



“Preserving Our Falconry Heritage”

Heritage

e-Newsletter

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Your Archives Receives International Recognition

On July 9, 2009 at its 40th Annual General Meeting near Reading, UK the member delegates to the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) voted to enroll The Archives of Falconry as a Supporting Member organization. The IAF is the “umbrella” organization, representing seventy falconry organizations – with some 35,000 members – from 48 countries. It is the only such international body for falconry. Its membership includes only two other “Supporting” organizations.

Formed in 1968 under the initial presidency of the renowned British falconer, author and jurist Jack Mavrogordato, the IAF was conceived as an organization to coordinate the activities of falconry groups throughout the world, to advocate the legal recognition of the sport, and to represent and protect the interests of falconry and falconers in the widening arena of international conservation. Among its major current activities is its role in seeking international designation and, thus, recognition of falconry as an intangible world cultural heritage through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO).

At the recent meeting, TAF was represented by Curator Emeritus Kent Carnie who will serve as The Archives’ representative to the IAF. Prior to the election procedure, Kent briefly described TAF’s role and background, although most delegates were already familiar with TAF through their group visit to our facility in conjunction with their annual meeting in 2006. That year Kent received the IAF’s Presidential Award for TAF’s role in helping preserve the heritage of the sport. 🦅

Thank You!

Fundraising Goal Met

— a message from John Swift, Curator
Nearly 30 individuals or couples and 10 state clubs rallied to help secure the \$7,500 needed to cover the insurance costs for The Archives of Falconry this year. In fact, over \$20,000 was raised with gifts ranging from \$20 to \$10,000. With the challenge pledge of \$5,000, over \$25,000 will have been raised. We will be able to carry a balance forward to start the next fiscal year in October and we will be able to complete a few small repairs and purchase some much-needed archival supplies.

We express our heartfelt thanks to the following clubs and indi-

viduals for stepping up to help in our time of need: Alberta Falconry Association, Arizona Falconers Association, Arkansas Hawking Association, Colorado Hawking Club, Kansas Hawking Club, Minnesota Falconers Association Nebraska Falconers Association, Texas Hawking Association, Virginia Falconers Association, Washington Falconers Association; Blair Anderson, Charles Arnold, Alan Beske, Ron Brown, Paul Burns, Tom and Jennifer Coulson, Lawrence Crowley, John Edmisten, David Eslicker, Michael Farmer, Louis Andy Feher, Steve and Emma Ford, Michael Garner, William Halliwell, Walter Hill, Ken Hooke, Rich Howard, Richard Hoyer, Alan Jenkins, Cliff Kellogg, Jana Kemp, Daniel Lass, Janet Penevelope, Marek Plater, Mark and Betty Purdy, Noah Schroeder, Michael Tomas, Timken Family Trust, Peter Tirrell, and Kirk Wallace. We thank you all! 🦅

2009 Silent Auction Begins

The Archives annual auction of duplicate books has begun. The deadline is Sunday, Oct. 18. The Auction list, instructions, and bid form are available at our website: www.peregrinefund.org/TAF_auction.asp.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested in Archives’ activities. 🦅

Recent Acquisitions

From Anthony Crosswell

At the 2nd International Festival of Falconry, British artist and falconer Anthony Crosswell presented to Kent Carnie, curator emeritus, for the Archives his watercolor painting of Abdullah, chief falconer to H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed al Nahyan (20”h x 16.5”w), framed and matted. It is a beautiful piece and is now appropriately displayed in the Arab Falconry Heritage Wing of the Archives. 🦅



Shakespeare and Falcons on Off The Trail

National Public Radio reporter Jyl Hoyt made a return visit to the Archives, this time to interview Archives founder and curator emeritus, Kent Carnie. He cited J. E. Harting's book, *The Birds of Shakespeare*, in explaining the connection between what, to most people, seem to be esoteric terms in the plays of Shakespeare and actual falconry vocabulary. Her interview presents an interesting background for her listeners and ties in with the ongoing summer program of the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.

This interview from her radio series *Off The Trail* is now available online at radio.boisestate.edu. Just do a keyword search on her name and locate "Shakespeare and Falcons on *Off The Trail*." There are other interesting interviews by her on that site also relating to falconry. 🦅

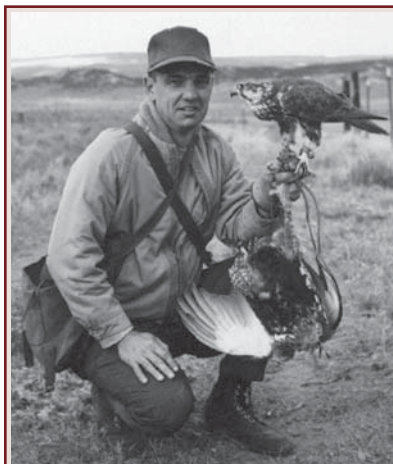


From Pat Burnham

Pat Burnham recently donated a large framed color photo by Dan O'Neill of New York City. The photo of a Mongolian falconer on horseback with a Golden eagle and a rifle is one of a series taken on a trip sponsored by Rob Comstock (with Bill Burnham) in Oct. 1999. It is displayed at the entrance to the Archives of Falconry. 🦅

From Kazuya Ishikawa

Japanese falconer and equipment maker Kazuya Ishikawa recently visited the World Center for Birds of Prey and the Archives of Falconry. He generously donated one of his decorative leather and feather hoods for our international collection. 🦅



Guess Who? (7th in a series...)

Can you identify this falconer?

For answer,
see below:

Dan A. Cover, 1930-2003

Famous Missouri falconer, author, and NAFA President

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

The 2nd International Festival of Falconry

— text & photos by Associate Peter Devers

At the Archives we catalog and arrange the published literature, unpublished manuscripts, field diaries, and memorabilia of falconers past. Collectively, these items are recorded memories of falconry as they practiced it. Our mission — to preserve the heritage of falconry from all cultures and nations — is fascinating and worthy. Information and art on the hawks we love and the sport we practice are displayed on shelves and on walls and preserved in acid-free boxes for all falconers to enjoy now and forever. Our exhibits often serve to give visitors and the general public their first introduction to falconry. Many are not aware it is practiced here, let alone elsewhere in the modern world.

Our extensive holdings are available for researchers to use when investigating the various and complex aspects of our sport. Despite holding the physical evidence of colorful lives and practices of falconers past — their recorded memories — the Archives is a dry and quiet place, as



most museums and libraries are. The materials are “frozen in time.”

How very different, though, was the 2nd International Festival of Falconry held July 10th through 12th in England. Here the heritage of falconry we store in the rooms at the Archives came to life in a colorful and dramatic way. For three days, falconers from over forty nations came together to demonstrate their methods of training and hunting birds (some still using techniques pioneered by their ancestors several thousand years ago) and to share the joy of a sport that crosses so many cultural, religious, and political borders. It was like a United Nations of Falconry, a World’s Fair of Falconry — a truly exuberant Olympics of the Sport of Falconry in every way!

Through the considerable effort of organizers Nick Fox, Jevgeni Shergalin, Nick Havemann-Mart and the hundreds of volunteers who helped them to organize this event successfully, it seemed as though some of the clothing and equipment preserved at the Archives jumped off the walls and out of storage boxes to parade around in life, entertaining and informing the public. The Festival seemed to me like the Archives collections of literature, equipment, and art were virtually brought to life at sunrise on the Englefield Estate which Queen Elizabeth I visited four hundred years ago.

Falconers were encouraged to attend in their historic native attire and many did. The elaborate Royal Czarist falconry costumes of the Russians were stunning. The elegance of 18th and 19th century French falconry attire was eye-catching. The present-day clothing worn by peoples of the Central Asian steppes was colorful and exotic, virtually unchanged from that of a thousand years ago. David Horobin of the United Kingdom, chief in charge of the Heritage Tent, wore fashionable

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19th century sporting attire of the kind that Gerald Lascelles would have enjoyed wearing.

The Festival was not just a bit of costume drama, however. Most of the nations in attendance had a tent with exhibits showcasing the heritage and present practice of the sport in their nations. Visitors could wander from tent to tent looking at posters, books, and equipment from nations they may never get the opportunity to visit in real life. The men and women who put the exhibits together were most happy to elaborate on the history of the sport in their countries.

The United Arab Emirates created the “Abu Dhabi Village” on the festival grounds, the most elaborate of all the national exhibits. In goat hair tents and reed huts, they showcased the history of the sport of falconry on the Arabian peninsula and its importance in their culture. One of the prime reasons for holding the Festival was to highlight efforts to have falconry declared a sport of



“intangible cultural heritage” by the United Nations. This effort, spearheaded by the Emirates Falconers’ Club and the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, is of enormous importance to falconers all over the world. The Emiratis also announced the launch of an ambitious project to reprint (in exacting facsimile) manuscripts of their sport dating back a thousand years. Walking through the Abu Dhabi Village on Sunday were His Excellency Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon al Nahyan and His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, the Duke of York. These modern descendents represented a heritage of falconry going back over 800 years ago to the time of Saladin and Richard the Lionheart.



The Heritage Tent, one of the largest exhibits at the event, gave visitors a comprehensive look at the sport of falconry in the Far East, Near East, Europe, Africa, and the New World. The Archives was heavily involved with creating the displays. Under the leadership of author/falconer David Horobin, the Archives’ founder and curator emeritus Kent Carnie, administrator David Wells, and associates Peter Devers and Paul Beecroft helped craft displays that were entertaining and educational. The Valkenswaard Museum of Holland had a living display in which Jacques van Gerven, using equipment once owned by the Mollen family of hoodmakers and hawk trappers in the 19th century, created hoods in front of onlookers. The



Italians had a wonderful exhibit of Frederick II’s De Arte Venandi cum Avibus, displayed on a large plasma screen, in which you could turn the pages just by touching the screen and pulling the virtual page across.

Displays of traditional falconry were given throughout the day in the main arena and seminars on historical falconry were given by different nations in the lecture tent. The vendors area was a street fair of glove makers, hood makers, bell makers, artists and falconry book sellers that amply demonstrated that the way of a falconer’s life as cataloged at the Archives was still a living one today. 🦅

