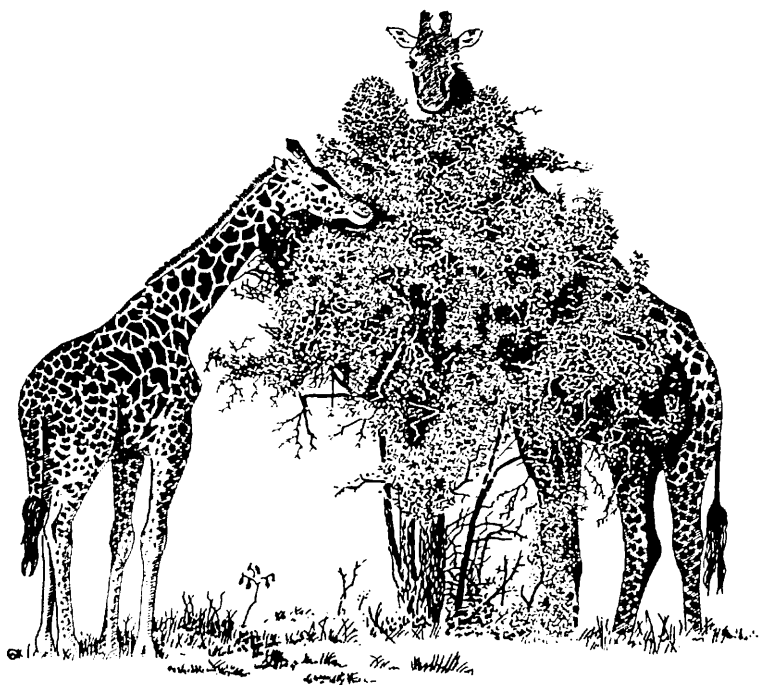


# UGANDA IN BLACK AND WHITE

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WITH A FOREWORD BY SIR ANDREW COHEN



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## INTRODUCTION

reminded by the words of King George VI inscribed over the entrance to the Nairobi National Park : 'The wild life of today is not ours to dispose of as we please : we have it in trust ; we must account for it to those who come after.'

Uganda has several game reserves : these include Damba, a small island in north Lake Victoria, noted for its bird life and as a refuge for numerous Situtunga ; Toro, with its herds of elephant and buffalo, Uganda Kob and other antelopes, and large carnivores ; and the forest sanctuary for the Mountain Gorilla in the volcanic region of south-west Kigezi ; while the White Rhinoceros, rarest of Uganda's large mammals, receives complete protection where it still exists on the west bank of the Albert Nile.

In addition, two national parks have been established. The larger, about 1200 square miles in extent, in the Gulu and Bunyoro Districts of the Northern Province, is the Murchison Falls Park, which is traversed by the Nile where it flows westwards into Lake Albert. It is here that the main herds of elephant are to be found ; and from the river launches or from the newly constructed roads which give easy access to the motorist, are to be seen an impressive variety of game — large and small — including Hippopotamus, Black Rhinoceros, Waterbuck, Oribi, Hartebeest and other ungulates, hyaenas, Colobus monkeys and baboons, warthogs and bushpig. The water and riverine forests also support a bewildering range of bird life — Ground Hornbill, Goliath Heron, Fish Eagle, Egyptian Goose, White-faced Tree-duck, darters, kingfishers, bee-eaters, sunbirds, weavers and countless others. And apart from the Murchison Falls, which are the chief scenic attraction, the twenty-mile stretch of river between the falls and the lake is of special interest as the last remaining stronghold in Uganda of the Nile Crocodile.

The Queen Elizabeth Park, of 760 square miles in the Western Province, is divided by the Kazinga Channel which joins Lake Edward and Lake George. Situated astride the equator, its wide plains of short grass, with scattered bush and Candelabra Euphorbia, and its open lake waters and swamps, provide a striking contrast to the rocky wooded hill terrain of Murchison. Besides Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Uganda Kob, Common Duiker, Bushbuck, Reedbuck and other game, the Lake George flats support huge herds of Buffalo — well over 5000 in number ; and under protection in recent years the hippopotamus population has increased to such an extent

### III

# Northern Province

Nature is so bountiful that the poverty of man's work can never be due to lack of material, but is rather owing to his incapacity to select judiciously from her generous offering.

ALFRED EAST

It makes the heart groan, that, with such a beautiful world as this to live in, and such a soul as that of man's is by nature and gift of God, we should go about on such errands as we do, destroying and laying waste ; and ninety-nine of us in a hundred never easy in any road that travels towards peace and quietness.

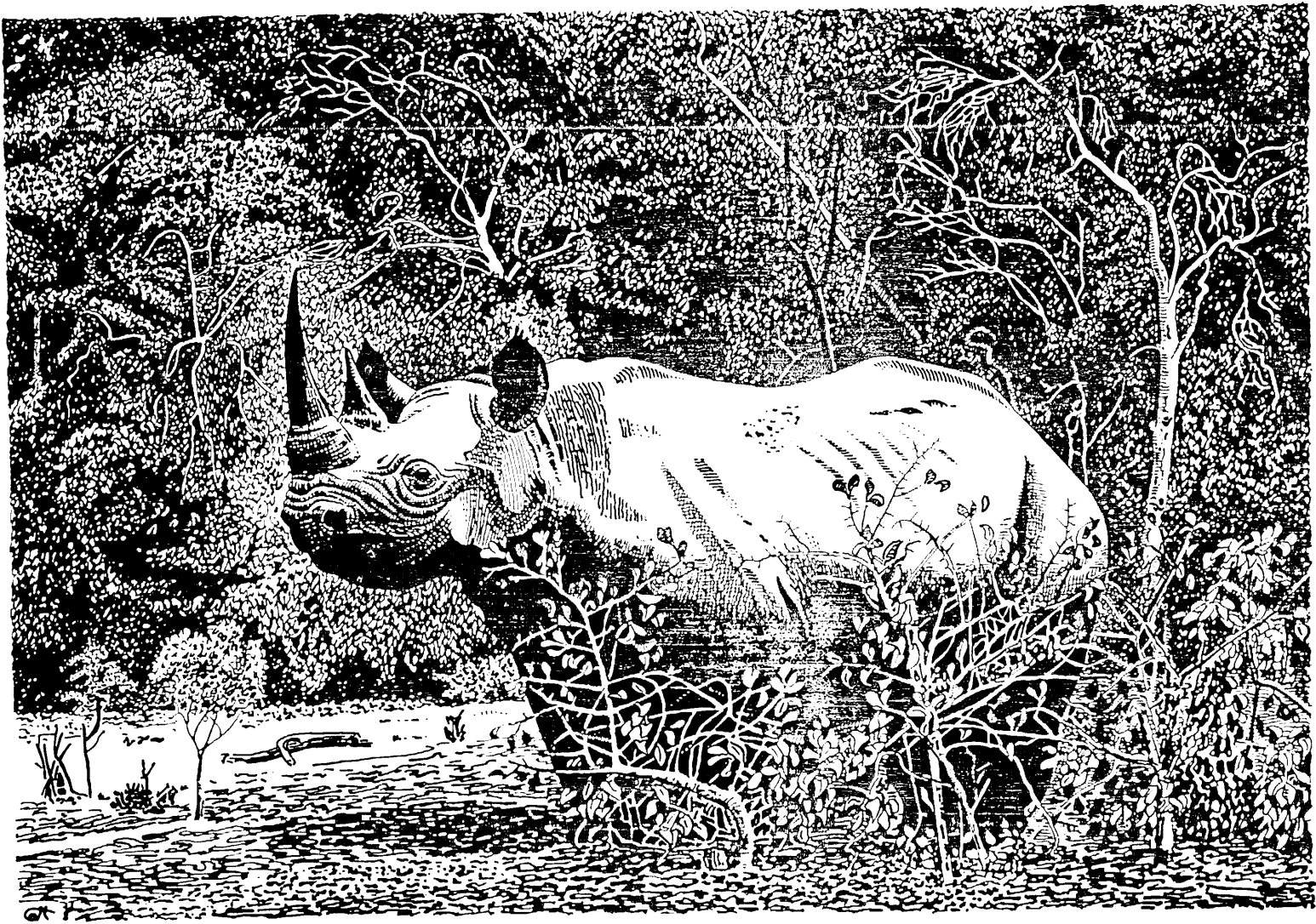
WORDSWORTH

When we turn from books to living nature we begin to understand the ancient wisdom, and it is no longer an abstraction, for the Great Spirit whose home is in the vast becomes for us a moving glamour in the heavens, a dropping tenderness at twilight, a visionary light in the hills, a voice in the heart, the Earth underfoot becomes sacred, and the air we breathe is like wine poured out for us by some heavenly cupbearer.

GEORGE RUSSELL

## 77. BLACK RHINOCEROS

The Black Rhinoceros can be distinguished in the field from the 'white' species by its smaller size, its rougher and darker hide and by the proportionately smaller head which is carried high with a truculent bearing. Unlike its relative, it has the rounded, prehensile lips of a browser. It usually goes about singly, and besides being unsociable towards its own kind, it is renowned for its unpredictable temper. Short-sighted yet keen of hearing, stupid yet inquisitive, massive yet astonishingly agile, the Black Rhinoceros is a dangerous animal and one of the few that will charge down upon man, without provocation, when encountered at close quarters.



rhinoceros

## 82. WHITE RHINOCEROS

Rhinoceros horn is much sought after by traders for export to Asia, where it fetches a high price and is in demand as an aphrodisiac. Consequent exploitation by hunters and poachers has reduced the range and number of both African species — 'black' and 'white'. The White Rhinoceros is now a rare animal, being confined to two small areas — Zululand in the south, and the western bank of the Albert Nile — in both of which it is protected. Next to the Elephant, the White Rhinoceros is the largest land mammal. It has the small eyes and pointed fleshy ears of a pig ; and the massive head is carried low, so that the great square mouth, which is shaped like a hoover, nearly touches the ground. Its formidable bulk, horns, nuchal hump, armoured hide and lumbering gait all serve to give the animal an antediluvian, almost dinosaurian, appearance.



### 83. NEAR ENOUGH

In habits and disposition the White Rhinoceros differs markedly from its truculent cousin. Being a grazer, it is a beast of the open plains rather than the bush. It is more sociable than the 'black' species, going about in pairs, or parties of five or six. Its sight is poor ; and by walking cautiously up-wind you can approach to within a few yards without being detected. Despite their great size and strength, these animals are fairly docile and well-mannered ; and having got your scent they usually wheel round and make off at a brisk trot. But when one heads in your direction (like the animal I have drawn), raising the dust and puffing like a steam train, it is time to look round for a convenient tree.



