

Advancing knowledge at home and around the world



through the nech, the others near his tail. blut for a longish tound after tea-daw down elephant tracks about four days old a missed a hongoni end on- an easy shot at- 100 yds.

Sec 2 nd In camp. dembo camp. If at 7,30 a marched N. W. in pont of the safare. Per ioon we vow a wird of about 70 elephants in a valley with no trees except numera in it. We got down wind of them a were getting close up to them, when they must have got the wind of the safare coming up behind us, though we had sent the sue back to step them. It elephants massed together & went by us about 100 yds away. I had two goes at a bell a hithing twice in the head a the herd botted - the wounded one soon fell bekind a a shot in the spene brought him down. He tan on- Igot fearfully pumped - a caught them up paing us, a dut a ball furtiliere the trunk goes note the head. He got mused up with the others\_ anded now kept coming towards as with her trench up a rusaming, evidently wanting to charge but unable to get our wind \_ but Hory got in too July with oplended lists - 11ft- 2 mis high - each about 8ft- 11 mis. long. The volari then came up a said a very such tall had persed close to them. We putched carry a after busch a porter tan in a waid he had seen more elephants dose to camp, but though we dow them once in the distance We could not getnear them. Hent to look for the Wounded bull a carrie a cross him not 200 ydo away from the big elephant very such indeed\_ & I soon settled him with a shot in the head. Kelled two kongone with one ballet coming home a blocy got another. a great day.

## **Director's Corner**

In last year's report, I prefaced our 2018 50th anniversary year. It was a great celebration with lectures, branch library open houses, and our more routine events all branded for the 50th. In June, we invited all former staff we could find to a homecoming event of celebration. We took note of the relaxed, smiling faces on those who had retired! Many thanks to our Board members, sponsors, and other donors who created the Gilded Circle, a special opportunity to donate in honor of our 50th anniversary.

We celebrated with a new exhibition in our gallery in the American History Museum, Magnificent Obsessions; Why We Collect, curated by our own Mary Augusta Thomas (deputy director) and Stephen Van Dyk (former librarian and head of art libraries) and produced by Kirsten van der Veen (exhibition officer). The display draws attention to those pioneering book collectors who gave their collections to the Libraries and thus shaped our distinctiveness. Examples point to the depth and breadth of our holdings: Bern Dibner's collection on the history of science and technology, Ed Orth and Larry Zim on World's Fairs, Bella Landauer on the music of early ballooning and aviation, the Franklin Institute (now closed) on the history of American manufacturing, and even Spencer Fullerton Baird, the Smithsonian's second Secretary, whose personal book collection formed the nucleus of today's Smithsonian Libraries. The exhibition continues until June 2020.

Opposite and inside back cover: Nathaniel Clayton Cockburn, Manuscript journal of big game hunting, 1904–1914. British hunter Nathaniel Cockburn kept detailed records, maps, and photographs of his travels. During colonial rule, licenses restricted hunting to those with financial means and helped to manage animal populations. Anyone without a license, including traditional African hunters, was deemed a poacher.

Programming about book collecting progresses into 2019 with lectures on women book collectors, book clubs, and even a mystery event or two (for details, visit **library.si.edu/events**). We thank our Board member Jackie Vossler for providing the funding for this series.

Have you heard about the Smithsonian Transcription Center? The Smithsonian's museums, archives, and libraries have put up manuscript items and asked "the crowd"—that's all of you—to help us transcribe the writings so we can make the items more available to the world. One category is called "field notebooks." These are the little pocket notebooks that Smithsonian scientists carry when they are searching for specimens out in the field. They not only list what the scientists saw or collected, they have personal notes and comments that make for fascinating reading. If you want to help, go to **transcription.si.edu** and join in the fun.

Nancy E. Gwinn

Director

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## Heidy Berthoud

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## Mary Kozik

Director's Office

## Adrianna Marroquin

Digital Programs and Initiatives

## Ja-Zette Marshburn

National Museum of African American History & Culture Library



Photo: Richard Naples

in the head a the herd billed - the wounded one soon fell behind a a shot in the spine brought him down. He tan on - ogot fear fully pumped - a cought them up paing us, a dait a ball participant the trumh goes note the head. He got mixed up with the others - an old now hept coming towards as with her trumh up a swaming, widently wenting to harpe but unable to get our wind \_ bullory got in too



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Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board members attend the festive 2018 "All That Glitters: Adopt-a-Book Evening" in the Smithsonian Castle. Also pictured: David and Michelle Baldacci, Secretary David J. Skorton, former Under Secretary For Science Eva J. Pell, Director Nancy E. Gwinn, Deputy Director Mary Augusta Thomas, and Assistant Director, Collections, William E. Baxter.

Photo: Richard T. Nowitz





Photo: Allie Swislocki

Amy Threefoot and Horacio Valeiras are treasured donors and friends of the Smithsonian Libraries. Together they created the Amy and Horacio Threefoot Valeiras Endowment, which supports the Libraries' mission to promote new ideas through knowledge-sharing in history, art, science, and culture. In 2018, Amy and Horacio funded a one-year position for a second educator to join the Libraries' education department.

Amy has served on the Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board since 2017. She shares her thoughts below.

## How did you and Horacio become interested in libraries?

I was born and raised in New Orleans, La. Libraries were always present in my life, a place to seek information, exploration, and inspiration, and a quiet space.

I am drawn to libraries as both a user and supporter, from raising my hand to shelve books in elementary school to chairing the San Diego Public Library Foundation Board to now serving on the Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board.

Left and center photos: Sara Cardello presents the interactive resource Unstacked to local D.C. elementary students. Right photo: Teen Chaptour Guide Ava Daugherty prepares to engage with museum visitors as part of the Check It Out program, a collaborative between the Smithsonian Libraries and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden's education departments. The program provides kits to be "checked out" to families with young children, creating an immersive contemporary art and literary experience for all ages in the Hirshhorn's galleries.



One way to describe my relationship with libraries... I met Horacio while I was in college in Boston. We got married, had (have) three wonderful children, and moved seven times from coast to coast and internationally. With every move there was one constant—the first stop in each new city or town was the library.

Horacio was born in Argentina to a family of educators and had an early interest in all aspects of education. Together with me, he became a library supporter.

## How did you get involved with the Smithsonian Libraries?

I met Tina Muracco (former advancement director) in San Diego and was intrigued hearing about the work of the Libraries. I was then invited to Washington, D.C. where I met Nancy E. Gwinn (director, Smithsonian Libraries), staff, and Board members.

The rare book library tours on my D.C. visit were quite moving for me (Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology and the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History). I couldn't believe what I was getting to see and touch: Nicolaus Copernicus's De Revolutionibus Orbium Caelestium (1543) with illustrations of the sun as the center of our solar system and a beautiful handwritten letter by Galileo dated May 12, 1635 that describes the sadness and loneliness of being under house arrest for his writings and beliefs. I was looking at and touching history.



I am amazed at the amount of creative, accessible, and opportune information the libraries have to offer K-12 students.



I left inspired and with a sense of pride that these treasures belong to our nation—*us*—and that the Smithsonian Libraries is the custodian, entrusted with their care.

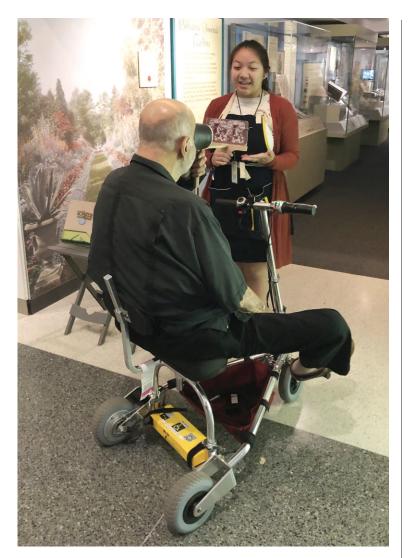
# What has surprised you most about working with the Libraries as a Board member and on the Education Committee?

As a Board member, I have an up-close view of the breadth and depth of the work performed at all 21 libraries and the support they give Smithsonian-wide.

The staff are recognized internationally as leaders in their fields, and yet are humble and approachable.

After sitting in on my first Education Committee meeting and hearing about collaborations, ideas, and the creative programs being developed, Sara Cardello (head of education) demonstrated a prototype of a 3D audio box. From this interactive box, we experienced the Libraries' collections through stories, music, and frogs croaking!

The education specialist is needed to creatively work with Libraries' resources and technology so information can be accessible for students and teachers around the world to use and explore, whether they are in D.C., San Diego, Tokyo, or Buenos Aires.



Teen Chaptour Guide Meimei Lu provides hand-on interactives for visitors of the *Cultivating America*'s *Gardens* exhibition at the National Museum of American History.

Photo: Diane Kang

I am amazed at the amount of creative, accessible, and opportune information the libraries have to offer K-12 students. My biggest surprise was to learn that these programs for teens, interns, and D.C. public middle schoolers were spearheaded by the education department which consisted of just one employee.

## Why did you decide to fund an education specialist position?

The education specialist is needed to creatively work with Libraries' resources and technology so information can be accessible for students and teachers around the world to use and explore, whether they are in D.C., San Diego, Tokyo, or Buenos Aires. With libraries and data today, there is the opportunity to have students help create the content as well as study it.

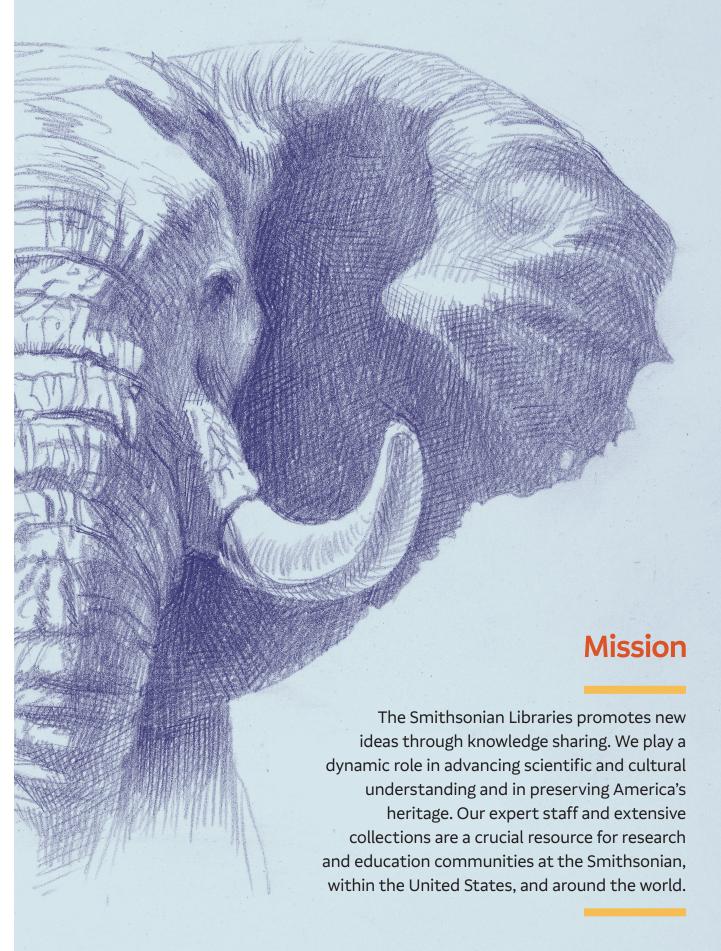
# What prompted you, along with Advisory Board member Elizabeth Oliver, to host two Libraries events in San Diego?

After attending a Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board meeting, I returned to San Diego excited and amazed at the work being done. I have a tendency to share that enthusiasm and people's first response is usually: "there are *libraries* at the Smithsonian Institution?"

To capture that zeal, Elizabeth and I wanted to help introduce the Libraries to West Coasters.

The San Diego area (and California at large) has great schools, public libraries, universities, biotech and research institutions, and a lot of curious people.

The Smithsonian Libraries is relevant to people in our area—they are our libraries, too! It was important to us to spread the word. By hosting events, we present



# GAME CHANGE

# ELEPHANTS FROM PREY TO PRESERVATION THROUGH FEBRUARY 2020

## An Interview with Cheryl Braunstein

The Smithsonian Libraries touched base with Cheryl Braunstein, curator of Game Change, our latest exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History (Ground Floor). We hope you enjoy hearing her take on the exhibition curatorial process.

Braunstein is the former manager of exhibit planning and development at the Smithsonian's National Zoo. In this role, Braunstein oversaw interpretive exhibition development for new projects, conducted content research, and wrote exhibition text. She worked on exhibits ranging from small, simple interpretive spaces to larger capital projects. Prior to the Zoo, Braunstein managed the development and creation of the exhibit program at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo, Hawaii (then Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center) and worked as an exhibit developer at the Field Museum (Chicago), the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (Raleigh), and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. Braunstein holds a bachelor of arts in English from the University of California, Los Angeles and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University. She is currently the director of interpretation at the Adirondack Experience (Blue Mountain Lake, NY).

ell us about *Game Change*. How did you first get involved with the exhibition? What was your role as lead curator? Game Change came into being by accident. About four years ago, the Zoo was working with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums to consider ways to raise awareness about elephant poaching and to figure out something to do with a sampling of the six tons of crushed confiscated ivory that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had as a deterrent to the illegal ivory trade. I thought many of the Smithsonian museums might be interested in collaborating on an educational campaign and reached out to exhibits staff at other units. The Libraries' former exhibition and program coordinator, Susan Frampton, offered that the Libraries might be open to doing an exhibition, and she introduced me to the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library's Russell E. Train Collection and to Train himself. In talking through ideas with Susan, we realized that Train proved to be an unexpected muse—someone who had once pursued

Opposite: Abel Chapman, On Safari: Big-Game Hunting in British East Africa, London, 1908. British naturalist Abel Chapman was an avid big game hunter and fierce advocate for the creation of national reserves. In On Safari, he recorded the decline of species, including elephants, since his first safari in 1899.



## Meet Liz Laribee Education Specialist

As the Smithsonian Libraries' new education specialist, my focus is bringing the Libraries' incomparable resources and rich history to underserved audiences, and scaling our existing programs to a national reach. A major grant-funded project I am working on this year is using our Unstacked digital image library to create collections around Latinx narratives and diverse American women's history. These collections will tell overdue stories of American history in multiple languages and through innovative digital technology, be packaged in traveling trunks, and sent to learning sites all over the country. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the Valeiras family, who made it possible for me to join in such meaningful, timely work.

Photo: Liz Laribee

an entertaining way to share how the Libraries' incredible resources are open to all and accessible outside of D.C.

## What would you tell someone who is thinking about donating to the Smithsonian Libraries?

Supporting the Smithsonian Libraries is enabling knowledge to be preserved and shared. Libraries are trusted; they provide information, not opinion. The Libraries enriches lives—from students to scientists and from museum visitors to inquisitive people exploring the Internet. The impact is felt worldwide, whether on the National Mall in D.C. or by a researcher in East Africa.

## What inspired you to create the Amy and Horacio Threefoot Valeiras Endowment?

Horacio and I value libraries and education and the impact Smithsonian Libraries has on both. It is amazing how the Libraries touches every museum and research center at the Institution. As we explore and enjoy the museums and exhibitions around the National Mall, we know there are libraries and librarians supporting the museums, making the visitors' experiences richer.

Amy Threefoot Valeiras is a clay artist and proprietor of Threefoot Clay, a studio in downtown La Jolla, Calif. She is an active member of the San Diego Potters' Guild, a group dedicated to education and the proliferation of the clay arts. A native of New Orleans, she has lived and studied pottery in Pennsylvania, London, England and California. Amy received her bachelor's degree in psychology and classics from Tufts University (Boston). She enjoys the works of southern writers, for "when faced with adversity, there is an inner strength of character that comes through."

Horacio Valeiras attended Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, Va.), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Boston), and the University of California, Berkeley. He is presently the CEO and a Partner at Frontier Global Partners and serves as Vice Rector of Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. Horacio's favorite book is The Little Prince.

Original sketch laid into Russell Train's sponsor's edition of Paul Bosman and Anthony Hall-Martin's Elephants of Africa (Cape Town, 1986). Courtesy of Kate Jankowski, daughter of artist Paul Bosman. © 1986 by Paul Bosman.

16 Smithsonian Libraries

# RESEARCH

123,193

searches via OneSearch

27,783

e-resources available through OneSearch

86,241

publications and datasets tracked in Research Online 5,299

books and articles borrowed by the Libraries to support Smithsonian research

reference questions answered

books and articles lent to other libraries

# **EDUCATION**

interns and fellows

trainings and tours given

visitors served by in-gallery Chaptour Guides

visitors served in-gallery at Check It Out: Hirshhorn

Unstacked users in

schools and galleries

training and tour participants

**ACCESS** 

549,654

pages digitized

1,470

books and journals digitized

items displayed in Libraries exhibitions

books and prints loaned for exhibitions worldwide

website visitor sessions

followers on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and Instagram COLLECTIONS

general and special collections

gifts added to the library

items treated in the **Book Conservation Lab** 

pieces of trade literature

exchange titles received

cubic feet of "archival" collections manuscripts, artists files, and ephemera

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libraries

staff members

volunteers

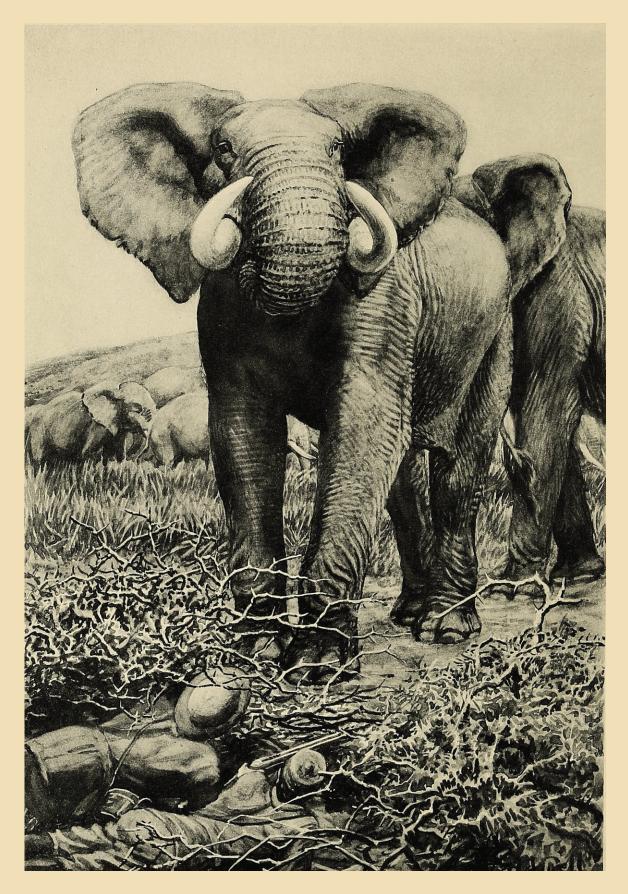
raised

raised from book adoptions

new donors

FACTS & FIGURES

Tall desert elephants of the Kaokoveld wander across shifting sand dunes... (Hoanib area, Skeleton Coast Park, Namibia). Courtesy of Kate Jankowski, daughter of artist Paul Bosman. © 1986 by Paul Bosman.



elephants as game, but then became an ardent conservationist working to protect big game species. The idea took off from there, and I found myself in the unanticipated role of exhibition curator.

# What topics, themes, and historical figures are covered in *Game Change*? What material was particularly challenging?

Theodore Roosevelt quickly emerged as someone who had to be featured in *Game Change*. His larger- than-life persona and enduring influence on how Americans see the natural world was a driver for how we looked at a lot of the potential content in the exhibition. There was some very difficult material that we did not include—many of the memoirs reflect attitudes about Africa and its

people that are very difficult to stomach today. The explorers opened lands and animals to a riveted outside world. But those same people perpetuated attitudes that, while pervasive in their time, are cause for great pain today.

It was also hard to read the accounts of men and women who a hundred years ago were already seeing species loss. Mind you, this isn't all that long after Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published and only a hundred years since Georges Cuvier first explained that species could go extinct. From the perspective of biodiversity and conservation, we are talking about massive change to species populations within the relatively same timeframe that we, as humans, have even begun to understand how so many species have come into being.





Paul Bosman and Anthony Hall-Martin, Elephants of Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, 1986

The ultimate determination of how many elephants, if any, will be left in Africa, is not the ivory trade, but . . . human attitudes

Anthony Hall-Martin, co-founder of the conservation organization African Parks, and artist Paul Bosman created Elephants of Africa to highlight the role of wardens who manage wild elephant herds.

Between 1967 and 1994, elephants were legally culled in South Africa's Kruger National Park to maintain environmentally sustainable population levels. Hides from culled animals were then sold. This Sponsors' Edition is bound with hide from this period.

## What are some of your favorite books and objects in the exhibition and why? How did you select the

I definitely have my favorites! Paul Bosman and Anthony Hall-Martin's *Elephants of Africa* (1986) proved to be one of the most intriguing finds. Here is a gorgeous book—it's dedicated to the people that protect elephants and has stunning illustrations—yet it's covered in elephant hide. Finding out where that hide came from (legally culled elephants from managed populations) took an unexpected amount of sleuthing. I came upon the Teddy Roosevelt "action figure" set by complete chance. My son was just growing past his own sets of Playmobil action sets, and I couldn't imagine what kids 100 years ago must have thought of as they played with the Roosevelt figures. The juxtaposition of two sets of toy figures seemed like a perfect metaphor for what this exhibition was all about. And finding children's books in the collection compared to children's books now... as much as the memoirs and journals show personal insights from a particular moment in time, being able to include items from popular culture, to me, helps reveal the changing attitudes most dramatically.

## Why is the story of elephants so important?

Elephants have long been revered and beloved. What I find intriguing about them as a conservation story is that, unlike a lot of other animals that humans have overexploited, they do not (nor did they ever) provide a resource that we actually need. Whales were pursued for oil—to light up the world before widespread electrical

lights—and fish are a food source that countless people still depend upon. Bison, beaver, seals, and so many other types of animals have been hunted to fulfill basic requirements—food, warmth, etc. While we clearly have hunted animals to extinction for a number of reasons, the materials collected from elephants are used purely for the decorative arts and for popular amusements. Human-elephant conflict related to land use is a serious issue, and something that the conservation biologists from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute have devoted tremendous research to address, but the exploitation of elephant parts for human use is completely based upon the demand for luxury. If people would simply stop buying ivory—something no one needs—at least in Africa, elephant populations would potentially be able to recover. We are killing these animals because there are people who want something to put on a mantlepiece. That just doesn't make any sense at all to me.

## What role did Teddy Roosevelt play in hunting vs. conservation?

Roosevelt's legacy is one of the most complicated issues that we had to consider during this exhibition's development, and I'm not sure what I think. There is a lot of science that supports the need to take (to kill) animals—either for study or to control populations, especially when we factor in human-derived habitat loss and system disruptions. One thing that I learned during the course of this project is that, in his time, what Roosevelt was doing was for conservation. The field of conservation biology did not exist in his day.



Theodore Roosevelt, African Game Trails, New York, 1910. It would be a veritable and most tragic calamity if the lordly elephant, the giant among existing four-footed creatures, should be permitted to vanish from the face of the earth. African Game Trails was born from a series Roosevelt wrote for Scribner's Magazine, which helped underwrite the African expedition. The book offers Roosevelt's view of hunting as a way to call attention to the need for conservation.

While people knew about extinction, the impact of overconsumption and the loss of biodiversity weren't well understood. Many of our protected lands today are thanks to Theodore Roosevelt. We cannot deny that. And many of the collections here and in New York's American Museum of Natural History were built through the efforts of Roosevelt and his peers. He has made an undeniable contribution to conservation that has lasted to this day. Did he kill more animals than he needed to for the sake of science? I think it's hard to deny that he did. He was a voracious hunter. And a voracious conservationist. But I'm not sure that he could've been the conservationist he was without also being the relentless hunter.

# What did you glean about how people's perceptions of elephants changed in the last 100 (or more) years?

There is no doubt that people are as enthralled by elephants today as they were 100-plus years ago. What is exciting today is to see an overwhelming

sense of caring about these animals. You hear about kids campaigning in their schools to raise awareness about the threat of poaching. Many of the early twentieth century memoirs captured an awe toward these animals and many of the writings recorded a true commitment to wanting to see these animals endure. But, so many of the books that we reviewed talked about the need—the "need"—to satisfy human demand and about the fluctuating prices of ivory. We don't talk about these animals anymore as a commodity. Perhaps because they are not a resource, and because of people's ability to see them in zoos and museums, to be able to learn about them from conservationists and to have our misunderstandings be dispelled, in the U.S. today, we support protecting elephants. Elephants have certainly benefited from the rise of the environmental movement, but even though that movement is challenged today, the popularity of wanting to protect large animals seems to be enduring.

The threat of extinction to elephants is dire especially Asian elephants. The remaining habitat is so small, and human populations in the region are continuing to grow. It's hard to feel optimistic. For African elephants, there have been a lot of victories in the fight against poaching. Countries with major ivory trade centers are shutting down the markets and there is popular attention to stop the demand of ivory. I think, I hope, that people will give it up. Fashion is changeable. Women are no longer demanding whalebone corsets and so it seems completely doable that carved ivory will become a thing of the past. But, that's one threat to elephants. Even in Africa, conflict with humans is still a risk, as is ever-diminishing healthy habitats.

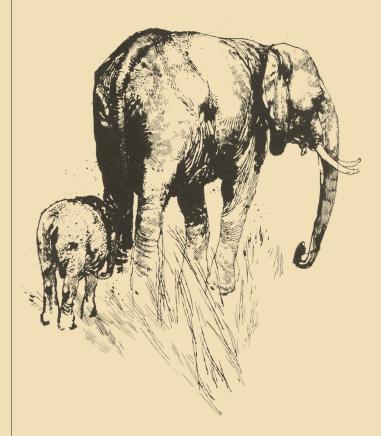
## Why is it important for Smithsonian units (Smithsonian Libraries, National Zoo, and the National Museum of Natural History) to collaborate to tell stories through exhibitions?

Each Smithsonian unit has its own stories to tell—but it's hard to imagine any story that is Smithsonian-based that doesn't touch upon the research and collections in other units. That is one of the absolute best things about the Smithsonian. Our collections allow us to tell stories from a variety of perspectives by sharing our objects and our narratives. I am inspired by what I see happening at other units, and what I know about the work that is going on behind-the-scenes. The National Museum of African Art has collections that show countless animals across cultures, and many of those animals are found in our collections or at the Natural History Museum. To be able to see how people have looked at these animals, and then to be able to see the animals themselves is what is so amazing. You can take almost any single item in any unit, and find threads that directly connect it with other collections.

The Libraries' holdings are particularly unique because they are built upon the work at each and every Smithsonian unit. The Libraries' books are directly tied to the National Zoo—our conservation research, our significant animals, our people. I am hopeful that with the One Smithsonian strategic plan, opportunities to collaborate in ways that are now seemingly unexpected will become the norm.

## What do you hope viewers will take away from the exhibition?

I hope that people will come away from this exhibition with a sense of pride—that they will see that people are capable of change in a positive direction. I am proud to work for an institution that is committed to species conservation; one thing that resonated with me as I worked on this exhibition was realizing that my own contributions to conservation are part of a continuum that is more enduring and more widespread than I had ever realized. Conservation is not something that has become popular just in my lifetime. Even 100 years ago, many were seeing what was happening to the world around them and demanding change. A lot had to happen to transform mainstream attitudes—but those calls were heard. People today do want to protect species.



Evelyn Ames, A Glimpse of Eden, Boston, 1967. Poet Evelyn Ames was a director of the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation. Her writings on Africa celebrate the wondrous creatures she encountered on safari and include her guide's observations: "Fifty years ago, we couldn't have done this without great hardship and danger. Fifty years from now it will be too late."

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