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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910136109903321 |
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| Titolo | The Animal Game : Searching for Wildness at the American Zoo / / Daniel E. Bender |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Cambridge, MA : , : Harvard University Press, , [2016] ©2016 |
| ISBN | 9780674972766 0674972767 9780674972759 0674972759 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (400 pages) |
| Disciplina | 590.73 |
| Soggetti | Zoos - United States - History Zoos - Employees Wild animal trade - History Endangered species - History |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction: The Zoo Parade -- 1. The Elephant's Skin: Animals and Their Visitors -- 2. The Voyage of the Silverash: The Big Business of Tropical Animals -- 3. Jungleland: The Money in Wildlife -- 4. The Monkeys' Island: The New Deal Builds a Modern Zoo -- 5. Aping: African Animals on Zoo Stages -- 6. Don't Feed the Keepers: The Labor and Care of Zookeepers -- 7. The Zoo Man's Holiday: Adventuring for the Zoo -- 8. My Animal Babies: Caring for Endangered Species -- 9. Dangerous Safari: Conservation at the End of Empire -- Conclusion: Searching for the Yeti -- Notes -- On Zoo Sources -- Illustration Credits -- Acknowledgments -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | The spread of empires in the nineteenth century brought more than new territories and populations under Western sway. Animals were also swept up in the net of imperialism, as jungles and veldts became colonial ranches and plantations. A booming trade in animals turned many strange and dangerous species into prized commodities. Tigers from India, pythons from Malaya, and gorillas from the Congo found |

their way—sometimes by shady means—to the zoos of major U.S. cities, where they created a sensation. Zoos were among the most popular attractions in the United States for much of the twentieth century. Stoking the public's fascination, savvy zookeepers, animal traders, and zoo directors regaled visitors with stories of the fierce behavior of these creatures in their native habitats, as well as daring tales of their capture. Yet as tropical animals became increasingly familiar to the American public, they became ever more rare in the wild. Tracing the history of U.S. zoos and the global trade and trafficking in animals that supplied them, Daniel Bender examines how Americans learned to view faraway places and peoples through the lens of the exotic creatures on display. Over time, as the zoo's mission shifted from offering entertainment to providing a refuge for endangered species, conservation parks replaced pens and cages. *The Animal Game* recounts Americans' ongoing, often conflicted relationship with zoos, decried as anachronistic prisons by animal rights activists even as they remain popular centers of education and preservation.
