

MAMMALS IN CAPTIVITY

A RESEARCH AND WRITING PROJECT

SPONSORED BY THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

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Dr Lee S Crandall
New York Zoological Park
New York NY

Dear Dr Crandall:

In the first days of May I made a short tour of the zoos of Cincinnati, Columbus and Pittsburgh. This was primarily to add new materiel for my work on Mammalian longevity, and exhibition.

Unfortunately none of the Zoos visited maintain any records on their stock at this time. However, I was fortunate in meeting Dr Sol Stephan, Jr., of Cincinnati. Dr Stephens grandfather was Director of the Zoo from 1875 to the early 1930's, and then his father Joseph Stephan took control, until about 1939. Both of the senior Stephens have since died, but both left behind a large legacy of old papers and stock records, which have proved of some value.

The Cincinnati Zoo today exhibits a male Hippopotamus named ZEEKOE. According to the best that I can establish, this animal was purchased from Hagenbeck in 1902, and was in Stellingen on the occasion of the visit of the Kaiser in 1900. At this time he was less than 1 year old, having just prior to the Kaisers visit been captured in Africa. There is a clipping in a Cincinnati paper for the year 1902, which shows the Hippo and the Kaiser. According to the Hagenbeck records in Dr Stephens home, I find that this was the animal sold Cincinnati. There is no record of the animal having died prior to 1939. I asked Jack Heusser about the animal and both he and the head keeper mention it being in the zoo when they came in the middle 1930's. This is therefore the oldest Hippo now in a zoo, and was therefore in Hagenbecks place 2 years prior to Peter the Greats birthday, in 1903.

At Columbus I found a splendid Aardvark, that arrived there in 1947, although the zoo has no records to show this, both Earl Davis and his assistant swear to this, and I am checking with his son Don at Colorado Springs, to try and get a firmer date, as I understand Don has many records for Columbus.

I thought these would be of interest to you, and am sending them along with my best wishes. I also saw Bill Mann last week and he gives you his very best. He still keeps in contact with all of the zoo people thru correspondence, and gets around much better.

Sincerely



SFC Marvin L Jones