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THROUGH AFRICA WITH ROOSEVELT



Fording a Stream

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An Illustrated Lecture by
J. Alden Loring
Field Naturalist to the Roosevelt Expedition

Exclusive Management
THE COIT LYCEUM BUREAU
ARTHUR C. COIT, Pres. LOUIS J. ALBER, Gen. Mgr.
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Announcement

Mr. Loring was one of the three Field Naturalists selected by Colonel Théodore Roosevelt and the Smithsonian Institution to accompany the expedition that lately returned from Africa. He left with the party on the SS. Hamburg on the 23rd of March, 1909, and remained until it broke up at Khartoum on March 19th, 1910. Aside from those officially connected with the expedition there were no photographers or newspaper men with them.

Before his connection with this, the greatest scientific enterprise that has ever visited Africa, Mr. Loring was for six years with the United States Biological Survey at Washington, and later with the New York Zoological Society. During this period he collected and studied the wild animals in all parts of the Western Hemisphere, from the Gulf of California in Old Mexico, through Western Canada to the head of Cook Inlet, Alaska. With the exception of Maine, he has been in every state and territory in the Union, and he has traveled and collected in fifteen countries in Europe and Asia.

Mr. Loring's African lecture is illustrated with over 125 colored slides made from photographs



Col. Roosevelt Weighing a Lion

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taken by Colonel Roosevelt, Kermit Roosevelt, Mr. Heller and by himself. By special permission from these gentlemen, Charles Scribner's Sons and the Smithsonian Institution, he is allowed to use them. They are acknowledged to be the finest series of African photographs ever brought out of the country, and he had over 2,000 of them to make a selection from. Mr. Kermit Roosevelt was the large game photographer of the party as well as one of the collectors of big game, and his photographs of elephants, secured at great risk, are the finest ever taken.

With beautiful views of grand mountain scenery, veldt country, camp scenes, native types and wild animals, the speaker begins his lecture at Mombasa, British East Africa, and in a conversational manner, and without any attempt at oratory, makes his audience feel that they are traveling with him and seeing and experiencing the incidents he relates. He tells of the vast herds of game seen on the railroad trip from Mombasa to the first camp and shows pictures of hartebeests, wildebeests, giraffes, rhinos, zebras and gazelles. The trip over Kapiti Plains, where the Colonel and Kermit killed their first lions, and where the party woke up each morning to find the veldt covered with thousands of animals, is particularly interesting.

The lion infested Sotik country was finally reached after an almost continual march of sixty miles without water, and the party marched night and day for two days until water was reached.

By far the most interesting, both from a scenic and hunter's standpoint, were the two months spent on and about Mount Kenia, a snow covered peak 17,200 feet above tide water and only 25 miles south of the equator, yet Mr. Loring shows photographs that rival the snow wastes of the Arctic. This was the only true jungle country the party found, and members of the expedition ascended through the great bamboo belt to an altitude of 16,500 feet, where ice over half an inch thick formed in buckets standing outside the tent. On this mountain live great herds of elephants, and the experiences of the party while in camp and while hunting them, are most exciting. Colonel Roosevelt had perhaps the most narrow escape from death while hunting these great brutes on Kenia, and their habits as discovered by the naturalists are extremely interesting.

In the latter part of December the expedition left Nairobi for a three months' trip in the Uganda and Congo countries. By rail they traveled to Lake Victoria Nyanza, crossed the lake by boat and then started on a "safari" of 150 miles with 365 half savage blacks; the largest peace expedition to



Bringing in a Hippo Skin

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tread the wilds of the Dark Continent. Through the dreaded tsetse fly country they traveled to Butiaba and Lake Albert Nyanza and after crossing a corner of the lake in small craft they entered the Nile and proceeded down it about 200 miles to "Rhino Camp." Here they stayed two weeks while the Colonel and Kermit collected a group of the little known, and up to the present time supposed to be very rare so-called "white rhinoceros." At one time their camp was in danger of being wiped out by a fire started by the blacks in the ten-foot elephant grass, but after an all night fight, by "back firing," the flames were conquered. Elephant, rhinos and hippos were abundant at this camp and the party had many interesting experiences with them.

Another water trip on the Nile, where crocodiles and hippos were seen at intervals, and the party landed and began another long "safari" through a country inhabited by only natives, and finally reached Gondokoro, where the big hunting practically ended.

Mr. Loring tells of his hunts with Colonel Roosevelt and expresses his opinion of the Colonel as a zoologist, a sportsman and a camp companion, and his lecture deals with the habits of the natives and the game, such as rhinos, hippos, elephants, giraffes, lions, leopards, reptiles and birds.

Extracts from Col. Roosevelt's articles in Scribner's Magazine, October, 1909, p. 387:

"In addition to myself and my son Kermit, the party consisted of three naturalists, Col. Edgar A. Mearns, U. S. A., retired; Mr. Edmond Heller, of California, and J. Alden Loring of Oswego, N. Y. . . I do not believe that three better men than Mearns, Heller and Loring for such an expedition as ours could be found."

May, 1910, p. 521:

"We now rejoined Mearns and Loring on the banks of the Gusan Nyero. They had collected hundreds of birds and small mammals, among them several new species. We had already heard that Mr. Williams, whom we had met at McMillan's ranch, had been rather badly mauled by a lion which he had mortally wounded, but which managed to charge home. Now we found that Dr. Mearns had been quite busily engaged in attending to cases of men who were hurt by lions. Loring nearly got in the same category. He killed his lioness with a light automatic rifle, utterly unfit for African big game. Though he actually put a bullet through the beast's heart, the shock from the blow was so slight that she was not stopped even for a second; he hit her four times in all, each shot being mortal—for he was an excellent marksman—and she died nearly at his feet, her charge carrying her several yards past him."

Published by J. Alden Loring, June 23, 1910.

(Chronicle-Telegraph, Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 11, 1910.)

A graphic story of the Roosevelt African expedition was heard at the Carnegie music hall last night when John Alden Loring, naturalist with the party, told a large audience of the incidents of that memorable journey through the jungles from Mombasa to the Nile. A more entertaining lecture never has been given in Pittsburg. It was illustrated by 120 colored lantern slides, made from photographs taken by Colonel Roosevelt, Mr. Heller, Kermit Roosevelt and Mr. Loring. It is a comprehensive lesson in the geography, ethnology and the natural history of the Dark Continent. For an hour and a half the speaker held the crowd spellbound.

Mr. Loring recited the simple story of the trip and brightened it with personal experiences. His talk has none of the earmarks of the professional lecturer and is unique in the respect that he has something to say and can be entertaining without attempting to be dramatic or artificially eloquent.

(Candor, N. Y., Courier, Sept. 3, 1910.)

"Through Africa with Roosevelt," the illustrated lecture by J. Alden Loring, one of the field naturalists of the expedition, was given at Candor Opera House, Friday evening, before an audience that filled every available seat. To put it mildly, it was a most excellent evening's entertainment. The talk by Mr. Loring was interesting and instructive and the colored views were the clearest and best ever shown in Candor, and gave a better idea of the magnitude of the expedition than could have been received from newspaper and magazine accounts. In a manner true to nature, they depicted the modes and customs of the various tribes and the habits of the wild beasts of the jungles. The lecture, coupled with the views, go to make up a grand educational feature, as well as a delightful evening's entertainment."

(Scranton, Pa., Truth, Feb. 12, 1911.)

Mr. Loring was a member of the Roosevelt party that took that memorable trip through the wilds of Africa. As a result, Mr. Loring is enabled to give to the public one of the most entertaining and educational lectures known in platform annals.

The pictures that accompany Mr. Loring's lecture are unquestionably taken from the finest specimens of photography. They are clear in every detail and bring before the people "back home" scenes, the like of which, from a standpoint of interest, have never before been thrown upon a screen.

Interest in the lecture and in the slides was intense. The audience hardly realized at 9:30 o'clock that the lecture was over. It was the one thing about the lecture that they regretted.

(Daily Review, Towanda, Pa., Sept. 11, 1910.)

"Through Africa with Roosevelt," drew a large attendance last evening and the lecture was one of the most interesting ever held in Towanda.

As a naturalist, Mr. Loring's fame is world-wide and as a lecturer he promises to be one of the most popular in America, as his subject is of great interest, dealing as it does with one of the greatest hunting and research expeditions ever organized and carried out by man. Mr. Loring is fluent in his speech and knows how to interest and hold the attention of his audience. Every word he speaks can be heard distinctly in any part of the house, and his colored views of scenes in Africa, together with many pictures of wild animals are alone worth going miles to see. All in all "Through Africa with Roosevelt" is something worth while, and double discounts any of the lectures now before the public in an educational and instructive sense.

(Gazette-Times, Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 11, 1910.)

Nimrods, school teachers, scientists and just ordinary citizens alike enjoyed a treat in the lecture entitled "Through Africa with Roosevelt," given last night in the Carnegie music hall, by J. Alden Loring, who was one of the three field naturalists who accompanied the Roosevelt African expedition.

Thrilling adventures that retained their virility in the narrative were related by Mr. Loring in his vivid account of the year spent with this famous African expedition. Filled with danger from beginning to end, the expedition was an abundant source from which the lecturer drew wondrous tales of scientific achievement and hairbreadth escapes, as well as humorous anecdote. Descriptions of wild nights spent in the jungle, camping in the trails of elephants, with the party uncertain as to the time of the next street parade, were adventures enough to satisfy the most exacting. The commotion in camp at the sound of the approaching herd, the desertion of the native porters into the tree tops, the fires which were built, and the strange noises made to scare the beasts away were recounted in a way to make grown men, as well as boys, grip the backs of the seats with excitement.

(Times, Oswego, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1910.)

At the Tioga Theater, on Tuesday evening, John Alden Loring, field naturalist to the Roosevelt expedition, who returned home a few months ago, brimful of African fever and interesting reminiscences, gave a heart-to-heart talk for more than an hour and a half, and delightfully entertained those present. Mr. Loring held his audience spellbound while, in a simple and unaffected manner, he sketched the progress of the expedition from Kapit Plains to Gondokoro, omitting no detail that was novel and interesting, and relating none that was not.

A more entertaining lecture than Mr. Loring's has never been given in Oswego, notwithstanding the fact that most of the celebrated lecturers have appeared here.

Colonel Roosevelt would have exclaimed had he been present on Tuesday evening: By George! It was bully!

(Daily Democrat, Goshen, Ind., Oct. 15, 1910.)

A stereopticon lecture, "Through Africa with Roosevelt," delivered by J. Alden Loring at the Jefferson theater last evening, was excellent in every detail. It was unique in that Mr. Loring was with Mr. Roosevelt on his entire trip as one of the field naturalists and what he gave was first-hand information. The slides used were made from negatives taken on the trip. For color and clearness they cannot be excelled. The glimpse one received of the general condition of the country was a revelation to the audience. The lecture is highly educative and instructive. The audience gave the closest attention throughout the entire lecture which lasted an hour and a half. Mr. Loring spoke in a clear conversational tone and carried the audience with him from the time they arrived at Mombasa, British East Africa, until they broke camp at Gondokoro on the Nile.