

B&C BOOKS

ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS: Zoologist, Explorer, and Hunter



Theodore J. Holsten, Jr.

Editor of Specialty Books and Limited Editions
Communications, Publications and Marketing Committee

BOOKS BY ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS

Whale Hunting with Gun and Camera (1916)

Camps and Trails in China
(with Yvette Borup Andrews) (1918)

Across Mongolian Plains (1921)

On the Trail of Ancient Man (1926)

Ends of the Earth (1929)

The New Conquest of Central Asia (1932)

This Business of Exploring (1935)

Under a Lucky Star (1943)

Heart of Asia (1951)

Roy Chapman Andrews was born in 1884 in Beloit, Wisconsin. As a boy, he developed an affinity for the outdoors, and became an avid sportsman and amateur taxidermist. After finishing college in 1906, he sought a position with the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Evidently, Andrews was able to persuade the Museum to employ him as an assistant to James L. Clark (Clark was in charge of a major taxidermy unit of the Museum, even though he was only 22 years old at the time). Andrews would spend his entire career at the Museum, devoted to his job and the scientific research that would take him on hunting adventures around the world.

During his early years with the Museum, Andrews was heavily involved in whale research, and participated with Clark in creating the giant whale models still on exhibit at the Museum. He studied whales and marine mammals over a period of several years, spending much time aboard whaling ships off Vancouver, Alaska, Japan, and Korea. Andrews became the protégé of Henry Fairfield Osborn, developing a reputation for the

quality of his work and his enthusiasm for traveling to remote and difficult places.

In the years that followed, Andrews ventured into the unknown forests of Korea to search for zoological specimens, including an unsuccessful month-long hunt for a man-eating tiger. In 1916, he mounted an expedition on behalf of the Museum into Yunnan, southeastern China, and along the Tibetan border, hunting for many animal specimens along the way. Andrews spent time with Harry Caldwell, the famous hunting missionary. They hunted, without success, the elusive "Blue Tiger," the title of Caldwell's highly regarded book. Andrews did most of his hunting with a 6.5mm Mannlicher rifle.

During the decade beginning in 1921, Andrews led several expeditions into the Gobi desert seeking zoological and fossil specimens for the Museum. His efforts received worldwide attention with the first discovery of intact dinosaur eggs in the Flaming Cliffs of the central Asian plateau. Andrews also uncovered evidence of the early origins of human life in the area. One of the keys to the success of these expeditions was his great fund-raising skill. Andrews developed a close association with J.P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, and other wealthy indus-

trialists who provided the financial underwriting for major portions of the expedition expenses. In addition, Andrews lectured and wrote extensively to help support the programs.

In 1934, Andrews was named Director of the American Museum of Natural History, a position he occupied until his retirement in 1942. He was named Honorary Director, and continued his interest in Museum affairs until his death in 1960. For many years, he conducted a weekly radio program on natural history subjects.

Andrews wrote 20 books, the most prominent of which are listed here. Throughout the books he details the many close calls he experienced during the turmoil in Asia. There were bandits everywhere, fighting between the Bolsheviks and the White Russians, and anarchy caused by the many Chinese warlords. Andrews seemed all too often to be dodging bullets!

Andrews was a Regular Member of the Boone and Crockett Club, as were his close associates, James L. Clark and Henry Fairfield Osborn. All three men were giants in their field, participating in probably the greatest years of prominence for the American Museum of Natural History. ▲▲▲

