

RHINOS IN BERLIN

BY BERNHARD BLASZKIEWITZ

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It was in 1746 that the first rhinoceros was exhibited in Berlin. This animal, an Indian rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), was the fifth specimen of its species to come to Europe in modern times. It reached the Netherlands in 1741, and from 1746 it was on show in several towns of central Europe, and also in Berlin's 'Spittelmarkt', where it even attracted the interest of Frederick the Great himself, who came to see the animal (Blaszkiewicz, 1980).

The Zoological Garden of Berlin was founded in 1841 and opened its gates to visitors in 1844, but the first rhino did not arrive there until July 1870. This was the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) Molly, belonging to one of Hagenbeck's famous caravans, which gave a guest performance in Berlin. Afterwards the zoo's director, Heinrich Bodinus, bought it from Hagenbeck. The first Indian rhino arrived in 1871, and the only Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) which ever lived in Berlin came in 1878. The first two white rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*) were put on show in 1963.

The elephant pagoda, a splendid stylistic structure housing rhinos as well as elephants, was erected in 1873. This building was destroyed during World War II in November 1943. After the war Berlin Zoo started to keep rhinos again with the female Arusha, a black rhino acquired by Dr Katharina Heinroth in 1954. At first Arusha lived in the cattle house, but soon she moved to the new elephant house which was opened in the same year. A special rhino house was built in 1964, followed by a second one, for black rhinos only, in 1987 (Klös and Klös, 1990). Tierpark Berlin was founded in 1954 and opened to the public the following year. Black rhinos were shown there from 1956 on, white rhinos from 1964, and Indian rhinos from 1966. They all settled finally in the Tierpark's pachyderm house, opened in 1989 (Blaszkiewicz, 1992). In this article I shall describe the different rhino species and their management at both Berlin zoos.

Sumatran rhino

After a Sumatran rhino arrived at Hamburg Zoo in 1872, a female reached Berlin Zoo in 1878 (Reynolds, 1961; Kourist, 1973). This animal lived till March 1880, and was the only representative of its species to be kept in Berlin.

Indian rhino

On 21 September 1871 a female Indian rhino arrived at Berlin Zoo from Antwerp, and one year later, on 30 September 1872, it was exchanged for a pair delivered by the animal dealer William Jamrach. The animals

coloured sheets of paper in North Carolina's aviary, where one side illustrates the plants and the other the birds to be seen. This particular piece of interpretation is used extensively and effectively by pre-school children.

Fifthly, zoos are increasingly designing and creating botanical displays within the zoo. Shelley Mitchell of Indianapolis Zoo, formerly director of education, is now director of such a project; this newly designed horticultural garden and glass conservatory is called White River Gardens and is scheduled to open in April 1999.

Finally, the latest development is partnerships between zoos, aquaria and botanical gardens to create 'bioparks'. The Albuquerque Biopark has recently (summer 1997) been created from the long-established Rio Grande Zoo, the new Albuquerque Aquarium and the neighbouring, new Rio Grande Botanic Garden in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Are plants at last gaining their rightful place in the way in which they are presented to visitors as the key organisms which capture the energy of the sun and use it to manufacture food for us animals?

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Wanted - Zoo Posters

We are modernising our office facilities at Copenhagen Zoo. Our offices include a long hall which would look very good with a row of posters, so we are interested in collecting both up-to-date and classic zoo posters.

In the spring we will also be opening our new education/interpretation facilities with auditorium and shop, in connection with the opening of our new main entrance. In this connection also we could use some informative and colourful zoo posters.

We would be most grateful to any readers who can send us posters that present their zoo's image.

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were not yet adult on their arrival. Bodinus had purchased them for 8,000 talers. At first both animals were kept together, but their mating behaviour, which seemed to be rather aggressive, was thought to be too dangerous, and they were separated. The female was sold to Frankfurt Zoo in 1896. Both rhinos died in 1909.

In 1874 a female reached the zoo whose species affiliation has again and again been the subject of discussion. This animal was also delivered by Jamrach and, according to Rookmaaker (1977), lived till 1884. The only existing picture of it is a drawing by Gustav Mützel showing it lying down together with a black rhino. It was repeatedly described as a Javan rhino (*R. sondaicus*), but it is more probable that it too was an Indian one (Rookmaaker, 1977; Schlawe, 1969). An undoubtedly Javan rhino was kept at London Zoo from 1874 to 1885 (see pictures in Kourist, 1969, and Edwards, 1996).

It was only in 1959 that another Indian rhino reached Berlin Zoo. This was the male Arjun, born in Assam in 1958, who was given to Basle Zoo in 1965 to fill the vacant place of breeding male. In return a pair of Indian rhinos, Miris and Gauhati, born in Basle and Hamburg, came to Berlin the same year. The female, Miris, reached sexual maturity earlier than Gauhati, and for this reason she was twice sent to Basle, where Arjun mated with her. On 4 April 1972 a male calf, Kumar, was born at Berlin Zoo – the first birth of a rhino in Berlin. Kumar moved to Amsterdam Zoo in 1973, and from there to Whipsnade in 1978. He is still alive there and has several descendants. Another male, Heiner, born on 18 February 1976, came from Miris's second mating with Arjun. This animal was given to Oklahoma City Zoo in the United States in 1981. Today this bull is living at the Bronx Zoo, New York, and has had numerous offspring. On 13 August 1979 a female, Terai, was born to Gauhati and Miris – the third rhino birth in Berlin. Terai was also given to Oklahoma City, from where she went to Los Angeles Zoo; I saw her at San Diego Wild Animal Park on the occasion of my last stay in the United States early in 1997. In 1988 a four-month-old calf, Narayani, arrived at Berlin Zoo from Nepal. Miris and Gauhati died in 1993 – in the 29th and 30th years of their lives respectively.

Tierpark Berlin acquired a three-month-old Indian rhino female named Kanchi from the animal dealer Munro in August 1966, but she died in January 1967. This loss was compensated in August 1967 by another three-month-old female, Kumari, from Nepal. She is still living at the Tierpark. In 1971 she was joined by the young bull Mysore; he was born at the Indian zoo of the same name on 13 February 1968. In 1985 a male calf was stillborn to Kumari, and on 1 January 1990 the male Belur was born, who was to take the place of the breeding bull after his father Mysore died on 23 December 1996, aged almost 29 years. In October 1994 the Tierpark received the female Jhansi from San Diego Wild Animal Park on loan from Wilhelma, Stuttgart. Jhansi was born in July 1990. On 21 January 1995 she gave birth to a female calf, Betty, at the Tierpark, having been mated by her father at the Wild Animal Park when she was little more than three years old (Blaszkiwicz, 1995).

White rhino

The first white rhino in captivity was the female Zuluana, who arrived at Pretoria Zoo in 1946. In 1963 1.1 southern white rhinos from Umfolozi Reserve in South Africa arrived at Berlin Zoo, the first of their species to

be imported into Germany. The bull Hlambamans, born in 1959, is still alive at Berlin Zoo. The cow Kuababa, born in 1960, died in 1992 aged 32 years (Blaszkiwicz, 1993).

Tierpark Berlin got the pair Zulu and Kunzi, also born in 1959/60, in 1964. Kunzi died in 1970 after the bull had injured her. Her replacement, delivered the same year, lived only a few days. In 1971 Messrs. Ruhe delivered two female white rhinos; but one cow was given back to them very soon, and it was impossible to get the second cow, Lotzi, accustomed to the bull. So Zulu had to move to Lodz Zoo, Poland, where he is still living, now 38 years old. Dresden Zoo lent the male Mtandane, born in 1962, to Tierpark Berlin in 1989. Three other animals were integrated into the group from 1992 on. A female, Kifaru, born in 1982 at San Diego Wild Animal Park, arrived at the Tierpark in 1992 from Halle Zoo, and 1.1 animals, born at the Wild Animal Park in 1992, arrived in 1994. The female died of a circulatory breakdown one year later, so today the Tierpark holds 2.2 white rhinos.

So far no white rhinos have been bred in either Berlin zoo; probably the fact that they have been kept in pairs is the main reason for this failure.

Black rhino

As already mentioned, Hagenbeck's Molly was acquired for 6,000 talers in July 1870. Sudan is mentioned as her country of origin. Molly probably lived till 1887. According to Kourist (1973), black rhinos had been previously shown in Antwerp (1858) and London (1868), but the data on the Antwerp animal are doubtful. In 1878 another four young black rhinos came to Berlin Zoo with Hagenbeck's 'Nubia' caravan.

In 1904 a female arrived in Berlin which had been caught for the zoo by the African traveller and animal photographer Schillings. This animal lived till 1908. In 1907 another female, which lived till 1917, arrived as a gift of the Negus of Abyssinia (Reynolds, 1963). A bull acquired in November 1909 to be her mate died of a colic just one year later. In 1928 Lutz Heck, director of Berlin Zoo from 1931 to 1945, caught the male black rhino Mtoto in East Africa; this animal died in 1943 during an air attack on Berlin, when the elephant pagoda was destroyed. In 1939 Christoph Schultz supplied a two-year-old female, which was given to Hagenbeck the following year. In December 1940 Heck bought from Hagenbeck an adult female for the sum of DM18,000, but she died of TB in May 1941. After the war, the species did not return to Berlin until 1954, when, as mentioned above, Dr Heinroth acquired the four-year-old Arusha, born in Kenya. The bull Meru followed in 1957 to become her mate. This male, born in 1955, came from East Africa; he died in 1975 at the age of 20. In 1976 Arusha was given to Kano Zoo in Nigeria, where she was killed by a bull in 1978. This bull, Embu, was born in Kenya in 1969; he lived at Berlin Zoo on loan from 1975 to 1976, and travelled to Kano together with Arusha.

Three black rhinos from Kenya reached Berlin in 1975 – the female Kitani, born in 1972, and the pair Mbololo and Kilaguni, born in 1974. Another female, Mzima, also born in Kenya in 1972, followed in 1977. All these animals belonged to the subspecies *michaeli*. They are the founders of Berlin Zoo's breeding group. Twelve calves have been born here, in 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991 (two), 1994, 1995 and

THREE SMALL ZOOS IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND

BY JOHN TUSON

Exmoor Wildlife Park and Combe Martin Wildlife Park, Devon

Having two zoos in close proximity seems quite natural in Berlin and Paris, but in the beautiful – and sparsely populated – countryside of north Devon it might seem a little strange. But within a fifteen-minute drive of each other are Exmoor Wildlife Park and Combe Martin Wildlife Park, each of which possesses its own particular charms.

Exmoor – until recently Exmoor Bird Gardens – is, in many ways, typical of a number of smaller zoos in Britain. The collection includes many species ubiquitous in such zoos – meerkats, maras, banded mongooses, short-clawed otters – but there are several relative rarities as well. Bush dogs (attractively housed in what looks like an upmarket garden shed) and Abyssinian ground hornbills (in a lofty aviary) are both worth seeing, as is the collection of tamarins and marmosets, maintained in a large house and including silvery marmosets and emperor tamarins. Another thing which sets this zoo apart from other such places is the quality of several of the enclosures: a great deal of thought has clearly been put into the pens for the otters, raccoons and mongooses, for example, whilst a large central lake (on which can be seen the zoo's penguins as well as a variety of wildfowl) provides an attractive focus for the park as a whole. Most of the housing, though, is of the distinctly functional wood-and-wire-mesh type: in such enclosures can be seen lemurs (ruffed and ring-tailed), squirrel monkeys, red squirrels, skunks, and a number of birds. On the debit side, the zoo occasionally has a rather scruffy feel to it, not helped by the presence of a selection of free-roaming poultry (and, rather more engagingly, free-roaming prairie dogs). Clearly it is difficult for any small zoo – where budgets and resources are almost inevitably going to be stretched – to keep itself looking immaculate and pristine at all times, but some places manage to look better kept than others.

Combe Martin certainly looks well kept. Its site is wonderful, and the way in which that site has been developed shows sensitivity and taste. There is a densely vegetated wood at the zoo's core, and when one eventually stumbles across the animal stock (a rather unconvincing display of dinosaurs come first) they seem to merge seamlessly into the otherwise undeveloped woodland. The animals which are featured here are mostly creatures with 'box office' potential: sea lions, snow leopards (a new enclosure is near completion), raccoons, short-clawed otters (in a massive pen), meerkats (their enclosure is advertised as being the world's biggest, and there is little reason to doubt the claim: a football field's worth of Devonshire desert, which does look very impressive), and a large number of primates – Goeldi's monkeys, black-and-white and red-ruffed lemurs, hanuman langurs, capuchins, and a single concolor gibbon, all housed in simple but reasonable enclosures. Away from the

1996. A male calf in 1988 was a premature birth; the other 11 calves were reared, though two of them died in their second year of life.

A total of five cows participated in this breeding. Kitani gave birth to her first young in 1981; Kilaguni has had three calves up till now, in 1986, 1991, and 1994; and six calves (including the premature one) were born to Mzima. Two females born here have each given birth to one calf so far.

Apart from the imported bull Mbololo, three other bulls have participated in breeding. Klaus, who came from Leipzig Zoo in 1988, sired four calves (including the premature birth); Tatu, born in Berlin Zoo in 1984, is the father of two calves; and Kibo, born in Africa in 1965 and father of two calves at Magdeburg Zoo, came on loan to Berlin in 1994 and is the father of the latest calf, a female born in 1996. From 1988 to 1992 the bull Cody, born in Sydney, lived at Berlin Zoo, but he failed to breed and was given to Dvur Králové in the Czech Republic.

In the period from 1956 to 1983 Tierpark Berlin kept six (4.2) black rhinos, which were imported from East Africa, but they never bred.

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