

NEWS FROM THE BRONX ZOO

Mr. Richard J. Reynolds visited the New York Bronx Zoo on 6th August and made some noteworthy notes:

Contents of the Elephant House were 2 African Elephants, 2 Asiatic Elephants, 3 Hippopotamus, 3 Pigmy Hippopotamus, 1 African Black Rhinoceros, 1 Great Indian Rhinoceros, 1 Baird's Tapir, and 2 South American Tapirs. The Great Indian Rhinoceros, a female, was brought to the zoo on May 23, 1923 by the late Frank Buck, and as far this writer can determine she is at present the oldest rhino in captivity, having been in the zoo for at least 37 years and 3 months.

Contents of the Antelope House were 1—1 Addax, 1—0 Nyala, 1 Sable Antelope, 2—1 Okapi, 1 Uganda Giraffe, 1 Greater Kudu, 2 Lesser Kudu, 1 Takin, 1 White Eared Kob, 2 Gerenuk, 2 Masai Giraffe, 1 White-Tailed Gnu, 1 White-Bearded Gnu, 1 Bohor Reedbuck, and 1 Blesbok.

A sensational event on 5 August 1960 was the birth of a Mandrill. Contents of the Great Ape House were 0—1 Mountain Gorilla, 1—1 Lowland Gorilla, 1—1 Orang Utan, 7 Chimpanzee, and 2 White Handed Gibbon.

Contents of the Lion House were 1—1 Lion, 5 Bengal Tigers, 1 Spotted leopard, 1 Snow Leopard, 1 Cheetah, 2 Spotted Jaguars and 1 Mexican Puma.

BERLIN ZOO's RHINOS

In „International Zoo-News“ Volume 7 - Number 1 we published on page 14 that the West Berlin Zoo in Germany showed three species of Rhinos in 1878-1870.

Dr. Heinz-Georg Klös, Director of this Zoo, was kind enough to contact us saying that in 1879 FOUR, not THREE species were on exhibit:

- 0—1 Diceros bicornis
- 1—1 Rhinoceros unicornis
- 0—1 Rhinoceros sondaicus
- 1 Didermoceros s. sumatrensis

CORRECTION

In „International Zoo-News“ of April-May 1960 we mentioned on page 54 that the Basle Zoo in Switzerland possesses a large family of Great **Red** Kangaroo.

This is not correct: this ought to be Great **Grey** Kangaroo. We apologize to the Basle Zoo and to our readers for this mistake.

Editor,

MARVIN
JONES

REPORT on the ZOOS and AQUARIUMS of JAPAN

From the 25th through the 31st of July of this year, I was permitted to take a seven day leave of absence from my job here in Korea with the US Army guarding freedom frontier, and to visit a most charming and industrious land, that of Japan.

The main purpose of this trip was to visit as many of the Zoological Parks and Aquariums possible in this short period of time, and to report on them to my many friends all over the world. Japan today, is very close to both Europe and America due to the advent of jetliner transportation, however the cost of such a trip and the overall time involved still keeps many of our Zoo men from seeing some of the wonders of this modern and advancing nation. For this reason, I decided early in my tour here in Korea that while I would probably be allowed only one trip, that I would see as much as possible, and to share this information with others, as many of you know this has always been my policy when out of the United States. I regret sincerely that my time here in Korea is extremely busy, and that I have been unable to continue my previous lengthy correspondences, or to pass on zoological information.

Japan today is to my mind very similar to Germany of 1957 and 1958, and not necessarily to the United States. There are many situations which are similar. Both nations were of the losing end of the war, both suffered widespread damage from bombing raids, and both had rough financial going for the early years after the war. Both nations also are highly industrial now and were before the war, there being more urgency to rebuild and again become world leaders. The educational standards are about the same, each having many universities formerly operated by the Crown, and now under governmental supervision. And finally both have copied several mannerisms and habits from the members of their occupation forces which have resulted in many cities no longer looking like Japanese or German cities, but instead like „Little Americas“. The behavior of many of the younger generation reflect the change also taking place in the USA, however many still retain the thoughts and manners of the past. Finally both have a present day Zoological Garden and Aquarium trend that seems determined to continue for many years, with planning being focused far into the future.

I mention this similarity since often in this article I will make comparisons between certain types of exhibits, and mention cities in Germany as guides.

Each of the Zoos visited will be covered narratively, with a complete list of all animals seen in each of the zoos compiled in a master list at the end of this article, this will also be the case with the Aquariums. I shall try to draw attention to rare animals exhibited, modes of construction, methods of acquainting the public with the exhibits, financial operation, maintenance and little "tid-bits" of my own on each zoo.

To complete this introduction, may I mention that during much of this tour I was accompanied by Dr. Humio Osaki of the University of Osaka, School of Dentistry. Dr. Osaki, gladly gave me his full time for three days and a half during which the zoos away from the Tokio complex were visited. Since many of the Directors of these parks do not speak English, and many of the cities inhabitants also have only a small knowledge of the written and spoken language, I feel that much could not have been accomplished without Dr. Osaki. Dr. Osaki has a keen interest in Zoos, and studied for several years in the United States on animal research. He lost a section of his hand to a American Beaver, so has a intimate knowledge of our animals. His capabilities in translating Japanese into English and vice versa are excellent. Once again my sincere thanks to this show of hospitality to a American soldier (in uniform) at a time when relations were strained between our nations.

Mullo-Ri, Korea
18 August 1960

The Ueno Park Zoological Gardens, Tokio-Ueno, 25 July 1960.

Established in the middle of the 1800's by the late emperor of Japan, Ueno is the oldest and also the principal Zoo of Japan. Today it is operated by the Metropolitan Government of Tokio, and receives some assistance from the Tokio Zoological Society. The Director is Dr Tadamichi Koga, perhaps the most well known name to Zoo men over the globe due largely to the fine little magazine that he has edited ever since the war, and which has been our main contact with Japan. Dr Koga was extremely helpful during my visit and gave me a card of introduction to each of the zoos and Aquariums visited, and believe me the business of exchanging cards is quite a large business and manner here in the orient. His help while visiting his own zoo was very keenly appreciated, and his presentation of guide books to the zoo both for the present year, and also for one of 1943 vintage was most appreciated. While looking over this older guide it was discovered

that Tokio had a large Komodo Dragon *Varanus komodoanis* in the collection from 1941 to 1943, a fact previously unknown. Ueno since it is such an old zoo, naturally has many houses and buildings that require replacement in the modern trend of zoological exhibition. This is being accomplished as fast as funds will permit. If this seems a little slow, one must realize that the city of Tokio is fast approaching the 9 million mark, and will require so much more in the way of municipal construction and planning that the zoo of necessity must take a backroom chair for the present. However due to the keen efforts of both Dr Koga and the Zoological Society gains are being made and are evident. The new Gorilla House, Bear Dens and cages for rare birds are quite good and well planned. The collection itself is excellent, the animals in fine physical appearance, and also good health attested to by the excellent longevity records being set. All of the walkways are cemented, all cages bear a descriptive label telling the name in Japanese and also giving the English name in English characters, and the scientific name. The name of the describer of the animal is also mentioned frequently. These are hand made since it is very difficult to have a large printing process with the many characters of the Japanese alphabet. At the entrance of the garden is a large descriptive map showing the main exhibits and the route to follow. Much like the Hagenbeck Zoo of Hamburg, this route can be followed by red arrows well placed by the leading exhibits. The course of the visit has been well planned to allow a minimum of cutbacks, and to handle the large crowds of visitors, the zoo having over 3 million per year, the majority paying. The admission rate of 40 Yen is about equal to 12 \$c in American currency, and while it may seem cheap, one must take in the lower prices current in Japan today, as well as a low average wage of the workers. Several guidebooks and postcards are sold at stands and at the restaurant. These operations are handled by the Zoological Society, and the profits returned for the benefit of the zoo. Since almost everything in Japan that moves has a motor on it, the use of a small motor driven carts and cars is very widespread here in the gardens. I took several photos of these, and while the stature of the Japanese is smaller than most Westerners, I feel that they could be adapted well in many of our parks. They relieve the keeper of the necessity of pushing around carts and also speed the processes of delivery of all types of materiel. Keepers that were met seemed to have a high interest in the job, and also a high regard for the Director. The cleanliness of the grounds and cages, and well being of the animals reflect this. Since practically every zoo receives the monthly magazine, I will add no more to Tokio Zoo except to say that it is well worth a visit, and in about ten years should be one of the major Zoos of the world. The collection at present is about comparable with Duisburg in status of the animal species represented.

The Higashiyama Park Zoo, Nagoya, Japan, 29 juli 1960

Nagoya I found to be the second largest Zoo of Japan and also one of the least known outside of the nation. The reason for this primarily is the distance from it to Tokio, and also since the main air routes across the nation do not include Nagoya. This is to be regretted, since I liked the city more than any other visited, and the people were extremely interested in both animals in general and American Zoos in particular. I would like nothing better than for some of American Zoos to get together with the Director of this zoo and make some sort of informal agreement for the exchange of both animals and information. I learned a great deal during this short visit, and in return left with the zoo many ideas that have been previously expressed by friends in the zoo field, all of a beneficial nature. The zoo officials went out of their way to seek advice on exhibits, labelling and the correctness of their labels. May I say here that at almost all zoos visited, I was always asked to make constructive criticism at the end of my tour with the staff, and they felt quite embarrassed if some type of criticism was not forthcoming. Perhaps this is a point to remember.

Since Nagoya is one of the newer Zoos of Japan being opened just prior to the start of hostilities, the homing is modern in comparison with Tokio, and the type of construction more widely spaced. The new Gorilla House, exteriorly appears to be the same as Tokio, but a close look at the arrangement indoors reveals quite a bit of difference. Everything has been well planned and well constructed. Safety has been uppermost in the minds of the architect and the builder. Spacings between the bars is small, not even allowing juveniles apes to reach out and grab the unwary keeper. This is one safety factor missing from many of the newer American Ape Houses. Walkways both for the keepers and for the visitors are adequate, the position of the glass windows in the cages made for both children and adult viewers. The Japanese use a double sheet of glass with a plastic sheet between and not the chargeable glass as in America. The cage floors are of a terrazzo type material, quite absorbent and easy to clean. Heating is both radiant and warm air, skylighting is adequate and filtered. All of the outdoor cages are with water filled moats, and offer a clear view of the animals. I noted both here and at Tokio that the Gorillas were making quite a fuss with the water jumping in it and splashing around, even almost looking like they attempted to swim. Perhaps this acquaintance with water will be valuable in later years.

Several of the exhibits are barless, in the Vincennes and Hagenbeck manner. The very large grotto for Lions, is one of the best I have seen. It was well planted with grass, but did not have an unkempt appearance. All of the animals were on view, and consisted of 4 males and one female. They seemed to get along fine.

The antelopes are exhibited behind the sloping type of moated area, which allows for full view, but requires a larger cage area. They have a refrigerated area for the Antarctic penguins and an open air area for the Humboldts. Humboldts Penguins look fine all over Japan, and in every zoo visited I saw at least one chick. The series of cages for the smaller carnivores have heated cages in the rear, that are visible to visitors in the winter through glass windows, and in the summer these can be moved on slides out of the way. This is also a municipal Zoo, however there is no society present.

The biggest zoological rarity is the collection of 15 Chinese Alligators, which have been purchased over the last three years from a Hong Kong dealer. Most of the specimens are about 2 to 3 feet in length, are in good condition, and make a good show. Since the war several specimens have been released from China to European and one American Zoo through Germany and Czechoslovakia, but rumours have had it that Chinese Alligators are now getting common in their home area. The zoos in China all have large numbers on show, from baby size to adult, but this is the largest single group that I know of. Tokio has a single animal, from pre-war days. I have made preliminary arrangements with the Director of Nagoya Zoo, to exchange some specimens with other American or European Zoos. If any of my correspondents is interested please let me know.

The Temnoji Zoological Gardens, Osaka, Japan, 27 July 1960

Osaka is the third largest zoo of Japan, and also much like Tokio, quite an old zoo, dating from 1915, at a time when modernism had not reached Japan. It also made a good impression on me with a fine and well rounded collection, with a handful of rarities. In Japan there are about 35 species that one sees at all zoos, animals which are native to that area. Many of these I have never seen in an American or European Zoos, and many are quite handsome or pretty. Among them are Japanese Raccoon Dogs, Yezo Brown Bears (a really large type of Bear, approaching the Kamchatkan in size, and very attractive), Japanese Red Squirrels, Hokkaido Squirrels, many varieties of Birds of all types. Both Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) and Falcated Teal (*Anas falcata*) are common in all zoos. Baikal Teal sell in the butcher shops for anywhere from 30 \$c to \$ 4.00 US, and are a common dinner item. On the other hand Manchurian Cranes sell for the rather high price of \$ 3.50 a pair, since both they and the rarer Hooded Crane are protected by the government. It was reported by Dr Koga that less than 15 of the Japanese Stork (*Ciconia boyciana*) are left, and none are in Japanese Zoos today. Instead they import specimens of the European White Stork from European dealers.

Osaka also has a Chimpanzee show, the only one I saw, however

I understand this also is a attraction at Tama Zoo. The performers at Osaka ride bicycles from their cage area to the outdoor show-place, a distance of several hundred yards, unassisted, turn several corners, etc. and perform very well. By American standards the show is quite mediocre, but in this area is „a horse of another color”.

Osaka is reconstructing the zoo as fast as finances will permit, and a modern Ape House which will be similiar to both Tokio and Nagoya, but larger is almost completed. A new exhibit to have been dedicated the day after my visit was a San Francisco Cable Car, a present from that city to Osaka, and housed in a special area of the childrens playground. It looked quite well, and they really thought a great deal of it. At the time of my visit to Osaka an infected leg and knee made progress extremely painful, and I am afraid that I did not share their enthusiasm for this street-car, since it necessitated walking several extra yards. San Francisco is a sister city to Osaka a practice that I found quite common in Japan, with each making cultural exchanges. I am sorry to say that the Zoos did not share in this effort to any degree, unfortunately, since is wold be of benefit to both.

There are several quite large flying cages for Birds of Prey and it was nice to once again see an excellent, although as yet juvenile specimen of Stellar's Sea Eagle here. Excellent pairs of King Vulture and Condor also made an impressive show. Like so many zoos seen on this trip the waterfowl pond or area was just jam-packed with native waterfowl and no attempt was made to count the individuals present, there being many of Baikal, Falcated and Yellow-billed Duck.

The zoo was quite proud of the pair of Black Rhino which looked fine, as well as the Indian Elephants and an Argus Pheasant, which was hatched here many years ago. A fine specimen of Eastern White Pelican, in the „pink” of condition, has been here 30 years. In the rare animals class was a single New Caledonian Booby, a brown and white Bird not at all handsome, but quite rare in collections. One had also recently died, as did the Taman-dua that arrived in January. All of the rare animals are mounted after death and kept in the zoo offices, with the idea of a museum being built later. This was the practice at Tokio prior to the war, and allowed the visitors to see not only the animals living, but the great rarities of former days. Perhaps this is an idea that would work equally well in America.

As the checklist will show the zoo is quite excellent in animal collections and certainly deserves the plaudits that it has received.

(To be continued)

THE ZOOS OF QUEBEC, CANADA

BY GERALD ILES

(formerly of the Manchester & Montreal Zoos)

This brief report is intended for those readers who have little knowledge of the zoological collections existing in this vast Province. Most of Québec's area is still undeveloped — generally speaking it is only the southern part which has been „civilized”. Undoubtedly the best of the zoos is that situated seven miles north of the old and picturesque city of Québec. These gardens, under the management of the Zoological Society of Québec, are now nearly 30 years old. They are spacious and well laid out — a small river run along one of the boundaries — the main entrance is reached by crossing a stone bridge. This river has been used to provide a fine pond for waterfowl and a beaver enclosure. As may be expected, Canadian fauna is well represented and all the more common animals are to be found here. Among the rare species the prong-horn is an outstanding exhibit.

Apart from the buildings housing the Society's administration, restaurants, winter quarters and service facilities there are numerous stables for the hoofed mammals. The most recent structure of note is the large mammal house. This shows carnivores such as lions, Siberian tigers and leopards as well as anthropoid apes and monkeys. The lions and tigers have outdoor enclosures but the leopards and primates are shown indoors without acces to the open air and also without natural light. This trend towards the showing of animals in permanent artificial light is one which I deprecate most strongly.

My visit took place during early October, when I was interested in seeing so-called tropical birds still in their outdoor aviaries without heating or shelter. Toucans of several species were flying around in the near freezing temperature and all looked in splendid condition. Like the great majority of the birds in the Zoo they were about to be taken indoors for the long winter months.

This Zoo boasts over a thousand animals covering about 50 species of mammals and 200 species of birds. An attractive guide book with plan is published with text in both English and French. The director is Dr. J. A. Brassard while his assistant, who kindly showed me around, is Dr. Richard Bernard. The birds are under the excellent care of Curator Raymond Cayouette.

Québec's second largest zoo is situated at Granby, a small town 50 miles southeast of Montreal. This Zoo is perhaps the best known in the whole Province due to the showmanship of the Major of Granby, Mr. Horace Boivin. My first visit was made in April 1958. I was not pleased with what I saw. There seemed