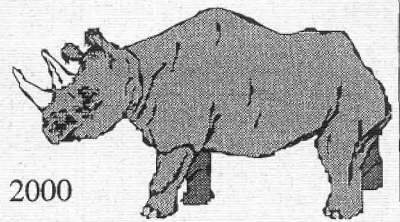
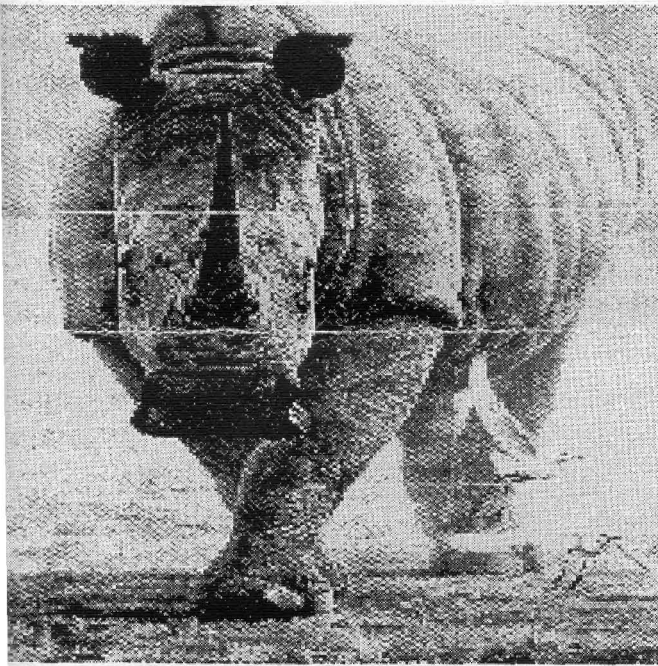


REALLY, RHINOS!



Volume 14, no.3-4, 2000

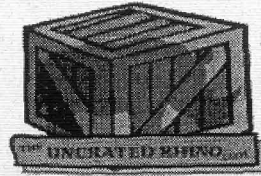


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This scanned picture does not do the print justice! Contact John for more information:

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which include some unique items (I've seen the pictures). Ross prefers to sell the collection as a whole. I would be happy to send a copy of the inventory upon request. Contact Ross for prices. (202) 893.4709 ross_hoblitzell@aurora.org

* This is a fabulous starter collection.

opposite side of the rivulet, we saw a fine male rhinoceros; it was standing near the edge of the water with its head slightly bent, as if it had been just slaking its thirst in the cooling stream. It stood, apparently with great composure, about two hundred yards about us, in an open vista of the wood. Mr. Daniell, under the protection of a lofty intervening bank, was able to approach sufficiently near it to make a perfect sketch of it; after which, upon gun being fired, it deliberately walked off into the jungle. It did not appear in the least intimidated at the sight of our party, which remained at some distance, nor at all excited by the discharge of the gun (Daniell and Caunter, 1835:4).

This is the only definite record of a rhinoceros anywhere in northern Uttar Pradesh west of Nepal, and Daniell's sketches make it particularly exciting.

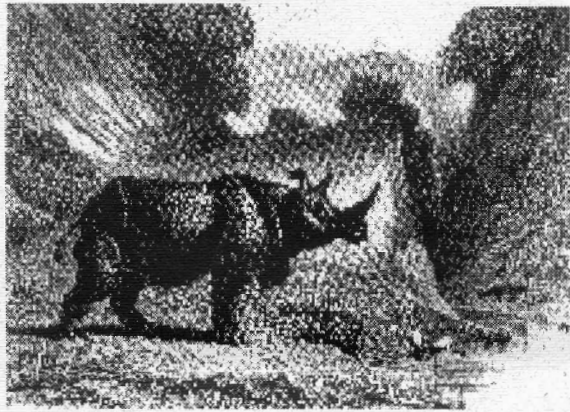


Figure 3 - The rhino is reversed by comparison with the drawing in figure 2, while there is a second rhino in the background and the foreground is enlivened with storks and deer. In this engraving the animal has lost some of its power, but it is still a remarkable record of a rhino encountered at Kotdwara, U.P. in April, 1789.

Records of the Rhinoceros in Pakistan and Afghanistan

C. Rookmaaker

Pakistan J. Zoology, vol 32(1), pp.65-74, 2000

The Indus Valley Civilization flourishing in part of Pakistan and West India between 2600 and 1900 BC depicted the rhinoceros on seals

and modelled it in clay. The Battuta saw the animal in the lower Indus Valley in 1333. Emperor Bakur observed and hunted rhinoceros in parts of northern Pakistan, around Peshawar towards the Khyber Pass between 1519 and 1526. Sidi Ali Reis traversed the Khyber Pass in 1556 and saw rhinoceros either on the Pakistan or the Afghanistan side of the mountains. These are the only reports about the Indian Rhinoceros from this region.

The Indus valley civilization

Among objects found in the excavations of Harappan settlements, there were many square seals made of stone and engraved with symbols and animal motifs. Some of these have short inscriptions in a writing which has not been deciphered. A small number of these seals represents a single-horned rhinoceros. The rhino in these examples is rather stylized, but in all cases, a single horn on the nose and well-defined skin folds (characteristics of *Rhinoceros unicornis*) have been observed. In a few cases the rhino stands above an object which looks like a manger, possibly indicating life in captivity. Judging from different objects depicted together with the rhino in some of the seals, the animal was without doubt revered by the people of the ancient Indus culture.

Ibn Battuta

Ibn Battuta (born in Tangier, Morocco in 1304) wrote about his extensive travels in many parts of Asia and Africa in a book dictated in 1356. The editor of a recent translation of his account proposed that Ibn Battuta went from Kabul to Ghazni, proceeding southwards on the western side of the Sulaiman Range and into the plain of Sind. He probably reached the lower course of the

River Indus in the district of Larkana, Pakisatan, in the same general region where the ancient city of Mohenjo Daro is located. At this stage of his account, we encounter the following passage:

"After crossing the river of Sindh called Banj Ab, we entered a forest of reeds, following the track which led through the midst of it, when we were confronted by a rhinoceros. In appearance it is a black animal with a huge body and a disproportionately large head. For this reason it has become the subject of a proverb, as the saying goes, Al-karkaddan ras bila badan ('rhinoceros, head and no torso'). It is smaller than an elephant but its head is many times larger than an elephant's. It has a single horn between its eyes, about three cubits in length and about a span in breadth. When it came out against us, one of the horsemen got in its way; it struck the horse which he was riding with its horn, pierced his thigh and knocked him down, then went back into the thicket and we could not get at it. I saw a rhinoceros a second time on this road after the rhinoceros a second time on this road after the hour of afternoon prayer. It was feeding on plants but when we approached it, it ran away. I saw a rhinoceros yet another time when in the company of the King of India we had entered a jungle of reeds. The sultan was mounted on an elephant and we too were mounted on elephant along with him. The foot-soldiers and horsemen went in and beat it up, killed it and conveyed its head to the camp".

Emperor Babur

The Moghul emperor Zahiruddin Mohamed Babur (1483-1530) who reigned in India from 1505 to 1530 wrote his memoirs documenting his various interests. There are four passages in the Babur-Nama in which the rhinoceros is mentioned, and these are more or less similar in all four translations consulted. One of these, relating an incidence dated February 16, 1519 states:

"After starting off the camp for the river, I went to hunt rhinoceros on the Sawati side which

place people call also Karg-khana (Rhinoceros home). A few were discovered but the jungle was dense and they did not come out of it. When one with calf came into the open and betook itself to flight, many arrows were shot at it and it rushed into the near jungle. That jungle was fired but that same rhinoceros was not had. Another calf was killed as it lay, scorched by the fire, writhing and palpitating. Each person took a share of the spoil. After leaving Sawati, we wandered about a good deal; it was the bed-time prayer when we got to camp".



Rhinoceros seal from the Indus culture showing a manger-like object below the animal.

Another passage tells of how Babur hunted the rhinoceros in the vicinity of Peshawar on December 9-10, 1526:

"We dismounted near Bigram (Peshawar) and next morning the camp remaining on the same ground rode to Kard-awi. We crossed the Siyah-Ab in front of Bigram, and formed our hunting circle looking down-stream. After a little, a person brought word that there was a rhinoceros in a bit of jungle, near Bigram, and that people had been stationed near about it. We betook ourselves, loose-rein, to the place, formed a ring around the jungle, made a noise, and brought the rhinoceros out, when it took its way across the plain. Humayun and those who came with him from that side who had never seen one before, were much entertained. It was pursued for two miles, many arrows were shot at it, it was brought down without having made a good set at man or horse. I had often wondered how a rhinoceros and an elephant would behave if brought face to face; this time one came out right in front of some elephants the mahouts were bringing along; it did not face them when the mahouts drove them toward it, but got off in another direction".