B&C CONSER

MEMBER PROFILE:
Arthur Radclyffe Dugmore (1870-1955)

By Leonard H. Wurman B&C Regular Member

One of the Boone and Crockett Club's more interesting members was the Englishman Arthur Radclyffe Dugmore. A hunter, adventurer, and soldier; a wildlife photographer, lecturer, and artist; a naturalist and mariner, and a very entertaining author, Dugmore turned on his origins and became a velvet voice that strongly argued against hunting.

Born on Christmas day, 1870, young Dugmore was raised under the heel of his proud, aristocratic, and very autocratic father. A military officer since his teens, his father displayed a streak of the Don Quixote, constantly tilting at the windmills of adventure without planning or preparation; thus, he squandered his inheritance. Arthur's mother was the niece of the Lord Chancellor of England, and when the couple converted to Catholicism, she also lost her inheritance.

When stationed in Ireland, his father leased a 1,000-year-old castle and here he taught Arthur to hunt. Arthur received almost no formal education; his father would not pay to hire a tutor.

MAJOR ARTHUR RADCLYFFE DUGMORE CIRCA 1928 IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Although Arthur's father espoused the cause of the Irish peasants when they rebelled in 1882, the rebels suspected he was a British spy. On the other side, the British falsely accused the father of murdering a peasant and tried him, but he was found not guilty.

The Teen Years

Caught between sides, his father resigned his military commission, and with no previous seafaring experience, his father purchased the Rosalind, a 78-foot schooner. With his wife, four children, a nursemaid, two girl servants, and a crew of seven, they set off for the Mediterranean. Arthur whiled away his time sketching. Their Norwegian skipper was washed overboard during a severe storm, but hung onto a rope and was swept back onboard. The damaged ship was repaired in Spain.

Father and son hunted the African plover in Morocco. One pitch-black night, three small pirate boats silently approached the anchored Rosalind. Father fired a shot, and with the surprise lost, the pirates rowed away. In Algeria, they unsuccessfully hunted lions.

They toured Sicily, Malta, the Greek islands, and Crete. One evening a storm pushed them desperately close to the rocky mainland. On shore, bands of armed Greeks waited for the boat's destruction, but three anchors finally held.

In Turkey, his father sold the Rosalind and purchased an even larger ship, the Australia. But the Rosalind deal fell through, and now father, who could not even afford the cost of one ship, owned two.

Frustrated, he sailed to Odessa in the Black Sea and took Arthur north by train to hunt bustards in Russia. A farmer, his wife, three daughters, and three sons dwelled in their host's home. However, there were only three beds. Father slept with the couple, and Arthur was assigned to sleep with the girls, who slept undressed. The embarrassed Arthur stayed clothed and crawled in with the boys. The hunt was unsuccessful.

They sailed east to Sebastopol, where father invited on board a Russian princess and her entourage. Ten miles from shore the wind died. Arthur and a sailor rowed their guests to shore in a poorly maintained, leaking lifeboat. The Russian ladies bailed using their petticoats as sponges. The lifeboat sank just as it reached shore.

Arthur was left with the British consul and spent a month hunting on his own. Once, chased by pitchfork-wielding peasants, he hid underwater in a swamp for an hour until they left.

In 1885 and 1886, Arthur attended French and British schools in Turkey. The following year the family moved to Naples, where he studied art. His father sent 16-year old Arthur to Greece to sail the Rosalind back to Naples. Arthur hired four sailors. The Rosalind had not been maintained, and the ropes broke in the first storm. Learning chart navigation on the fly, Arthur guided the ship at night through the Adriatic islands to Sicily, and then north to Naples.

America

His father now decided to become a Florida orange farmer. The Australia was sold, the Rosalind retrofitted, and 17-year old Arthur became captain. They crossed the Atlantic, explored Jamaica, and visited Little Cayman. His father never gave Arthur credit for his navigational skills.

The Rosalind sailed to Honduras. The locals did not believe that a ship carrying his father's 58 firearms was peaceful, and they started a rumor that a rebellion was imminent. The news was carried by the world wire services. His father was taken prisoner. Arthur repelled a boarding party by bluffing with a salute cannon. The British consul intervened, corrected the misconception, and offered Arthur a diplomatic post. But the father refused to let his son go.

In July 1889, the Rosalind docked in Tampa, and Arthur rode by horse to Orlando to view his father's new property. It was the rainy season, and the "estate" was under water. Father had been swindled.

Settling in St. Petersburg, Arthur borrowed some bank notes from his father and started a photographic and painting studio, but his father shortly demanded the money back. Arthur went to work as a boatman for a wealthy Easterner, and then fled north under assumed names. His father tried to trace his son, but Arthur never communicated with him again.

For the next two years, Arthur lived with wealthy ornithology friends in the northeastern United States during the summers, and in Florida during the winters. He collected and mounted more than 3,000 birds,

VATIONISTS

and painted in his spare time. In 1892, he went to work as a draftsman in New York City. Despite having no experience, he was repeatedly promoted and saved enough money to visit Europe twice.

Arthur was married in 1901. His photographic and painting skills brought him assignments from publishing houses for book illustrations, and he traveled to Newfoundland, Maine, Montana, California, and Oregon on wildlife photographic missions. He had become a naturalist whose skills at hunting with the camera brought him acclaim. Doubleday hired him to photograph the Wright Brothers' 55-minute by-plane flight outside of Washington, D.C.

Africa

In 1909, Dugmore borrowed $4,000, purchased a modern 14-pound camera, and headed for Africa, leaving his wife and three children in England. His companion was James Clark, another future Boone and Crockett member who was then a sculptor and taxidermist at the American Museum of Natural History. Several articles in *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* reported extensively on Dugmore's photographic trip and contrasted it with Theodore Roosevelt's concurrent African safari.

Dugmore was fearless, if not crazy. He lured a rhinoceros to charge, and took the photo at 15 yards. The animal swerved and just missed the guide. Another time, Arthur captured a small lion cub to lure the parents close enough for a photograph. When several lions prowled too close to camp, he climbed a tree to shoot one. As a lion approached, Arthur slipped, grabbed a branch, and accidentally kicked the startled lion, which scampered off as Arthur hurriedly climbed back up.

One night, he and Clark placed a dead antelope in front of a brush blind and set up their primitive flash equipment, guessing from the sound when the lion was at the bait. They would take a picture, leave the blind, and change the flash and photographic plate after each shot while lions prowled nearby. Arthur crossed trails with Roosevelt's safari. The two had become acquainted while TR was president.

Arthur returned to live and paint in New York for three years. He toured both the United States and England, lecturing on his African experience. In 1913, he again visited Newfoundland, and then settled in Surrey, England, from where he wrote two books on his eastern woodland experience. The engineering feats of the beaver fascinated Dugmore, who extolled their virtues, as well as expressed contempt for trapping, in many of his books.

Copyright, 1900, by A. R. Dugmore

OOD OF WILD CHIPPING SPARROWS.

sing an air bulb and long tube. The mother bird is feeding her young, and the posure was made, his tail being shown at the top of the cuff.

THE OLD METHOD OF BIRD ILLUSTRATION.
From a standard work of natural history.

DUGMORE HAD NEVER BEEN SATISFIED WITH ORNITHOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF BIRDS AND BEGAN EXPERIMENTING WITH LIVE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE 1890S.

DUGMORE ALSO WROTE ABOUT THE NOTABLE ADVANCES IN COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

World War I

Dugmore was too old to enlist when the First World War broke out. Initially a correspondent,

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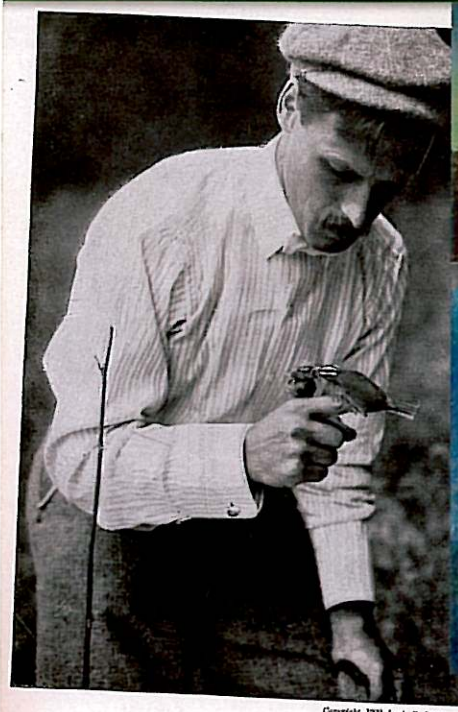
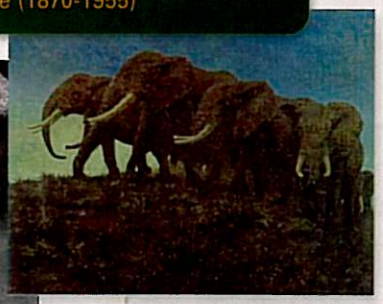


Copyright, 1910, by A. R. Dugmore.

THE AUTHOR PHOTOGRAPHING A WILD BIRD ON HIS HAND.

This worm-eating warbler was a wild bird which Mr. Dugmore in a few days got so used to his presence that she would bring her young food while on his hand. At the proper moment the bulb of the rubber tube running to the camera was pressed with the left hand.



DUGMORE GOT THIS WARBLER SO USED TO HIS PRESENCE THAT SHE WOULD BRING FOOD TO HER YOUNG WHILE PERCHED ON HIS HAND. AT THE PROPER MOMENT THE BULB OF THE RUBBER TUBE RUNNING TO THE CAMERA WAS PRESSED WITH HIS LEFT HAND. DUGMORE PRODUCED SEVERAL WORKS OF ART DEPICTING WILDLIFE. PERHAPS HIS WORK AS AN ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER WAS THE REASON BEHIND HIS MEMBERSHIP TO B&C.

he was arrested by the Germans as a spy, released only to be arrested by the Belgians as a spy, and then released and arrested for spying by the British. While filming a German advance, with shells exploding nearby, Arthur suddenly realized that his camera and tripod resembled a machine gun; he tore knee ligaments as he hurriedly escaped. With so many British losses, Dugmore now received a commission and became a scout as well as trainer of scouts. At the battle of Somme, 620 of the 970 men in his regiment were killed. He was the only one of the 25 regimental officers to survive, but he sustained severe lung damage from phosgene gas and was invalided home.

Following months of recovery, Dugmore was sent to the United States to rouse its citizens in support of the war. He even enlisted his old friend Theodore Roosevelt to preside over a gigantic rally at Carnegie Hall, but President Wilson informed Arthur that he didn't want TR to attend.

Africa Again

Dugmore again visited Africa on several photographic safaris. On one episode, he set up to film elephants coming to a water hole, but they came in from behind, smelled him, became agitated, and approached to within eight feet before losing his scent and turning around. Another time, he provoked three rhinoceroses to charge by firing at their feet. He cranked the movie camera as they swerved at 25 yards and ran past.

Dugmore had diminished stamina due to chronic bronchitis from the First World War gassing. In Africa he had an episode of severe chest pain that confined him to his cot for a week; in all probability he had suffered a heart attack. When he returned to England, no producers would buy his film, so he started his own production company, rented a theater, and played the movie to a packed house three times daily for three months. Now with support from the British government, he again visited Africa, this time going up the Nile River to film elephants in the Sudan.

The Canadian Rockies

In 1928, he took his daughter on a photographic safari to the Canadian Rockies. One evening, a sow grizzly with two cubs found the food supply stashed near camp. Arthur approached with his camera, and the sow charged, but stopped within 20 yards. His bronchitis prevented significant climbing, so he set up valley blinds to photograph sheep.

Dugmore extolled the virtues of National Parks where animals, protected from hunting, had lost their fear of man and could be viewed in their natural beauty. He no longer could understand why anyone would want to shoot an animal, calling it an act of "stupidity and savagery." Man kills "only too frequently without reason." "Sentimentality," he says, is just "plain common sense." National Park animals, he wrote, "revel in a life of pleasure and happiness." He concluded it was far more difficult to hunt with a camera. Considering the weight of movie cameras 80 years ago, and the lack of zoom lenses, he may have been correct.

Why?

Several interesting questions arise. First, having grown up as an active hunter, why did Dugmore turn so vigorously against hunting? Many hunters have given up their firearms in favor of the camera, but did not feel the need to campaign against hunting. Perhaps Dugmore was not honest with himself. In the 1930 book ***Rolling Stone***, he wrote that he killed no animals except for several lions for reasons of safety. Yet on October 3, 1909, a *New York Times* article reported that he had brought back from Africa 30 skins, including lion, zebra, and leopard.

Some of the answer may have to do with Arthur's relationship with his father, a dedicated hunter who had amassed a collection of fine English shotguns, rifles, and pistols. His father was an overbearing parent who apparently never planned for nor cared about Arthur's future. His father never prepared for his own ventures and failed at all of them, and he never praised his son's accomplishments.

Perhaps, to Arthur, his father personified those hunters who placed no moral value on the game animal and simply enjoyed killing. Viewing the marked population declines of North American and African big game, Arthur may have seen his father's class as one of the culprits. Despite his friendship with TR, Dugmore was unable to discern the sportsman conservationist from the sportsman killer.

An even larger question is why was Dugmore invited into the Boone and Crockett Club in the first place? Dugmore became an Associate Member (today's Professional Member) in 1930, the same year as his first African companion, James Clark. Although Arthur had known Theodore Roosevelt from both the American and African encounters, Roosevelt had died in 1919. As a matter of fact, it would seem problematic, had he lived another 11 years, whether TR would have approved Arthur's admission into the Club.

Dugmore was a proficient wildlife observer and student who received acclaim in the popular press for being the first to hunt big game with a camera. But by 1930, Dugmore's writings were decidedly anti-hunting, and he wrote little after 1931. Arthur died in 1955, leaving little information on his later years.

So the questions remain: Why was he invited into the Club? Why did he consent to join? For now, those questions will have to remain unanswered. ■