

MAJOR DUGMORE, AN ENGLISH ARTIST HAS MADE A SUCCESS OF PAINTING WILD ANIMALS

(By Dorothy Dalton in New York Sun.)

Painting with a pretty girl model is one thing—and using the wild African lion model is something else again. At least so says Major A. Radclyffe Dugmore, English artist, whose exhibit of big game, animal and bird paintings is being featured this week at the Anderson Galleries, 489 Park avenue.

This is Major Dugmore's first American exhibition and one of his few public exhibitions since he began painting half a century ago. The paintings represent an entire lifetime of work—many adventures, several of which almost resulted in death. One painting, that of a crouching lion, required seven years of work in the African jungles and the construction of an anatomically perfect lion in the unusual position, with a complete wire skeleton.

Major Dugmore has rather unusual ideas about his work. He believes, for instance, that the artist grows stale and loses his creative urge if he works constantly or if he works for money. Consequently the Major has never held exhibitions and never tried to sell his pictures. He has made his living by writing books about animals—fourteen in all—and some of the early editions of his life of the beaver are selling for big prices.

Not the Usual Books.

The major's books are not the usual animal books. Animal psychology he considers the most interesting subject on earth and he often has spent weeks in observing the reactions of one wild animal in an effort to comprehend something of its mental processes.

Nevertheless, the field is practically untouched, he believes, for animals, in association with man lose their sharpness, their keen mentality, and many other of their best traits. Knowing animals as few men know them, his observations and comparisons are interesting.

He believes, for instance, that the beaver is the most intelligent animal he has ever met. Nor is this intelligence merely instinct. He has seen beavers when a flood was coming make openings in their new dam to save it, and the construction of these dams is, from a mathematical viewpoint, absolutely correct.

"In animals we call it instinct; in ourselves we call it intelligence and reasoning. Nobody can convince me that those beavers didn't reason as deliberately as we do. They may be more intelligent, for how many civilized men placed on an island away from their families, for instance, would be self-sufficient in any sense. Only a few of the men living today hold the secret of our civilization, and each of these knows only one specialized line.

Built to Meet Conditions.

"The animals know all that is necessary for them to know for perfect adaptation to life, and in the beavers, especially, there is diversity, which shows originality absolutely. Each dam and each house is not a replica of the past, but is made especially for the particular situation and circumstances facing the colony."

If the beaver is the most intelligent it may come as a blow to horse lovers to learn that Major Dugmore considers the horse the most stupid of animals, probably due partially to his association with man, and the donkey far his superior.

"I like the horse the least of all the animals. He has a certain low sunning, of course."

The cat is the least lovable and the most self-sufficient of the animal kingdom, he believes. But even the cat has individuality, and there are certain cats, of course, who have risen above their kin, as it were.

"But certainly they are the most beautiful and charming of them all, not so far as personality goes, but physically," he admitted. "The domestic cat is the only animal, so far as I have been able to observe, which has the sadistic nature. The wild cats and the others of the cat family are fierce, of course, but never deliberately cruel. Perhaps the domestic cat has been contaminated by man."

Nature Prefers the Female.

The lion deserves his title as king of beasts, but it is the lioness, and not the lion, who rules. For in the whole animal kingdom, he declares, the female of the species is the superior in intelligence, in alertness, even in fighting ability and ferocity.

"That is not generally appreciated," he said. "There is no doubt that nature holds the female in far higher esteem, as of much greater value, than the male, in the whole animal kingdom. Each lion, for instance, has two mates, who live in peace and amiability among themselves, and do most of the fighting and hunting for the family. They are far more ferocious than the male, far more cunning, far more alert and intelligent. Approximately an equal number of females and males are born, among lions at least, but there are twice as many females. The lion is a weaker animal, not in size and perhaps not in pure physical strength, but he is far more subject to illness, and the lower degree of alertness makes him easier prey. The lion will not fight to the last ditch as the female will fight.

"The female is the deadlier of the species, without doubt, and the more able to take care of herself. The lion is a showier creature than the lioness, and lazier. He uses his great strength principally to eliminate his rivals during the mating season. This is not, as some believe, for the protection of the female, for, believe me, the female lion needs no protection. It is simply to eliminate the unfit among the lions for the best interests of the species. The same thing applies to the stags. They use their strength only for fighting among themselves. The does takes care of herself through her superior alertness and intelligence."

Carrying it Further.

Carrying this delightful feminist idea still further, the Major pointed to the beautiful painting showing a herd of caribou in the Canadian woods.

"You see I have a doe leading the pack. The doe always leads the pack. I have never seen a stag leading the pack.

"The female," he added, "fights—but always for a reason. She is the great opportunist. The male only fights the rivals of his own species. The female never fights except in self defense and for prey. And remember that animals never fight outside of their species, except for food, and often have the most amiable friendships with animals of a different species, even though they do not mate with them, of course. There is no race antagonism among the animals."

Major Dugmore believes that it is seldom necessary for man to kill an animal in self-defense. The only animals he ever has killed during all his years in the jungles were two lionesses—and curiously enough these stalked him on the only day he ever carried a rifle.

Some Narrow Escapes.

"I am charmed, I think. I have had some narrow escapes, I know, but perhaps out in the jungle these animals do not have the antagonism for man that animals who know him better have. At any rate, if one holds one's ground and faces an animal in self-respecting fashion, one is not likely to be attacked. Once in the Canadian woods two grizzly bears, one an enormous female accompanied by her last year cubs, started to attack me. I was unarmed. I didn't move, merely stood my ground and looked her in the eye. She was so amazed she simply stood measuring me for a moment, thought better of it and walked away. Had I turned to run I wouldn't be here to tell the story."

The elephant is another animal who holds a high place in the intelligence test, an independent, self-respecting animal. And the African elephant, unlike the Indian, cannot be tamed by man.

The rhinoceros is one of the least intelligent and the hyena is the most pitiable.

"I feel sorry for the hyena. It is the butt of nature. It is the most awkward and ungainly and homely of animals, not very intelligent, yet he has his good points. A hyena always makes me feel sad. He seems

the only animal with an inferiority complex."

Dog Alone Has Benefited.

The dog is the only animal who has improved in his association with man. And while this association has made him servile—something nobody can say of the cat—the major believes that dog has the most nearly human emotional nature.

"But they think—and reason, and am absolutely convinced of that. Nobody has even been able to observe animals in their wild state closely enough to learn a great deal of their psychology, but we are not as superior to them as we think."

Altogether the major has walked some 4,500 miles through the jungles to obtain material for his remarkable collection of paintings. He has thousands of photographs and thousands of feet of moving picture film as well. During the war he was badly gassed and had the unusual experience of having been arrested as a spy by the German, Belgian and British governments in three successive days. He was searching for his brother, captured in the first drive on Belgium and alone made his way into Germany through the German lines. He escaped, only to be clapped in prison by the Belgian and his own government. This seemed so hazardous he went back and joined up and saw active fighting for two years.

"All my life I've painted only when I felt like it, doing my writing, which I don't like except that I want to tell people what I've learned about animals, and I've been keeping the paintings until the time when I felt I'd really have something to give. They are my life—fifty years of it—my best effort, the thing I have most loved, but even had I never painted, my experiences among the animals has given me an interesting and delightful life. I am a successful man, a man without much money, who has been able to keep his real work, his art, a thing apart, which has never been commercialized, a labor of love, and has been able to make his way by doing the thing he loved second best. So I have enjoyed life completely and done that which I most have wanted to do and nothing that I haven't wanted to do. Can any man say more?"

The major looks fit. Perhaps it is because he has associated with animals instead of men that his eyes and smile have such a look of utter benignity—almost a benediction. And his paintings have caught the same spirit. Virile and strong, they still have a charm which is of the spiritual.

(Major Dugmore on several occasions made hunting trips to the Miramichi under the guidance of the late Uncle Henry Braithwaite of this city.)

HOOF PRINTS

Cleveland, Dec. 20—The annual Grand Circuit stewards' meeting, originally scheduled, 7-8 Indianapolis, has been shifted to Jan. 21-22 at the Hoosier city. A. C. Pennock, secretary of the big line announced here.

A 1929 schedule providing at least 14 weeks of continuous racing seems certain, Pennock stated.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 20—A trotting filly that is sure to attract considerable attention in pre-season work is an additional to the stable of the well known horsemen, the squire brothers, here, she is called Lady Margaret and is an own sister to the former four-year-old trotting champion, Arion Guy (4) 1.59½, the sire owned by H. K. Devereux, Cleveland, president of the Grand Circuit, being by Guy Axworthy-Margaret Parrish.

Lady Margaret will be a two-year-old next year and if she lives up to her royal breeding, will make it exceedingly interesting for the rest of the futurity candidates.

He—Say you know I'm terribly pleased with an idea I've got.

She—Yes its always that way with the first one.

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CANADA IS LEADING THE WORLD IN VARIED AVIATION SERVICE

(Mail and Empire.)

Spectacular flying feats in other countries attract so much attention that we are apt to overlook the solid progress made in civil aviation in our own. The point was dwelt upon in a recent address in Halifax by Hon. J. L. Ralston, Minister of National Defence. "We have not had much stunt flying, we have not broken speed records, we have not many books written about the exploits of our airmen," he said, "but we have had hard, thorough, honest-to-goodness work done, and some of it is just as spectacular, just as dramatic, and, I am afraid, just as hazardous, as exploits which have made fortunes, and I have no hesitation in stating that in connection with the Government's administrative and development service. Canada has made greater and more varied use of aviation than any other country."

Airpines have been used in the patrolling and surveying of vast forest areas. They have been of great service in mining exploration and prospecting in the north country. In the West one company carried 4,700 passengers and a large amount of mail and freight during the past summer.

that the second year of its activities

In water-power development the air services have been equally useful. The configuration of the ground, the location and relative positions of bodies of water, can all be more accurately and quickly determined by the use of the stereoscopic airplane photograph than by the ordinary land survey alone. People have not heard much of the Hudson Straits' ice patrol, but among other important achievements they were able to determine the key area which affects navigation in the Straits. Again the airplane is to the fore in human work in these and other remote areas. It aids in detecting and suppressing forest fires. Then there is the mail, express and passenger service on which the post office and other departments are intensively working. "To sum up," said Mr. Ralston, "we lead the world in air surveys, forest conservation and geological reconnaissance, and our services to remote and inaccessible mining camps have no parallel. It can be said without fear of contradiction that in no country in the world has aviation so completely entered into the national development."

The address is timely because the report of the United States Depart-

ment of Commerce just issued says in connection with the regulation and promotion of civil aeronautics has witnessed a phenomenal progress in every phase of the industry. Aviation, it states, has firmly established itself as an indispensable part of the general transportation system of that country. But the report is confined chiefly to passenger and mail transportation, the manufacture of airplanes and the erection of airports. Aviation apparently does not find so wide a field of usefulness as it does in Canada. As Mr. Ralston pointed out there is a tendency in this country to look for signs of progress elsewhere than at home. But there is also a tendency to discount our own country, to belittle what it is, and has and does, and to stress the advantages of life in the busier, wealthier country to the South. Certainly there is no room for self-depreciation in the matter of civil aviation in which we have made such extraordinary progress.

MAY PROVE SENSATION

Windsor Locks, Conn., Dec. 20—Harry Brusie, veteran reinsman of this city, has obtained a promising candidate for the three year old pacing stakes in the East next year in Volowin 2.06 fastest two year old sidwheeler of 1928. Volowin is a daughter of Belwin-Miss Volo. She was purchased at the recent Old Glory Sale in New York.

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