



“Preserving Our Falconry Heritage”

Heritage

e-Newsletter

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Introducing Natalie Nicholson

2nd in a Series: Archives Associates

Natalie Nicholson was born in South Bend, Indiana on November 29th, 1930. She says she had a normal childhood growing up in the Great Depression and as a teenager during World War II. After initially attending DePauw University, she graduated Indiana University with a B.M. in Music. She began her teaching career in Kokomo, Indiana and later married and started a family, with her oldest son, Brett, being born there. The Nicholson family eventually moved to California where she became a musical director for the Fullerton Congregational Church. She returned to teaching by obtaining a B.A. and an M.S. degree in Education from Pepperdine University.

As part of a teacher exchange program, Natalie found herself teaching in England during the early 1980's. One of her two daughters, Dee, had become an avid falconer with her boyfriend, Terry Kohler. They asked Natalie to search the bookshops and art dealers in England for falconry materials, as they were very scarce in the U.S.

When she returned to California in 1984, she produced her first list of hawking goods and treasures, which sold out in ten days. Nicholson's Art Prints and Books was formed and remained in business for over 15 years. She returned to Europe twice each year to keep her bookshelves supplied and made lifelong friends with Greg Way,



Peter Blest, Ron Coleby, Clive Burden and Paul Morgan, all of whom shared their book knowledge with her.

After the formation of the Archives of Falconry in 1986, then-Curator Kent Carnie asked Natalie to help evaluate and price duplicate books for sale, a time-consuming task she continues to perform. She also has helped conduct literary research on both the East and West coasts and, thus, became acquainted with another Archives Associate, Peter Devers.

Natalie traveled with Peter Devers along with John and Vicki Swift on the infamous “Dead Falconer's Tour” in 2002. The purpose of the tour was to obtain

additional information about several 16th to 19th Century British falconers by visiting their homes and even their grave sites. Two weeks' and hundreds of miles' effort produced many photographs and pages of information on several falconers about whom little was known previously. A pictorial travelogue was written for the 2002 *NAFA Journal* to preserve the information for posterity. Natalie would travel again to England with Peter in 2003 for what she refers to as the “Half-Dead Falconer's Tour” and to visit Durham, where she viewed a very famous, handwritten 13th Century treatise on falconry as well as Captain Salvin's family home.

Natalie continues to serve as hostess for many Archives events and plans to help with the 2nd Rendezvous in March, 2009. She has persuaded Dee to bring her collection of John Moran hoods for other falconers to see on display.

The Archives is fortunate to employ Natalie's erudite knowledge of rare book prices, condition, and scarcity in making her evaluations for the duplicate book sale. Displaying a pleasant personality coupled with a great enthusiasm for Archives' affairs, Natalie Nicholson is truly one of our treasured assets. 🦅

What Is An Archives Associate?

Associates of the Archives of Falconry are those volunteers who wish to promote the mission of preserving the physical history of falconry. They help in any way possible from doing research at libraries and institutions, participating in strategic planning, providing financial support, collecting and evaluating materials, cataloguing acquisitions, preserving historical documents, arranging exhibits, planning social activities, and representing the Archives at international events and festivals. Our Associates represent many nations where falconry was or is currently practiced. 🦅

JOHN R. SWIFT, CURATOR • KENT CARNIE, CURATOR EMERITUS • DAVID WELLS, ADMINISTRATOR

THE ARCHIVES OF FALCONRY, THE PEREGRINE FUND'S WORLD CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY

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Recent Acquisition

The Charles Hawkins Fisher Collection

Charles Hawkins Fisher was a famous British falconer who helped bring falconry into the Twentieth Century. His work, *Reminiscences of A Falconer* published in 1901, became a classic on the sport. Like many falconers, his personal library was sold at auction at his death and the works literally scattered around the world. The Archives of Falconry has collected some of these works over its 20-year history and with the acquisition of a recent library, a significant collection of his works now resides at the Archives for future falconers to peruse. The collection contains the following materials:

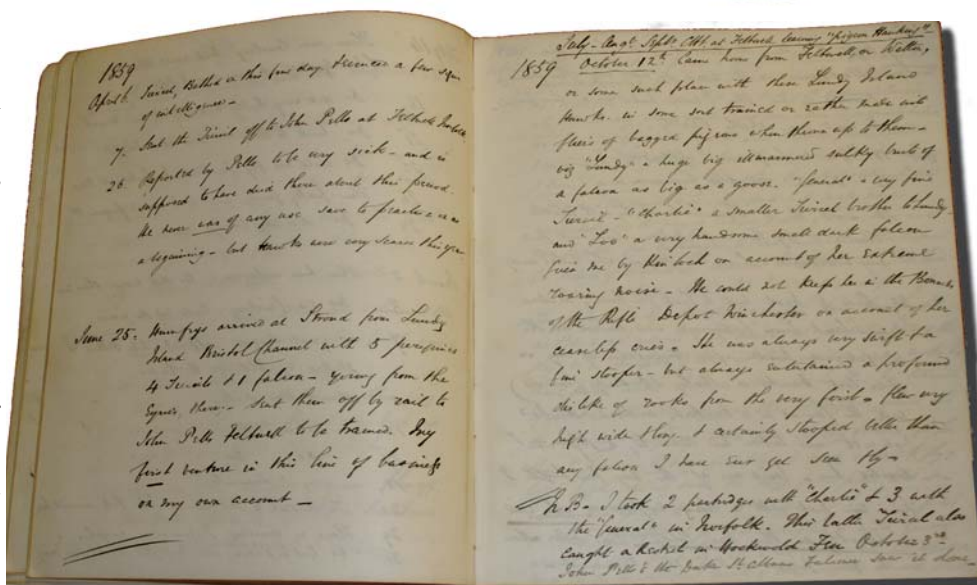
- Fisher's personal copy of Salvin and Brodrick's 1855 edition of *Falconry in the British Isles*, heavily annotated in Fisher's personal hand.
- The 1873 edition of *Falconry in the British Isles* in a never-before observed presentation binding, lightly annotated in Fisher's hand.
- Fisher's personal hawking diaries from 1858 through 1861 with rough notes on the hawks flown by Major Fisher.
- An 1870 photograph, "Peregrine Falcon on the Fist" known to have belonged to artist William Brodrick, a close friend.
- A scrapbook containing articles published in *The Field Magazine* by Major Fisher along with his handwritten notes.
- Fisher's signed personal copy of

Nicholas Cox's 1697 edition of *Gentleman's Recreation*.

- A presentation copy from Fisher to a friend of *Reminiscences of A Falconer*.
- A one-of-a-kind round sterling silver plaque with a full left-side raised facial profile with "C. Hawkins Fisher" embossed on the outer circumference, mounted in an oval wooden frame.

There are likely other treasures still in private collections but none in this quality and quantity. Special thanks to Archives supporter Bob Berry and Curator John Swift for this major recent acquisition, filling out the C. Hawkins Fisher collection.

At this year's Falconry and Raptor Fair, the British Hawking Association presented to Archives Associate Paul Beecroft a significant, and particularly appropriate, gift to the Archives: a crystal engraving by artist David Whyman of Major Fisher, based on a well-known photograph. 🦅



Fisher Diary

Previous issues of Heritage newsletters are available online:
www.peregrinefund.org/american_falconry.asp#heritage



Guess Who?

(3rd in a series...)

Can you identify this well-known, American falconer from a by-gone era?

For answer, see below:

Pete Asborno [1912-1989], American bell-maker