



THREE RECORD HEADS

On the left is the record Nyalá, a Zululand specimen, 31½ in. on front curve, in the centre is the Tibetan Antelope of 27½ in. from the Hume Collection, and on the right Dr. Burchell's 27½ in. South African Impala. All the heads which illustrate these pages are first records in Rowland Ward's book, except the two at the bottom of the right hand page. They are all lent by the Natural History Museum

IN the quiet of the Imperial Institute one can better appreciate the British collection of big game heads than was the case in Berlin. There, the exhibits of some twenty other countries, the endless attractions of one sort and another, and the magnificent hospitality of our hosts, all conspired to distract one's attention from our own section. I know I left Berlin at the end of a week, conscious that the British section was a grand show, but with the realisation that I had not properly examined it, and so one is grateful for this opportunity to see again in London the finest collection of British owned trophies ever brought together.

Almost every head exhibited is in the record class, so that comment is difficult, and one can but record one's personal thoughts and impressions. I can, however, claim that these are unbiased, as my own particular loves are generally regarded as among the lesser beasts classed as big game.

A really fine pair of African elephant tusks will catch the eye in any collection, and the splendid pair loaned by H.M. the King, which weigh 167lb. and 161lb., are of beautiful quality and unusually well matched.

A head in the African section that is impossible to miss is the grand buffalo shot by the late J. Hall and lent by Mrs. Hall. This imposing trophy has an outside width of 56in. and is the record. The amazing 62in. horn of the southern white rhinoceros, exhibited by Sir Alastair Gordon Cumming, is a record which it is perfectly safe to say will never be beaten. These interesting animals are on the verge of extinction, and continued inbreeding from a strictly limited stock may easily lead to degeneration and ultimately to complete extermination. In any case the natural virility which produced such a wonderful growth under the original and far more favourable conditions has probably gone for ever.

On account of its infinite variety, unique character, and immense size, the fauna of Africa is generally regarded as the most interesting and important in the world, but from all this wealth of animal life a good Angolan sable and a really good kudu are, to my mind, the two outstanding trophies to be won there. Splendid examples of both are to be seen at the exhibition. H. F. Varian, the

BIG GAME TROPHIES FOR THE "FIELD" EXHIBITION

By EDGAR N. BARCLAY

Measurements quoted and the position of specimens in the lists of records are taken from the Ninth and Tenth Editions of Rowland Ward's "Records of Big Game"

discoverer of the giant sable, shows a fine head, and H. R. Millais has lent two, one shot by himself and one collected by the late J. G. Millais. Of the kudu heads I think the one shot by the late J. G. Millais is the finest, it has great length and perfect shape.

One could devote an article to Captain G. Blaine's exhibits. All his heads measure well. His Angolan springbuck is a record, the rare scimitar oryx is second to the record, and so also is the magnificent bongo head of 38in. from the Aberdares. He also shows fine specimens of the Angolan gemsbuck, red lechwe, Abyssinian ibex and Nubian ibex. The record Abyssinian ibex is the 44in. head shot by



Photographs by Niall Rankin
SIR HENRY LENNARD'S 1ST RECORD YARKAND STAG, 41½ IN. ON CURVE

Major Maydon, and this, too, is to be seen at the exhibition.

H.M. the Queen has lent her water-buck and red-fronted gazelle, both really good heads, and H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester exhibits his record fringed-oreyx and some other good heads shot by him in 1928 and 1930.

That lovely animal the impala is represented by two splendid heads, one shot by A. H. L. Eccles is within ¼in. of the record, and the other shot by Sir Richard Dane and lent by the British Museum (Natural History) is third from the record.

Among the Asiatic game the greatest rarity is no doubt Captain H. C. Brocklehurst's giant panda, mounted entire. There are also a number of very rare heads lent by Captain W. W. Otter from the vast collection formed by the late Sir Edmund Loder. Of these the following are records: Siamese thamin, Moluccan rusa, Reeve's muntjac, Saikik gazelle, Mongolian gazelle and Tibetan gazelle. Other rare heads that have seldom if ever been shot by British sportsmen include specimens of the shou, Baikal and Manchurian wapiti, Dybowski's deer, Schomburgh's deer, Siberian elk and anoa. I do not think any of these particular heads were shot by Sir Edmund, but they are of very great interest.

In the eyes of many the great sheep of Central Asia are the finest prizes that the big game world offers. They certainly make a most impressive display at this exhibition. The record, Marco Polo's Argali, 75in. on front curve, is here; it was presented to the late Field-Marshal Earl Roberts and is lent by Countess Roberts. H.M. the King shows a magnificent head of the same species, and the Marquess of Lansdowne a 69in. head which was shot in the year 1897. Colonel C. B. Wood's record Siberian Argali, 62in. on the front curve, is a massive yet beautiful head. The Junior Naval and Military Club have lent the record Littledale's Argali, which was shot by the late E. W. Dixon in 1914, and measures 58½in. on the front curve, and Brigadier-General J. H. Abbot Anderson shows a 50½in. Mongolian Argali picked up in Southern Mongolia. Major Maydon also shows a picked up head of the Bokharan Argali which is a record. Major C. E. Radclyffe must be one of the very few British sportsmen who has visited Kamchatka and he lends a good specimen of the Kamchatkan sheep.

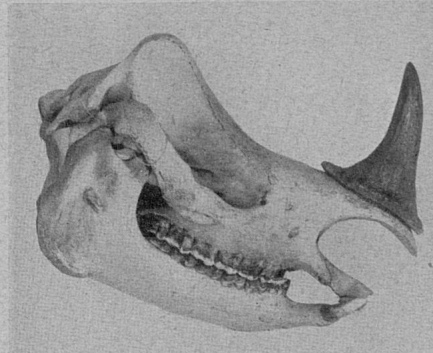
Colonel A. B. Souter's 65in. markhor is certainly one of the gems of the whole collection. It is, of course, the record. Second to it is Major-General H. Barstow's 60in. head, which is also exhibited. There are two specimens of the very local yet very distinct Suleman markhor. Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Kennion lends one, and the Junior Naval and Military Club lends the other, which was shot by the late Captain E. W. Codrington in 1898.

record for length both in the States and over here. The 59in. head from the Millais collection is heavier and more imposing, and so, too, is the grand head shot by the late Edmund Byron in 1866, and lent by the British Museum (Natural History). The best moose heads in the world were nearly all obtained in Alaska at the beginning of the present century, and a number of these are in America. The wonderful heads shot by A. S. Reed are now in the National Collection of Heads and Horns in New York. At this exhibition Major Radclyffe shows a head of 74in. spread, killed by that well-known Alaskan guide, Emile Berg, in

The musk-ox shot by Lord Lonsdale is one of the very few ever obtained by a British sportsman, and it is a good one. The same remark applies to Major C. E. Radclyffe's walrus.

In Berlin we had 1,500 red deer heads to dwarf our Scottish stags, and in London we still have Lord Pelper's grand New Zealand heads and Captain Lucas's Warnham heads to do the same thing, but let this be said for our Highland deer—at their best they have the most lovely shaped heads to be found throughout the whole red deer range.

I have mentioned a number of things worth seeing, there are a great many more that I have not mentioned. There are exhibits in connection with falconry, wild life preservation, and the whole craft of gun making. The wild-life photographs are an exhibition in themselves. Nature photography is a recreation with an ever-growing circle of devotees, and the work shown at the Imperial Institute is worth going a long way to see. Besides this there is a remarkable pictorial survey of all



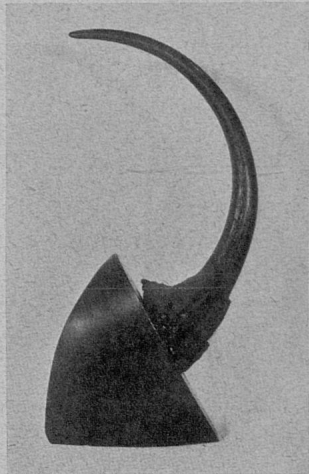
Major A. Bayley-Worthington's Tien Shan ibex is here, and so also is another good head of the same species shot by Sir Richard Glyn. Major Maydon has lent his fine Sind ibex, and from Northampton Museum has come the record Nubian ibex which was shot by the late R. B. Loder.

J. McFarquhar Petters has lent three heads, and a most impressive trio they are: an Indian buffalo, 62in. on the outside curve and fourth from the record, a gaur, 44in., widest outside and second to the record, and a very good tsaine.

One can hardly miss the enormous Tien Shan wapiti which Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Price Wood obtained from a local hunter. This wonderful 19-pointer, with its outside spread of 70in., dominates the Asiatic deer. I think there is still much to learn about the cervine deer of Central Asia. I saw in the Berlin exhibition two enormous Asiatic heads loaned by Messrs. Hagenbecks that were essentially of the red deer pattern. I do not know exactly where they came from, but they were a complete surprise to me.

Colonel C. B. Wood and A. Dunbar Brander show splendid examples of the swamp deer, the Hon. J. W. Best a very fine sambar, and J. V. Collier the record axis. Lady Francis Scott's 39in. head, which is also here, is only 1in. less than the record. There is only one barasingh, but it is a very good one. It was shot by the late P. B. Van der Byl and is lent by Mrs. Van der Byl. Frank Wallace's takin and Kansu stag are trophies that are not easily won.

In the North American section the wapiti heads shown are among the finest in the world, and it would, I am sure, be impossible to find their equals in the United States. In the seventies and eighties of last century Wyoming and Colorado were among the grandest game countries in the world, and visiting British sportsmen had the pick of the heads long before our American friends started to collect. Such heads as these are no longer obtainable. The 64in. head from the Loder collection is here, it is admitted to be the



On left, M. Maxwell's 1st record of 10½ in., a species of *Rhinoceros Sondaicus* now almost extinct. Centre, the Record Sumatran (two horned) rhinoceros: a front horn of 32½ in. Right, T. Briscoe's 1st record Great Indian Rhinoceros of 24 in. length on front curve



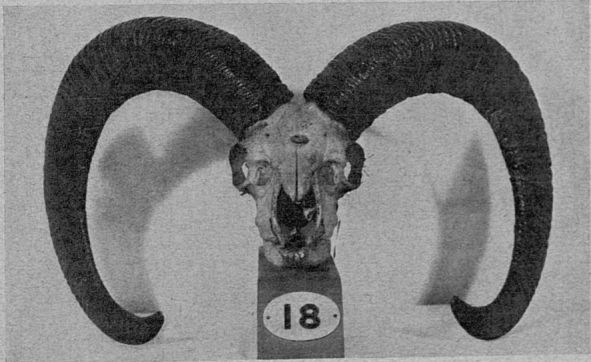
1905, but the wonderful 41-pointer shot by himself in 1910 must be the heaviest head exhibited. A purchased head lent by the Duke of Westminster is very good, and so is the 70in. head shot by Sir Richard Glyn in 1903. The two Canadian heads shown are both good, one comes from the Millais collection and the other was shot by Colonel J. N. Horlick in Cassiar.

There is still very little known about the caribou of Labrador. Perhaps the two enormous Labrador heads from the Millais and Loder collections will encourage someone to undertake a serious expedition there. The two heads of Osborn's caribou shown by Colonel J. N. Horlick and R. Hayne are among the best heads of this species ever obtained in Cassiar.

The best American sheep head in the show is the white sheep shot by the late Rear-Admiral R. C. Dalghish, and lent by the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth. The finest bighorn heads in the world are American owned. They are all of quite recent origin and come from certain favoured localities in British Columbia and Alberta.

British field sports. Four hundred and fifty thousand people visited the International Sporting Exhibition in Berlin. I wonder how many will come to see this section of it in London. The number of British visitors to Berlin was most surprisingly small, but those who did make the journey were rewarded with an experience that they will not readily forget. Man has hunted animals for a million years, and still continues to do so under laws of his own making and governed by a moral code which aims at maintaining some sort of equality in the contest between man and beast, but here at home enthusiasm for big game hunting has waned, partly, no doubt, from economic causes, but also, I think, because of the ever-growing number of counter-attractions which modern civilisation invents to distract the mind of man.

But the chase and contact with the brute creation will never pall. The forest, the hill, and the desert are the surest sources of happiness, the age-long comforters of man in his man-made troubles. If you cannot go to the wilderness you can at least visit this exhibition and see some of nature's most wonderful creations.



TWO OF THE WILD SHEEP BEST KNOWN TO BRITISH SPORTSMEN
On the left is the 33in. Punjab Urial in the Hume Collection, and on the right the 30½ in. bharral from the same collection

Photographs by Niall Rankin