



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

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The Technical Muse: Falconry, natural science and the pitfalls of language in Jacques Auguste de Thou's *Hieracosophion*

von

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*im Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“, Langer Weg 11, SR 2)
einzuladen.*

In Renaissance France, falconry was a favourite pastime of the nobility and the court: the sport had developed a rich, but very specific terminology, which vernacular poets of the time readily exploited. When composing his Neo-Latin didactic poem on falconry, however, Jacques Auguste de Thou cast himself as a pioneer on the subject, as he needed to resort to ingenious solutions to describe the various species of birds of prey used for the hunt and their training and care. Based on research undertaken for a critical edition of the *Hieracosophion* with a modern French translation and commentary, this paper illustrates the strategies used by de Thou in his transposition of a sixteenth-century 'vernacular' art into a lexis that did not easily fit the subject, and the challenges this poses for the modern editor/translator.