

*F.V. Evans and J.D. Inverarity were two major contributors who endorsed the mission of BNHS. Both joined the Society out of interest and eventually rose to hold important posts. Being big game hunters and naturalists, they understood animals well and shared valuable knowledge and resources that enriched the Society's efforts towards conservation.*



Evans donated to the BNHS his copy of *THE BIRDS OF ASIA* by John Gould, from which this image of Temminck's Tragopan by Henry Constantine Richter is taken



## **F.V. Evans The Altruist**

**B**orn in 1865 to a farmer, Frederick Victor Evans was attracted to science and natural history since childhood. He was one of the original founders and trustees of the Commercial Gymkhana at Wodehouse Road, Bombay, and also co-founded Evans, Fraser & Co in 1892. Evans, in later years, found recreation in shikar around Thane Creek and nearby districts, and in camping. He loved to sail and fish in the waters of Bombay. His love for Bombay was immense, which can be seen by his contributions and work.

Being closely connected to nature, Evans soon became associated with the BNHS. He was elected as Vice Patron

of the Society in 1928, in recognition of the support he provided to the Society. He made several monetary contributions, then amounting to well over Rs. 15,000/-, to the Society's coffers, which were used to fund the Natural History Section of the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India. The Section was maintained by Evans for a period of more than 10 years. With his generosity, the Society was able to prepare a fine series of wax and papier mache models of local fishes, which were exhibited in the Section. The *JBNHS* also benefited from Evans' generous offer to meet the cost of the colour and black and white plates produced for the series 'The Wild Animals of the Indian Empire'. [Vol. 37(1) Suppl.] He also supported the publication of the enormous number of illustrations in Martin E. Mosley's series on caddisflies [Vols 36-38, 40].

Evans gifted rare and valuable books about Bombay and Western India, and a complete set of Gould's *BIRDS OF ASIA* and *A CENTURY OF BIRDS OF THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS* to the Society's library. After retiring from India, he spent the rest of his life in England, where he passed away in 1940. ■