

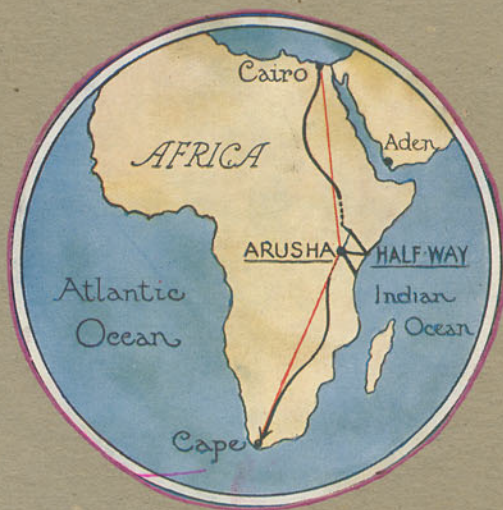
Class C.

1958

Angela Jones,  
Bryngoleu Ave.,  
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Le Bon Sauvour,  
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Date of Birth



Photographing the Life of  
Wild Animals and Birds  
in East Africa.



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Date of Birth

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## Photographing the Life of Wild Animals and Birds in East Africa

I often wondered what it would be like to live in Kilimanjaro which is situated on the borders of Kenya and Tanganyika Northern Province. To go there was a dream of mine.

The land lies at 5,000 to 6,000 ft. above sea level with a most pleasing climate. It is wonderfully fertile and produces two crops a year. The snow-capped peak Kibo rises over 19,000 ft. and close by is Kenya's National Park Amboseli.

This I would choose as my Commonwealth home, for not only is the climate akin to our own, but nowhere else in the world is



Outward-bound

to -



Ol Kinet  
Ol Molog





In Serengeti Park



2.

animal life to be found in its wild state in such variety and profusion.

I have always followed, on T.V., the wonderful and incomparable films of Armand and Michaela Denis which stirred my imagination. I resolved to visit East African Territory to personally enjoy and revel in its natural delights.

My chance came one morning when I received an invitation by air mail from Aunty Ena, who lives in Africa, to join her and Uncle Tom on a safari through some reserves and parks. I was overwhelmed with joy and found myself counting the days till my departure.

I left Southampton on the Union Castle liner bound for Mombasa, via Gibraltar, Malta, Port-Said, Aden and finally, Mombasa. There I disembarked and joined the train for Kilimanjaro to find Aunty and Uncle waiting for me with a landrover to take me to their farm.

At the house we were welcomed by Max the setter and Rex the spaniel.

The day had been a memorable one - my first in the, so-called, dark continent. I had





Taken in West Kilimanjaro





Impala



3.

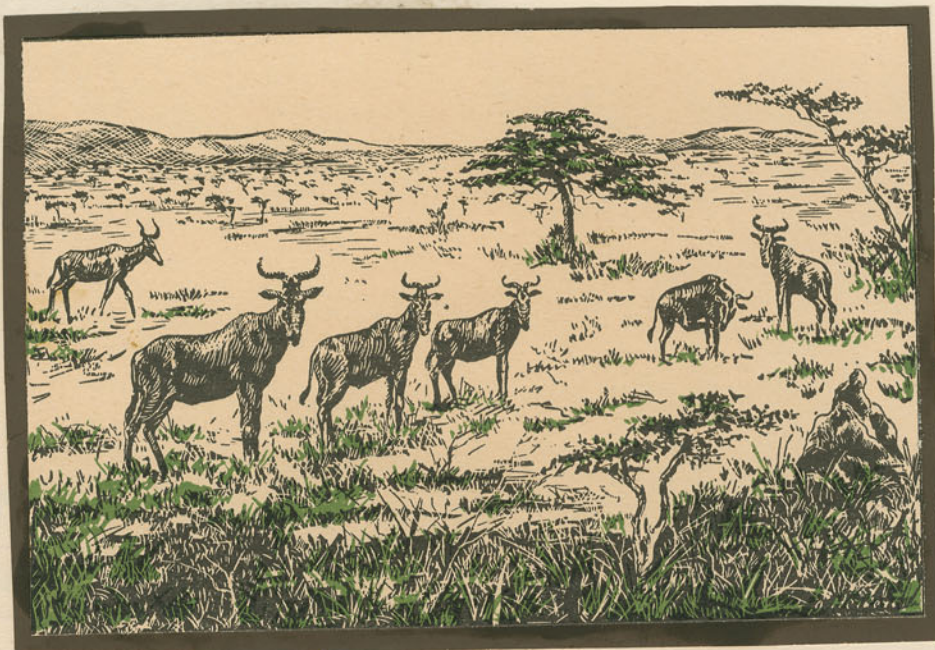
thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful scenery. We had a meal on the veranda and as I relaxed I became aware of the profusion of blooms and blossoms all around. I went to my room, and it was not long before I fell into a sound sleep.

The next morning I woke quite refreshed, the sun was streaming in; I hurriedly dressed and went to the living room. Uncle and Aunty are both members of the Tanganyika Wild life Society. I spent the morning helping them get the last things ready for our safari. They already had a saloon car to carry the fragile equipment, cameras, film, also medicine, and a landrover in which we had cooking utensils and tents.

Next morning we were on our way to the Tsona river. We camped at the mouth of the river, in a little copse a few yards from the bank.

By supper-time we were settled in. After the evening meal Aunty excused herself and retired early whilst Uncle and I remained gazing into the flames loth to leave the burning fire, which is a necessity, for nights

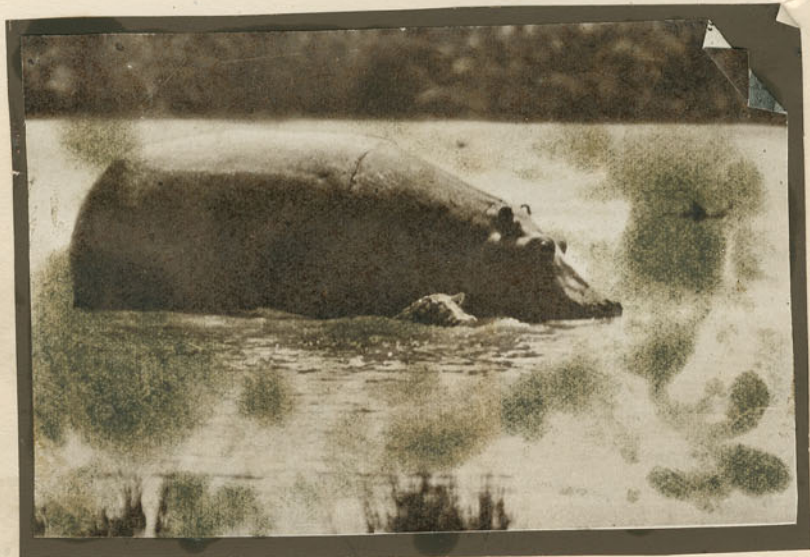




Congoni

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Hippo Mother  
and Baby





4.

are chilly and wild beasts fear fire, so keep away. I meditated about my surroundings, wishing to know and understand about this fabulous country.

As we sat Uncle related that Kenya is comparatively new - a land just larger than France. It is a radiant African jewel the name being derived from the old Bantu term for ostrich demonstrating to Africans the alternation between black rock and white glacier on the mountain's fierce looking summit. Uncle also told me that the opening of the railroad in 1905 and the consequent white settlement were the principal forces in the history of Kenya.

Next morning under the deep indigo of the African sky we set out for the Serengeti Park. When we were out driving we saw a rhino wallowing in the mud, and I was able to get some shots. The rhino is both stupid and unpleasant. It may weigh one and a half tons and can charge at 20 m.p.h.; it has bad eyesight and a bad temper. Uncle Tom says rhino sometimes eat his beans; and several times he was chased by one. Rhino does not like people.

On our way back to camp, we heard the



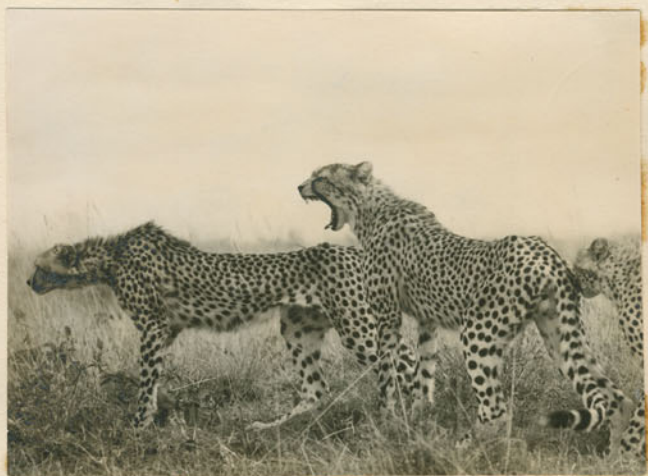


Giant Sable Angola



East African Elephant





Suspicious Aroused

Camera Shy





5.

trumpeting of elephants in the distance we waited awhile and to my delight a huge bull elephant lumbered into view. I was able to add two more snapshots to my collection.

Continuing our journey we saw a lion stalking its prey, a young gazelle and finally killing its helpless victim. I had had another picture for my album.

Driving back to camp along the river bank, we saw several crocodiles basking in the sun; waiting patiently and motionless for their prey. They are ugly beasts and can be up to twenty feet long, and they devour their own young.

By the time we reached camp it was almost sunset and I related our adventures to Aunty.

Next day I woke full of expectancy as each day brought some new thrill. We moved further into the bush, and as soon as we had everything organised I went to explore our new surroundings. There, on a fig-tree in front of my very eyes was an egg-eating snake making its way to an unguarded nest. Luckily I had my camera with me and was able to take a ciné picture of this too.





The present Treetops



Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> 1959.

D. Telegraph



THE QUEEN MOTHER AT TREETOPS.—Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visiting the Treetops Hotel, Nyeri, Kenya, yesterday during her tour of Kenya and Uganda. It was there, in 1952, that the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, learned of her father's death. With the Queen Mother was the owner of the hotel, Mr. Sherebrook-Walker.

Taken from  
the Daily Telegraph  
February 18<sup>th</sup> 1959

## THE QUEEN MOTHER AT TREETOPS

### SEES WILD ANIMALS

From COLIN REID,  
Daily Telegraph Special  
Correspondent

TREETOPS, HOTEL, NYERI,  
KENYA, Tuesday.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to-day walked three-hundred yards, from this, the new Treetops Hotel where she had spent the night, across the big game salt lick to view the ruins of the former Treetops Hotel burnt by the Mau Mau rebels in 1954.

She was accompanied in her walk to-day by a single armed guide. Within a stones throw I saw seven warthog and four baboons playing in the open.

In the hotel, built in the trees and on 50ft. piles against which elephants and rhinoceros frequently rub themselves shaking the whole crow's nest structure, were the supplies of salt which, strengthened by the water hole form the main attraction to the big game from near and far.

"It is absolutely lovely sitting on the observation platform in such an atmosphere of stillness and calm," she said. Later in Nyeri, the provincial government centre, she shook hands with Kikuyu chiefs.

"We shall always be proud of this day," they told her in a loyal address and they openly pledged their loyalty to the British Government in the presence of 100 Kikuyu leaders.



6.

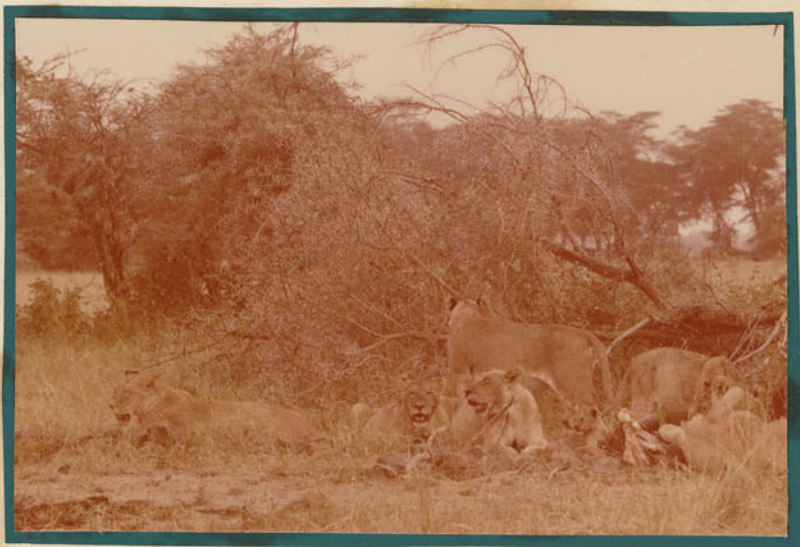
Then I went back to camp and breakfasted. It was a perfect day and we planned to go to the Amboseli National Park in the land rover and leave our native servant Andy to watch over camp till our return. We packed the lunch basket, cameras and film in the back of the truck. We gave Andy the gun for no guns may be used in a reserve - and started on our journey.

It was not long before we saw a herd of buffalo in a large clearing, and we drove into a nearby thicket, where we were able to take some most interesting pictures.

We carried on for half a mile without seeing anything of particular interest, then, to my great delight, met a herd of zebra, the largest of its kind. We got to work with the cameras.

We then made our way further into the park, it was not long before we were lucky enough to witness two of the most dangerous animals in East Africa locked in deadly combat, a leopard and a buffalo. Here I took three yards of film. It was so interesting that we stayed to watch the fight which the leopard won.





## In Amboseli Park





An African Sparrow



7.

We went by the river and saw something moving on the opposite bank, it was a hippopotamus. The hippo can swim at ten knots and eats the plants off the river bed. We continued on our way and saw some giraffes nibbling the shoots and young leaves off a tall fig tree. The giraffe and hippo are both Artiodactyl mammals, differing very much in their habits and appearances. The former is the tallest living animal and is quite harmless except when guarding its young. Its movements fascinate me and I should have some good snaps.

We went back to camp and had a meal of locust cooked in butter, followed by roast venison. I then retired, feeling very drowsy and slept soundly until I woke up in the middle of the night startled by an odd sound but I was too comfortable and snug to investigate and went back to sleep. The following morning we found the spoor of a leopard which had visited our camp during the night. It had helped himself to the meat which Andy had shot the previous day - that of a young gazelle, all this, while I slept three feet away!!





Zebra





Bushbuck



8.

We moved camp to the outskirts of the Aberdare forest. We wanted very much to go to Treetops. The original hotel was a large nest in an enormous fig tree, but this was burnt down by the Mau Mau in '1954. The new one is built in the trees on poles. As we were going through the forest we noticed some rude ladders hanging from the trees, they were to protect people from the wild animals, for if you were being charged by a rhino you could just climb the tree to safety.

We made our way further into the forest and then suddenly some figs began pouring down on my head, it was a baboon having fun!

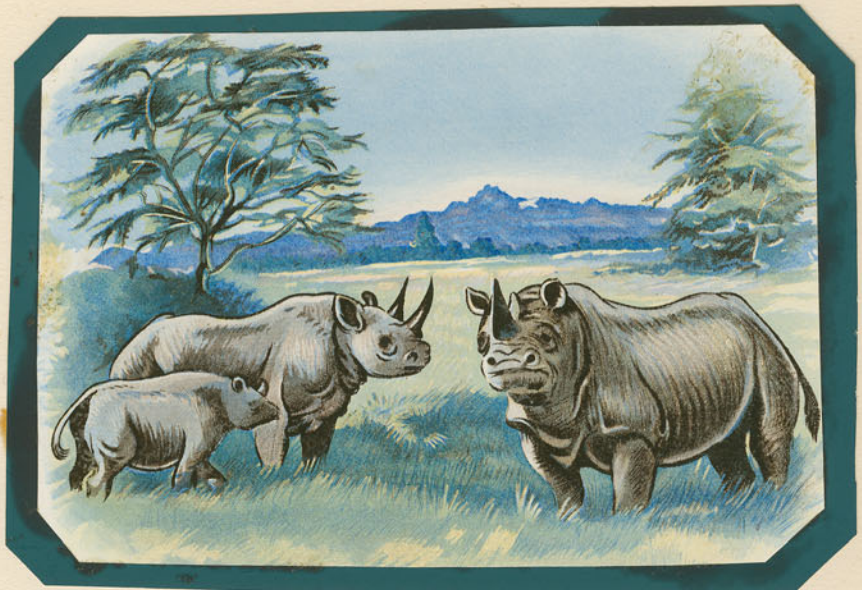
We arrived at Treetops and our cameras and equipment were hoisted up by a rope. We ascended a long ladder and then this was pulled up into the tree.

Platforms are built in the upper branches, and from a ledge 50ft. above the ground we looked down upon a pool of mud where animals come each night to bathe, play and feed oblivious of the fact that human beings are observing





Fortunately This Did Not  
Happen To Us.



Family of Rhinos



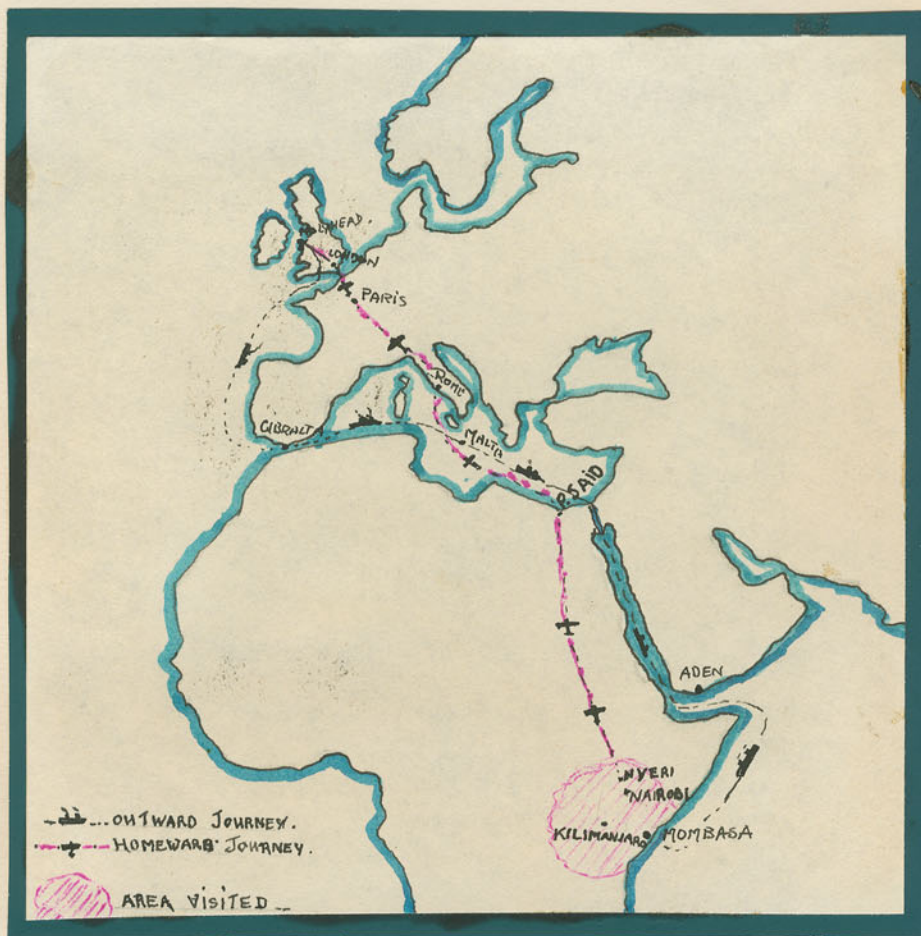
them. We were cautioned to make as little noise as possible and to tread softly, because although the animals could not see us or catch our scent the least sound would frighten them away. No one with a hacking cough is allowed up here!...

There was even an artificial moon - a soft spotlight which copied the moons glow so that even on the dimmest night the animals could be seen. That night in the drowsy gloom, animals began to creep out of the forest slowly, warily, with infinite caution to the foot of our tree. There were rhinos, bushbuck, red forest duiker, water buck, a giant forest hog, several varieties of monkey many buffalo and finally a family of elephants.

We could not stay long at Treetops for it cost £10 to spend one night including a champagne dinner. Though money is refunded if no rhino or elephant was seen!...

While on safari my ear learned to pick out the woof-woof of hippos, the snort





The Land of My Choice,  
and  
a Snapshot which I Have  
Taken.





# NGORONGORO

## THE GAME FILLED CRATER



### Bibliography

Inside Africa - John Gunther  
 Leopard in My Lap - Michaela Denis  
 but mostly letters from a  
 class-mate now living in Africa.



of rhino the blend of lion roars and high pitched laughter of hyenas.

The profusion of bird life in Kenya is bewildering, you can see everything from Ostrich to migratory wagtails on their way to Europe. From the secretary birds the most picturesque animal I have ever seen, with feathers like quills, hence its name, to larks small enough to be put in a pie. Most of these birds were seen by us during our excursion, and we did happen on some wonderful cine pictures and snapshots.

My wonderful sojourn here, like all good things, came to an end much too soon. Though I did have a simply wonderful three days trip to the Ngorongoro Crater to a rest camp at 8,000 ft. unfortunately I have used up my ration of 1,000 words so cannot tell you about it.

I came home from Africa by plane resolved to revisit and if possible, to settle in this land, which had surpassed my expectations<sup>and</sup> remains the Commonwealth country of my choice.

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