

Burnageppan
Oughterard

Co. Galway
16.3.54

Dear Gerard,

Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry that you are having trouble with your neck and back as a result of the position you take up while painting. You could call it an occupational malady.

I have not seen the Fenners's for some time. I was hoping we would have been coming over to see you with them by now.

I get letters from all sorts of unexpected places.

Here's one from Roger Upton the lucky falconer who hawks with the Arabs. And the other

is from someone I have never
heard of who lives and hunts
ptarmigan with gyps in Alaska
I thought they might interest
you. I don't want them back.

Yours
Ronald

Burnageippen
Oughterard
2.5.84

Dear Gerard,

Thanks for your letter. I doubt whether your disappointment on finding me away from home twice was as great as mine on realising that I had missed you. Poor John Funness is in and out of hospital for check-ups and tests much of the time that's why our visit to you has not materialised. But I have had a note from Geoff Pollard to say that he expects to be in and around Tipperary for the week-end of May 4/5+6th and that he will write me again when his itinerary is finalised so I expect to see him here one day very soon. He may have bought a dog from Nash so his stay here will be a fleeting one but I am determined to bring him to you if that is possible. I wish I could tell you which day but as I can't I will just have to trust to luck and that we will be able to find you on arrival at Clifden

I doubt very much whether time will allow
Geoff to visit Richens Wood but anyway
I am to go to Crumlin soon to see his
quail and 20 red-legged partridge which
he has recently acquired.

The postman has just this
minute arrived with a note from Geoff.
Geoff is to meet me, with his wife, on
next Saturday May 5th at 12⁰⁰ mid day
and hopefully we will proceed straight
to Clifden. I do hope you will get
this letter in your Friday morning's
post and equally I hope it will be
convenient for you to lunch with us at
the Panty Saturday morning. But if
we don't turn up it would be because Geoff
arrangements have miscarried.

So very hopefully I will be seeing
you soon and then we will have the
opportunity to discuss the contents of your
interesting and amusing letter.

Yours ever
Geoff is to return home on Sunday Ronald.

Bunnagippaun
Oughterard
19.5.84

Dear Gerard,

I had a letter from Geoff Pollard yesterday. He says he got a 6 years old Field Trial champion bitch from Nash and that it has settled down well at Geoff's home. Geoff says he showed your picture to Nash who was very impressed. In Geoff's words "Nash was completely bowled over by Gerard's painting".

At Geoff's request I have sent him your address. He says he has some information for you about the hawk breeders in England.

While Geoff was here a

Cock grouse called - a rare sound
indeed - I'll it call to Graff in
Salute - or in condemnation !!

Geoff ends his letter (quote)

"What^a bore having to spend so
much time, energy and hard cash
to get a bloody Dog! Duck hawking
would be the answer if one could
find the right country,

He says that when he saw Fermoy
it brought a lump into his throat.

Yours

Ronald

~~Burnage & Burn~~
~~Oughton~~
~~12~~

Bunnagippawn

Dughter and

Co. Galway

16.6.84

Dear Gerard,

On one occasion when I had

a young unhatched falcon which I wanted to
enter I took her to Salisbury Plain where
there were plenty of young rooks of that season.
She killed the first one she was flown at and
had no difficulty in catching others until one
day a ^{adult} partridge flushed which she flew at, ^{and killed} from
the first. From then on she refused rooks
but I had good sport poaching over farmers'
lands for partridges nearly all of which she
flew successfully - but always from the first. ^{than rooks}

I can't think of a better quarry

for Thora's entry. At this time, maybe a bit later,
I see flocks of rooks on different bogs hunting
for caterpillars which infest the heather in late
summer. No doubt you have them and you
probably know where ^{rooks} they can be found feeding in
open country. Jackdaws are not so easily caught
but perhaps Thora could catch young birds of the year.

As you know nestling peregrines
begin to feed themselves as soon as their feathers
begin to show through the down. They will pull
at a bone happily for a long time much to the
benefit of muscles development and I am wondering

whether you let Thora amuse herself similarly
undoubtedly young hawks like to have something to do

I have only one decent hood and that
I have posted to you under separate cover.

Personally I am in favour of gently
hooding nestlings while they are ^{still} in the
unresisting age. It can be put on and off
without pulling the beak or feet.

I enclose the 11th 1953 journal in which
there are several adverts of good hood makers.
And the glove I am sending you is not too bad.

Yours

Ronald.

NO TELEPHONE

Bunnagippaun
Oughterard
Co. Galway
16.8.84

Dear Gerard,

I hope Thora by now has completely regained her health but in case she is still not 100 per cent could it be that her problem is one of hydration? Would she take tid-bits off your fingers ^{eagerly} if the tid-bits were soaked?

Could she be in need of a thorough bodily soaking?

Strangely enough all this came to me in last night's dream. I saw you holding the end of her leash while she struggled to get to open water and each time you stopped her advance to the river's edge she screamed.

In hot weather my hawks demanded a bath every day. Geoff always offers each of his hawks a bath every morning before flying them after lunch.

Yours ever
Ronald.

Mr Gerard King,
Riverside,
Clifden,
Co. Galway



Burnmagippaun
Oughterard

Co. Galway
9.6.84

Dear Gerard,

Received your letter yesterday late afternoon. This is the best news I have had for a long time! Congratulations on getting a Penelope at last! I believe the Galway hatchery has day-old light-breed cock chicks on Thursdays but their supplies stop now or very soon. The address is

Frank Heneghan

Ballybane Hatchery
Galway

it would be advisable to phone the hatchery for a booking for next Thursday and I will go to Galway next Thursday to collect the number of chicks at the Ballybane hatchery that you have booked and I will bring them up to you the next morning (Friday)
Be sure to ask for their cheapest day-old chicks which 2 years ago were (I think) £8 for 50

Don't order too many because in another week I think I will be able to bring you more from a different source and these would be free, gratis and for nothing

So, all being well I will be with you next Friday morning.

Yours

Ronald.

NO TELEPHONE

Bunnagippaun
Oughterard
Co. Galway
10.8.84

Dear Gerard,

Peter has said to me "Does Gerard carry his hand into places where the air is heavy with tobacco smoke?" He wonders whether that could be a cause of Thora's sickness. I remember that Jack Macrogordato always discouraged passengers in his landrover from smoking when he went ~~not~~ took him to the hospital. So maybe peregrines are allergic to smoke.

Perhaps you don't take her into a smoke-laden atmosphere but I thought this notion of Peter's might be worth mentioning.

Yours ever

Ronald.

Were you able to contact Cooper?

How is Thora now?

NO TELEPHONE

Bunnagippaun
Oughterard
Co. Galway

19.10.81

Dear Gerard,

Many thanks for your letter.
It was bad luck for me that you had fixed
to call here yesterday (Thursday) because I
had a Dentist's appointment that same day
in Galway and Peter had to go and see his
father who is in hospital. I had a hazy
hope I might run into ^{you} in Galway but I
guess the bad weather put off your visit.
We had an awful day and I did not get back
home until 9.30 p.m.

If Thora eats well and flies well
I would, if I were you, fly her hard every
day and forget her bad mutes and so give
nature a chance to clear up any residue from
her illness. Geoff's superfalcon started off with
croaks so she flew badly at first last August

but he kept flying her regardless and the result was that she soon regained her usual excellence, and that finished her croaks.

I have 7 young golden pheasants to give away. A pity you haven't got a pen for a pair

Tom Doyle's aggressive falcon should be a likely candidate for hoodie rows!

Geoff says his big mystery captive bred ~~mystery~~ falcon was flying higher and higher. She is so fast that she is the only peregrine in Scotland that can out-fly grouse flying upwind in a stiff breeze. It seems that J. Sauer who bred her has selectively bred a strain of super falcons to compete with gyrons.

Yours Donald.
I could bring you 6 or 7 live pigeons if you have a pen ready to put them in



Mr Gerard King,

Riverside

Clifden,

Co. Galway.

NO TELEPHONE

Bunnagippaun
Oughterard
Co. Galway
1.8.86

Dear Gerard,

Geoff Pollard tells me that
the author of "The Sparrowhawk"
(recently published) writes of a ♀ sparrow
he had (or has?) ^{which} "waits on so high that it
is beyond human sight, and from that height
it stoops vertically. Should you want
to get this book see the enclosed address.
Geoff's Rhodesian falcon is a small type
peregrine bred in captivity. he is very
impressed by it: If you do get the book
"The Sparrowhawk" I would like to have a
squint at it when you have finished it.

Yours near Ron.

The Rhodesian falcon
"NADA" is very much alive.
She is coming 15 yards on the
creance. I hope to have her
flying loose before this weekend.
She is very intelligent.

I still have "Bili" who is
as tame as a domestic hen.
I hope to serve some poult
to her as it is annoying
to miss her potential.

The dog situation is a bit
more hopeful. I have the
use of 'Charco' who holds his

the haggard prairie —
from whom may the
Almighty preserve us!

The Publishers of
The Sparrowhawk are

T & A D POYSER LTD

TOWN HEAD HOUSE

CALTON

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I vaguely remember Phil