

Falconry has a long tradition in Poland, dating back to the Middle Ages. Its history is evidenced by the earliest monuments of native writing - chronicles and immunity privileges, as well as old local names. From the 16th century onwards, works were written in which the subject of falconry was given more and more space; these were mainly economic and ornithological treatises, including the most famous Mateusz Cygański's *Myślistwo ptasze*. A significant increase in falconry literature, also published in periodicals, can be seen from the 19th century until 1939, these works are testimony to the lively interest in falconry practice.

Contemporary Polish falconry, to which the dissertation is devoted, remembers the old traditions, but over the last half-century (it was reactivated in 1972) it has developed its own specificity and organisational structures - among which the Polish Falconers' Club of the Polish Hunting Association Gniazdo Sokolników occupies a special place. Thanks to this institution, the falconry environment, which in Poland currently numbers about 200 people, is relatively compact and integrated. It takes care of its distinctiveness and requires adherence to developed ethical and etiquette standards and respect for technical standards, i.e. specific skills recognised in action.

However, this does not mean that changes are not taking place. Falconry activities in Poland since the 1970s. (but also in earlier centuries) was a form of elite entertainment that required specialised training. Nowadays, it is more and more common for adepts of the art of falconry to work professionally with birds of prey, e.g. in facilities requiring biological protection.

The dissertation is divided into two parts. Part one is *Methods and stories*. Chapter one presents the successive stages of the research work - including the choice of methods, techniques and tools necessary to collect and develop the material, and the difficulties resulting from this choice. Chapter two provides an overview of the discursive forms of falconry writing in chronological order. Part two, entitled *Present and Field*, presents the results of the survey conducted among the members of the Gniazdo Sokolników 2014-2020. The order of description (chapter layout) follows the order of institutional analysis proposed by Bronislaw Malinowski, thus covering the Club's guiding principle, its personnel, norms, material devices used, activities and function. The description, essentially synchronic, includes references to diachrony, which makes it possible to discern minor modifications (resulting, inter alia, from new technical possibilities), as well as fundamental transformations, the source of which are needs that did not exist before.