



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Smithson has been involved in the cat fancy for over 40 years, 36 as a judge, 31 of those as an All-Breed judge. He has held many offices, from NZCF Editor in 1980, to Regional Director, and serving a term as National President of the New Zealand Cat Fancy, in 1993.

His hobbies include music, art, and feline history, and he takes time to enjoy, continually learn about, and contribute to each. He is an accomplished artist, specialising in Pen and Ink using the pointillist technique, with his animal portraits and pastoral works are gracing the walls of homes in many countries.

Nearing retirement, he fulfils his passion for things feline, by writing history, spending innumerable hours every month seeking out rare historical documents, photographs, and artifacts, that have hitherto remained hidden from sight; thoroughly researching every find to work out what they each reveal about the breeds and people involved with them, then fitting this into his already heavy writing schedule.

He is currently, Curator of The Harrison Weir Collection; a Director of the CFA Foundation, Inc.; Editor of the e-magazine 'Felis Historica'; a joint founder/collaborator and writer for 'The History Project' at [www.cat-o-pedia.org](http://www.cat-o-pedia.org) and remains an active Tutor All-Breeds Judge with the NZCF, Inc.

John has been a guest speaker at the World Cat Congress. His research has taken him to the United Kingdom, where he has lectured on the life of British listed artist Harrison Weir, (known as the Father of the Cat Fancy), to research at both the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and the V & A Museum in London; to the United States, where he collaborates with the CFA Foundation Inc., at their Feline Historical Museum on several joint projects, including the 'Alchemy of Cat Breeds' series of books of which this is just one.