

B&C BOOKS

JOHN H. BATTEN – Industrialist, Conservationist, Big Game Hunter



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AND LIMITED EDITIONS
Boone and Crockett Club

John Batten took his first sheep, a Dall's ram, in 1928. He was 16 years old and on a family trip to the Yukon. This was the start of a lifetime of interest in big-game animals dominated by a passion for sheep hunting.

Batten was born in Chicago in 1912. A graduate of Andover and Yale, his early career started as a factory worker and trainee at Twin Disc Clutch, a company founded by his father. Batten later became president and CEO of Twin Disc. Under his leadership the company became a multi-

national organization that gained worldwide recognition as a leader in the field of power transmission equipment. He was a director of many business and civic organizations, and was co-founder of the Racine Commercial Airport in Wisconsin. He became an accomplished aviator, and over the years he logged thousands of hours of flying in many different aircraft.

Nominated by his close friend, William Sheldon, Batten was elected to membership in the Boone and Crockett Club in 1965. During the ensuing years he served as Vice President, member of the Executive Committee, member of the Big Game Records Committee, and as chairman of the Finance Committee. He was an official measurer for Boone and Crockett Club over a period of several decades starting in 1950.

Although he hunted most major big-game species all over the world, his favorite was mountain sheep. One of the earliest hunters to achieve a World Super Slam, having taken 12 of the recognized species of the world's mountain sheep, Batten was proud

that all were taken in fair chase. Although he secured many sheep trophies over his lifetime, the bighorn ram he shot in Alberta in 1931 when he was 19 years old was his best, and he was never obsessed with breaking records.

Batten was active in many conservation organizations, and he wrote extensively on hunting and conservation. He wrote articles for a number of periodicals and contributed to a variety of books by other authors. Batten produced three books about his own hunting experiences, and drawing from his own extensive sporting library, he edited anthologies on both sheep and tiger hunting. He was more interested in the experience and history of hunting than in its technical aspects.

After a long bout with cancer, John Batten died in February 1989. His wife, Katie, who had been his frequent hunting companion, succumbed to cancer three weeks later. They had lived in a golden age of big-game hunting and were fortunate to have been able to experience and take advantage of its opportunities. ■

BOOKS BY

JOHN H. BATTEN

Skyline Pursuits (1981)

The Formidable Game (1983)

The Forest and the Plain (1984)

The Best of Sheep Hunting (1980) Editor

The Best of Tiger Hunting (1986) Editor



FROM LEFT: Batten and meat for the Mascot Mine, Watson River, Yukon Territory, 1928; John Batten and Lee Holen with the 10' polar bear, Chukchi Sea, Alaskan Arctic, 1966; Katie Batten and her Dall's ram, Copper River, Alaska, 1967; Portrait of Batten from the 1960s.

BACKGROUND: Headwaters basins, Ram River, Alberta, September 1931.

