

Captain Spaulding on Africa

(from the Marx Brothers' movie *Animal Crackers*, 1930)

Introduction

With the following piece we want to eternalize Captain Spaulding, the great explorer who like no other captured the real nature of the black continent. Now he would be stoned to death for that kind of humor, then he was celebrated for his audacious adventures: Hail to Captain Spaulding and the elephant in his pajamas!



(Graphics: rijo-research.de)

Quote

Friends, I'm going to tell you of the great mysterious wonderful continent known as Africa. Africa, God's country. And he can have it ...

Well, sir, we left New York drunk and early on the morning of February 2nd. After 15 days on the water and 6 on the boat we finally arrived on the shores of Africa.

We at once proceeded 300 miles into the heart of the jungle where I shot a polar bear. This bear was 6 ft 7 in his stocking feet and had shoes on. This bear was anemic and couldn't stand the cold climate. He was a rich bear and could afford to go away in the winter.

From the day of our arrival we led an active life. The first morning saw us up at 6, breakfasted, then back in bed at 7. This was our routine for the first 3 months ...

One morning I was sitting in front of the cabin smoking some meat. There wasn't a cigar store in the neighborhood. As I

say, I was sitting in front of the cabin when I bagged six tigers. I bagged them, I bagged them to go away, but they hung around all afternoon. They were the most persistent tigers I've ever seen. The principal animals inhabiting the African jungle are moose, elk and Knights of Pythias. Of course you all know what a moose is, that's big game. The first day I shot two bucks that was the biggest game we had.

As I say you all know what a moose is. A moose runs around on the floor, and eats cheese and is chased by the cats. The elks on the other hand live up in the hills, and in the spring they come

down for their annual convention. It is very interesting to watch them come down to the waterhole; and you should see them run when they find it is only a waterhole. What they're looking for is an elk-a-hole.

One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas, I'll never know. But that is entirely irrelevant to what I was talking about.

We took some pictures of the native girls, but they weren't developed. But we're going back again in a couple of weeks ...

Source: whysanity.net

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