

The New York Times
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PIGMY OFFICIALLY VIEWED.

How Ota Benga Impressed One of the Controller's Examiners.

One of the examiners of the Controller's staff was sent to investigate Ota Benga, the pigmy on exhibition in the Bronx Zoological Gardens, yesterday. Controller Metz had heard that the keepers in the park were taking tips from the visitors and permitting them to enter Benga's sleeping apartment. The examiner evidently did not find anything to confirm these statements, for in his report he did not say anything about them. He used to be a reported and he could not resist the temptation to furnish the Controller with a story to be filed in the archives of the City of New York. His name is withheld.

The examiner says in his report:

Ota Benga is supposed to be a native of Africa, and the impression among visitors at Zoological Park seemed to be that he is some sort of wild man who can understand monkey talk. Without attempting to discuss the intellectual accomplishments or demerits of the gentleman, it may be stated that to the unscientific mind this native of Darkest Africa does not materially differ in outward appearance at least from some of the natives of Darkest New York.

In appearance Mr. Benga is a little black man of boyish appearance, though he is said to be twenty-three years of age and to have been twice married in his native land. His slight form is clad in a suit of yellowish khaki cloth, and upon his head rests a soft gray cap that would be worn at the annual outing and games of the Ota Benga Association if there were such an organization.

The mutterings emitted by Benga, and which some people appear to believe are the knocking of a stunted intellect at the portal of enlightenment, would seem to be more convincing if the subject did not understand and speak some English.

The pigmy chattered to the monkeys in a peculiar way; the monkeys chattered. The pigmy laughed, and many in the crowd expressed the belief that he understood what the monkeys were saying. If he did he kept the secret well to himself. As monkeys are chattering a large part of the time, and do so particularly when food is in sight, this circumstance does not seem at all remarkable.