



Historic Camera Club Newsletter

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Gambier Bolton **Wild Animal Photographer**

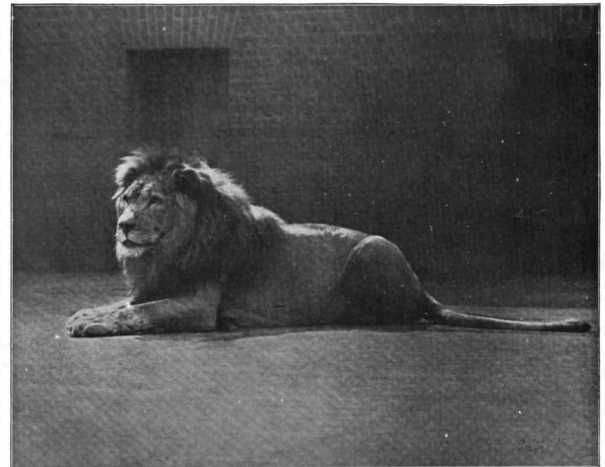
Gambier Bolton was born in 1854. He was the son of Rev James Jay Bolton of Kilburn, London and a direct descendant of Oughtrede de Bolton, Lord of Bolton, the lineal representative of the saxon Earls of Mercia, 1135. Gambier Bolton was educated at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

He worked at the zoo and began taking images of the animals. He became a popular amateur photographer of captive animals and quickly gained recognition through his high quality work. As his popularity grew he began to travel to exotic countries in order to capture images of wild animals.



He was the world's first celebrated animal photographer for his candid photographs of wild animals. His numerous articles, his lecturing and books regarding animals, natural history and psychic phenomena. His photographic work extended broadly, however he is less known for the hundreds of images published in scientific records,

journals and books of zoology. As a member of the zoological society he was afforded access to many wild animals in captivity.



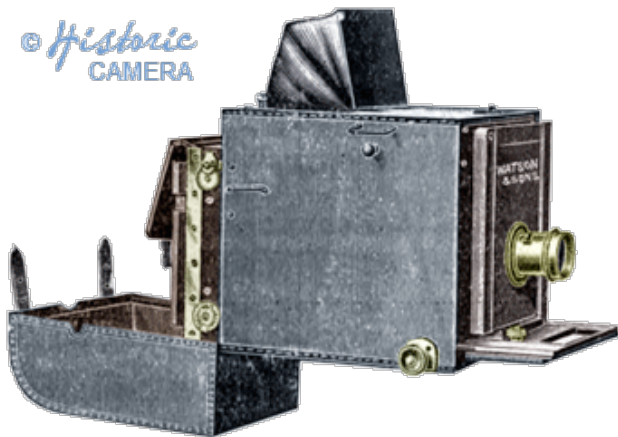
The "Daniel" Lion.
By Gambier Bolton.
(c.1900)

Gambier is described as having been in every zoo in the US and Europe studying animals. He has recorded traveling to Europe, Americas, Canada, Hawaiian Islands, Japan, China, Java, The Malay peninsula, Burmah, South Africa, Mashbonsland, Manicaland, Portugese East Africa, Transvaal, Cape Colony, etc.

His work can be found in the more popular articles including, Funny Foreign Dogs, The Larger Cats, On Giraffes Generally, Some Eccentric Animals, Pictures in the Human Skin, Orang-Utan, Ghosts in the solid, a book of Beasts and Birds, the animals of the bible, and psychic force.

In 1893 to 1894 Gambier accompanied the Duke of Newcastle on his world tour. They shared a common interest of photographing natural history subjects.

In an 1896 Churchill magazine article, it described the danger Gambier faced during shoots, as was represented by a hole on his cameras focusing cloth which was marked with the words 'tiger claw', providing a reminder of a close encounter when a tiger made a swipe at the photographer through the cage bars during a shoot at the zoo. In a 1900 article in The World Wide magazine, it described how Gambier's life was threatened by an attack from a charging Wapiti that was being photographed. Gambier used his large camera and tripod's three pointed stand legs to thwart the attack only bringing more intrigue to the photos presented.



In 1899, W. Watson & Sons constructed a camera based on the famous photographer's specification. The Gambier Bolton Camera was designed by Gambier to serve as a combination camera for the use of long distance photography or as a readily available hand camera. The camera was constructed of mahogany and covered in black leather. This camera provided a full size finder with the image being reflected by a mirror. A reversible back that was accessible by opening a rear cover. The camera was designed to use a single lens

with rack and pinion focusing for lenses of six and one-half inches focal length and upwards. A Thornton-Pickard focal plane shutter was provided in the rear of the camera behind the lens and in front of the plate. The shutter can provide exposures ranging from 1/10th to 1/1000 of a second or a time shutter can be used on the front if desired. Fitted with a rapid rectilinear lens with an iris diaphragm. Made in three sizes, a quarter plate, a 5 x 4 inch and a half plate. Camera and lens combined sold at £13 12s 0d for the quarter plate, £14 11s 0d for the 5 x 4 and £17 10s 0d for the half plate. Needless to say this is a rare and historic camera.

Gambier Bolton died July 29, 1929.

Ref:
1896,1898 The Windsor Magazine
1960 CFA Yearbook by Carlon Boren
1899, The Idler Magazine
1907 Who's Who, vol 59, p.179

HC Msg Board Topics

Message Board Posting: A nice feature for our admin, with the recent message board upgrade, is the ability to view and screen the first message posted before it is listed live. This allows it to be deleted if it is spam, before it is posted live. This makes for a more pleasant experience when using the message board, however if it is the first time that you are posting it may take some time before the first message is approved and available for others to discuss the topic. Second message submissions are automatically approved, once your first one is approved.

Web Site Update

Gen 3 website upgrade has made good progress this last month. The Librarium data transfer is complete. We are now figuring out how to change all the static page links in the other web pages. The links in the database have been updated. What does this mean for

finding information? Not much change other than it should be faster, and for large searches we now have numbered pages to advance back and forth, and a new search button will provide a [sort by the latest entry](#), which may prove to be handy for seeing "Whats New". The first test is with our new listing for the [Western Camera Mfg. Co.](#) It is now only available on the new database. To access it go to datasheet 1529 or http://www.historiccamera.com/cgi-bin/librarium2/pm.cgi?action=app_display&app=datasheet&app_id=1529 Our history link page [photohistory.html](#) will be converted over to the new data sheets in a short time.

Gen 3 will enable the development of a new home page and user interface and should be available as an option later this year. This new interface will provide new features include an improved internal mail system, a personal gallery, blog and future plugins to be developed and announced next year. More to come.

Due to all the spam control issues with sending email, we have selected iContact as our club to member mail service to deliver this and future newsletters. Sign up at http://www.historiccamera.com/icontact_maillist.html

Librarium Help

We have hired help for our Librarium development. We have a digital artist now helping with image colorization and a researcher on biographies.

\$10 articles. We recently made a special offer to the photographic community for help in populating our History Librarium database with historical information on people, companies and special topics. Several articles have been received. We are paying \$10 per article accepted. Submissions can be made

through September 2011 to the Admin and payment is via paypal.

Luzo Camera



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The Luzo Camera was manufactured by the H. J. Redding & Gyles firm of London England from approximately 1896 to 1899. The camera was advertised as the latest and most improved loading and unloading in daylight. Constructed of highly polished Spanish mahogany, to high standards equal to quality furniture. It was fitted with a rectilinear lens of very good defining quality. The finder was of biconcave form gives an image of remarkable brilliancy. The shutter provides a variation of exposure from time to instantaneous. It took celluloid roll film that provided a count upon film advance.

- HC Community Collectible Rating

★★★★☆ average rating: [4.2](#) stars, from 2 votes.

Submit your suggestions, event info, and comments to admin@historiccamera.com