

## Comments of Huisheng Chen on 4 Chinese books on falconry in the famous book by James Edmund Harting “Bibliotheca Accipitraria” (New Holland Press, 1977) for pp.206-208.

As a guy grew up with Chinese literature, I have to point out several mistakes in "Bibliotheca Accipitraria".

First, 363 "Pen-ts'ao Kang-mou" (本草綱目 Ben Cao Gang Mu) has nothing to do with falconry, it is a medicine book that prescribe the medicine use birds of prey. Only a small portion of this book quoted a small portion of 361 (鷹賦 Ying Fu, by 魏彥深 Wei, Yan Shen or 澹Dan) about general description of birds of prey.

361 鷹賦 (Ying Fu, by 魏彥深 Wei, Yan Shen or 澹Dan) is probably the oldest remaining Chinese falconry literature (poem). it is part of the collection of Gu Jin Tu Shu Ji Cheng (古今圖書集成, where Dr. De Troia's proposed article is also part of the collection). This poem is also the first chapter of Korean falconry literature 鷹鵞方 (응골방 Eung gol bang, In Chinese 362 Ying Gu Fang).

So, 362 is actually a Korean falconry literature not Chinese, although it contain a lot of material from Chinese origin and the book was written in classic Chinese. The Author of 362 is 李兆年 (이조년 I, Jon Yeon). The second chapter of this book is I's vernacular translation of the poem 鷹賦 (Ying Fu, it is still in classic Chinese though....).

364 Ou Tsa Tsou (五雜俎) is basically a mis-quote. There is no such book. The correct title of this book is Wu Za Zu (五雜俎), which was published (Ming Dynasty) several hundred years after the real falconry literature - Yo Yang Za Zu (酉陽雜俎) by Duan Cheng Shi (段成式) of Tang Dynasty.

Another thing I want to mention is Harting probably used Cantonese instead of Mandarin, so the Chinese spelling was a bit different from modern days.

The oldest Chinese falconry literature is probably Ying Jing (鷹經 sutra of hawk) of East Han Dynasty. This book is out of print and any part of the contain has never been quoted. However I did find a Japanese falconry book with the same Kanji title. The writing of this book is a mix of Classic Chinese and ancient Japanese Hiragana writing. I have asked several Japanese friend and it seems no body can read it, so I am not sure if this is a translation from the Chinese Ying Jing?

Besides the few classic Chinese falconry monographs, actually there are hundreds of Chinese poems praising the performance of falconry birds, a lot of them can be seen in Gu Jin Tu Shu Ji Cheng (古今圖書集成).

Best regards,

Huisheng Chen