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The Elephant Experiment in Africa

Author(s): Robert Cust

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

*Snow-clad Peaks in the Mozambique Region.*H.B.M. CONSULATE, MOZAMBIQUE, *March 14th, 1882.*

I have just read in the 'Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society' for February, an interesting account of a journey made through the Makua and Meto countries by Messrs. Maples and Goldfinch of the Universities Mission, at the same time that I was travelling in the Lomwe country.

In it Mr. Maples speaks of a "snow-clad mountain, Irati," upon the existence of which he appears to have received so much native evidence that he states he "does not doubt the truth of the native story." It is but just to the memory of the late consul Elton that I should point out that to him is due the first mention of the mountain "Erado," no doubt the same, in the Makua country abreast of Mwendazi Bay. Consul Elton, in his report to the Foreign Office of January 3, 1877, speaks of it also as a "hill settlement" whence coffee came, alluding then, doubtless, to the villages at its foot. But although he passed within thirty or forty miles east of the hill he heard nothing of its being snow-clad.

From my camp at Karoa, where I was detained three days, this hill Eradi was clearly and distinctly visible, and I am therefore able to speak with certainty respecting it.

As fearing to lengthen my paper I made no mention of this hill, simply laying it down in my map, I now quote from my rough journal.

"Nov. 3.—From the door of my tent the hills Eradi and Mwaja are very conspicuous and clear. The former, which doubtless is the one mentioned by Elton in his coast journey, is a very bold and striking hill, bearing N. by E. half E., and is about 3000 feet in height."

Anxious not to overestimate my heights, I may perhaps have slightly underestimated this one; but I have little hesitation in saying that it will not be found to be over 4000 feet above the plain or between 5000 and 6000 feet above the level of the sea. The native report that it is snow-clad is certainly inaccurate.

H. E. O'NEILL.

*Longitude of the Salween.*37, EDGWARE ROAD, W., *29th April, 1882.*

With reference to my letter to you on the sources of the Irawadi and Brahmaputra rivers ('Proceedings,' May, p. 317), I find that I made an error in reducing from the Peking to the Greenwich longitudes in the position of the Salween as plotted by the Jesuits; the paragraph should read:—"We may here note that the Salween has been depicted by the Jesuits crossing lat. 27° 10' in long. 98° 56'; lat. 26° 30' in long. 98° 51'; and lat. 26° 0' in long. 98° 49'.

HOLT S. HALLETT.

*The Elephant Experiment in Africa.*64, ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE, S.W., *May 7th, 1882.*

With reference to the paper in the 'Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society' for May on the experiment of Indian elephants in Africa, it is as well that it should be understood that, if only the necessary trouble be taken, African elephants can be made as useful as Indian.

1. In the treaty made by the Romans with the Carthaginians, B.C. 201, after the second war, it was provided that they should surrender "elephantos, quos haberent domitos, neque domarent alios."—*Livy*, xxx. 37.

2. In the paintings on Egyptian monuments, the elephants appear evidently tame.

3. Ptolemy Philadelphus founded the station of Ptolemais *Epitheras* (*επι θηρας*) destined, as its name indicates, to be the station for expeditions to capture elephants, for his attention had been turned to the necessity of training African elephants as a counterpoise to the boundless supply of Indian elephants available to Seleucus. (See Bunbury, 'Ancient Geography,' i. p. 578.)

4. The elephants on Roman coins are unmistakably of the African species.

5. In the well-known inscription of Adulis in Abyssinia allusion is made to trained elephants. (Bunbury, 'Ancient Geography,' i. p. 609.)

We cannot doubt that the African monarchs made use of the elephant, and that there is no reason *why they should not be so made use of again*. The camel did not find its way to Africa till the time of the Arabs: perhaps the elephant is still destined to play an important part in Africa's history. At any rate, it should not be hastily assumed that the African elephant is behind his Indian brother in docility. Jumbo, of the Zoological Gardens, disposes of that idea.

That some of the hardy forest tribes could be trained to the management of elephants seems not unreasonable to suppose. If an establishment were opened at Zanzibar, two or three trained Indian elephants would soon bring young African elephants into order, and the system once started would maintain itself.

ROBERT CUST.

## REPORT OF THE EVENING MEETINGS, SESSION 1881-2.

*Ninth Meeting, 27th March, 1882.*—The Right Hon. Lord ABERDARE,  
President, in the Chair.

PRESENTATION.—*William A. K. Gostling, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*Arthur H. Crow, Esq.; William A. K. Gostling, Esq.*

The subject of the evening was a Lecture by Mr. E. O'Donovan, entitled—  
"Merv and its Surroundings." (*Vide ante*, p. 345.)

*Tenth Meeting, 24th April, 1882.*—The Right Hon. Lord ABERDARE,  
President, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*C. L. Wragge, Esq.; E. C. Hore, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*Robert Ashton, Esq.; Major W. F. Badgley; Alfred Brookman, Esq.; Edward Hyde Hewett, Esq.; Henry Kent, Esq.; Charles William Pearson, Esq.; John R. Somerville, Esq., M.D.; Commander William Symington.*

The following paper was read:—

"A Journey in the Atlas and the Northern Part of the Algerian Sahara." By  
Valentin de Gorloff. (*Ante*, p. 358.)