

(Mobile book) AFRICAN RIFLES AND CARTRIDGES. THE EXPERIENCES AND OPINIONS OF A PROFESSIONAL IVORY HUNTER WITH SOME THIRTY YEARS...[Y2]

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John Taylor

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John Taylor : AFRICAN RIFLES AND CARTRIDGES. THE EXPERIENCES AND OPINIONS OF A PROFESSIONAL IVORY HUNTER WITH SOME THIRTY YEARS...[Y2] before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised AFRICAN RIFLES AND CARTRIDGES. THE EXPERIENCES AND OPINIONS OF A PROFESSIONAL IVORY HUNTER WITH SOME THIRTY YEARS...[Y2]:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still the Standard by which All Others are JudgedBy J. Gregory VermeychukShort of the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt, few men in history had more experience hunting game than John Taylor. During his African career, he took thousands of head with rifles of all calibers. Even the legendary Elmer Keith could not come close to Taylor's tally. Taylor was also a keen observer and an excellent writer. Many years ago, when I first became interested in hunting, I read this book with fascination. Although it was written 65 years ago, Taylor's advice on riles, cartridges, and hunting is still relevant today. Not all of us are fortunate enough to hunt Africa, but many North American hunters will pursue the great bears or the ubiquitous feral hog. Although not "dangerous game" by African standards, either one of these beasts will make a mess out of you if they take a dislike to your manners and if your shot is not well placed. You don't really need a .375 HH for wild hogs, but there is a certain

pride to be gained in learning to handle a really powerful rifle and use it on game. Taylor lays out how it should be done. These days, there is a great interest in the old African cartridges, like the .416 Rigby, the 9.3x64R and the 450/400 Nitro Express. Bolt action and single shot rifles in these calibers are both available and affordable, so almost anyone can get a taste of the "African Experience" here at home. The only thing that has changed significantly since Taylor's time is the cost of good double rifles. They were always expensive, but now a double from a prime English maker will set you back six figures. Even the German doubles (of excellent workmanship and quality) are into the five figure range. These arms have an aura to them which screams "Africa," so if you ever get the chance to try one, don't let it pass by. That being said, there is plenty more in the book to interest any serious hunter. If you do any kind of hunting at all, this book is worth reading. If you want to try the big blasters, it is mandatory.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A classic, from a heck of a storyteller

By tubesguy This book was the single most read book of my childhood. It was available at the local library, and I checked it out repeatedly over a period of several years, enthralled by Taylor's descriptions of hunts and the equipment that he and people like Karamojo Bell used on those hunts. The line drawings of the huge .577 and even .600 rounds that were used were awe-inspiring to a kid who shot a .22 at Boy Scout camp. At some point, however, hunting and killing large numbers of magnificent animals lost its appeal, and the book receded in my memory.

Fast forward to about 15 years ago, and I was in London with family. Walking around an area not far from our hotel, I spotted the Holland Holland retail establishment. I wandered in, looking for the rifle display, and after some time being ignored (to be fair, I hardly looked like a typical (wealthy) customer) an employee approached me. I gushed about my love of the HH history and rifles, and he stifled a yawn. It was clear that he was thinking it unlikely that I really knew anything about what they produced and sold. I decided I might try to convince him. I asked if they still made the "magazine" rifles (their term for bolt-action), and he raised an eyebrow and said yes. I then asked him if they were still available in .416 Rigby, and he said "Certainly, sir. Would you be interested in seeing the gun locker?" What followed was a wonderful time viewing and actually handling some of the rifles that I knew only from Taylor's book. When it came time to leave, I thanked the clerk, and mentioned in a totally off-hand manner that all of my supposed knowledge came from a library book that I recalled from more than 35 years earlier. I briefly described it, mentioned the cover art, and he said "Oh, that would be the Taylor book, and we might have it in stock." They did, I bought it, and the experience was probably the highlight of my trip.

Buy this book, both as a fascinating look at a time in African colonial history and, perhaps, as a cautionary tale of the need for wildlife conservation.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still relevant after all these years.

By John Villalovos I found most of the information in the book still applicable after all these years. The principles still apply with perhaps some slight modifications due to modern materials, powders and optics and some cartridges. As I have two of the Nitros, discussed, the 450/400 3" and the 450 3 1/4", I was particularly interested in Taylor's "take" on those cartridges. He had a highly favorable opinion on both, through much experience, with perhaps his favorite of the two being the 450/400 3" aka, the 400 Jeffrey. It's much more pleasant to shoot, recoil wise, and is still plenty effective for dangerous game if shots are well placed. The book is still a very worthwhile read for African hunting for the overall principles that it discusses. I highly recommend it!

The experiences and opinions of a professional ivory hunter with some thirty years of continuous living in the African Bush - who has used all of the various calibers and most of the suitable cartridges, and with them killed many species of big game found on the continent of Africa.