

BRITISH ARCHIVES OF FALCONRY



MISSION STATEMENT

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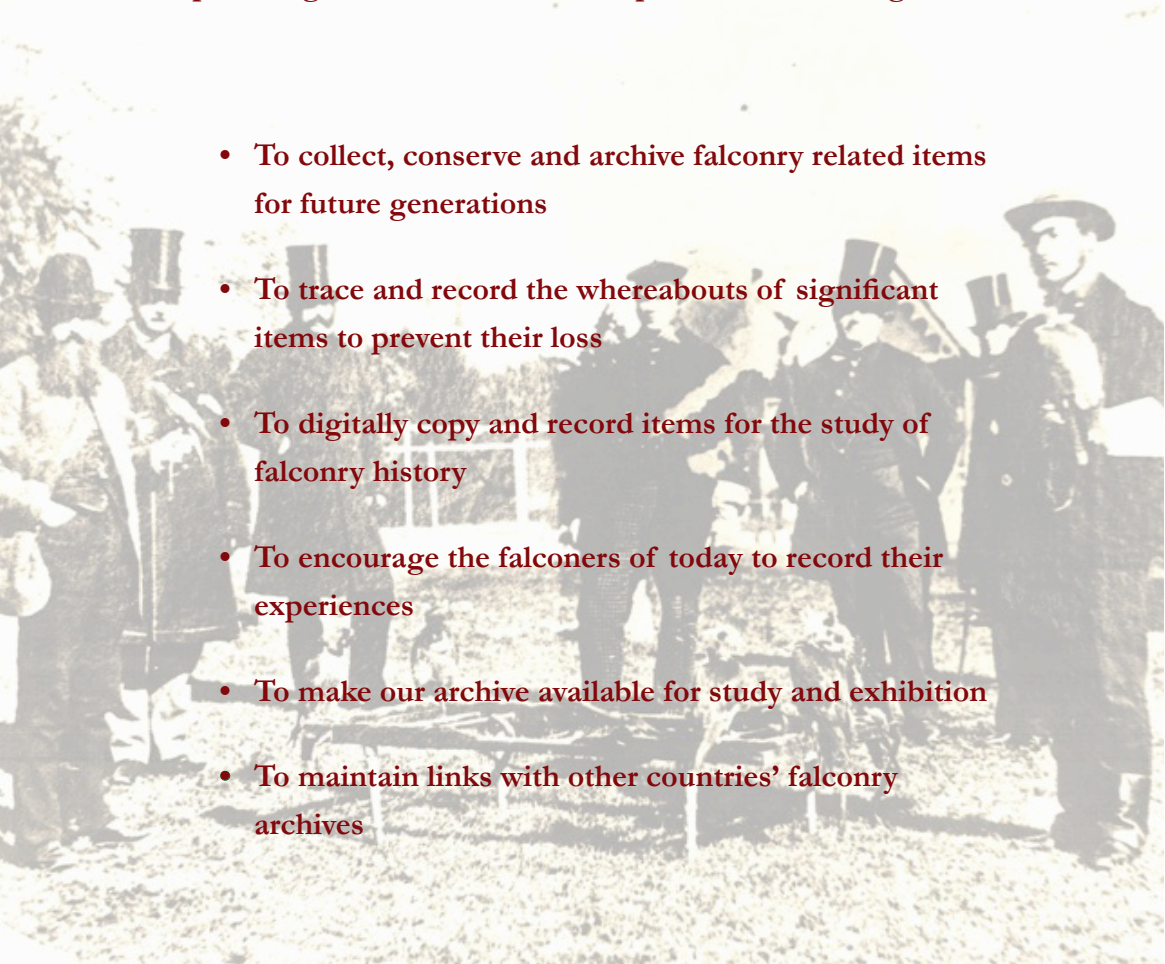
DIRECTOR PROFILES

www.britisharchivesoffalconry.org

Preserving our falconry heritage for Britain

The British Archives of Falconry is a charitable, not for profit organisation that was set up with the following aims:

- To collect, conserve and archive falconry related items for future generations
- To trace and record the whereabouts of significant items to prevent their loss
- To digitally copy and record items for the study of falconry history
- To encourage the falconers of today to record their experiences
- To make our archive available for study and exhibition
- To maintain links with other countries' falconry archives



British Archives of Falconry Committee

Honorary Patrons

Roger Upton MBE Lt. Col. (Ret'd) S. Kent Carnie (USA)

Directors

Mark Upton (Archivist)

Paul Beecroft Nicholas Havemann-Mart David Horobin

Robert Hutchinson Tony James

Treasurer

Thomas Havemann-Mart

Secretary

Chris Gilchrist

Advisory Committee Members

Ian Bell Dr. David Fox Chris Frearson Helen McDonald

Adam Norrie Jevgeni Shergalin FHT Peter Devers (USA)

Patrizia Cimberio (Italy) Patrick Morel (Belgium)

Frits Kleyn IAF Officer for Culture (Netherlands)

An outline of our educational aims and activities

Whilst we aim to preserve and record items of significance to falconry's heritage, we recognise that such preservation has little purpose unless future generations can benefit from access to the Archives' collections. As part of our mission, we hope to disseminate knowledge of our sport's heritage to all interested parties.

Between items in our current holdings and those of committee members' libraries, we hold what must be one of the most comprehensive collections of books, journals and other written sources on falconry, some of which are very scarce. We thus welcome enquiries from researchers looking into falconry heritage and have already offered assistance to academics working on a range of subjects in a number of countries.

Although access to items can be arranged where desired, we also hope to be proactive in exhibiting items where possible in order to educate the public about falconry's heritage. We thus seek collaboration with other bodies with similar interests in heritage. In some cases, exhibitions might be held in conjunction with other institutions that have significant falconry collections and we trust our expertise (see profiles below) might be used to interpret items in other national collections.

Alongside this, we are in the process of putting together small scale display cabinets of items and images which might be displayed at locations around Britain, and are also actively seeking to publish items of interest to falconers and the public alike. We have recently published the hitherto unpublicised memoirs of falconer Lorant de Bastyai and have a number of other projects in the pipeline.

Since there are such strong international links between falconers, and our common passion knows no boundaries of nationality, creed or colour, we are actively seeking ways to assist other nations to set up their own localised falconry archives. We will pursue this aim through the International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey and informal links on a more personal level.

Falconry Heritage receives UNESCO recognition

UNESCO officially inscribed falconry on its Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity at a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2010. The Convention recognised that falconry is a social tradition that works with nature and the environment and one that has been passed from generation to generation, providing diverse international communities of falconers a sense of belonging, continuity and identity. The submission was singled out by UNESCO as “an outstanding example of co-operation between States.”

Britain’s Falconry Heritage

From its earliest appearance in Britain, falconry has shaped our national art, literature and history and even, in many cases, our landscape and language.

The earliest British depiction of a falconer dates to around 675 AD and from medieval church and secular murals, Elizabethan and Jacobean portraits, through 18th century engravings and 19th century paintings to modern day falconer-artists, a strong tradition of the aesthetic pursuit of falconry, recognised in itself as an art, is evident in British artwork.

Our literature is full of references to falconry. It features in Anglo-Saxon poetry, attained symbolic value as a metaphor for nobility, royalty, social hierarchies and courtly love throughout the Middle Ages and became immensely potent as a source of inspiration and analogy for Renaissance writers. Shakespeare’s works are crammed with technical allusions, as are those of his contemporaries, whilst later authors such as Walter Scott used the sport to denote a sense of history. Even to the present, falconers have contributed to British literature.

The sport’s linguistic impact on English is also highly significant. Phrases such as “boozing,” “cadging/cad/codger” and “on the cadge,” “pulling the wool over” someone’s eyes and “queering one’s pitch” are just a few common phrases which originate in falconry, and some family and place names also owe their origins to the sport.

Roger Upton MBE (Honorary Patron)



Roger was the natural choice for Honorary Patron since his influence, more than any other, fed our committee members' passions for falconry's heritage. A renowned falconer who has been actively involved in falconry for over fifty years, flying hawks for the late HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother as well as other members of the Royal Family, Roger's extensive experience as a practical falconer is mirrored by his position as Britain's leading expert on falconry heritage. He served as President of the British Falconers' Club between 2007 and 2013.

A prolific author on the sport, not to mention a talented sculptor, Roger also has extensive experience of hawking in Arabia and is affectionately known by his friends in the Arab states as Bin Shahin – “son of the falcon.” His friendship with Arab falconers, including the late HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, former ruler of the UAE, is such that in March 2014 he won recognition for his significant contribution to Anglo-Emirati relations in the form of the prestigious Abu Dhabi Award. Following this, in June 2014, his services to the cultural heritage of falconry in the UK and overseas were recognised with an MBE.

Publications:

A Bird in the Hand: Celebrated Falconers of the Past (1980)

O, For a Falconer's Voice: Memoirs of the Old Hawking Club (1987)

Falconry: Principles and Practice (1991)

Arab Falconry: History of a Way of Life. (2001)

Hood, Leash and Lure: Falconry in the 20th Century (2004)

Jallad: The Story of a Falcon

Contributions to numerous book, magazines and journals

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) S. Kent Carnie (Honorary Patron)



A lifelong falconer, Kent has held a variety of positions in American national falconry organizations since the 1950s. Although trained as a zoologist, he enjoyed a military career focused principally in the Middle East. Following his military service Kent's keen interest in falconry history caused him concern with the loss of the physical evidence of that history as American pioneers in the sport passed away. To preserve that heritage Kent envisioned, established, and then directed the Archives of American Falconry (AAF) at The Peregrine Fund's World Centre for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho from 1986 until his retirement from that position in 2007.

The AAF quickly gained the respect and recognition of falconers internationally and, as a repository unique in the world for falconry memorabilia, objects and documents from other countries were sent to the AAF for preservation. The donation of an Arab majilis tent led to the creation of a new wing, dedicated to Arabian falconry heritage and sponsored by falconers of the United Arab Emirates. The AAF's growing involvement in falconry heritage on a global scale led to the Archives' redesignation as The Archives of Falconry (TAF). Since then, Kent has contributed to many publications and has recently published a monumental work on the history of falconry in the Americas from its earliest records, dating back to early colonial times. He has received awards including the Freiemuth Award for services to the North American Falconers' Association (NAFA) in 1999, the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey's President's Award for efforts to preserve falconry heritage internationally in 2006 and the Archives of Falconry/NAFA Heritage Award in recognition of his efforts to preserve America's falconry heritage in 2007. He is also an honorary member of both the North American Falconers' Association and the British Falconers' Club.

Aside from preserving a truly awe-inspiring collection of falconry related items, TAF has published a number of significant titles on falconry's heritage and culture globally. Kent's example was a key inspiration in the objective of setting up our very own archives in the UK to preserve Britain's long and significant falconry heritage. His expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm continue to be a great asset to us.

Publications:

The American Hood (1994)

An Ancient Sport in the New World: A History of Falconry in the Americas (2013)

Contributing author:

Hossein Amirsadeghi (2008) Skyhunters.

Innumerable articles in falconry publications on the sport, its regulation and administration

Mark Upton (Director and Archivist)



Mark was brought up in the falconry world and is one of very few second generation falconers. Given his first falcon at the age of nine, a merlin, Mark has many years' experience flying falcons, especially in game hawking. Having a falconer father who is one of the foremost experts on the sport's history, Mark saw a need to save British falconry heritage and so conceived the idea of a

British Archive of Falconry. Putting together a team of experts, he formed the British Archives of Falconry.

A well-known wildlife and sporting artist, Mark has travelled much of the world through both his work and falconry. He has had numerous exhibitions in the UK and the Middle East and has paintings in prominent collections. Being involved in falconry for such a long time, in recent years Mark has become involved in the politics and management of the sport. He is both Archives representative and International Association of Falconry representative for the British Falconers' Club and sits on the Hawk Board and the board of the IAF. He is also a director of the Falconry Heritage Trust and an Honorary Patron of the Falconry Museum in Valkenswaard in the Netherlands. He has great interest in the history of our sport and has been involved in producing three of his father's books, *O for a Falconer's Voice*, *Hood, Leash and Lure* and *Arab Falconry*. Mark also edited and designed the British Archives of Falconry's first publication *Memories of a Master Falconer*.

Publications:

L. de Bastyai (2013) *Memories of a Master Falconer* (edited with Paul Beecroft and David Horobin)
Articles in *The Falconer*, the journal of the British Falconers' Club.

Paul Beecroft (Director)



After a career in the Royal Navy, Paul became a police officer with Thames Valley Police and has pursued his passionate interest in falconry and its heritage since 1974, flying a variety of species but with a preference for hawks. He has served on the committee of the British Hawking Association as well as on the Hawk Board, which represents the interests of falconers and raptor keepers to central government.

Paul remains an active supporter of the Archives of Falconry in the USA, for which he is a Research Associate, and has been at the forefront of bringing the British Archives into being. His knowledge of aspects relating to falconry and the law has seen him contribute a number of chapters and articles on this to various publications.

Paul is undoubtedly best known to falconers for the “We Were Falconers” series of articles, working with Peter Devers. This has covered the lives and careers of a number of notable falconers from the early to mid-twentieth century – exactly the kind of falconers who have done much to shape the sport, yet who have gone largely unchronicled. All made significant contributions to British and wider society (like George Blackall Simonds, sculptor of the statue of a falconer in New York’s Central Park) and many saw active military service: some, like Major RH Barber, Kim Muir and Bobby Spens, were killed in service.

Paul’s research and writing partnership with Peter Devers recently led to the publication of what must be unique in the annals of falconry – a ghost story centred on the sport and written, before being long forgotten, by a relatively unknown 19th century falconer, Major Charlton Anne. Paul also undertook a great labour of love in transcribing, editing and publishing the correspondence of Richard Hamond, an 18th century falconry aficionado who moved to Valkenswaard in the Netherlands, then centre of European falconry, and helped to establish the town’s subsequent commercial success.

Publications:

The Hamond Letters (2012)

Transcribed and edited:

Maj. E. Charlton-Anne (2011) *Fletcher’s Mad Haggard* (edited/layout with Peter Devers)

L. de Bastyai (2013) *Memories of a Master Falconer* (edited with Mark Upton and David Horobin)

Nicholas Havemann-Mart (Director)



Nick (on left) is a businessman and long-time falconer with an immense passion for the sport, and is very much a leading figure in British falconry. He runs a family business, Honeybrook Animal Foods, which is a major sponsor of the British Archives of Falconry and other falconry enterprises in Britain and beyond, including sponsorship of the International Festival of Falconry and of the publication of “The Lure of Falconry” – the catalogue of an exhibition at Amsterdam’s Rijksmuseum organised with Dutch falconers.

Nick has served as Director of the British Falconers’ Club, remaining on its council, has sat on the Hawk Board and is the President of the Welsh Hawking Club. His main interest is in gamehawking with falcons and, for a number of years, he has maintained a grouse moor in Scotland. In addition, he hawks annually on partridge ground in Spain, maintaining close links with Spanish falconers. He is extremely generous in giving many days to other falconers, in contributing to archived material and is a strong patron of falconry artists.



Hawking at Nairnsie by Mark Upton shows Nick (centre) taking a post-hawking break on his moor.

David Horobin (Director)



With a passion for falconry and its heritage stretching back to childhood, David has successfully flown goshawks in the past, though at present work commitments in further and higher education, specialising in dyslexia diagnosis and support, preclude active falconry. As a result, his energies have largely been focused on academic research and writing on the sport's heritage alongside serving on a number of committees of various clubs, notably the Welsh Hawking Club, and wider field sports bodies. A keen all round country sportsman, he recently commenced whipping-in to beagles. He helped organise heritage exhibits at the International Festivals of Falconry, both those held in Britain and the UAE, with Paul Beecroft, Peter Devers and Kent Carnie.

David has a particular passion for early-modern and nineteenth century British falconry heritage and aside from his own work, has assisted with academic research and practical/cultural work on falconry. This has ranged from assisting a scholar in Jerusalem with unique research into medieval Jewish involvement in the sport to editing the English translation of the first practical French language treatise on the art of falconry since 1948. He is currently proofreading proceedings of an academic conference of falconry held in Schleswig in March 2014, to which he contributed a paper on literary influences on British falconry. He also plans to work on transcription of a recently discovered 15th century English manuscript with Paul Beecroft.

Publications:

Falconry in Literature: The Symbolism of Falconry in English Literature from Chaucer to Marvell (2004)

Latham's Falconry: A Commentary, (2012) – with reprint of Symon Latham's 1633 text

The Pen and the Peregrine: Literary influences on the development of British falconry (2015) Academic paper in proceedings of Schleswig conference

Edited or revised English translations of the following:

G. Malacarne (2011) *Lords of the Sky: Falconry in Mantua at the time of the Gonzagas* (trans. of Italian original)

E. Hinterding et al (2012) *The Lure of Falconry* (Catalogue of exhibition at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum)

L. de Bastyai (2013) *Memories of a Master Falconer* (edited with Paul Beecroft and Mark Upton)

J. Van Gerven and B. Mondelaers (2013) *English language audio-tour* (for Valkenswaard Museum, NL)

P. Morel (2015) *The Art of Falconry* (trans. of French original)

Various authors (2015) Academic papers in proceedings of Schleswig Conference

Robert Hutchinson MIPD, MBA, ICF (Director)



Robert Hutchinson is based in Ireland and is our liaison with Irish falconers and heritage organisations. He runs a successful business consultancy and thus brings valuable boardroom and strategic experience to our committee. In addition to being a practising falconer and hunting enthusiast, he has been, and continues to be, an active campaigner and committee member on a number of field sports and conservation boards. These include Countryside Alliance Ireland, the Irish Masters of Beagles Association, the Hunting Association of Ireland, the Irish Hawking Club, the Golden Eagle Trust and the Irish Bog Preservation Society.

He is a regular contributor to a number of magazines and is committed to securing Britain and Ireland's falconry heritage for the benefit of future generations. He is currently researching documents relating to the sport in the National Library of Ireland.

Tony James (Director)



Tony has been interested in falconry since childhood and worked in airfield clearance after his education. During that time he got to know many falconers and developed a huge interest in falconry heritage, becoming a major collector whose passion for falconry is matched only by his enthusiasm for the sport's heritage. He enjoys close links with French falconers and is one of few British members of the French National Association of Falconers and Austringers (ANFA), regularly travelling to hawk in the Champagne region throughout the season.

Tony is a very proficient falconer, mainly flying merlins and peregrines. A long-time member of the British Falconers' Club, he sat, for many years, on its council and served for a period as Treasurer. He has also worked in various capacities with the International Association for Falconry, organising several exhibits for both organisations, his external business interests in furnishing even leading him to produce furniture upholstered with the BFC logo. Tony recently helped to put on an exhibition representing falconry's heritage to MEPs within the European Parliament building in Brussels, and was an important choice to sit on the board of the British Archives of Falconry where he continues to work hard on fundraising and exhibitions.

Advisory Committee Members

Our wider Advisory Committee boasts an impressive collection of falconers with a wide range of skills, ranging from academic research and writing to technological expertise with high-grade exhibition technology.

Our overseas members, Peter Devers, Patrick Morel and Patrizia Cimberio, are experts in different fields who have kindly volunteered their assistance. Peter has an incredible knowledge of falconry history and has edited a reprint of possibly the world's scarcest printed falconry work in English – "A Short Discourse of Hawking to the Field" (only one copy is known to exist, in Yale University) which his detective work attributed to Sir Thomas Sherley. Patrizia has worked with a number of prestigious institutions, including the Vatican Museum. She worked with the Vatican to produce an electronic "turning pages" version of Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II's monumental treatise on falconry, *De Arte Venandi cum Avibus* with an Arabic translation for the Third International Festival of Falconry in Abu Dhabi – a true example of falconry transcending religious and cultural barriers. Patrick Morel, a past President of the International Association of Falconry, has a great knowledge of falconry history and has written in depth on falconry. Patrick is the author of the first practical treatise in French since 1948, a title which won an award for the best fieldsports title in France in 2014 and has just been translated into English.

Following the British Archives of Falconry being accepted as a Supporting Member of the International Association of Falconry, their Officer for Culture, Frits Kleyn, has joined our Advisory Committee. Frits was instrumental in setting up a joint exhibition of falconry art and artefacts in conjunction with Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, a project which saw the British Archives of Falconry's members collaboration with Dutch falconers to help make this exhibition a success.

Originally from Estonia, Jevgeni Shergalin maintains an electronic archive for the Falconry Heritage Trust, based in Wales. This organisation, international in scope, works with local archives and falconers around the world and offers bursaries and other support to researchers of falconry heritage. Jevgeni has assisted with many publications, notably those where translation from Russian has opened up new avenues, and is our liaison with the FHT.

Other Committee members include active falconers with a passion for heritage, including collectors of historic books, artwork and other items, and they boast experience in business, politics and academia. Helen McDonald is an academic who has worked at both Oxford and Cambridge and produced anthologies of poetry, radio plays, a published

study on the historical and cultural significance of the falcon and, most recently, her critically acclaimed autobiographical title, “H is for Hawk.” This remarkable book, winner of both the Johnson Prize for Literature and the Costa Prize, follows in the footsteps of T.H. White’s “The Goshawk.” Dr David Fox is an academic historian and museum curator with interests in the Zulu Wars alongside his passion for hawking with eagles, on which he has recently published a title.

Both Adam Norrie and Chris Freason are knowledgeable collectors of falconry art and books, and help the archives enormously with their expertise. Adam in the past produced the BFC compendium editions of “The Falconer Magazine”.

Our Committee’s collective skills and experience in not only every form of falconry practised in the British Isles, but also in all potential disciplines and areas of study we could feasibly require, enable us to put across our passion for falconry’s heritage to fellow falconers and the wider public alike.

Supporters of The British Archives of Falconry



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