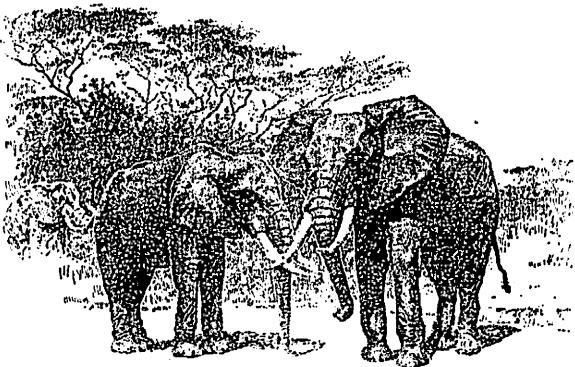


38455-490-2

FRONTIERS OF ENCHANTMENT

An Artist's Adventures in Africa

BY
W. R. LEIGH



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At the crack of the rifle the lion dropped; he rose half-way, and then slumped down and lay still. The vultures rose amid a cloud of dust.

We approached the lion cautiously, yet it did not take long to realize that he was stone-dead. The cow was as large as the one left wounded; we looked again, but in vain, for any indication that the carcass had been dragged.

We did not kill the second lion. After all, lions have their rights as well as the rest of us; we couldn't use this one.

The Masai was delighted that we had destroyed one lion, but could not comprehend why we had not killed both.

This feline forms the second in importance in the lion group as it may be seen in the African Hall to-day.

Preparations were now begun for the return to Nairobi.

Chapter XXVI

THE GREATER KOODOO

CLARK, KLEIN, RADDATZ, and I next journeyed down to Mount Kilima Njaro, in Tanganyika, to secure new material for the greater koodoo group. Mr and Mrs Carlisle invited my wife, meanwhile, to accompany them—they in their car, she in hers—on a drive to and round Mount Kenya. Ethel had a Uganda boy, Hassin, who accompanied her everywhere, and kept her car in first-rate order.

In 1926 Akeley and Daniel E. Pomeroy had agreed that the latter should go down to Tanganyika and procure the koodoo specimens for the group he was to donate, with Lake Hannington as the background. The intention was to include, with the animal exhibits in the African Hall, as many landmarks of Africa as possible. Later, upon reconsideration of our project, it was realized that the koodoo supplied the best opportunity of including Mount Kilima Njaro, which was a far more important landmark than Lake Hannington. The plans were therefore changed, and the material gathered at the lake was reserved for use in another group—possibly the black rhinoceros, which would fit into that setting quite as appropriately as the koodoo. Another argument, although it carried less force, was that koodoo still existed in the vicinity of the mountain, but had vanished from the lake.

Our road took us south-east, through a Kenya game reserve. We travelled in three machines, Clark, Klein, and Raddatz driving.

Kilima Njaro at its base is only some three thousand feet above the sea, or three thousand feet lower than

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Nairobi. The journey consumed three days each way, but the road was good, the scenery fine. The country was full of giraffe, impala, zebra, and other herbivorous game, which we saw constantly. Elephant, buffalo, and rhinoceros also abounded, but we did not see any.

It was ideal rhino country—one might appear anywhere, under any bush. A rhino lying down may very easily be mistaken for a rock, but hard as we looked we did not discover a single one. During the afternoon of the third day I was riding with Clark, and, chancing to glance upward through the boughs of trees, was amazed to glimpse, floating in the purple zenith, a mass of exquisite tea-rose pink. I could scarcely believe my eyes. I was looking at the sunlit snows on the dome of Kilima Njaro, 'the demon-infested mountain.' This was the dome I had seen from Lukenia. This was the mountain of eternal snow that early missionaries had reported, only to be laughed at by the scientists. This was the summit lifted 19,321 feet into the air—the king of all the African mountains.

Aeroplane photographs have been taken of this dome, which has a huge, roughly circular crater 650 feet deep and 6500 feet across. The mountain has been in eruption probably within the last thousand years. This is conjectured from the clear contours of the crater, and from the name, Demon Mountain, which doubtless represents a tradition, or perhaps a memory, of the time when it was active. A thousand years is a short time in the life of a volcano; it may become active again. But we did not get a real opportunity to see Kilima Njaro until we reached Moshi ("Smoke"), where we halted to pay our respects to the British representatives.

By this time we had travelled down to the south-east side of the peak, and as we approached the end of our journey I was in an agony of suspense to find out from what angle I should get my view of the mountain. For,

W. R. LEIGH

AFRICAN RHINOCEROS

