

Felis Tigris Louisianis

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Date: circa 1936

Repository Citation

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Felis Tigris Louisianis

Naturalists tell us that the Royal Bengal Tiger is one of the largest and most powerful beasts of prey. They also tell us that Bengal is not the tiger's only, or particular home, this splendid animal is found in Persia, Java, Siberia, India and Ceylon. Athletic historians accept this testimony and they even report that the Bengal Tiger has migrated to Louisiana, where he is found in a particularly vicious mood on the banks of the Mississippi and where on Saturday's in the fall of the year he frequently goes forth on foraging expeditions in search of football prey.

Just as the tiger is noted for its weight and agility; so also, are the athletic teams of the Louisiana State University noted for their strength and ability; like the tiger in its natural habitat the Louisiana tiger is famous for its great speed and boldness of attack; like natural tigers the Louisiana tigers on all occasions exhibit great cunning, sagacity and courage. There is one vice which the tiger has in common with us of L. S. U. and that is an inordinate desire and special taste for goat meat. I understand that Bernie Moore and Athletic Director Heard make plans to provide this special article in the diet once a year near the end of November.

Today we are gathered to pay homage to Mike the Tiger, that majestic animal who is so symbolic of the spirit of L. S. U. and the true tiger spirit of its student body and to thank Governor Leche for his splendid gift of this tiger house. When we say "Long Live Mike" we mean "Long live the tiger characteristics so typical of L. S. U."; When we say, "Thank you Governor Leche" we are thanking him not only for the gift that we accept here today, but also for the great encouragement and support that he has given to every University activity. And as we gaze upon Mike in his richly furred bright yellow, beautifully black-stripped coat, we are not unmindful of the words of the poet who wrote:

"Tiger, Tiger, burning bright,
In the forest of the Night,
O, what hand or eye
Could frame thy dreadful symmetry.

As long as we have such a beautiful living symbol the true tiger spirit will never die,
