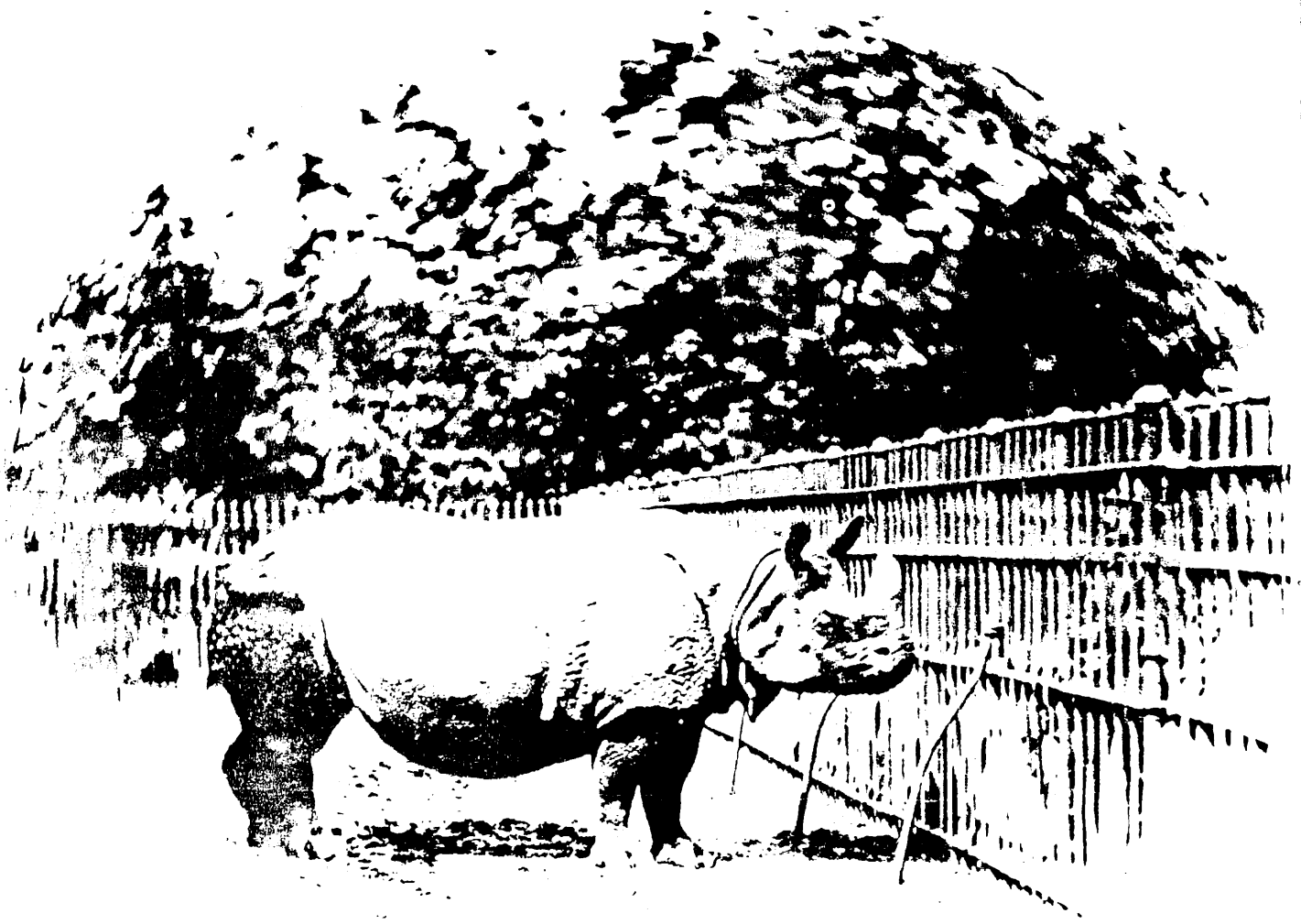


From LONDON ZOO FROM OLD PHOTOGRAPHS 1852-1914
by JOHN EDWARDS (1996)

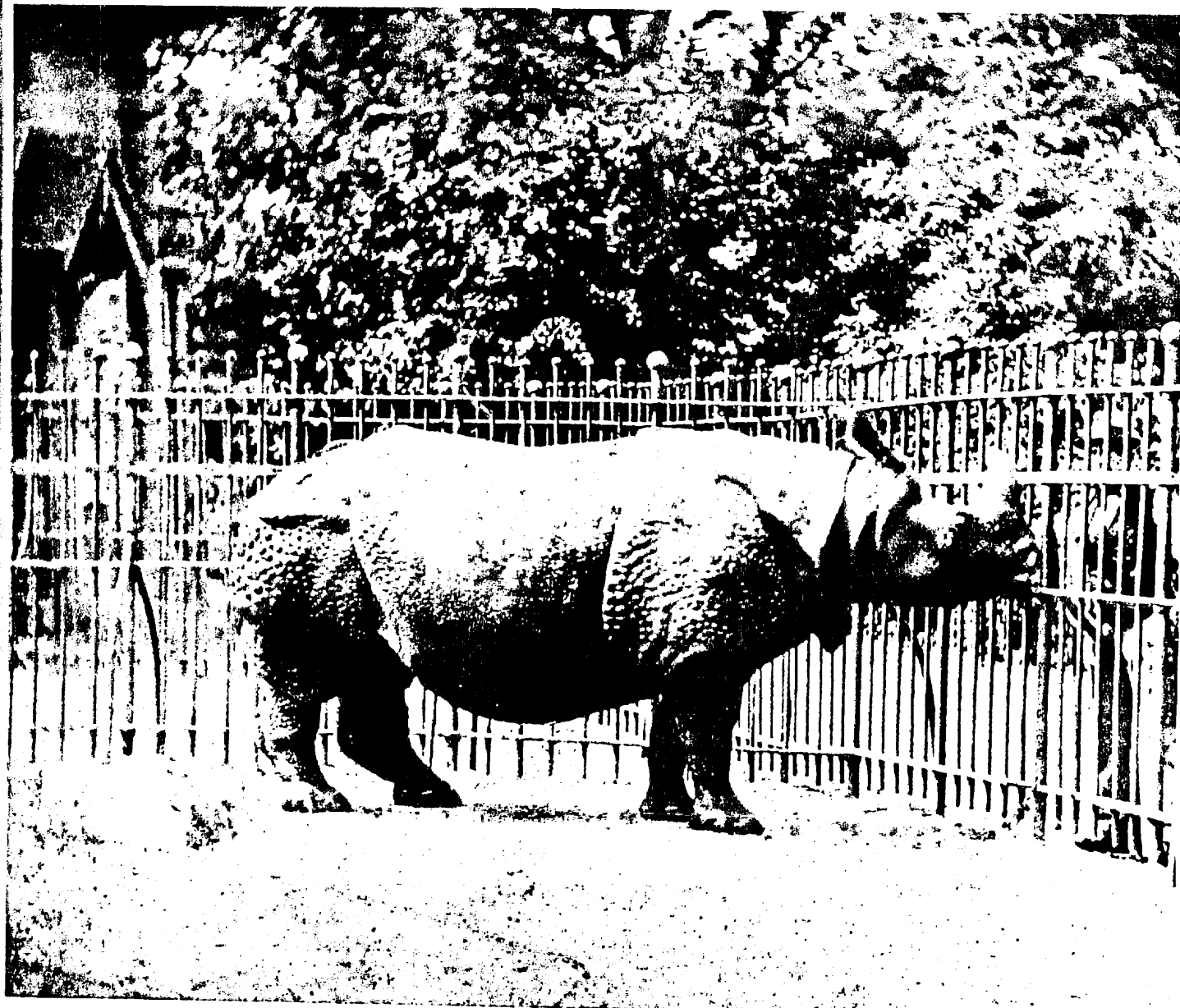


Female Indian rhinoceros, *Miss Bet*.
Summer 1864. Photograph by Frank Haes.

This photograph and the next are probably the first
photographs ever taken of a living rhinoceros.

Miss Bet had been acquired in 1850 when about
one year old to replace the Zoo's first rhinoceros
(also an Indian) which had lived there from
1834 until 1849.

4353



Miss Bet, 1864. Photograph by Frank Haes.

Haes wrote: 'not a young lady of very great amiability of temper, especially since the arrival of the young rhinoceroses, who, she evidently fancies, are a counterattraction to her charms. In fact, so uncertain is her temper that the keepers never venture into the yard when she is taking her daily constitutional. When she first saw the fresh arrivals, she was in such a passion that nobody knew how to calm her; and her strength is such that few can imagine. I found out that the rhinoceros could run at a good round pace when so minded; for one day walking with my camera covered with a bright yellow cloth over my shoulder, Miss Bet caught sight of it and charges full speed at me; fortunately the rails were between us.



Miss Bet with overgrown horn, ca. 1870.

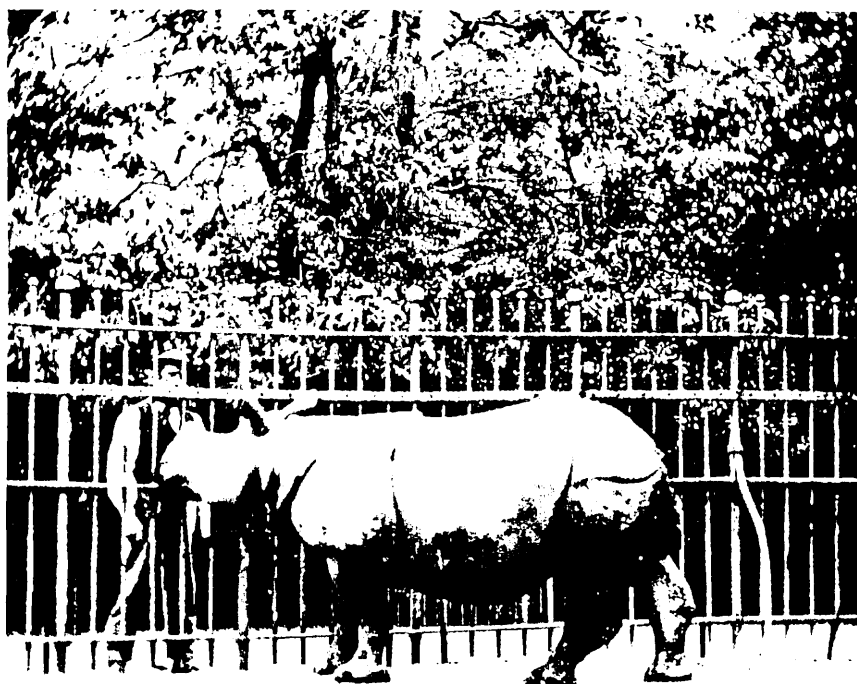
Photograph by Frederick York.

Bartlett noted: *...in her constant endeavour to tear down the iron fence caused the horn to grow forward, so as to project beyond the nose, consequently the animal had great difficulty in feeding off the ground by reason of the horn coming into contact with it first. Consequently, I determined to saw it off. The animal became comparatively sociable and friendly, allowing me to rub her eyes with my hand and at the same time I practised with a walking stick the process of sawing the horn. This performance I continued to go through on several mornings. Finding that she submitted gently to this treatment I went one morning prepared with a sharp saw, and, with the aid of one of the keepers, who smoothed her eye in order to keep it closed, I commenced to saw off the horn, which I very effectually accomplished in about ten minutes, during which time she remained perfectly quiet. I have kept this horn, and, although it has got very dry, it weighs 11 lbs., and measures 15 in. in length.*

Jim arrived, aged about two years, with a female on 25 July 1864. He was of a ferocious temper and on one occasion succeeded in severely injuring a keeper, whose life was probably only saved by Matthew Scott, Jumbo's keeper who drove *Jim* off by hitting him in the eye with a whip. On another occasion, when trying to force the gate between the two paddocks open, he broke his horn off, but a fresh one grew again. He had been anxious to open the gate because Miss Bet, presumably in œstrus was in the next paddock. It is intriguing to reflect that had the gate been weaker or the horn stronger, an Indian rhinoceros might have been bred at London Zoo in the 1860s.

Although *Jim* was not a large specimen (only 5ft 4in tall), he had a nicely shaped horn and this made him a popular subject with artists and photographers. Toward the end of his life, he was modelled by Britains Limited for their series of model zoo animals. Thus, tiny sculptures of *Jim* can still be bought in toy shops all over the country, over ninety years after his death.

Jim died on 6 December 1904, after spending 40 years 134 days in London Zoo. This captive longevity record remains unsurpassed. The nearest approach was probably that of *Billy* or *Kanakbala* (Studbook #10) who lived in Philadelphia Zoo from 14 September 1955 until 6 January 1996 (40 years 114 days).



Jim, 1865

Photograph by Frank Haes.



Jim entering his stall,
ca. 1900. An early
amateur snapshot.

Note the timber
buttresses, a relic of
Jumbo's residence and
the recessed drain-
pipes, to prevent
damage from the
animals.



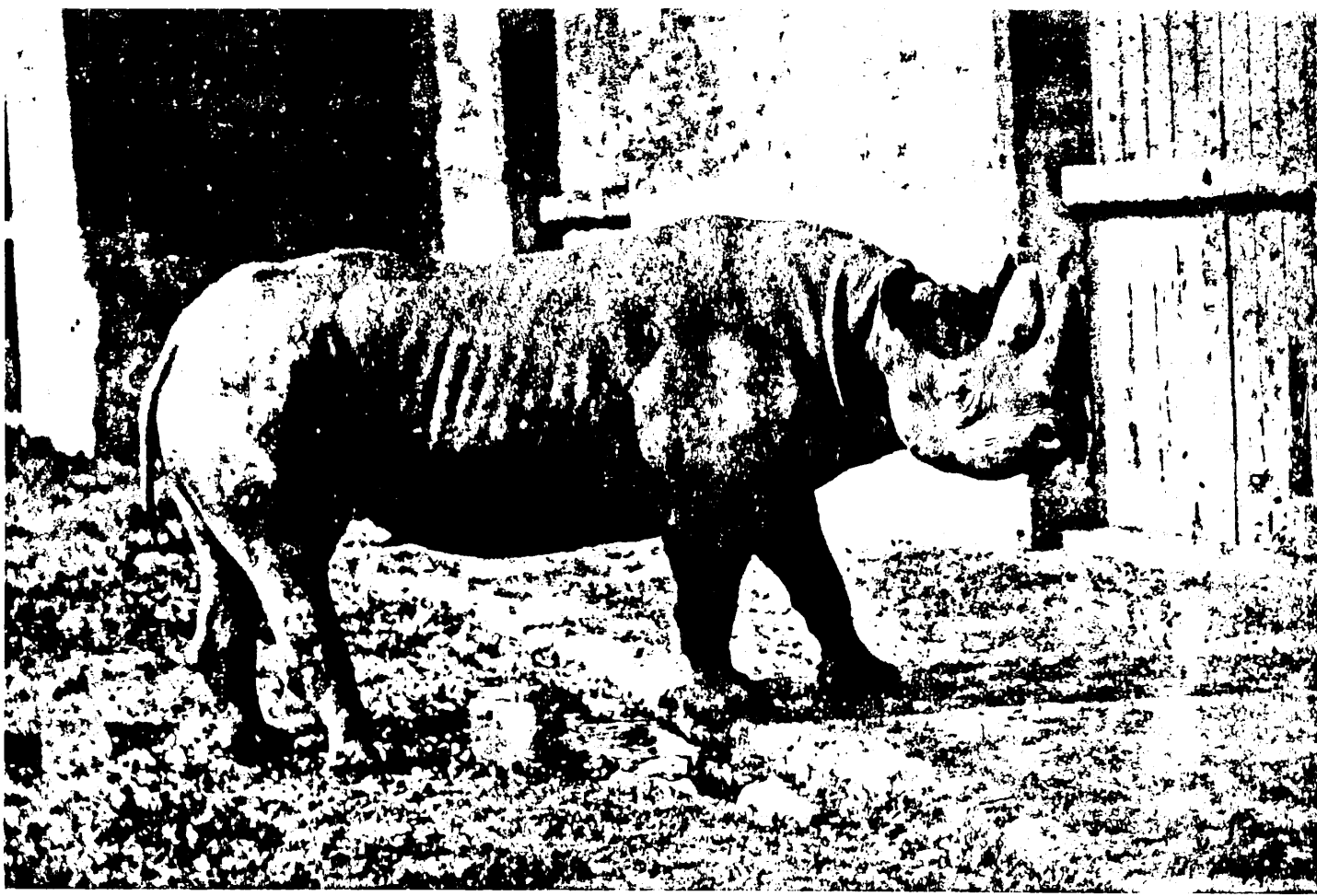
Jim, ca. 1903.
Photograph by Lewis
Medland



Jim, probably
Autumn 1904, shortly
before his death on
6 December of that
year. From a postcard
utilising a photograph
by W.P. Dando.

'ZOO' Favourites. No. 18. - THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

BEAULES
POSTCARDS.



Black rhinoceros, *Theodore*, ca. 1885. Photograph by Major J. Fortuné Nott.

Theodore was acquired when the size of a large pig, from Carl Hagenbeck, the German dealer on 11 September 1868 and was believed to have been the first Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) to reach Europe since the days of the Romans. Forty years later, Hagenbeck bitterly recalled that, having paid £800 to his agent, Signor Cassanova (who had obtained the animal near Kassala in the eastern Sudan in February 1868), he was obliged to sell the rhino to the Zoological Society for only £1,000, only half of which was paid in cash, the rest being in the form of animals.

Right: Theodore, ca. 1890. Photograph by Lewis Medland

Theodore died on 12 April 1891 from stomach cancer (Black rhinos often had digestive problems in captivity). Although the species was then common in the wild, it proved impossible to replace him until 1906.

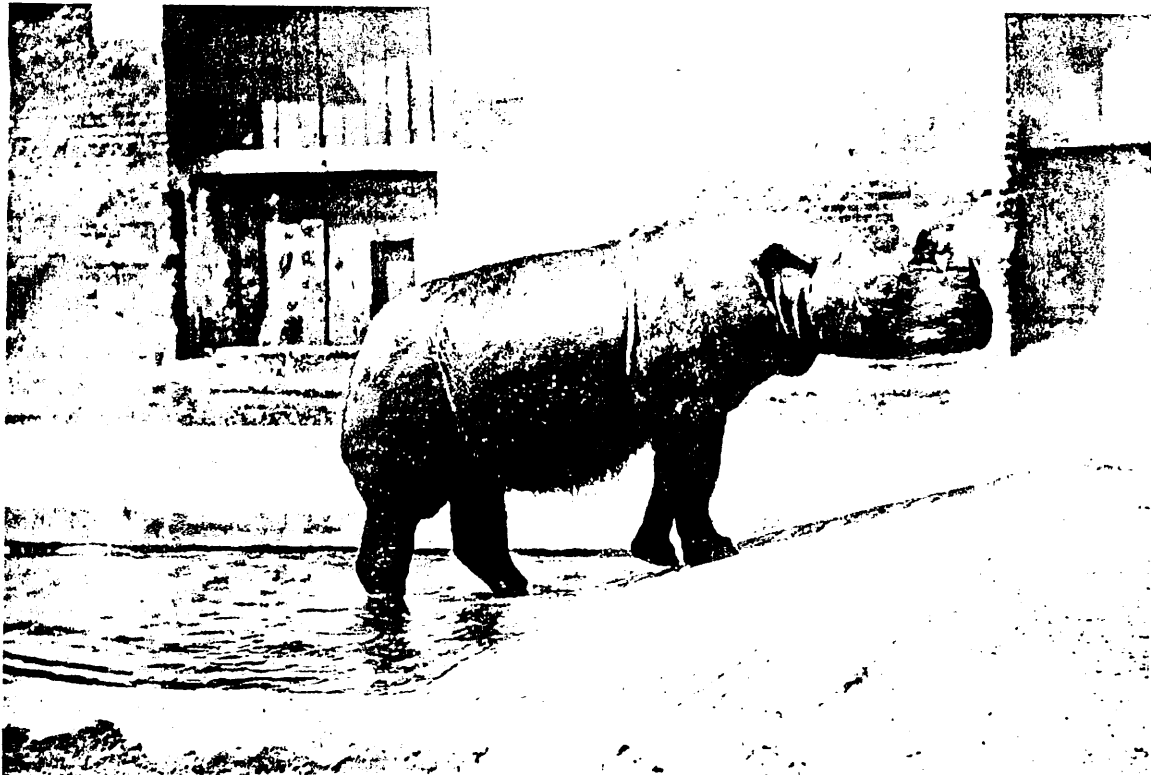




Left: Female Sumatran Rhinoceros
(*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), 1872.
Photograph by Frederick York

This representative of a now very rare species was acquired from the dealer, Jamrach for £600 in August 1872 and died the following month.

A number of York's images continued to be reproduced for many years after they were taken. This one proved particularly durable and was reproduced on the 25 cent grey black and scarlet stamp of North Borneo as recently as 1961.

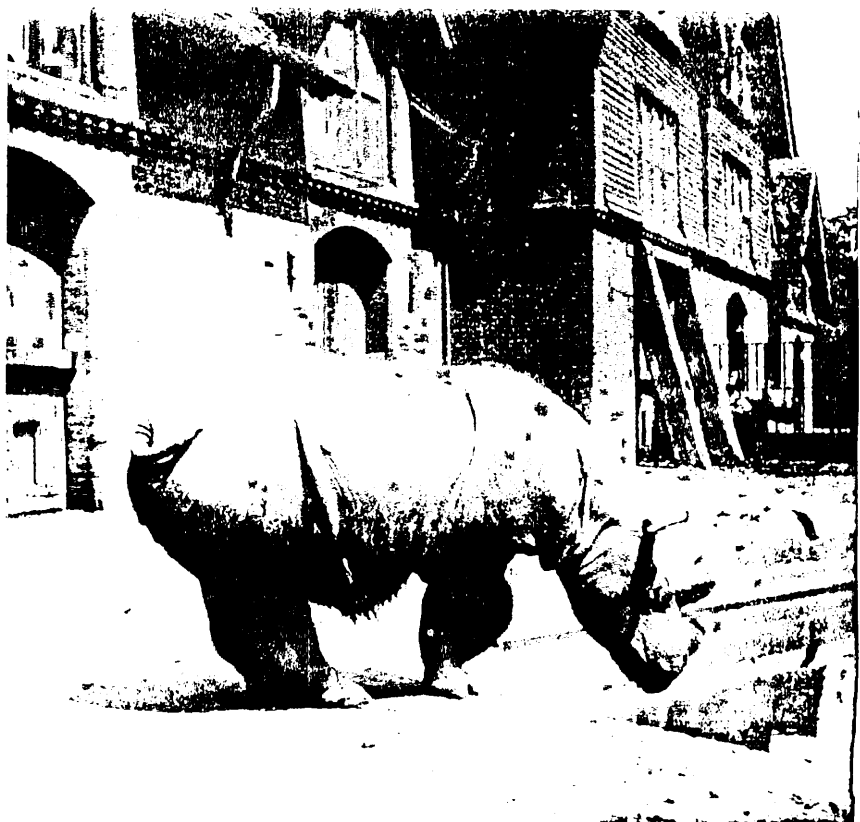


Above: Female Hairy-eared Sumatran Rhinoceros,
(*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis lasiotis*), Begum, ca. 1890.

Begum was the type specimen of this subspecies. She was captured in January 1868, sixteen hours' march south of Chittagong in what is now Bangladesh. On 14 February 1872, the Zoological Society purchased her from the dealer Carl Jamrach for the high price of £1,250.



Right: Hairy-eared Sumatran rhinoceros, *Begum*, emerging from the pool in the west Elephant paddock. This pool had been constructed for the Zoo's first elephant, *Jack*, in 1831 and it remained in constant use for over a century, being finally obliterated in 1939.



Right: Begum ca. 1899. Another Sumatran rhino can be seen by the timber buttresses. Begum died on 31 August 1900, aged at least 33 years. This remains the captive longevity record for the Sumatran Rhinoceros.



Male Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), ca. 1875. Stereoscopic photograph by Frederick York. This animal was purchased for £800 and was the only specimen ever exhibited at London Zoo. None have been seen in captivity since the death of another male in Adelaide Zoo in 1907 (only identified as a Javan, as opposed to an Indian, some decades after its demise).

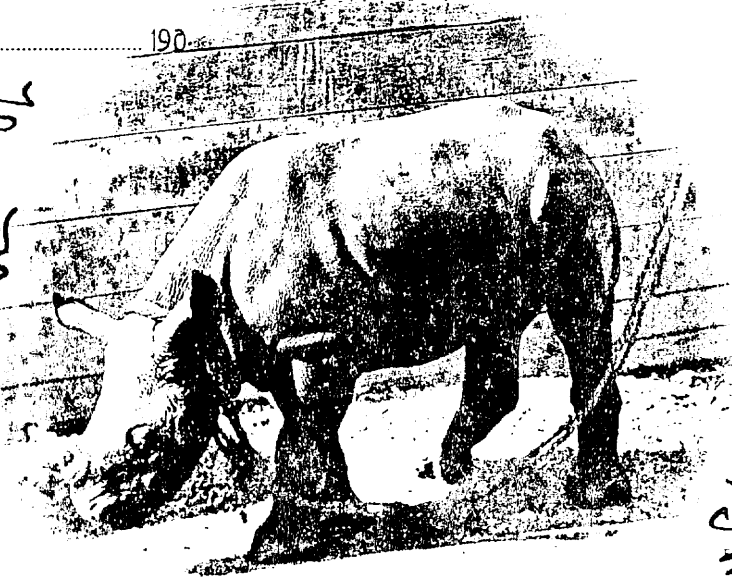


Male Javan rhinoceros, ca. 1884. Photograph by T.J. Dixon. This specimen died on 23 January 1885 and was dissected by Frederick (later Sir Frederick) Treves, the great surgeon at the London Hospital, celebrated both as the man who befriended Joseph Merrick, the 'Elephant Man', and who removed Edward VII's appendix in 1902 (then a very dangerous operation).

Mombasa,

190

This Rhino is now
in the London Zoo.
I saw him in Mombasa

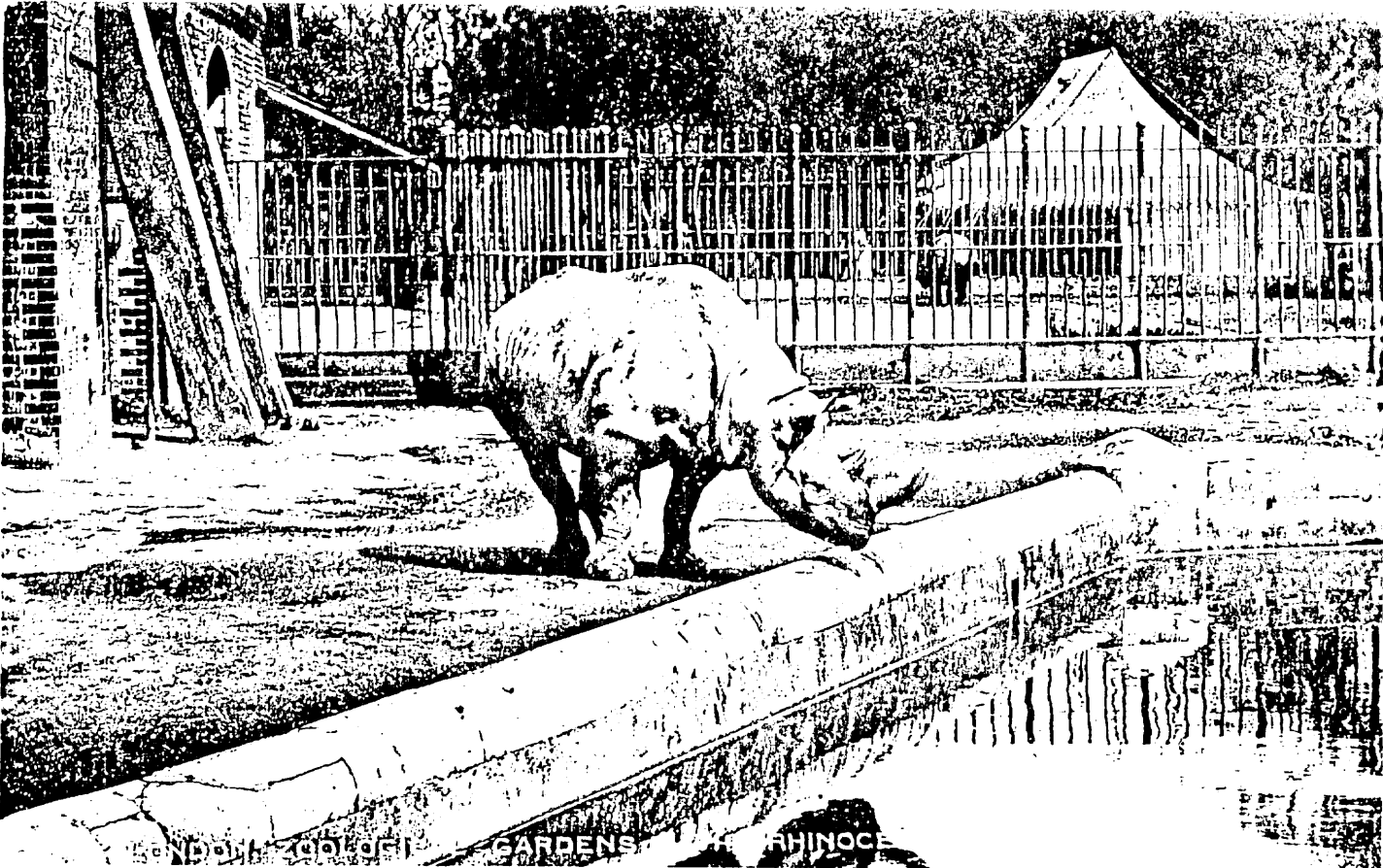


A Merry Xmas to you,
and Mabel from
A. J. P. Jones

Rhinoceros.

Coutinho & Sons, Photographers, Mombasa 26.

Baby Black rhinoceros *Theodora* at Mombasa on her way to London Zoo. 1905

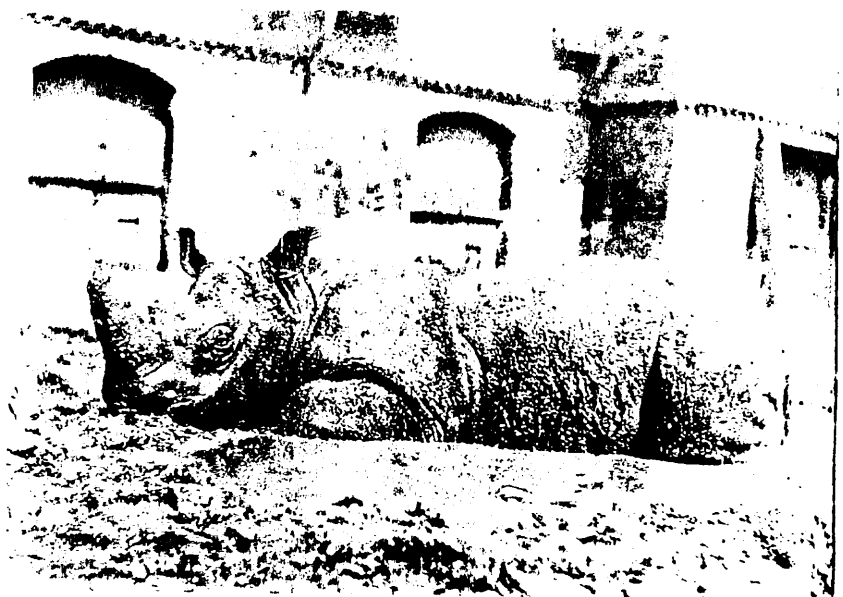


Theodora in the west paddock ca. 1910. She cost £700 and died in 1911. During the period covered by this book, black rhinos were seldom seen in captivity, although it was still abundant in the wild. In 1902, C.V.A. Peel saw none during his tour of European zoos and it seems likely that at that time the only one outside Africa was in New York's Central Park menagerie.



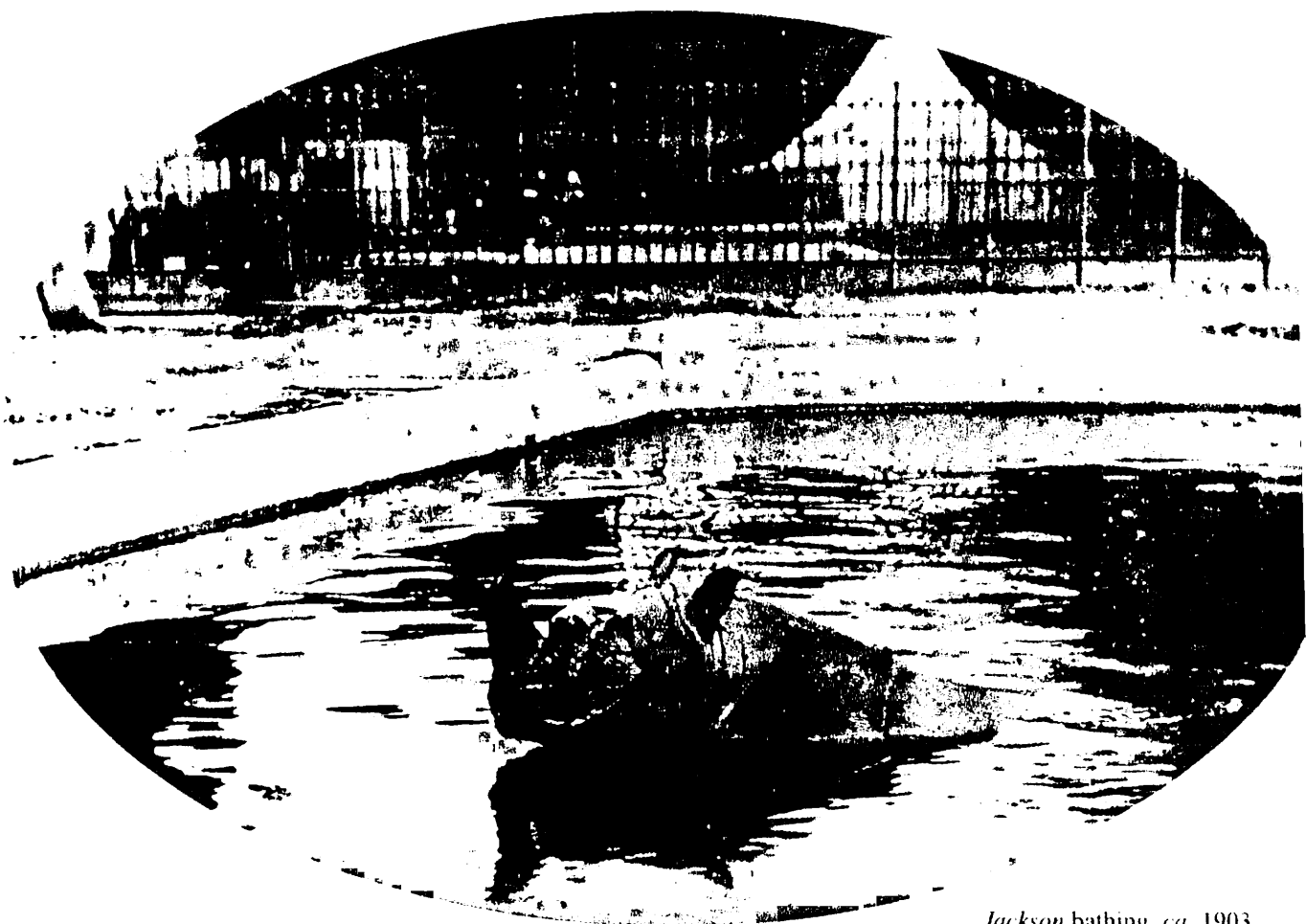
Jackson in the east paddock ca. 1905.

Jackson, London Zoo's second Hairy-eared Sumatran rhinoceros, was received in exchange from Calcutta Zoo on 27 April 1886 and died on 22 November 1910. Not until 1986, when a male Sumatran rhino arrived at Port Lympne in Kent, was this species again seen in the United Kingdom.

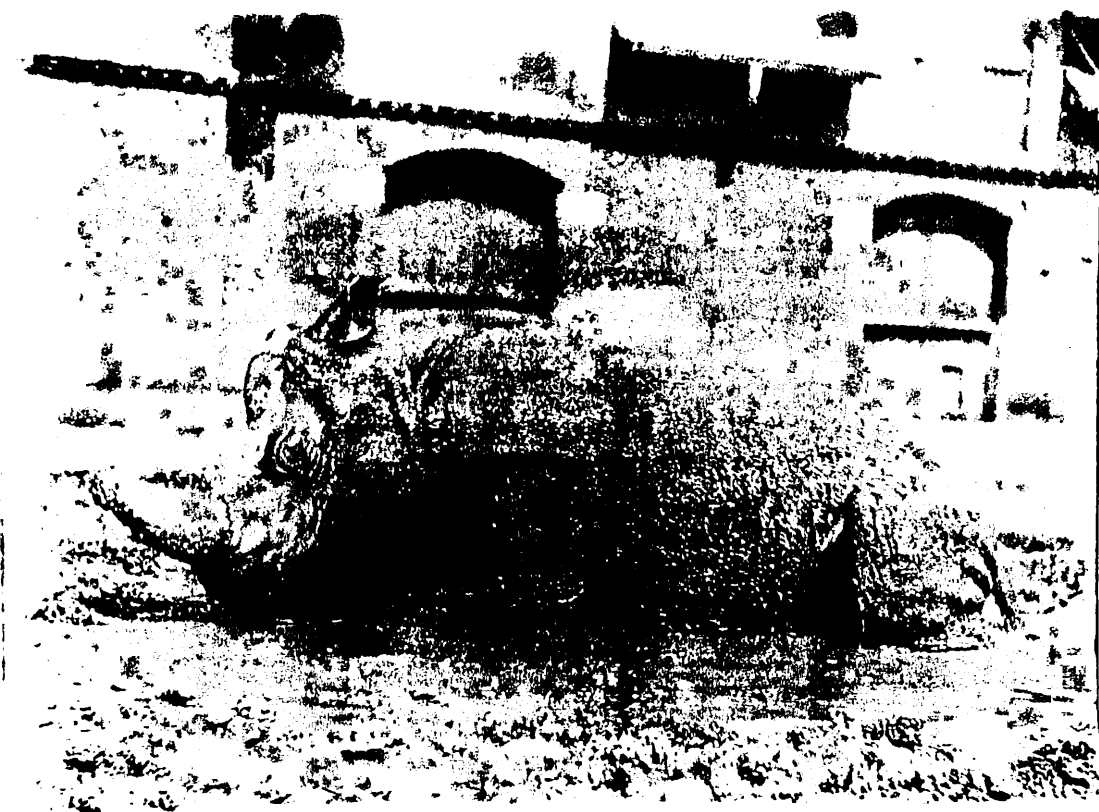


*Jackson wallowing, ca. 1903.
Photograph by Lewis Medland.*

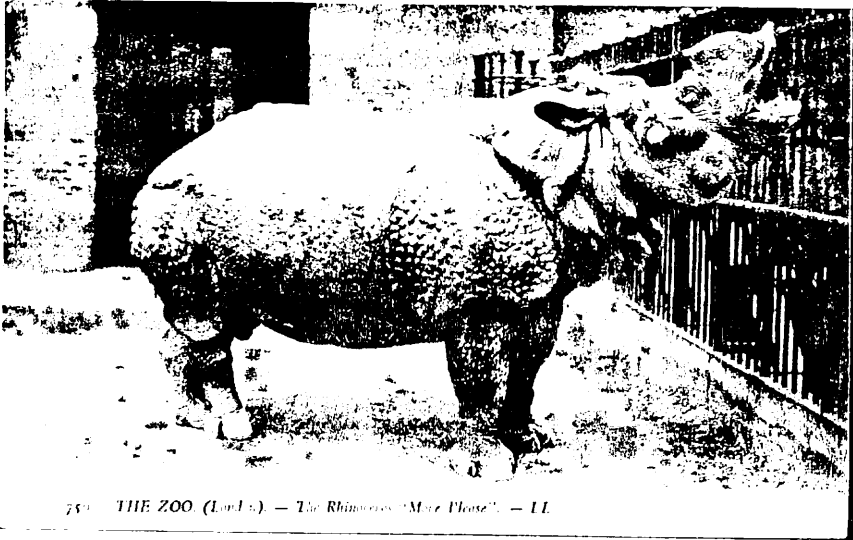
Very few rhinos had access to water or mud in zoos before the First World War.



Jackson bathing, ca. 1903.
 Photograph by Lewis Medland.



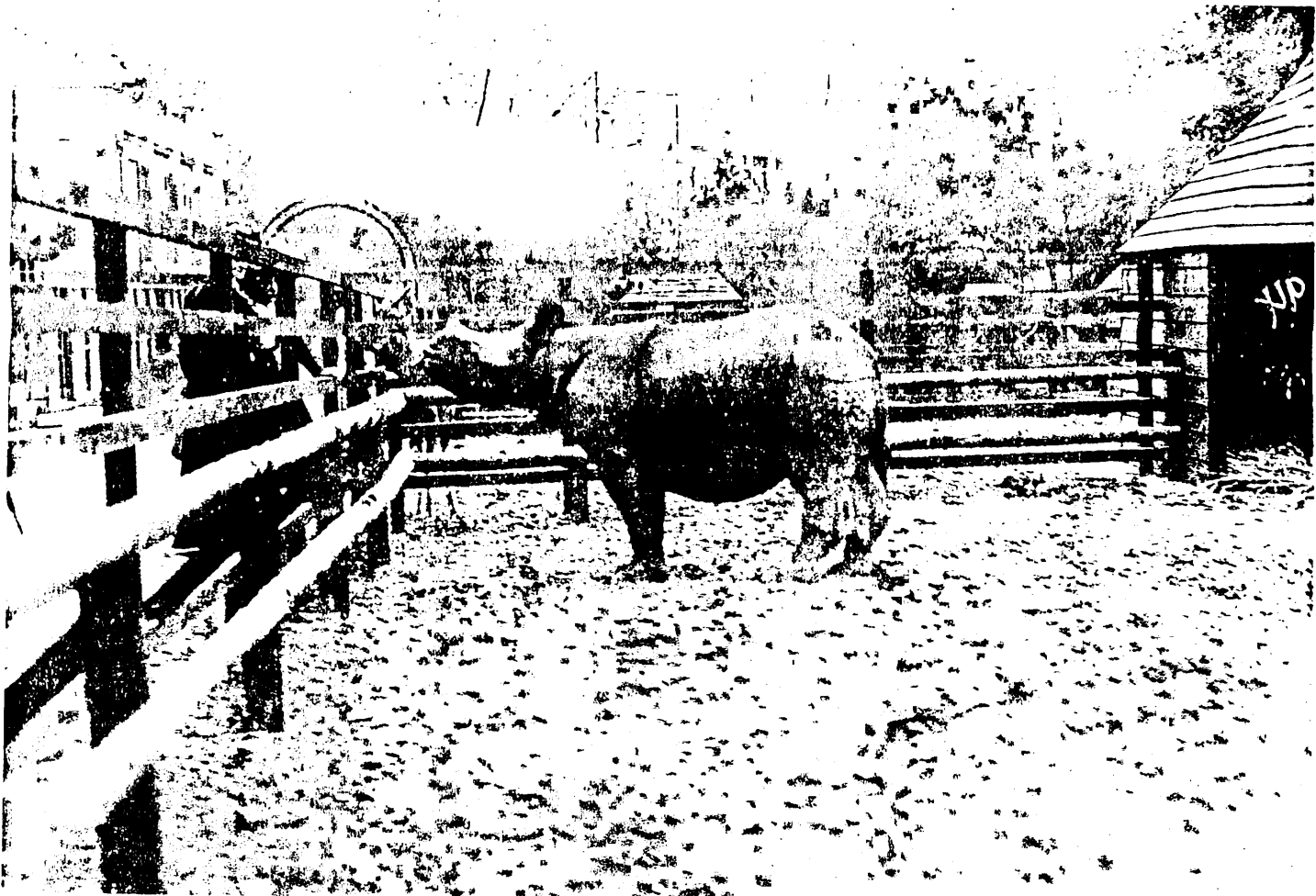
*Jackson wallowing
 ca. 1903.*
 Photograph by
 Lewis Medland.



Male Indian rhinoceros *Tom*, ca. 1905.
A postcard by the French firm of Lucien Lévy.

Tom, who died on 30 December 1911, had been presented to the Zoological Society on Christmas Day, 1886 by the Maharajah of Cooch Behar, an enthusiastic big-game hunter who had probably shot the young rhino's mother.

In the thirty-two years from 1871 to 1902, a total of 207 Indian rhinos were slaughtered by the Maharajah and his guests, five of them in a single morning in 1886. The consequences of such indiscriminate butchery are too well-known to require emphasis here.



Indian rhinoceros, 1912. This young male had been presented to George V by the Maharajah of Nepal during the Delhi Durbar. The King-Emperor, in his turn, presented the rhino along with other animals to the Zoological Society, whose President, the 11th Duke of Bedford generously defrayed the costs of transportation. The rhino arrived on 21 May 1912 and survived until 27 April 1921. It is said that in 1910 there were only 12 rhinos left in British India, which conveys some idea of the rarity of this species at the time this photograph was taken.

The animals were displayed temporarily on the site of the Mappin Terraces. The rear of the Ape House can be seen in the background.



Above: Elephant House from the west, probably early 1939, shortly before demolition. Photograph by D.Seth-Smith.

An elephant saddle hangs against the wall and slot machines, possibly for the sale of postcards are against the wall on the left. A mass of the distinctive wrought-iron garden seats are in the foreground. In the distance can be seen Lubetkin's 1932 Gorilla House the clock-turret of the 1910 office and library building by Joass.

Below: Elephant House from the east. On the extreme right is the railing round the Lubetkin's Gorilla House. In the angle of the wall stands a K3 model Telephone box. One of the very few survivors of this model, under the eaves of the Parrot House, became the first Telephone box ever to be listed in 1986. Note the timber buttresses erected to support the wall of the house when *Jumbo* was in residence.

