

ANECDOTES RE SPEAKERS (from Scrapbook Database in computer)

"... I was extremely sorry not to have an opportunity to thank you for the interesting & delightful time [??] I spent listening to that story of the Antarctic on Saturday evening [Nordenskjold meeting]. It was most kind of you to ask me and I enjoyed the lecture exceedingly.

With regard to the proposal in your note of yesterday's date, I beg you to accept my thanks for making me so flattering a suggestion, but I fear that I cannot see my way to falling in with it and for a very simple reason. I have been in no sense of the word a "traveller". In the course of my duty as an officer of the Cape Govt. Service I saw a good deal of South Africa but in a way which I cannot hope would interest many people. During the war I served as a volunteer and took part in the defence of Kimberley but that story is familiar. Afterwards I worked in Ceylon as a tea planter up-country, and as a surveyor and trader in the low country or jungle, but my experiences were only those of the trades I was engaged in. Subsequently I spent two years in the West and visited Alaska, Central America, and ?? crossed the Isthmus of Panama, and there you have all my "travels". So you will, I'm, sure, realize that I could not presume to speak to your club from the point of view of an explorer or traveller such as they are accustomed to hear. ... "

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Note: Never became a member.

Letter to W.M. Davis from T. J. Gordon Gardiner, dated January 18, 1906, on letterhead of Tennis & Racquet Club. [Book3 p21]

Discouraging Davis from asking Harry Whitney to speak to the Club. Very strongly against him. "Whitney is a 'sport' with practically no interest in science, of meagre education; he was unable, I believe, to pass the entrance examinations to college. Although of an excellent family, his friends are people with whom you would not care much to associate, and I doubt very much whether you would care to have him address your club, and you must also keep in mind the fact that he might not be physically in shape to talk."

Letter to W.M. Davis from Herbert E. Gregory, dated October 6, 1909, on letterhead of Geological Department, Yale University. [Book3 p125]

Suggesting his brother-in-law, Harris R. Childs, as a speaker. "He has spent twelve years in Zanzibar, and is now senior partner in a firm which does business with Aden, Zanzibar and Mombasa. He imports clove stems out of which vanilla is made, ivory, and beeswax from the mines where it is mined. He exports cotton goods and Rickshaws made in New Jersey. All the eastern end of the business is done with Arabic, Mohammedan and Hindoo natives."

[There is no record of Childs having spoken to the Club.]

Letter to W.M. Davis from Richard W. Hale, a member, dated November 27, 1909, on letterhead of Hale & Grinnell, Boston. [Book3 p136]

The speaker, S. Dillon Ripley, "...travelled on an elephant which he said was very unpleasant as the animal is very inefficient. It eats an awful lot and is only good for about twelve miles a day."

Minutes of 323rd meeting, 14 February 1950. [Min1 p151]

"He then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Hollis L. Albright, who showed us some very good pictures of the recent five-weeks' trip he took around the world with his daughter, Tenley, who have some skating exhibitions in Japan. ... At the end was a four-minute colored movie of his daughter skating in the world championship which was exceedingly graceful and gave us a great thrill."

Minutes of 351st meeting, 20 October 1953. [Min1 p190]

"He [the speaker, Ernest S. Dodge] stated that many Harvard graduates are now successful beachcombers in this area" [Bora Bora].

[Dodge was a member]

Minutes of 385th meeting, 10 December 1957. [Min1 p229]

"...he [Eric Shipton] stated that he, personally, had seen fresh tracks about a foot long in the snow near Mt. Everest. His Sherpa guide ...said he believed they were made by a yeti (an "abominable snowman")."

Minutes of 521st meeting, 10 December 1974. [Min3 p148]