

7<sup>th</sup> centuries (Lindenschmit, 1880-1889, 1. Theil, p. 132). In Alach, Kr. Erfurt, again a man was buried, together with a female goshawk. Here also the grave goods are rich, indicating the man's nobility (Timpel, 1990). A bird of prey of yet unknown species was found in a grave from the cemetery of the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> centuries in Nieder-Erlenbach, near Frankfurt/Main, and also one in a grave of the early 8<sup>th</sup> century in Staufen, Landkreis Dillingen, Bavaria (Stein, 1967). All these skeletons come from uncremated material. But a bird of prey had obviously also been laid together with a dead man on a pyre. In a funeral urn from Hedehusum/Süderende, on the Isle of Föhr, among the cremated bones of a man there were found the burnt remains of a bird of prey and of a dog. This grave is dated to the late 8<sup>th</sup> or early 9<sup>th</sup> century (Jankuhn, 1960)<sup>(2)</sup>. This find can be seen as a link between central Europe and northern Europe, where graves of the huge barrows, in several cases, contained burnt remains of birds of prey among the cremated bones. S. Sten and M. Vretemark (1988), who analysed the bone material from these burials, could identify the peregrine falcon in three of these graves, the goshawk in twelve graves, and the sparrow hawk in one grave. These graves are dated from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the large ship-graves from Vendel (Stolpe, Arne, 1927) and Valsgårde (Arwidson, 1942) remains of falcons could also be identified.

While the archaeological evidence for falconry is mainly known from the second part of the first millennium AD, the iconographic evidence essentially derives from the first centuries of the second millennium AD. The representation on the famous tapestry of Bayeux, dated to the 11th century, shows the mounted king Harald with a falcon on his left wrist. In the pictorial manuscript from Manesse, dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD several representations of falconry are to be found. They provide evidence that both men and women of the nobility were involved in hunting with a falcon or a hawk, as we have also seen from the graves. Here the falcons' prey is also shown. Especially the heron – *Ardea cinerea* – was a preferred quarry in falconry. The most famous source for medieval falconry is undoubtedly the book written by the emperor Friedrich II from Hohenstaufen : *De arte venandi cum avibus*. In this book all the regulations, the equipment and the techniques in connection with falconry are compiled and described. It is well illustrated by several pictures. From all these sources we can conclude that falconry is well documented for the Germanic area in the Middle Ages.

But what is known from the Slavic area ? First two pieces of iconographic evidence have to be mentioned. In Moravsky Jan, in the northern part of Slovakia, a belt-end made of bronze was found showing a man who had just thrown his falcon with his left hand (Klanica, 1970). This specimen is dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD. The other is a silver plaquette decorated by a mounted falconer with his bird on his left wrist. It was found in Staré Mesto, in Moravia, at the site of « Spitalky », where in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD a church and nearby a cemetery existed (Poulik, 1963). The plaquette itself

---

(2) H. Jankuhn (1960) mentions « bones of a falcon » from this site. However, in a letter of Prof. W. Flemming from about 1890 it is written : « Die kleineren Knochen sind Extremitätenknochen vom Vogel, und können sehr wohl einem Falken angehören. » From this we can conclude that Prof. Flemming could not precisely identify the bird bones ; he only thought that they belonged to a falcon. Yet, they could also belong to a goshawk. (I thank Mrs. I. Köhl, Schleswig, for elucidating the situation of this find and for sending me a copy of the letter from Prof. Flemming. Unfortunately, the bone remains of this find were lost some time in the last 100 years).