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Club News

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A century of elegance

GLOSTER FANCY CANARY COUNCIL-UK



Mario Zahra, international secretary for the Gloster Fancy Canary Council-UK

THIS year marks a remarkable milestone in the world of aviculture: the 100th anniversary of the Gloster fancy canary, writes Mario Zahra, Gloster Fancy Canary Council-UK international secretary. (See News, February 5 issue). Since 1925, this elegant breed has captivated enthusiasts worldwide with its distinctive appearance, charming personality and unwavering appeal. As we celebrate this centenary, we also look ahead to the future of this beloved breed and its community.

Brief history

The origins of the Gloster fancy canary trace back to a humble beginning, much like many successful ventures in life. The story starts in 1919, in the years following the end of the First World War, when the groundwork for this remarkable breed

was first laid. Among its pioneers was Mrs Rogerson from Gloucestershire, whose passion for all things small and beautiful led her to envision a canary that was distinct from the overly feathered and larger crests of the time. Her ambition was to create a smaller, neater bird – a vision that would shape the future of the Gloster fancy canary.

In 1920, Mrs. Rogerson initiated her breeding programme by pairing small, crested roller canaries with diminutive Borders, with guidance and stock from J.H. Madagan. Meanwhile, in Scotland, John McLay, a renowned breeder and judge, pursued a similar goal by using his smallest crests and pairing them with the smallest Borders available. Their parallel efforts garnered the attention of A.W. Smith, one of the UK's most prominent canary fanciers,

who encouraged collaboration between the two breeders and facilitated the exchange of breeding stock.

By 1925, the efforts of these dedicated breeders culminated in a significant milestone. At the London National Show in Crystal Palace, Mrs Rogerson exhibited two of her miniature crests. Their distinctive appearance earned them a separate class, where they were awarded first and second prizes.

This public debut marked the birth of a new "type" canary, laying the foundation for what would become the Gloster fancy canary – a breed that continues to captivate aviculturists a century later.

The Gloster today

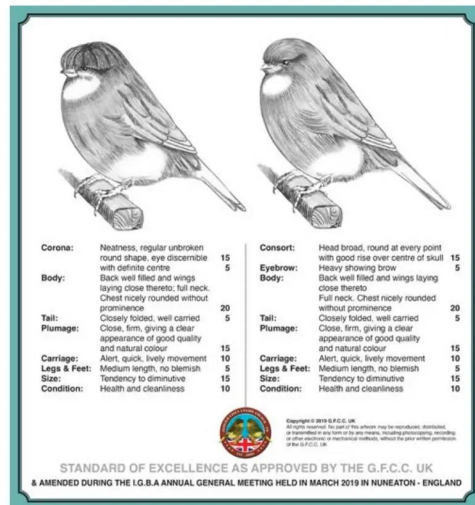
Over the decades, the Gloster fancy canary has evolved into one of the most sought-after breeds for both shows and as

pets. Its manageable size, friendly temperament, and stunning appearance make it a favourite among bird enthusiasts. The breed's prominence is evident in many specialist shows worldwide, where breeders and exhibitors gather to showcase their finest specimens.

Beyond its physical attributes, the Gloster's charm lies in its ability to bring people together. Clubs and councils dedicated to the breed – such as the GFCC – provide platforms for enthusiasts to share knowledge, celebrate their achievements, and ensure the breed's continued success worldwide.

Marking the centenary with innovation

To commemorate the 100th anniversary, the GFCC is



launching six new pictorial models of the Gloster from different angles. This initiative, proposed by Steve Chenells during last year's GFCC AGM, reflects the council's commitment to education and excellence. These detailed visual guides will serve as invaluable resources for breeders, judges, and enthusiasts alike, offering a comprehensive understanding of the breed's ideal form.

The introduction of these models underscores the importance of innovation in preserving tradition. Combining modern tools with a century of expertise, the GFCC ensures that the Gloster fancy canary remains a benchmark of quality and beauty in the avian world.

Looking ahead

As we celebrate this centenary, it is also an opportunity to reflect on the future. The Gloster fancy canary community continues to thrive, with new generations of breeders and enthusiasts embracing the challenge of maintaining and enhancing the breed's standards. Events, publications, and digital platforms further strengthen the bonds within this vibrant community.

To ensure the Gloster's legacy endures, the aviculture community must remain dedicated to ethical breeding practices, education, and outreach. By fostering a shared passion for these remarkable birds, we can inspire future generations to cherish and uphold the values that have defined the Gloster fancy canary for the past 100 years.

Conclusion

The Gloster fancy canary's 100th anniversary is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and passion of its breeders and admirers. From its humble beginnings to its status as a global icon, the Gloster continues to enchant and inspire. As we honour its past and embrace its future, one thing is certain: the Gloster fancy canary will forever hold a cherished place in the hearts of bird lovers worldwide.



A Gloster corona then...



...and a Gloster corona now