

at the mere slaughter by the hundred of innocent birds, although he would readily admit that such slaughter was excusable, and even commendable, for the prevention of hunger.

Whereupon *CARNIFEX* would, with some indignation, explain that he did not shoot birds for the prevention of hunger; that each bird he shot cost him four or five times its value as an article of food; that his was the sport of princes, and right honourable, as well as honourable persons; that he wondered how it could be compared to taking of birds by bird-lime and springes, the sport (if it could be so called) of the rabble of towns; that as for ladies, they loved nothing better than walking with the guns; and, finally, that he would like to see *AUCEPS* try his hand at shooting the driven grouse, or the rocketing pheasant.

"I grant you," *AUCEPS* would reply, "that to shoot a bird flying is indeed more than I can attain unto. I have heard it said of one that he 'rides at full speed, and with his pistol kills a sparrow flying,'¹ but I believe it not. But what if he did? Is it to be said of the shooter with the bow who is 'clapped on the shoulder and called Adam,'² or of the skilful player at tennis, billiards, or bowls, that he excelleth in field sports because his aim is good? Then should Bankes be the greatest of horsemen, and the dancing-horse the noblest of steeds, because they have attained to do what Alexander and Bucephalus could not? Unless, indeed, it is to be taken that whatever endeth in the destruction of the greatest number of lives, even though it be to the profit of none, and without exercise of cunning or skill (save the mean handicraftman's skill of aim), is to be considered as the first of sports."

But whatever were the arguments used by the disputants, we may be certain that neither would have yielded one jot to the other. You may more easily induce a man to abandon the political principles and professions of a lifetime (if you go the right way about it) than change his opinions on

¹ 1 *Hen.* IV. ii. 4. 379.

² *Much Ado*, i. 1. 261.

matters of sport. Nay, it is easier to turn one from the faith of his forefathers. And so grouse and partridge will still be driven, and, in time, salmon and trout may be driven too, while the angler, stroke-all in hand and luncheon-basket by his side, sits beside some narrow channel through which the driven fish must needs pass. And the same reasons will be given. The fish have grown so wild and shy that they will not look at the most craftily constructed fly. Why, even now, an old and wary trout in an over-fished chalk-stream has been seen to rush away in terror from a natural fly alighting above his nose. Then it is so much more difficult to strike the salmon as he darts past you in the stream than when he closes his mouth for an instant on your hook. And some may be found old-fashioned enough to regret that yet another ancient sport had been degraded to the level of a mere game of skill.

"And now," said Petre, "for a flight at the brook. I know where we may take a mallard or a duck. But on our way thither we may perchance find a heron at siege. I would love well, Master Silence, that you should see old Joan stoop from her pride of place. Not another falcon in Gloucestershire flies a pitch like hers."

And hereupon the Lady Katherine conceived and promptly executed a scheme which the diarist afterwards noted as determining the whole course of his affairs. "For," he adds, "to the readye witte and spirit of that most admirable ladye do I owe all the happinesse of my lyfe."

Turning to Petre she said: "Thou knowest the country saying: 'The falcon as the tercel for all the ducks i' the river,'¹ by which I understand him that useth it to intend that he would wager as much on the lady as on her lord. Now, my lord, I challenge thee to this contest. Take thou thy falcons and tercel-gentles for flying at the brook, and leave to me the lady's hawks—this cast of merlins. I will keep by me Mistresses Ellen Silence and Anne Squele. Do thou take Master Squele and the rest of the worshipful

¹ *Troil and Cres.* iii. 2. 55.



Datus,

18 Feb 75

J

Under separate cover I have mailed copy of Xenoph's "Hunting" from SCRIPTA MINORA.

This from my classic professor - patient who was the amanuensis (finally got to use that word!)

ARRIAN ("Xenophon the younger") wrote a sequel; more detailed: adding much about sight hounds.

I will try to find it also. I

wrote a paper on Xeno's Hunting in 1946 when I studied Greek

under Jesuits as teen. There is

also "The Noble Art of Venerie"

published 1575 by Christophe BARKER and TURBERVILLE which I understand

discusses at length about dogs.

I will send it when I find it.

I have seen it quoted often. It also contains a list of names for dogs just like Xeno's Hunting - Huck is not listed

Dear Huck

Word has reached the pack here in Madison that Dotus and David are dogging your first steps of late. Things are bad here too.

I heard they changed your Christian name to Xenophon. Don't feel bad, I went from Blue to Steppenwolf during Jack's existentialist phase.

- and I have one of those electronic beeper collars too. It goes off when I stop to crap and makes one very anal retentive when they run up behind me with a shotgun.

Our masters must have similar doubles, they are both great shots except when their guns blow the pattern, form follows function in birds too.

SS = This

11

Jack named my father Riconato
after Don Quixote's horse
and then flailed at
no other ~~in the~~ windmills
of his mind, Season after
Season: so don't be
embarrassed when Datus
and David pretend the
old gravel pit is Mt.
Olympus — It's a boy thing.

and if Datus are ever
profitless afield it is
their lack of constancy in
sure. David and Jack are
both physicians, lean
and hungry, but obsessed
with outcomes; so I love
to torment Jack with a
bit of hardmouth now and
again. and don't forget Datus
fancies you a reincarnate
original Veronese Fowling Boy

111
111

a man who thinks like
that probably fancies himself
Attia the Hon, but its ^{like} ~~just~~
just a bit too much of the
glaze. If he gets too uppity
just smother him with
a little flatus next time
he falls asleep in his easy
chair.

yours for a gleamer future
Ole Blue

Fenfluramine stops
brain from producing serotonin

j

Status.

My usual staccato notes —
Thanks for "Olympus" and
"place of my own." Both
well-written, fun, incisive
reflecting lots of time
outdoors. I am sure the
idea of letting the dog go
to the game splits the
soft underbelly of the
field trial people! No loss
there.

My book on Shakespeare's
hounds — horses — falcons
is in Florida with an
English prof patient this
week. When he returns
I guess I will try to have
it copied because it is
disintegrating rapidly. I
see Bodie has book on
Falcons. I will order it.

He would love the chapter
on "manning the haggard"
but will have to baste a bit first.

one major theme of book
is male falcons are small (TERCELS)
and poor raptors; the wild
female (the haggard) is
better. (page 3 of "a place of
our own" Refers to him, the
harrier.) Most references to
falcons are female.

"A falcon towering in her
pride of place was by a
mousey owl hawked at and
killed" — I am a nit
picking editor — which by
the way brings me to your
suggestion that I write.

Reminds me of a story!
Hemingway visited Ansel
Adams gallery said "wow
what beautiful photos!
what kind of camera do
you use? Answer "why an
Olympus, and I likewise
admire your writing. What
kind of typewriter? "Mr Hemingway"

Datus, you are a writer
at times a great one. I am
a physician (read "Health
Care provided" in Hilary's book)
Two different disciplines
and professions. My passions
are reading and chasing
roosters. You do the writing
thank you.

More anon

John

I read the Ken Dog article and
much enjoyed. You had to have
chased a lot of roosters to figure
this out, but Amer can field
trials did beat out our hounds.
when they generalized trailing.

That is the essence of the problem.
I ran dogs in the 60's when I
had a great one (Steppen Wolf) - GSP
who looked like Huck

" with crooked knees and
downy legs deep

with ears the morning dew
that sweeps " MDS NBH 1, 24

He was out of Essex Creek -
opel von Wackerley.

Half the dogs in the field
fruits got lost. I quit the day
we stood and retrieved 6
birds but lost because we
didn't run high headed and
wild enough.

III

In Elizabethan England dogs
that ran too wide were "TRASHED
for OVERTOPPING". A trash was
a long weighted rope.

We may outrun, by violent
swiftness, that which we run at,
and lose by over-running

How III 1. 39

"trashed for overtopping"

August 1 2 79

et al. I also note the picture of
Huck with Bell on collar.
A bell needs well-seated
base to make the clanger
loud: not picking, but you
would hear it a lot better
if you taped it to collar at base.

I also agree with your
notes on framing. My dogs
do best when I follow a
thousand trails with them
and try to learn how to work
as a team. "All things are with
more sport chased than enjoyed"

W

Please continue to write
about unharboring cocks from
the broken thickets. You have
a special gift.

Regards

Jack Brandabur

Enclose note on Trent which
I know you fancy.

BRANDABUR
529 S. SHORE DR
MADISON, WI
53715



BARD of BELGRADE
1085 HAMILTON RD
BELGRADE
MT
59714