TWELVE BRONZE FALCONS EXHIBITED AT THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, CHICAGO 1893

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Twelve Bronze Falcons Exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago 1893 by Chokichi Suzuki & Tadamasa Hayashi

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CHOKICHI SUZUKI & TADAMASA HAYASHI

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Trieste

TWELVE

BRONZE FALCONS

EXHIBITED AT

THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

CHICAGO 1893.

Artist: CHOKICHI SUZUKI

Exhibitor and Designer: TADAMASA HAYASHI

TOKYO, JAPAN.

1893.

Remarks.

It has been my object to avail myself of the rare opportunity afforded by the World's Columbian Exposition to manifest to the world at large, the capabilities of the arts of Japan to the fullest extent. With that purpose in view, I have exhibited there Twelve Falcons cast in bronze. Of the multifarious arts peculiar to Japan, the works in metals have already commanded a universal admiration, and as there are adepts still existing in that department of fine arts, I have decided to exhibit the twelve birds above referred to. It is now admitted everywhere that Japan has a characteristic excellence in every department of æsthetics, in representing her favorite, the bird: and of birds I have selected the noblest of the feathered family, the Falcons: the keen eyes, powerful claws, agility, nobleness, and vigor are all embodied in falcons; and all these qualities combined with their capability of receiving trainings, recommended themselves to kings and princes of old, who took delights in falconry.

There are in Japan forty-eight places where falcons are found native, hence the prevalent expression "Forty-eight falcons." In time of Tokugawa Shōgunate young ones were caught at these places and trained by falconers. Out of these so trained, the best twelve were selected for the use of the Shōgun in hawking. On the occasion of presenting the twelve for his inspection, there used to be certain rules to be followed in their decorations, which have been conformed to in preparing the twelve bronze falcons for the Columbian Exposition.

I have been specially careful in selection of the artist. Mr. Chōkichi Suzuki had made a Peacock cast in bronze, and exhibited the bird at the Paris Exposition of 1878, for which he received a Gold medal. The work is now in South Kensington Museum, London,

and is highly admired there.

The twelve falcons now exhibited were first moulded in wax, then cast in bronze, incrusted, chased, and coloured by a process unique in Japan.

In producing these twelve, Mr. Suzuki kept live falcons beside him, in order to observe and examine their habits, as well as the structure and form of their bodies. He also consulted old mss. as well as pictures by eminent artists of yore. It was after a careful observation and repeated trials that he at last succeeded in making the twelve.

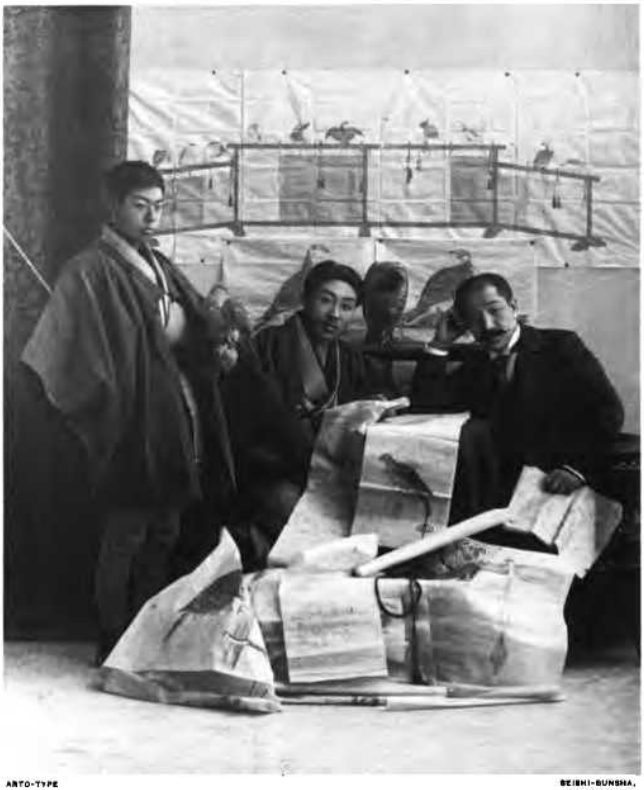
In each department of the arts required for making the twelve, only the best hands have been selected, and twenty-four of such have been employed.

In decoration and equipment, specialists in falconry have been consulted as well as old records, but necessary modifications have been introduced in order to conform to æsthetical requirements.

Four years were required in making the twelve. They were finished in March this year, and for three days from 10th. of that month, they were exhibited on trial at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, for criticism by professional men: an account of which will be seen in the accompanying translations of daily papers of this City.

Tadamasa Hayashi.

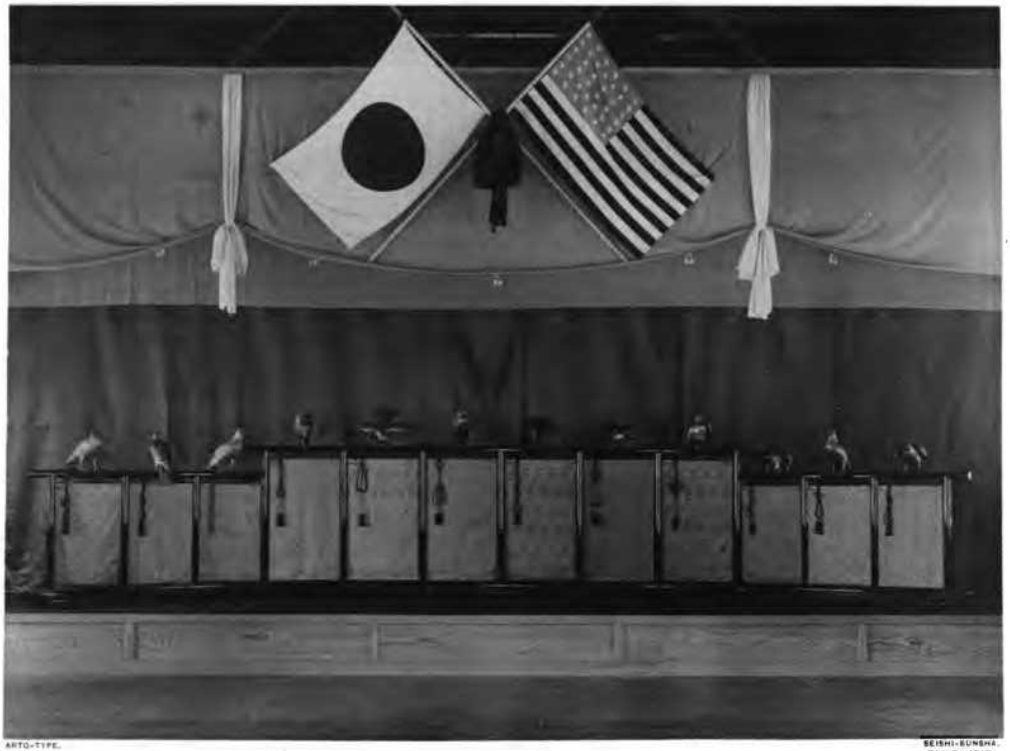
Tokyo, March 1893.



ARTO-TYPE

SEISHI-BUNSHA,
TOKYO, JAPAN.

A FALCONER. ARTIST CHŌKICHI SUZUKI. DESIGNER TADAMASA HAYASHI.



ARTO-TYPE. SEISHI-BUNSHA. TOKYO, JAPAN.

TWELVE BRONZE FALCONS,
FOR THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION
(EXHIBITED AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, TOKYO).
Artist: CHŌKICHI SUZUKI. Exhibitor: TADAMASA HAYASHI.