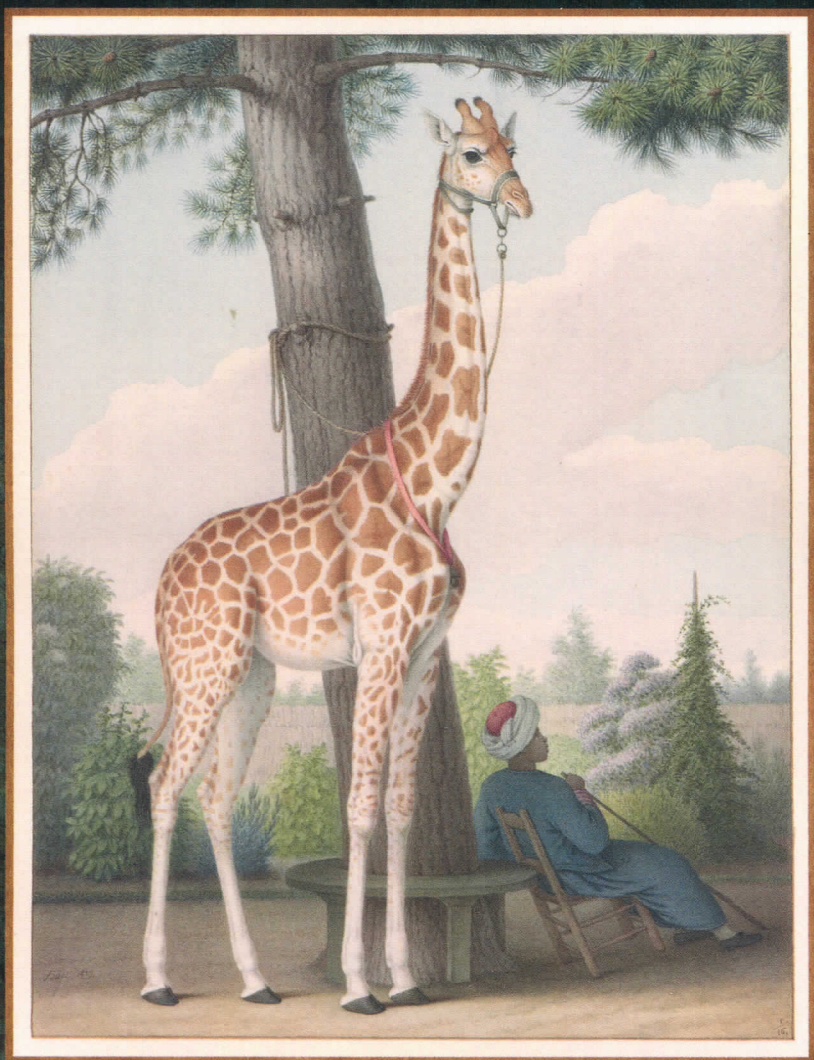




ANIMAL BIOGRAPHIES

TOWARD A HISTORY OF INDIVIDUALS

ÉRIC BARATAY

Translated by Lindsay Turner

WHAT IF ANIMALS COULD TELL THEIR OWN STORIES, THEIR BIOGRAPHIES? What would we learn? Éric Baratay, a pioneering researcher in animal histories in France, applies his knowledge with the methodology of historians to give voice to some of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries' most interesting animals. He offers brief yet innovative accounts of these animals' lives in a way that challenges the reader's thinking about animals.

Baratay illustrates the need to develop a nonanthropocentric means of viewing the lives of animals and including them in the narrative of their lives. *Animal Biographies* launches an all-new study in the lives of animals and is a major contribution to the field of animal studies.

This English translation of Éric Baratay's *Biographies Animales: Des vies retrouvées*, originally published by Editions du Seuil in 2017, uses firsthand accounts starting from the nineteenth century about specific animals who lived in Europe and the United States to reconstruct, as best as possible, their stories as they would have experienced them. History is, after all, not just the domain of humans. Animals have their own.

Baratay breaks the model of human exceptionalism to give us the biographies of some of history and literature's animal characters. The reader will catch a glimpse of the storied lives as told by Robert Louis Stevenson's donkey, Modestine; Warrior, the World War I horse made famous in Steven Spielberg's *War Horse*; Islero, the bull that gored Spain's greatest bull-fighter, Manolete, and more. Through these stories we discover the animals' histories, personalities, and shared experiences with others of their species.

"Éric Baratay's biographical account of the backstory lives of famous animals is a vivid description of experiences and feelings from the animal's point of view. The uniqueness and singularity of individual animals emerge in these 'restored stories,' encouraging a better understanding of the conditions and circumstances of actual animals. Clear, readable, and very engaging, this book is a splendid contribution to animal studies."—LINDA KALOF, author of *Looking at Animals in Human History*

"An attractive and original work. There isn't anything much like it, and it should be of interest to scholars interested in animals in a range of humanistic disciplines, as well to general readers who share their interests."—HARRIET RITVO, author of *Noble Cows and Hybrid Zebras: Essays on Animals and History*

ÉRIC BARATAY is professor of contemporary history at the Université Jean-Moulin, Lyon. A specialist in animal history, Baratay is the author of many books, including *La Société des animaux de la Révolution à la Libération* (The society of animals from the Revolution to the Liberation).

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