

A Compleat
HISTORY
OF
DRUGGS,

Written in *French* by Monsieur *POMET*,
Chief DRUGGIST to the present *French KING*;
to which is added what is further observable on the
same SUBJECT,

FROM

Mess^{rs.} *LEMERY*, and *TOURNEFORT*,
Divided into Three Classes,

Vegetable, Animal and Mineral;
With their Use

In PHYSICK, CHYMISTRY, PHARMACY,
And several other ARTS:

ILLUSTRATED

With above Four Hundred Copper CUTTS curiously
done from the Life; and an EXPLANATION of their dif-
ferent 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.

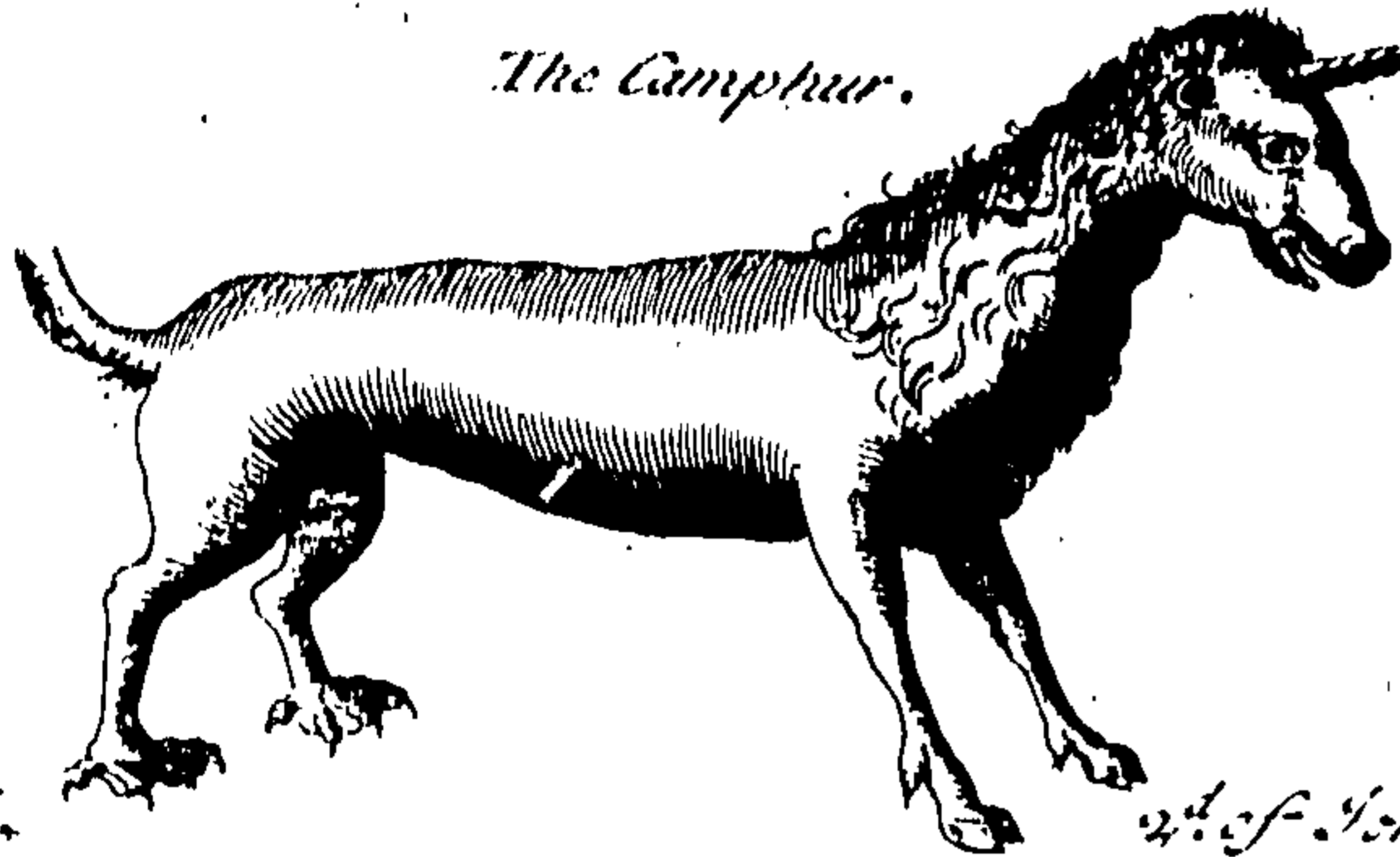
Done into *English* from the ORIGINALS.

V O L. I.

L O N D O N:

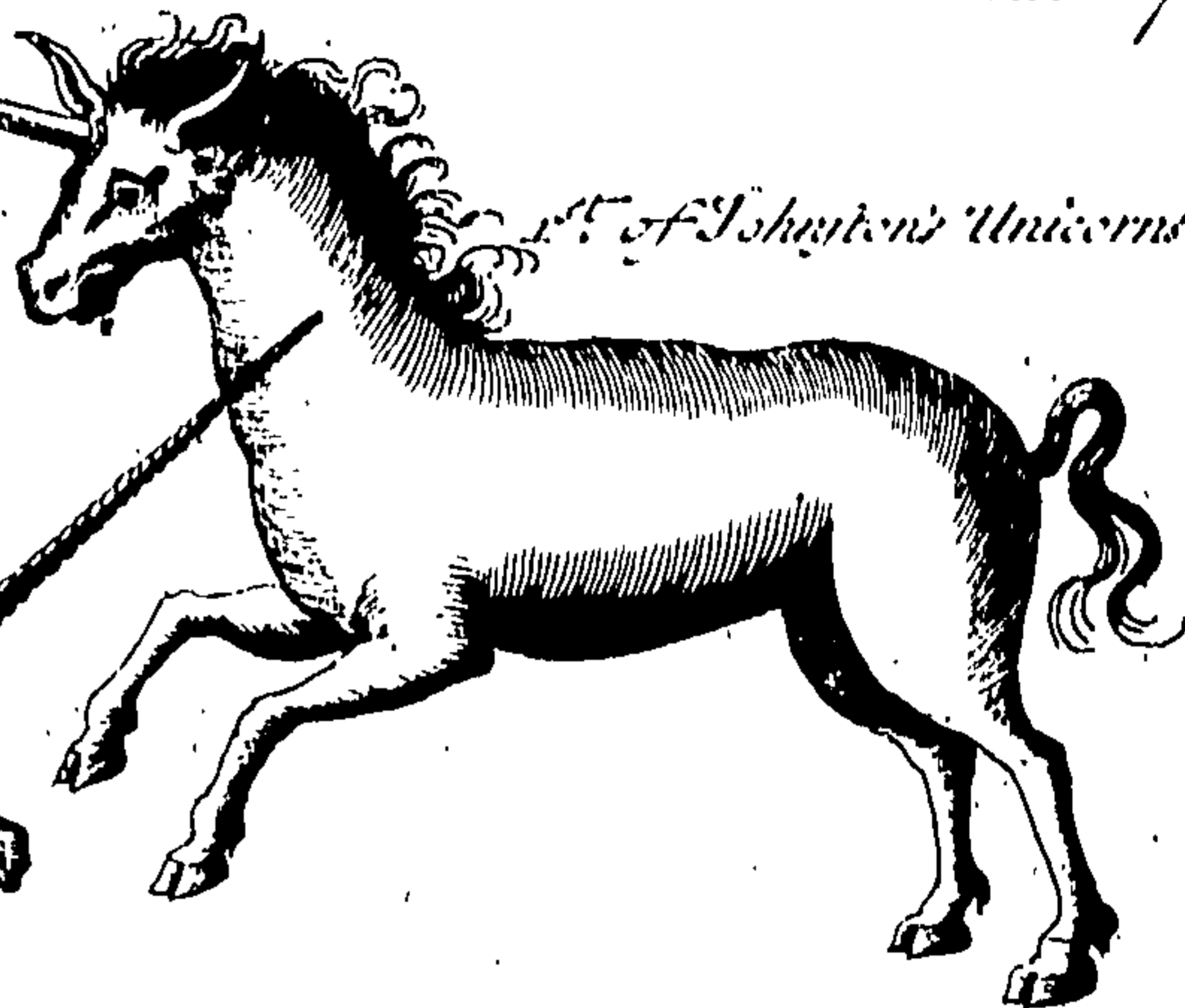
Printed for R. Bonwicke, William Freeman, Timothy Goodwin, John Walthoe, Matthew
Wotton, S. Manship, John Nicholson, Benjamin Tooke, Rich. Parker, and Ralph
Smith. 1712.

The Camphur.

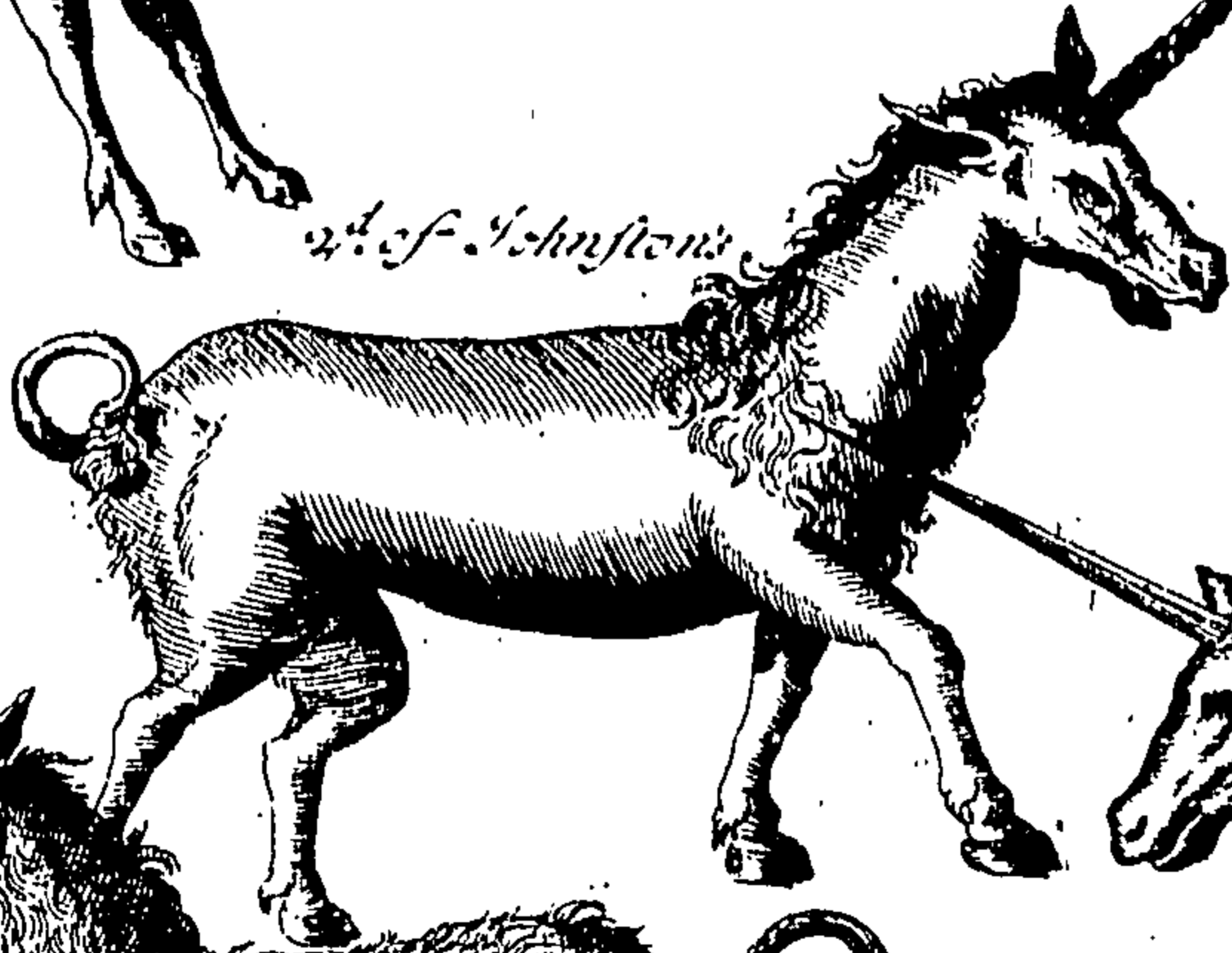


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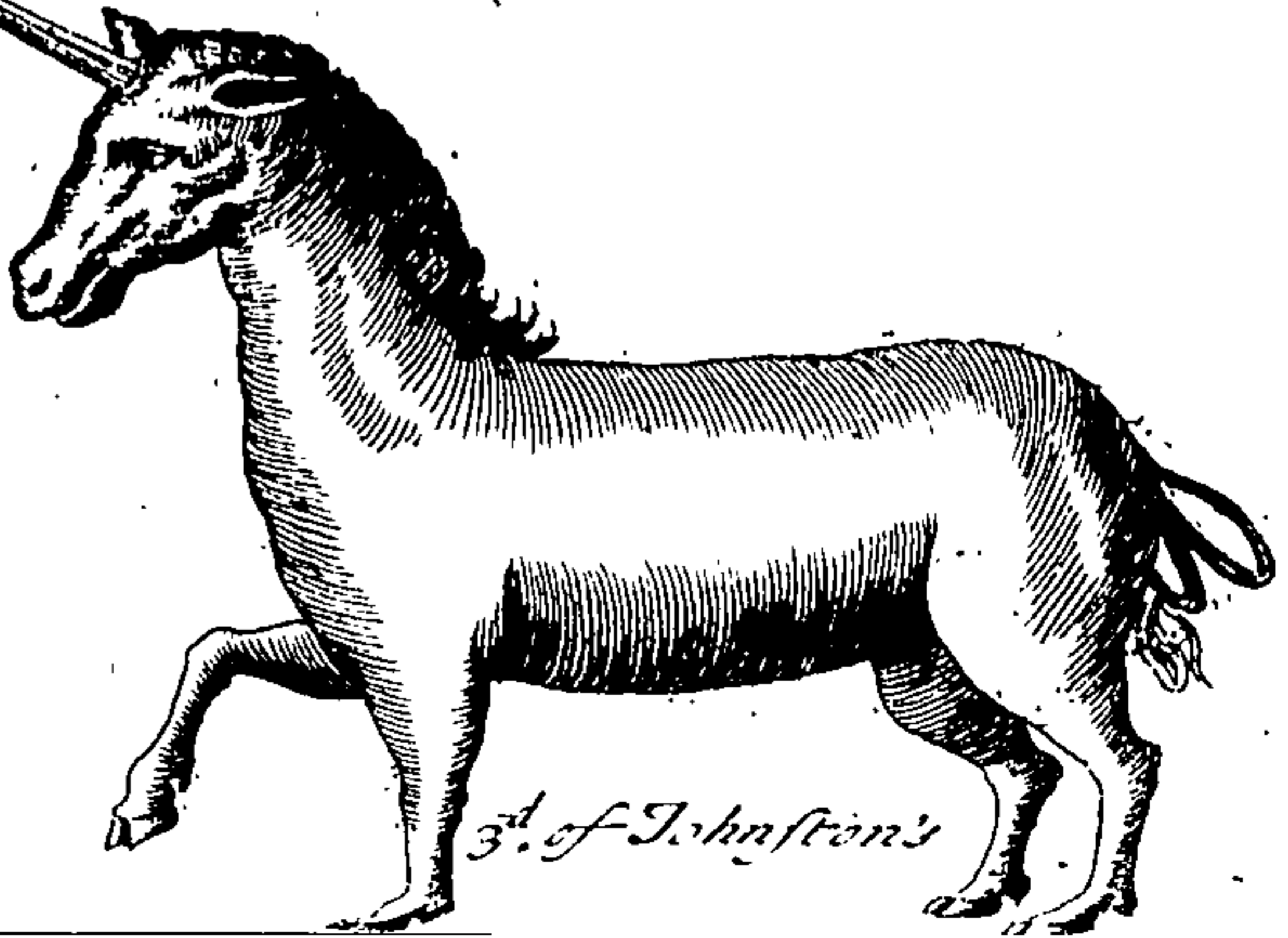
1st of Johnston's Unicorns.



2^d of Johnston's



3^d 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; but 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. *Penicher* has fill'd his Book; wherefore I shall forbear the Recital of them here, and content my self in acquainting you that the History of Embalming, which I have just laid before you, is that which I have perform'd 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 ancient 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 Peter which is in the Plaister resists Putrefaction; and the Plaister imbibing the stinking Serosities which issue from the Body, stops the offensive Exhalations. This Fact may put some upon reducing it to practice; which in my Opinion shou'd 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, proportion'd 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 through 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 call'd *Niroual*,

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 Ancients, 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 Pareus, in a little Treatise which he compos'd of the Unicorn, says, That in the Deserts of *Arabia* he found wild Asses, which they call *Campurs*, 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 spirall, 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 Deers. *Johnston* says, in his Treatise of Animals, that there are several other Unicorns to which the Reader may have Recourse.

The Kinds of Unicorns now come to be consider'd: 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, *First*, The *Orix*, or one-horn'd wild Goat: *2dly*, The one-horn'd Ox: *3dly*, The Hart with one Horn: *4thly*, The one horned Hog; and *5thly*, The one horned Ass. The First is certainly but a Kind of one horned wild Goat; by the Description of it differing not much from a Goat: It resembles a Roe, having a Beard under its Chin, of a palish white Colour, cloven hoof'd, with one Horn growing out of the Middle of its Head: They are bred in *Egypt*, *Ethiopia*, 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 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 Lyon.

The one horned Ox, Bull or Cow, is bred in *Siam* 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 *Ethiopia* 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 call'd 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*. These *Unicorns* are somewhat lesser than Elephant, having Hair like Oxen, Heads like Hogs, Feet like Elephants, a sharp and thorny Tongue, and a Horn in the midt of its Forehead, where-with 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 *Ass*, is the *Indian Ass*, which equals in Bigness a Horse; all white on the Body, but purple headed and black ey'd, 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 *Ass* or *Unicorn*, exceeds all others of the Kind, both in Stature and Body, and Swiftness of Foot; they are so strong that no Horse can stand before

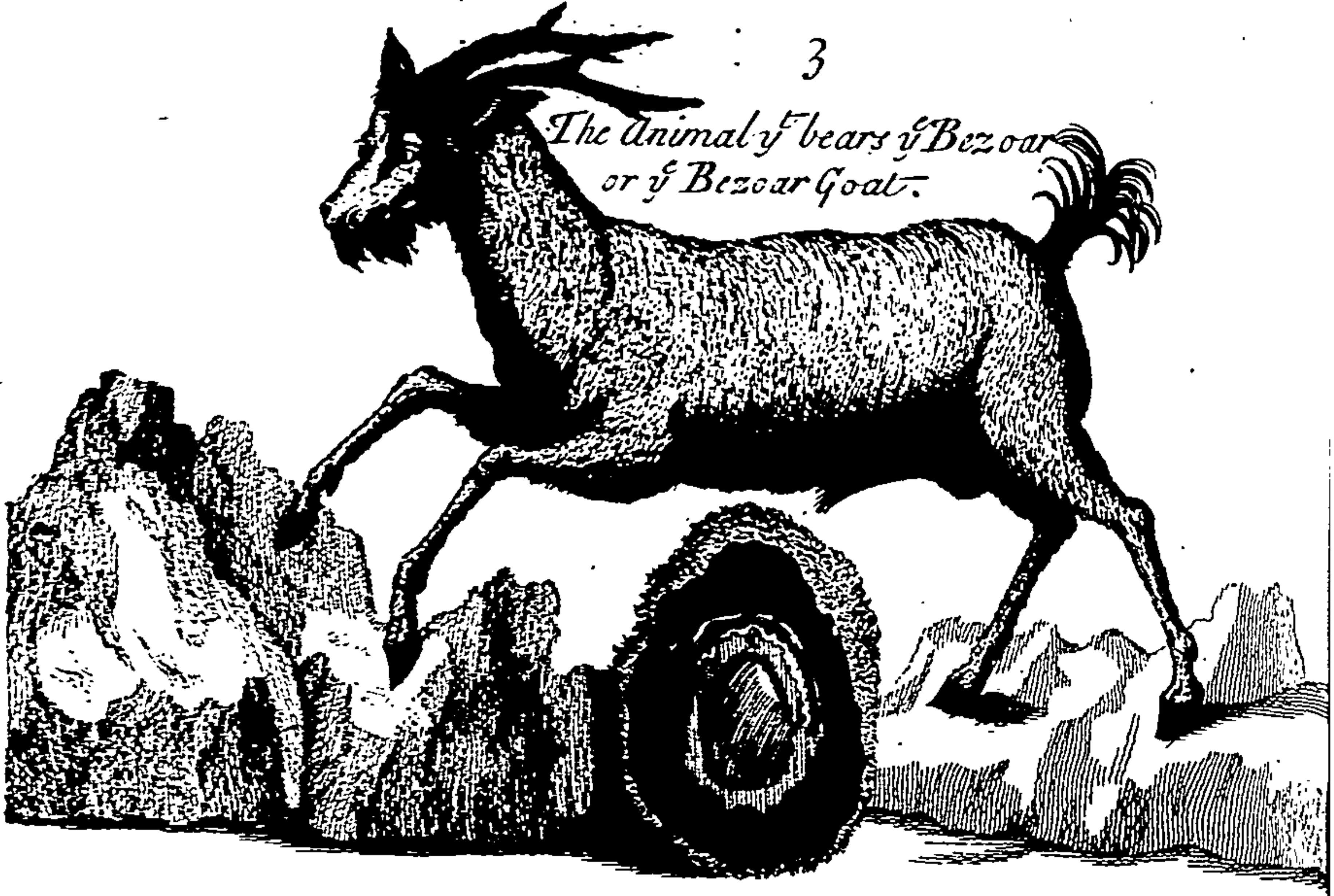
them, and fight with their single Horn like Bulls.

The true *Unicorn*, if you dare believe *Lutovicus Vertomannus*, 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 of 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 Ass* comes nearest to this Description, for the true *Unicorn* and he agree in these four Things: *First*, That both of them have one Horn in the Middle. *2dly*, That both of them are bred in *India*. *3dly*, In that they are both about the Bigness of a Horse. *4thly*, In their Celerity and solitary Life in the Mountains; but herein they differ; *First*, In that the *one horned wild Indian Ass*, is whole hoof'd, and not cloven as the *Unicorn* is. *2dly*, That his Colour is white on the Body, and purple on the Head; whereas the *Unicorn* is of a Weasel-like Colour. *3dly*, 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 'em to be Stone; and many other Sorts have been found in that Country. But that these, or any of the others, were true *Unicorns* Horns,

3

The Animal y^t bears y^e Bezoar
or y^e Bezoar Goat.



4

The Musk Goat.



Horns, none of our Authors have yet made appear; and if all the Circumstances be consider'd, it is much to be doubted, whether any of them were the Right or no; for as much as the Druggists or Apothecaries were never known to have, or sell the True; that which is commonly sold, being from five to eight Foot in Length, and more, very sharp pointed, running taper all along, and twisted or wreath'd, of the Colour of Ivory, but of a much finer Grain, and very white within. But this Horn is not produced by a four footed Beast, but comes from a Fish, call'd the *Sea Unicorn*, and is brought from *Davis's Straits*, near the *North Passage*.

Authors have ascrib'd almost incredible Things to it; the chiefest of which are to resist all Manner of Poysons, and to cure the Plague with all Sorts of malignant Fevers, the Biting of Serpents, mad Dogs, &c. and is chiefly us'd as a Cordial, for which Purpose a Jelly is made of it, together with a little *Cochineal* and *Saffron*; and the Shavings boil'd in Broths, &c. after the Manner of Shavings of *Hart's Horn*.

3. Of the Bezoar.

Pomet. THE *Bezoar*, which the *Indians* call *Pozan*, is an Animal that produces in his Stomach, or in a Bladder, a Stone that is call'd by that Name, to which they attribute great Virtues, which made it heretofore highly valued, and to be sold at a great Rate, as is at this Day the right and true *Oriental Bezoar*, as well because there is a great deal of Trouble in meeting with the natural Stone, as that certain Persons have found out the Secret of Counterfeiting it, by Reason these Animals do not produce any considerable Quantities; and besides several of 'em have none at all: We ought then to be well inform'd of the Nature, Shape and Distinction of these Stones, above any other Drugg; therefore I shall relate to you what *Mr. Tavernier* says concerning *Bezoar*.

Bezoar comes from a Province of the Kingdom of *Golconda* lying on the *North-East*: It is found in the Dung that is in the Maw of the Goats that browse on a Shrub, the Name of which I have forgot. This Plant bears little Buds, about which, and the

Ends of the Branches which the Goats eat, the *Bezoar* forms itself in the Belly of these Animals: They take their Shape from that of the Buds and the Ends of the Branches, which is the Reason they are of so many different Figures. The *Peasants*, by feeling of the Belly of the Goat, know whether there is any *Bezoar* there, and so sell it according to the Quantity that is therein. To know which, they rub their two Hands under the Belly of the Goat, and press the Maw or Stomach, along on both Sides; so that what is therein may fall into the Middle of the Maw, and they can perceive exactly, by Feeling, how much *Bezoar* there is.

The Rarity of *Bezoar* is in the Size, for the small Sort have nothing so much Virtue in them as the large: But in that there is oftentimes a Cheat, because there are People who powder and mix *Bezoar* in a certain Paste compos'd of a *Gum*, and something else of the Colour of *Bezoar*, and form it up in the same Manner as we see the natural *Bezoar*; but we may discover this Fraud chiefly these two Ways: The First is to weigh the *Bezoar*, and steep it some Time in warm Water; and if the Water does not change its Colour, or the *Bezoar* lose its Weight, it is true and natural. The other Way is to run a sharp Piece of red-hot Iron against the *Bezoar*, if the Iron enter, and it fry, it is a Sign of its Mixture, and that it is not natural: Besides, the larger the *Bezoar* is the dearer it is, and rises in Proportion as a *Diamond*: For if five or six *Bezoar* Stones weigh one Ounce, that Ounce will be worth from fifteen to eighteen or twenty *Livers*; but if it be one Stone of an Ounce Weight, it will sell for a hundred *Livers*: I have sold one of four Ounces and a Quarter for two thousand *Livers*.

There are a great many *Lezoar* Stones taken from Cows, both in the East and Western Countries, and they are so large as to weigh seventeen or eighteen Ounces; of which I have seen one that was presented to the great Duke of *Tuscany*; but they have nothing near the good Qualities of the true *Bezoar*; six Grains of which will do more than thirty of this. As to the *Bezoar* that is found in Apes, as some believe, it is so strong, that two Grains will perform

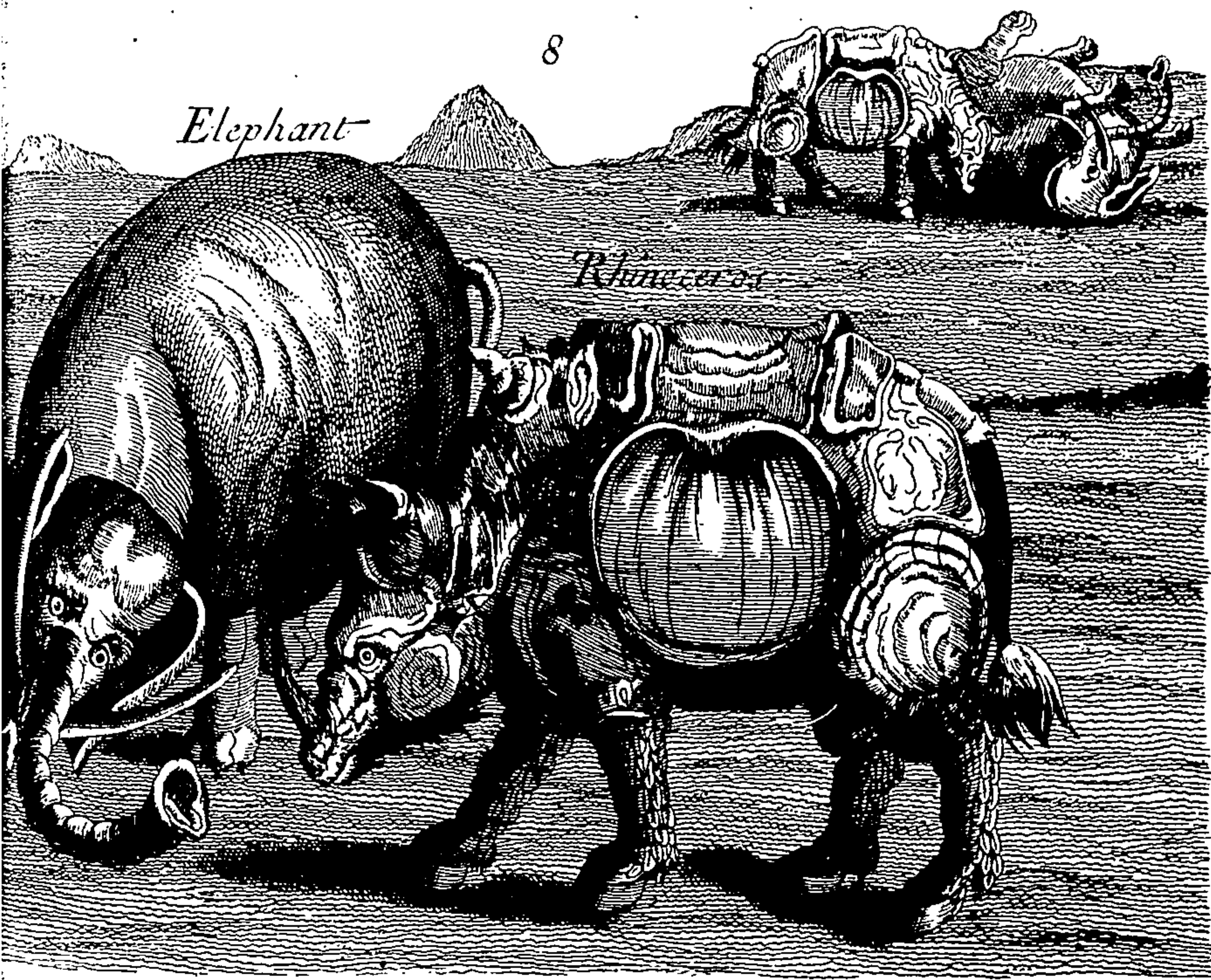
7
The Elk



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

8

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 call'd, because of the Horn that grows out of his Snout, which is black, about a Foot and 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 Hoof's, 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; their 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 us'd as the Unicorn's, is said to be good against all contagious and malignant Fevers: for being a high Al'aly, 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, esteem'd the biggest in the World, of a monstrous Shape; the Head is great and deformed; 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

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* breaths, 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 a Horse, but less, and the Testicles lye inward about the Reins: The fore Legs are much longer than the hind Legs, of short Joynts, 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 enclos'd in a Sort of flat Cowl,

for which Reason, according to the Rev. Father *Le Comte's* Memoirs of *China*, the *Portuguese* have given him the Name of *Moine des Indes*, or the *Indian Monk*: by reason of his Horn so advantagiously placed, he becomes formidable to the *Bufflers*, *Tygers* 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 Poyson, 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.

Pemet. THE Camel is a gentle domestic Animal, whereof there are great Numbers throughout all *Africa*, and particularly in *Barbary*, and the Desarts of *Gerulia* and *Libya*, and are the greatest Riches of the *Arabs*. Those of *Africa* are better than 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 Burthen 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 *Hagin* 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 *Dromadaries*, which are the smallest and finest, but 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 Sustainance,

When these Animals are to be loaded, they strike 'em over the Knees, and upon the Neck with a Strick, and they kneel upon the Ground to receive their Burthen; 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 *Meca*, 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 call'd 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 Ammoniac.

Sal Armoniack, or rather *Natural Ammoniac*, 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 *Libya*; 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 testified by a Tryal made of a Piece which Mr. *Tournefort* gave me the 6th o. *March*, 1693, whose Figure is here represented and mark'd 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