

ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS:
THE SHOWMAN SCIENTIST AND THE
CENTRAL ASIATIC EXPEDITIONS THAT MADE HIM FAMOUS

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Historical Research 3390
November 30, 2008

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Central Asiatic Expeditions that Made Him Famous

“The Roaring Twenties”: the term brings to mind men in suits, martinis, flapper girls and a time that nothing could go wrong in the United States. This is not without reason. It had been less than a generation since Theodore Roosevelt’s charge on San Juan Hill, and less than a decade since America rode in as the cavalry to end the Great War. American soldiers had not endured the magnitude of trench warfare that their European brothers in arms had. American “doughboys” had never faced the hearth of such stresses. While in England there was a shift in values, virtues and loss of social hierarchies and family name status, America had stretched out the growing pangs of a cowboy nation and emerged a hero on the world stage. This iconic leading role would fuel an explosion of research, exploration and scientific research unparalleled even today in scope and sometime eccentricities.

The big name in American exploration and research organizations was (and is) the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Anyone who was anyone yearned to work for, or at very least at, the museum. Many of those on the American Museum’s payroll were cross listed with the exclusive membership in the illustrious Explorer’s Club, also in New York. The longing to work there was no different in a young man from Beloit, Wisconsin.

Roy Chapman Andrews was born in Beloit on January 26, 1884. Only about two and a half years after the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, Andrews was part of that generation that came of age at the turn of the century. Wisconsin was far enough from the west to be relatively “civilized” by the time Andrews was exploring his local forests and waters. So civilized was the

town of Beloit that Charles Gallenkamp notes that, “His [Andrews] father, Charles Ezra Andrews, was a native of Worthington, Indiana, who had moved to Beloit in 1873, lured by the town’s reputation as a burgeoning industrial center”.¹

The word “Civilization” to anyone with an adventurous spirit can often be equated with “restriction”, restlessness”, and “lost opportunity”. People like Andrews who are self proclaimed explorers never tend to stay in one place for long and make very poor factory workers. It was this restlessness and a feeling of being bigger than Beloit that led Andrews to leave his hometown as soon as he graduated from the local college. His early life is largely nondescript. This is particularly due to Andrews own style. There is a lack of background in any of the numerous memoir-esque books that Andrews had written throughout his career. On deeper investigation Gallenkamp found the explanation behind the fact his autobiography, Under a Lucky Star, contains less than a dozen pages on his life up to age twenty-one. According to Gallenkamp’s research, this is because “no one but himself would give ‘a tinker’s damn’ about his boyhood”.²

Andrews was always aware of his image. When the life you want everyone to know starts at twenty-one, then all the silly, ridiculousness of childhood does not smear any persona that has been carefully built. It is this kind of mindset that would make him one of the most popular and recognizable characters of the twentieth century. When you are a man as aware of his own destiny as Andrews was, and you get a chance to work for an institution that was (and still is) aware of it’s own destiny, nothing short of fame, fortune, and greatness, awaits the pair. In the public’s eye one really did not exist independent from the other. Fact is, Andrews’ job working for the Museum did not come by chance.

Fortune rewards the bold, and Andrews has never been described as lacking boldness. He showed up at the museum looking for a job as a naturalist or taxidermist. When no such opening was available he convinced the administration to let him hire on as a janitor. The most famous field man to ever come through the American Museum began his illustrious career mopping up the collection rooms, laboratories, and corridors. By the time he had retired, Andrews had mopped up more than just the floors. He and his second wife lived out his retirement in his apartment at 11 East Seventy-Third Street in New York, surrounded by his extensive collection of Chinese art, among other curiosities.

Andrews, in addition to being constantly aware that the world was watching him, also knew what it took to be on top. To be successful, in his mind, meant surrounding yourself by the best and the brightest. Even if the great things that were going on were not of his own hand, Andrews made sure that his name was included somewhere on the roster. Such a skill would serve him well when he began putting together the plans for the Central Asiatic Expeditions. The ability to tap in to what the public wanted to see and mold himself to it also allowed Andrews to remain a public force far after the expeditions were asked to leave Central Asia and not return.

His careful forging of his life is most evident during the last of the Central Asiatic Expeditions before the unrest in China forced the area to become off limits to outsiders. This may be due to its intense publications, in no small part to Andrews himself. Even as he offers credit to the men that helped the expedition be successful, in the end, either intentional or not, the glory nearly always goes to Andrews. He is most remembered at his height of exploration and hardly ever for any of his responsibility duties as a zoologist, or as museum head. It was the

museum that helped to shape the future of the man as much as the man shaped the future of the museum.

His early days were filled with listening to the talks and propositions among the scientist in the offices that he mopped. He would also take mental notes when he was assistant taxidermist and whale collector under various bosses. He would take the best examples of field work and leadership and use them. He would also rearrange the worst examples he saw and present them in a way that seemed virtually foolproof to those that he was convincing. Though he personally contributed little to the field of paleontology scientifically, he did, through sheer force of will it seems, contribute popularity and financial backing. It seems that no one could say no to Roy Chapman Andrews, whether he was asking for backing, permission, or money. The public and individuals alike all clamored to be apart of the Andrews aura.

Sometime in 1915 Andrews, who was at the time assistant curator of Mammalogy, steered his focus away from whales and honed in on Central Asia. He found a sympathetic ear with the Museum President, Henry Osborn. Osborn, in 1900, had prophesied that it was in central Asia where the birthplace of primitive man would be found. With encouragement from Osborn and other colleagues, Andrews set out to raise the money for the expedition. Back in the days before large research grants and university study monies, the funds came from private donations. These donations would come largely from wealthy investors who had an interest in any (and sometimes all of) life's eccentric curiosities.

Geoffrey Hellman described the Third Asiatic Expedition thus: "It was far and away the most ambitious such venture ever undertaken. With headquarters in Peking, it employed an army of Museum, and Museum-connected paleontologist, paleobotanist, archeologist, zoologist, topographers, herpetologists, surgeon, and geologists...who pioneeringly traversed the Gobi in

fleets of motorcars; it spent close to a million dollars, it coped with bandits, a treacherous terrain, and the vagaries of Chinese officials”³. Hellman also points out some of the grand explorer’s scientific shortcomings before delving into the expeditions themselves. He states, “Andrews’ Bachelor of Arts degree, conferred by Beloit College in 1906 (Beloit and Brown gave him honorary degrees two decades later, when he was at the height of his expeditionary fame), was only a few weeks old when he gained office”⁴. His honorary degrees may have looked good, but they proved of little use in the field. Andrews’s most popular find in the Gobi was that of a nest of dinosaur eggs. Hellman again points out that, “The eggs were identified as dinosaurian by Dr. Walter Granger, Andrews’ second-in-command, chief paleontologist, and, in fact, the scientific backbone of the expedition. (Andrews never had much idea of what he was looking at, scientifically speaking)”⁵

Despite his paleontological near-sightedness, Andrews was the expedition leader and the perks of the glory go to him. The public, Andrews’ ever present audience, seemed not to mind or even know that the last thing Andrews published in the scientific community was a small paper on right whales. Andrews was in effect *the* expedition.

Ronald Rainger in his book An Agenda for Antiquity contributes the success of Andrews as the stage master and head promoter to keeping the public well informed of “this momentous undertaking.” “Taking on the role as the intrepid explorer, he delivered hundreds of lectures to dramatize and raise money for the expeditions.” “Employing hyperbole and appeals to adventure, cherished values, and human salvation, Andrews succeeded in raising \$600,000 for the Central Asiatic Expedition.”⁶

Rainger also believes that the expeditions were backed by the big brass for more than romantic reasons. He says, “Imperial objectives were an integral part of the expeditions... For

them [the Morgans, the Fricks and others like them], Asia was fertile ground for economic development and exploitation. Projects such as the Central Asiatic expeditions not only followed up the openings made by political and economic expansion but embodied the same attitudes and objectives.”⁷ Rainger is also very sure of Osborn and Andrews’ participation in this type of behavior. Of Andrews he writes, “His writings not only described the explorations but frequently included endorsement for the Dodge cars and Corona typewriters that the expeditions employed.”⁸

There was another central belief to the expeditions: that Americans possessed far greater knowledge than the Chinese or Mongolians so it was their duty to take control of the land and the scientific data. In fact, when China insisted that all things found on the expeditions remain in china and that at least half of the participants must be Chinese, both Osborn and Andrews contemptuously refused. Their decision was backed by the Museum. Andrews titled his introductory volumes dealing with the expeditions as The New Conquest of Central Asia. This title Rainger asserts, “Embodied the sense of priority, superiority, and the right to take control of knowledge that characterized these expeditions.”⁹ Rainger ends his chapter dealing with Osborn and the museums vices on this note: “Those explorations were also the means for Americans, especially white Anglo-Saxon Protest Americans, to establish their presence throughout the world. Osborn frequently touted Andrews not only for the discoveries associated with the Central Asiatic Expeditions but also for his vision, courage, and commitment in undertaking such a project. To Osborn, Andrews was an intrepid explorer who served as a model of individual achievement and racial fulfillment.”¹⁰

Whatever the underlying reasons that were, and may be still, fought out behind closed doors, the expedition was off. Andrews had raised the money, succeeded in gaining

transportation (at a rather low price given the number of times the name “Dodge” was printed in reports), found the camels and outfitted the personnel. Andrews’ is the only member of the expedition that published anything dealing with the expeditions. He was the only one that had time. The chief scientist, Granger, was too busy actually doing scientific work, and the others were trying to keep the logistical mass floating. The plan was to stay in the field for five years, wintering in Peking.

The frontpiece of Andrews’ autobiography is probably the most reproduced photo of Andrews of them all. The popularity of this photo was not by chance either. The photo shows Andrews sitting in profile with his rifle and ammunition belt. His ranger hat, complete with a feather, and his knee high boots are coated with dust, behind him rise the Flaming Cliffs. There has never been a better publicity photo. There was plenty of time to choose a pose while Headquarters was being set up in Peking was being set up. The former Manchu Palace served not only as the expedition’s headquarters, but also as Andrews’ home during the Central Asiatic Expeditions from 1921 to 1932.

This type of publicity was pumped back to the American people via the magazines of the time; most notably, TIME. Before TIME magazine became the political mouthpiece of the country, it kept the people informed of the scientific explorations of the day. Andrews was top fodder during his tints in Asia. There were weekly updates of discoveries from China and Andrews. The Expedition update in the October 29, 1923 says: “Two Tons of fossils have been dispatched to America, including the skull of a creodont...measuring 33x21 inches”¹¹ But, the heart of what the Americans loved was the memoirs and travelogues that Andrew would write while he was in the desert and when he came home.

These books include such captivating titles as Under a Lucky Star, An Explorer Come Home, Heart of Asia, This Business of Exploring, and Ends of the Earth. Even today, such titles are a sure way to get books sold in stores and through magazine orders. Just the titles themselves conjure up images of bandits, deserts, treasures, and other incidents of adventure. While Andrews' books do fall into great public acclaim, they belie the lack of paleontology and geologic skills that is needed for a scientifically successful expedition. Andrews was a zoologist, but was an expedition leader on a paleontological and mapping expedition into the unknown.

There are times he does write about the scientist that he brought along. Most often the scientist that Andrews mentions is his right hand man, Walter Granger. Andrews frequently mentions his lack of patience for such tedious tasks as brushing and dental picking around small specimens. According to Gallenkamp Andrews confesses "I was inclined to employ a pickax where Granger would have used a camel's hair brush and pointed instruments not much larger than needles".¹²

In his book Under a Lucky Star Andrews mentions that Granger had given him specific instructions dealing with such delicate findings. Granger is paraphrased by Andrews to something like this: "Thou shall not approach this sacred spot unless thy pickax is left behind". Gallenkamp goes on to mention that such goings on became axiomatic back at the American Museum. "Any time an improperly collected or damaged fossil reached the laboratory" he says, "It was said to have been 'RCA'd'"¹³ This is an allusion to Andrews heavy handed approach to collecting specimen out in the field. It is said that Andrews eventually tempered his "enthusiasm" under the tutelage of the Field Paleontologist Walter Granger.

Another man behind the figure that Andrews would become is J.B Shackelford. Interestingly enough, Shackelford had less scientific expertise than Andrews. The

aforementioned Flaming Cliffs in the iconic photo of Andrews were not even discovered by Andrews. While stopped on a three day search for a locally known Chinese postroad, the expedition went over one hundred mile without seeing anyone, then they happened upon three *yurts*, local Mongolian tent-homes. Shackelford, a photographer by trade, and a very good one, walked out from the *yurts* nearly a half a mile to get a better look at some picturesque mounds that were “conspicuous on the plain”.¹⁴ So the backdrop for the photo that has Andrews studying the far off landscape was found by a photographer looking for a good landscape.

The eighth chapter of Andrews book This Business of Exploring continues first hand details from On the Trail of Ancient Man with a bit more about China towards the end of the expedition in the latter part of the 1920s. Chinese politics would shape the future of the expeditions and the American present in and around Mongolia. It is in this book that Andrews, by his own accounts, reveals his place in the Scientific Hierarchy of the Central Asiatic Expedition.

“When the Expedition returned to Peking from the Gobi Desert in the Autumn of 1925,” Andrews writes, “the scientific staff dispersed to various parts of the world. Doctors Granger and Nelson prepared for a long winter along the Yangtze River; the former to continue his studies in the fossil pits near Wanhsien, Szechuan; the latter to work along the river banks examining numerous caves which we hoped would give evidence of the occupation of primitive man. George Olsen fitted out a laboratory at headquarters in which to prepare the fossil collections, with a staff of native assistants. It was imperative that I should return to America to obtain additional financial support for the Expedition and to stimulate public interest by lectures and writing”.¹⁵

So the scientist stayed in China and the promoter returned home to the glory of the adoration from the American public and the scientific community. The affairs in Peking were left to one J. McKenzie Young, with some assistance from Norman Lovell. The Expedition was all but disbanded for the down season. The timing of Andrews departure may be partly to the “Lucky Star” that was watching over him, or just a reading of the times. A civil war broke out in Shanghai in October of 1925. Andrews was back in America, and McKenzie Young, and Lovell had their hands full trying to prepare for the following spring’s expedition

“It caused me no worry”, Andrews writes, “because Shanghai is a long way from Peking and I did not believe that the war would spread northward.” “Even if it did, the northern Chinese never fought in winter”¹⁶ Andrews did not return to China until March right before the Expedition was to head out, Lovell had to deal with the People’s Army commandeering his four new Dodge vehicles, already laden with gear and on their way to Expedition Headquarters, to transport the soldiers retreating along the motor road.

This was a sooth-like preamble to what would be a wasted summer. Throughout the entire field season the expedition was blocked at every turn trying to get into Mongolia. There was war and infighting at nearly every turn. Andrews recounts tales of survival amidst destruction. Casually keeping tolls of coolies killed along the road. The only scientific additions to the expedition that year was some fossils that Granger had found during he winter, and some Neolithic Chinese tools that Nelson had found in the stead of his primitive man evidence he had searched for in the caves.

Andrews ends his tale of that season on a rather depressed note: “As there was little I could do in Peking during the winter, I sailed from Shanghai on September first for America”. He continues even less enthusiastically, “Our fruitless summer had cost considerably more than

would have been expended during a season's field work, and more money was urgently needed."¹⁷

The summer of 1926's field season was a bust and Andrews does not mention, in This Business of Exploring, where all the players in his expedition would winter but he is apt to publish his winter plans. He states, "I had also accepted an invitation to present the results of our explorations before the Royal Geographic Society in London at the Asia Lecture on November 10th." "My winter", he continues, "was a busy one and added some fifty thousands dollars to the treasury of the Expedition"¹⁸ Andrews never mentions where it all came from.

Exploring was published in 1935 with this absence of his staff's winter whereabouts. Nearly twenty years later when Andrews publishes Beyond Adventure in 1952, there is a section entitled "Antiforeignism Interrupts our Work"¹⁹ Andrews was concerned that the aspect of continuing field research in the Gobi was not going to materialize. Andrews writes of the steps that were taken to keep the expedition as a presence in China. "We proceeded to liquidate certain effects of the expedition, put others in a place of safety, and reduce current expenses to the minimum", he writes. "All the staff" he continues, "except MacKenzie Young, I sent back to America."²⁰

Andrews and Young stayed in Peking to keep a watch on things to see if the political upheavals would die down enough to get back to their business as usual. There was surveillance was not a boring one though. Andrews seems far from lamenting: "What with polo, social events, and a good deal of magazine writing the summer and autumn of 1927 passed quickly for Mac Young and me."²¹ The magazine, or at least one of them, which Andrews spent that autumn writing for, was National Geographic. National Geographic followed expeditions such as Andrews with intense interest. Shackelford was a professional photographer and paired with

Andrews' polished prose the articles that were sent back from China were the must-reads for their times.

The articles that Andrews would toil out for this magazine and others, never really included any mention that these years may be the last of American ran scientific expeditions. The articles are, in fact, quite the opposite, when they appear. Both the year 1926 and 1927 are conspicuously lacking National Geographic Articles by Andrews. But the winter labor and toil finally yields published fruit in 1933.

The articles finally appear, after at least six years of polishing, in the sixty-third volume off National Geographic Magazine. Two articles are listed in the table of contents, Explorations in the Gobi Desert, and Nomad Life and Fossil Treasures of Mongolia, and take up nearly half of that month's magazine and were advertised to contain seventy one illustrations between them. Point of fact: they are not two separate articles but one interwoven in the middle of the other. Nomad Life is basically a pictorial of Mongolian customs, dress, and basic way of life.

Nomad contains 20 illustrations in "full color". These color plates and black and white photos were all courtesy of Andrews' expedition photographer, J.B Shackelford. With the vibrant colors plates of the native Mongolians and the well places dramatic shots of the exploration Shackelford was illustrating the stories that Andrews was telling. One of these photographs attest to Shackelford's growing importance as Andrews' public relations champion. The photo takes up half a page and shows Andrews feeding "two pet eagles with chopsticks".²²

Images such as this, when published back home, make Andrews seem even more iconic. This man can tame wild animals in an even wilder environment to the point that even the most ferocious bird of prey in the area will sit patiently in his lap and await a bit or morsel of food from the hands of the intrepid leader.

There are many mentions of the dare-deviling escapes from bandits and man eating Mongolian dogs. There are even more instances of “firsts”. First motors in this part of the desert, first white man and automobile seen by the indigenous people. Another of Shackelford’s photos , shows a native Mongol investigating the mysteries of an electric torch, or flashlight this on entitled, “Where does the light come from?”²³

The language in the caption oozes Andrews. The caption reads: “Mongols *invariably* were fascinated but the flashlights and, next to the field glasses, were more desirous of possessing them than any other items of the Expeditions equipment”.²⁴ This is quintessential “trinkets and beads” with the natives, and the American public lapped such things up.

Andrews did include some scientific fodder in his articles. Interspersed about the articles’ illustrations of epic lines of “motors”²⁵, and natives and expedition members pushing them out of the sand, are some interesting photos of the scientist working. There are four. Technically there are six if the “Mapping the Badlands” and the “Climb to the Summit to Reach the Eagles Nest” are counted.

The eagles nest fiasco seems to be just a bit of down time “goofing off”. “Mapping” shows Dr. Andrews and Capt. W.P.T. Hill, United States Marine Corps, one of the Expedition topographers bent over a chart table. The desert, being devoid of a large number of landmarks, proved to be a very difficult terrain to map for Andrews and his team. The problem was finally solved, not by the Expeditions fearless leader, but by one Major L.B Roberts, chief topographer for the expedition. Andrews gives the credit thus, “He solved the difficulty by using the cars as stadia rods. The heights of the hub, fender, and windshield were measured and these were sufficient, because the sights were from one to two miles. The distance was kept by a speedometer, which was frequently checked over known courses”.²⁶

To compete with public interest in the Archaeology sect of American Andrews and Shackelford include a photo of Dr. N.C. Nelson, the Expeditions Archaeologist, “Laying out flints cut by the Dune Dwellers many of thousand of years ago.”²⁷ Paleontology was only part of the Expedition; Andrews had to keep reminding the public, and himself, of that. Plus this “Outline of a 10,000-year history”²⁸ far surpassed anything else being stirred up in the Archaeological field, so Andrews was winning that race as well. At least, the runner that Andrews was putting in the race was winning.

That race may also have helped Andrews push for financial backing on his lecture tours and visits in the United State. The competition was with Britain. One thing that survived the death of the Victorian Age was the desire for anything Egyptian. At the turn of the century and well into it, the dominant force in Egyptology was the British. There were great treasures being brought home by the Brits from the tombs of the Pharaohs. Although there is no proof of it, given the nature of Andrews’s speeches, it is not a far stretch to imagine him asking his private backers if the U.S was to remain England’s inferior in the realms of science. The Gobi would be at the very least the American equivalent of Egypt. Andrews was sure that if he found what they had set out to find, and Osborn’s theory proven correct, it would be even better.

The Gobi did not turn out to be America’s Egypt treasure trove, but it did turn out to be off limits. Following the antiforeignism and the revolutions throughout China, Inner Mongolia became strictly communist. The Gobi Desert, Outer Mongolia, was now nestled in between Russia to the north and China everywhere else. The Chinese did not want foreigners in general and white capitalist foreigners in particular to be scouring their country side and hauling away relics from there past. Such an ending to these expeditions only increased the local interest in

Andrews's career, field work and adventures. The stories and travelogues that Andrews would publish upon his return to New York, would be on nearly everyone's lips.

There is little evidence with which to ascertain the goings on of the expedition members after the end of the Central Asiatic Expeditions. The belief is almost certain that, given the nature of the beast, post-expedition appointments for members such as Granger and Nelson, were more constructive to their respective careers. Being scientist with their major field of research now blocked in the Gobi, they would have either quietly gathered their gear and headed to another locality that was open to excavation or simply started to interpret the innumerable artifacts that they had sent back ahead of them from Mongolia.

Andrews would continue talking about the expeditions for long after the closure of the area to westerners. The expedition even brought back more than bones and stones. The same Geographic article mentions a hedgehog that Shackelford caught one night. "Mr. Shackelford", writes Andrews, "kept this little fellow all through the summer and eventually took it to New York with him. After living for some time in his apartment it was transferred to the New York Zoological Park. It ate grasshoppers and other insects and bits of fresh meat voraciously, and after a few days could be handled with impunity."²⁹

If the hedgehog was not enough to encourage the public to visit the Zoological Park, then Andrews had another special invitation. During the same year that Shackelford had his hedgehog, the expedition, namely Dr. Chaney, removed a black vulture from its nest when it was a fledgling. There is a picture of this vulture included with all the carefully taken images and landscapes in the article written by Andrews. "Perhaps you have met it in New York" reads the title. The caption reveals a bit more detail: It [the vulture] stayed with the Expedition for an

entire season. Then Dr. Andrews took it to the New York Zoological Park, where it has lived happily for eight years.”³⁰

At the time of the article’s publishing, the Vulture was still alive in the Park. People who visited the New York Zoological Park could see the now famous pet vulture of the great Roy Chapman Andrews. Andrews, being the great story teller, recounts an instance involving this vulture. “Its favorite sleeping place was in the rear of my tent. My police dog, Wolf, also liked to sleep there, and the contests for supremacy were amusing. The dog was usually worsted in these encounters for he evidently considered it beneath his dignity to fight with a bird”.³¹ Who wouldn’t want to stop in and have a look see at the vulture that bested a German shepherd?

Musings like this would continue to make Andrews a welcome guest lecturer at events, and provide him with a healthy income. By the time the fervor of the last expedition on the Asian continent had been buried by the Great Depression Andrews would be elected President of the Explorer’s Club, which he joined in 1908, only four years after its founding. He would become the vice director of the American Museum of Natural History in 1931, and he Director in 1934. He now found himself on the other side of the desk where he had talked to Osborn about the Central Asiatic Expeditions nearly twenty years earlier.

The one thing that would allow Andrews to stay on top of his public domain was his steady, almost conveyor like outturn of books. Before 1916 and the start of the Central Asiatic Expeditions Andrews had published only two works, both on Whales. During the Expeditions, collectively 1916-1929 or 1930, Andrews published twice that many. All four of these books dealt with the expeditions in some way. Camps and Trails in China published in 1918 was written by Andrews and his first wife Yvette Borup whom he had married in 1914.

Yvette and Andrews's children; two sons, all accompanied him on his expeditions from 1922-1930. The family lived in the Palace headquarters in Peking. Andrews, during these eight years seems to have put his exploring ahead of everything. In the April 13, 1930 issue of TIME magazine, listed under "Milestones" as "divorced" in the subtitle. "Roy Chapman Andrews", it states, "curator-in-chief of Asiatic exploration & research at Manhattan's Museum of Natural History; by Mrs. Yvette Borup Andrews; in Paris. Grounds: desertion."³² In Yvette's eyes Andrews was having an affair and his mistress was his expeditions and their clandestine meeting place was the Gobi.

Andrews would only stay divorced for 3 years. On March 4, 1935 Andrews reached another TIME "Milestone." This time the heading was "Married", and it was followed by the details: "Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, 50, explorer, director of the American Museum of Natural History; and Mrs. Wilhelmina Anderson Christmas, pretty young widow of a Manhattan stockbroker; in Manhattan."³³

That same year Andrews was named the Director of the Museum. Andrews welcomed the honor, but the paperwork made him miserable. "I did not react well to confinement in an office," he later lamented. "For twenty-eight years I had lived in the field, and I was like a wild animal that had been trapped late in life and put into a comfortable cage. . . . I couldn't adjust to the change."³⁴

Andrews would stay in his cage for only six short years. During his stint as vice director, Andrews published what some call his finest work on the Gobi and a good reference for the history of paleontology; The New Conquest of Asia. While acting Director Andrews only published three books, one less than he had written while on leading the expeditions. These three were equally impressive. The Director Year's books include This Business of Exploring,

Exploring with Andrews, and The Amazing Planet. He retired in 1941 at age 57 with the title of Honorary Director. During Andrews's retirement he would continue to write about his early life and the expeditions in one form or another.

The first publication from Andrews after his retirement was his autobiography: Under a Lucky Star. The next was a catch all book on primitive man, followed by a continuation of Star, a book called An Explorer Comes Home. All totaled Andrews completed and published 13 books after his retirement in 1941. These are the books that solidified Andrews name in the annals of history, science, and adventure.

During the early 1950s Andrews began to branch out with something new and different from just his normal "my adventure" style of writing. In 1950 he published Quest in the Desert. This book was a fictional story based on actual happenings. There were other such works that Andrews would write throughout his retirement, such as Heart of Asia, and The Quest of the Snow Leopard.

The year 1953 saw a release from Andrews that no one could have suspected. That year he published All About Dinosaurs, a book for young readers. This was the first in a short "All About" series that would include the Dinosaurs title, as well as All about Whales, In the Days of the Dinosaurs, and All About the Strange Beasts of the Past. The last title included most of the mammals that Andrews and his expedition had discovered in the Gobi, including the huge hornless rhino called *Baluchitherium*.

Andrews called his years during the Central Asiatic Expeditions the most productive in his life. This was not because of his own work as a scientist; it was not very important. Apart from the *Baluchitherium* skull he found, others made the major discoveries. Andrews's talent lay in organization and leadership, the ability to form a team and focus it on a goal. He was also

a skilled promoter, one who created public awareness and excitement about dinosaurs and the museums work.

In the Days of the Dinosaurs was published in 1959 and it would be Andrews last. On March 11, 1960 at seventy-six years old, Andrews died of a heart attack at his home in California. He had made peace with his two sons by the time of his death. He had gained the interest and financial backing of the wealthy businessmen in his early life, near the end of his life; he had gained the interest and intellectual curiosities of the everyday youth. Those youth would become the scientist of Andrews' tomorrow. He had built a following to build the American Museum up, and had planted a seed to help it grow even more. The legacy that Andrews left is unmistakable. But so is the legacy of the Central Asiatic Expeditions that made him famous.

The Central Asiatic Expedition preceded Andrews in death by 30 years, but the legacy it left behind is bigger than any one man. But, however unfairly, the credit of the team's success goes to its leader: Andrews. The Central Asiatic Expeditions had discovered the first dinosaur eggs, new dinosaur species, and some of the oldest known mammals. It found evidence of stone age people and mapped an unknown landscape. The expedition scientist sent back specimens of ten thousand mammals, eight thousand reptiles, and eight thousand fish. In the Museum library there are thousands of *feet* of movie film and thousands more still photographs. The Central Asiatic Expeditions made the man famous. But the man made the expeditions happen, and he was proud of them.

In Albert Marrin's book, Secrets from the Rocks Marrin acknowledges that "Still, Roy had good reason to be proud. The CAE [Central Asiatic Expeditions] had written a glorious chapter in the history of science and explorations. It showed that the team approach to exploring

worked, and it proved the value of motor vehicles in exploration. Better yet, no American overseas expedition could boast of having made so many major discoveries.³⁵

Newspapers spoke of Andrews “the dragon hunter”. Rich people asked him for personal tours of the museum. Marrin notes that to this “He gladly obliged, since a generous contribution usually followed each tour.³⁶ The Gobi would remain off limits to western scientist until 30 years after Andrews’s death, but the funds he helped gather, put teams in the field again once they were invited back in 1990 but the Academy of Sciences.

These new expeditions can hardly compare with the ruggedness and trailblazing stories that were retold by Andrews. In Andrews’s world, there were no satellite phones, no GPS, no cell phones, or space age technological advances to deal with the desert extremes. Andrews’s expedition Dodge cars did not have tops, much less air conditioning. There are dangers still lurking in the desert; bandits, blistering heat, and sandstorms. But, all these were part of the adventure of the Central Asiatic Expeditions led by Roy Chapman Andrews. He faced them all and wrote about them in great detail, his stories and his persona are really his greatest legacy.

In a modern day retelling, adventure author and one time writer, editor, and manager of publications for the American Museum of Natural History Douglas Preston says it best: “Andrews is allegedly the real person that the movie character of Indiana Jones was patterned after. Andrews was an accomplished stage master. He created an image and lived it out impeccably—there was no chink in his armor. Roy Chapman Andrews: famous explorer, dinosaur hunter, exemplar of Anglo-Saxon virtues, crack shot, fighter of Mongolian brigands, and the man who created the metaphor of 'Outer Mongolia' as denoting any exceedingly remote place.”³⁷

If the allegations in Preston's statement is correct (and there is no reason to believe that it is not), and knowing what is known about Andrews scientific field expertise, then there is little wonder why there is never any actual archaeology taking place in any of the Indiana Jones movies.

Notes

¹ Charles Gallenkamp. Dragon Hunter. Viking, New York, 2001. 3.

² Gallenkamp, Dragon Hunter. Viking, New York, 2001. 5.

³ Geoffrey Hellman. Bankers, Bones, and Beetles. The Natural History Press, New York, 1969, 175-176. Hellman also mentions that the expedition never did discover prehistoric man, but that the museum, for a while, at least hinted that the Osborn-Matthew theory was correct. The whole prehistoric man in Asia thinking was totally dropped by 1929.

⁴ Hellman, Bankers, Bones, and Beetles. 172-173. The "office" was that of Mr. George H. Sherwood, and Andrews was to be "scrubbing the floors". It is unclear if the two thought that Andrews would grow tired of the menial task and move on to find employment elsewhere. The course of history has it set, once Andrews had his foot in the door there was no stopping him. In just a short time he had proven himself and as assistant naturalist and taxidermist was sent to collect whale specimens for the museum.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 176-177.

⁶ Rainger, Ronald. An Agenda for Antiquity. The University of Alabama Press; Tuscaloosa and London, 1991. Rainger also mentions that Andrews appealed to the businessmen like Morgan, Rockefeller, Cleveland Dodge, Childs Frick and the like by saying that they too "were explorers at heart".

⁷ Rainger, An Agenda for Antiquity. 180. Rainger goes into greater detail citing how the U.S. had gained political power in much of Latin America, and some inroads into Asia. "The annexation of the Philippines and the establishment of the Open Door Policy in China in 1899 provided new opportunities."

⁸ *Ibid.*, 203.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Staff writer, "More Digging", TIME magazine, Monday October 29, 1923. This update also included a plug for earlier books written by the Andrews's (Mr. and Mrs.) about their other expeditions. These books include Camp and Trails in China, and Whale hunting with Gun and Camera.

¹² Gallenkamp, Dragon Hunter. 152.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Roy Chapman Andrews, On the Trail of Ancient Man G.P. Putnam's and Sons, New York, London, 1926. Andrews writes that Shackelford vowed to walk down the red basin and look for fossils for five minutes. If he did not see any fossils he would return to the cars. Halfway down the basin slope, Shackelford found a complete skull about eight inches long. When it was brought back Granger identified it as a new type of reptile. The Flaming Cliffs became the "richest locality of the world from a palaeontological standpoint",

¹⁵ Roy Chapman Andrews, This Business of Exploring. G.P. Putnam's and Sons, 1935. 237

¹⁶ Chapman Andrews, Exploring. 120-123. Andrews goes on to say that he was shocked when 1.) the war did spread northward, and 2) the Chinese broke "good-form" by fighting in the winter, as well as killing many people. He then talks about how McKenzie had the task of using the motor road only between fighting and hauling goods from Tientsin, a port some 80 miles from their capital headquarters. Since Andrews was safely in America it is assumed that these harrowing tales came from McKenzie himself, and no doubt embellished for print by the ever promoting Andrews.

¹⁷ Ibid., 141

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Roy Chapman Andrews, Beyond Adventure, 1952. 238. The 1950s and the cold war become a little more evident in what facts or events are either remembered or at least what is published about said events.

²⁰ Ibid., 238-239 this is a different spelling of Mackenzie than the sources earlier, this could merely be attributed to a different publisher and editor of this later book.

²¹ Ibid., 239

²² Roy Chapman Andrews, "Explorations in the Gobi Desert", National Geographic Magazine, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. June 1933. 661.

²³ Andrews, "Explorations", NGM 661.

²⁴ Ibid. Emphasis by Author.

²⁵ Andrews, like most of his contemporaries, referred to automobiles as "motors" for short.

²⁶ Ibid., 657. The known courses are those interpreted by Andrews from his native guides in earlier expeditions.

²⁷ Ibid., 667. The photo shows different collections of different cut stone laid out by Dr. Nelson to show a progression of technology of stone tool making by these "Dune Dwellers", who have yet to be identified. With the huge increase in public interest over the goings on in Egypt following Carnarvon and Carter's discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb, Andrews, and his Asiatic Expeditions, were slowly falling into old news, a fate that Andrews could not allow.

²⁸ Ibid. Title of picture caption; 10,000 years goes well beyond the dates that of contemporary publications in any kind of anthropology of the day.

²⁹ Ibid., 681

³⁰ Ibid., 679

³¹ Ibid., 677. Andrews also recounts how if the expedition was near water, the Vulture would wade in to bathe two or three times a day, and how he rapped at a gasoline can filled with water to indicate that he would like a drink. Andrews also remarks that the vulture would eat no carrion of any kind, and had free range of the camp and never tried to leave. In fact, he notes that "it got distinctly lonely if most of the men were away and always preferred to be near someone.

³² Staff Writer. "Milestones" TIME Magazine. April 13, 1931. 8. Time would also keep up with individuals under its slogan of "Names make news." In the August 31st edition of the same year there is a write up stating that "Last week the following names made the following news: Explorer Roy Chapman Andrews of the American Museum of Natural History, barred from further excavations in Mongolia by the Chinese Commission for the Preservation of Antiquities, stopped for a polo game at Peiping on his way home, fell off his pony, broke his collarbone.

³³ Staff Writer. "Milestones". TIME Magazine March 4, 1935. 6. It is interesting to note that when he was getting divorced he was simply Roy Chapman Andrews and Yvette Borup was simply his wife. Upon remarrying in 1935 he has become Dr. Andrews and Wilhelmina Christmas is a pretty young widow.

³⁴ Albert Marrin. Secrets from the Rocks: Dinosaur Hunting with Roy Chapman Andres. Dutton Children's Books, New York 2002. 56.

³⁵ Marrin. Secrets from the Rocks. Dutton Children's Books, New York 2002. 54.

³⁶ Ibid., 56.

³⁷ Douglas J. Preston, Dinosaurs in the Attic: An Excursion Into the American Museum of Natural History. St. Martin's Press 1993. 97-98.