

From MR. R. STEVENS, Fermoyle Lodge, Costelloe, Co. Galway, Eire.

If you want to apply for a license for sp-hawk  
kestrels or possibly, mentioning the procedure is  
this :- you write a letter addressed to  
The Minister, Dept. of Agr. & Fisheries,  
in Dublin as follows :-

"I wish to apply for a license ~~to take~~ under  
the Wild Life Act 1976 to take (say how many  
spaw kestrels or merlins) in the Clifden area  
(or elsewhere) for the purpose of breeding them in  
captivity and for the sport of falconry."



# POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

Send your letter to Mr. S. Fennelly,  
Hon. Secretary I.H.C., 15 O'Brien's Place,  
Drumcondra, Dublin 9

with a copy of your application to the Minister  
<sup>enclosed</sup> and request Shay Fennelly to forward your  
application (only stamped) to the Minister.

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With the licensing system now a practical  
reality Irish falconry has taken a big leap forward.  
Ronald.



Bunnagappaun  
Oughterard  
Co. Galway

Dear Gerard,

Many thanks for your letter and for your kind comments. Your painting of Carolina Wood Duck is another indication that you are cautiously bringing waterfowl into your orbit. For fascination I think they come next to the falconiformes.

I have never seen a Greenland Gyr in the flesh so would not feel competent to pass an opinion on your painting but I bet it's good. I enclose a photo of a captive bred jerkin which I don't think does justice to a gyrs impressive outline. I also enclose a photo of Bruce Haak's Peal's) Anatium tierce. Was ever the close relationship between a man and his hawk better illustrated?

Anthony Coyle,  
Pine Cottage  
Glenlara  
Belmullet  
Co. Mayo

is the address you want and I am sure he



will do all he can to help you. I do hope you  
will get something really good from that lyric.

I don't go out more than I can help  
in this wintry weather but look forward to  
being with you again when it gets warmer.

John Funnell is absolutely thrilled  
with your picture.

Johns Ronald.

Richard Ward has been very ill, but I  
think he is now convalescent. I hope to go  
over to Cranleigh as soon as this frost eases.  
When I saw him in hospital he told me he  
is getting some quail. Lovely little creatures!  
I would love to design an aviary for them.



POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE  
Mr. Garvel King

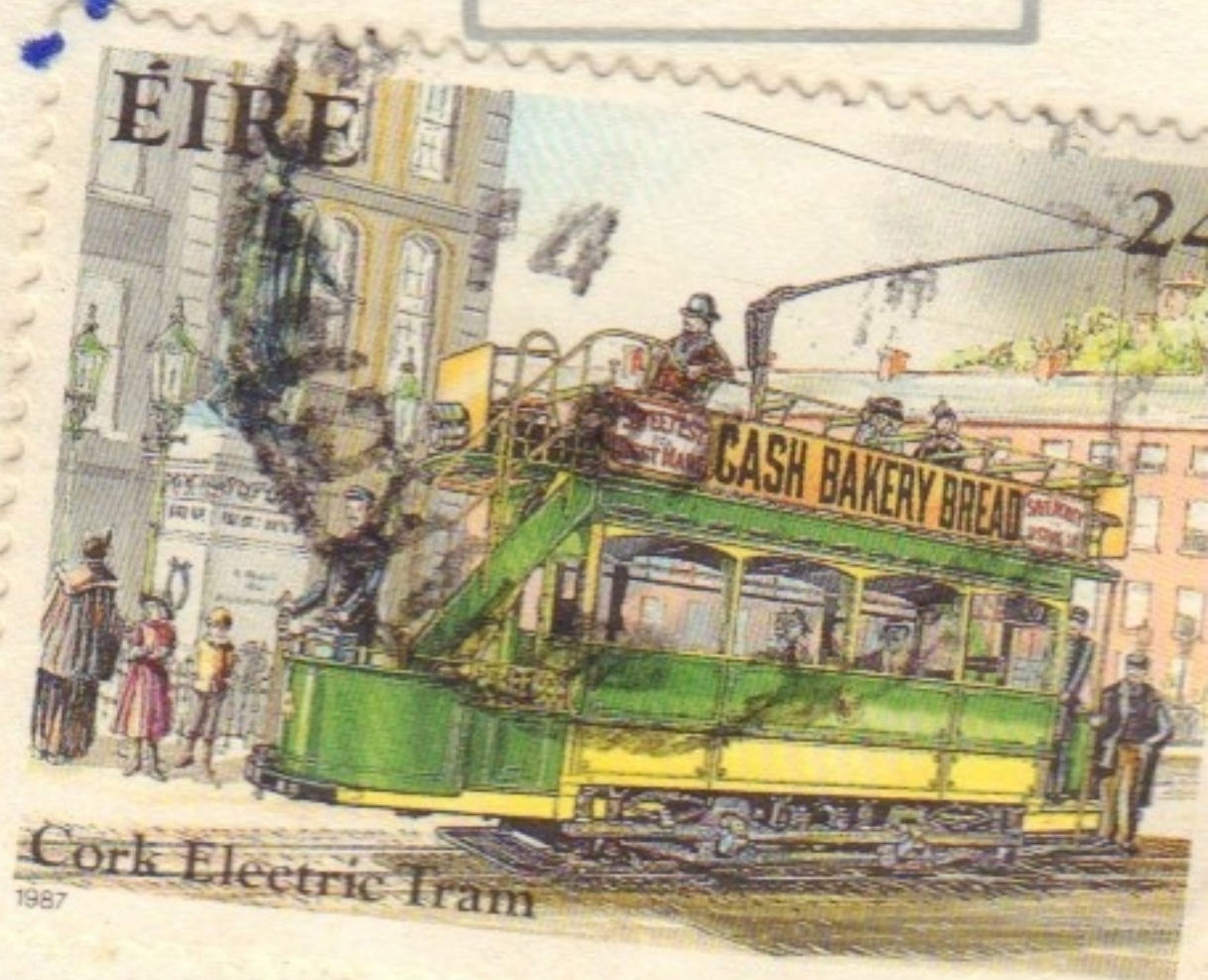
Riverside

Clifden

Postcode

Co. Galway

A Lion Brand Product





Please can you ~~be~~ tell me  
the address of John Cose the  
hood and equipment maker  
he advertises in falcons  
publications.

Ronald



Bunnagiffane

Oughterard

Co. Galway

11.12.81

FERMOYLE LODGE,

COSTELLOE,

Co. GALWAY.

NEAREST P.O. 8 MILES  
TELEGRAMS & EMERGENCY ONLY  
STATION GALWAY 30 MILES

Dear Gerard,

Thanks for your letter. The Tiercel should be  
vastly relieved to be rid of those awful jesses and bewits.  
I had tried to snip them off with scissors while he was feeding  
on the first but had to desist because it made him nervous. So I  
decided that by slow degrees I would first have to get him to  
accept the hood willingly before de-harnessing and coping him even  
if it took weeks to accomplish that. Of course I thought I had  
all the time in the world to put him to rights not knowing then  
that he was destined to be transferred to your capable hands  
so soon. By pursuing the softly-softly method he never bated  
at the hood nor on any other occasion. Each day I could see just  
a mite of progress until I was able to half-hood him with the  
hood just covering his eyes for a split second before instant ~~withdrawal~~  
withdrawal. The hood was too big for him which was not a bad  
thing at that stage of shadow-hooding because physically and mentally  
he felt no brush from it. I produced the hood while feeding absorbed  
his attention, first keeping it at food level and raising it to his  
chin while he was in the act of swallowing a lump of meat.  
Of course we know that in ordinary circumstances it is easy to  
accustom a hawk to the hood through the medium of feeding and  
in my opinion it is the only way to reclaim a hoodshy hawk.

From the frequency of his bathing here I suspected  
lice but am not sharp-sighted enough to see them neither was I  
observant enough to notice that his flights had been clipped off  
instead of broken off but of course clipping accounts for the straight-line  
cut-off. But I am very surprised to hear from you that his  
appetite is poor because here he ate like a hungry tiger and  
he cleared me out of my feather pigeons - all but one. Has he



Got worms? What about a course of piperazine?

Having liberated him from that foul and hideous furniture I would have thought you would have let him enjoy the bliss of being free from it. Having regard to his being unable to recover from a bate when jess-held on account of his clipped flights - or can he? But now jessed and with bells on his toes poor Sheila has to have music wherever she goes!

That misguided "falconer" must have given the poor bird a hell of a time so for that very reason you may well find him responsive to your kind and skilful treatment. He surely will appreciate the shelter and security of your mews and aviary after his frightening experiences in the outside world. Consequently he should be the ideal candidate for breeding. It is a moot point of course but personally I would think that once a pair is laid down for breeding it would be inadvisable to take them out periodically for hawking because when put back into confinement they may not completely regain their former contentment.

In your aviary of special design how perfectly staged a pair would be each sitting on a natural rock posing exactly as if in the wild. You will have artists queuing up to paint them but beware the persistency of journalists nosing in with their cameras! You will have the distinction of being the one and only Irish falconer with a breeding establishment and what competition there will be for your eyasses!

It's good to know that your tiercel carries no shot in his innards so as far as that is concerned you are starting him with a clean slate. How did you manage to get him X-rayed so easily and so quickly? No place like Clifden for getting things done. Did you get gallant Patrick to hand-hold him during the operation? I did enjoy my recent visit to you. Peter and I want to thank you again for an excellent lunch.  
Yours Ron.



Burnmagippaun  
Dunglivera  
Co. Galway  
18.10.82

Dear Gerard,

Thanks for your letter. Have you had another visit from the sp-hawk? If you were to drape the omeas with a net you would most likely catch her.

I think you should be able to get a ♀ Lanner for considerably less than £425. My friend Sam Rosborough keeps a pet shop in N. Ireland and he can get hawks.

If you think it worth while writing him his address is: -  
29 Bridge St., Ballymena, Co. Antrim. Years ago at Fennoghy I had no trouble in getting a license to import sky-flying tumblers pigeons from N. Ireland and it may be that it's still easier to import from the 6 counties than from England. The only drawback is that birds from a Pet Shop are often infected with a lung disease. If you get a pair of Lanners mind the risk that they are related, probably brother and sister from a captive breeding establishment. Would it not be better to get a ♀ Lanner and get a license next year to take an eyas Peregrine tiercel? They cross without any bother and a Lanner falcon is a better breeder in captivity than a peregrine falcon. Perhaps Philip Glasier could supply you with a ♀ Lanner. He told me that he only disposes of surplus hawks if they are destined solely for captive breeding.



There's considerable risk in entering a peregrine falcon to rooks where there are hoodie crows. There have been instances where hoodies have been flown at with disastrous results. Geoff Pollard tells me that this year he flew 4 falcons at grouse assisted by two young falconers, one as cadgerman and the other to work the dogs. Geoff also had an eyas falcon from last year but as she wasn't good enough for grouse his young helpers flew her before the day's grouse hunting began. They flew her at rooks but she tackled a hoodie and nearly got pecked to pieces by the hoodie and its mates. She was so terribly injured that she died soon afterwards. The vet could do nothing. His two famous passengers Scruffy and Horro he describes as "all class" they each got 33 grouse and his 15 years old falcon he calls Big. got 15 and his one eyas got 21. He says the weather was terrible gales and rain every day otherwise he would have done better. His Italian friend Umberto has a jerrkin which Geoff says was the sensation of the season. He killed 38 grouse. He went up to a great height without effort. Geoff says he has to think again about gyers. I quote from his letter "There was no wide flying or making off. The damn thing was tight over us the whole time. Umberto did not have to show a lure or do anything." When I flew my gyers in Shropshire I, too, needed no lure because when called they obediently came to my feet to be picked up.

So 111 breeding pairs of peregrines have been accounted for this year!! Surely you will get an eyas in 1983. Jim Fahy came to tea last week. He was very impressed with your garden creation and with your goodself. Yours ever Ronald



Bunnagippaun  
Oughterard  
Co. Galway  
2.12.82

Dear Gerard,

There's nothing like a  
photograph for flattering a painting.  
Your sp. hawk or a goldfinch would look  
absolutely stunning.

Andrew Barker is only 22  
Geoff Pollard has bought this picture by him

Yours  
Ronald.

Are you exhibiting at the Stone Art  
Gallery in Spiddal?



Burnagippan  
Oughterard  
Co. Galway  
8.11.82

Dear Gerard,

The enclosed is the front of a  
"Thank you" card I received from Richard  
Ward after I had taken him and Wendy out  
to dinner at the French Restaurant, Banna

Have you ever felt inspired  
to paint Chinese style? If you were  
to incorporate an exotic bird in the picture  
it would make an attractive foil against  
the subtle, delicate colours of the floral  
background and as an eye-catcher for the  
public it might be very effective

This is just a thought

Yours  
Ronald.



Burnagippaw  
Oughterard  
Co. Galway  
9.3.83

Dear Gerard,

Many thanks for your letter.

I have struck up an acquaintance with David Fleming who until a year ago, fish farmed in Cambridgeshire. Since then he and his wife Patricia have been living on Corrib.

David is keen on fish in all their aspects, fishing, fish and more etc etc and he has given me 3 books on the subject to pass to my friend in Timbukebu.

David & Pat want to meet you so if you are prepared to receive them I would like to bring them over.

Can you tell me what days in the week you are likely to be at home? and then I will contact them and will choose a fine day so that en route they can see Connemara under good conditions. I think it would be better that way than fix a date when the weather might turn out to be foul. And should we be unlucky, and not find you at home they will at least have seen something of the lovely country that lies between you and me.



So, hoping to see you soon

Yours

Ronald.

We would arrive about 12<sup>00</sup> to 12:30  
and hopefully you will lunch with  
us at the good old Pantery.



**GALWAY**

**ROONEY**

**LIMERICK  
DUBLIN**

*FOR AUCTION (UNLESS PREVIOUSLY SOLD)*

**FERMOYLE LODGE WITH 11 ACRES (C)**

**COSTELLOE, COUNTY GALWAY**

**WEDNESDAY, 18th MAY, 1983 : AT 3.00 P.M.**

**IN OUR SALESROOMS**

A property of rare beauty and outstanding characteristics, Fermoye Lodge is located some 45 minutes from Galway City standing on just over 11 acres of lands incorporating the finest gardens to be seen in the West of Ireland. This private residence, superbly located, houses luxurious residential living accommodation and was redesigned by the famous Architect, Michael Scott and Associates.

Fermoye Lodge has been described as a jewel of rare description incorporating all that is of past beauty with up-to-date standards of modern living. Attached to the residence is a long teak framed greenhouse together with a magnificent 30' long heated



swimming pool, part of which is accommodated indoors, the remainder outdoors, thus allowing maximum usage throughout winter and summer. At the commencement of the avenue at the main entrance, there is a bungalow giving living facilities to Caretaker, etc. All bedrooms are magnificently located with outstanding views and all having their own bathrooms-en-suite, some with bay windows overlooking the adjoining lake.

A property of rare beauty on 11 acres of magnificent gardens. Total ownership of two lakes. Indoor and outdoor swimming pool. 17,000 acres of sporting rights. Central heating with standby generator. Formerly 10 bedrooms — Architecturally restored to five magnificent bedrooms all with bathrooms-en-suite. Magnificent diningroom measuring 34' 3" x 18' 6" overlooking lake. Livingroom with panoramic bay window. Study with marble fireplace. Extra large kitchen with Aga cooker.

Wine Store. Fuel Store. Caretakers Lodge. Garden Sheds. Greenhouses.

The enchanting beauty of Fermoye Lodge, the magnificent lawns and surrounding lands, the wildlife, the fishing and the shooting all combine to make this one of the most attractive properties ever to come on the market.

Solicitors with Carriage of Sale: **K. J. ROONEY and CO., 6A Eglinton Street, Galway.**

Further details from Auctioneers who are Sole Agents.



# Castlebar Hosts Fleadh Ceoil 83

CASTLEBAR is hosting this year's Mayo Fleadh Ceoil on May 7 and 8 and the event is expected to attract upwards of ten thousand people to the town. It is the first time since 1976 the county team has staged the Fleadh which will consist of some one hundred and fifty competitions in six separate halls in the town.

Mr. Séamus Duffy, secretary Mayo Board of Ceoltas Ceolfoirí Éireann, said the Mayo Fleadh always attracted the biggest entry in Connacht. There would be in the region of a thousand competitors and the winners would go forward to the Connacht Final in Ballinrobe in the last weekend in June.

## Mayo

Mr. Duffy said the rising standards of competitors was attributable to the efficiency of the county Board of Ceoltas. There were always music teachers available where there was a demand and this could be one of the reasons for the upsurge in interest.

Mr. Duffy said there were over one thousand, one hundred members between junior and senior in the county's sixteen branches of Ceoltas and it gave him great satisfaction to see this year's event in Castlebar where there was a very vibrant branch of Ceoltas and who were organising the Fleadh.

The junior competition will take place on Saturday, May 7 at 11 a.m. and continue to 6 p.m. while the under 18 and senior events will be staged on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6

night by a prizewinners concert in the Welcome Inn Hotel and a céilí.

The official opening of the Fleadh will take place on the Saturday at 1 p.m. by the Chairman of the County Board, Mr. Gerry McNulty and also in attendance will be Mr. Joe Smith, chairman of Connacht Council of Ceoltas, the secretary, Breege De Brun and treasurer, Paddy Ryan.

Entry forms for the Fleadh can be obtained from Nuala Kilbane, Davitt House, Castlebar, phone (094) 21666 (ext. 4) during work hours.

The officers of the Castlebar Branch are: Chairman, John Thomas; Vice Chairperson, Maureen Mayock; Secretary, Nuala Kilbane; Treasurer, Ann Rooney; Assistant Secretary, Fiona Kilbane; PRO, Mrs. K. Heneghan.

## TOP OF TOWN WINNER

The General Hospital, Castlebar won the Mayo final of the John Player Tops of the Town competition in Castlebar on Sunday night. They were given the award by a narrow margin over Saint Marys Hospital also from Castlebar.

Both groups were highly praised by adjudicator, Patsy Croal who got through to the finals after heats involving three other groups, all from Castlebar, Davitt House, Junior Pioneers and Mayo County Council.

Father Des Fahey of the General Hospital Group won the award for best producer while the best comedy act award went to the General hospital also.

Other awards were: Originality, Mayo County Council; Best Item, Junior Pioneers; Mime, St. Marys

# Sussex Women To Tour

AT A meeting of Athenry Guild I.C.A. in The Canton Memorial Hall, the President (Mrs. Ena O'Grady), thanked all the members who had made the recent Cake Sale such a success.

Special praise was given to the ladies who made and decorated the cakes for the raffle. She also informed the meeting that a group of fourteen ladies from Sussex Womens Institute, would be visiting Ireland on an exchange trip in May. When based in Galway, they will visit Athenry Guild on the afternoon of Saturday, May 14th.

## Athenry

Arrangements will be made to entertain them and take them on a conducted tour of the town's historic and archaeological monuments and ruins. The Guild's annual Outing was then discussed and it was suggested that a Saturday in mid-June would suit everybody.

Further details will be held at the next meeting which is on Thursday May 28th.

## HANDBALL

An under eighteen single competition will be held in the local Handball Court on Sunday, May 1st. This competition is held annually for The Liam Mellowe Memorial Trophy. there will also be a Novice Singles Competition on the following Sunday for the O'Connell Trophy.

In the recent Racquetball Tournament, Andy Quinton was the winner with Sean Hynes second