Frederick II: Holy Roman Emperor Extraordinaire, Prose/Poem 7/23/2014

Charles Kay Smith
Frederick II: Holy Roman Emperor Extraordinaire 1220 – 1250

He was more Renaissance prince than medieval monarch.
Spoke six languages including Arabic,

and his court in Sicily poached scholars from Byzantium, who translated Islamic literature for Europeans.

At his court the sonnet was invented. Some say it was a hybrid of Islamic and Norman forms, for Frederick’s grandmother was a Norman princess.

His book on the scientific art of Falconry has remained in print for almost eight centuries.*
But his towering achievement was the 6th Crusade won without a battle. After five months of diplomacy with an Arab prince, while their armies grew impatient, he negotiated the opening of Jerusalem to Europe (and his dynasty) which most earlier crusaders failed to win with combat.

Frederick’s medieval military allies, were angry with him for denying them bloody war and pillage.

Some modern minds are as medieval.

- As it appears in Amazon: Art of Falconry; Being the De Arte Venandi cum Avibus of Frederick II of Hohenstaufen [Hardcover] Frederick of Hohenstaufen (Author), Casey A. Wood (translator), F. Marjorie Fyfe (Translator).