

his soul, for instead of wreaking vengeance on the youth who had blinded him, he took him into his home to live with him. The young man, thus having an opportunity to observe the life of the man he had so hated, presently became one of his greatest admirers and followers, and in course of time was changed from a wild and passionate enemy of the laws of Lycurgus to a sober, discreet and useful citizen.

So runs one of the stories which the Greek historian Plutarch tells us of the mysterious Lycurgus, who lived so long ago that we do not know which of the tales are history and which mere legend. The Spartans of a later day believed that Lycurgus had been the author of all the strange laws and customs which distinguished their state from the other states of Greece, and worshipped him as a god.

Lycurgus, who, as they believed, lived about the 9th century B.C., belonged to the royal house of Sparta, and might have claimed the throne. When the king's widow proposed to him that they should destroy the infant heir and reign in his stead, Lycurgus rejected the scheme with abhorrence, and proclaimed the child king. Soon after this he set out to travel in foreign lands, conversing with sages and studying the laws of the countries he visited.

Lycurgus's Reforms in Sparta

When he returned home, after many years, he found Sparta in a state of disorder and discontent. With the help of some of the leading citizens, who believed that an entire change of government was the only remedy, Lycurgus made himself master of the city and drew up a new set of laws, designed so to govern the lives of the citizens as to build up a strong state. (See Greece; Sparta.)

Then, obtaining a solemn promise from his fellow-citizens that they would obey the laws and change none of them until his return, Lycurgus again departed. Being told by the oracle at Delphi that the Spartans would enjoy everlasting prosperity as long as they did this, he decided never to return, in order that the Spartans might forever remain bound by their promise.

Lycurgus is one of the great lawgivers of antiquity, and ranks with the legendary Manu of India, with Hammurabi of Babylonia, Moses among the Hebrews, and Solon of Athens.

LYNX. So acute is the sight of the lynx that the ancients believed he could see even through a stone wall. That is why we still speak of sharp-sighted people as "lynx-eyed."

This member of the cat family is found in both the Old World and the New. It is smaller than the leopard and larger than the true wild-cat, which exists only in Europe. All species of the lynx have stumpy tails, long limbs, tufted ears, and eyes which contract in the daytime to a narrow slit.

They live in forests and rocky places, and are fond of resting stretched out on a tree limb in the sun. By night they hunt their food, which consists of birds and small animals. They often kill sheep and chickens.

The sudden cry of a lynx at night is one of the most frightful sounds known. Usually it consists of a single sharp howl, followed by silence. The reason for this is interesting. The creatures on which the animal preys, such as

rabbits or quail, seek to escape his notice by lying perfectly still. The lynx crouches down all ready for a leap, and then emits his piercing cry. The timid victim, startled out of its wits by the fearful sound, cannot help jumping convulsively. At that instant, the lynx strikes.

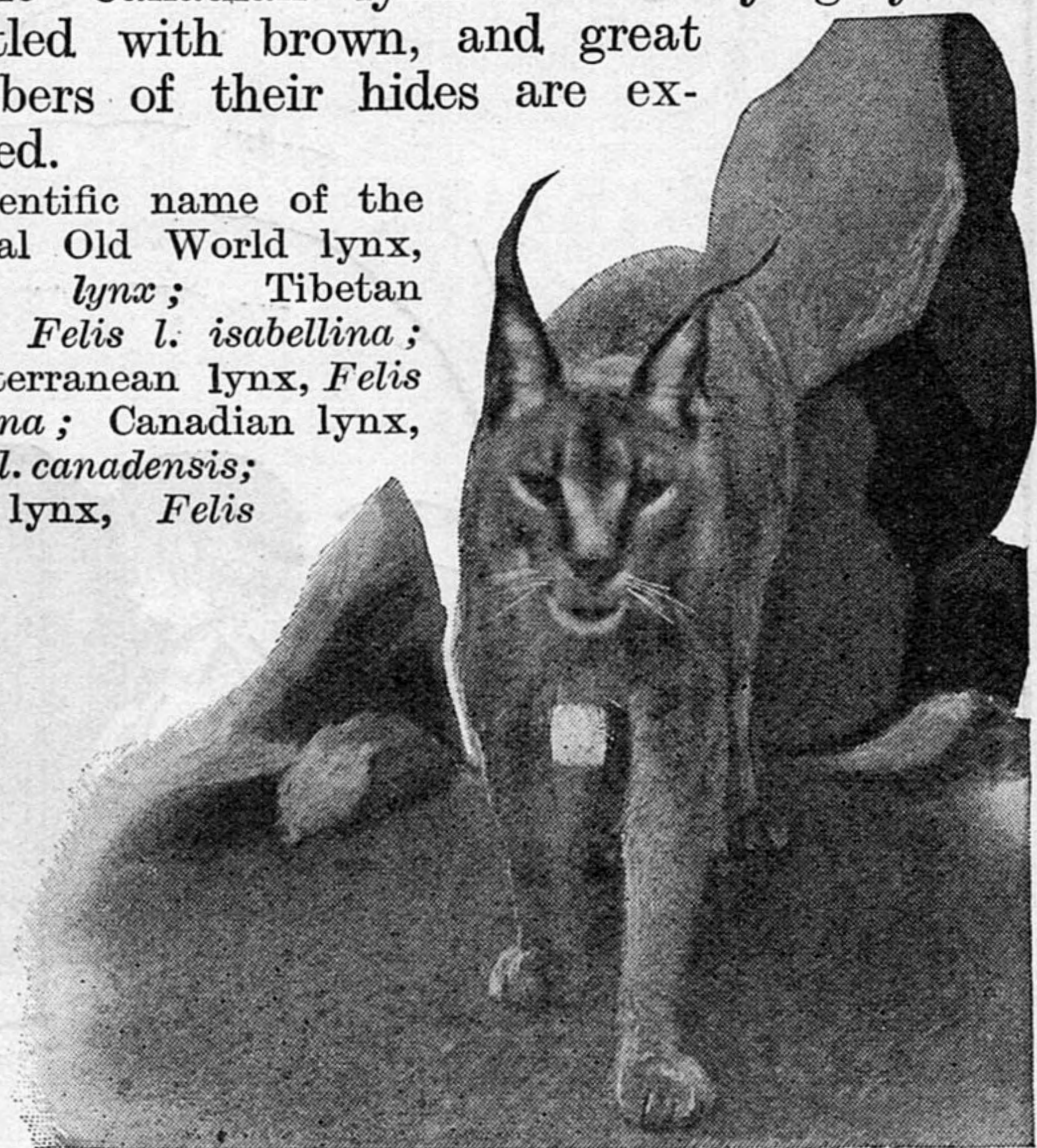
The Canadian lynx has heavy grey fur mottled with brown, and great numbers of their hides are exported.

Scientific name of the typical Old World lynx, *Felis lynx*; Tibetan lynx, *Felis l. isabellina*; Mediterranean lynx, *Felis pardina*; Canadian lynx, *Felis l. canadensis*; red lynx, *Felis rufa*.

THE EYES OF THE LYNX



The Lynx, like the Owl, looks dull-eyed during the daytime. This is because his eyes have unusually large pupils for night service, and he must keep the "blinds" closely drawn in the daytime to keep the sunlight from paining him.



This is a Caracal, a member of the Lynx family. He inhabits portions of Africa and Southern Asia. You would know he was a Lynx by those long tufts on his ears.