

# **Report on the current State and Future Strategy of the IAF Translations Working Group (ITWG):**

*Report compiled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018 by Julian Mühle*

## **1) Background Information and Introduction:**

- The ITWG (IAF Translations Working Group) was created in May 2018 with the objective of translating IAF publications into different languages and to thus facilitate dissemination of falconry related information and IAF publications to the wider falconry community thereby bringing our global falconry family closer together. One of the most beautiful facets of falconry is the different cultures that it brings together, and language is a primordial component of culture. This working group allows us to get a glimpse into the falconry cultures of our falconry friends in different countries.
- This working group is a volunteer based working group of IAF, which is coordinated through emails and through the affiliated Facebook page "IAF Falconry Translations - Disseminating our Intangible Cultural Heritage". In its 4-month long existence this group has grown to 61 volunteers which have a combined capacity to translate documents into 20 different languages. The primary work of this working group consists of translating the monthly IAF eBulletin into as many languages as possible as well as translating articles from the IAF Journal. The ITWG has to date translated 105 documents, of which 29 translations featured in the 2018 IAF Journal. This has been made possible by the passion that our art kindles among us all and the desire to share our experiences with likeminded people. It has been said that the falconry community is the family that we choose.
- Apart from the primary purpose of elaborating translations, the community that has grown out of this among the volunteer translators and through the direct output of this working group has contributed to eroding differences and bringing our international falconry family ever closer together. This is testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of all our volunteer translators and is further evidence of the uniting potential inherent to falconry.
- Throughout my 5-month internship with IAF, the idea and practical application of this working group has been developed and as many people as possible have been encouraged to join through Facebook and through a notice in the eBulletins that were sent out. Currently the structure is such that the IAF secretariat or other IAF working groups send an email requesting a translation with a minimum of 2 weeks of anticipation for articles and a minimum of 1 week of anticipation for eBulletins. If the ITWG has the capacity at said moment in time, the translation request is sent out per email to the working group members. In every email the working group members are asked to inform me if they are not able to do this due to time constraints, as we completely understand that they may have other commitments. It is vital to keep in mind that this is a volunteer working group composed of falconers who commit to this work in line with the IAF motto of "Quod totum procedit ex amore", out of their passion for their art while also working or studying. Therefore, it is helpful to receive translation requests with as much

anticipation as possible so that translators may fit that around their schedules and other commitments. The coordination of the working group takes approximately 30 minutes a month per language to a total of 10 hours for the eBulletin in its current state. Work for other translations varies greatly depending on whether a Journal, eNewsletter or IAF meeting is being prepared. Translators may spend anywhere between 30 minutes and 5 hours a month translating documents depending on how complicated and long the documents in question are. This includes sending out the emails with the translation requests, formatting the translations, sending reminders via Facebook messages and posts as well as (where possible) checking the translation. All of this is achieved through a google docs document which lists all translators in the working group, the language that they can translate into, their current translation assignment, their email or other contact information and their country of origin. As this initial phase of the ITWG ends, some changes will be made. It has been amazing to be part of this and to see the ITWG develop from an initial 4 volunteers to a total of 61 now. I look forward to seeing how much further we can get and to getting to know each of you along the way either through Facebook, but hopefully at some point on the hunting field.

- As my internship comes to an end, I will no longer be able to dedicate 10 hours to the coordination of the eBulletins of the working group as well as translating documents and other IAF projects full time every month. Furthermore, a growth of ITWG and more projects to support the work of IAF are envisioned for the future. While I will continue as primary coordinator of the ITWG, in conversation with Adrian Lombard and Gary Timbrell when asked about this, I proposed to add a further member to the ITWG coordination team to split the current workload while the capacity and thus workload of ITWG increases to encompass more projects. A further benefit of this is that new ideas may be developed, and suggestions may be made to improve the working group. I also welcome each and every one of your ideas to strengthen our community.

## **2) Evaluation of Challenges and Weaknesses:**

- The two primary challenges for this working group are that volunteers may tire if asked to translate documents too frequently and that in some language we only have one or two volunteer translators, whom we therefore ask for content quite frequently.
- Strength and Weakness assessment per language: (# of people in parentheses) and [language use/strength in brackets from (weak) 1-5 (strong)]
- Urdu (3) [3]
- Arabic (2) [2]
- Russian (2) [2]
- Hindi (1) [2]
- Mongolian (2) [3]
- Greek (1) [3]
- Korean (2) [3]
- Khowar (1) [2]
- Kazakh (2) [2]
- Chinese (4) [3]

- Japanese (1) [2]
  - English [(formatting the translation matrix that we will subsequently send out to all languages)]
  - German (3,5) [4]
  - Spanish (19) [5]
  - French (7) [4]
  - Dutch (6) [4]
  - Afrikaans (2) [1]
  - Czech (2) [3]
  - Portuguese (2) [2]
  - Polish (1) [3]
- It would be good to encourage more people to join the working group, it would be most welcome and very effective if national delegates and the IAF leadership could promote the working group to increase its capacity. A good opportunity for this would be the 2018 council of delegates meeting in Bamberg. This would directly benefit the members of the clubs who translate content into their language, as it makes it available to all their club members.

### **3) Further developments and projects:**

- It would be ideal if the group were to grow by at least 39 more people by the end of the calendar year 2018 so that it would encompass 100 volunteer translators. I think that this is a realistic goal if the different member associations were to actively encourage their members to join the working group. Please encourage your friends to join and make it a point of pride to have as many IAF publications translated into your language as possible, for that represents your art and allows others to see your traditions and for your falconry community to see what other falconers are doing.
- I propose to divide the coordination of the eBulletin components with Farooq Khan. Farooq has translated a multitude of IAF publications into Urdu and has always been very enthusiastic to further support the work of the working group.
- A potential format would be for Farooq to coordinate the translation of the eBulletin into Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Urdu, Khowar, Kazakh, Greek, Mongolian, Hindi while I continue to coordinate the eBulletin for its original English template, German, Spanish, Dutch, French, Portuguese, Afrikaans, Polish and Czech as well as overall non eBulletin related translations. If ITWG were to grow to over 100 people, it may be beneficial to further split work areas in the future to retain a dynamic structure, this will depend on what growth we experience in what languages. I would very much like to see the growth of each language capacity, but also the use of even more languages.

- In our strongest language (Spanish) we have 19 volunteers. This represents extensive unused potential which could be used by creating a subgroup for Spanish within ITWG. This would still work exactly as the group as a whole except for having a Whatsapp chat where translation requests can be posted and through which volunteers may sign up for translations depending on when their availability is. Always remember that the goal is for it to remain fun and engaging for everyone. While every eBulletin and 5 articles in the 2018 Journal were translated into Spanish, I would propose that ITWG commits to translating the entire 2019 Journal into Spanish to facilitate more IAF involvement in Spanish Speaking countries and Latin America in particular.
- Any further ideas and suggestions to improve the working group are always welcome and an exchange between all members on the Facebook page could also foster ties among us.
- I will be donating a copy of "Falcon" by Helen Macdonald and "The Goshawk" by T. H. White to a Tombola. The name of every member who has translated more than 3 documents will be put in a big box and two names will be drawn in Bamberg to receive the books. If you are in Bamberg, you will receive the book then or it may be sent back to you with a friend or national delegate. If this is not possible, I will deposit the books in the IAF Archive and you can let me know when you wish to collect them or if you would like them to be brought to a future IAF event.
- To the coordinators and chair people of the IAF working groups, I very much look forward to working closely with you to convey your projects and hard work into as many languages as possible. To make this possible, please send all future translation requests with as much anticipation as possible.