



HOLLOW EARTH EXPEDITIONS

EOHIPPUS HERD

FIELD NOTES:

BY DR. C. ARTHUR TURNER



This is an Unofficial supplement to the world of *Hollow Earth Expeditions* and the Ubiquity system.

Field Notes are short, one shot encounters or introductions to creatures, places and things found throughout the world (both out and within). They are small and lack “area” details so that they may be dropped into an existing campaign without great effort. Enjoy.

Day 70

What interesting fortune we have had today. While traveling this lush forest we happen upon a group of small animals, dogs or capybara I thought at first, but Ms. Goodhar immediately recognized them as an extinct species of Horse. Eohippus, meaning “Dawn Horse” if I recall. I had no idea she was a student of science.

I inquired with her on such facts, but she claims that science was not her suit, rather, her husband, Lord Geoffrey Goodhar of Brecknock, is an expert on all things Equestrian, and it was through his love that

she recalls reading an American scientists paper on the subject. I have never read that paper, so I must defer to her knowledge in this matter.

The Eohippus we observed were about two-foot long, and perhaps 18 inches tall. They more resembled young deer, with bodies of dark brown and black main and tail. Light spots running the length of their bodies.

While Ms. Goodhar borrowed paper and pencil from me and set to sketching them, several of the others tried to catch one. Such a find could be a valuable subject should we return to the surface world. Although seemingly docile, they proved quite quick. Poor Rufus suffered a bloody nose while trying to wrestle one to the ground. I must admit to being somewhat amused by the whole capture attempt. Reminded me somewhat of the slapstick comedy of the Charlie Chaplin silent films. Running and tripping and falling and running into one another. I was forced to apologize for

laughing out loud several times, though I wish I had a piano player to orchestrate the whole affair. Quite amusing.

At length though, they were able to capture a larger one, a male. Carefully we fashioned a halter out of leather and pulled him along. After a brief struggle he submitted and followed, neighing in anger all the while. Ms. Goodhar took great delight in examining him, looking at his hooves, teeth and muscle structure. For a non-scientist, she took remarkably good notes and sketches.

I have to admit a interesting that we have traveled in this land for now almost 70 days and have not seen any signs of horses, domestic or wild. Curious because they are found on almost every continent on the surface world. The domestication of the horse would have to be one of primitive man's greatest achievements, next to the alphabet. This makes me wonder if this Eohippus is all we will ever find.

Interesting that it was to ponder, after an hour resting in the company of these horses, we proceeded deeper into the wood, heading toward the mountains we saw yesterday.

Curiously, a herd of eleven horses followed us, keeping just outside of reach, but trotting behind none the less. Ms. Goodhar believed that they were following their "Stallion." After a few miles we crossed a wide river, which they were unable to follow, although a few tried and were swept down along the shoreline. So they stood on the other bank "neighing" loudly.

As we watched, a group of three small wolves appeared from the shrubs on our side and started pacing along the shore. Paul



Bryce threw a stone at one, striking it, and they retreated back into the forest, but he was sure they would return as soon as we departed.

Thur-Long pointed out that the neighing sound had likely attracted the predators and that they would eventually find a way across. So, regrettably, and over the objections of Ms. Goodhar, who had become quite fond of our little friend, we elected to release the Stallion back on the other side, by his herd. Quickly they disappeared into the scrub.

It is a shame really, he would have made an astounding attraction at the London Museum of Natural History...

Eohippus

In a world as lost in time as the Hollow Earth, one has to wonder if you might find a place where herds of Eohippus can be found running along side their modern day ancestors, the Horse. Would the two species find a connection, a kinship?

Or would they simply come together like the wild herds of Giraffe, Water Buffalo, Gazelle and Zebra found out on the African Plains? Grazing together under the theory that there is safety in numbers. Unaware of how closely related they are.