

JAVAN
RHINO

IN THE

BERLIN
ZOO

(35)

In "International Zoo News", Volume 7 — Number 4 on page 108, Dr. Heinz — Georg Klös, Director of the West Berlin Zoo, wrote that in 1879 a female Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) was exhibited in the Berlin Zoo in addition to 1-1 Great Indian rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*). In contrast, LOTHAR SCHLAWÉ wrote in Volume 7 — Number 1 at page 14, that in 1879 the Berlin zoo exhibited no Javan rhino, but rather, 1-2 Great Indian rhinos. Thus, the true identity of one of Berlin's one-horned rhinos is placed in question.

The rhino in question was captured in Manipur, India and brought by the dealer Jamrach to London where zoologists identified it as a Javan rhino. Jamrach, however, was not satisfied, thought it to be different from both *sondaicus* and *unicornis*, and published an account of it in October, 1874, naming it *Rhinoceros jamrachii*. He then sold it to the Berlin zoo and it arrived there later in 1874 where it was exhibited as *sondaicus*. In 1879 P. L. Sclater of London's Regent's Park zoo visited the Berlin zoo, and positively identified the rhino as *unicornis*. However, its identity is still uncertain, because Prof. Dr. Ludwig Heck, director of the Berlin Zoo from 1888 to 1932, wrote in 1929 and again in 1941 that it was *sondaicus*. Dr. Klös informs your correspondent that these writings are the authority for his recent statement that the specimen was *sondaicus*. In contrast, Hans Kuhn feels that the identification by Sclater is overriding since the latter had both *sondaicus* and *unicornis* at Regent's Park at that time and certainly knew them well.

The date of death or disposal of this rhino is, unfortunately, owing to war destruction unknown, and until its remains have been found and examined there will be some question concerning its identity. In the meantime, your correspondent is inclined to agree with Kuhn that the positive identification by Sclater warrants a conclusion that this rhino was *unicornis*.

That there is a striking similarity between *sondaicus* and *unicornis*, at least in outward appearance, is substantiated by the fact that the zoo in Adelaide, Australia exhibited a Javan rhino as a Great Indian from 1886 until its death in 1907. Not until the mounted remains were examined in a Adelaide museum was its true identity revealed.

In addition to the example in Adelaide, a male Javan rhino was shown in London's Regent's Park Zoo from 3.7.1874 until 1.23.1885 and a female was exhibited at the Alipore Gardens, Calcutta, from 1887 to 1892.

(References: Barbour and Allen. "The Lesser one-horned Rhinoceros", *Journal of Mammalogy*, vol. 13, no 2, Report of The South Australian Zoological & Acclimatization Society, Adelaide, 1886; Finlayson, P.Z.S.L., 1950-51, Vol. 120, p. 151; Heck, Ludwig, *Geschichte des Zoologischen Gartens zu Berlin 1841-1929*, p. 26; Heck, Ludwig, "Heiter-ernste Erinnerungen an Tiergärtner" *Zoologischer Garten*, N.F., Vol. XII, 1940/41, p.230; Klös, Heinz-Georg, Berlin, 1958 and 1961, Kuhn, Hans Jürg, Heidelberg, 1959; Lahiri, R. K., Calcutta, 1959; Matthews, L. Harrison, London, 1958, P.Z.S.L., 1874, p. 182; Schäfer, P. L., P.Z.S.L., 1880, p. 240; and Transactions Zool. Soc. London. Vol. IX, p. 650.)

(Richard J. Reynolds)

OOKIE IMPROVES

Newspaper stories during the winter about the indisposition of Ookie, the young female Walrus at the Bronx Zoo's Aquarium, New York, U.S.A., stirred up great interest.

It can now be reported that the abscesses that developed on her left cheek are disappearing, that her appetite is normal, and her weight now 560 pounds.

(Animal Kingdom)