

DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 2/2019

Dear BOTSFA members

Time flies! We are fast approaching the dates for the trip to Gotland (earlier planned for October 4-6, 2019). It is with regret to inform you that the trip has been CANCELLED, due to low registration. There will, however, be an opportunity for a social gathering for those who may wish to connect with friends of Botswana. This is through the Zhizha/Lethafula/Kördefest organized by Boma Cuisine on August 24. Tickets are available through:

E-mail: nikitasafari@gmail.com

Tel: 0737275752/0702641514

Bankgiro: 420-6496, Swish: 0737275752
(Please state name on payment)

Hope to see you there!

Nelly Kabomo-Hogård
BOTSFA Chairperson



About the culling of elephants in Botswana



I FOUND a well-researched long documentary story in the Botswana Gazette of 14th June 2019; with the above title, written by an

expert in the field of conservation, Mr. Ron Thomson. I have been in Botswana for 47 years, lived 5 years in Maun during the 1970s and have travelled widely through the vast country. I have observed how the terrain has changed from undisturbed nature full of thriving wildlife to what it is today – an expanding semi desert.

In 1975, on one of my many trips between Maun and Francistown on the old sand and calker road, I got held up by a migrating herd of Wildebeests and Zebras between Makalamabedi and Gweta. I sat in my little Hilux for about 2 hours »ambushed« by the overwhelming but beautiful spectacle. When I returned to Maun, I contacted the wildlife office about what I had experienced. They said that the herd consisted of about a quarter million animals moving on their annual migration trip from the north at the end of the dry season to central and southern Kalahari.

In 1976, Botswana government completed the east-west cordon fence separating central Kalahari from the wildlife sanctuaries in the north. The result was an extreme number of Wildebeests and Zebras being caught in the fence or dying of starvation when they could not reach their summer grazing areas in the south. The Elephant population at that

➔ to page 4

BOMA CUISINE
**ZHIZHA/
SKÖRDEFEST**
Best cuisine from Botswana
2019/08/24 12-18.00HRS
LANGBRODALSVÄGEN 46 ÄLVSJÖ
BOOKINGS: 0737275752

Pre-booked tickets: 250kr adults/120kr kids (10-17 years)
300kr/150kr at the event. Lätt öl & non alcoholic drinks included. Payment: swish 0737275752/Bankgiro 420-6496/cash

Welcome to BOTSFA!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

• Individual: SEK 175 • Family: SEK 300 (incl. children up to 15) • Student: SEK 100 • Institution: SEK 500
Plusgiro 85 10 39-8, or Bankgiro 428-6472

visit us on www.botsfa.nu

FIRST SWEDE in BOTSWANA

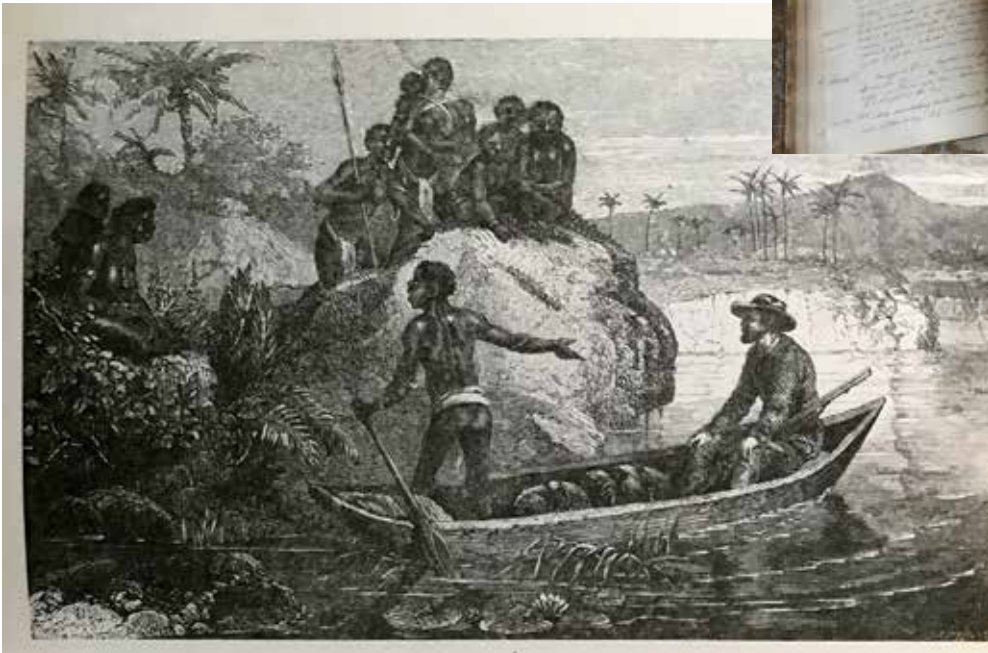
– the blog about Charles John Andersson

TEXT BY Ann Gollifer and Mats Ögren Wanger

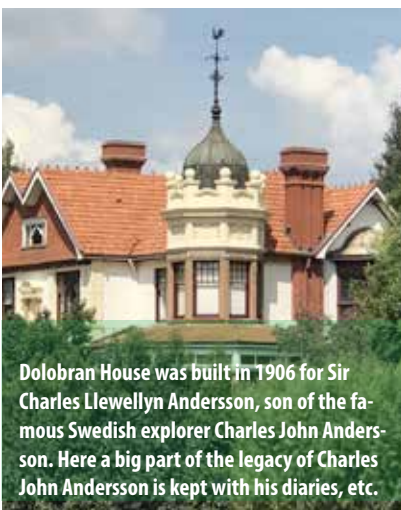
PHOTO BY Mats Ögren Wanger



Pages of Charles John Andersson's diary



Showing off the white man, wood engraving in CJA book, »The Okavango River«



Dolobran House was built in 1906 for Sir Charles Llewellyn Andersson, son of the famous Swedish explorer Charles John Andersson. Here a big part of the legacy of Charles John Andersson is kept with his diaries, etc.

THE REMARKABLE

legacy of Charles John Andersson (born 1827 in Värmland, Sweden, died 1867 in Portuguese Angola at 40 years of age) is neither well known nor popularised.

In text, image and video, we, Mats Ögren Wanger, journalist and documentary film-

maker and visual artist, Ann Gollifer, have created a website and Instagram account that assemble a picture of the 19th century Swedish explorer, amateur naturalist, ornithologist, hunter and trader, Charles John Andersson.

Over the course of two years, we have travelled together in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Sweden in search of the people and places that hold the memory of this man. We have met with historians and archivists in Windhoek and visited Otjimbingwe in Central Namibia, trading post and home of Charles John Andersson in the mid 1860s.

We have visited the Okavango and Lake Ngami in Botswana, the illusive water courses and rivers that defined his dogged explorations. We have visited the Dolobran House in Johannesburg, family seat of Andersson's descendants in South Africa and consulted the National Archives in Cape Town, meeting with both Charles John Andersson's and Hugo Hahn's fourth generation grandchildren (details on relationships are under Website and Instagram links). We have travelled to Vänersborg in Sweden to see the museum collections and archives there and visited four of the childhood homes that Charles John Andersson shared with his father Llewellyn Lloyd.

In answer to the question, »why spend all this time and energy on Charles John Andersson?« we would say that we have made an attempt to better understand what kind of men drove pre-colonial exploration and subsequent colonial expansion in Africa through the study of one individual's story, while understanding that his particular gaze was stained by his time and prejudices just as is our own.

During his short lifetime, Andersson felt that he had accomplished very little but in fact he produced three classic books, »Lake Ngami«, »The River Okavango« and »Notes on the birds of Damara land and the adjacent countries of the South West Africa«. He is also credited with the naming of the Okavango River in Botswana, having misheard or misun-

derstood its correct pronunciation by the Ovambo people. The dark side of the story is that Charles John Andersson like most of the early European explorers in Africa during this time, paved the way for the 'Scramble for Africa' which was the occupation, division, and colonisation of African territory by European powers during the period of the New Imperialism between 1881 and 1914.

WELCOME to follow other continuation of our work on: www.charlesjohndandersson.com and Instagram: **charles-johndandersson** and find out for yourself who Charles John Andersson really was.

You will find numerous beautiful and sometimes comic illustrations from both Charles John Andersson's and his father Lewellyn Lloyd's books, and new photos and exclusive video interviews of places and people connected to the Charles John Andersson legacy.



The defence at the siege of Otjimbingwe
Painting by Thomas Baines 1863



The last home Önafors on the outskirts of Vänersborg that Charles shared with his father Llewelyn Lloyd. On the picture Ann Gollifer, Peter Johansson and the present owner of the house.



Fresh bread at the Otjimbingwe bakery
PHOTO by Ann Gollifer

Dumelang dear Botsfa members!

In April I visited Kasane with my family. It is always great to enjoy the Chobe River and National Park. The highlight of this trip however was a visit to the construction site of the new Kazangula bridge that links Botswana to Zambia. I'm sure many of you have experienced crossing the Zambezi using the existing pontoon ferries. They are however very limited in capacity and can only load one truck at the time. Currently it takes on average four days to cross the river for a truck driver. At times trucks have to wait a week to be able to cross and the line of trucks can then stretch out of Kazangula and up over the ridge. This does not promote trade and business in the region.

The bridge project is a US\$ 260 million joint venture between Zambia and Botswana and the main contractor is Daewoo from South Korea. The bridge will be 923 m long and is curved giving it a very pleasant design. It consists of two lanes for driving, one rail track in the middle and pedestrian walkways on either side. The longest span between two piers in the water is 129 m. It will have »One Stop« immigration and customs that will bring down the crossing time for a truck to less than two hours. The bridge should be open for traffic late 2020.

We were guided by one of the engineers and the project Safety Official. The safety procedures were impressive and I was very happy to hear that they have had no injuries at all during the construction. Back at the site office we were given a brief re the environmental impact of the construction. We were happy to hear that this has been given highest priority, considering the place where the bridge is being constructed. Hippos were happily moving around the river near the construction site. I feel very proud to see a project like this in Botswana.

On another note, if you get a chance to see the National Geographic movie: »Into the Okavango«, please do. It is an interesting and informative film about a Mokoro Expedition from the source of the Okavango far up in Angola down the river, crossing Caprivi then through the delta.

Wishing you all a great summer in Sweden. Pula!

Kent Nilsson
Swedish Honorary Consul



👉 from page 1

time was about 70,000, just over half of its current population; said to be around 130,000.

The civil wars in Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe were ongoing and seriously affecting the migrating Elephants who would normally move north into those countries at that time of the year. With the excellent Elephant memory of the Matriarch leaders having experienced slaughter by soldiers, trophy hunters and increased stretches of land mines, most of the elephants stayed in Botswana and started to move southwards, populating areas where there had rarely been Elephants. As their way of life is to bring down trees to eat the fresh branches at the top, they reduced the previously more lush forest stretches into bush-land and later grassland.

I have regularly repeated my concern for the lack of proper migration corridors from the north to the central and south Botswana for the game at the annual general meetings of the Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS), which, in general, was supported but no visible action taken. I suggested we copy what I saw in Sweden during one visit driving from Malmö to Gothenburg. This entails the catering for wildlife by substantial bridges, covered by forests crossing the motorway at regular intervals. I was informed that the system ensures that the game now roam freely and undisturbed between their natural grazing areas, substantially reducing vehicle to animal road accidents. According to some recent statistics, the current Wildebeest population is only 5 % of what it was some 30 years ago – partly due to limited migration possibilities, but also that the remaining areas for them to graze are over-populated by Elephants; which destroy and over-consume the scarce vegetation.

I strongly recommend all persons that are against culling of Elephants in Botswana thoroughly read and analyse Mr

Ron Thomson's account in the Botswana Gazette of June 14th, 2019 (<https://www.thegazette.news/features/about-the-culling-of-elephants-in-botswana/27253/#.XSg4x4-exPY>). He explains in detail how Elephant culling was performed in the Kruger-park South Africa already in the early 1970s. Elephant herds were slaughtered so no animal of that herd would remain. This, to prevent bad memories from affecting the remaining Elephant population and under methods that promoted game conservation and biodiversity.

We may need to consider culling in Botswana in order to restore our previous biodiversity and viability of the nature parks covering an amazing 40% of our country. Which other country has so much land reserved for sustaining our heritage for future generations? As it is at present, we are losing the variety of common species. Elephants were recently reported to have trampled the perimeter fence at the Khama Rhino Sanctuary outside Serowe, to the detriment of efforts to protect Rhinos and increase their population.

Our President, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, has officially invited critics who do not believe what we are saying to come and see and experience for themselves what goes on, outside the 40 % reserved land; negatively affecting the human population and the biodiversity in general. Anyone in doubt can obtain 30-year old Natural Geographic nature films from Botswana to compare with what they see now!

We the population of Botswana, as well as our visiting tourists, want to continue experiencing previous wide variety of wildlife – not only Elephants.

Please help us make fanatics understand how much we long for a sustainable biodiversity!

By Ulf Söderström

A citizen of Botswana for over 40 years.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Ingvar Sundberg

I am connected to Botswana through my wife Nicky. I met her 2010, and my first trip to Botswana was in 2011. I got the opportunity to visit SOS Home for orphans in Francistown. It was wonderful to see how help from government and from abroad can help and make a big difference!

Botswana is a very beautiful country, with nice safaris and food and people are very friendly. Francistown is now like my second home. I was born in Gotland but we now live and work in Stockholm. I work as a Production Manager at SAS, Scandinavian Airlines at Arlanda.



Alice Wanger

I am 22 years old and a Botswana lover after travelling in the country many times. When I was 11, I and my friends were attacked by an elephant on safari – but this did not stop me from loving the wilderness. Nowadays I and my father, Mats Ögren Wanger, are active with project Tennis4SOS, an NGO in Botswana working with the SOS

Children's Village in Tlokweg and local tennis trainers to support the children to play tennis. Currently, I live in Barcelona where I have worked as a real estate agent and for the moment I am studying the Russian language and work as a freelance writer.

SEE ALL BOARD MEMBERS ON OUR WEB-PAGE www.botsfa.nu

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