

# THE STORY OF THE BLACK CRESTED WHITE POLISH IN HOLLAND

Text: Sigrid van Dort reformulated from a post of 2023 on 5 April 2025

Photos: British Pathé & Sigrid van Dort

**Context: a 1959 film by British Pathé. Several crested chickens are visible.**

**WATCH THE FILM FIRST**, then read on to gather some useless knowledge. Then watch the film again and pause to examine the chickens in detail. I've added screenshots of the film in this post too.

Here is the 1959 film: <https://www.britishpathe.com/asset/196260/>

The story about the creation of the Black-Crested White Polish after World War II is absolutely wild. Yet, many believe it when they read it, here a few 'Special' highlights:

- There is so much 'colourant' or 'dye' (literal translation from Dutch, meaning black pigment, in German: Farbstoff) needed for the black crest that there aren't enough nutrients left for a larger crest (in size of feathers) as usual in the White-Crested Polish.

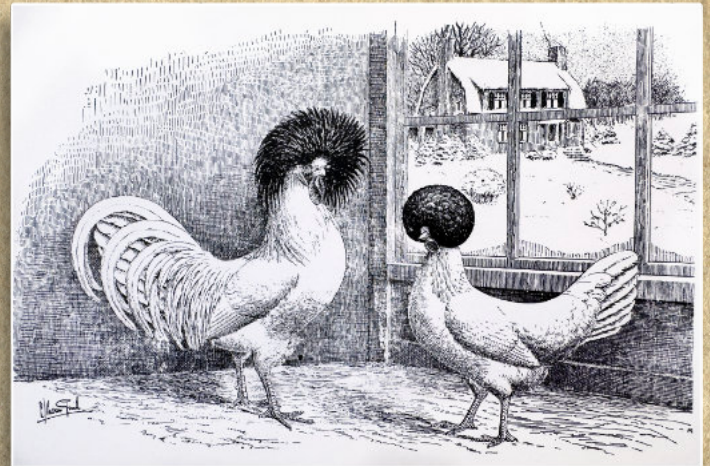
- And, it is necessary to have black in the upper hackle too, otherwise there won't be enough black 'colourant' or 'dye' for the crest.



- And don't use blue, because there won't be enough 'colourant' or 'dye' left for a solid black crest.

- And the under colour has to be grey like Lakenvelder, otherwise there isn't enough 'colourant' or 'dye' for the black crest. I bet you can feel it by now... you nerd!

The article\*) I'm talking about was written by a Dutch



*Black-Crested White Polish according to v. Gink.*

gentleman who rejected genetics (Boks). He could've chosen otherwise, because he lived amongst us, and recently passed away and he was intelligent enough.



*Some of the Black-Crested White Polish in silver and on the left they look gold based. Screenshots from the 1959 film.*

There is something called EGO that prevents special Dutch (male) chicken breeders from learning or giving up their 'own research' and the mystical ways that only Special Men are initiated into (read: bullshit explanations). Dr. Vriesendorp was similar in that he recreated the 'Black-Crested White Polish' (or whatever they had to be) and he rejected the modern genetics of his time. Read on, this is not my opinion...

Also today in 2025 there are very Special breeders in many poultry clubs who, like Vriesendorp, come up with their own genetic explanations (which ignore science) based on their 'own research'.

\*) <http://kuifhoenderclub.nl/site/algemene-rasinfo/22-wit-zwartkuif-hollandse-kuifhoenders>

### Controversy over 'Special' genetics

Vriesendorp had a Special magic trick before he created the Black Crested Whites (again) after WW2. The first time his Black-Crested White Polish, were created in three (3!) years starting in 1910.

He even wrote a booklet about how he did it. In just three years, he used Silver Black-Laced Padua with a lot of black, or even with too black, and he used breeds with black hackles...

"By means of 'targeted breeding', the aim was to multiply the black in the crests. For the second perspective, the 'de-colouring\*\*)' of the body, birds with black hackles were selected; Lakenvelders and Andalusians (totally different and nonsense).

The Andalusians and Lakenvelders were bred together. This resulted in a mixture of colours, including black hackle with light-coloured and even 'de-coloured' bodies. Then, these birds were paired again, this time with Paduas that were chosen for their crest colour.

From this combination, Vriesendorp was able to create the white black crested after several generations (this is not 3 years!, svd) by selecting for 'de-colouration' of the body and pigmentation in the crest".

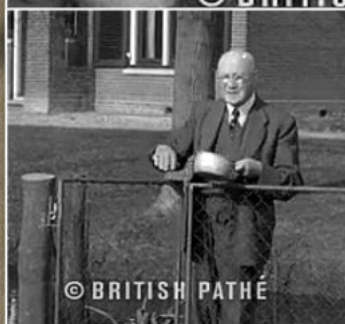
This is what's written and believed in Holland to this day in 2025.

\*\*\*) Vriesendorp was wrong to claim that every 'white' in his book was 'no-pigment' while ignoring the modes of inheritance of the several 'whites' and the behaviour of black in relation to a certain white, which was perfectly understood at that time.

It has to be said, although this will not please the breeders in Holland, that what Vriesendorp wrote about genetics was total nonsense, although many apologetics continue to believe and repeat this nonsense to their last breath.

The reason why, is explained in detail in the book review below from 1954, which was not something the average breeder of the time had access to because it was only available to medical professionals.

It was doctors, Vriesendorp's peers, who pointed out that he completely ignored existing knowledge. A critical review of his 160 pages book "Heredity and Medicine" (1954) gave a 'Nonsense Alert' in the Dutch Journal of Medicine:



Left: the man Dr. Vriesendorp himself, he is in the film several times also feeding his Brahmas.

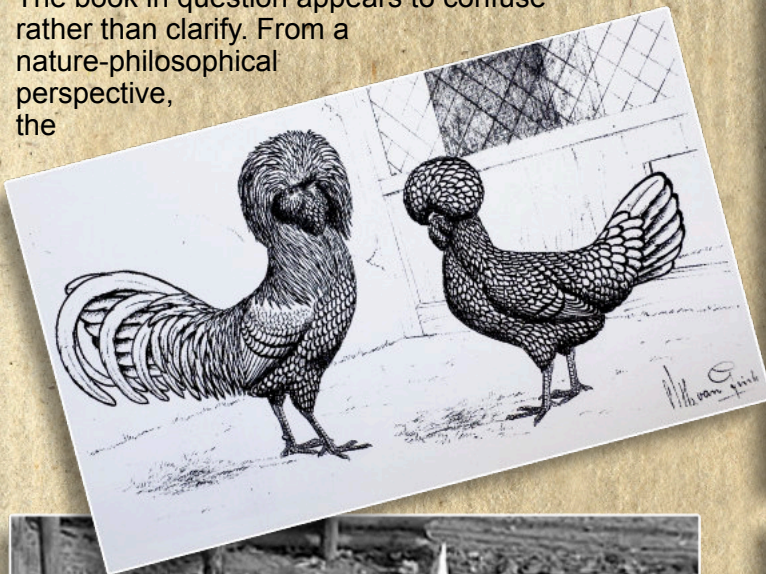


Top: chicks hatched from Vriesendorp in 1959.  
Middle: a non-bearded semi-silver black-laced crested hen.  
Bottom: a black padua with a half beard.



"It is not inherently problematic for a writer to hold views that are at odds with the prevailing zeitgeist, provided that they subsequently engage in a robust and vigorous critique of the official consensus. However, this is not the case in the present situation. The book in question appears to confuse rather than clarify. From a nature-philosophical perspective, the

*Above: made silver (by me) Brabanter fowl, v. Gink, below: a hen with a mohawk-crest (as in Brabanter or Appenzeller) with half a beard and remnants of single laced. Bottom left: mohawk crest, no beard.*





book is weak. The fascinating subject of sexual phenomena is discussed very briefly. While the text does touch upon avian anatomy, it notably omits the particular fact that a hen has only one ovary on the left side and a rudimentary testis on the right side, which would explain many phenomena. The author, like a number of breeders, has a grudge against modern genetics. His perspective on species is similarly contradictory. For instance, he does not believe in the existence of sex chromosomes, and his views on haemophilia and blood groups are erroneous. Furthermore, his discussion of sex hormones is incomplete. According to his definition, humans and women belong to the same species but to different races. Part of Mendel's original lectures from 1865 are printed, which may be of some use to those who are interested."

Much earlier, before WW2 in 1926, Dr. K. Tjebbes published a scientific article that built upon the observations made by Dr. Vriesendorp regarding heredity and colours in chickens at the 3rd National Poultry and Rabbit Congress (1925) and the ambiguities and controversies that resulted.

At that time, there was a significant body of knowledge on genetics. More than an average poultry breeder has today who didn't make a hobby of genetics. Consequently, it was widely anticipated that academic scholars of that era would adopt the

*Above, the gouache made by V. Gink of how he saw the Black-Crested White Polish. Compare these to the real ones of today on the next page (view pages in spread).*

*The colour plates come from the book: Poultry Paintings, C.S.Th. van Gink 1890 - 1968. It can be found in second hand shops.*

prevailing knowledge (as it had not yet been contradicted) as a foundational principle. I'm talking about basic genetics.

Vriesendorp did not accept the prevailing scientific consensus; rather, he developed his own 'system', which nobody understood and which failed. His test breedings were meticulously designed and documented; however, the interpretation was completely wrong. Tjebbes therefore writes: "leave the interpretation of the breeding results to the geneticists."

Vriesendorp gave Tjebbes animals to repeat the crosses. The results were quite different. The reasons for this could be fully explained by (100 years ago modern) genetics".

Dr. Vriesendorp is still being praised by the people from the Dutch national poultry club, who believe in selective nonsense because he did: 'his own research'.

# BLACK CRESTED WHITE POLISH FROM 2018



*Photos made at a show in Holland in 2018 the next year there was bird flu and then the pandemic hit. These were large Polish, huge birds. Top right, the cock and bottom right the head of the hen. You see there is still some white in the black crests. These don't have black in their upper hackle at all as seen in Brabant fowl.*

Even today, I call them the 'Dutch Poultry Taliban' because of how they see others and the world, it is incredible how there are still breeders who place value on what Vriesendorp has written and not shown. What he did show, no longer exists, but can still be seen in this 1959 Pathé film as the 'perfect' Black-Crested White Polish chickens...

Black-Crested White Polish chickens are not shown in the film, only a project with semi-mohawk crests and half beards, zero signs of Andalusian fowl (probably to obscure what he used, this is done very often in the Fancy by many men and can be debunked easily with basic genetic knowledge), which are in various stages of development. The Magic of the Andalusians and Lakenvelders used... yeah sure (not).

If you want, you can see perfect Black-Crested White Polish in 1959 Vriesendorp birds. After all, everyone has a different pair of eyes attached to their brain.



Here are some more photos taken at a show in Holland in 2018. Here are more details. As you can see, there is still black on the body. They are silver-based, with black only visible on the feather quills. Lakenvelder projects often have black, as seen in eb Db, a sort of remnant of a spangle or very open autosomal barring on the body. These birds were very flighty, so it was difficult to make sharp photos. Judging must be very mild since these are so rare.

That's all folks, I couldn't find any more info about the genetics of the Black-Crested White Polish... enjoy the film!

