

Falconry workshop

ORIGIN AND IMPORTANCE OF FALCONRY UNTIL 1500 AD
WITH AN EMPHASIS ON NORTHERN EUROPE

March 5–7, 2014

Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie (ZBSA)

Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology

Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig



The seal (reverse side) of the Danish king Knud IV
(late 11th century)



Workshop

ORIGIN AND IMPORTANCE OF FALCONRY UNTIL 1500 AD
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Structure of the workshop

Hunting with trained birds of prey is a very elaborate hunting technique that was possibly invented by the Eurasian Nomads. A broad analysis of this kind of hunting would have to rely upon an entire series of sources that only a multitude of researchers (including actual falconers) could manage. There has been no recent academic attempt to cover the topic in this way. As regards Europe, the use of falconry pre 1000 AD is highlighted by a number of extraordinary eastern Swedish burials, the oldest of which date back to the late 6th century. These, thoroughly analysed, burials stand out by the exquisite preservation conditions and the voluminous faunal remains, which include one or several birds of prey and animals that represent the typical prey of falconry. During the workshop, the archaeo(zoo)logical evidence for birds of prey in northern and large parts of continental Europe until 1500 AD are to be scrutinized in a broad sense for the first time, and this includes burials of a female upper class. However, in the present context, it is inevitable that falconry must be considered as a broader phenomenon of social and hunting history that left remarkable traces in historical accounts, literature, pictorial sources and names, in addition to which the origin of this particular hunting technique will also have to be examined. During the workshop, c. 30 scholars from a variety of countries and scientific faculties will gather, but the ensuing publication in the year 2015 will be open to additional contributions, which will help to describe falconry as an even broader Eurasian phenomenon.

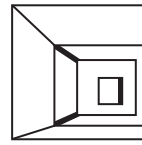
Key questions of the workshop

- How certain are we about the actual area and date of the origin of falconry?
- Which methodological problems exist for identifying skeletons of trained birds of prey, and from which archaeological find contexts do the bird bones originate?
- To what extent does falconry in historical accounts, literary descriptions and depictions really reflect actual hunting practices? Which sources reflect a stereotypical noblesse oblige in terms of hunting, and which sources carry an allegoric meaning independent from or beyond falconry?
- Is the practice of name-giving with a reference to raptor birds proof of the same person acting as a falconer, and what about place and field names related to birds of prey and, more specifically, falconry?

Organisation of the workshop

English manuscripts of five pages maximum shall be delivered to the organisers until the end of 2013. They will be sent out to all lecturers before the actual meeting. During the workshop, there will be only limited time to present an abstract (15 minutes), followed by a discussion of the same length.

For organisational reasons, the workshop will be restricted to the actual lecturers. Travelling and accommodation are covered by the ZBSA unless the employer of a lecturer does so.



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Programme for Wednesday, March 5th 2014 (part 1)

8.30–9.00 *Coffee at the Mestorf-Kolleg*

Workshop's opening

9.00–9.30 Berit Eriksen, Oliver Grimm and Ulrich Schmöcke

Falconry in action

9.30–10.00 T. Richter, Birds of prey from a falconer's point of view

10.00–10.15 E. Hagen, Bird-falconer's relationship from a falconer's point of view

10.15–10.30 Discussion

10.30–11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00–11.30 K.H. Gersmann
A documentary film about falconry

11.30–12.00 H-A. Hewicker
Falconry today – practitioners and organisations, the workshop sponsors and the UNESCO world heritage title

12.00–12.30 J. Shergalin
The Falconry Heritage Trust (Wales) and its archives

12.30–13.15 *Lunch*

Programme for Wednesday, March 5th 2014 (part 2)

Methodology

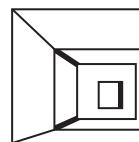
- 13.15–13.45 F.E. Zachos
Systematics, taxonomy and conservation in birds of prey: a zoological overview
- 13.45–14.15 W. Prummel
Methodological remarks on the archaeological-archaeozoological identification of trained birds of prey
- 14.15–14.30 U. Schmölcke
Isotope Analysis and Falconry

Archaeology and Archaeozoology: birds of prey and falconry (500-1500)

- 14.30–15.15 M. Vretemark
Birds of prey and falconry in Swedish burials and settlements (600-1500)
- 15.15–15.45 *Coffee break*
- 15.45–16.15 U. Schmölcke
Remarks on the few central European burials with birds of prey from an archaeozoological point of view
- 16.15–16.45 O. Grimm
Archaeological find contexts of bones of birds of prey in chosen settlements

Way of life, hunting and falconry of the Eurasian nomads

- 16.45–17.15 L.T. Yablonsky
Living and hunting of the Eurasian nomads based on archaeological sources
- 17.15–17.30 O. Grimm
Finds from Xanten and Moravsky Jan – testimonies for falconry of the Eurasian Nomads?



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Programme for Thursday, March 6th 2014 (part 1)

8.30-9.00 Coffee at the Mestorf-Kolleg

Didactic literature of the European Middle Ages on falconry

9.00-9.30 B. Van den Abeele
An overview

Historical sources on falconry from central Europe and England

9.30-10.00 M. Giese
An overview

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

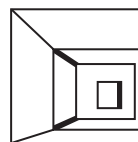
Literary sources on birds of prey and falconry from different parts of Europe

10.30-11.00 L. Carstens
Symbols of rulership, wisdom and death: Birds of prey in Old Norse literature and mythology

11.00-11.30 S. Obermaier
Birds of prey in Medieval German Tristan Romances

11.30-12.00 Open discussion about the role of birds of prey and falconry in literary sources

12.00-13.00 Lunch



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Programme for Thursday, March 6th 2014 (part 2)

Pictorial sources on birds of prey and falconry from northern and continental Europe

- 13.00–13.30 **S. Oehrl**
Falconry in Northern Germanic (and Insular Celtic) Iconography (c. 500 to 1100)
- 13.30–14.00 **Å. Ahrland**
High and Late Medieval evidence from Northern Europe
- 14.00–14.30 **V. Henkelmann**
The evidential value of falconry depictions in illuminations, on seals and on tapestries in middle Europe
- 14.30–15.00 **K. Chrubasik**
The tomb of the Polish king Władysław II. Jagiełło (1386–1434) and its possible link to falconry/hunting
- 15.00–15.30 *Coffee break*

Place, field and personal names with a reference to birds of prey and falconry from northern and continental Europe

- 15.30–16.00 **R. Nedoma**
Germanic personal names before 1000 AD, with an emphasis upon the runic inscription in the eastern Swedish Rickeby burial
- 16.00–16.30 **J. Udolph**
Germanic and Slavonic place, field and personal names

An evening in »Zollhaus«

- 18.00–18.30 **Via Skype: A. Akasoy**
Literary sources on falconry from the pre-modern Islamic world – A survey
- 18.30–19.00 **Via Skype: L. Wallace**
Masters of the Goshawk, The Early History of Falconry in China, 2nd–5th Centuries CE
- 19.00 *Dinner*

Programme for Friday, March 7th 2014

8.30–9.00 *Coffee at the Mestorf-Kolleg*

Surveys

9.00–9.30 **A. B. Gotfredsen**
Traces of falconry in Denmark from the 7th to the 17th century

9.30–10.00 **A. Girininkas and L. Daugnora**
Early falconry in the Baltic countries

10.00–10.30 **A. V. Zinoviev**
Early falconry in Russia

10.30–11.00 *Coffee break*

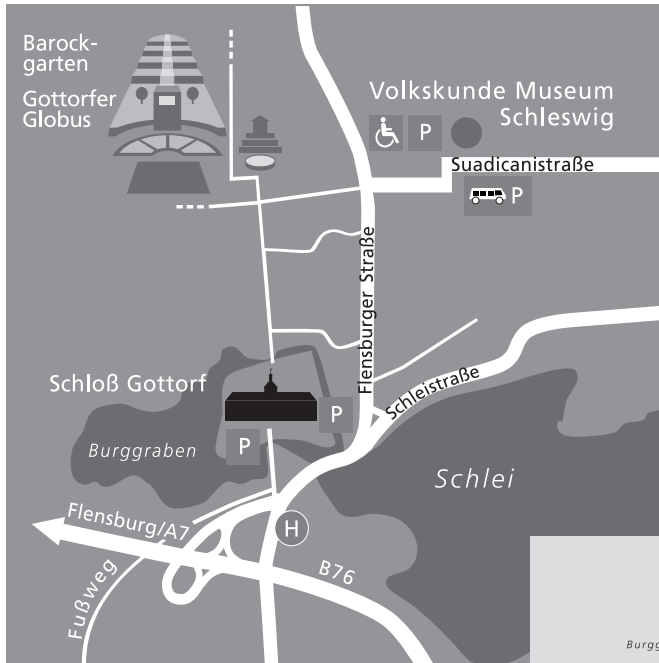
A Norwegian case study on falconry, falcon catch and falcon trade

11.00–11.45 **R. Orten Lie**
Archaeological and historical traces for falconry and falcon catch in Norway

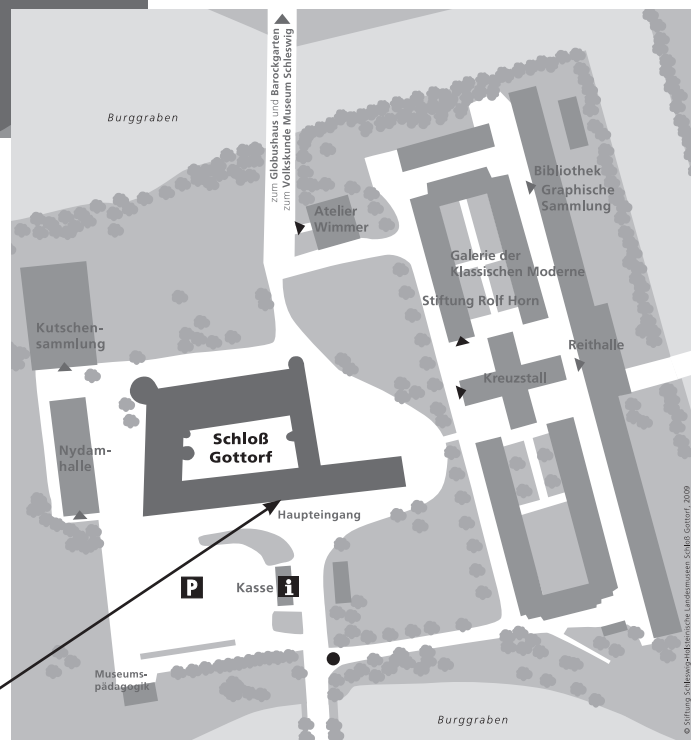
11.45–12.15 **I. Særheim**
Falcon catch as indicated in south-western Norwegian place names

Workshop's summary

12.15–13.00 **O. Grimm and U. Schmölcke**
Concluding remarks by the organisers



railway station / Bahnhof

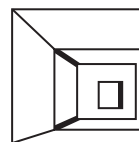


Where do we meet? / Wo treffen wir uns?

Johanna-Mestorf-Kolleg

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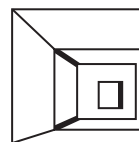
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Workshop and Book Sponsors



Deutscher Falkenorden (DFO)



Falconry Heritage Trust (Wales)



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International Association for Falconry
and Conservation of Birds of Prey



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