

TROPHY TALK

Damaged and Repaired Trophies Policy



Jack Reneau

Director
Big Game Records

THE RECORDS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS RECENTLY CONCERNING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF DAMAGED AND REPAIRED TROPHIES. DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD SEVERAL INTERESTING ENTRIES HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT PERTAIN TO THIS SUBJECT. I WOULD LIKE TO USE THESE EXAMPLES TO HELP CLARIFY THE CLUB'S POLICY CONCERNING SUCH TROPHIES.

Historically the Club didn't accept repaired trophies prior to

To illustrate the limits of this policy, I'd like to mention a couple of trophies we've seen lately that have been repaired and/or altered. The first is a typical whitetail deer (Figure A) recently accepted in the 23rd Awards Program. A photograph (inset) accompanying the entry materials indicated that eight inches of the left main beam and the entire G-5 point on the left antler, were both shot off, and were replaced and repaired by a qualified taxidermist. The rack, correctly measured to the break, scores 175-2/8 points. Had the antler not been damaged, the rack would have scored a tad over 200 points.

Another problem we encountered recently involved a trophy altered to raise its score. A portion of antler material (Figure B) was removed from the base of a projection so that it would qualify as a point and add into the score. In addition,

two abnormal points on each antler of the same rack (Figure C) were shortened and rounded off so they would not deduct from the final score. Needless to say, any trophy exhibiting such alterations is automatically dis-

qualified from entry in the Club's Awards Programs.

The most unique problem we've come across recently concerned a "manufactured" trophy. If there are any doubts about whether or not a trophy is genuine, it can be x-rayed or a small sample removed, with the owner's consent, and submitted to the Club's office for analysis.

We received a score chart for a non-typical mule deer, scoring 407-1/8 points, with a spread of 54-3/8 inches. Little is known about it other than it is alleged to have been picked up somewhere in Alberta over 30 years ago.

This rack caught our immediate attention since its entry score exceeds the current World's Record (355-2/8) by 51-7/8 points. The photograph (Figure D) accompanying the entry materials depicted a relatively "symmetrical" non-typical set of antlers with a combined total of 37 measurable points. Even though there wasn't anything in the photographs that indicated foul play, something just didn't seem right. World's Records are broken these days by fractions of an inch, or occasionally a few inches, but not normally by feet.

To verify its authenticity, the trophy was x-rayed in the presence of an official measurer who was asked to take a series of x-rays starting with the skull plate. The first x-ray (Figure E) revealed

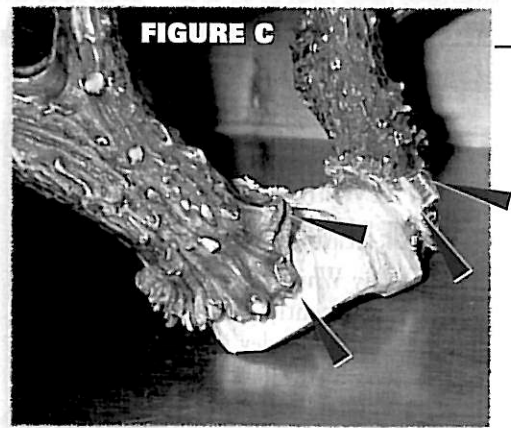


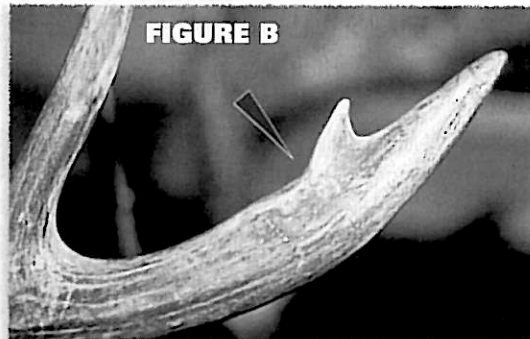
FIGURE A



INSET

January 1, 1980. Since then, repaired trophies are accepted in the Club's Awards Programs if the owner identifies the repair, and the repair is made with original horn or antler material. Repaired trophies are treated on a case by case basis, but in no case can any portion of repaired or replaced material be included in any measurement, no matter how well the pieces fit together. Antlered trophies with split skulls are automatically disqualified from entry in the Club's Awards Programs because inside spread is an integral part of the final score.

FIGURE B



numerous screws used to attach abnormal points to the main beam between the burr and the G-1 point. In addition, the x-ray revealed at least two threaded metal dowels on each antler used to hold antler segments together. Needless to say, this trophy was also disqualified from entry into the Club's Awards Program.

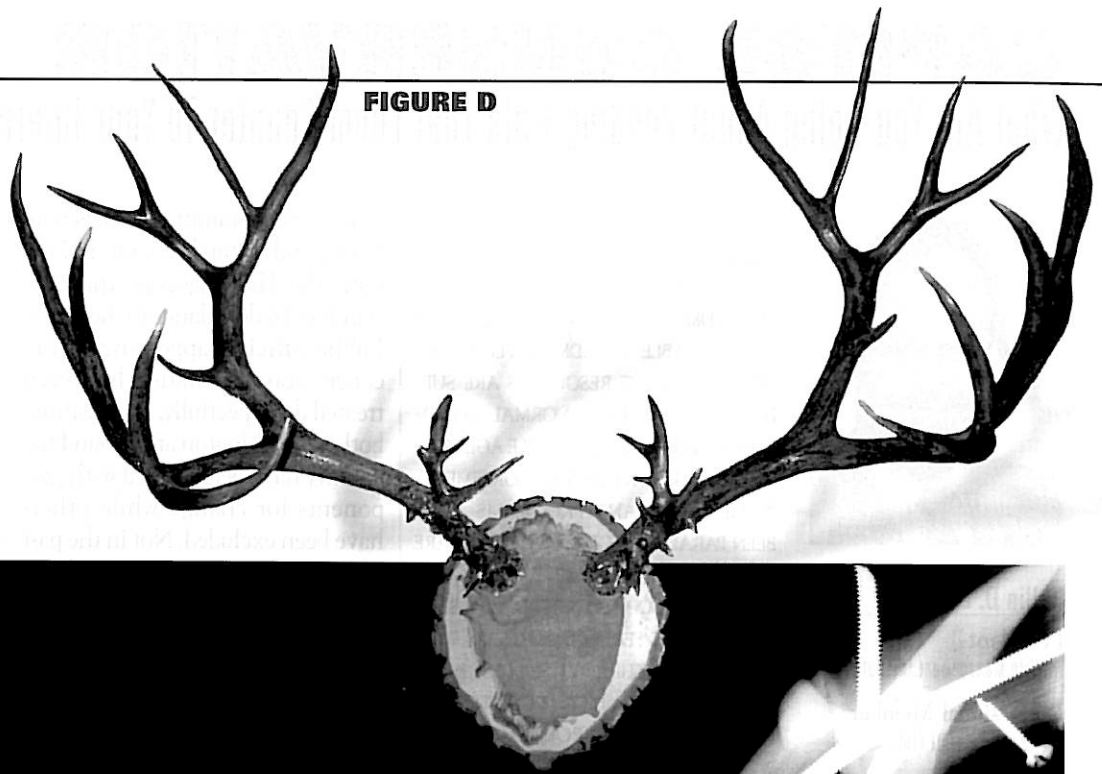


FIGURE D

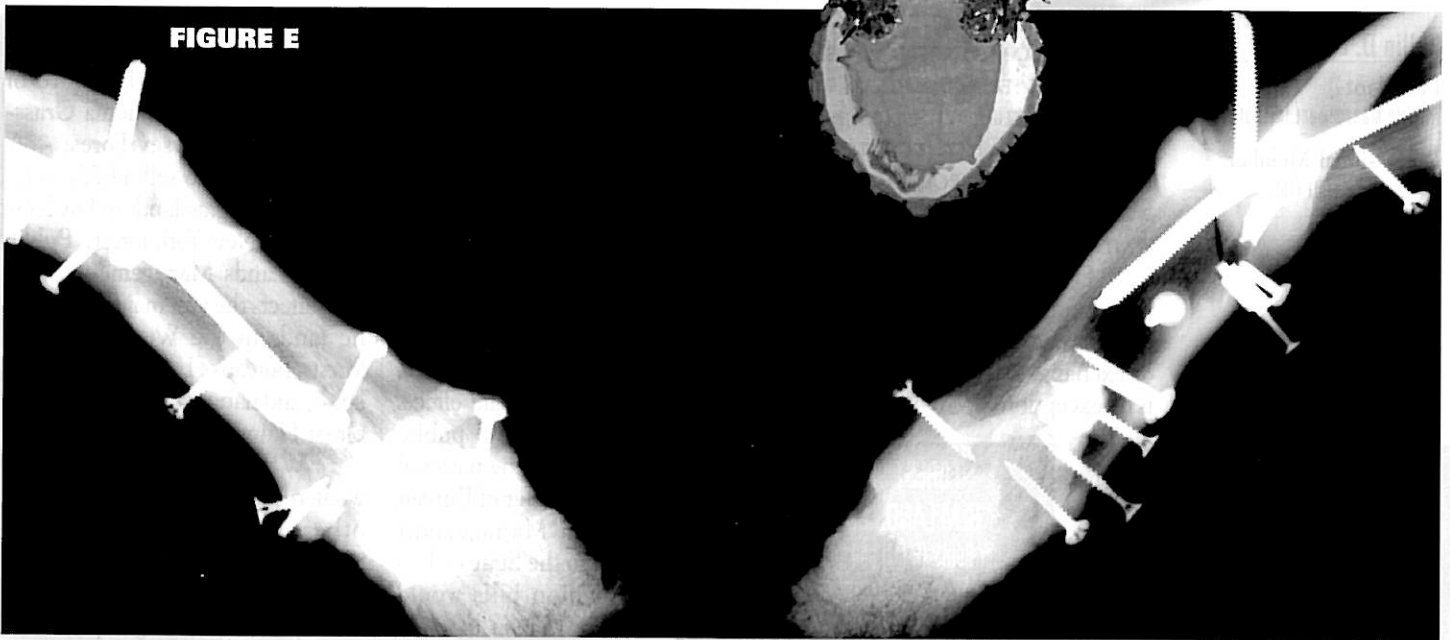


FIGURE E

COLLECTING B&C BOOKS

Boone and Crockett Club Library Being Developed

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING A BOONE AND CROCKETT LIBRARY AT OUR MISSOULA HEADQUARTERS. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME OUTSTANDING AUTHORS AMONG OUR MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS INCLUDING THEODORE ROOSEVELT, GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL, F. C. SELOUS, WILLIAM HORNADAY, JOHN PHILLIPS, JAMES CLARK, ALDO LEOPOLD AND MANY OTHERS. THE GOAL FOR OUR LIBRARY IS TO PRESERVE AND TO HAVE AVAILABLE WRITINGS BY AND ABOUT THESE OUTSTANDING MEMBERS AS WELL AS

WRITINGS PERTAINING TO THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB, ITS HISTORY AND MISSION PARTICULARLY RELATING TO NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME AND ITS CONSERVATION.

Attention Book Collectors
The B&C Club is offering several books for sale. See insert for details.

Donations of books from the libraries of Club Members and Associates is encouraged. This can provide tax benefits as well as

support for an activity of the Club. Some books which do not fit these guidelines can also be valuable as research sources for students at the University of Montana where we have established a chair in wildlife conservation.

Beyond these uses, duplicate copies and books not pertaining to library goals will be offered from time to time to Club Members and Associates. An order form offering an initial group of books is enclosed between pages 4 and 5 of this issue.



Theodore J. Holsten, Jr.
Chair
Editorial & Publications Committee