

## **STRABO**

### **The Geography**

in Greek

#### **liber XVI. 4. 15**

Translated by Horace L. Jones, 1961

[Africa]

It also produces fierce leopards and the rhinoceros. The latter, the rhinoceros, is but little short of the elephant in size, not, as Artemidorus says, 'in length to the tail' (although he says that he saw the animal at Alexandria), but falls short, I might almost say, only about ... in height, judging at least from the one I saw; nor does their colour resemble that of box-wood, but rather that of the elephant; and it is of the size of a bull; and its shape is most nearly like that of the wild boar, particularly in its foreparts, except its nose, which has a snub horn harder than any bone; and it uses its horn as a weapon, just like the wild boar uses its tusks; and it also has two hard welts extending round from its chin to its belly, like the coils of serpents, one of which is on its withers and the other on its loins. Now I am giving this description from the one I saw; but Artemidorus goes on to explain that the creature is especially inclined to fight with the elephant for places of pasture, thrusting its forehead under the elephant and ripping up its stomach, unless it is prevented from so doing by the proboscis and tusks of the elephant.