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MUSK DEER (*Mochus moschiferus*)

Photo: L.J. Johnson, I.C.S.



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stocks limited. Even topical and contemporary classics which we review in Cheetal are not always readily available. Bookshops specialising in wildlife do not exist, which is sad, for there is an increasing market for such books. We look to some enterprising bookseller to specialise in this field and invite publishers to sponsor more books on Indian Wildlife by Indian and foreign authors. Even the reprinting of popular classics could prove profitable and would certainly be useful. Such are the rare books of Dunbar Brander, Pocock and Stuart Baker.

E.P. Gee:

Such are the ways of men and animals; we must all die, even those who spend their lives trying to save the lives of animals. Such a man was Gee, and all those who knew him must have felt his passing more intensely. Mr. P.D. Stracey, (author of *Elephant Gold*, *Tigers*, etc.) has written feelingly of his acquaintance with Gee in the *Assam Tribune*, a paper to which he contributed many interesting articles. He writes: "..... I met him in his garden at Oating.... the Kaziranga Sanctuary had from the earliest received my attention, and when I learnt that Gee was in the habit of visiting it almost every week-end, I began to collaborate with him in rehabilitating this last stronghold of the Indian rhinoceros. While I worked on improving the administrative and executive set-up, Gee concentrated on photographing the rhinoceros...He had just then gone in for cine-photography and the use of colour-film and displayed the same meticulousness in this branch as he displayed in all his activities. Whenever I went on tour, I would drop in at his garden...There was always plenty to talk about, and I think Gee welcomed my visits as much as I enjoyed them. From crop-protection devices, such as the bamboo bazooka gun firing rocket crackers, to electric fencing, we discussed...I got the Government of Assam to waive the restrictions regarding visitors in his case, and he was free to go there at any time.

"It was at the meeting of the Indian Board of Wild Life in 1953 that I first appreciated his cautious and tactful approach to things. I was, and still am, a convinced exponent of the completely 'sacrosanct' sanctuary (as Assam's sanctuaries are) but Chaturvedi who was then the Inspector General of Forests and who had formed the Rajaji Sanctuary from an ordinary reserved forest and had seen the Hailey, now Corbett National Park formed from similar forest, was in favour of a less rigid arrangement. We clashed on this point when I insisted that a sanctuary was not a sanctuary in the real sense of the word if forest operations were carried out in the same area. Gee sided with Chaturvedi, and at the time I thought that he was letting me down. I still hold the same views as I did then, although I can understand the necessity for 'sailing with the wind' as much as possible in these matters.

Meanwhile, Gee had commenced to visit other parts of India to see the sanctuaries where his photographs were taken. With his status as a senior member of the Indian Board of

Wild Life and his knowledge of wild life obtained as the result of his many visits to the sanctuaries of Assam, he was invited to visit the sanctuaries in other parts of India to advise the Forest Departments on their management. This gave him the wonderful opportunity, which he readily seized, of taking photographs which formed the main attraction of his book on the wild life of India. With his foreign contacts—for he retained his British citizenship and used to visit the U.K. regularly—he began to be drawn into the international wild life movement. He corresponded extensively with wild life authorities in the U.K., became a valuable worker for, and representative of, the International Union for the conservation of Nature, visited America (which, however, did not appear to suit him, for he never wished to lecture or show his films there) and Africa, where he took many pictures and made a film of Serengeti.

In India he made films on Kaziranga and on the pelican hatchery of Andhra. All the while I was in contact with him and we met whenever it was possible to do so. After my retirement in Shillong in 1961 I stayed in his house, while he was away, and thoroughly enjoyed browsing through his library and watching his garden grow into the beautiful thing that it eventually became."

Mr. Stracey adds, "no meeting on wild life was complete without the presence of E.P. Gee.

Gee had his minor eccentricities but no one could really take exception to them if the genuineness of the man was acknowledged. His attitude towards such things as correspondence was typically English: he replied promptly to letters and naturally felt annoyed when the same compliment was not paid to him. If his opinions were bruited about by those to whom he gave them in confidence it was his misfortune.

E.P. Gee will be missed by a large and wide circle of workers for the cause of wild life, officers of the Forest Departments of various States of India to whom he had given advice, the public which had for several years enjoyed his articles and photographs, and also a group of friends whose intimacy matched their keenness on the same subject." Having ourselves known 'E.P.' over the last fifteen years, we wholeheartedly corroborate these sentiments, and join the writer in regretting E.P.'s passing. The wild life conservation scene in India is left with a gap.

The F.P.S. Tour:

From the 1st. of March to the 4th of March, the Society played host to a party of seven members of the Fauna Preservation Society of Great Britain. Their visit to Dehra Dun had been planned in advance, and elaborate arrangements had been made to show the visitors the wildlife of Motichur and Rajaji Sanctuaries. The visitors failed to glimpse