He replied "Actually we had several Siamese including *Youyou* but we know nothing of its origin..... I know nothing about a Mme. Hadisch *** Vienna**. I demanded more from M. Guy Cheminaud a great hunter who had lived in Laos. His books are familiar to fans of stories of deer hunts. What he thought of "the lynx cat of Laos" His reply was there are no cats in Laos as a species distinct from the Siamese cat.

*(Note The home of Mme Thadde Hadisch was probably **Vienne** in France)*

Unsupported the history built by Jumaud & Baudoin collapsed then as the principle witness knew nothing of owner of the legendry "Cat of Laos" Mme Thadde Hadisch or the lynx cat.

There was also in their tale about **Mme Leotardi** a great adventurer who, it seems, had possessed the Birmans from Mme Hadisch. Manou de Madalpour in his last days surrounded Mme Marcelle Adam with his affection. She certified to me in Paris that Mme. Leotardi, before disappearing mysteriously, told the story of the Burman as Jumaud and Baudoin wrote it.

In 1933 I published an article in *Chasse Peche Elevage* for new information; Baudoin took account of it in what he wrote for *Son Altesse Le Chat* in 1935. In there he declares "Apart from the writings of Sir Russel Gordon and Auguste Pavie no documents can clarify the origin of these cats. After six years of personal research and ten years of breeding in France, the Birman is still as mysterious as its origin and no important new specimens could be seen and consequently studied"

What intrigues me the most, set out in this case is, it relies on the testimony by Jumaud and Baudoin to give an impression of the truth to the story of the Birman, Jumaud wrote of an English major Sir Russel Gordon "Major Russel Gordon part of the British troops charged with protecting the Kittahs in 1898 had the opportunity to observe these scared animals." Read a note on the temple of Lao Tsun, Built in the early 18 the century by Khmer priests, Kittah's whose religion was very secret and completely closed to low and lay people. He cites Russel Gordon himself: "The temple of Lao- Tsun is undoubtedly one of the strange wonders of India and few people have ever gazed at it, in an almost deserted area surrounded by barriers of insurmountable walls. Still living there in 1898 the last Kittahs allowed me to observe some of their sacred animals. As a result of the rebellion and during the English occupation of the base at Bhamo, the base very isolated because of its remoteness from Mandalay. We protected the Kittahs from a Brahmin invasion and we saved them from certain massacre and pillage. Their Lama Kittah Yotag Rooh-Ougji received me and gave me this plaque representing the cat at the feet of a weird sacred Deity whose eyes were made of two elongated sapphires and after the badge allowed me to contemplate the cats numbering one hundred and explained the origin"

I lobbied to get a photo of the piece mentioned by Sir Russel Gordon and an accurate indication of the magazine or book or text that has been published this was in vain.

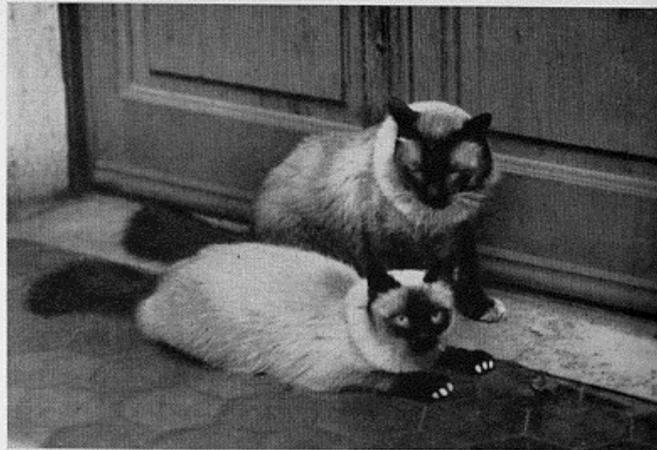
I tried, in vain, to find new details on the existence of Mme Thadde Hadish and Mme Leotardi.

Also the origin of the Birman remains shrouded by an impenetrable veil to punish those who had desecrated by their sacrilegious theft from the temple of Lao-Tsun. The rest Baudoin after trying breeding Birmans and asserting that this was easy, he surrendered in 1935. The date on which he sold to Princesse Ratibor Hohenlohe, for the price of 300,000 French francs a splendid male, who had won the votes of all the public in France and abroad *Dieu d'Arakhan* and some five or six remaining males and females.

In Switzerland and Belgium amateurs who attached themselves to these cats without parents and have saved the race. In France two or three breeders still have half-Birmans at the beginning of 1940. As for the cats owned by Princess Ratibor they had

some strange adventures. Bequeathed by the princess to S.A.R. the duke of Aosta, they were hidden for a while. It was a cousin of the latter the countess Giriodi Panissera who finally manages to gain possession of the cats.

In autumn 1936 I had the honour, whilst visiting the castle Francavilla Bisio, near Nova Ligure, to see closely the results obtained through the kindness and patience of Lady of the manor. Besides **Dieu d'Arakhan** and **Reine de Rangoon** there were seventeen cats and fourteen kittens some showing much promise. What happened to this wonderful collection of cats I happily call "The most beautiful cats in the world" Since 1940 I have not heard from Francavilla and all I have to console me is the nostalgic memory of the great court of the chateau in which my dear friends with white paws frolicked in the light with the gentle Lady of the manor....



33. *Un couple de chats sacrés de Birmanie.*



34. *Dieu d'Arakhan, l'un des plus beaux chats sacrés de Birmanie.*

To better enjoy these fabulous animals I want to quote the legend told to Russel Gordon by Yotag Rooh-Ougji. Dr Fernand Mery, who has published in *Minerva*, It

says it was told "One summer evening, near the Spanish border, by a blonde animal lover....."

"Our friend began gently. In this time, in a temple built on the slopes of Mount Lugh, lived in prayers the very venerable Kittah Mun Ha, great lama precious among the precious, the one whose god Song Hio had a beard of gold braid...

"Not a minute, not a glance, not a thought, his existence was devoted to worship, contemplation and pious service of Tsun Kyankze the goddess with Sapphire eyes, the one who presides over the transmutation of souls, the one that allows kittah's to relive in a sacred animal for the duration of his animal existence, after his animal existence to take the body and halo of total perfection of holy high priests. With his dear Oracle meditated Sinh an all-white cat, whose eyes were yellow, yellow to reflect the golden beard of his master and the golden body of the goddess the eyes of heaven... Sinh, the cat adviser, whose ears, nose, tail and extremities were the dark colour of soil, the mark of defilement and impurity that affects or may affect the earth.

One evening, the malevolent moon had permitted, the cursed Phoums, Siam abhors, coming and approaching the sacred enclosure. The high priest Mun Ha, without ceasing to implore the cruel destinies, went gently into death, in front of God and the despair of all his overwhelmed Kittahs, with his cat at his side.

That's when the miracle happened... The miracle of an instant transmutation: In one bound Sinh was on the throne of gold. And perched on the sagging head of his master... He braced himself on this face loaded with years and which for the first time, no longer looked at the goddess ... remained and in turn froze before the eternal statue, one saw the bristly hairs of his white spine suddenly became yellow gold and his eyes became blue, vast and deep as the eyes of the goddess. As he turned his head slowly towards the south gate his four paws, which had touched the venerable skull, became a dazzling white, until covered by the sacred silk clothes. As he turned his eyes away from the south gate the Kittah's, obedient to the requirement of this loaded hard glance, rushed to close the heavy bronze doors on the first invader...

The temple was saved from desecration and looting... on the seventh day Sinh had not yet left the throne, then without making a movement and eye to eye with the goddess he died. Priestly and mysteriously carrying the soul of Mun Ha, too perfect henceforth for the earth, to Tsun Kiankze ... When seven days later the priests assembled before the statue to decide upon the successor to Mun Ha they saw all the cats in the temple running.... And all were dressed in gold and with white gloves. All their yellow eyes had all changed to deep sapphire blue. They all silently surrounded the youngest of the Kittahs and thus he was chosen by the will of the goddess and the reincarnated ancestors.

Now, says the story teller, a cat that died in the sacred temple of Lao Tsun is the soul of a Kittah who has never resumed his place in paradise with Song Hio, the god of gold. Woe she says to anyone who hastens the end of one of these wonderful beasts even if he did not mean to. He will suffer the cruellest torments until he has soothed the troubled spirit that was disturbed.

Sir Russel Gordon already remarked the legend is pretty but it does not explain anything of scientific origin. It will remain a mystery for a long time. Some authors have said that Birman were due to crossing a Siamese with a white Persian. Russel Gordon compared his observations with those communicated by Auguste Parvie. Who wrote to the contrary: "My opinion is to believe with some probability that the

longhaired cat of Burma is the ancestor of Siamese crossed with an Annamite cat without a tail imported by the English.”

This opinion sheds no light behind the Sacred cat of Burma since they forgot to say what this Annamite cat was and it obscures the Siamese cat a bit more, as discussed in the next chapter.

Jumaud gave a description of the Birman in accordance with the standard published by Russel Gordon. This description is partly correct: I have carefully studied the Birman in France, Switzerland and those at Francavilla. I have published a few points here that differ.

Photos of the Birman give an approximate idea of the extraordinary beauty of these cats. They do not tell the exquisite character of these charming and mysterious beings. Anyone who had the rare pleasure of owning one in their home said to me: Once we have experienced the sweetness and intelligence of the Birman we can study at leisure the unfathomable mystery in their eyes like a deep dark sea, we always dream of having one near not only Mme. Giriodi the countess, who was surrounded by a courtyard of these valuable animals. Mme. Marcelle Adam who was the devoted “mother” of Manou de Madalpour would contradict me... Also I caress the secret hope of one day finding a couple that will remind me of the hugs and joy which Sinh, **Poupee de Mandalay*** (*Note not to be confused with Poupee de Madalpour*), Kebir, Fatima and Fakir One showered on me... Sweet Fatima who died pining after the sudden death of Fakir.

But why do you call these cats sacred cat of Burma you ask, because of the legend assigns them to this fabulous home on the one hand. Secondly, to distinguish it from a variety of Siamese cat that exists in the US. A Siamese cat with yellow eyes and a chocolate coat, that the Americans have baptised Burmese cats. Burmese cats are cats with short hair, which is given in the description below. Whilst the Sacred Cats of Burma are longhaired cats with blue eyes and white gloved paws.

Standard and scale of points

Birman cats are very sociable, intelligent, lively, loving; obey the commands of their masters in the same manner as dogs. They play a little or quietly. Without the presence of their masters they become lonely. They are apartment animals without the liveliness and spirit of the Siamese; they seem to be aware of their sacred origin.

APPEARANCE:

The body is long and solid carried low on short, strong legs. The claws are long, sharp and fragile. The size is intermediate between that of the Siamese and the Blue Persian.

HEAD:

Big and strong, massive even and round, like the Persian and not like the Siamese who's is thin and elongated. The nose is short and snub, the forehead is slightly rounded, Well-developed cheeks and mouth ajar. The whiskers are long. Eyes a little oblique are an intense blue (sapphire blue of the legend) with well-furnished eyebrows.

FUR:

The fur is long to mid length, depending on the part of the body. It is very long on the back and sides with an abundant collar. The texture is silky, except on the belly where the hair is wavy and a bit woolly. On the face the hair is short, but becomes longer on the cheeks. The tail when the cat is old enough presents as a plum; thin at birth it becomes very thick. At rest it hangs but then it is reversed and carried over the back like the squirrel when the animal is playing or is angry.

COLOUR:

The Birman has the same trademark characteristics as the Siamese, on the face, ears, legs and tail: They are brown but with hints of gold. The rest of the body is a very light cream colour. In addition, it has white gloved paws; absolutely white up the first toes on the forepaws, whilst higher and rising to a peak on the back of the hind feet. These white markings respond to the legend of Sinh and are essential in the standard for the Birman.

TAIL:

The tail is fairly long, straight no breaks or nodules. It is covered with very long, silky hair which lies flat not puffed out like a Persian.

The Scale of Points

Colour and gloving	30
Head	15
Eyes	15
Tail	15
Body	10
Fur and condition	15
Total	100

BHAMO AND DISTRICT



The above map is the part of upper Burma where the Birman is said to originate from. From the map you can draw an imaginary triangle between Indawgyi Lake, Mogaung along the Irrawaddy River to Sinbo and down to Bhamo in the south. In 1900 a series of Gazetteers describing the people, culture, towns and villages and terrain of upper Burma were produced. From these gazetteers one can read that there was a military peacekeeping settlement in Bhamo at the time Major Gordon was there. One can also read about the Burmese culture to tell mythical stories similar to the one our Birman Legend based on part truth part fable. It was true that there were marauders who would go round looting and pillaging and that the military were responsible for acting to arrest these people. Having read this could it be that the temple of Lao Tsun was a real place too. Checking through the many village names I came to one called Kamiang Here is what was written.

Kamaing;- A village on the Mogaung chaung some 30 miles above Mogaung, is the headquarters of the Kamaing township, Mogaung subdivision of Myitkyina district. The surrounding country is deeply flooded in the rains and there is very little land suitable for an extension of the village, though plenty available for cultivation. Most inhabitants are connected with the India rubber trade either as middlemen between the Kachins and Chinese or as boatmen to convey the India rubber from Sodusut or Laban higher up the river, to Mogaung.

Wondering if Lao Tsun could be an actual village name I found the following.

Law Sun;- A village on the Namten * chaung in the **Mogaung** subdivision of **Myitkyina** district has 61 houses and two hundred and forty buffalo There is a

*small * **pôngye** * **kyaung**. A few guavas and custard apples are grown. It is said to have been founded about 1830 by emigrants from **Kamaing**, (written Kar Maing on Google map) who left because the land was inundated. Le and taungya cultivation are practiced.*

** chaung is a stream*

** **pôngye is a Monk***

** **kyaung is a Temple***

The land in the area behind the stream is very mountainous so was this the original home of our Sacred cat of Burma. We have seen many different spelling errors for place names in other literature so is Law Sun the correct spelling for the temple of Lao Tsun. The area is correct the fact the military were protecting the area is correct.....now read on about Major Gordon.

MAJOR GORDON

Major Sir Russel Gordon has remained a mystery for a very long time. However now the following the information has been unearthed from the Indian Army List 1905 and more may be about to change this.

There was no record for a Major Sir Russel Gordon ever being in the Army and no mention of any one with the title Sir Russel Gordon either. However, there is a record for a Major Ramsay Frederick Clayton Gordon serving in Bhamo at the right time. He would have been called sir by his subordinates in the Army so is this where the confusion arose.

Here is what is known about Ramsay Frederick Clayton Gordon

He was born in Middlesex in 1864 and had a glittering military career.

Record details

Name: Ramsay Frederick Clayton GORDON
Event type: Biography
Start date:
Start year: 1864
End date:
End year: 1943
Biographical notes: Lt-Col, Indian Army; Who was Who IV p.448
Transcribed by: British Library
India Office Records
Reference:
Source name: Who was Who IV p.448
Source year:
Source edition:
Presidency:

He appears here in the 1881 UK Census. He is enrolled at the age 16 at Wellington College Sandhurst Berkshire.

The image shows a screenshot of a 1881 UK Census record. The top part is a handwritten entry on a form, and the bottom part is a digital transcription table.

Street Address	Given Name	Surname	Relationship	Marital Status	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Gender	Occupation	Birth City	Birth County
Wellington College	Ramsay Frederick Clayton	Gordon	Son	Single	16	1864	Male	Scholar	London	Middlesex
Wellington College	William Herbert	Williamson	Servant	Single	13	1868	Male	Servant	London	Middlesex
Wellington College	Richard Morgan	Richard	Servant	Single	13	1868	Male	Servant	London	Middlesex

From there he joined the Indian army as a Major, Commandant military Police in Burma. His first command in Burma was 23rd August 1884 then after military service as deputy inspector General of Military Police from April 1901 to April 1902 and again as commandant of Military Police from November 1902 as noted from the Indian Army Records List. See inscription on next page

GORDON, RAMSAY FREDERICK CLAYTON, Major, **Indian Army** (*commdt., mil. police, Burma*).—First commdt., 23rd Aug., 1884; after mil. service acted as dep. inspr. gen. of mil. police, **Burma**, from April, 1901, to April, 1902, and again from Nov., 1902, with subs. appt. of commdt. of mil. police.

Researching on the family history site Ancestry.co.uk a record came to light. It was a small notice of Major Gordons death in the Times newspaper. He had died at his home in Cheltenham Gloucestershire. Living nearby I contacted our local History Society and learned that his obituary was published in the Cheltenham Chronicle and we managed to obtain a copy from the Library in Cheltenham.

DEATH OF LT.- COL. R. F. C. GORDON

The death has occurred at his residence, Bibury, Montpellier-drive, Cheltenham, of Lieut.-Col. Ramsay Frederick Clayton Gordon, C.I.E., late 15th Lancers (Cureton's Multanis) at the age of 78 years.

Educated at Wellington College, he adopted a military career and spent most of his life in India and Burma, and was at one time Inspector-General of the Military Police.

For several years he was Private Secretary to Sir John Hewett, Governor of the Punjab.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IN 1910

Commissioned a lieutenant in the 18th Hussars in 1884, he was promoted captain in the Indian Service Corps in 1895. In 1902 he was a major in the Indian Army and was promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 1910, serving with the 15th Bengal Lancers (Curetons Multanis). He held the Legion d'Honneur.

On his retirement in 1920 Lieut. - Colonel Ramsay Gordon settled in Cheltenham. Ill-health prevented him from taking an active part in public life.

He underwent a serious operation in January of this year and did not recover.

By some strange coincidences at the time I was searching on Ancestry.co.uk Ramsay Gordon's grandson was also doing research on his ancestry and had put up a request for more information and so we made contact.

It was from his grandson I learned that the family did own some Siamese cats although the grandsons own father now elderly didn't recall if it was his father who was the most interested in the cats.

The grandson had done research trying to find out what the Legion d'Honneur was for. Although listed the records were not available so had probably destroyed during the Second World War.

I learned that the Ramsay Gordon and his family used to spend part of the year in France only a few kilometers away from Auguste Pavie's home town of Dinan Brittany.

With all these clues it is very possible it was Major Ramsay Clayton Frederick Gordon that Phillip Jumaud, Auguste Pavie were friends in France and the name Russel was a lapse in memory written by Jumaud in those very early documents about the Birman. I would not have been the first time names had become confused. As Ramsay would still have been serving in the army When the articles and books were written.

So far Ramsay's grandson has not managed to find the plaque of the deity with sapphires for eyes. His father did tell him that military men travelled light..... Also some other member of the family may have inherited the plaque, so at the present time this has not been found. If it does eventually come to light I will amend this part of the history.

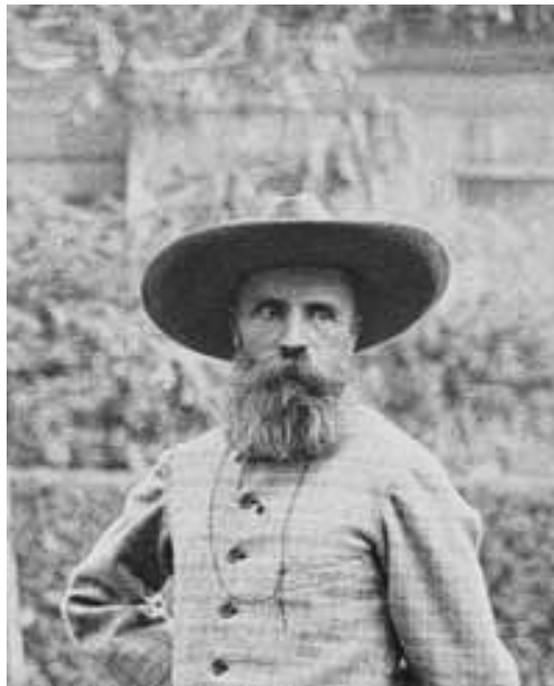
AUGUSTE JEAN-MARIE PARVIE

Born in **Dinan** 31 May 1847 Auguste Pavie was a French colonial civil servant, explorer and diplomat who was instrumental in establishing French control over Laos in the last two decades of the 19th century. He became the first French vice-consul in Luang Prabang in 1885, eventually becoming the first Governor-General and plenipotentiary minister of the newly formed French colony of Laos.

After a long career travelling, producing maps and documenting the terrain on his travels in Cambodia and Cochin china up to border with northern Burma, he produced a number of manuscripts including maps called The Missions de Pavie. I sent to Tailand Lotus Press for all books relating to his Missions hoping to find some written record about the cats but I found nothing. It was tantalizing that Prince Henri d'Orleans went from Tonkin to India via the sources Irrawaddy. Emile Roux also wrote about these expaditions but so far as I have read there is nothing to be gained from them. His missions never reached Bhamo

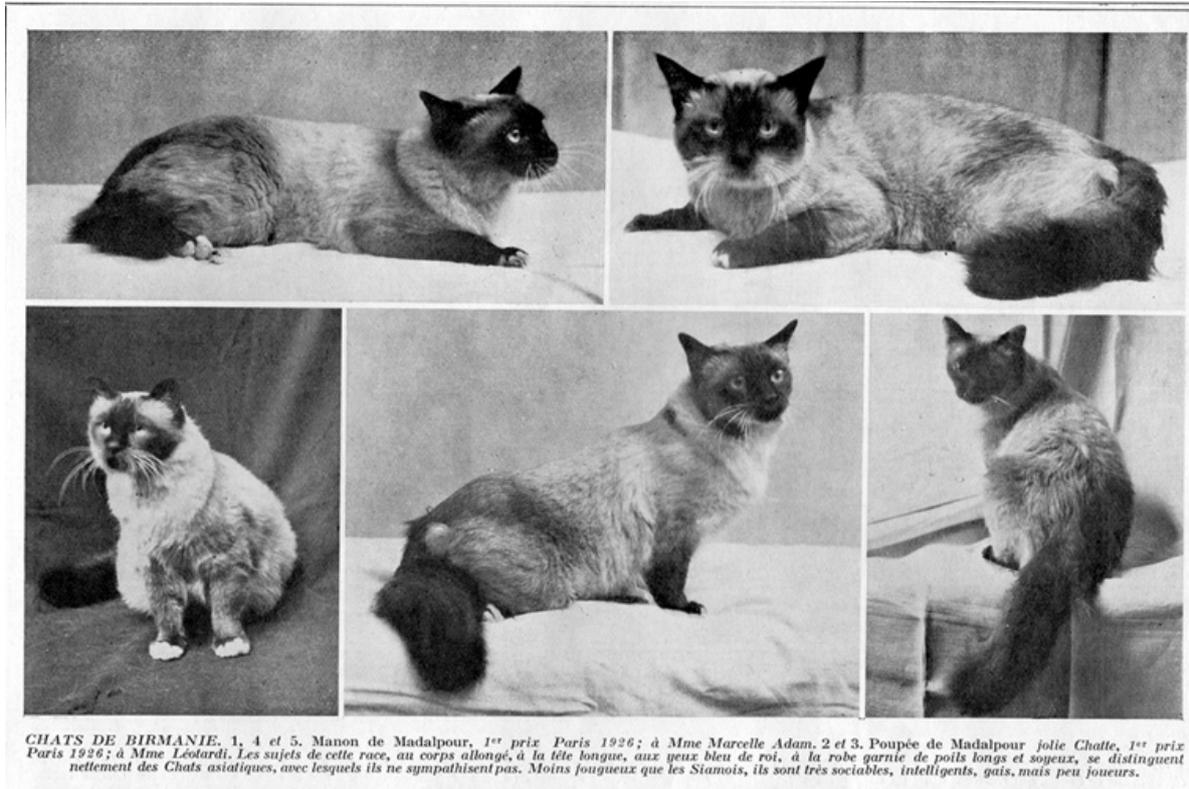
As read previously the breed he was familiar with was the Siamese kept in the Royal Palaces. It was the practice for the king to present a pair of Royal Siamese to people who had been in his service and so it was that Pavie did bring Siamese to France as documented in Siamese section of Les Races du Chats 1935.

He died on 7 May 1925 and there is a monument in his honour in the gardens in Thourie France.



MADAM LEOTARDI

Mme Leotardi is known to have shown Poupee at the Cat Club Paris show as the text in the pictures below shows, where it says Poupee won first prize. Also at the show was Manou (Mispelt Manon) de Madalpour owned by Mme Marcelle Adam.



Here is a second report about Mme Leotardi wining prizes at a show June 1925 Unfortunately this paper doesn't name her cats.

**Archives départementales du Maine-et-Loire
Presse**
Le Petit Courrier - Juin 1925

Le Concours des Chats

PALMARES

Siamois neutre

300. M. H. — Mme Tomery.

Siamois clairs (mâles)

301. 2. Prix. — Mlle Hallouin.

311. 2. Prix. — M. Renaud.

306. 3. Prix. — Mlle Louveau.

307. M. T. H. — Dr. Thouvenin.

305. M. H. — Mlle Louveau.

308. M. H. — Mme Boulard.

Siamois chocolat (mâles)

304. 3. Prix. — Mlle Dandlœuf.

309. 2. Prix. — Mme Bachellier.

Siamois claires (femelles)

312. 2. Prix. — M. Renaud.

313. 3. Prix. — Mlle Pons.

Siamois chocolat (femelles)

310. M. H. — Mme Bachellier.

314. M. H. — M. Rouxel.

Siamois (jeunes)

310 bis. 2. Prix. — Mme Bachellier.

312 bis. 2. Prix. — M. Renaud.

315 bis. 2. Prix. — Mme de Loupiac.

Chat de Birmanie (femelle)

317. 1. Prix. — Mme Léotardi.

Chat de Birmanie (jeune)

317. 3. Prix. — Mme Léotardi.

Chat de Perse blanc (mâle)

318. 1. Prix. — Mme Brassart (certificat de championnat).

Chats de Perse blancs (femelles)

321. 1. Prix. — Mme Brassart.

319. 2. Prix d'élevage. — Dr Bonvallet.

Chats de Perse (classe de couples)

318-321. 1. Prix. — Mme Brassart.

Chat de Perse bleu (mâle)

322. 1. Prix. — Mme Brassart.

Chat de Perse bleu (femelle)

324. 1. Prix. — Mme Brassart (certificat de championnat).

From these two documents it is clear that Mme Leotardi did own Poupee and was showing in France. She also registered her cats in the French Livre d'Origine. So there is no doubt that she bred the first Birmans .There is a place called Vienne just 30 miles from Lyon and it would seem logical that as Mme Leotardi was a French lady and that Vienne was her home rather than Vienna in Austria.



Author's comment.

I finish the Birman history at this point because any later books only had the writings of Jumaud & Crevoisier as the original source of information. I do hope you have enjoyed reading this early history as much as I enjoyed doing the research. Please feel free to pass printed copies for the PDF to your Birman friends who don't have internet access. Also please add the link to the site where it can be obtained to your web sites. www.sacredbirman.co.uk.