



Frederick J. Jackson.

FREDERICK JOHN JACKSON.

*(Founder and First President of the E.A. and U. Natural History Society.)*

It is with deep sorrow that we have to record the death on 3rd February, 1929, at Beaulieu-sur-Mer, on the French Riviera, of our Vice-President\*, Sir Frederick Jackson. Since his retirement in 1917 his health had been far from robust, and he had to spend most of his life in the south of France, only visiting England for a few months in the summer.

A great sportsman, naturalist, and administrator, his name will always be remembered in British East Africa and Uganda, where he served so long and where he took so prominent a share in the historical development of what are now the familiar Kenya Colony and Uganda Protectorate.

Jackson was a Yorkshireman and was born at Oran Hall in that county in 1860, his father being the late John Jackson, of Oran. He was sent to Shrewsbury School and afterwards to Jesus College, Cambridge, where in 1880 he rowed number 5 in the College boat, which finished head of the river both in the Lent and May races. In December of the same year he gained his C.U.B.C. trial cap, rowing number 2 in the losing trial boat, and in 1881 also rowed for his College, which was again head of the river. He first went to Africa on a shooting trip in 1884, when he joined Mr. J. G. Haggard, H.B.M. Consul at Lamu. He explored the coast-lands of what is now Kenya Colony, the Tana River, and the slopes of Kilimanjaro, collecting birds and butterflies in the intervals of shooting big game. In 1885 the Anglo-German Treaty was signed delimiting the British and German spheres of influence, and Jackson soon afterwards joined the service of the Imperial British East Africa Company, which had been founded by Sir William Mackinnon, to take over and administer the British sphere.

In 1889 Jackson was appointed the leader of an expedition organised by the Company to open up the regions then hardly known between Mombasa and Lake Victoria, and to try to obtain news of Emin Pasha and of Stanley's relief expedition. Leaving Mombasa in the summer of that year he reached Kavirondo, when he received a letter from King Mwanga of Uganda. There, owing to the religious-political troubles between the rival Christian factions, matters were in great confusion. While waiting for further news from Mwanga,

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Jackson went north and explored Mt. Elgon and the country beyond. On his return to Kavirondo he found that the notorious Carl Peters had passed him and hoisted the German flag at Mumias and Mengo. This he pulled down, and then proceeded to Uganda himself and found that the Baganda were in two minds whether to accept the administration of the Company or not. Shortly afterwards Jackson returned to the coast, and about the same time the question of annexation was settled in Europe and the "Heligoland" Treaty of 1900 was signed which gave Uganda to Great Britain.

When the British Government took over the administration of British East Africa and Uganda in 1894 Jackson became an official, and he remained in the Colonial Service until his retirement in 1917, having served as Lieutenant-Governor of the East African Protectorate from 1907-1911 and finally Governor of Uganda from 1911-1917. For his services during the mutiny of the Sudanese troops in Uganda in 1898 he was awarded a C.B., together with the Uganda Mutiny medal and two clasps. Later on, for his administrative services he was created C.M.G. in 1902 and K.C.M.G. in 1918.

Jackson joined the Union\* in 1888, and in *The Ibis* of the same year appeared a paper, prepared with the help of Captain Shelley, on the birds obtained on his earliest visit to East Africa in 1884-1886. During the Uganda Expedition of 1888-1891 he again collected assiduously and his very large collection was worked out by Dr. R. B. Sharpe and published with Jackson's own field-notes in a long paper which appeared in five parts in *The Ibis* during 1891-1892. Numbers of new species were described and figured in these and other papers, in *The Ibis* and in the Bulletin of the B.O.C. during the period between 1890 and 1917. Perhaps the most important of these was one which appeared in *The Ibis* for 1899-1902 in three parts on the birds obtained by him in British East Africa and the Equatorial Region from 1892 to 1898, and also one in *The Ibis* for 1906 on a collection of birds made by his nephew, Mr. (now Sir Geoffrey) Archer, during a journey to the Ruwenzori Range; this expedition was made in 1902, and was the first one to collect any of the Ruwenzorian birds.

On the foundation of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society in 1910 Jackson was elected President, and contributed a paper on the game-birds of East Africa which ran through several numbers of the Journal. Jackson also wrote nine out of the nineteen chapters of the first volume of "Big-Game Shooting," published in the Badminton Library series under the editorship of Clive Phillips-Wolley in 1897, dealing with shooting and Big Game in East Africa. He also contributed a number of articles on the

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larger game-animals of Kenya and Uganda to Rowland Ward's "Great and Small Game in Africa," edited by H. A. Bryden and published in 1899. During his time of service in Africa, and more particularly since his retirement, he also prepared a complete history of the Birds of East Africa and Uganda. This unfortunately has never yet been published, and remains in typescript. He had hoped to put the finishing touches to what he regarded as his life-work before leaving Beaulieu this year. It would be deplorable if such a vast store of observation and knowledge should be lost, and it is hoped that means may be found to publish this work at some future date. In 1929 he was able to arrange for the publication of the portion dealing with the game-birds, including the Sand-Grouse, Pigeons, Snipe, Bustards, and Ducks.

All Jackson's spare time in Africa was devoted to collecting and making observations on the habits of Mammals, Birds, and Butterflies, and his collection of bird-skins contained over 12,000 specimens, representing 774 species. At the same time, he was most generous to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, to which he presented all the types of his new species, at least one hundred in number, as well as examples of many rare forms not represented in the Museum collection. His own valuable collection is unfortunately now being dispersed, but the Natural History Museum has, through the generosity of Mr. Spedan Lewis, secured the series of Owls, Nightjars, and Turacos.

Sir Frederick Jackson married in 1904 Aline, daughter of Mr. William Wallace Cooper, of Dublin. She accompanied her husband to Africa and remained there with him until he retired, sharing his life to the full. Of late years he was in a very delicate state of health, chiefly owing to the fact that during the suppression of the Sudanese Mutiny he was badly wounded by a bullet which entered his lung. A man of extreme modesty and great unselfishness, Jackson was much beloved by all those with whom he came in contact, both in Africa and at home. He was an excellent observer and a most sympathetic administrator and ruler, and a very firm friend to the native races as well as the white settlers in Kenya Colony and Uganda. Although by no means an enthusiast for the white colonization in East Africa, and viewing with distress the ever increasing immigration of white settlers into his favourite hunting-grounds, nevertheless he realized that progress in this direction was inevitable. It speaks volumes for his character and personality that in a country where strong views and partisanship prevail, his well-known sentiments never lost for him the highest esteem and friendship of the British community.

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† Arrangements have now been completed for the publication of the entire work.

## TO THE FOUNDER OF OUR SOCIETY.

SIR FREDERICK JOHN JACKSON, K.C.M.G., C.B. BORN 1860, DIED 1929.

### *A personal tribute.*

If only for the reasons expressed above it is fitting that a tribute should be made in the Journal to this well-beloved comrade on the occasion of his much-regretted death and I have been asked to attempt this sad task.

In the early part of 1909 an informal but memorable meeting took place at which was afterwards known as the Treasury bungalow where Mr. Jackson, at that time Lieutenant-Governor of British East Africa, lived. It was quite a small gathering and it is not easy to be precise as to those present, but apart from our host I seem to remember Blayney Percival, the late R. J. Cuninghame, Battiscombe and the late John Sergeant, but there may have been a few more. Our object was the foundation of a Natural History Society and so the E.A. and U.N.H.S. was born. From that small beginning it has steadily grown and our founder maintained to the end the greatest interest in its progress.

Of his work as an administrator this is not the place to speak, and I desire to here refer to his gifts as a field naturalist, for in this rôle he had few peers, the study of wild life great and small was his absorbing passion.

His career in Africa started as long ago as 1887 when he made his first shooting trip to the Kilimanjaro region; and East Africa then obtained a grip which was never relaxed. Many of his experiences with the bigger game were embodied in a section of the Badminton Library published in 1894 and well worth reference to-day for its vivid picture of the old hunting grounds.

As years went on and as official duties circumscribed his wanderings, the study of birds became the one pursuit of his leisure and it is his contributions to ornithological science which will carry his name down to posterity. Although not normally a very systematic person, his devotion to accuracy in regard to the habits of birds forced him to make meticulous notes on this subject and the careful records by such an acute and conscientious observer cannot fail to be of the greatest scientific value.

The dream of his declining years was to make accessible to ornithologists the observations of a lifetime and in 1926 he published a monograph on the Game Birds of East Africa which work must be of great value to all field naturalists in Kenya and Uganda. The MSS. of his work on the other birds was well nigh completed before he died, and awaits publication.

It is a poignant and difficult task to write about a dear friend whom one has known for nearly forty years and who by his unselfishness and by his simple, generous and upright character endeared himself to all with whom he came into intimate contact. His impatience with all who did not come up to his ideals of conduct, his absence of side, his loyalty to his old colleagues, all went to constitute a character of unparalleled personal charm. Bwana Jackson's death leaves an irreparable gap.

C. W. HOBLEY.

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### JACKSON MEMORIAL FUND.

By the death of Sir Frederick Jackson, East Africa has lost one of the early pioneers to whose enterprise and work East Africa was secured to the British Crown.

Jackson first came to what is now Kenya in the year 1884. From early boyhood he exhibited a keen sense of observation, and all branches of Natural History made a strong appeal to him.

Though his first two visits to East Africa were ostensibly to indulge his passion for "big game" hunting, yet the mass of material of general zoological interest which he collected and brought home, bears ample testimony that the collecting of "lesser game" had occupied a very considerable proportion of his time.

Jackson's first visit was in the early days of the East African Company, and as a result of his knowledge of the country he was later offered, and accepted, the appointment of British representative during that historical race between British and German interest to secure Uganda. Jackson's conflict with, and success over, Karl Peters is an historical achievement which reads like a romance; we, however, cannot do more than mention the fact in passing.

Jackson held several appointments under the East Africa Company, and subsequently under the British Government when East Africa and Uganda were declared Protectorates under the British Crown. He was Deputy Commissioner, East Africa Protectorate, from 1902 to 1907; Lieutenant-Governor from 1907 to 1911; and Governor of Uganda from 1911 to 1917.

Jackson's interest in Natural History never flagged throughout the arduous task of administrative duties. His collections, now deposited in the British Museum of Natural History, bear ample testimony to his outstanding ability as a naturalist and field-worker; indeed, these same collections form the bulk of the East African material in the National Collection.

Jackson was not content to play a lone hand in exploring the almost virgin field which East Africa presented. Wherever he went he awakened an interest in Natural History amongst those with whom he came in contact. This interest culminated in the formation of the East Africa and Uganda Natural History Society, with Jackson as the founder and first President, 1910.

The Society has flourished and now possesses a very large collection, with Jackson's typical series as the backbone. The collections are housed in the Coryndon Memorial, a very large building which has been handed to the Natural History Society as a Museum. The committee is very desirous of commemorating in some adequate and useful manner the name of its Founder, a very gallant gentleman of outstanding ability and a pioneer of Empire. We are, therefore, appealing to all friends and admirers of the late Sir Frederick Jackson to support this fund, so that Jackson's name will go down to posterity as the "Father of East African Zoologists," one to whom the Empire owes a debt of gratitude.

It is suggested that subscriptions to this fund should be utilised in purchasing fittings and cabinets for the new Museum, each to bear the inscription "Jackson Memorial."\*

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\* Subscriptions to the fund may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 658, Nairobi.