

# B&C BOOKS

## JOHN T. McCUTCHEON – A Cartoonist Goes on Safari



Theodore J. Holsten  
EDITOR OF SPECIALTY BOOKS  
AND LIMITED EDITIONS  
Boone and Crockett Club

**John McCutcheon had little hunting experience, but was intrigued by the idea of facing real lions and elephants in Africa. A chance meeting with Carl Akeley led to an invitation to join Akeley on his East**

**African quest for elephant trophies needed by the famous taxidermist for his elephant group at the American Museum of Natural History. Along with Mr. and Mrs. Akeley and one of their friends, McCutcheon embarked on a four-and-a-half month expedition that took place in 1909, about the same time as the Roosevelt African safari.**

President Theodore Roosevelt, at some previous time, had invited Akeley to the White House and was fascinated by plans

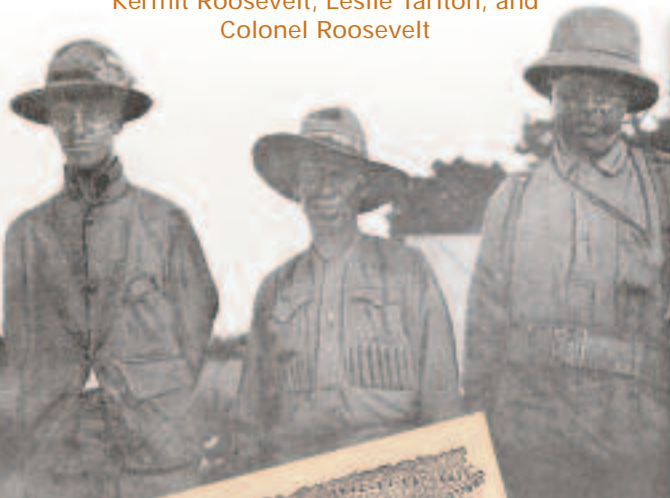
for the Akeley elephant group. Now on his famous safari, Roosevelt learned of the arrival of the Akeley group at Mombassa. He sent a message indicating he would like to help with the elephant project and requested that Akeley join him in the elephant country near Mount Elgon. That is how McCutcheon got to spend time with Roosevelt and to record their experiences in some of his cartoons. While together, Roosevelt contributed two cow elephant trophies to the Akeley elephant group and McCutcheon supplied one, a young bull.

What is interesting about McCutcheon's book is his description of the details that went into the planning and operation of the old-time tented safaris. His four-person group had 120 porters, gun-bearers and other African staff. Although they enjoyed much luxury, they still had to walk to the hunting areas. The porters carried 60-pound loads on their heads, and McCutcheon points out that Roosevelt had one entire 60-pound porter load of books to read while on his trip!

Boone and Crockett Club Member John T. McCutcheon was born in Indiana in 1870. After graduating from Purdue University in 1889, he joined the staff of the *Chicago Morning News* as an artist. In 1903 he began a 40-year career with the *Chicago Tribune* during which time he became one of the nation's leading political cartoonists. During his early career he was a war correspondent. He covered the Boer War, and during the Spanish-American War he was with Admiral Dewey at the Battle of Manila Bay. He also covered World War I. Best known for his political cartoons, McCutcheon received the Pulitzer Prize for cartoons in 1931. He wrote a number of books and illustrated many more over the years. *In Africa* was the only one detailing his African hunting experiences.

John T. McCutcheon died in 1949 after a long and successful career highlighted by his "thrilling experiences where the roar of the lion and the crack of the rifle are part of everyday life." ■

Kermit Roosevelt, Leslie Tarlton, and Colonel Roosevelt



A portrait of John T. McCutcheon "Dressed to Kill"



Improving Each Shining Hour



Writing His Adventures While They're Hot



Our Safari on the March