

NOTHING COMPLICATED

Silvere Toye, Otegem, Belgium

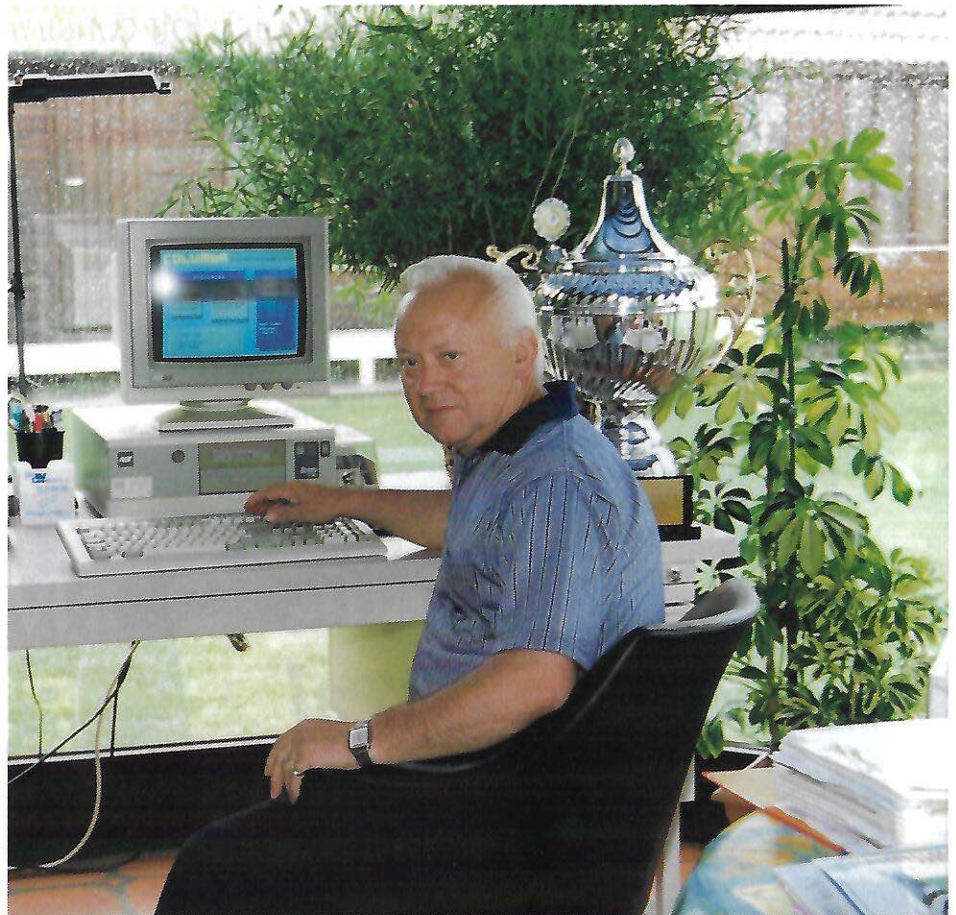
photographs by Anthony Bolton

I wonder how many readers know that one of Belgium's top pigeon fanciers began his interest in birds by breeding canaries. Yes, Silvere Toye, winner of many long distance Championships, National and International races, started by breeding canaries. It was in 1969 that he had his first pair of pigeons, these came as a present from a neighbour. Since that time he has produced such champions as 'Young Tarzan', 'Dikkop 205', 'Young Dikkop', 'Peter Pau', 'Tarzan Boy', 'Romulus', 'Black Devil', 'Dali' and a host of other winners.

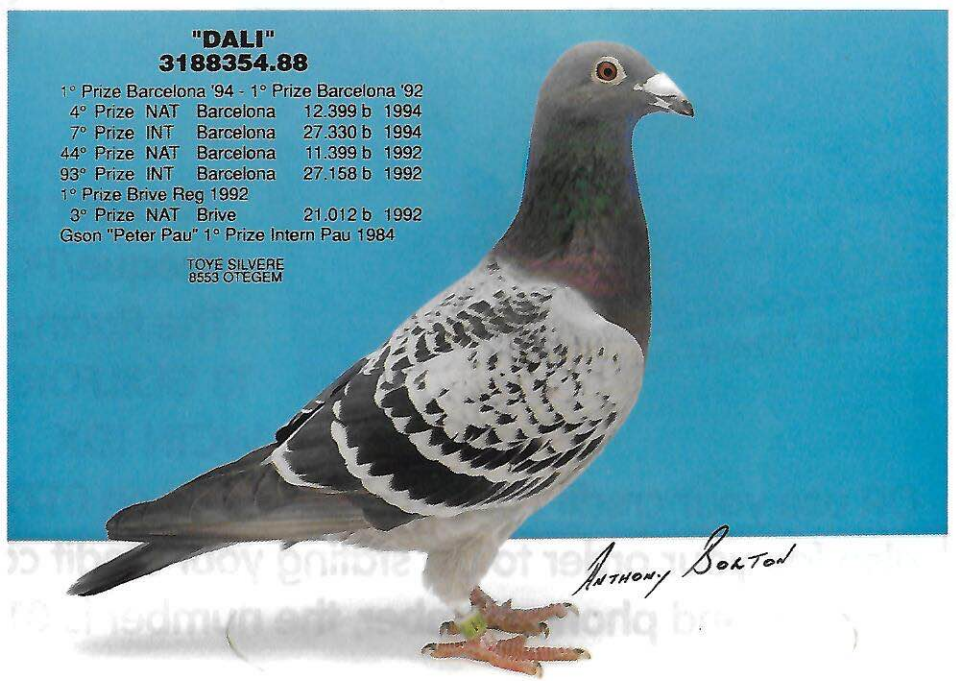
Silvere Toye soon established himself as a successful fancier winning Ace pigeon awards and Provincial Championships. He was also quick to recognise that you could not afford to stand still in the sport of pigeon racing if you wanted to maintain success. Winning velocities from the long distance races were improving year upon year. With this in mind he was never afraid to introduce top winning bloodlines to his colony always with the aim of improving his own performances. National winners such as 'Invincible Montauban', 'Filou', 'Monaco', 'Grote Barcelona' and 'Ali Baba', all of those top pigeons have been crossed with his own famous winners with the aim of creating an even better family of pigeons. The system here is to pair Ace pigeons to the daughters of Ace pigeons. Some inbreeding is practised to maintain the family and the resulting offspring are then outcrossed. Of course National winners are paired to the daughters of National winners.

As can be seen from the photographs the lofts are extensive, however, the inmates have ample room with all sections carrying vacant nest boxes and perches.

The race team consists of 90 Widowhood cocks, of which 60% are yearlings, plus 60 hens and 150 young birds. The birds are paired up in November and rear one pair of youngsters. With rearing completed they are then separated and are repaired in April and remain paired until the first egg is laid. They are then separated again. The cocks are



Silvere Toye at work in his office



"DALI" 3188354.88

- 1° Prize Barcelona '94 - 1° Prize Barcelona '92
- 4° Prize NAT Barcelona 12.399 b 1994
- 7° Prize INT Barcelona 27.330 b 1994
- 44° Prize NAT Barcelona 11.399 b 1992
- 93° Prize INT Barcelona 27.158 b 1992
- 1° Prize Brive Reg 1992
- 3° Prize NAT Brive 21.012 b 1992
- Gson "Peter Pau" 1° Prize Intern Pau 1984

TOYE SILVERE
8553 OTEGEM



Above: The racing, breeding and young bird lofts

Left: One of the aviaries situated between the lofts

Below: One of the race sections awaiting the introduction of the hens, the closed boxes are not in use



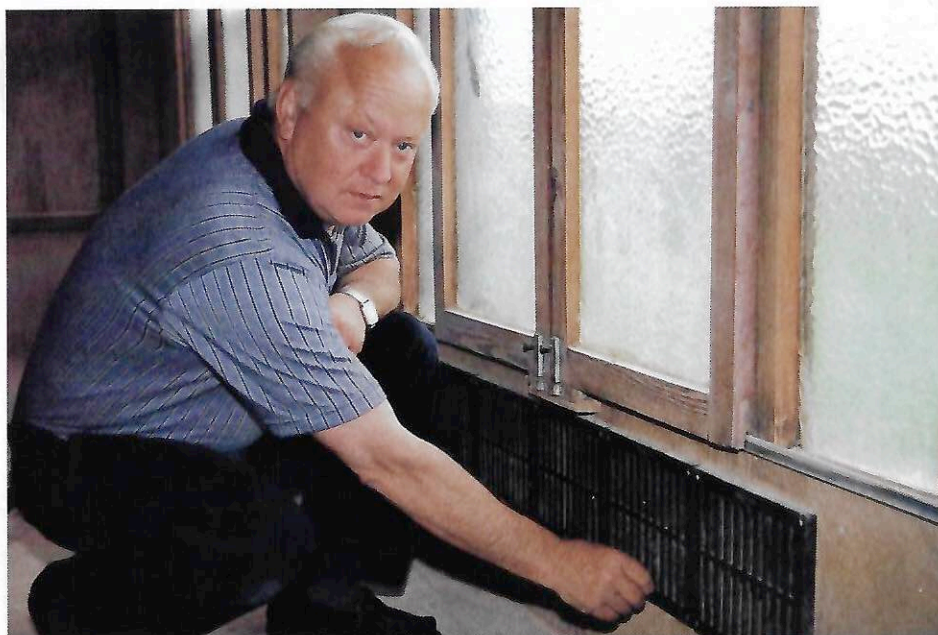
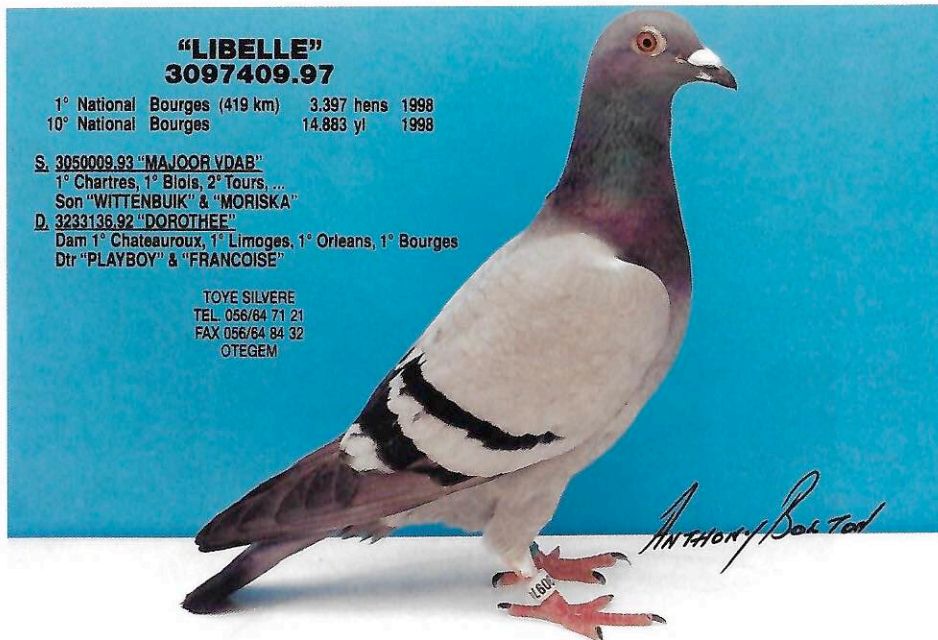
never allowed to see the second egg. During those ten days the cocks are trained every day, weather permitting. They are taken by car a distance of about 50km after which they are sent with the club to races ranging in distance from 90-300km. Obviously the cocks are raced on a weekly basis until the long races are reached. Cocks destined for these races have 14 days rest prior to the race.

Young birds go on the Darkness system as soon as they are weaned. This operates from 5pm until 9am. Loft exercise consists of one hour per day. The Darkness regime ends on June 1. Young bird training starts in May. This is almost continual for three weeks starting about 5km and working through by stages to 80km. After a thorough training they are then considered ready for racing in June and selected youngsters going through to the long races in August and September. The youngsters run together up until the end of June, after which they are separated and then fly Widowhood until September. Silvere said that he found the Darkness method very satisfactory because it allows the youngsters to compete in the long races with a full wing. On the subject of the performance of the Darkness youngsters in subsequent years Silvere said he had not found any problems but he did however stress that his young birds were never raced hard, always thinking of the future.

Medication is only undertaken on the advice of a veterinary practitioner. Silvere will consult several times during the year and act upon the advice given. Garlic is added to the drinkers, and Brewers Yeast is added to the feed once per week. Feeding is the same throughout the season. Silvere describes it as light mixture consisting of 25% depurative, 25% maize, 25% dari and 25% paddy rice. Nothing complicated here.

Great importance is placed on loft hygiene. All utensils and equipment are thoroughly sterilised on a regular basis and the nest boxes, perches, etc, are steam cleaned once per year after which they are dried with a flame torch, the sterilising agent used is Halamid D.

While Silvere Toye pigeons are noted for their performances in the long distance races he describes them as 'all rounders', and they do win shorter distances in club events. Over the years he has been striving to produce a family of fast pigeons with plenty of endurance, in other words 'the Toye all-round pigeon'.



Local club competition is anything from 200-500 birds, Provincial 3,000-6,000 and National 5,000-30,000 birds.

Asked if he had to start over again where would he go for his stock pigeons his reply was to a fancier who had a good family that had been winning for a number of years. He said 'Ace' pigeons had always been his favourite as they have proved themselves in all weathers.

When asked what he hoped to achieve in the coming years his reply was, "Keep featuring in the National Championships, and breeding pigeons that can win in all weather conditions against large number of pigeons". As for improvements to the sport Silvere thought that everyone should show more tolerance and always congratulate the fancier who beats you and that way everyone will enjoy many more friendships.

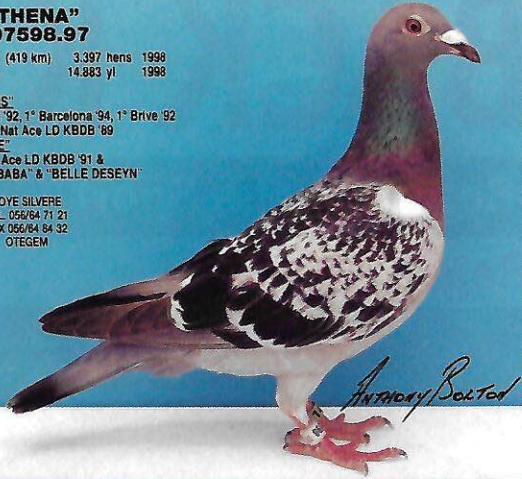


**"ATHENA"
3097598.97**

9th National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
34th National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998

S. 3095288.95 "MYOSOTIS"
S "DALI" 1st Barcelona '92, 1st Brive '92
& "MIMI" dtr "DIDI" 1st Nat Ace LD KBDB '89
D. 3336788.94 "BYZANCE"
Dtr "ALIBABA" 1st Nat Ace LD KBDB '91 &
"FORTUNA", dtr "ALIBABA" & "BELLE DESEYN"

TOYE SILVERE
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FAX 056/64 84 32
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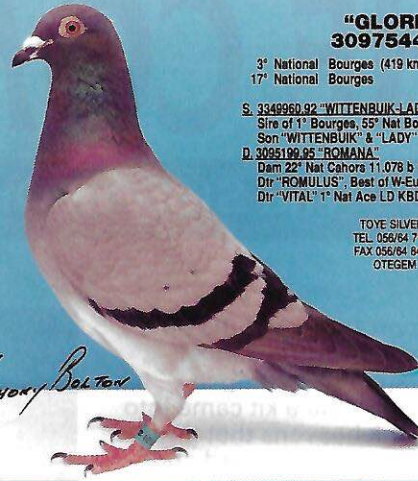


**"GLORIA"
3097544.97**

3rd National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
17th National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998

S. 3349960.92 "WITTENBUIK-LADY"
Sire of 1st Bourges, 55th Nat Bourges 38,152 yb '97
Son "WITTENBUIK" & "LADY"
D. 3095199.95 "ROMANA"
Dam 22nd Nat Cahors 11,078 b 1998
Dtr "ROMULUS", Best of W-Europe '94 & "ARIANNE",
Dtr "VITAL" 1st Nat Ace LD KBDB '93

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**"TEQUILA"
9154241.97**

18th National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
51st National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998

S. 3093421.93 "LITTLE BOY"
Halfbrother "INV MONTAUBAN" 1st Nat Montauban '92
D. 9102323.95 "SISTER LADY DI"
"LADY DI" 1st Prov Argenton, 1st Prov Bourges,
5th Nat, 13th Nat, 19th Nat, 59th Nat, ...

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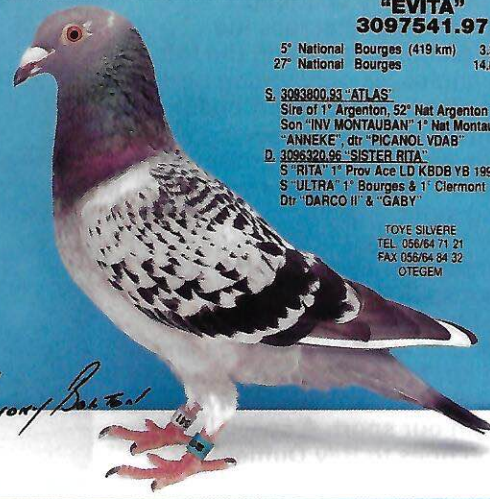


**"EVITA"
3097541.97**

5th National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
27th National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998

S. 3093800.93 "ATLAS"
Sire of 1st Argenton, 52nd Nat Argenton 15,882 yb '96
Son "INV MONTAUBAN" 1st Nat Montauban '92 &
"ANNEKE", dtr "PICANOL YDAB"
D. 3096320.96 "SISTER RITA"
S "RITA" 1st Prov Ace LD KBDB YB 1996
S "ULTRA" 1st Bourges & 1st Clermont
Dtr "DARCO II" & "GABY"

TOYE SILVERE
TEL 056/64 71 21
FAX 056/64 84 32
OTEGEM



**"TURBI"
3097414.97**

26th National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
124th National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998
1st Dourdan 1998
6th La Souterraine 187 yb 1997
7th Chartres 576 yb 1997

S. 3360485 "WITTENBUIK-ZWARTJE"
S "WITTENBUIK" 3 x 1st Provincials!
& "FAMOUS ZWARTJE" dam "BLACK DEVIL"
Best of W-Europe '95
D. 3211435.95 "TURBINE II"
Dtr "TURBO" 1st Prov Ace LD KBDB 1993
& "MARATHONJE" dtr Worldchampion Id '90

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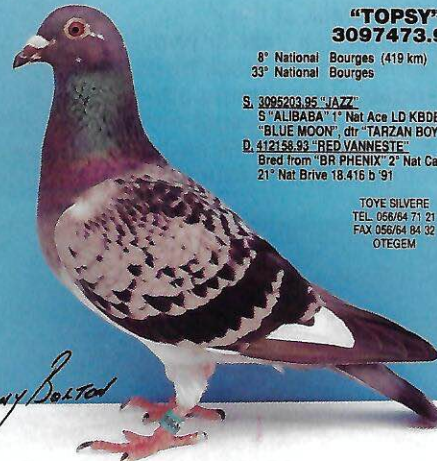


**"TOPSY"
3097473.97**

8th National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
33rd National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998

S. 3095203.95 "JAZZ"
S "ALIBABA" 1st Nat Ace LD KBDB 1991 &
"BLUE MOON", dtr "TARZAN BOY" & "NINI" dtr "DIDI"
D. 412158.93 "RED VANNESTE"
Bred from "BR PHENIX" 2nd Nat Cahors 8,168 b '91 &
21st Nat Brive 18,416 b '91

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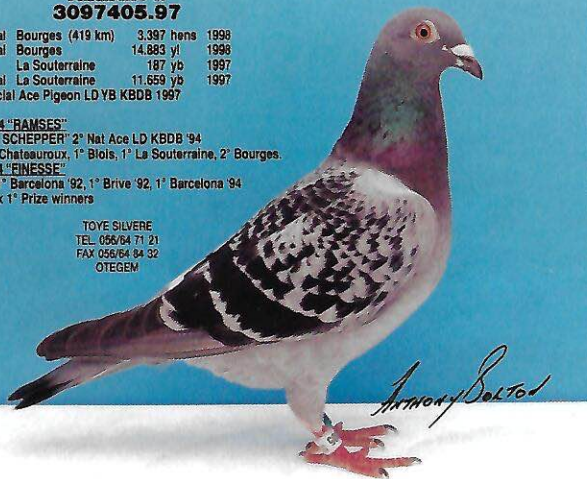


**"ALEXIA II"
3097405.97**

36th National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
179th National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998
1st La Souterraine 187 yb 1997
52nd National La Souterraine 11,659 yb 1997
15th Provincial Ace Pigeon LD YB KBDB 1997

S. 3094978.94 "RAMSES"
S "150 DE SCHEPPER" 2nd Nat Ace LD KBDB '94
Sire of 1st Chateauroux, 1st Blois, 1st La Souterraine, 2nd Bourges.
D. 3342667.94 "EINESSE"
D "DALI" 1st Barcelona '92, 1st Brive '92, 1st Barcelona '94
Dam of 3 x 1st Prize winners

TOYE SILVERE
TEL 056/64 71 21
FAX 056/64 84 32
OTEGEM



**"DIVA"
3097500.97**

15th National Bourges (419 km) 3,397 hens 1998
43rd National Bourges 14,883 yl 1998

S. 5328244.94 "PEPITO DIEGO"
Sire 22nd Nat Cahors 11,078 b 1998
Son "POCO DIEGO" 1st Nat Barcelona Hens '95
D. 338657.08 "MARIE PAU"
Dam "YOUNG BLOOD" 5th Nat Limoges 17,670 yl, 21st Nat
Brive 21,012 b, dtr "PETER PAU" 1st Int Pau '84

TOYE SILVERE
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