

PAVLOVSKAYA

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(Latvia)

The Pavlovskaya is an old Russian chicken breed which got its name after the place where it was bred, the village Pavlovo in Nizhny Novgorod province, now known as Pavlovo-na-Oka. In Pavlovo, the Pavlovskaya was exhibited for the first time. According to its classification, the Pavlovskaya is a Central European chicken breed. It is a purely decorative breed.



Note by the editor: The names Pavloff, Pavlov, Pawlow, Pavlovskie e.g. have been used at different times in different countries. In this article we will stick to the Russian name Pavlovskaya.

**Below: Panoramic view of Pavlovo-na-Oke, meaning: on the Oka river.
Photo: Wikipedia.**



Part 1 History of the breed

Let's have a look at the history of this breed. Its 'stud book' dates back to the 18th century. These chickens have been bred since the times of Catherine II, Empress of Russia. There is a legend that the ancestors of this breed were hens in Catherine II's poultry yard.

The first account of the Pavlovskaya breed was by the Russian scientist and traveller P. Pallas in his work 'The journey around different provinces of Russia (1768 to 1773)'. He described crested chickens with feathered legs, in both silver and golden spangled colours. According to this account Pallas saw exactly the chickens that were called Pavlovskaya because of their place of origin.

The Pavlovskaya is a pure breed because it has its own standard. They are different from all other old Russian breeds because there was special selection and they were guarded from unsystematic interbreeding. The Pavlovskaya fanciers passed the secrets of its breeding from generation to generation. They strictly followed the standard demands of the breed. Little by little they became famous worldwide as the Russian national breed. They are considered to be the masterpiece of chicken beauty of the 18th century, but we have not got a lot of information about it. By the end of the 18th century, the Pavlovskaya was bred in many provinces of Russia. The excellent chickens were the eye-catchers of many poultry exhibitions and their owners got high awards. In 1878, at the Acclimatization Exhibition that was held in Moscow, Pavlovskaya from 3 breeders were exhibited; the first 2 were golden Pavlovskaya and the third were black Pavlovskaya. After the exhibition the black Pavlovskaya were presented to the Moscow Zoo. In 1881, Pavlovskaya chickens were mentioned at the first exhibition held by the Moscow Poultry Breeders Society where the silver and golden varieties were shown. They were also shown at the other exhibitions which were held by this society. In 1884 the 5th exhibition of the Moscow Society was held and they won the silver cup. In 1889 there is a description of the pedigree stock breeding of E.AA. Skornyakov who bred the Pavlovskaya in the silver variety. In 1892 the 4th Poultry Exhibition was held, where 2 breeders won prizes for Pavlovskaya in the grey (blue) colour variety. The big silver medal of the Russian Poultry Society was awarded to I.I. Sokolova and the bronze medal to E.F. Romanova. In the same year at the Moscow Exhibition held by the Moscow Poultry Society, the golden Pavlovskaya were exhibited and they won the bronze medal.



Павловская серебристая.

Фото предположительно 1906 года.

Let us have a look at a guide book of poultry yards, published in 1909. The following poultry breeders are mentioned for the golden variety of Pavlovskaya: Baidenov O.D. (Nizniy Novgorod); Izotov I.A., Nenukova S.S. (N.Novgorod); Rogovskiy A.A. (Kazan) and Fedotov O.M. (Pavlovo).

Pavlovskaya silver were bred in the poultry yards of:

Klugina P.A. (Moscow); Nenukova S.S. (N.Novgorod); Fedorovskoy E.V. (Kovrov); Cherbakova A.M. (Pushkino) and Fedotova O.M. (Pavlovo).

In 1897 the first exhibition of the Russian Agricultural Poultry Society was held and here a trio of golden Pavlovskaya was shown. Looking through old catalogues of exhibitions we find that the Pavlovskaya breed was exhibited every year. In 1899 four trios were exhibited, in 1900 there were 6 trios, in 1901 there were 10 trios, in 1902 3 trios were exhibited.

Left: Silver Pavlovskaya (photo from 1906)

In 1906, at the Russian Agricultural and Trade poultry exhibition, 6 trios of Pavlovskaya were listed. Silver and golden Pavlovskaya were shown at the International Poultry Exhibition in 1911 in Turin where they won gold medals.

In 1899 the Organizing Committee of the International Exhibition drafted a concise Standard of the Pavlovskaya and considered it as the national Russian breed. In that year the project "The Russian Standard of Perfection" was published. The following colours were described: silver, golden, black with white crest, grey (blue) with white crest and white. The most rare of those varieties was black with white crest and yellow legs.

There are different sources of information and we may find that some varieties of the Pavlovskaya had different feather colours. For example, in 1895 I. Abozin mentioned that Pavlovskaya, widely spread along the Volga river, had feathering of different colours. In 1905 the Pavlovskaya breed achieved the standard as "the Russian poultry breed".

Below: The Head of Silver Pavlovskaya fowl (Darwin museum).



**Павловский серебристый.
Дарвиновский музей.**



**Павловская серебристая.
Дарвиновский музей.**

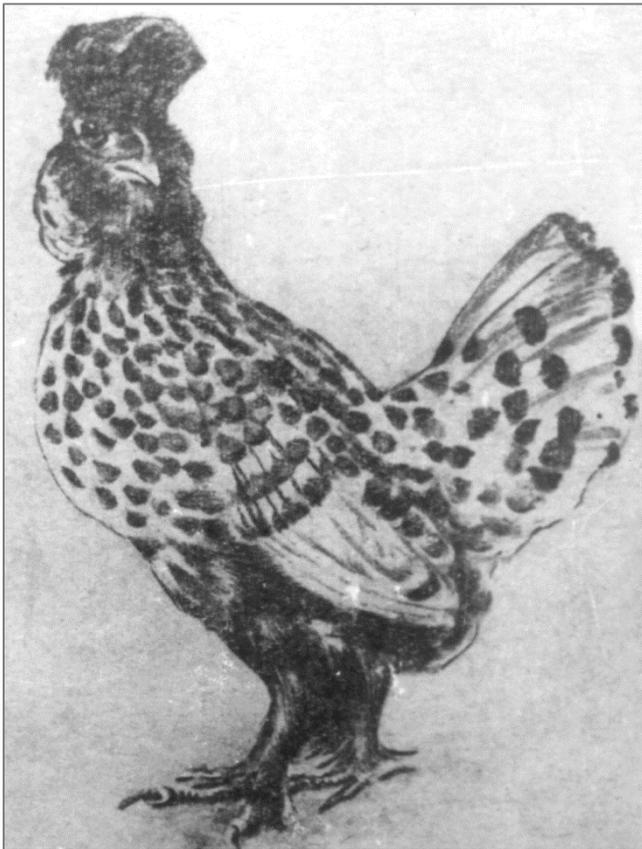
The foreign poultry breeders also paid attention to this Russian breed. In 1886 the German breeder Bruno Durigen considered the Pavlovskaya as the origin breed of today's crested hens. Many outstanding poultry breeders had the same opinion about this breed. They considered this breed as the most ancient of all crested breeds, also they commented on the genes which other crested breeds did not have, such as the crest flattened from the sides and feathering on the legs. In 1894 chickens of this breed appeared abroad in Germany (Leipzig) and Austria (Vienna). In 1884 professor Curn from Germany wrote: "One of my pupils brought me two breeding pens of Pavlovskaya from Moscow. He got them from one of the best poultry breeders. The pens consist of a cock and two hens and won a prize at the Moscow exhibition".

In 1898 Mariuca Grineva was in Vienna. After her visit she wrote that she visited the poultry yard of the Austrian poultry society, where the Pavlovskaya breed from Russia was singled out. So, the golden Pavlovskaya was present at breeders of Great Britain, Germany and Austria. But by the end of the 19th century the breed appeared only rarely at the exhibitions and then fully disappeared. Many specialists considered the reason for the disappearance was the fashion for new foreign breeds. Possibly breeders in these countries simply changed to more fashionable breeds.



Note by the editor: These 4 photos were provided to Aviculture Europe by the Darwin Museum, curator Igor Fadeev, on our request in 2013. We were especially interested in the comb form, but alas it doesn't show as clear as we hoped for. According to Hein van Grouw, curator Tring Museum UK, the combs of old specimen like this are the true 'original' combs – so nothing artificial - although they are dried and shrunk.

In 1899, I. Abozin and S. Hudepov got the task of selecting birds of Russian breeds, including the Pavlovskaya breed, for the Russian department of the International Poultry exhibition. Abozin visited such places as Moscow, Tula and Rostov. In those cities the Pavlovskaya used to be widely bred, but by 1899 it had completely disappeared. He hoped to find this breed in Pavlovo, the hometown of this breed. After his visit he said "I have heard a lot about Pavlovo, as the village of this Russian breed of chicken, namely the Pavlovskaya breed. I have seen something unexpected. Everywhere in Pavlovo we can find many breeds of chicken, mostly Spanish, Langshan, Plymouth Rock, Cochin, and Game birds. I was disappointed and surprised because there were hardly any Pavlovskaya. It took me a long time to find birds of the silver variety of Pavlovskaya. I have bought two of them and the cock was purchased in the neighbouring village. In Pavlovo I got a trio of the golden variety and from Gorbatovka I was brought some black Pavlovskaya with white crest. The golden chickens were typical but not of high quality, while the latter variety is not well known by our fans. They look like Holland chickens but have a beard and whiskers (muffs) with small ears and lobes, and they also have yellow legs. According to the old poultry fanciers Pavlovskaya were bigger, especially the White crested Black. They looked like medium sized chickens. And their eggs were also bigger. Now they have become shallow and are smaller than small village hens". After his visit Abozin reported "Ancient Russian breeds of chickens and geese have been forced out by modern fashionable foreign breeds".



Павловская серебристая.

Рисунок с натуры произведен Серебровским.
Аниковская станция 1920 г.

**Above: The Silver Pavlovskaya (female)
and the Silver Pavlovskaya (male) - 1920.**



Павловский серебристый.

Рисунок с натуры произведен Серебровским.
Аниковская станция 1920 г.

At the beginning of the 20th century Pavlovskaya could be found in the north part of Russia. The latest information dates from the 20's of the previous century. This helped our understanding of the genetics in researches of genes interactions. The most

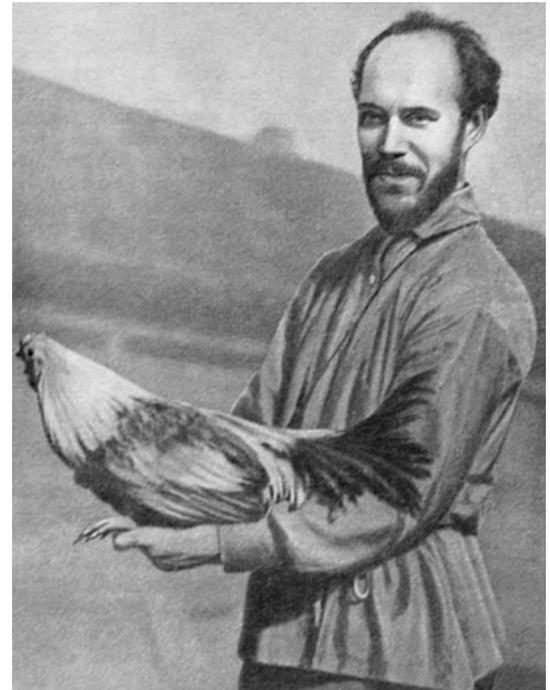
interesting article was written by A.S. Serebrovsky "The genetics of Pavlovskaya chicken breed". In this article he depicted the characteristics of this breed. In 1920 he purchased a cock and 2 hens of silver Pavlovskaya. In all his experiments only the cock took part, he could not get new generations from those two hens. In 1923 he visited Pavlovo again, but the breed had completely disappeared.

Right: Serebrovsky at the experimental station in Anikovo, 1925.

The geneticists were interested because all the characteristics of this breed could be found in new generations. Serebrovsky interbred the Pavlovskaya with chickens of other breeds and he came to the conclusion that different kinds of genes took part in the formation of traits which we could not find in different other cultural breeds, for example genes of feather marking or leg feathering. The conclusion was that previous breeds did not participate in Pavlovskaya breeding.

In 1927, Soviet geneticists went on with their research work on chickens including the Pavlovskaya breed and they went ahead of foreign researchers in discussion of genes interaction.

Nowadays while working with Pavlovskaya, breeders can be helped by old pictures, photos and postcards. The first coloured pictures of golden and silver Pavlovskaya were published in 1905 in the Album of the Poultry Breeds by the Russian Imperial Society, with coloured postcards picturing this breed in the series "The Russian breeds". **(Photo below)** In these pictures you can



see not only this breed in general, but also some specific descriptions of chicken parts. The black and white drawings of the Pavlovskaya breed, made by A.S. Serebrovsky are also very interesting for fanciers and specialists.

In our next issue, Part 2, the history of restoration of the breed and the Standard.



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