



“Preserving Our Falconry Heritage”

Heritage

e-Newsletter

Winter 2010 • No. 12

Col. Thomas Thornton to Visit Archives in 2011

— written by John Swift, Curator

For the first time in over 70 years, a portrait of famous British falconer and sportsman Colonel Thomas Thornton will be on public display at the Archives of Falconry. The painting by noted British landscape and animal artist Philip Reinagle (1749-1833) was commissioned by Col. Thornton in the late 18th Century and was sold at Thornton's death in 1823. The Winston F. C. Guest family home on Long Island was its place of residence since the 1940s and was one of the first pieces of art they purchased together. The Guests were always interested in sport especially thoroughbred horse racing, includ-



Oil painting of Thornton by Philip Reinagle

ing a champion they aptly named *Gyr*.

The Archives of Falconry was aware of the painting's existence, as it had been published in the book and on the dust jacket of *A Bird in the Hand* by Roger Upton. Attempts to ascertain its current location were made by falconer and Archives' supporter Tony Huston for over 10 years. The painting had passed to the children and establishing personal contact proved elusive. In 2010, Tony was finally able to make contact with Alexander Guest, the current owner, and to explain to him that, as our 25th Anniversary would be in 2011, we would like to obtain a photographic reproduction which could be displayed alongside the Thornton Urn exhibit in The Archives of Falconry. Alexander Guest responded, “Would you like to borrow it?” Tony was speechless, but quickly regained his composure and responded with a “yes” of course.

This distinguished loan is truly a testament to the 25-year record of success and the reputation that The Archives of Falconry has obtained. This historic portrait of the falconer – who many feel was responsible for the revival of falconry in Britain in the late 18th Century – will be on public display for the year-long 25th Anniversary celebration beginning with the Rendezvous to be held March 5th, 2011.

Bob and Karen Reuter (daughter of falconer Hei Heiberg) stepped forward to help sponsor the cost of transporting the painting to Boise for display. John and Vicki Swift sponsored the expense of packing and crating this large 60” x 50” oil painting. A **sponsorship opportunity still exists** for the brochure that will be developed for the year-long special exhibit. This is a great opportunity to show your support of the Archives and its programs. Let us know if you are interested in publishing this brochure. 🦅

The Silver Gilt Urn, presented to Col. Thornton by the Members of the Falconers' Club in June 1781, remained in the Thornton family until June 1884, when it was purchased at auction by a descendant of the Earl of Orford who presented it. It was displayed publicly briefly around 1891 and was depicted in Harting's *Bibliotheca Accipitraria*. Then, it went up for auction again in 2000 and was purchased by Robert and Carol Berry. It was loaned to The Archives of Falconry in 2003 and donated by them in 2004. We are its fourth and final owner. Photo by Archives Associate Jim Hansen.



JOHN R. SWIFT, CURATOR • KENT CARNIE, CURATOR EMERITUS • DAVID WELLS, ADMINISTRATOR
THE ARCHIVES OF FALCONRY, THE PEREGRINE FUND'S WORLD CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY

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Book of Remembrance Offsite Debut

— written by Bob Collins, Archives Associate

The Book of Remembrance offsite debut at the 2010 NAFA Meet in Dodge City, Kansas during Thanksgiving was well received. In 1980, noted British falconer Roger Up-ton wrote *A Bird in the Hand: Celebrated Falconers of the Past*. The Archives' Book of Remembrance continues this celebration of falconers and their contributions to birds of prey in a variety of forms. The book brings "life" to the Archives.

The Archives is more than just collections of old books, paintings and memorabilia. The Archives celebrates the lives of falconers, passionate about their sport, without regard to their station in life.

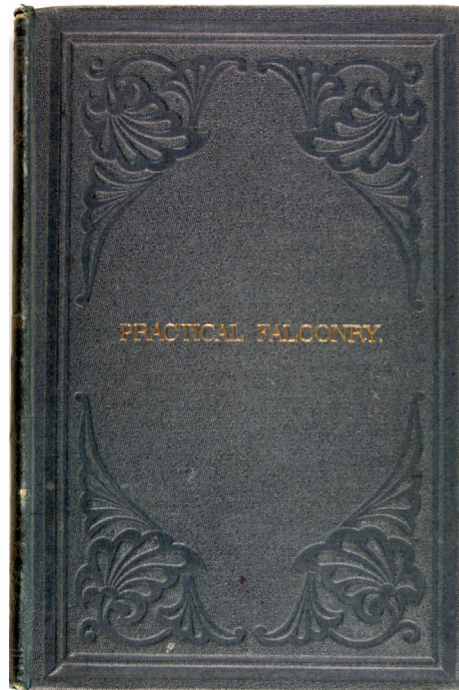
The Book was available nightly in the vendor room. At times, folks were even lined up to view it. Some just glanced through it; others took their time and viewed every page. A common response was to the effect that: "I heard of him, but I had no idea of his background and what he (or she) had done!" Some individuals were so moved that they had to walk away to regain control of their emotions – remembering old friends can be a very moving experience.

Some sought out Archives' representatives to introduce themselves, shake hands, and thank



Rich and Kim Borquist and their sons, Ian and Brandon, took well deserved pride in the Book of Remembrance. Rich and Kim knew many of the honorees. Rich is an expert craftsman in leather and tooled the front and back covers of the book.

them for what the Archives has done and is doing to remember their falconer friends. We are extremely touched by this outpouring of support. 🦅



G. E. Freeman's *Practical Falconry* (1869)
— part of the first donation to the Archives

The First Donor

— written by John Swift, Curator

As we mark our 25th Anniversary, we have the opportunity to reflect on all that has transpired since 1986. I thought it would be appropriate to find out who made the first donation of materials to the Archives. The first donation was made by James B. Cranmer who now lives in Malad City, Idaho. Jim was a California falconer who was serving as the President of the California Hawing Club when he purchased a small collection of books from "an Eastern Falconer." Those books included several that were previously owned by Luff Meredith.

Jim admired the work of The Peregrine Fund in the restoration of the Peregrine Falcon, so he had confidence that his donation "would last." Jim is no longer an active falconer, but still has his falconry library as well as other falconry memorabilia. He says there are lots of falconers nearby, if he wants to experience any falconry.

Jim's gift was the first of 2,500 gifts of materials that would come from more than 900 donors over the next 25 years. The total appraised value of all contributed materials is now greater than \$2.5 million. He helped provide some of the foundation books for the extensive collection currently held at The Archives of Falconry. 🦅



Guess Who? (12th in a series...) Can you identify this falconer?

For answer, see below:

T. Halter Cunningham of Rockville, MD, with Haggard Goshawk, "Dutch Lass" from Holland, April, 1947

Previous issues of Heritage newsletters are available online:
www.peregrinefund.org/falconry

The Archives of Falconry Spring Rendezvous and 25th Anniversary Celebration March 5th, 2011

Featuring in Residence: American falconer/artist
Jonathan Wilde

Free Admission to the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center at the World Center for Birds of Prey

Afternoon refreshments at the Archives

Special exhibit (all the way from Long Island, NY)

Colonel Thornton

Oil painting by Philip Reinagle. On loan from the Winston Guest family. This exhibit is made possible by several generous donors.

Celebration Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Reservations required.

Wall of Remembrance 2010 Inductees:

John A. Cambell	Roy Lee Dewitt
Phillip John DiMaggio	Scott Henry Francis
Gordon Grenfell	E. W. "Bill" Jameson
Edwin A. Mattingly	William F. Russell, Jr.
Sandra Kay Thomas	



Wall of Remembrance Ceremony
begins at 2 p.m.



The Archives has more than 8,000 sq. feet for you to tour



The Archives will be open from 10 a.m. for your enjoyment.

Special rate of \$85/night plus tax at Oxford Suites Hotel. At Cole & I-84. Rate includes hot breakfast & evening reception. Make reservation at 208-322-8000. Request Archives of Falconry rate.

Please reserve room by Feb. 14th for special rate. Rate is good for any nights from March 3-6, 2011.

www.oxfordsuitesboise.com

Celebration Dinner at Oxford Suites — 5:30 p.m. \$20.00 per person (tax & tip included). Cash beer & wine bar. **RSVP by Mar. 1st** by check or CC to the Archives of Falconry.

Send checks with names for dinner to:

David Wells at The Archives of Falconry
5668 W. Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709
For more info, call 208-362-8256
or email taf@peregrinefund.org