

A ROYAL LOVER OF CATS

Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein's Feline Pets.

The public, more especially the cat-loving public, were extremely anxious over the illness of Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein. To this amiable lady's support of the National Cat Club and cat shows the cat world is much indebted, for it has given the fashionable cult so necessary to the success of any hobby, and without which patronage, no enterprise, amateur or professional, can ever survive its introduction.

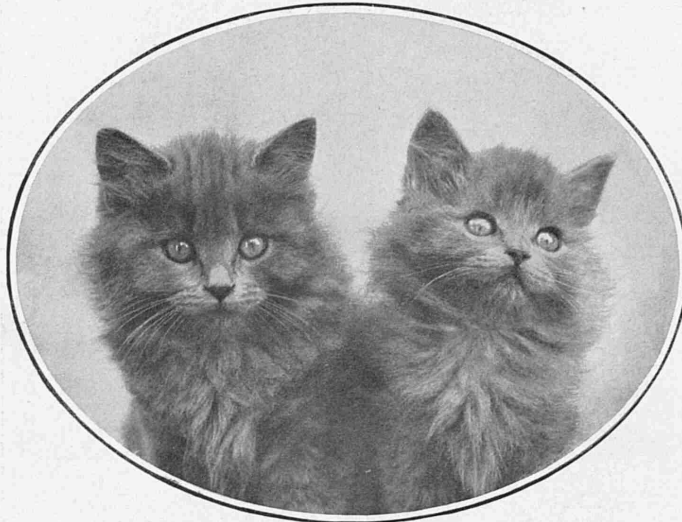
A genuine cat-lover, it is now some years since the Princess Victoria became patron of the National Cat Club. Having given her name to the undertaking she displayed her interest to the public by entering her cats—pretty silver Persians—for competition at the Crystal Palace and Botanic shows, and subsequently her Royal Highness has gone the length of placing her Windsor cattery at stud, thus entering into the practical part of cat ownership as well as the part which means outlay and worries—that of showing and competing for prizes.

Like the Queen, who treasures every medal she wins, the Princess Victoria is very proud of the tokens and trophies which her long-coated pussies of the East bring home to Cumberland Lodge, and prominent upon the table of her boudoir stand two of the loveliest models in silver (which spell honour for the Cumberland cattery won at the Crystal Palace), a pair of Persian cats. Cats in silver became the vogue as special prizes through her grace of Bedford, who for so many years generously gave to the N.C.C. the loveliest silver cat paperettes for competition. It is said the noble Fritz of Woburn—whose picture

was given in our pages a few weeks since—was the handsome model which gave her grace's silversmith his study. Among the lucky cats whose bewitching beauty is given in this way to posterity (following the example of the Egyptians, whose models of felines are so full of interest to writers and lovers of cat history) Lady Decies's peerless chinchilla, Zaida, has her double in silver, and the original feline founder in England of the line of chinchillas—Mrs. Balding's famous Lambkin—stands empress-like on the N.C.C. trophy or ten-guinea urn which subsequently fell to the charms of the lucky Zaida, who has won this trophy some five times for Lady Decies.

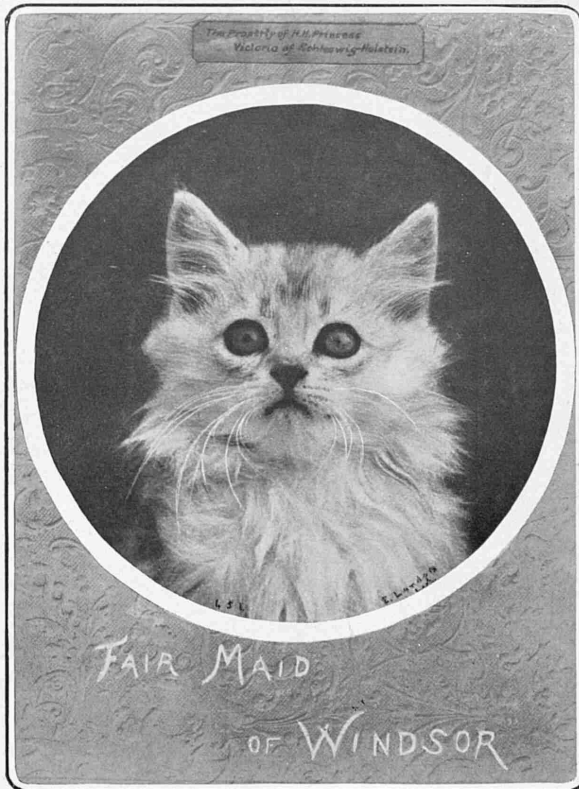
Mr. Landor's picture of the Fair Maid of Windsor shows one of her Royal Highness's favourites, and a prettier, more winsome puss-cat was surely never before the camera. The kittens from Windsor is also another charming study of Mr. Landor's, whose name stands high as a photographer of animals. "Twin Roses on One Stem" is the photo of a pretty pair of royal blues also in the Cumberland cattery. Among the smart owners of beautiful cats may be named the Duchess of Bedford, the

Duchess of Sutherland, the Lady Dufferin, Lady Aberdeen, Lady Decies, Lady Maitland, Lady Hothfield, Lady Alexander, and Lady Knatchbull. Lady Marcus Beresford, who did so much to forward the hobby, has given it up, much to the regret of the fancy generally and the surprise of everybody. Lady Decies is now offering all her cats for sale with the exception of Zaida, and it is said she has given them up for Pekinese spaniels.



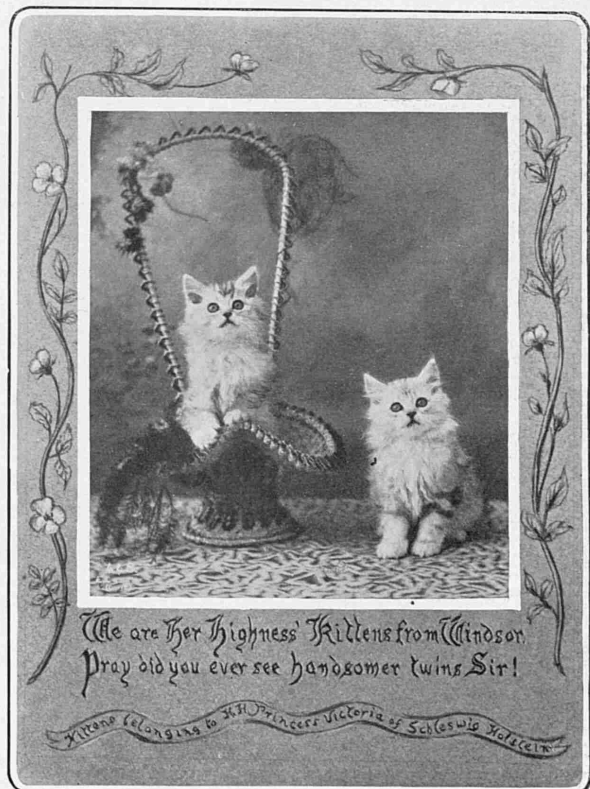
"TWIN ROSES ON ONE STEM"

Landor



FAIR MAID OF WINDSOR

Landor



TWO OF PRINCESS VICTORIA'S KITTENS

Landor