



CENTRAL GROUP OF FIVE POLAR BEARS AND TWO CUBS IN THE ARCTIC SECTION OF THE ORLEANS COLLECTION

# The Orleans Natural History Trophies

## A World-Wide Record of Big Game and an Unrivalled Work of British Taxidermy

By FRANK WALLACE

THE LATE DUKE OF ORLEANS bequeathed to the French Nation the collection of big game and natural history trophies which it had been the great interest of his life to collect. The majority of the specimens he had secured himself, and now that they have been moved from Brussels to their permanent home in the Rue de Buffon, adjoining the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, they present a spectacle which is, so far as I am aware, unequalled either in Europe or America.

Many of the African specimens are new to science, others are records in size, whilst the collection is of interest generally as being the largest collection of trophies in existence shot and collected by one individual. The fauna of Africa, India, Europe, North and South America, and the Arctic are very fully represented.

We hear much nowadays of the lavish expenditure of American museums and the care and pains which are rightly taken, even to the extent of moving wholesale portions of the immediate foreground required, to ensure accuracy in the grouping of specimens of natural history which form a feature of these collections.

We, in these islands, may justly claim to have been the pioneers in most of the hunting grounds of the world, and our American cousins would be the first to acknowledge the debt which they owe to their predecessors. It should be a matter of pride to all those who take an interest in such matters to realise that this splendid and unique collection in Paris has been set up, arranged and all the groups modelled by an English firm, without whose energy and experience it is not too much to say that it would not otherwise be in existence.

The work was begun more than 30 years ago—a small portion of the original background to the Arctic scene

carries one's thoughts to those which must have filled the Duke's mind at its inception—before groups of animals had ever been heard of in America, and to Rowland Ward's is due the credit of having inaugurated what must, in the future, be recognised as the only effective and satisfactory manner in which to exhibit natural history specimens.

Certain developments suggest themselves, for instance, the background of part of the African section could be improved by the blending of rocks from which the group of lions is emerging, but this would involve much greater space and heavy additional expense. With the limited space at their disposal, Mr. Burlace, the managing director of Rowland Ward's, and his highly skilled staff, could scarcely have bettered their achievement.

For space is there, the space which we who have followed the great game into their own haunts yearn for in our dreams, and the memory of which never leaves those who have known it. We are back again on the open veld watching the slender necks of the giraffes topping the trees, watching the old bull kudu silhouetted against the dawn, or the little dik-diks springing from the tufts of grass at our feet. They are all there. The great white rhino and the hippopotamus, a koba pawing the ground, the beautiful Mrs. Gray and a group of sitatunga down by the river reeds. Duiker, oribi and the bigger bucks, tiang, hartebeest and water bucks with all the strange birds and river beasts which haunt the solitudes such as crocodiles, tortoises, pelicans, cranes and scissor bills. Then we leave the Sudan with the Duke's tent standing empty by the camp fire, and the newly-cleaned skulls beside it, and find ourselves by a step in Kenya.

### A Picture of a Group

Here is a group of monkeys. Almost one seems to hear their chatter. A hyena slinks off at the approach of a leopard, while a water buck stands at gaze. There a hartebeest is drinking, whilst another walks slowly off. A Grant's gazelle watches them. Beyond, in the shadow of the rocks, a replica of the actual scene where they were shot, the shadowy forms of a group of lions emerge. Looking down on them from the crest of an anthill stands a klip-springer.

Beyond, in the tall grass which shrouds their massive bulk, are two buffaloes and the lance-like horns of a group of oryx, one of the handsomest of all the African antelopes. A giraffe, straddle-legged, in the peculiar, typical attitude of his kind, is drinking while his companion crops the top of a tree. Close by is a gerenuk, that strange, long-necked creature of which the Duke obtained the record specimen. Other gazelles stand near. A cheetah crouches in the background. On a bare patch of ground a giant lizard suns himself regardless of the spotted hyena on the wild dog.

Considerations of space prevented exact geographical grouping, and a few of the specimens in the Kenya section were shot by the Duke in Somaliland, Soemmering's gazelle, for instance, which is shown with a group of Grévy's zebra. At the foot of an anthill is an aardvark or ant bear. Grouped near by are some Burchell's zebra, a lesser kudu, wildebeest, bushbuck, topi and a little family of impala. Further on are two Channer's reedbuck and an ostrich near a nest of eggs. The rare forest hog is within sight of his less imposing relative, the wart hog, while on the branches of the trees or clinging to the rods and grasses are all the smaller

birds. Various eagles, bustards, ibis, guinea fowls and marabout storks are seen in their natural surroundings.

The Arctic section, which precedes the African, is entered from the main hall. The centre group consists of five Polar bears and two cubs, whilst on the left are three musk oxen, walruses and various seals, of which two harp seals are the most striking. Norwegian specimens are included here. Two reindeer, four wolves, a wolverine, Arctic foxes, lynxes, otters and hares are shown, interspersed with groups of gulls, puffins, snowy owls, guillemots, etc.

In the main hall, which covers a very large area, are hung heads and horns, including a good specimen of *Cervus megaceros*, the extinct giant Irish deer (measuring 10ft. 1½in. spread), red deer, roe, chamois, and innumerable other trophies represent the big game of Europe, India, North America and Africa, which it would be tedious to enumerate in detail.

South American specimens, many of them very rare, are arranged in two large cases, the maned wolf of the Andes being particularly noticeable. It is rare to find it in any museum, public or private. Round the wall are placed some of the rarest specimens, including the whale-headed stork (*Balaeniceps rex*) which the Duke secured on his last expedition to the Sudan.

#### Big Game Hunting Incident

Other cases contain specimens of the extinct Walachian sheep, capercaille "calling," and an *ovis poli* ram being attacked by a snow leopard. The centre group consists of an Indian elephant on which a tigress has sprung, reaching the howdah. This incident actually happened when the Duke was shooting in India. The mahout was knocked to the ground, the Duke's rifle was broken, and to the day of his death he carried a scar on his wrist inflicted by the tigress's claw.

Other mounted specimens include an Abyssinian wolf, an American bison, a bongo from French Congo, an okapi, an Alaskan bear, Caucasian tur, giant panda, and animals such as kangaroos, Japanese deer, wild cats, etc., which the Duke kept in captivity at Wood Norton and at Manoir d'Anjou, his house near Brussels.

The hunting trips undertaken by the Duke were as follows:

India and Tibet—1887, 1888, 1889; Switzerland, 1889; Caucasus and North America, 1890; British Soma-

liland, 1892-1893; Scotland, Andalusia, Tyrol and Carpathians, 1893, 1904; the Arctic regions, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909 (including Norway, Spitzbergen, Greenland, Nova Zembla, Sea of Karn, Greenland and Franz Josef Land); Turkestan, Central Asia, Caucasus, 1911; South America, 1913; Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, 1921, 1922; Sudan, Bahr-el-Ghazal, 1923; Red Sea, Dinder and Blue Nile, 1926.

In conclusion, it may be remarked that in these days, when, before the advance of a relentless and utilitarian civilization, the large fauna which originally existed in vast numbers over the greater part of the globe is being exterminated with greater or less rapidity, a museum such as that of the Duke of Orleans assumes a position of great importance.

In the space of a very few years it will be impossible for an individual, even though he be gifted with the opportunities and taste to indulge his fancies, to bring together such a collection of representative wild life as is here displayed, however much energy, experience and expense are devoted to the task.

Posterity will gain their knowledge of the appearance of the diminished remnants of the wild life which we have known from Zoological Gardens, museums and preserves. To the men who have brought such collections together and to the art which has preserved in them so striking an appearance of life their thanks will be due, even though they sigh for the opportunities which have been denied them, and for the romance which attaches itself to the days that are gone.

## TENNIS

### THE M.C.C. GOLD PRIZE

#### Lord Aberdare's Defeat

**E**M. BAERLEIN (holder) beat Lord Aberdare (challenger) for the Gold Prize at Lord's last week by three sets to two (6-3, 6-1, 5-6, 2-6, 6-4). The match, played on a hot, stuffy day, lasted for nearly two hours and a half, and was remarkable for the pace at which it was played and the power of return shown by both players.

For some time it was not clear to the spectators why Lord Aberdare, towards the end of the first set and again in the second set, forsook the semi-giraffe service

and the side-wall service with which he has worried and tucked up so many opponents. The underhand twist served which he then adopted did not look remarkably effective, but it was seen that after the middle of the third set, in which Baerlein first began to limp, that Baerlein could very seldom lay down a good chase from it in the fore-hand corner.

Baerlein, being short and tremendously powerful in forearm and wrist, as well as in shoulder, was able to volley, and volley effectively, the other services which so cramp other amateur players, and it was mainly for that reason that Lord Aberdare, who is equally quick to see a weakness or a strength in an opponent, "changed his bowling," so to speak.

Baerlein won the Gold Racket in 1921 and has held it ever since; Lord Aberdare won the Silver Racket in 1923 and 1924, lost it in 1925, regained it in 1926 and has held it ever since. This was the sixth contest at Lord's, therefore, between these two players for the same prize.

It nearly turned out to be an easy win for Baerlein, for he led by two sets to love and five games to three, and in the ninth game of the third set he was twice within a point of the match. Lord Aberdare played to wear his opponent down and very nearly succeeded.

It may seem impertinent to criticise the tactics of such an experienced and such a thoughtful match player as is Lord Aberdare, but his continual play for the last gallery or the second gallery to gain the service side at all hazards seemed doubtful as a persistent policy. It seemed that Lord Aberdare would have been wiser to play much more on the floor, to try to run his opponent about from corner to corner as much as possible and as early in the match as possible. It is always to be remembered, however, that it is one thing to decide on the way in which Baerlein should be made to play the match and quite another thing to make him do it.

An extraordinary thing about the first set and for half the second set was that every game played was so comparatively easily won by whichever player who happened to win it. It was not till the fourteenth game of the match that deuce was called, and then it was called twice, each player being once within a point of the game.

This match was perhaps the most remarkable that Baerlein has ever played in some ways; and that is saying a great deal. He will be 50 on the 28th of December and Lord Aberdare 44 on the 2nd of August.



LIONS AND LIONESSES IN THE ROCKY SETTING OF THEIR NATURAL HABITAT