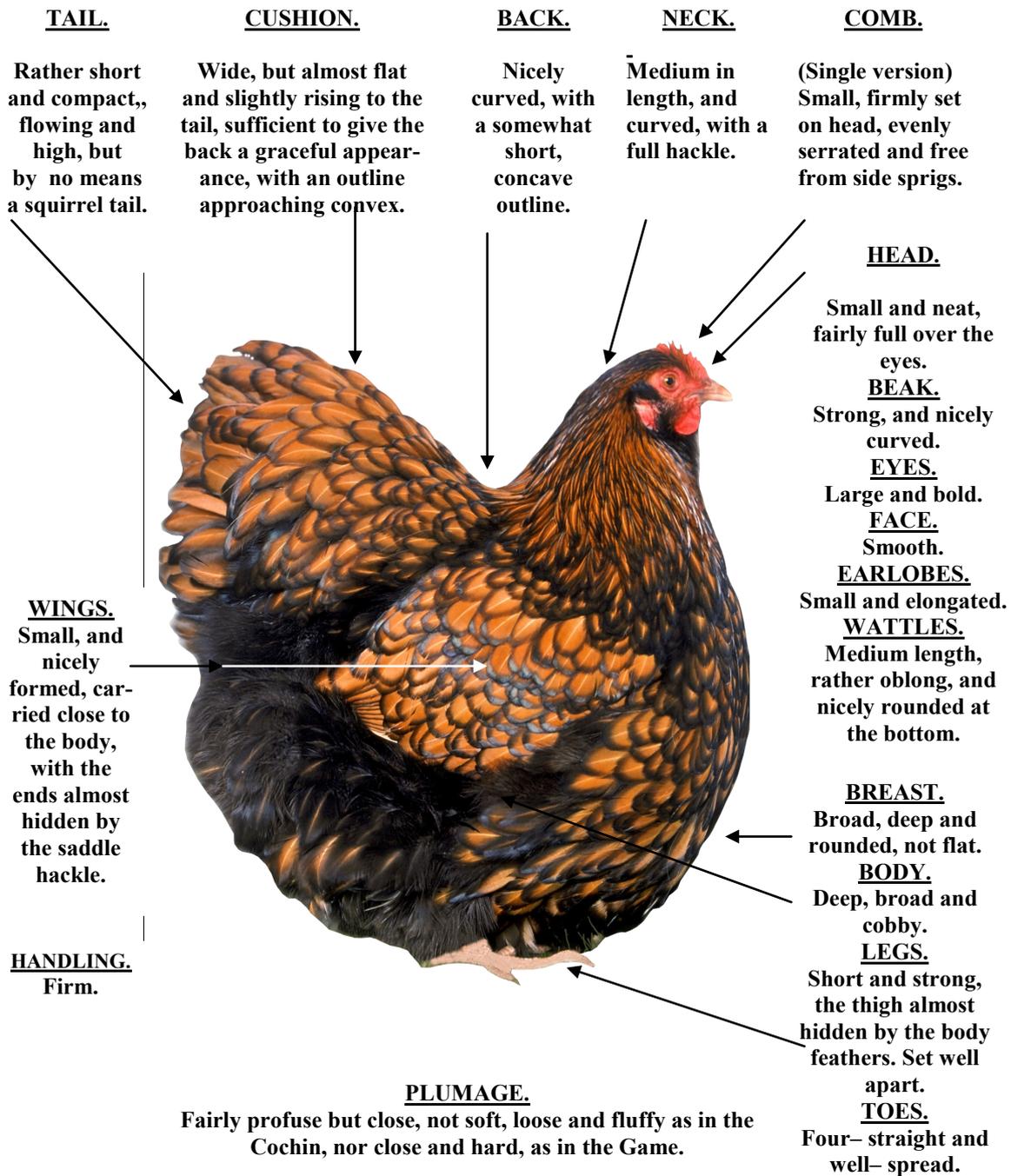


## Visualisation of the Orpington Female Standard.



Pictured bird owned by and courtesy of Helmut Demler ( Germany )

## GOLD LACED ORPINGTON MALE.

“gelb-schwarz-gesäumt” ( Germany)



### COLOUR STANDARD.

<b>PLUMAGE-</b>	<b>MALE;</b>
<u>Head;</u>	Dark golden brown.
<u>Neck hackle;</u>	Golden yellow, with black visible in a drop- shaped form only. and not heavily striped.
<u>Saddle;</u>	Similar to the neck hackle- dark golden yellow, with black lacing bordering the feathers, preferential.
<u>Tail;</u>	Dark golden to cinnamon, with rich, black lacing The main tail- cinnamon, with crescent- shaped black ends to the feather. Some black/ grey feathers permissible.
<u>Back and Wings;</u>	Dark golden yellow to golden brown in colour, much more intense than the rest of the plumage. <u>The greater wing coverts</u> , dark yellow to cinnamon, with clear black lacing of the borders. <u>Secondaries</u> (forming the wing triangle); golden to cinnamon, with more or less pronounced, black lacing and crescent shaped, black ends to the feathers. <u>Primaries</u> ; outer tab, golden yellow to cinnamon, black mottling and some white lacing permissible. Inner webs; black brown.
<u>Chest;</u>	Dark golden, with wide, glossy black lacing.
<u>Breast, Abdomen and</u>	
<u>Thighs;</u>	As for the chest, but with even wider lacing of the lower parts.

- Birds by Herr Helmut Demler-Photos on these pages courtesy of Demler/ Proll.

## **GOLD LACED ORPINGTON FEMALE.**

“gelb-schwarz-gesäumt” ( Germany)



### **COLOUR STANDARD.**

#### **PLUMAGE– FEMALE;**

The main colour is dark golden to cinnamon, each feather of the body plumage to be edged with a black laced border, which is equal in width in all parts. The overall picture to suggest she is darker than the male.

#### Neck hackle;

Dark golden yellow, with very broad black lacing presenting an effect that is nearly black.

#### Tail;

Like that of the male.

#### Wings, Anal

And Ventral Plumage; Like that of the male.

#### NOTE-

Some white tipping of the primaries, and some slight mottling of the large tail coverts is permissible.

#### **IN BOTH SEXES-**

#### Comb, Face, Earlobes

#### and Wattles;

Bright red.

#### Beak;

Horn coloured.

#### Eye Colour;

Orange, brown– lighter brown permissible in female.

#### Legs and Feet;

Flesh coloured (white), some lighter grey is allowed in the female.

#### Under Colour;

Grey to black.

\* From the Standard of The German Orpington Club- SV Deutscher Orpington– Zuchter. e.V

## **GOLD LACED ORPINGTONS.**

Known in Germany as “gelb-schwarz-gesäumt” (yellow-black– lined).

I think it would have been around the Year 2000, whilst scanning through various poultry sites on the Internet, when I came across some pictures of poultry more beautiful than anything I had previously seen. What I was actually experiencing was my first look at the Gold Laced Orpington, known these days as the “gelb-schwarz-gesäumt” Orpington. Which translated loosely , means yellow- black—lined in the German language. So beautiful were these birds, that I resolved to find out more about them, for I could not comprehend how their stunning plumage could have been created. The only birds of this pattern that I had seen were Gold Sebrights, Golden Polish, and the Gold Laced Wyandotte, and these breeds were so different in shape and size, that I thought it would have taken a lifetime to reach the standard that had been achieved by these magnificent birds from Germany. True it was that



**Herr Helmut Demler**

there had been some literature published on the new variety, but my understanding of the German written word was practically zero, so several years passed until the time came to research this book, and that led me to Herr Helmut Demler, Chairman of the German Specialty Orpington Club -*SV Deutscher Orpington-Züchter e.V.*. Herr Demler is, indisputably, one of the most prominent breeders of this wonderful breed, and in modern times, he has been at the forefront its promotion. He has written extensively on all varieties of Orpingtons, but it is

easy to see that his favourites are the Gold Laced, and it is from his work “*Pearls Of Orpington*” that I gratefully acknowledge the fascinating story of their origin and development. Much of the content of Mr. Demler’s work is sourced from an article written in 1997 by Herr Rolf Daubenthaler, the legendary Honorary Chairman of the SV (Sonderverein), and regarded as one of the World’s leading authorities. So, with the reader’s indulgence, I will return to Herr Demler’s account, and try to encapsulate the main points of the breed’s origin. For simplicity, I will refer to the breed as “Gold Laced”, never losing sight of the fact that, as a German breed, the name of “gelb-schwarz-gesäumt” should be observed.

It appears that the initial credit for the genesis of the Gold Laced lies squarely with a certain Herr Jobst von Veltheim, a high ranking officer of the Sonderverein (German Orpington Club) and a Special Judge since 1955. To celebrate the 100 year Anniversary of The Brunswick Poultry Association, he first exhibited a “blue – yellow Orpington” i.e. In honour of the official Brunswick City colours. From these, came the colour known as “yellow

**\*SV Deutscher Orpington-Züchter e.V. ( German Orpington Club)**

**\* Rolf Daubenthaler ( Honorary Chairman \*SV Deutscher Orpington-Züchter e.V.)**

- black ” , with the name , “ yellow – black – lined ” , coming later. However, It was generally thought that the “ yellow –black” combination was the more attractive, and by 1963, they were an, identifiably, new variety..

**B**ut, to return the true origin of this variety, Herr Veltheim did not care much for the lighter toned, yellow ground colour, so he decided to aim for the much more attractive colour, known as mahogany, ( described as a red- brown)



**This hen shows striking ground colour, strong lacing and great depth of body. Owner Helmut Demler. Graded v97 BB at Hannover 2007**

As the starting point, he crossed a reddish male with a black hen to obtain the F1 generation. A male from this first cross was then mated to a “ Speckled ” Sussex hen, with the female progeny being infused with the addition of Buff Orpington to fix the type.

It was noted that some of the progeny showed lacing. In order to strengthen the lacing, ( or trimming ) , a cross was made to a heavy Barnevelder hen which had the desired Orpington body shape. A further infusion of Buff Orpington produced stock that were deemed suitable , and in 1965,they made their debut at TheNational Show in Frankfurt. They obviously made a good impression, for in December 1972, they were granted official approval under the name of “ yellow-black – lined Orpington ”.

According to Herr Veltheim, it was not always plain sailing, for he experienced many difficulties in obtaining the desired strength of lacing on the prototype “ yellow – blacks ” , and he attributed this to the looser webbing of the Yellow ( or Buff ) , Orpingtons, used in the earlier matings. But, on the positive side, his Orpingtons eventually assumed the typical body shape that he considered necessary, enabling him to then concentrate on establishing a deeper, more striking colour pattern. This aim was achieved over many years of development, and after breeding many hundreds of birds, Herr Veltheim decided that he favoured the more reddish – brown ( mahogany ) ground colour that had resulted from the introduction of the Barnevelder. Whatever the case, their origin is a remarkable breeding achievement, remembering that the Barnevelder is a double – laced breed.



**(left). A stunning pen of Gold Laced Orpingtons. Owned by Herr Helmut Demler and exhibited at the National Show at Dortmund in 2009.**

## Gold Laced Orpingtons ( cont.)

**A**fter the new variety was officially recognised in 1972, Herr Veltheim sought to broaden the breeder base, and Herr Hermann Stübs acquired some of the first stock. Both he and Herr Veltheim maintained their own separate lines.

Stubs obtained good results by crossing in a Black Orpington hen, resulting in the offspring having rich colour, with the yellow of the original stock turning to a cinnamon like shade. The black lacing became more intense, and the light shafting in the centre of the feather virtually vanished. In the meantime, Jobst von Veltheim 's birds retained a yellow look, accompanied by light shafting.

At a National Show in Nuremberg, a resolution was passed which made the "cinnamon" colour the preferred option.

In his article " Pearls of Orpington ", Helmut Demler relates the instance where, in 1981, Hermann Stubs produced a male at the Show in Alzey which was described as being " a n absolute highlight in the history of the "yellow



**Very attractive gold tones feature on this Standard female from Germany. She was Graded hv96 pkt at Erfurt in 2009. Blaus Band. Photo Copyright Demler/ Proll**



**The outstanding male by Helmut Demler- Graded VBB at Hannover 2005 Photo by courtesy of Demler/Proll ( Germany)**

-black- lined Orpington, and he was a just reward for ' tireless breeder diligence and perseverance" !

Accordingly, credit must be given also to Hermann Stübs , as well as Herr Veldheim, for their resolve in spreading the breed throughout Germany and many of the neighbouring Countries. Today, we can note that this wonderful creation has found many admirers in faraway places like Great Britain and the U.S.A.

**N**ow, after more than fifty years of development, the Gold Laced genes have been stabilised to such an extent that there is little need for "Double Mating ", and it follows that winners of both sexes can be bred from the one pen. This is different from some of the incorrectly -called Gold Laced breeds, inasmuch as the Standard for both sexes, is pretty well identical, apart from the natural differences in the hackles.

To qualify that statement, one can recall that the Standard for the Gold Laced Wyandotte calls for the main tail to be "black" , whilst our " Gold Laced Orpingtons " tail should be " dark gold to cinnamon/ gold with strong black edging, or lacing " .

Like all Laced breeds, there is a tendency for the edging to weaken on the lower frontal region, under the throat and also over the rise to the tail. Constant attention should be made to ensure strength in the lacing throughout, and the conventional wisdom is that males carrying lacing that is somewhat heavy in the lower breast, often transmit the soundest lacing to their progeny.

### **The Gold Laced Orpington Bantam.**

Following the spectacular success of the Standard Gold Laced in Germany, it was inevitable that a miniature version would make its appearance sooner rather than later. All the breeds used in the manufacturing of the Large Fowl were available in Germany, and although the exact details are hard to obtain, these dwarf varieties could certainly have been used, along with small types of the Standard “gelb-schwarz-gesäumt” ( or Gold Laced. )

Leading authorities credit Herr Axel Harlos, of Marienfels, Germany ) as the prime mover in establishing this lovely addition to the growing Orpington race. Herr Harlos commenced his venture in the years around 1988, and with the assistance of several other breeders, the variety gained official recognition in 1997. The persistence of these German breeders can be seen, where now, this variety ranks in popularity behind only the Blacks, Buffs and Blues.

The new variety made its way to Denmark in 2001 and was first displayed as “ yellow / sortsømmede” at the National Exhibitions of the same year.

In an article written for “ The Landsklubben for Orpington ”, ( updated June 2015 ) the eminent Danish authority ( Bent Nielsen ), opined that the Gold Laced Bantams of Denmark still were somewhat varied. Many possessed good body shape, but achieving the correct size was still a problem. The top line and tail rise assembly also needed attention, as with many Orpingtons.

But, in Bent ’s view, the overall colour of the Danish Bantams was quite good, apart from the recurring problems of white in the wings, and the lack of thigh lacing in the females. This variety is now gaining prominence throughout Europe – a fine tribute to Herr Axel Harlos and his enterprising friends.



**( left and right )  
The excellence of the Gold Laced Bantams of Europe can be seen with these two fine examples photographed in Germany in 2011. Photo courtesy Bent Nielsen. ( Denmark ).**



**Pictured adjacent are two fine examples of Gold Laced Bantams, owned by the breed’s creator Herr Axel Harlos (Germany.) Both were exhibited at Schleife Show in 2014. The male was Graded hv96 , the female v96. Photo courtesy of Jurgen and Holger Schnellschmidt.**

