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**FREEDOM, LOVE, NOBILITY: THE FALKENMOTIV IN MEDIEVAL
AND MODERN GERMAN LITERATURE, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON
WERNER BERGENGRUEN'S "DIE DREI FALKEN"**

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***Abstract:** Medieval literature has intensely formed modern literature through numerous dissimilar channels. Occasionally whole works were interpreted or paraphrased into contemporary tongues, ometimes medieval motifs, themes, figures, or ideas affected contemporary texts. This article examines one extraordinary example, Werner Bergengruen's highly popular novella "Die drei Falken" (1928) the basis of stimulus of which was loosely Boccaccio's story told on Day V, no. 9 in his Decameron (ca. 1350). Through time, the falcon has frequently represented courtly love, dignity, and the wish for separate freedom. After a conversation of Boccaccio's text and a assortment of medieval examples where the same reason seems, this article examines how Bergengruen distorted the symbol of the falcon into an expression of human dignity and deeply felt wish for personal liberty.*

***Keywords—**falcons as a literary motif, Nibelungenlied, Der von Kürenberg, Werner Bergengruen*