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BRIEF DESCRIPTION

*By Remondel et al. 94*

OF THE PRINCIPAL

# *Foreign Animals & Birds,*

NOW EXHIBITING AT

THE GRAND MENAGERIE,

OVER

EXETER-CHANGE,

*The Property of*

Mr GILBERT PIDCOCK,

CHIEFLY EXTRACTED FROM THE WORKS OF

*BUFFON and GOLDSMITH;*

WITH ADDITIONS

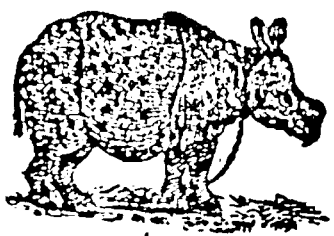
AND

ANECDOTES,

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*By T. GARNER.*

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*London*

PRINTED FOR G. PIDCOCK, AND SOLD AT  
EXETER-CHANGE.

1800.

T. Barton, Printer,  
Little Queen-street.

44 pp.

## The RHINOCEROS.

THE Rhinoceros, when full grown, measures at least twelve feet long, from the extremity of the muzzle, to the origin of the tail, and the circumference of his body is nearly equal to his length. In magnitude, therefore, he makes a near approach to the elephant; and he appears to be much less, only because his legs are proportionally shorter than those of the elephant. But he differs still more from this animal in his natural powers and intelligence; for Nature has bestowed on him nothing that elevates him above the ordinary rank of quadrupeds. He is deprived of all sensibility in his skin; neither has he hands to enable him to improve by the sense of touching; and instead of a trunk, he has only a moveable lip, to which all his means of dexterity or address are limited. His chief sources of superiority over other animals consists in his strength, his magnitude, and the offensive weapon of his nose, which is entirely peculiar to him. This weapon is a very hard horn, solid throughout its whole extent, and situated more advantageously than the horns of ruminating animals, which defend only the superior parts of the head and neck. For this reason, the tiger will rather attack the elephant, whose trunk he lays hold of, than the rhinoceros, whom he dare not face, without running the risk of having his bowels torn out; for the body and limbs of the rhinoceros are covered with

a skin so impenetrable, that he fears neither the claws of the lion or tiger, nor the sword or shot of the hunter. His skin is of a blackish colour, but thicker and harder than that of the elephant. His head is proportionally longer than the elephant's; but his eyes are still smaller, and seldom above half open. The upper, which projects over the under lip, is moveable, and can be stretched out about six inches in length; and it is terminated by a pointed appendix, which gives this animal a power of collecting herbage in handfuls, as the elephant does with his trunk. Instead of those long ivory tusks which constitute the armour of the elephant, the rhinoceros has a formidable horn, and two strong incisive teeth in each jaw.

Though the rhinoceros was frequently exhibited in the Roman spectacles from the days of Pompey to those of Heliogabalus; though he has often been transported into Europe in more modern times; and though Bonitus, Chardin, and Kolben, have drawn figures of him both in India and Africa; yet so ill was he represented and described, that he was very imperfectly known till the errors and caprices of those who had published figures of him were detected by inspection of the animals which arrived in London in the years 1739 and 1741, and those which were brought to Exeter-Change within the last seven years.

The rhinoceros, which came to London in the year 1739, was sent from Bengal. Though not above two years of age, the expence of his food and journey amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling. He was fed with rice, sugar, and hay. He had daily seven pounds of rice, mixed with three pounds of sugar, and divided into three portions. He had likewise hay, corn, and green herbs, which last he preferred to hay. His drink was water, of which he took large quantities at a time. He was of a peaccable disposition, and allowed all parts of his body to be touched.

When the rhinoceros is taken young he is easily tamed; but if taken after he has grown to his full size, it is with difficulty he is brought to subjection. He seems even to be subject to paroxysms of fury, which nothing can appease; for the one which Emanuel, King of Portugal, sent to the Pope, in the year 1513, destroyed the vessel in which they were transporting him; and the rhinoceros, which was exhibited in Paris, was drowned in the same manner in his voyage to Italy.

The rhinoceros never attacks any person, nor becomes furious, unless he is provoked, and then his ferocity is tremendous. His sense of smelling is surprisngly acute: when he sees any thing he pursues it in a right line, and tears up every thing in his way; but it is one happiness that his eyes are

exceeding small, and so fixed, that he can only see straight forward, so that it is easy to avoid him by slipping aside, as he is a long time in turning himself, and longer still in getting sight again of his object. He will not, however, attack a man, unless provoked, or unless he is dressed in scarlet. In a wild state, he feeds principally on shrubs, thistles, and a plant, which resembles the juniper, and which, from his fondness of it, is called *Rhinoceros-bush*.

The rhinoceros is so powerful, that with his horn he tears up the ground, rips up the elephant, to whom he is a mortal enemy, pulls up trees by their roots, and throws large stones over his head at a great distance. His grunt is something similar to that of a hog. They are chiefly natives of Asia and Africa.

The wonderful works of the Creator are curiously displayed in this surprising Herculian quadruped: he is said to be more compact in his formation, and stronger made than the elephant. I have seen one that, at the age of three years, weighed near a tun weight.

The female produces but one at a time, and at considerable intervals. During the first month, the young rhinoceros exceeds not the size of a Newfoundland dog.