



# HERITAGE

Number 4

The Archives of Falconry ☞ Fall 2005

Preserving  
Our Falconry  
Heritage

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## The Archives of Falconry Receives Traditional *Bedu* Hunting Tent

**I**n 2003, North American Falconers Assn. Field Meet Chairman Kevin Suedmeyer asked falconer/veterinarian Ken Riddle's help to present an international falconry program by obtaining an authentic, traditional Bedu hunting tent for display.

Dr. Riddle had worked in Abu Dhabi from 1985 to 1998 where he designed and directed what became a world-renowned falcon hospital at the invitation of His Highness the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, then President of the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Zayed was a life-long, ardent, practicing falconer who achieved international prominence for falconry in 1976 when he hosted the first International Conference on Falconry and Conservation.

Through the generosity of His Excellency, Mohamed Al Bowardi, the Managing Director of Abu Dhabi's Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency and a

falconer himself, the tent and all its traditional fittings, including wall-to-wall oriental carpets, cushions, and the complete accoutrements for roasting, grinding, brewing, and serving traditional *Bedu* coffee, were given to Ken personally for use at the meet. Evenings, falconers gathered in the tent set up in the courtyard of the Amarillo meet hotel for a review of the day's hawking much the same way as *Bedu* falconers have for



hundreds of years. At the conclusion of the meet Dr. Riddle generously donated the tent and all its accoutrements to The Archives of Falconry (TAF)—A TRULY MEMORABLE GIFT!!

*As we go to press TAF has been awarded a grant from His Highness, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Sheikh Zayed's son, to help support construction of a new wing at The Archives so that this tent may at long last be properly displayed and all falconers enjoy a glimpse of falconry as it has existed for so many centuries. This new wing will both commemorate the memory of his father's great love of falconry and allow us to display memorabilia surrounding the long traditions of Bedu falconry and its contribution to all falconers' heritage. The wing will be dedicated at the special celebration of TAF's twentieth anniversary next year and will be featured in our next newsletter.*

## Recent Acquisitions (to September 2005)

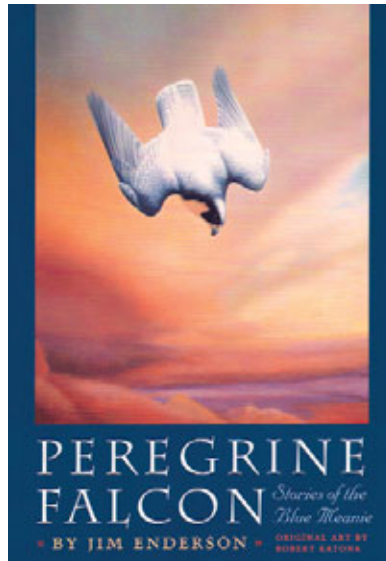
**BOB AND CAROL BERRY** have generously formalized donation to our archives of the Colonel Thornton silver-gilt tea urn featured in our last newsletter. The historical value of this magnificent Georgian piece commemorating the man who did so much to revive British falconry after a hiatus of over a century cannot be overestimated. Its now-official accession significantly reiterates the international orientation of our collections.

To further enhance the exhibit of the Thornton urn, British falconer **TONY JAMES** unsolicitedly placed on indefinite loan with TAF a 16-gauge, percussion cap, muzzle loading, double barreled shotgun made for Thornton in 1801 and doubtless used by the Colonel in his famed "Sporting Tour of France" as described in his 1806 book. Tony's generosity exemplifies the increasing international support for your archives.

**JIM ENDERSON**, author of the fascinating new book *Peregrine Falcon; Stories of the Blue Meanie* eloquently describing his life-long association with peregrines has added vastly to our archives art collection with the 25 original pencil drawings by Bob Katona which Jim commissioned to illustrate this memoir. To "add frosting to the cake" Jim also presented TAF with the original acrylic rendering Bob painted to grace the book's cover.

The Peregrine Fund's own **TOM CADE** has begun shifting to TAF's collections of personal correspondence all of his falconry-associated letters. Tom's "first installment," covering all of the 1950s, completely filled a five-inch archival file box. We still have empty filing space and look forward to Tom's transfer of future installments.

**BRIAN WALTON** made a special gift in commemoration of the memory of the late Will Shor: Brian's collection of John Moran hoods. The excellence seen in John's now-famed hoodmaking is a fitting reflection of the excellence Will brought to our sport in so many different ways and seems, thus, a particularly fitting manner to honor him.



The family of the late **DR. MORGAN BERTHRONG** has shared with us all of the detailed pathological records, both written and photographic, Morgan prepared on the many raptors on which he performed post mortem examinations over his decades of service to the falconry community. As he was an exceptionally qualified pathologist, these materials document much of the progress in raptor medicine we have enjoyed over the past fifty years. We have made the existence in our collections of this unique set of records known to NAFA's Medical Editor, Dr. Pat Redig, to enhance their usability.

In a recent visit to the United Kingdom **ROGER UPTON**, the British falconer-historian, generously responded to our entreaties for some of his hoods with a small collection of both Anglo-Indian and Dutch-style hoods of his own making. For a number of years following WWII

Roger was the principal supplier of falconry equipment to the British falconry community and these hoods are an excellent representation of the state-of-the-art in the UK in that period.

It goes almost without saying, though certainly deserving of recognition, that TAF Curator of Books and Manuscripts **JOHN SWIFT** has yet again made significant additions to The Archives' library. Our new international status has opened new vistas to John's collecting lust for which we are all the benefactors.

Following his father's wishes, **TOM CUNNINGHAM**, son of the late T. Halter Cunningham, has begun sending The Archives a collection of falconry books, art, and memorabilia from the extensive collection developed by Halter over some 60 year's association with the sport. A colorful individual if ever there was one, probably Halter's most memorable contribution to our sport was the development, with his old friend Brian McDonald, of the pigeon harness. Initially used by the pair in early-day trapping of peregrines on Assateague Island, their "invention" is now well ensconced in the trapping repertoire of all falconers.

### ADDITIONAL DONORS OF HISTORIC MATERIALS:

Alberta Falconry Assn., Seth Anthony, Robert Bagley, Paul Becroft, Frank Bond, Jakob Borch, Kent Carnie, Mark Churchill, Kellie Cosho, Bob Dalton, Peter B. Devers, Raul Ducoing Arjon, Peter Eldrett, Andy Feher, Nick Fox, David Frank, Jack Hagan, David Hancock, John Harrell, Clyde Hawley, Jr., Bill Heinrich, Ken Hooke, Rich Howard, Tony Huston, Intl. Assn. of Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey, Cliff Kellogg, E. MacLean, Majid Al Mansouri, Bill Mattox, Margit G. Muller, Ruth & Brian Mutch, Nebraska Falconers Assn., Alberto Palleroni, Amanda Patchin, Julio Cesar Perez Guerra, Dave Perfetti (American Falconry—the magazine), Sean Rice, Rachael Saunders, Jaime Noel Sepulveda Carrero, Jose Souto, Jim Stabler, Transglobe/Gondwana Films, Utah Falconers Assn., Virginia Falconers Assn., Washington Falconers Assn., Rick Watson, Jim Weaver, Scott Webster, Welch Hawking Club, and Jon Wilde.

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*Individual/corporate contributors to September 2005*

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## PATRONS:

Peter B. Devers, W.A. Huston, Natalie Nicholson, North American Falconers Assn.

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## Your Help Still Needed

History never stops and neither does The Archives of Falconry. The collections continue to grow. Though the staff are all volunteers and donate countless hours in preserving these items, there are preservation costs. In addition, the facility which was constructed to provide an environment which will preserve our historical materials has operating costs that increase yearly. Individual donations help pay for these costs. Here are some ways you can help!

**Make a personal contribution.** Individuals have made personal contributions to support our ongoing preservation efforts. Funds received are used for current activities or can be placed in the endowment fund for long term support.

**Make a club contribution.** Numerous clubs have summer picnics with auctions and raffles to raise monies for their activities. Why not allocate a portion for The Archives? The Archives often has duplicate artwork that can be used to help raise these funds.

**Make a donation through United Way.** Many United Ways have programs that allow you to allocate your contribution to The Archives. See if yours does.

**Donate books** that could be used in our auction. Books are highly desired by other falconers and an easy item to sell at our annual auction. If you are not using them as references and they are just gathering dust, why not donate them so other falconers can read them, supporting The Archives at the same time.

Today is tomorrow's history! You are already a part of it. Help us to preserve all of our history by providing personal financial support. Join with us by providing a contribution in the enclosed envelope.

## Sherley—OUT-OF-PRINT

Response to your Archives' Heritage Publication Series has been outstanding. After less than 18 months TAF stocks of both presentations (Subscriber's and Patron's editions) of our Vol. III, Sir Thomas Sherley's *A Short Discourse of Hawking to the Field.....*, are now, like Vol. I, exhausted—we have no more; the work is OUT-OF-PRINT!

We wish to thank all of you who have made this publishing effort such a success. For those of you who have missed your opportunity to obtain this fascinating classic work—until our reprinting the rarest of all English-language falconry books—the following dealers have purchased copies and may still have some issues of Vol. III available for sale: Western Sporting Publications, Northwoods, Ltd., Hancock House, and Coch-y-Bonddu Books.

We have a limited number of copies of Vol. II, the Craighheads' *Life with an Indian Prince* still available in both formats (see last page), but to secure your copy before its following the other two volumes into non-availability, **ORDER NOW!!**

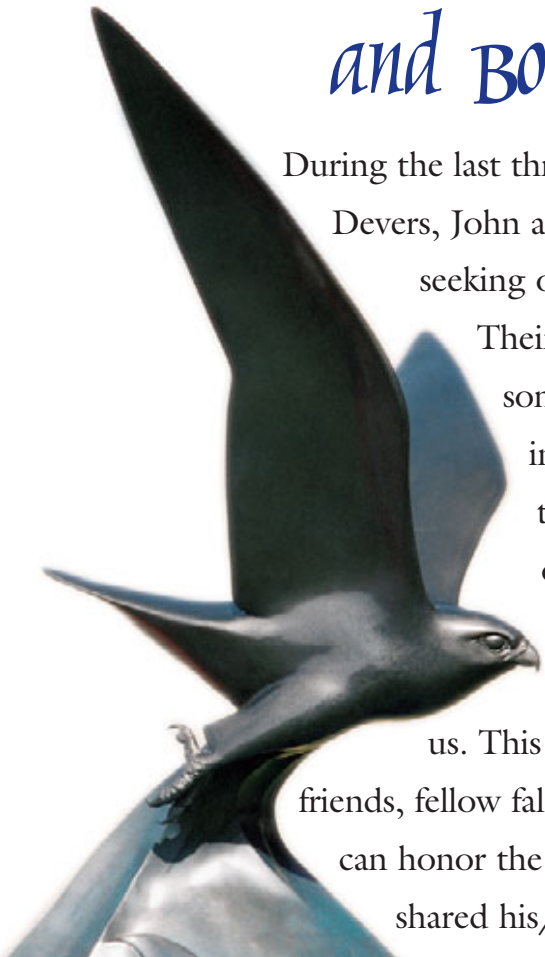


Conceptual rendering by Craig Pence

# *A Falconers' Memorial and Book of Remembrance*

During the last three years Associates of The Archives of Falconry—Peter Devers, John and Vicki Swift, and Natalie Nicholson—spent many hours seeking out and visiting the memorials of famous British falconers.

Their gravesites were most often difficult to find and, while sometimes elaborate, more frequently were in disrepair or—in some cases—no longer existent. Our Associates returned to the United States with a deep desire to ensure that our own falconers would be fittingly remembered. Toward that end we are establishing a memorial at The Archives of Falconry to honor those of our comrades no longer with us. This memorial will serve as a permanent location where friends, fellow falconry club members, and/or the family of the deceased can honor the memory of a departed falconer among those others who shared his/her passion for hawking.



# "A society defines itself by the people it honors."

—John Fitzgerald Kennedy

**T**he memorial is of simple design. The centerpiece is a bronze sculpture created by falconer Ross Matteson depicting a Peregrine falcon lifting off to the heavens, mounted on a stone pedestal. On an adjacent wall individual 4 x 9-inch cast bronze plaques will bear the name of each falconer honored and his/her birth and death dates.

A specially designed "Book of Remembrance" will be displayed in The Archives to present personal memorabilia relating to the honored falconer. Two side-by-side 16 x 20-inch pages will be provided for each honoree on which personal photographs, biography, obituary, photos of hawks flown, and personal reminiscences can be placed. The book will also include the names of those clubs and individuals making this remembrance possible. This book will be available for display at various falconry events, as well as on our website.

## Specific criteria for inclusion into the Falconers' Memorial and Book of Remembrance:

the proposed honoree must have been

- 1) an active falconer for at least five years  
**OR**  
a member in good standing of a local or national falconry club for five years;
- 2) recommended in writing by three falconers who knew him/her personally or by a local or national club; and
- 3) must not have worked intentionally to discredit the sport of falconry.

Certainly all contributions in support of the memorial are welcome. We believe

we will need a total of at least one thousand dollars per honoree to cover the costs of the book, statue, wall, and plaques as well as to provide for their future care. All individual donations will be placed in The Archives endowment fund and applied toward the total necessary for each honoree. That endowment is a permanent fund in which only annual interest earned is used, maintaining original contributions intact. This fund ensures permanent viability of the memorial and of The Archives itself, with all its programs and facilities.

As with all gifts to your archives, Memorial donations are federally tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.



**OR**

I/We would like to nominate

\_\_\_\_\_ for inclusion in the Falconers' Memorial and Book of Remembrance at The Archives of Falconry in Boise, Idaho.

I/We will take responsibility for raising the necessary funds for his/her inclusion in the Falconers' Memorial together with collecting and preparing items for the Book of Remembrance.

I/We would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Falconers' Memorial in the name of

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name(s), as you wish to appear as sponsor(s) in the Book of Remembrance

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail to The Archives of Falconry—Falconers Memorial • 5668 West Flying Hawk Lane • Boise, Idaho 83709



RUSSELL LUFF  
MEREDITH  
1892~1965

Despite hawks being flown in the Americas since the 16th Century, it is not without reason that so many knowledgeable falconers look to Russell Luff Meredith as “The Father of American Falconry.” With both a keen interest and active participation in the sport dating from the early part of the 20th Century, Meredith was far more advanced in its lore and practice than those who were attracted to the sport in the late 1920s and early 30s, which saw the pronounced expansion of what then passed for falconry on this continent. No one was more widely regarded and reputed than “The Captain” (or, after World War II, “The Colonel”), as he was respectfully known.

His book, written in the mid-1930s, would have been North America’s first falconry text had there been sufficient interest to attract a publisher. But the sport was little known, much less understood, and its adherents few and scattered. As a result, his account remained unpublished and virtually unknown until TAF, then the Archives of American Falconry, selected it in 1999 as the first volume in our Archives Heritage Publication Series.

As Meredith’s writings demonstrate, he was strongly opinionated. Some would call him an elitist; certainly he did not suffer fools (those who did not in his mind reach his own ethical standards) gladly. However, he was generous with his guidance and advice; and he gave considerable assistance to others seeking birds. Even more, he demonstrated exemplary moral and ethical standards in the sport.

We can think of no one more deserving to be the first honored on The Archives of Falconry’s new Memorial Wall.

THE ARCHIVES OF FALCONRY’S

FIRST MEMORIAL HONOREE

Thus far contributions have been received in memory of the following persons:

Dan A. Cover  
Fran Hamerstrom  
Terry Kohler  
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Doug Pineo  
Marek Plater  
Dewey Savell  
John Swift  
Wisconsin Falconers Assn.

# Heritage Publication Series

## Volume II Available



### LIFE WITH AN INDIAN PRINCE

By John J. Craighead  
and Frank C. Craighead, Jr.

With a royal invitation resulting from an article in the *National Geographic Magazine* describing their adventures with birds of prey and their fascination with the ancient art of falconry, these two young Americans ventured to India in 1940. As guests of the ardent naturalist and falconer, Kumar Shree Dharmakumarsinhji, youngest brother of His Highness, the Maharaja of Bhavnagar in the Kathiawar States, the Craighead brothers observed and enjoyed the final days of the centuries-old sporting traditions of India's Rajput princes.

Yet their adventures went far beyond days spent trapping and training falcons on the shores of the Arabian Sea and coursing cheetahs at black-buck on the Gujurat plains! They also traveled by royal train to attend (as the only Western guests) the colorful and exotic ceremonies of the royal marriage of their host's brother to the sister of the Maharaja of Tripura whose princely state lay on the opposite side of the subcontinent. They participated in a royal lion hunt, traveled the Himalayas, and spent sleepless nights in ambush of man-eating tigers.

Through all of these once-in-a-lifetime adventures they meticulously recorded—with pen and camera—all that they witnessed. A brief account of their extended adventure appeared in a 1942 edition of the *National Geographic*; it has enthralled falconers for decades.

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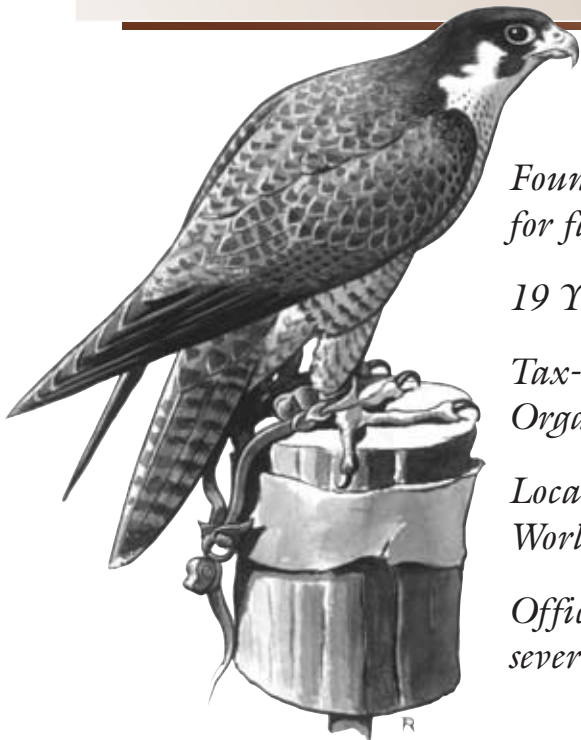
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