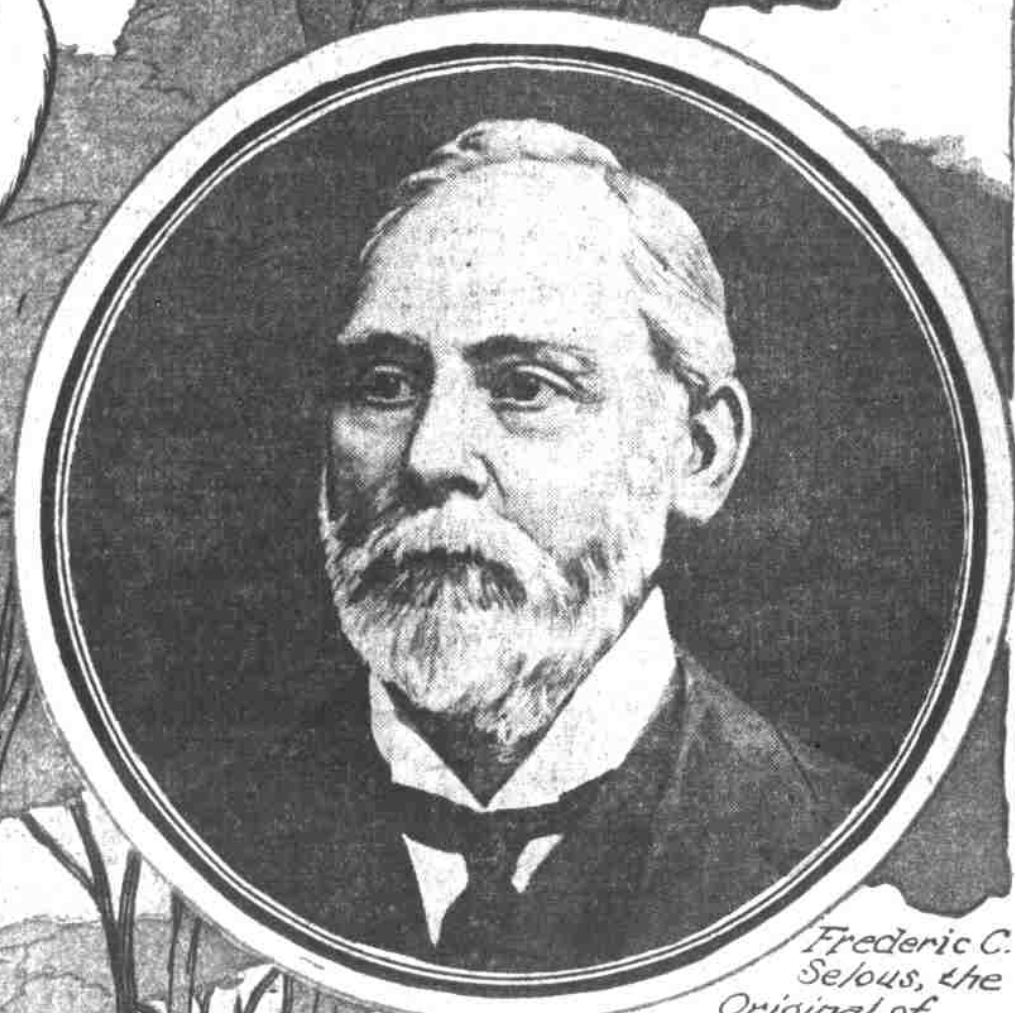


PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1909

THE MIGHTIEST HUNTER of MODERN TIMES



Frederic C. Selous, the Original of "Allan Quatermain."

Frederic C. Selous, Who Guides Mr. Roosevelt on Elephant Hunts.

A GRAY-BEARDED, grizzled, slender man walked at the side of former President Roosevelt as the distinguished American disembarked from the steamer Admiral at Mombasa, in British East Africa, to enjoy the dinner tendered him and his party by the Mombasa Club before he made his way inland for the hunting grounds.

All the way from Naples Mr. Roosevelt and the gray, slender man who joined him there had sought every opportunity to be in each other's company, while for hours at a time the new member of the party told stories of such elephant hunting in Africa as no other man ever had the chance to hear.

All the way from Naples, too, cabled news of the progress of the ship had been forwarded to Mombasa, drawing from the interior thousands of natives, who traveled hundreds of miles simply for the chance to

gaze upon Roosevelt, the "great white chief," whose fame had penetrated the most abysmal jungles of their habitat.

Yet when the assembled tribesmen beheld the slender, tough-sinewed figure beside the broad-shouldered form of the great white chief they had journeyed so far to see, whispering awe spread hurriedly from man to man, until it seemed as though all must have seen him before and learned to do reverence to his prowess.

"It is he—Macumazah!" they murmured, one to another. "It is the mighty hunter of elephants, Macumazah—he who is awake in the night."

It was indeed the mightiest Nimrod of modern times, Frederick Courtenay Selous, companion, guide and intimate friend of Mr. Roosevelt, and the original of that daring, shrewd, dryly humorous, staunch and gallant Allan Quatermain, whom the novels of Rider Haggard have made as familiar to the civilized world as Selous' exploits in the wilds have made his African name familiar among the savages.

"There knelt the bull, as I had left him last night; and there, too, knelt the other bulls."

"Do those elephants sleep?" I whispered to the astonished Gobo.

"Yes, Macumazah, they sleep."

"Say, Gobo, they are dead."

"Dead? How can they be dead? Who killed them?"

"What do people call me, Gobo?"

"They call you Macumazah."

"And what does Macumazah mean?"

"It means the man who keeps his eyes open, the man who gets up in the night."—H. Rider Haggard, in "Maiwa's Revenge."

SHERLOCK HOLMES may have achieved a wider fame as a distinctively literary creation; but the character of Allan Quatermain yields to none in modern fiction for the affection it has inspired in readers or for deeds that surpass the marvelous. The famous Holmes himself never excelled in detection the exploits of Quatermain in hunting.

But the remarkable facts about Haggard's hero are that his living original has achieved all and more than the wonderful tales told of him in fiction; that he has faced and conquered the most dangerous of wild beasts as many and as ferocious as those of all in Haggard's tales; and also that, where civilization knows the unreal hunter as well as it knows its own butchers or brothers-in-law—perhaps better—savagery knows the real hunter as it has known and revered no other white man.

As for any Sherlock Holmes in the flesh, the people who have met all the originals that ever claimed to be the astute detective's prototype dwindle to a mere coterie in comparison with the thousands, from the Rockies to the upper Nile, who have testified to the prowess of Selous. He is the greatest elephant hunter Africa has ever held.

It is said of him that he has slain more



Inyala Antelope, a Very Rare Species, to Which Selous Hopes to Introduce Mr. Roosevelt.

able specimens for which science is indebted to his daring and his skill. Now, at the age of 59 years, when he is lending his unparalleled experience to this latest hunt, he is recognized as Africa's most indefatigable big-game pursuer since he was a boy of 15.

Yet, while he has tracked numberless herds of elephants for their ivory tusks and faced scores of lions in deadly encounter, he has never killed for the mere sake of killing. The greater number of his shots have been fired for the prime need of man, food; and during one period, extending over fifteen years, apart from the rice which supplied the farinaceous portion of his diet, he lived exclusively upon the game he brought down with his rifle.

The quotation from Haggard's well-told incident in "Maiwa's Revenge" closes fiction's account of Quatermain's unrelenting pursuit of the huge bull elephants that made the mouth of the veteran hunter fairly water for their possession. He had wounded the largest of them; but, aided by his companions, the immense beast succeeded in escaping for the day.

Quatermain took up the hunt and stuck to it until his negro followers, wearied and apprehensive, were on the verge of rebellion. Then, in the night, while his men were all asleep, he heard the trumpet of an elephant.

Alone, in the treacherous moonlight, he set out to stalk the dangerous brutes. Endeavoring to surprise them, he was himself beset by all three. By incredible agility and an amazing celerity of rifle fire he slew every one. Next morning he enjoyed the dismay and discomfiture of Gobo, the leader of the rebellious carriers.

Such a hunting story is, ordinarily, readable only in fiction, just as Haggard's account of how Quatermain shot a rhinoceros through the horn would be taken to be the allowable license of the romancer.

GOES BEYOND FICTION

But it is precisely here that the real Nimrod of Africa has equaled, and often gone far beyond, the exploits of the unreal Quatermain. The mythical Macumazah's adventures with elephants and lions are no more thrilling than have been those which, in plain fact, befell the real one; and if Mr. Roosevelt have in his company anything like the hunter's luck which has attended his new comrade he will not only have wonders to relate on his own account, but he will be a little more than fortunate if he come through the trip with a skin entirely whole.

It was while hunting in Mashonaland, beyond the Lundaza river, when weakened by fever, that Selous came upon a herd of nearly 200 elephants. Besides his weakness he was handicapped by riding a sulky and irritable horse.

Nevertheless, he picked out the finest tusker of that vast herd, rode within 100 yards of him and shot him through the lungs.

At that instant a powerful cow elephant wheeled and charged Selous. He succeeded in spurring his horse into the thick brush and the elephant abandoned the chase. Selous promptly resumed the role of pursuer and attacked the herd, one after another.

It was almost suicide, for he sustained charges by huge elephants that made two yards to his horse's one, and once, dismounting, he left his horse to its fate, in the hope of being himself overlooked. Instead of anything worse occurring, the charging elephant simply stood beside the horse, which showed no more fear than if the giant beast had been a rock; then the elephant walked quietly away and Selous, a few minutes later, killed it.

In all, that day he slew, single handed, five great elephants, a record that leaves the romancing by Haggard regarding Quatermain very small potatoes, indeed.

The rhinoceros, while not so dangerous, in Mr. Selous' opinion, as an elephant or a lion, is a foe to be dreaded when aroused. He has a fiendish temper, he is well-nigh omnipresent, and he resorts to the death the slightest intrusion upon his privacy.

A rare occasion on which he was conquered by a native foe is shown in photographs in Mr. Selous' own book, where a rhino, entering a

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGE.)

than 100 elephants, nearly half a hundred lions, and as for rhinoceri and buffalo, both dangerous foes to meet, their numbers bring the total of his really perilous encounters into the thousands.

The number of head of big game that have fallen to his gun has been estimated at 3000, while the deer and other animals killed for food would be beyond computation.

During a single expedition, lasting six months, his prizes included twenty-seven elephants, nine rhinoceri, one hippopotamus, one lion, seven zebras and all the minor game required to keep his force of negro carriers in fresh meat.

Museums of the world preserve innum-