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Dr. and Mrs. Richard H. Fitzgerald and David Atkinson



Phillip's daughters had these beautiful stained glass windows made for his church in England.

**His legacy of lifelong 80 year endeavor includes the generations of falconers who since the mid 1960's have profited from his untiring efforts and commitment to instruction and technique.**

**P**hillip Edward Brougham Glasier takes his rightful place on the Archives of Falconry's Wall of Remembrance. This is an honor of which he would be most appreciative. He is the first lifelong British citizen to be so honored. He died September 11, 2000 at age 85 – all but a few preschool years of which were engrossed in falconry and raptor conservation. His legacy of lifelong 80 year endeavor includes the generations of falconers who since the mid 1960's have profited from his untiring efforts and commitment to instruction and technique.

He was a complex man of paradox, not without endearing eccentricities: He straddled the ages of the Old Hawking Club and the British Falconry Club; he championed rigorous training and attention to classical falconry, yet with enthusiasm accepted innovation such as frequent weighing and telemetry; he was generous and patient with serious students and children, yet never completely dropped the bearing or air of a parental, gruff taskmaster; he was possessed of relaxed friendliness, great wit, impish sense of humor and turn of phrase, yet dismissed fools with a sharp tongue preferring to “call a spade a spade and not a horticultural instrument”; for most of his life he championed proper classical goshawk and peregrine flights in appropriate terrain, yet later offered the opinion that one doesn't have to wait to be aged to fly a Harris Hawk; he was an independent entrepreneur in photography and falconry endeavors, yet worked closely with the government to monitor aeries hatches during the dieldrin- DDT investigation - he was athletic, a skilled man with ropes and rappelling; he was always recognized to be a natural leader, yet he was pleased to volunteer for military service as an enlisted man and adapted well to duty stations where posted and to orders received; he was an individual self motivated and committed to his breeding project and bred Eurasian kestrels first in 1968, yet in cooperation with John Campbell he bred the first merlins in captivity and in committee began the Raptor Breeders Association in 1966 and the Hawk and Owl trust in 1969; he had the responsibility of four children and was without steady employment in 1966, yet he acted on his vision and began the Falconry Centre.

He had talents beyond falconry which he utilized in expressing his love of raptors, planning and evolution of his Centre and preparation of his books. Among these: He was a skilled land manager, professional photographer and hunting dog trainer. He was an avid admirer of ecosystems, terrain and what occupied it. He coached film stars and was comfortable in the pub or the manor.

He with his wife Bill raised four children each of whom became accomplished in their own lives and endeavors. Of note and Phillip's heritage are their talents in nurturing, visual arts and teaching.

It is as a teacher that he is most admired and respected. He was a natural raconteur who early in the war was tapped to teach evacuated children Natural History. Later, he taught tank gunnery and in his beloved and widely emulated Falconry Centre (now the International Centre for Birds of Prey) taught no less than 800 who enrolled in hands-on intense introductory courses.

(biography cont'd)

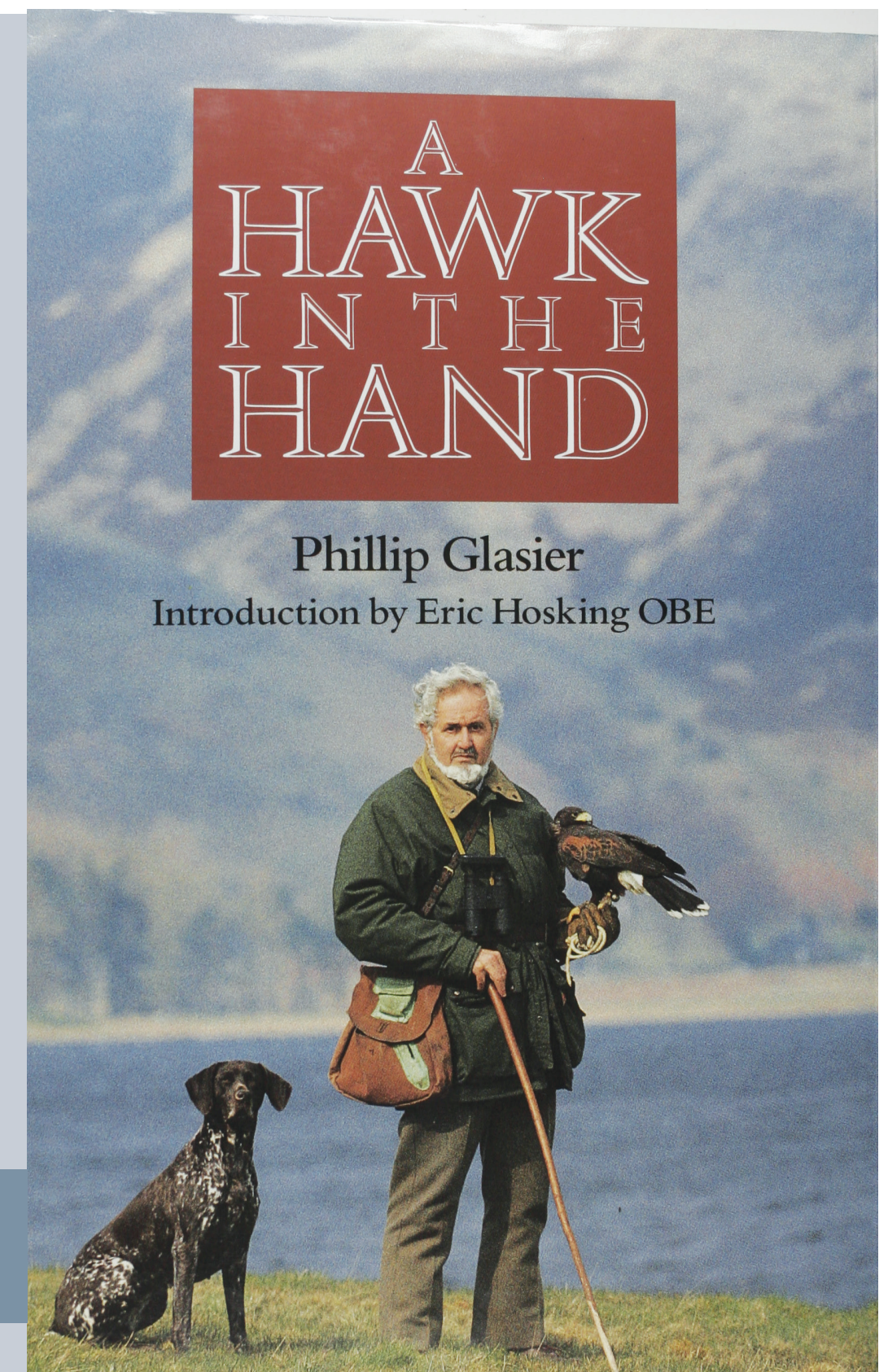
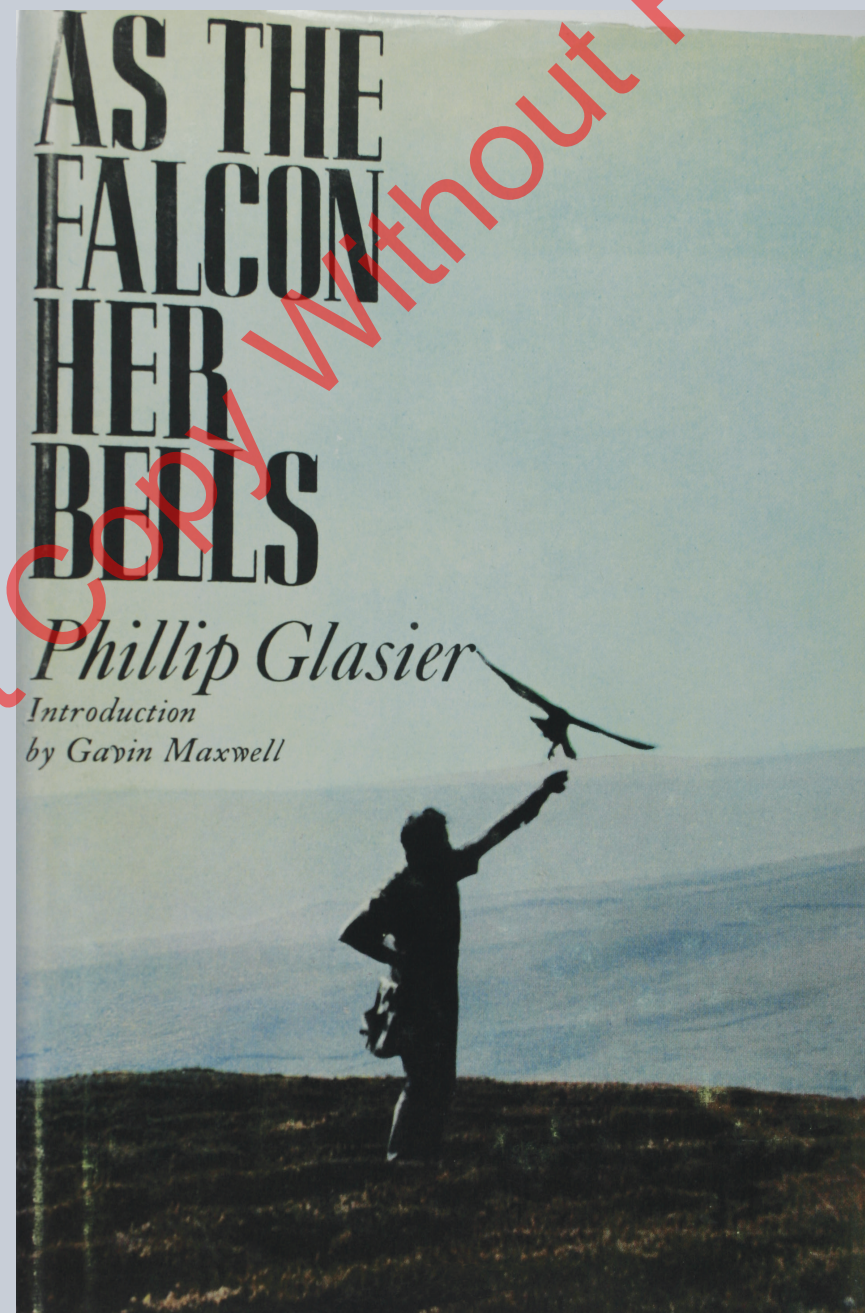
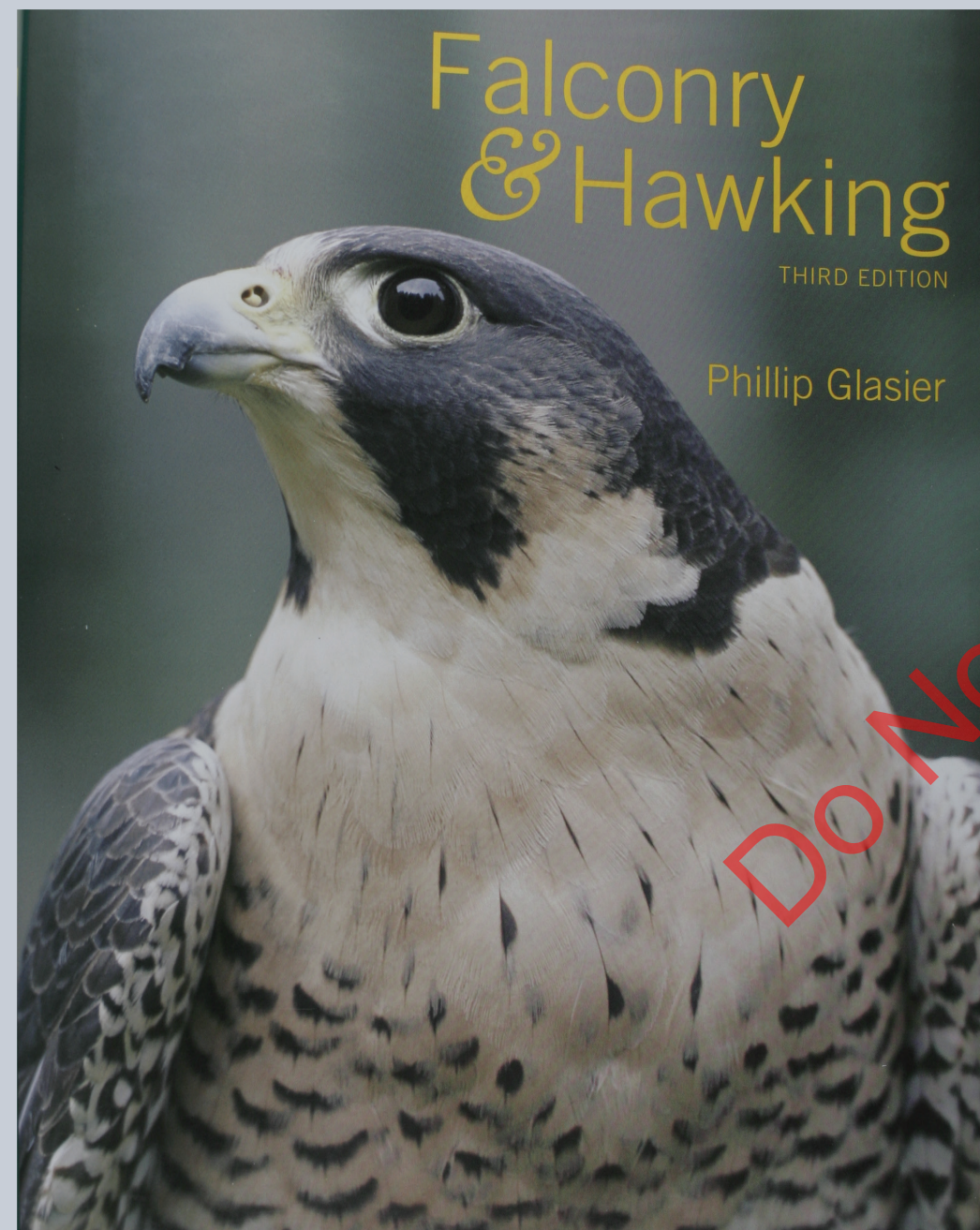
In addition, innumerable visitors were introduced to the grandeur, majesty and nurture of raptors. He wrote two books of vignettes and one technical book which became for many a practical working bible of falconry. His own words say it best. He chose to introduce himself in one book to his "friendly readers" and asked of falconry "who can tell the precise moment one falls in love? Surely, it is a thing that grows sometimes springing up mushroom-like overnight, or imperceptively like a full bloom from a bud." He was recognized as a master craftsman unpretentious about his craft. He took teaching to be a noble and deeply felt responsibility very different from simply doing falconry oneself. Writing about it was far more difficult since every minute detail is important to the beginner. He considered falconry and his technical book "Falconry and Hawking" to be "akin to a very big jigsaw puzzle with all the pieces needing to be put together in the right place. Otherwise, if there is anything missing then the finished picture will be incomplete."

He accomplished his achievements without any governmental funding, institutional sponsorship or academic appointment. His was a family and personal labor of dedication.

He told the area planning board in 1966 that the Falconry Centre he was to begin would be unique and didn't exist at present... a sort of bird garden devoted entirely to birds of prey... a collection of eagles, hawks, owls, etc., and some aviaries, a flying ground in the fields that go with the house, and a small museum. We hope to attract the public to see it all."

And, that he did. Thousands have used his textbook. Many centers have attempted to duplicate his plan. Captive breeding and his perfected system of incubation of eggs is accepted now as routine. The Hawk and Owl Trust and Raptor Breeders Association, subsequent governmental regulations and current leadership in international falconry are part of his legacy.

by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald



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