

The Marcel Jeanson Collection

Part IV

Important Ornithological Watercolour Drawings by Nicolas Robert, Jacques Barraband, Edouard Traviès
 Fine Watercolours Drawings of Quadrupeds by Edouard Traviès, Antoine Chazal, Jean-Baptiste Meunier
 and other artists

Auction

Monday 19 June 2000 at 2.30 p.m. precisely

At 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1

When sending written bids or making enquiries, please refer to this sale as BIRDS-6306

Enquiries

Felix de Marez Oyens (020) 7389 2159

Tom Lamb (020) 7389 2158

François Borne (020) 7389 2252

Christoph Auvermann (331) 40 76 85 99

Vérène de Soultrait (331) 40 76 85 94

Commission bids on Fax (020) 7930 8870

Viewing

Wednesday	14 June	12.00 noon - 4.30 p.m.
Thursday	15 June	9.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Friday	16 June	9.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Sunday	18 June	2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Monday	19 June	9.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon

This sale is subject to the Conditions of Sale printed at the back of this catalogue and to reserves

Front cover illustration: lot 85

Back cover illustration: lot 26 (detail)

**EXHIBITION
 CHRISTIE'S PARIS**

9 Avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris
 5-7 June 2000

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CHRISTIE'S

MARCEL JEANSON (1885-1942)

The fourth sale of the Jeanson collection demonstrates once again the high quality and originality of the ornithological and animal drawings assembled by that astonishing bibliophile.

Marcel Jeanson, a successful French industrialist, was both determined and passionate in the pursuit of his ambitions. A hunter and nature lover, he formed an extraordinary collection of books within less than twenty years, adding to the nucleus of Henri Gallice's library and complementing it with the finest copies of the most important editions of cynegetic literature. He consulted eminent specialists such as Emile Nourry and Jules Thiébaud, who wrote in his *Bibliographie des ouvrages sur la chasse*: "The outstanding richness of Mr Marcel Jeanson's library has enabled us to record some unique books."

The observation of nature as well as a scientific interest in birds led Marcel Jeanson to collect the most beautiful ornithological drawings with the same passion. These masterpieces were in the majority of cases executed by painters in the service of great historic figures: Nicolas Robert and his workshop worked for King Louis XIV and Jean-Baptiste Colbert, while Jacques Barraband's major patrons were the Emperor Napoleon and later the Empress Joséphine. Marcel Jeanson also assembled a group of works by 19th-century masters of animal drawing such as Traviès, Prêtre and Meunier, who illustrated the celebrated series of works on natural history by Count Buffon.

The natural-history painter Roger Reboussin, who was commissioned by Jeanson to produce nearly 400 gouaches of the birds of France over a period of 30 years, said of him: "Marcel Jeanson proved to be at the same time a great hunter and bibliophile, assembling exceptional works on hunting, ornithology and wildfowl!"

Much attention has been paid to the correct Latin, and modern French and English identifications of the birds and mammals, but the French names of the parrots by Barraband have been taken from Levaillant, while Buffon's French names of the mammals have also been adopted.

We are extremely grateful to Jacques Cuisin and Professor Michel Tranier of the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris for their invaluable help in identifying numerous birds and mammals for the descriptions in this catalogue. We should furthermore like to thank Mr. Julien Thivin, who is currently preparing a thesis on French scientific natural-history illustrations.

MARCEL JEANSON (1885-1942)

La quatrième vente de la collection Marcel Jeanson donne une nouvelle occasion de nous étonner de la qualité et de l'originalité des trésors que ce bibliophile sut assembler.

Industriel français, il mena sa vie avec entrain, détermination et passion sans jamais ménager ses efforts pour réaliser ses ambitions.

Chasseur et amoureux de la nature, il regroupa en moins de vingt ans une bibliothèque fabuleuse. Créée à partir du fonds Gallice elle fut complétée par les plus beaux fleurons de la littérature cynégétique. Pour ce faire il sut s'entourer d'éminents spécialistes tels qu'Emile Nourry et Jules Thiébaud. Ce dernier écrivit dans sa *Bibliographie des ouvrages sur la chasse*: "Les richesses exceptionnelles de la bibliothèque de M. Marcel Jeanson nous ont heureusement permis d'atteindre plusieurs livres uniques."

L'observation de la nature et son intérêt tout scientifique pour les oiseaux menèrent naturellement Marcel Jeanson à développer avec une même passion une collection des plus belles planches d'ornithologie produites en France. Les peintres animaliers au service de deux des plus grandes figures de l'Histoire en ont réalisé les pièces maîtresses. Ce sont en premier lieu les vélins du peintre Nicolas Robert et de son atelier exécutés pour leur plus grande part pour le Roi-Soleil, puis les dessins de Jacques Barraband qui travailla pour l'Empereur Napoléon Ier. Marcel Jeanson associa à ces oeuvres exceptionnelles, celles d'autres grands maîtres animaliers du XIX^{ème} siècle qui illustrèrent *L'histoire naturelle* et les *Oeuvres* de Buffon, tels que Traviès, Prêtre, Meunier etc.

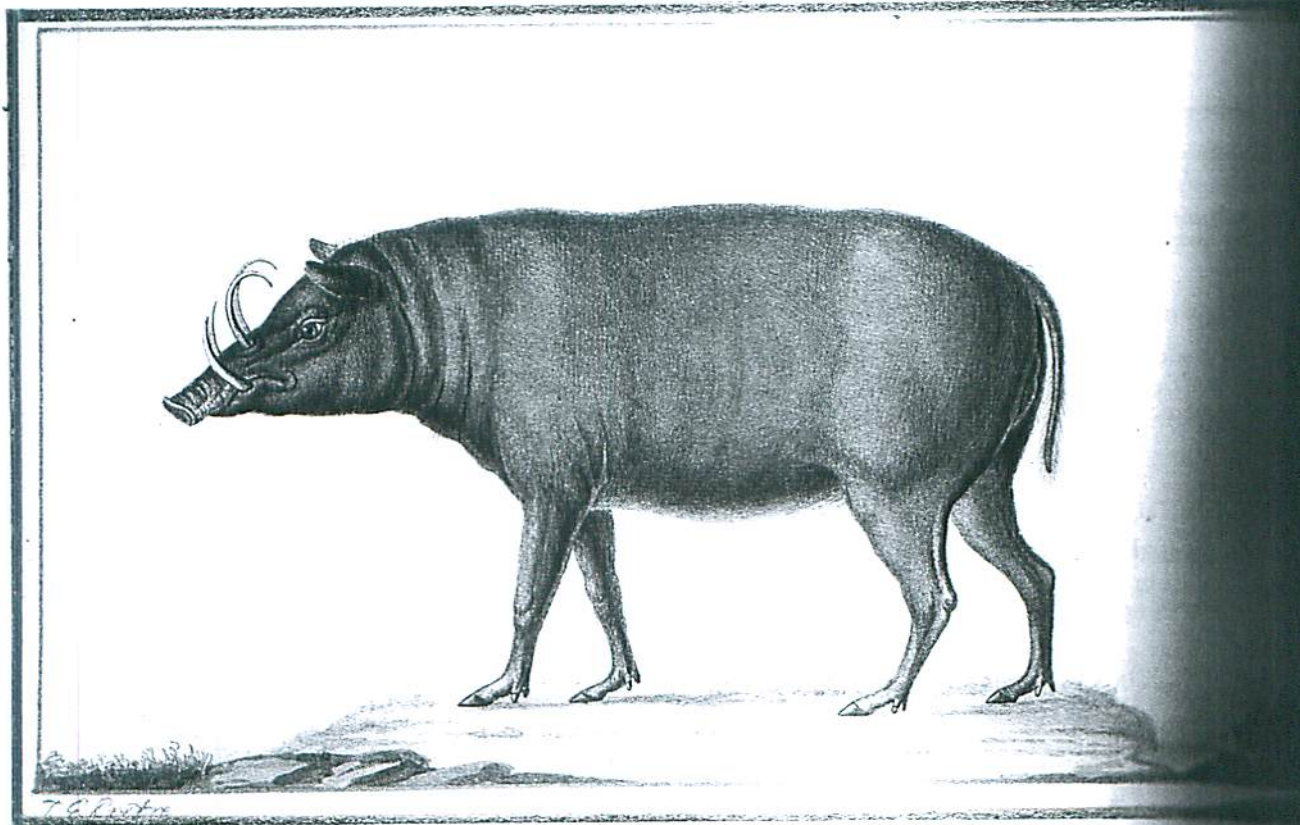
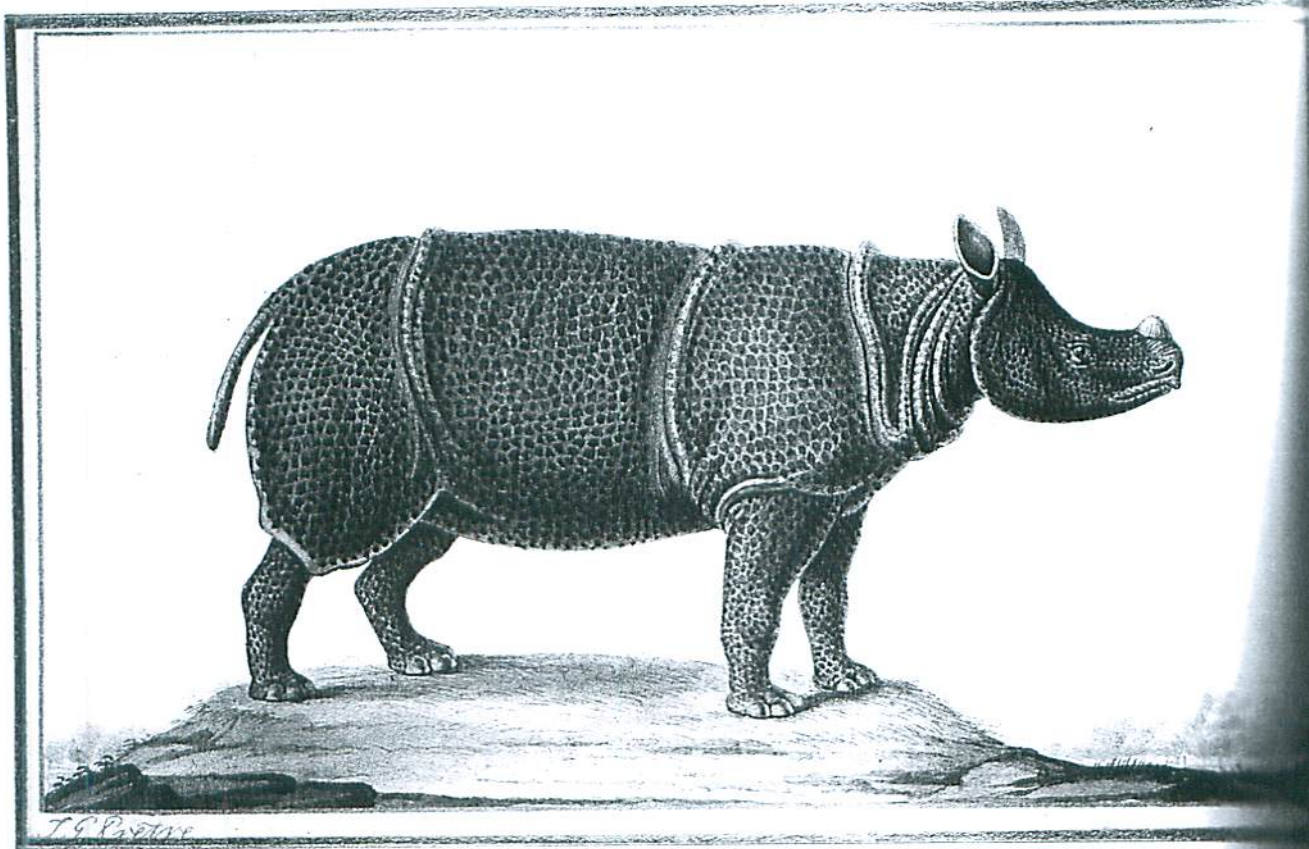
Le peintre naturaliste Roger Reboussin qui rencontra Marcel Jeanson et réalisa pour lui près de 400 gouaches de tous les oiseaux de France sur une période de plus de trente ans, déclara "C'est comme bibliophile pour tout ce qui concerne la chasse, et spécialement la Sauvagine et les Oiseaux en général, qu'il fut un chasseur et un collectionneur exceptionnel!"

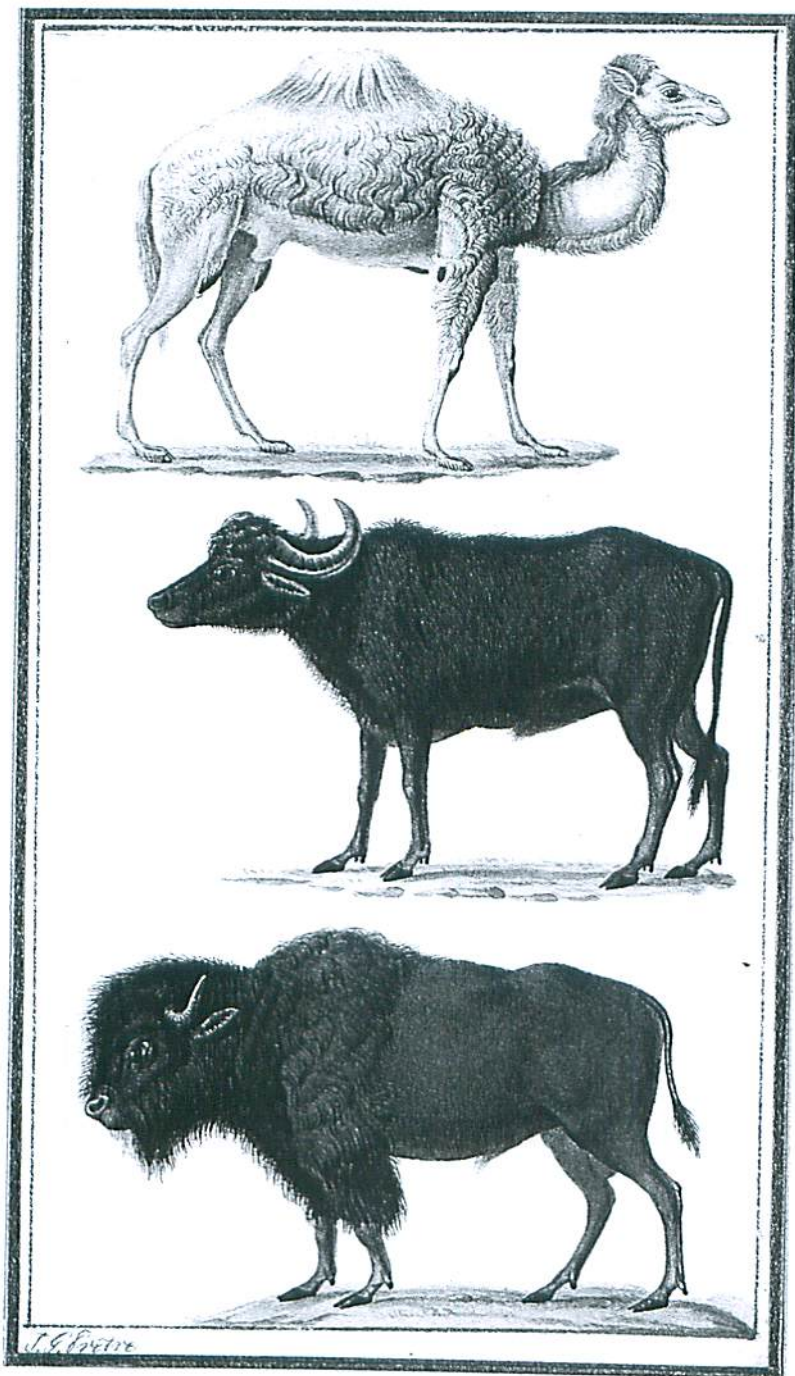
BUFFON'S MAMMALS

The following lots (203-239) are preparatory drawings made for Buffon's *Histoire naturelle générale et particulière des mammifères et des oiseaux découverts depuis la mort de Buffon*, par René-Primevère Lesson. Paris: Pourrat frères, Roret, 1834-1836. 11 vols. 8vo. and Buffon's *Oeuvres complètes, suivies de la classification comparée de Cuvier*, Lesson ... Paris: Pourrat frères, 1837. 7 vols. Large 8vo. The technique is generally black chalk, brush and grey and brown wash, watercolour, most of the drawings are heightened with white and/or gum arabic.

Les lot suivants (203-239) constituent les dessins préparatoires aux planches gravées de l'*Histoire naturelle* et des *Oeuvres* de Buffon citées précédemment. La technique utilisée est généralement la même; craie noire, pinceau et lavis de gris et de brun, aquarelle réhaussée de blanc et/ou de gomme arabique.







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Jean-Gabriel PRETRE (fl.1830-1840)

Cochon Babiroussa des Molucques - Babirusa - *Babyrousa babyrussa* [1] Dromadère - Dromedary - *Camelus sp.* / Buffle - Water Buffalo - *Bubalus sp.* [2] Rhinocéros de Java - Javan Rhinoceros - *Rhinoceros sondaicus* [3] each signed in gold "J.G Prêtre" in the margin, gold framing lines.

103 x 168 mm.; 168 x 88 mm.; 102 x 164 mm.

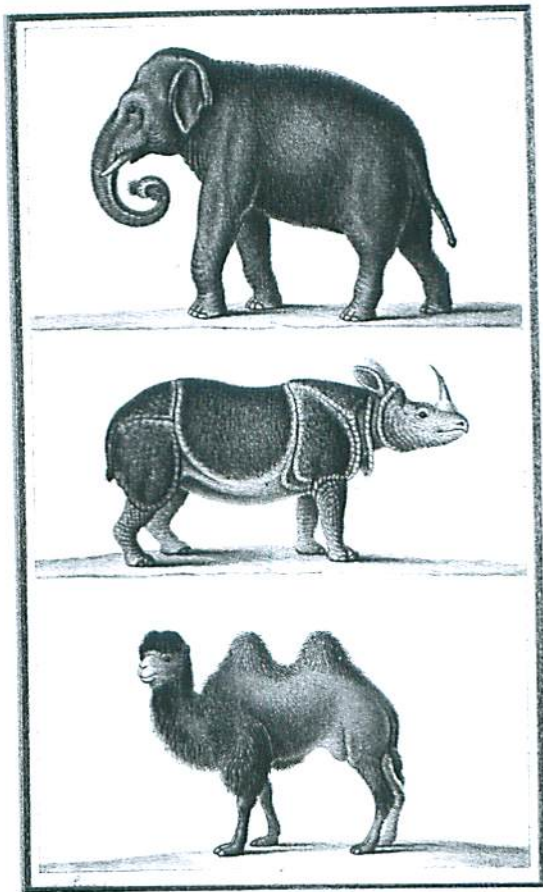
Three drawings on the same mount with gold borders, 395 x 606 mm.

£700-900

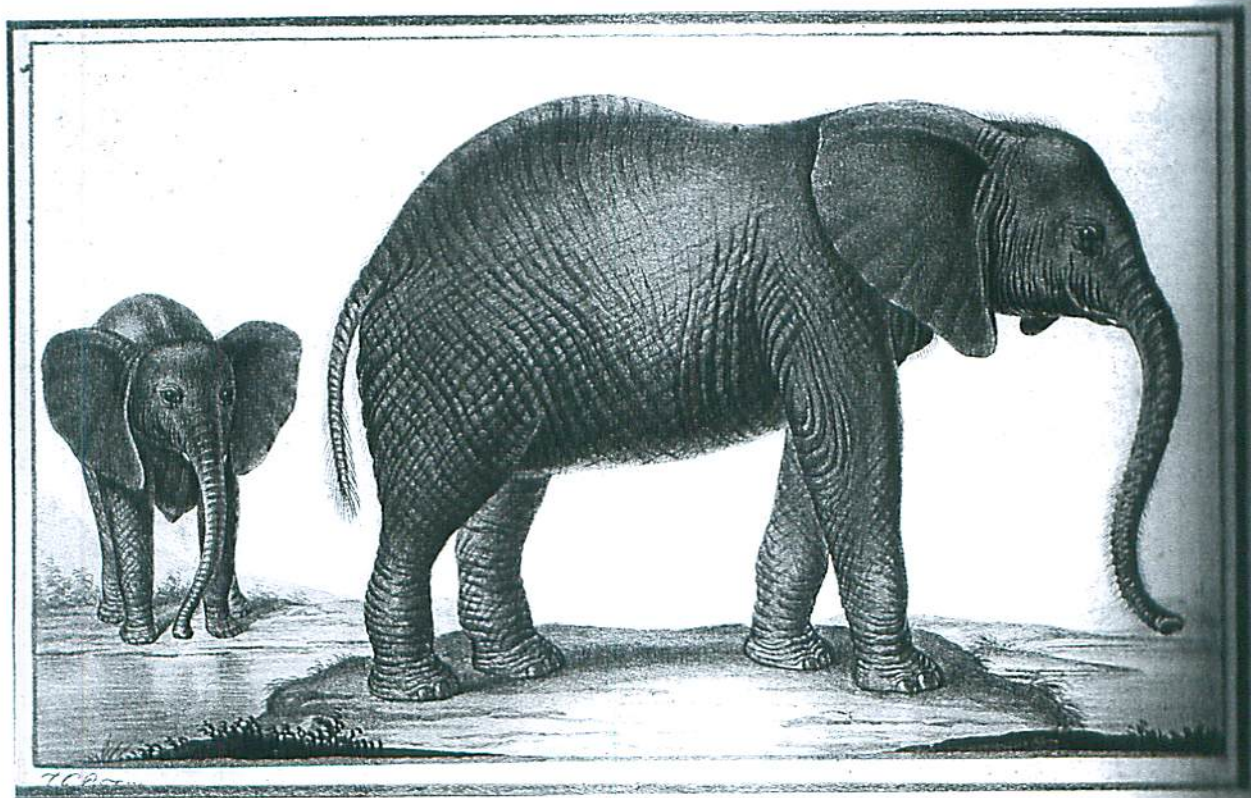
(3)

US\$1,200-1,400

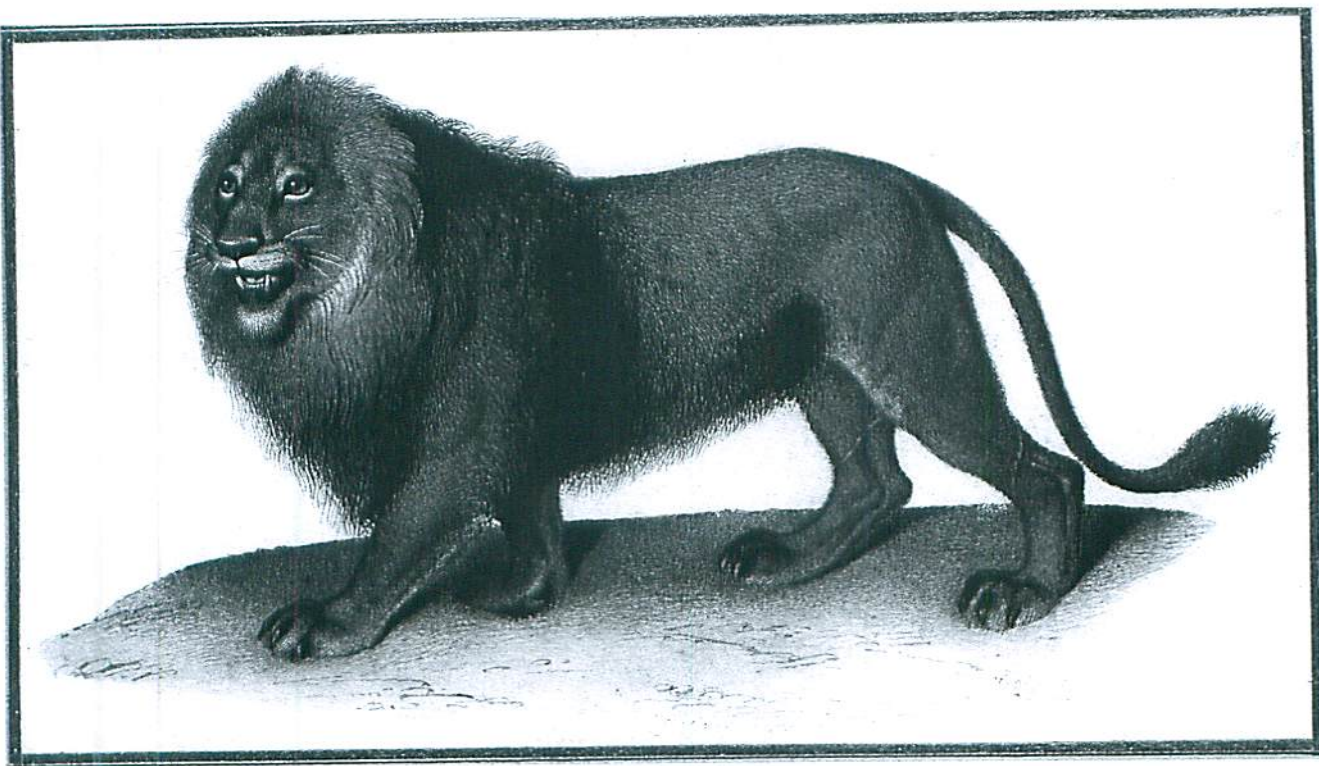
€1,200-1,500



239



239 (actual size)



(actual size)

239

Jean-Gabriel PRETRE (fl. 1830/40)

Deux éléphants d'Afrique - Two African Elephants [1] Lion - Lion [2], only the first signed "JG Prêtre" in gold in the margin, the first with gold framing lines.

103 x 164 mm.; 99 x 178 mm.

A. PREVOST

Eléphant - *Elephas maximus* / Rhinocéros - *Rhinoceros unicornis* / Chameau - Camel - *Camelus bactrianus* [3], signed "A. Prévost," in the margin, black chalk framing lines.

182 x 102 mm.

Three drawings on the same mount with gold borders, 395 x 606 mm.

(3)

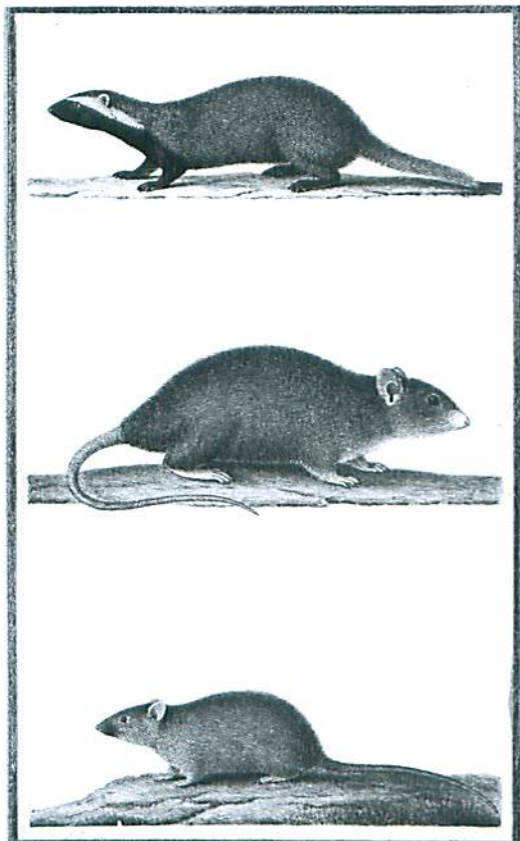
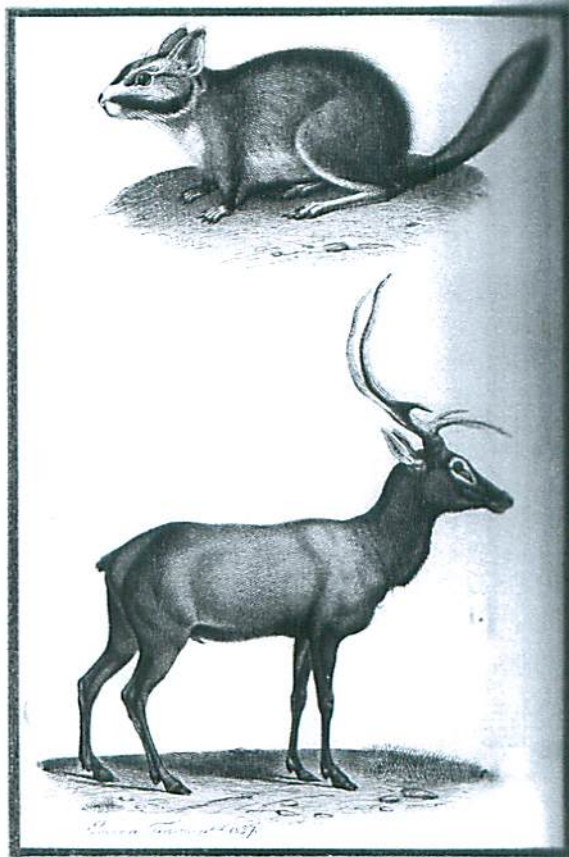
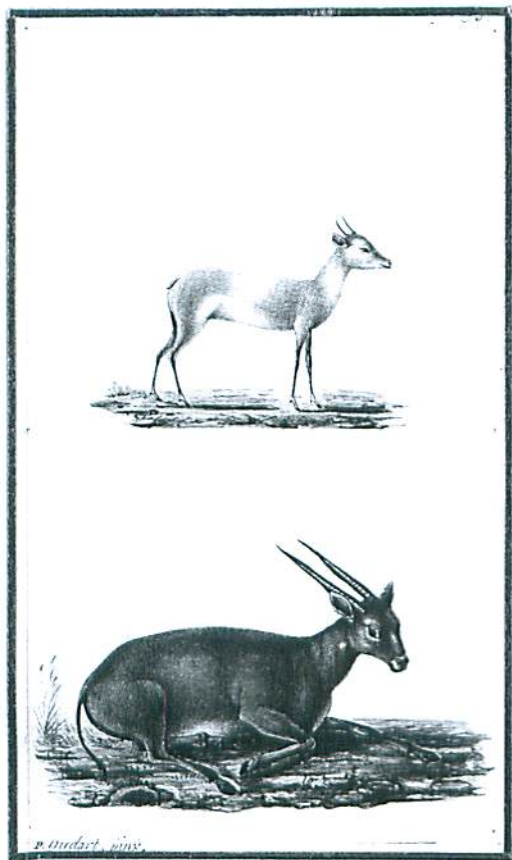
£2,000-3,000

US\$3,200-4,700

€3,400-5,000

See illustrations on p. 234

END OF SALE



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Edouard TRAVIES (1809-circa 1868)

Lagostome des montagnes - Mountain chinchilla - *Lagidium viscacia* / Elaphe rouge - Red deer - *Cervus elaphus* [1] signed and dated "Edouard Traviès pⁱⁿ 1837" in the margin.

164 x 107 mm.

A. PREVOST

Martre - Marten - *Martes sp.* / Rat - Rat - *Rattus rattus* / Souris - Mouse - *Mus* [2], black chalk framing lines.

172 x 102 mm.

Paul-Louis OUDART (1796-1850)

Antilope Pygmaeus - Antelope / Anoa - Antelope *Anoa depressicornis* [3] signed "P.Oudart. pinx." in the margin, black chalk framing lines.

162 x 93 mm.

Three drawings on the same mount with gold borders, 398 x 608 mm.

£800-1,200

US\$1,300-1,900

€1,400-2,000