

**THOUGHTS UPON
HUNTING: IN A
SERIES OF FAMILIAR
LETTERS TO A FRIEND**

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Thoughts Upon Hunting: In a Series of Familiar Letters to a Friend by Peter Beckford

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PETER BECKFORD

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THOUGHTS
UPON
HUNTING.

LONDON

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BY GEO. FALKNER & SONS, 28, QUEEN VICTORIA ST., E.C.

THOUGHTS

UPON

HUNTING:

IN A SERIES OF

FAMILIAR LETTERS TO A FRIEND.

BY PETER BECKFORD, ESQ.

— SI QUID NOVISTI RECTIUS ISTIS
CANDIDUS IMPERTI: SI NON, HIS UTERE MECUM.

ROK.

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BY GEO. FALKNER & SONS, 181 QUEEN VICTORIA ST., E.C.

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1802.

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THOUGHTS

UPON

H U N T I N G :

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS.

L E T T E R I .

Bristol Hot-Wells, March 20 1779.

*R*EMARKS *how little literature has been written upon the Sport of Hunting.* I know not any writer, ancient or modern, from the time of Nimrod to the present day (one only excepted), who has given any useful information to a Fox-hunter There is not any branch of knowledge, commonly dignified with the title of art, which has not such rudiments or principles as may lead to a competent degree of skill, if not to perfection, in it; while hunting, the sole business of some, and the amusement of most of the youth in this kingdom, seems left entirely to chance. Its pursuit puts us to greater expence, and also to greater inconvenience, than any other;

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yet, notwithstanding this, we trust our diversion in it to the sole guidance of a huntsman : we follow just as he shall choose to conduct us ; and we suffer the success, or disappointment, of the chace, to depend solely on the judgment of a fellow who is frequently a greater brute than the creature on which he rides. I would not be understood to mean by this, that a huntsman should be a scholar, or that every gentleman should hunt his own hounds. It is not necessary a huntsman should be a man of letters : but give me leave to observe, that, had he the best understanding, he would frequently find opportunities of exercising it, and intricacies which might put it to the test. You will say, perhaps, there is something too laborious in the occupation of a huntsman, for a gentleman to take it upon himself ; you may also think it is beneath him : I agree with you in both ; yet I hope that he may have leave to understand it.—If he follow the diversion, it is a sign of his liking it ; and if he like it, surely it is some disgrace to him to be ignorant of the means most conducive to it.

You will rally me, perhaps, on the choice of my frontispiece ; but why should not hunting admit the patronage

of a lady? The ancients, you know, invoked Diana at setting out on the chace, and sacrificed to her at their return : is not this enough to shew the propriety of my choice? At all events, I assure myself that you will approve her attendants, *Health*, and *Contentment*.

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