

LEGUAT

A New
VOYAGE
TO THE
East-Indies
BY
FRANCIS LEGUAT
AND
His Companions.

1637-1735

Containing their

ADVENTURES in two Desert Islands,

And an Account of the most Remarkable
Things in *Maurice* Island, *Batavia*, at the
Cape of Good Hope, the Island of *St. He-
lena*, and other Places in their Way to and
from the Desert Isles.

Adorn'd with MAPS and FIGURES.

L O N D O N :

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Pullets, Ducks and Pigeons, which are sold very near as dear as they are in *Europe*. Hunted Game is scarce, except *Pintado's*, of which I have already spoken, and whereof there are two or three kinds: You have abundance of Fish here, and that almost for nothing. There is but one reigning or common Distemper in the Island of *Java*, but which is very dangerous, and extremely painful. The *French* at *Batavia*, call this Disease *Le Perse*: It is a continual Bloody-Flux. As there is no known Remedy for it, the Patient must wait, live sparingly, and let Nature act, the surest and safest Method in most sorts of Maladies. One may truly say, according to the Etymology of the Word, that the Drugs which *Pharmacy* is compos'd of, generally speaking, are rather a parcel of Poysons, than Remedies, and they believe in *Java* among the Islanders, that almost all those that prescribe them in *Europe*, (much more blamable than those that sell them) are the Pests of Mankind. The common Opinion is, that *Buffalo-Flesh* and Fruit, contribute much towards causing this Distemper, and nevertheless, that is the Flesh which is most sold at the Butchers.

To speak Truth, *Batavia* is not a Place of very good Cheer. They want a great many Things, and what they have in common with us, are scarce, high-priz'd and bad, in comparison of Ours. *China-Pork*, which I spoke of not long since, is luscious and insipid: The Poultry is not much better, and consequently the Eggs. The Pasture quite different from ours of *Europe*, occasions bad Flesh, bad Milk, and bad Butter, but all these are to be had in small quantities.

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What I have just now said of the Poultry, brings into my Remembrance the Sport of Cock-fighting, which is one of the greatest and most common Diversions of this Island. They breed up great numbers of these Animals on purpose, and arm them with sharp Iron Spurs, which they make use of with greater Dexterity than Force. The *Javans* are the Managers of these Sports, and whoever will, may come to them *Gratis*: Almost every Body is concern'd in Wagering more or less, and sometimes considerable Sums are lay'd. Whereas in *England*, where this Diversion is likewise common, they disfigure their Cocks by cutting off their Tails, and plucking out Feathers out of other parts of their Body, they here leave them in their natural State. 'Tis true, they are not so nimble as the *English* Cocks, but that Inconvenience being equal on both sides, it is no advantage to either; and the Combatants appear Nobler, and more fierce. Some of these Cocks have greatly enrich'd their Masters.

There are very fierce Beasts in this Island, such as the *Rhinoceros* and *Tyger*: These last are of a prodigious bigness. For Wolves, they are altogether unknown in this Country, as well as Foxes.

There are abundance of Deer and Apes of all kinds. *Crocodiles* are extreamly dreaded here, insomuch that the *Company* give thirty *Florens* for every one that is kill'd; some have been seen of twenty or thirty foot long: The common Opinion in this Country, as it has always been among the Naturalists, is, that this Animal grows as long as he lives, which nevertheless seems a Fable. I omit other Stories that are told of this Creature; even a Musket-ball
can't

for Houses and Ships. At present there are Trees fit for the Carpenter only, in a Forest about two Leagues from the Fort.

The Governor has a pleasant House call'd *Constantia*, about two Leagues from the *Cape*. Here he lives the greatest part of the year, not only on account of the Air, which is Excellent, the fine Prospect, and the admirable Soil, but also by reason of the great quantity of Game which are thereabouts, Hunting being the greatest and most profitable Diversion of this Country.

Ten Leagues from the *Cape* up in the Country, there is a Colony call'd *Draguestain*. It consists of about 300 Souls, as well *Hollanders* as *French* Protestants, which last fled from *France* upon revoking the *Edict* of *Nantz*.

This Colony extends eight or ten Leagues about, because the Soil not being equally good every where, they were fain to cultivate those spots they found to be good, and which occasion'd them to scatter themselves abroad. The Earth produces here without much Labour, Wheat and other Corn, which yields from thirty to sixty for one. As every Grain shoots up a great many Stalks, they sow here very thin: the Harvest is in the Month of *January*.

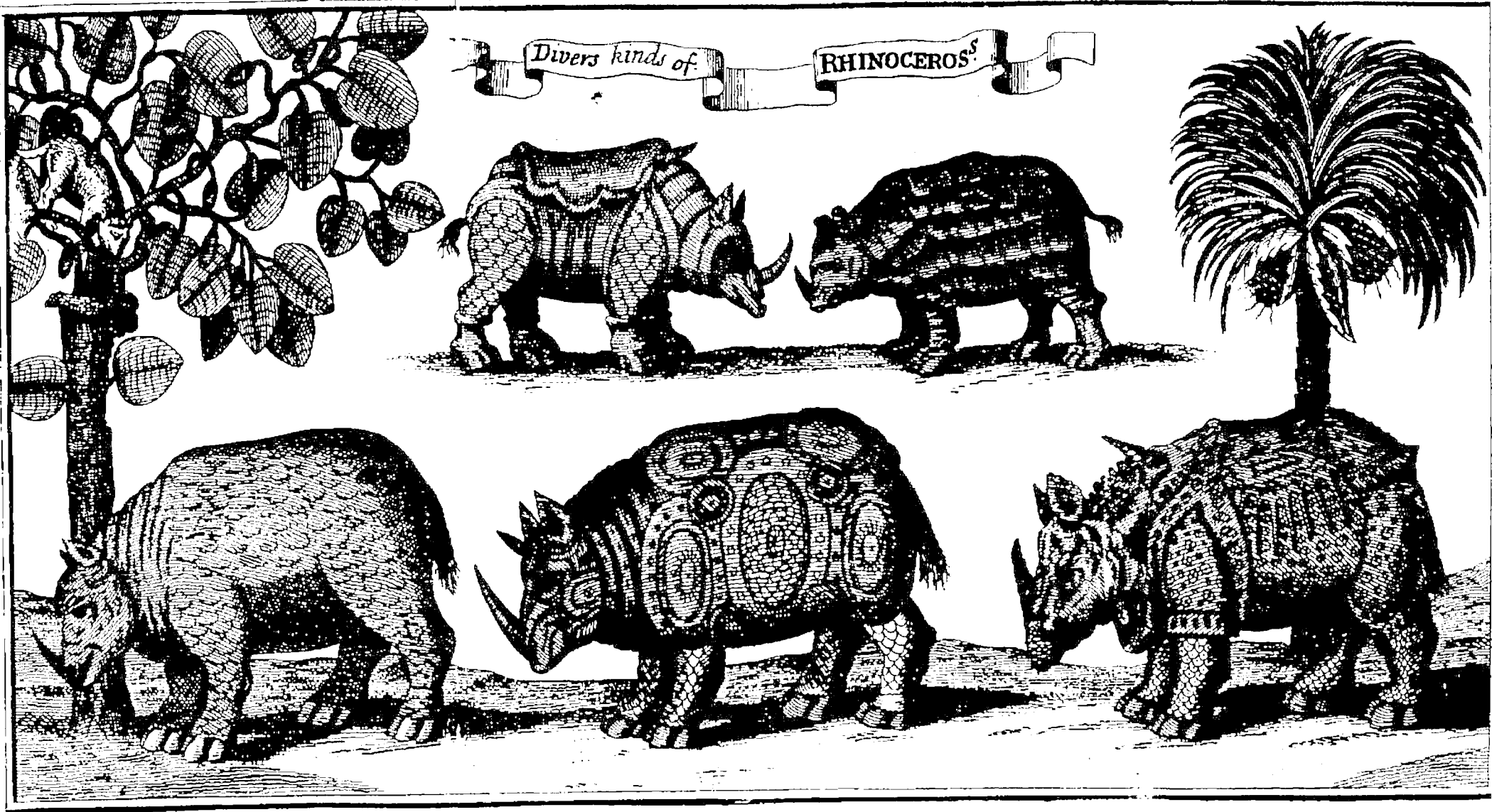
The Vine bears Grapes two years after it has been Planted, and that in great abundance without Cultivating, insomuch that in some Places a thousand foot of Vineyard will yield six Hogs-heads of Wine. To speak Truth the Wine is none of the best, being apt to be Green, which proceeds partly from the Peoples not giving themselves the trouble to chuse such Plants as are most agreeable to the Soil
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and Climate, and partly in that they are not accustom'd to support the Branches with a Vine-Prop. They are likewise wanting in not leafing the Vines well, for as the Soil is Rich, they shoot forth Wood and Leaves in such great abundance, that the Sun is not able to penetrate to the Grapes, and this Conjecture is the better grounded, in that I my self have frequently seen and eaten Grapes here, that have been incomparably better when expos'd to the Sun, than those that lay hid under the Leaves.

They have their Vintage about the end of February: To this Article I must add, since the occasion presents for it, that the *Compagny* buys all the Wine at the rate of twenty Crowns the *Legre*, which contains about a thousand *Mingles*, only furnishing the Cask; so that there is none sold out but what comes from them, as is the Practice at *Genoa*. The First Offence against this Law is punish'd with a Fine of a hundred Crowns, the Second with Whipping, and the Third with Banishment: This makes the Wine very dear. It is worth twenty *Sous* the *Mingle*, which is near the *Paris* Pint, and *English* Quart. You have likewise in this Country *Ananas*, Water and Land-Melons, Pulse and all sorts of Roots, so that the Inhabitants would have nothing to complain of, were they not incommoded with those bad Winds before-mention'd.

They have in this Country a prodigious number of Deer, many Oxen, Sheep, Roe-Bucks and Apes. There are also Elephants, Rhinoceros's, Elks, Lions, Tigres, Leopards, Wild-Boars, Antilopes, Porcupines, Horses, Asses, Dogs and Wild-Cats. But the most fierce

Divers kinds of RHINOCEROS^s



of these Animals retire into the Country, so soon as the Country-men begin to till the Ground. The Lions and Tigres are boldest in coming to search for Prey near the Habitations.

As for the *Unicorn* there is no such sort of Beast. The old and most curious Inhabitants of the *Cape*, are well satisfy'd with it, and he that made *Cæsar's Commentaries* was a Lyar, as well as the rest. The Rhinoceros is the true four-footed *Unicorn*, for there are Fish, Birds, and some Insects, that have likewise but one Horn. I could heartily wish to have seen one of these Rhinoceros's, by reason of the many Fables that are told of that Beast, as well as of the Crocodiles, and a hundred other Animals. My Friends that had seen of them, laugh'd at all the Figures the Painters gave of them, and which are here subjoin'd for Curiosities sake. Certainly nothing can be more Comical, than so many pretended Embossings; all which however is fabulous. The true Rhinoceros has a Hide like to that of an Elephant, and the older he is, the more wrinkled he will be: It is the same with us in that Respect. We may very well affirm that the Rhinoceros has but one Horn, in spite of all the fabulous Relations of those we call Naturalists: This Horn is at the extremity of the Nose. He has a sort of Hair in his Tail that is black, as large as a great Knitting-Needle, and harder than Whale-bone. I'll say nothing of Camelions which are common in this Country, unless that it is not true that they live without eating, which we vulgarly call living upon the Air. They live upon Flies, and such like little Creatures.

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