

RAYMOND J. LEPOW

IMPORT & EXPORT

116 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 6th, 1934.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

I am an American, permanently located in Somaliland, N. F. P. of Kenya and Abyssinia, where I am engaged principally in the exporting of leopard skins to the United States. Incidentally the trapping of leopards is part of the work in which I am engaged.

I am back again in the United States after three and a half years in Africa and some of the natives employed by me in my various expeditions, when informed of my intended visit to the United States, told me of the unsuccessful efforts of our former President, Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, with whom they were on his hunting expedition in the localities above, to capture the elusive African lynx and serval felis.

They asked me on my visit here to present to the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, called by them our "Old Chief" a live lynx and a live serval felis, both in the kitten stage, and naturally tame, and thus wipe out the disappointment which he then had. I explained to them the decease of the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, and that your Excellency is now the President of the United States. They, of course, understand that you are the son or other near relative of the late Mr. Roosevelt, and that you inherited your office from him as such relative. Particularly is this so because of the similarity of names.

These natives asked me to present these two specimens to you as my "New Chief" of the late President Roosevelt, with their blessings, and hoping for your appreciation of their gift as a reminder of their hunting expedition with the late Mr. Roosevelt.

I am returning to Africa at the end of this

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October 6, 1934.

month, and I hope, if possible, to be presented to Your Excellency, the "New Chief" so as to deliver this gift of the natives of Somaliland, and to bring back to them such message as you will be kind enough to send to them.

I will be honored to present these gifts to you.

I may add that I shall also present to the Smithsonian Institute a python skin, one of the largest, and other interesting articles from that part of Africa.

Respectfully yours,

*Benj. H. Lepow*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 10, 1934.

MEMO FOR S. T. E.

Will you and Rudolph look  
this over and decide what we  
should do about it?

F. D. R.

I would accept and present them to the zoo.  
Do not think presentation should be made  
personally.

R.F.

October 12, 1934

P.P. 7.  
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My dear Mr. Lepow:

The President asks me to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of October sixth.

Because of the many official matters requiring the President's attention, it has been customary at the White House for Mr. Early and myself to act on the President's behalf in receiving all gifts and, accordingly, either of us will be glad to accept the lynx and serval felis whenever it suits your convenience to bring or send them down.

For your own information it is our intention to arrange to house the animals in the Washington Zoo, in order that they may be given proper care and attention.

Very sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE  
Assistant Secretary to  
the President

Benjamin H. Lepow, Esq.,  
116 Nassau Street,  
New York, N. Y.

pls

TELEGRAM

The White House  
Washington

Mr. Kannee

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New York, Oct. 25, 1934.

Hon. Secretary Early,  
The White House:

Arriving Friday morning with animals 10:40 a.m. Eastern  
Air Lines. Kindly arrange to meet us.

Benjamin H. Lepow.

October 27, 1934

My dear Mr. Lepow:

The President asks me to express his thanks to you for your part in bringing to him the African lynx and serval felis.

He was very much interested in your story as related to him, and asked me particularly to request you, upon your return to Africa, to convey his sincere thanks to the natives in your employ.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE  
Assistant Secretary  
to the President

Benjamin H. Lepow, Esq.,  
116 Nassau Street,  
New York, N. Y.

mwd

M/m

NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

October 29, 1934

Mr. Marvin H. McIntyre,  
Assistant Sec'y to the President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

In re: The Little African Cats.

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

These animals have rickets in such an advanced stage that I think it very unwise to place them on exhibition. At the present time they would make a very bad impression.

We have them at home in the bathroom and are trying by proper feeding and massage to get their legs functioning and as soon as they are fit to be shown will place them in exhibition cages in the Zoo.

The little caracal has a much better chance of surviving than the serval.

We are very glad that the world now knows that the President likes pets. I hope that all the Asiatic and Central African papers will copy.

Respectfully yours,



W. M. Mann,  
Director.

**RAYMOND J. LEPOW**  
INCORPORATED  
GENERAL IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS  
226 WEST 26TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

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mw

August 31, 1937

P.P. 7.  
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President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

I have just received a pair of live Porcupine from my brother Benjamin H. Lepow, who sent them to me from Africa, as a gift intended for you.

These midget Tropical Porcupine are very rare and are now the only pair of their kind in the United States.

You will perhaps recall that my brother presented you with an African Lynx and Serval Felis, when he was in Washington, D.C. in 1934.

Would appreciate hearing from you as to when I may bring these animals to the Capitol.

Respectfully yours,

*R. J. Lepow*

RJL:HS

X



TOI:

Mr. McIntyre asked me to write this letter for his signature. I checked with Dr. Mann's office at the Zoo. They tell me they can take care of the porcupine when they arrive. If you think this letter is OK will you have it signed and sent out?

PLS

September 7, 1937

My dear Mr. Lepow:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of August thirty-first, addressed to the President.

As it is customary for me to act on the President's behalf in receiving gifts, I will be glad to accept the pair of live porcupine which your brother Benjamin H. Lepow sent you from Africa. I would suggest that they be brought to Washington around September sixteenth as the President expects to be in Washington at that time.

Permit me to advise that since it is not possible to house these animals properly at the White House, arrangements are being made for them to be cared for at the Washington Zoo.

Very sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

Mr. Raymond J. Lepow,  
226 West 26th Street,  
New York, N. Y.

mw

**RAYMOND J. LEPOW**  
INCORPORATED  
GENERAL IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS  
226 WEST 26TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Pat McKeena*  
*file*

September 13, 1937

Mr. M. H. McIntyre  
Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. McIntyre:

In accordance with your letter of the 7, may I advise that I will bring the pair of African Porcupine for President Roosevelt to Washington on Thursday, the 16, and will arrive at Union Station about 11:15 A.M.

Thanking you for your attention and consideration in this matter, I am

Respectfully yours,

*R. J. Lepow*

RJL:AB

*presented  
and taken to Dr. Mann  
9/16/37*