

A Compleat

# H I S T O R Y

O F

# DRUGGS,

Written in *French* by Monsieur POMET,

Chief Druggist to the late *French* King LEWIS XIV.

To which is added

What is further observable on the same SUBJECT,

F R O M

Mess. LEMEY and TOURNEFORT,

Divided into Three CLASSES,

## Vegetable, Animal and Mineral;

With their Use

In PHYSICK, CHYMISTRY, PHARMACY,

And several other ARTS.

I L L U S T R A T E D

With above Four Hundred Copper CUTTS, curiously done from the Life; and an EXPLANATION of their different Names, Places of Growth, and Countries from whence they are brought; the Way to know the True from the False; their Virtues, &c. A WORK of very great Use and Curiosity.

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Done into *English* from the ORIGINALS.

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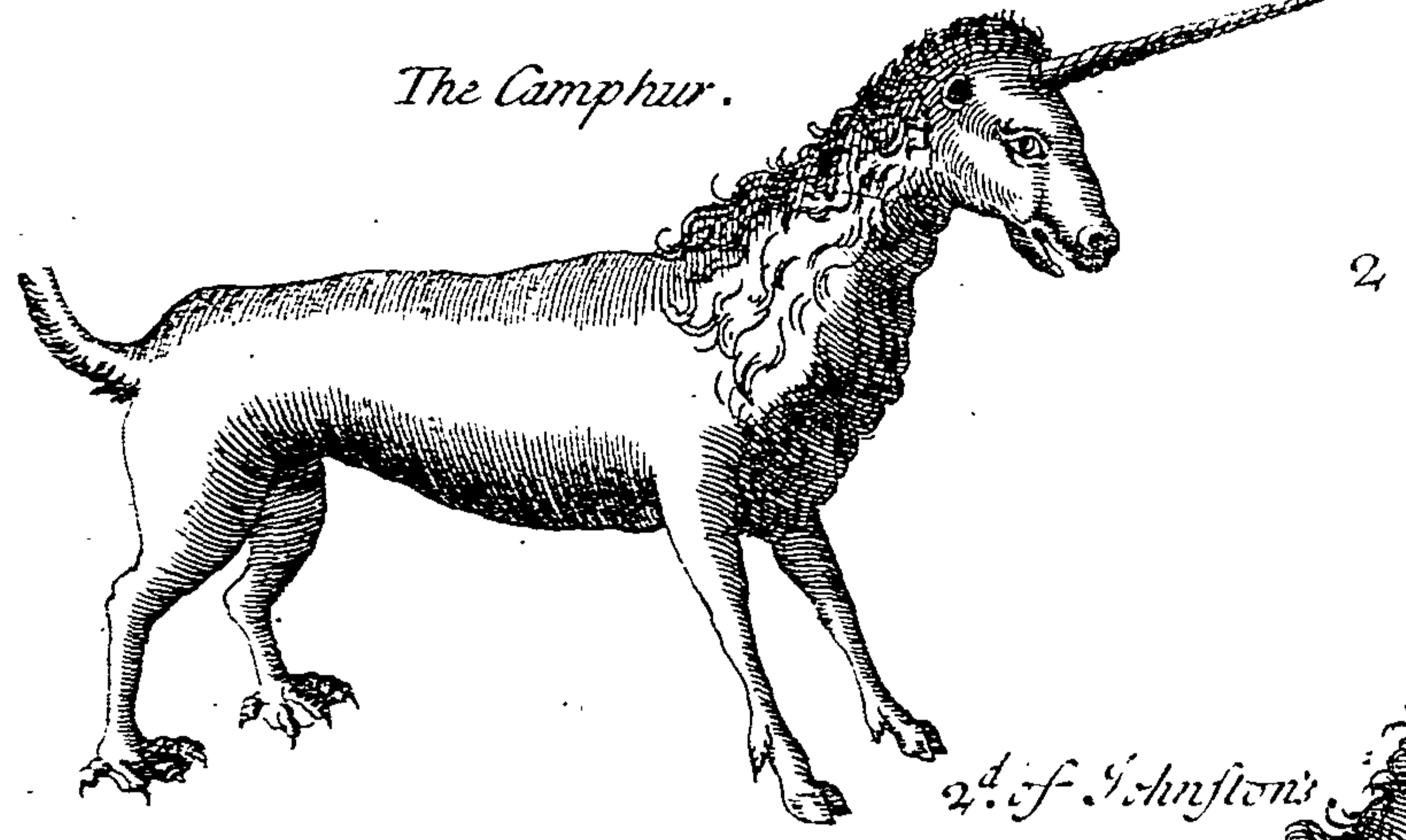
The THIRD EDITION,

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L O N D O N,

Printed for J. and J. Bonwicke, R. Wilkin, S. Birt, T. Ward and E. Wickstead,  
MDCCLXXVII.

*The Camphur.*



*1<sup>st</sup> of Johnston's Unicorns.*



*2<sup>d</sup> of Johnston's*



*One of Piraescupi.*

*3<sup>d</sup> of Johnston's*



was to take out generally all the Flesh, and leaving only the Skin and Bones, to substitute in their Place aromack Druggs and Powders; tho' this is not to preserve the Body, but only the Skin and Skeleton from Putrefaction. Some Moderns propose to us easier Ways, of which there are several Sorts, with which Mr. *Pénicher* has fill'd his Book; wherefore I shall forbear the Recital of them here, and content myself in acquainting you that the History of Embalming, which I have just laid before you, is that which I have performed on the Dauphiness, and several Persons of the first Quality, being that which I take to be the best of them all. I have heard of antient Sepulchres of Plaister, in the Middle of which the Body was placed, and also cover'd with Plaister; that in these sort of Graves, the Bodies kept for a long Time, without emitting any ill Scent, because the Salt Petre which is in the Plaister resists Putrefaction; and the Plaister imbibing the stinking Serofities which issue from the Body, stops the offensive Exhalations. This Fact may put some upon reducing it to Practice; which in my Opinion should be done the following Way: The Person resolv'd to try this Experiment, is to order the making either of a leaden or wooden Coffin, proportioned to the Bulk of the Body, which is to be laid into it stark naked; when having ready three or four Hods of Plaister strain'd thro' a Sack, so that it may reach to the Edges, the Corps must be wholly buried in Plaister. By this Method we may keep a Body several Days in the House, and then lay it in a Vault design'd for the Dead, without the Danger of any ill Scent; and in my Opinion, 'tis impossible to embalm a Body with more Ease, and less Expence.

## 2. Of the Unicorn.

*Pomet.* THE Unicorn is an Animal which our Naturalists describe under the Figure of a Horse, having in the Middle of his Head a spiral Horn, of two or three Foot long; but as we know not the real Truth of this Matter to this Day, I shall only say, that what we sell under the Name of the Unicorn's Horn, is the Horn of a certain Fish, by the Islanders called *Narval*,

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or the *Sea-Unicorn*, as you will find when we come to treat of Fish. This Horn was formerly in great Esteem, because of the mighty Virtues attributed to it by the Antients, especially against Poisons, which is the Reason that so many great Personages have been very fond of it; so that it has been valued at its Weight in Gold.

*Ambrose Paræus*, in a little Treatise which he compos'd of the *Unicorn*, says, That in the Desarts of *Arabia* he found wild Asses, which they call *Camphurs*, carrying a Horn in their Front, with which they used to fight against the Bulls, and which the *Indians* made use of to cure several Diseases, especially venomous or contagious ones; and that the *Arabs* near the *Red Sea* had another Animal among them, which those People call'd *Pirassoupi*, that has two Horns, long, streight, and spiral, which the *Arabs* make use of when they are wounded, or bit by any venomous Creature. They let it infuse six or eight Hours in Water, which they drink to cure them. He says, that this Animal is of the Size of a Mule, which also it resembles in its Head; and that the Body is hairy like a Bear, a little inclining to a fallow Colour, and the Hoof divided or cleft like the Deer's. *Johnston* says, in his Treatise of Animals, that there are several other *Unicorns*, to which the Reader may have Recourse.

The Kinds of *Unicorns* come now to be considered; That it is a Beast having but one Horn, all agree; but because several Kinds of Beasts have also but one single Horn, it is some Question which of these five must be the true. There is, 1<sup>st</sup>, The *Orix*, or one-horned wild Goat. 2<sup>dly</sup>, The one-horn'd Ox. 3<sup>dly</sup>, The Hart with one Horn. 4<sup>thly</sup>, The one-horn'd Hog. And, 5<sup>thly</sup>, the one-horn'd Ass. The first is certainly but a kind of one-horn'd wild Goat, by the Description of it differing not much from a Goat. It resembles a Roc, having a Beard under its Chin, of a palish white Colour, cloven hoofed, with one Horn growing out of the Middle of its Head. They are bred in *Ægypt*, *Æthiopia*, and many other Parts of the World, some of which are as large as Oxen. Their Horns are not only strong and sharp, like the Horns of an *Unicorn* and *Rhinoceros*, but also solid, and not hollow or porous, like the Horns of Harts. This Creature is said not

not to value the Barking of the Dog, the Foaming of the Bear, the Bellowing of the Bull, the Cry of the Panther, or the Roaring of the Lion.

The one-horn'd Ox, Bull, or Cow, is bred in *Aonia*, of various Colours, intermix'd one with another, having a whole round Hoof, like a Horse, and but one Horn growing out of the Middle of the Forehead: It is also bred in *India*, where the whole Species eat Flesh, and are whole-hoof'd, and single-horned, which grows out of the Middle of their Foreheads. Some of them are said to be as high as Camels, and their Horn four Foot long. There are in *Æthiopia*, a kind of a purple Colour, which have but one Horn growing out of their Heads, which turns up towards their Backs.

The *Unicorn Hart* is a Beast bred also in *India*, whose Feet resemble an Elephant's, the Body a young Horse, and its Head a Hart's; out of the Middle of which grows a Horn about three Foot long. It has a roaring Voice almost like a Bull, but much shriller.

The *Unicorn Hog* is so called from his Head, being like a Boar's or Hog's Head, found, as some Authors say, in the Dominions of the *Great Cham* of *Tartary*. This Species of *Unicorns* is somewhat less than Elephants, having Hair like Oxen, Heads like Hogs, Feet like Elephants, a sharp and thorny Tongue, and a Horn in the midst of its Forehead, wherewith he destroys both Man and Beast. Had this Horn grown out of its Snout, it would have been a *Rhinoceros*; but as it does not, it must be taken for one of the Kinds of *Unicorns*.

The one-horned *Afs* is the *Indian Afs*, which equals in Bigness a Horse; all white on the Body, but purple-headed and black-eyed, having one Horn in his Forehead, near three Foot long, whose upper Part is red or black, the Middle black, and the nether Part white. In these the great People of *India* drink, adorning them with all kind of precious things, believing that those who drink in these Horns are freed from any sort of deadly Poison or Infection. This *Afs*, or *Unicorn*, exceeds all others of the Kind, both in Stature, and Body, and Swiftmess of Foot. They are so strong that, no Horse can stand before

them, and fight with their single Horn-like Bulls.

The true *Unicorn*, if you dare believe *Ludovicus Vertomanus*, who says he saw two of them at *Mecha* in *Arabia*, which were kept within the Verge of *Mahomet's* Sepulchre, is of a Weasel Colour, with the Head like that of a Hart, the Neck not long, and the Mane growing all on one Side; the Legs slender and lean, like the Legs of a Hind; their Hoofs cloven like Goat's Feet, and the hinder Legs all hairy and shaggy on the Outside. Of all the other five the wild *Indian Afs* comes nearest to this Description; for the true *Unicorn* and he agree in these four things: 1<sup>st</sup>, that both of them have one Horn in the Middle. 2<sup>dly</sup>, That both of them are bred in *India*. 3<sup>dly</sup>, In that they are both about the Bigness of a Horse. 4<sup>thly</sup>, In their Celerity and solitary Life in the Mountains. But herein they differ; 1<sup>st</sup>, In that the *one-horned wild Indian Afs* is whole-hoofed, and not cloven; as the *Unicorn* is. 2<sup>dly</sup>, That his Colour is white on the Body, and purple on the Head; whereas the *Unicorn* is of a Weasel-like Colour. 3<sup>dly</sup>, That his Horns are purple, black, and white; whereas the *Unicorn's* Horn is wreath'd in Spires of an Ivory Colour. In the Year 1553, a great *Unicorn's* Horn was brought to the King of *France*, valued at twenty thousand Pounds *Sterling*. That which was presented to King *Charles* the First, of *England*, is suppos'd to be one of the greatest that ever was seen in the World; it was seven Foot long, weigh'd thirteen Pounds, and was in the Shape of a Wax Candle, but wreath'd within itself in Spires; hollow about a Foot from its Root, growing taper by little and little towards the Point, of a polish'd Smoothness, and the Spires not deep, but like the Windings of Woodbine, and the Colour not perfectly white, but somewhat obscure.

Some in *Poland* have been found five or six Foot long, being very sharp and smooth: Others in the Rivers, but less pure, outwardly blackish, and inwardly of a pure white; a third and fourth Sort of a solid hard Substance, so that one would take them to be Stone; and many other Sorts have been found in that Country. But that these, or any of the others, were true *Unicorn's* Horns,

The Elk

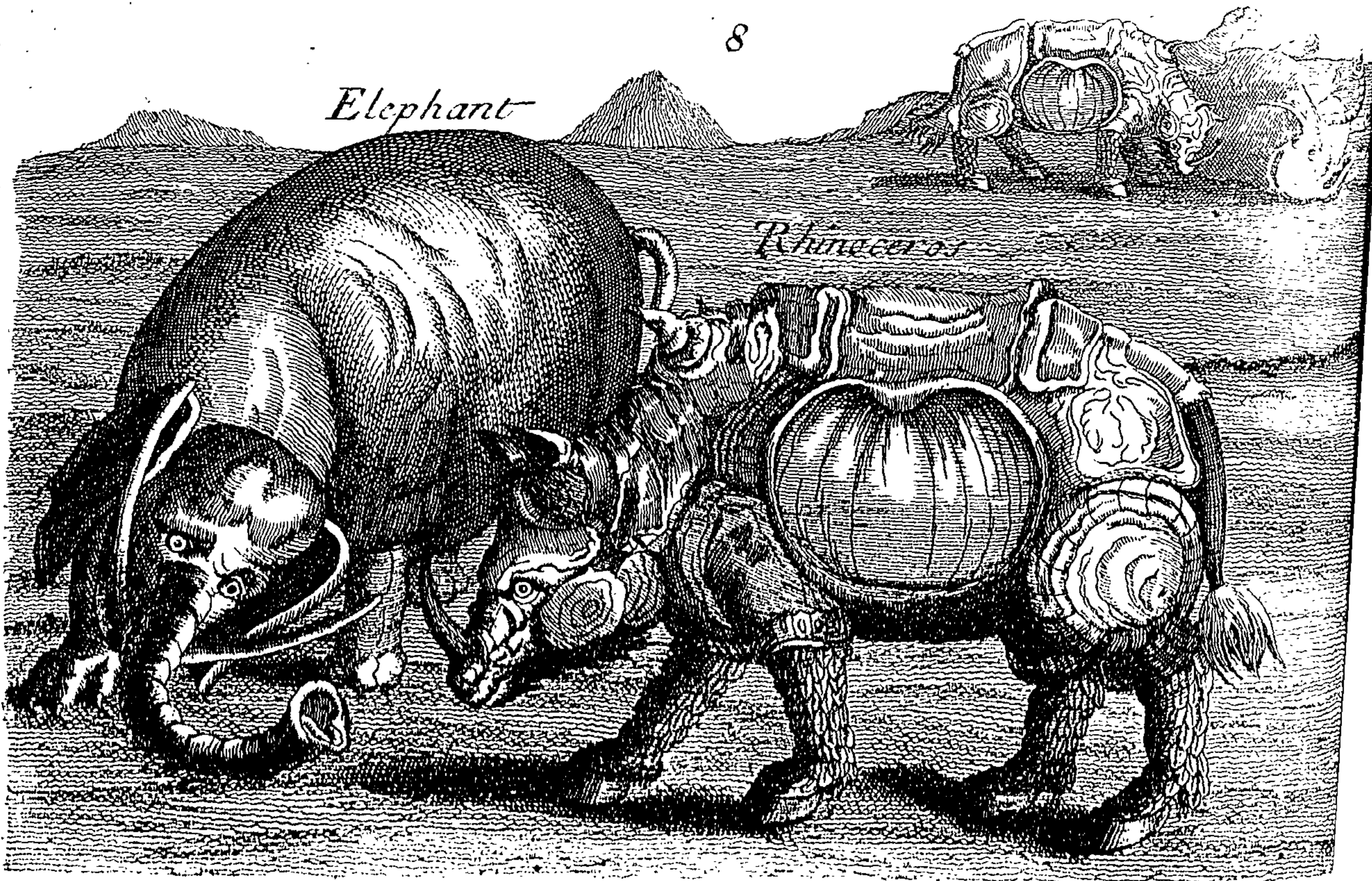


The Elk falling down in an Epileptick fit being pursu'd by 2 Huntsmen.

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Elephant

Rhinoceros



## Of the Rhinoceros.

The *Rhinoceros* is a four-footed Animal, of the Size of a Bull, whose Body resembles most the wild Boar. He is so called, because of the Horn that grows out of his Snout, which is black, about a Foot and a half long, hard, pyramidal, solid; the Point or Tip whereof turns up again towards the Crown of the Head. There is also another Horn of the same Colour and Hardness, towards the Middle of the Back, which turns the same Way as the other, but is not above a Hand's Breadth long. This Animal is cover'd all over with strong Scales, besides which, he has two, as it were Targets, upon his Body, like the Wings of a Dragon, coming from his Back down to his Belly. In like manner the Legs are scal'd to the Hoofs, which are parted into four distinct Claws.

This Animal is an Enemy to the *Elephant*, and, in fighting with him, fixes his Horn in the soft Part of the *Elephant's* Belly; for which Cause it is said that an *Elephant* will run from him. When they fight they whet their Horn before-hand against Stones. They are not fierce against Mankind without great Provocations. The Cry is like the Grunting of a Hog. The *Indians* make Bottles of their Skins to put Liquors in. The Powder being infus'd in Wine, or taken by itself to a Scruple, is good against malignant Diseases. The Horn, which is chiefly used as the Unicorn's, is said to be good against all contagious and malignant Fevers; for being a high Alkali, both fix'd and volatile, it encounters and destroys the malignant Acids, which stir up and influence the most pernicious Diseases. 'Tis reckon'd a singular Sudorifick.

*Elephas, sive Elephantus*, is a Quadruped, esteemed the biggest in the World, of a monstrous Shape: The Head is great and deform'd; the Mouth so large, that a Man's Head may as easily enter into it, as a Finger into the Mouth of a Dog: Their Eyes are really large in themselves, but appear small in Comparison, and their Ears little, in Proportion to the rest of the Body, not much unlike the Wings of a Bat. The Teeth on either Side are four, to eat with and grind their Food, with two

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others, one on each Side, which hang forth beyond the rest. It has a Trunk at the End of the Snout, call'd *Proboscis, seu Tuba, seu Manus Nasuta*, which is a large hollow thing, hanging from his Nose, like Skin, downwards, serving instead of a Hand. When he feeds, it lies open to draw in both his Meat and Drink; by this he receives of his Keeper whatever he gives him, and in Swimming draws through it his Breath. It is crooked; gristly, and inflexible at the Root, next the Nose, where it has two Passages, one into the Head and Body, by which the *Elephant* breathes, the other into the Mouth, by which he receives his Meat. With this he fights in War, and is able to take up a small Piece of Money from the Ground, or any other Place; with this he can draw up a great Quantity of Water, and shoot it out again, to the annoying of his Enemy.

He is said to have four *Venters*, or Bellies, and Lungs four Times as big as an Ox. His genital Member is like that of a Horse, but less; and the Testicles lie inward about the Reins. The fore Legs are much longer than the hind Legs, of short Joints, and of equal Bigness both above and beneath the Knees; the Ankle-Bones are very low; he bends his hind Legs as a Man when he sits, but not both together, and so leaning on one Side, sleeps most commonly against a Tree. Their Feet are round like Horses, and as broad as a Bushel, having five distinct Toes upon each Foot, which are very little cloven, but without Nails. They are for the most part of a Mouse Colour, or darkish brown. The Skin is harder on the Back, and softer on the Belly, without any Covering of Hair or Bristles, unless here and there one scatteringly: It is so tough, that a sharp Sword or Iron cannot pierce it. The Tail is like an Ox's, but without Hair, except at the End. The Sound or Noise they utter has the most Resemblance to braying, and seems as if always hoarse. [*The Virtues of the Elephants Teeth, or Ivory, are fully set forth in Pomet.*]

The *Rhinoceros*, call'd so from carrying his Horn upon his Nose, is a large four-footed Animal, that looks as if he was something of the Boar Kind, only that he is much larger, and more lubberly and dull. His Head is thick, and enclosed in a sort of flat Cowl,

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for

for which Reason, according to the Rev. Father *Le Comte's* Memoirs of *Ghina*, the *Portuguese* have given him the Name of *Moine des Indes*, or the *Indian Monk*. By reason of his Horn so advantageously placed, he becomes formidable to the Bufflers, Tigers, and Elephants, which he engages sometimes. This Animal is found in the Desarts of *Africa*, in *Asia*, at *Siam*, and in *China*, where they feed upon the Branches of hairy and prickly Shrubs and Trees. The Horns, the Nails, and Blood, are all us'd in Medicine, containing in them a good deal of volatile Salt and Oil. They are useful to resist Poison, strengthen and fortify the Heart, procure Sweat, stop Fluxes of the Belly, and are good against all contagious Diseases. The Dose is from a Scruple to two, either in Infusion or Powder, which drunk in Wine, purifies the Blood, and is a good Preservative against infectious Air.

### 9. Of the Camel.

*Pomet.* THE Camel is a gentle domestick Animal, whereof there are great Numbers throughout all *Africa*, and particularly in *Barbary*, and the Desarts of *Getulia* and *Lybia*, and are the greatest Riches of the *Arabs*. Those of *Africa* are better than the other, because they will travel forty or fifty Days together upon Barley only, and ten or twelve without eating or drinking at all. The Female carries her Burden eleven Months. When the Camels travel in the Caravan, or labour in the Field, the Drivers of them whistle and sing; for the more they encourage these Animals, the better they march. Their Food is Grass, Hay, Thistles, Barley, Oats, Rushes, and Herbs. There are three Kinds of Camels; those call'd *Hegin* are the biggest, and will carry a thousand Weight. The second Kind are what they call the *Bechet*, that have two Bunches on their Back, and are the best to ride upon; but these are only to be met with in *Asia*. The third they call *Dromedaries*, which are the smallest and finest, and fit for no other Use but riding upon, and are so swift, that they will travel thirty five or forty Leagues a Day, and continue so to do nine or ten Days through the Desarts, with little or no Sustenance.

When these Animals are to be loaded, they strike 'em over the Knees, and upon the Neck with a Stick, and they kneel upon the Ground to receive their Burden; and when they are loaded, upon the Sign being given, they rise presently with it. These Creatures bear Hunger and Thirst with great Patience. Some say they carry Water in their Stomachs a long time to cool them, by means of a large Ventricle, about which they find a considerable Number of Bags inclos'd in the Tunicles or Coats thereof, in which it appears these Animals keep Water in reserve. And hence it is that some Persons affirm, that when the *Turks* go with the Caravan, or to *Mecha*, and Water is scarce, they kill their Camels, to drink the Water they have in their Stomachs. It is from these Animals we have the Hair that is called by their Names, and of which several fine Stuffs are made; the best of which is that on the Back, and the least full of white Hair: In short, the Camel of all Animals is the most gentle, the least chargeable to keep, and which brings the greatest Profit to his Owner.

### Of natural Salt Ammoniack.

*Sal Ammoniack*, or rather *Natural Ammoniack*, is a Salt white within and without, of a saltish Taste, pretty like common Salt, only that it is more pungent. It is brought us sometimes from *Arabia* or *Lybia*; but at present we have very little, by reason the *Venetians* and *Dutch* have found out a Way of making a Composition that near resembles it in its Virtues; but there is a great deal of Difference in the Figure betwixt the natural and artificial.

When the *Turks*, and other People of *Asia* or *Africa*, travel with their Caravans, their Camels, passing thro' the Desarts, urine upon the Sands; and the Sun shining fierce on the Urine, fails not to dry it up, and reduce it into a white Mass; the Truth of which has been testify'd by a Trial made of a Piece which Mr. *Tournefort* gave me the 6th of *March*, 1693, whose Figure is here represented, and marked A, and which I keep by me as a great Rarity. This Salt is crystalliz'd; that is to say, it appears on the Top like Needles, as in Salt Petre refin'd, and hollow on the under Side, where there