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THE SOUTH ASIATIC HALL

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An Album of the Groups
in the
Vernay-Faunthorpe Hall of South Asiatic Mammals
of the
American Museum of Natural History

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Ed. 1M.

FOREWORD

WHEN the late Colonel J. C. Faunthorpe, former Commissioner of Lucknow and for more than twenty years with the Indian Civil Service, visited the American Museum of Natural History in 1918, he was deeply impressed with the method of taxidermy employed and the artistic manner in which animals were mounted in groups against specially prepared backgrounds. He noted, however, that the fauna of India was represented by but a few specimens and those not the most important. The American Museum therefore appeared to him to be one of the great institutions of the world in which to carry out his idea of securing a representative series of specimens of the fast vanishing mammals of Asia.

Very shortly afterwards Mr. Arthur S. Vernay, who was a friend of Colonel Faunthorpe, offered to cooperate in this undertaking and as a result plans were at once formulated for the necessary field work.

In a series of conferences with President Henry Fairfield Osborn, Colonel Faunthorpe carefully explained his plan which met with a hearty response, for President Osborn has been greatly concerned with the deplorable rapidity with which the wild animal life of the world, especially among the larger species, is being depleted. He assured Colonel Faunthorpe of his desire to join with him to the fullest in supplying this need of the Museum. The groups which are now displayed are the fruit of this generous enterprise.

In 1921 steps were taken to prepare for the first expedition to obtain these mammals, and since that time a number of expeditions have been made to secure group

material not previously represented. In 1927-1928, members of the Museum staff accompanied Mr. Vernay to India to secure data for backgrounds and to make studies of the actual localities for the habitat groups. In all of this work Mr. Vernay has assumed the cost and has devoted himself enthusiastically to the field work and to the preparation of the splendid exhibits in this Hall.

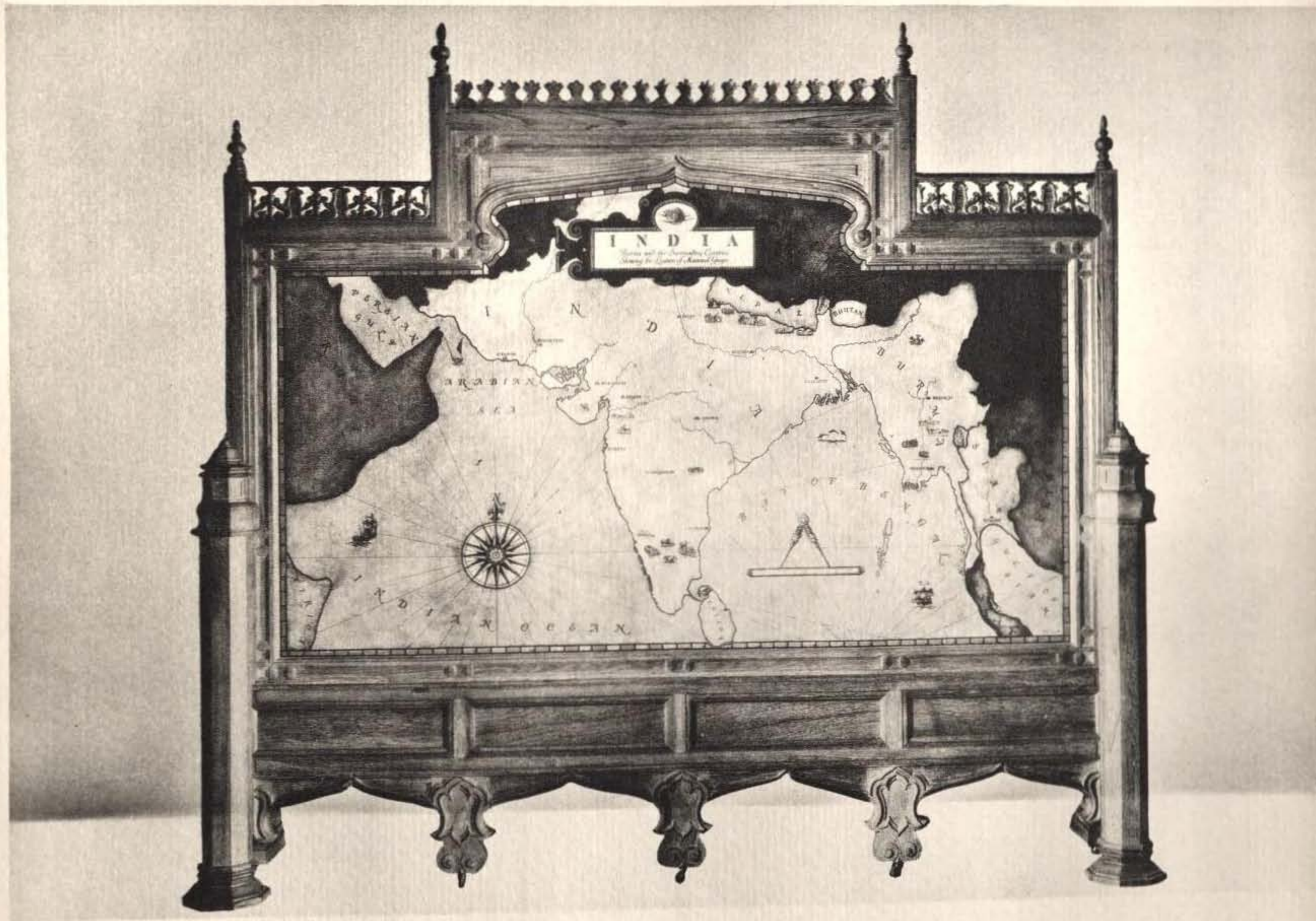
The specimens which are displayed form only a part of the collections obtained by Mr. Vernay and Colonel Faunthorpe during seven years of field work. There are others used to augment Museum study collections which aid materially in educational work.

One of the first and most important groups secured was that of the Indian elephant. Then followed in rapid succession the one-horned rhino, the gaur, chital, sambar and swamp deer. Later expeditions brought back fine examples of the barking deer, hog deer, musk deer, and also such important carnivores as the tiger, lion, leopard, hyena, sloth bear, wild dog and others reproduced in this series of illustrations.

Mr. Vernay and Colonel Faunthorpe were able to make such an unrivalled series of collections because of Colonel Faunthorpe's long and intimate knowledge of game conditions in India and, too, because of the hearty support of the government officials and native princes, who spared nothing to assist the collectors in gathering a truly representative series of the larger mammals of southern Asia so that in the years to follow the world might still view, as in their native habitats, a species which will have passed from the earth.

GEO. N. PINDAR.

The groups and architectural setting in the South Asiatic Hall, as here reproduced, were designed and executed under the direction of James L. Clark, Assistant Director in Charge of Preparation: the accessories under the direction of Albert E. Butler: the scientific direction under Harold E. Anthony, Curator of Mammals.



MAP OF INDIA, BURMA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY
SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE GROUPS

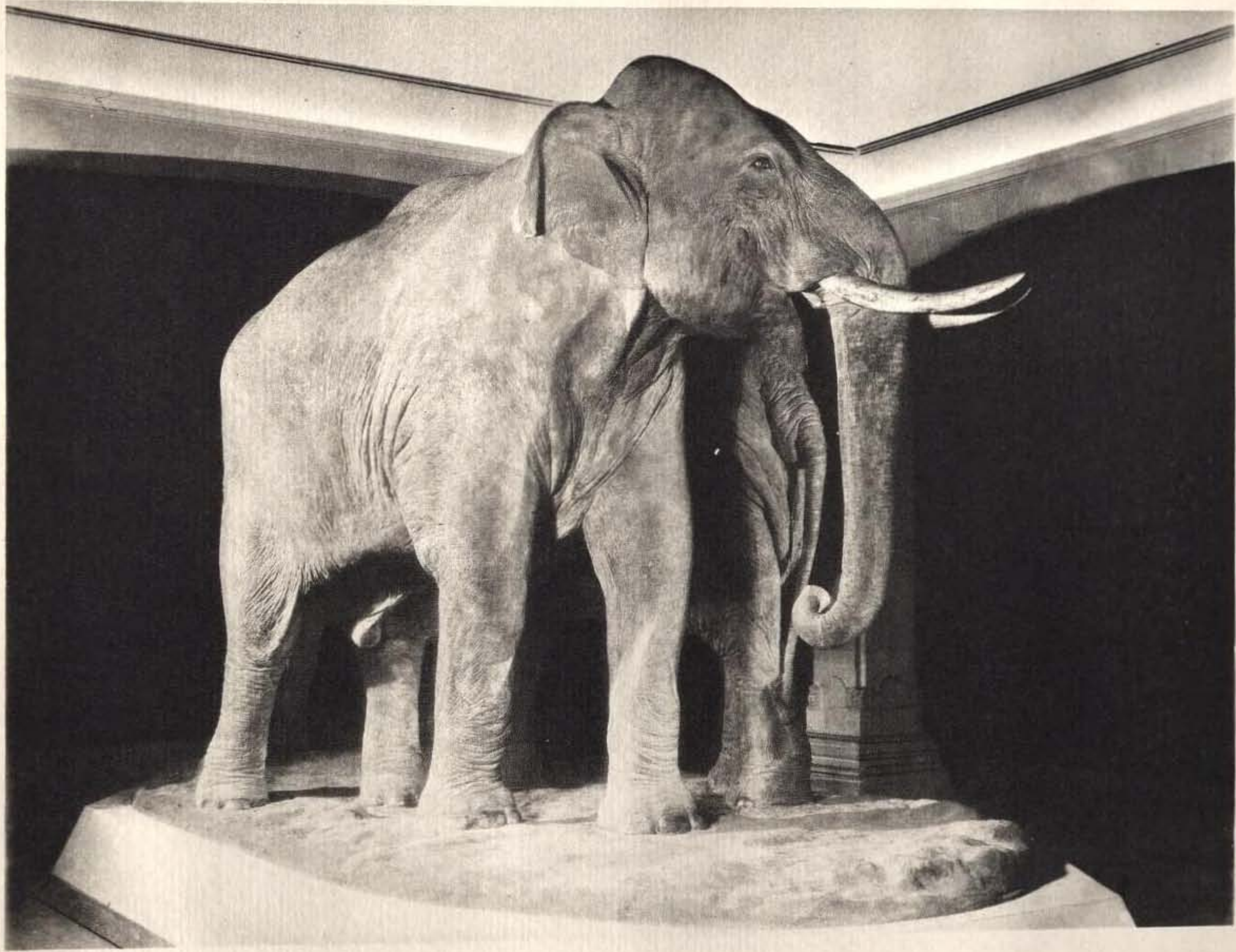
INDIAN ELEPHANT

(*Elephas maximus*)

The Indian Elephant ranges, in the wild state, from Ceylon, through parts of the Indian peninsula to the Himalayas, and down through Burma, Siam and the Malay countries into Sumatra and Borneo. These particular specimens were taken in the hills of Mysore.

The Indian Elephant differs from the African in its smaller size, smaller ears, higher forehead and more tractable disposition. It is the species which is commonly domesticated in southern Asia.

COLLECTED THROUGH THE COURTESY OF HIS HIGHNESS, THE MAHARAJAH OF
MYSORE, G.C.S.I., NEWAB OF JUNGADH
MOUNTED BY LOUIS JONAS



TIGER

(*Felis Tigris*)

The Tiger is the largest of living cats and because of its size confines itself to hunting large game such as deer, pig and antelope, and sometimes kills large cattle, ordinarily first disabling the animal by hamstringing it. It rarely ascends trees and is probably incapable of climbing vertically.

Permission to collect these specimens was made possible by The Most Honourable the Marquess of Reading, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., D.C.L., LL.D., Viceroy of India (1921-1926), Special Envoy and H.B.M. Ambassador to Washington (1917-1919).

ANIMALS BY JOHN W. HOPE

BACKGROUND BY C. C. ROSENKRANZ



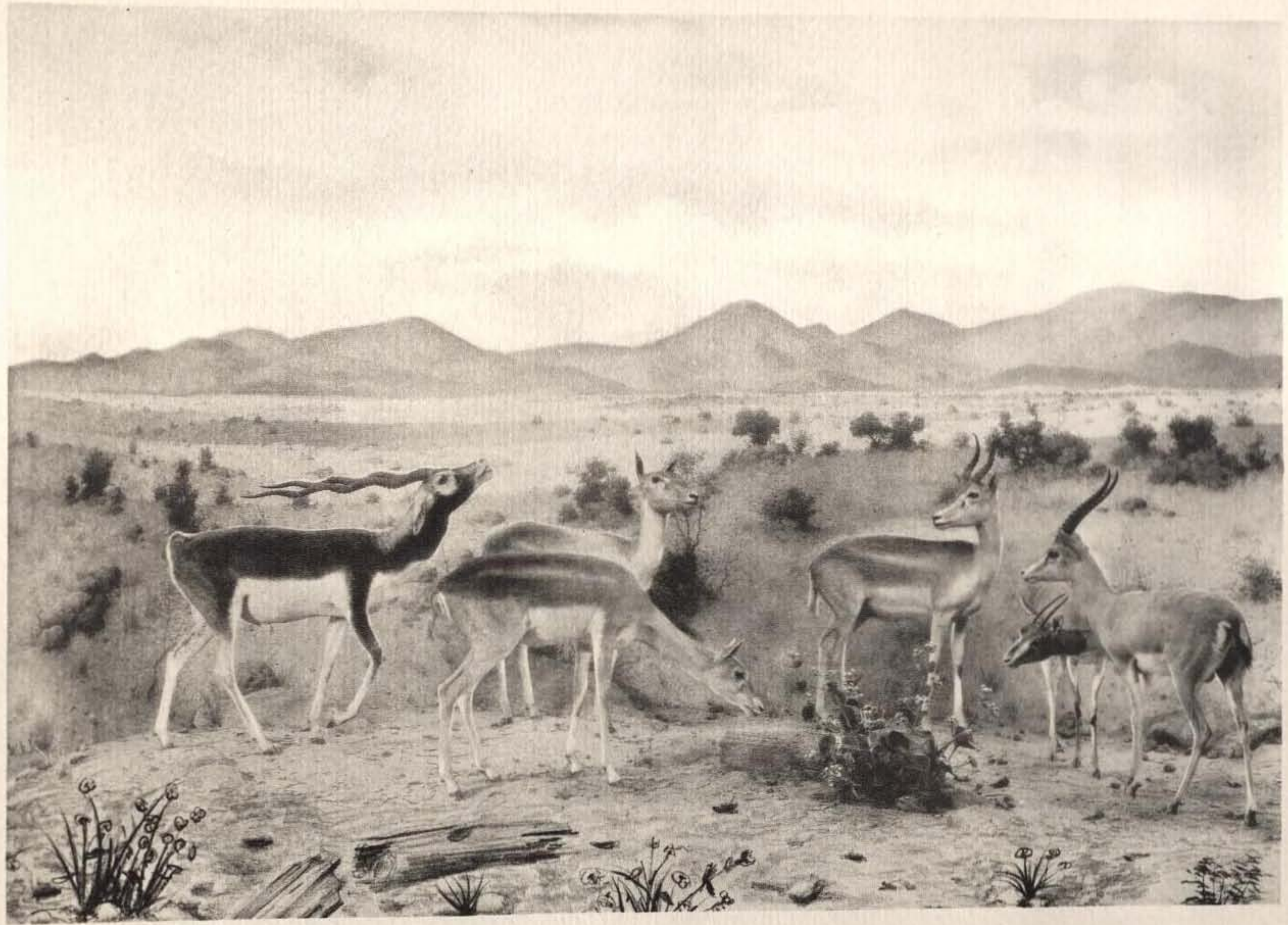
BLACK BUCK AND CHINKARA
(*Antelope cervicapra* and *Gazella bennetti*)

The Black Buck (left) is the most abundant of Indian antelopes. Only the males are equipped with horns. Color differences between the sexes of animals do not occur frequently and are present among the groups in this collection only in the Black Buck, the Nilgai and the Gibbon.

The Chinkara, or Indian Gazelle, represented in the group by the two animals at the right, a male and a female, is less gregarious than the Black Buck and usually runs in groups of from two to six. Unlike other Asiatic Gazelles, the female has horns. Both the Black Buck and the Chinkara are found in most parts of India, but are unknown in the country east of the Bay of Bengal.

For permission to collect the Chinkara, the Museum is indebted to Major-General, His Highness the Maharajah of Bikanir, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., A.D.C., L.I.D.

ANIMALS BY WALTER ESCHERICH AND JOHN W. HOPE
BACKGROUND BY WILLIAM R. LEIGH



SLOTH BEAR
(*Melursus ursinus*)

The Sloth Bear is perhaps the most dangerous animal living in the Indian forests. The group is represented as prowling about a termite's nest near the Nepal border.

ANIMALS BY WALTER ESCHERICH



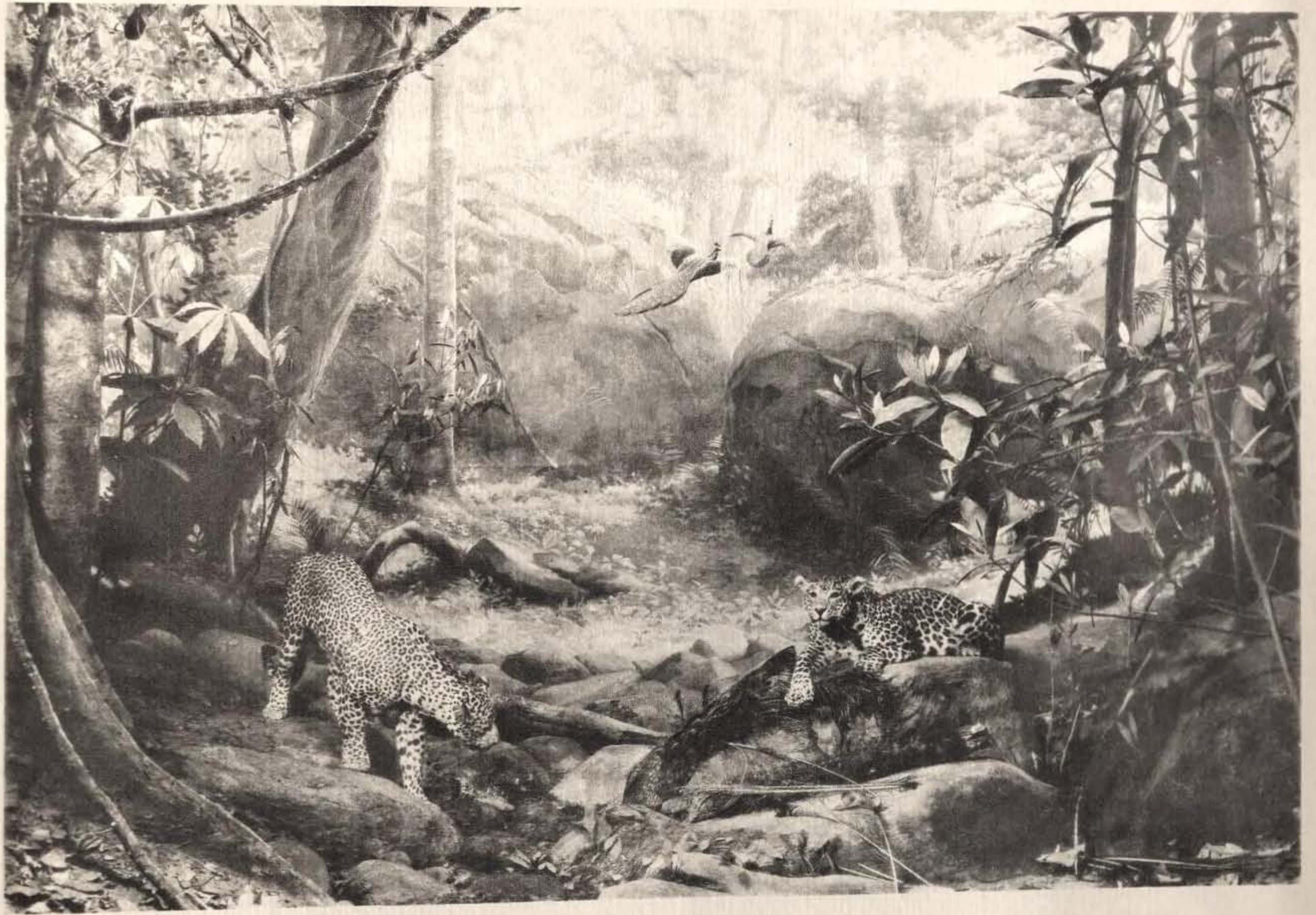
LEOPARD

(Felis pardus)

The Leopard being smaller than the Tiger, is far more lithe and active. Unlike the latter, it is, too, a good climber. The Leopard is bolder and more courageous than its larger, striped cousin. If wounded it will charge time and time again with great savagery.

The Leopard occurs over most of Asia except Siberia and high Tibet. The Asiatic Leopard differs from the African Leopard only in minor characteristics. In the jungle it lives on pea fowl, monkeys and many other kinds of small animals.

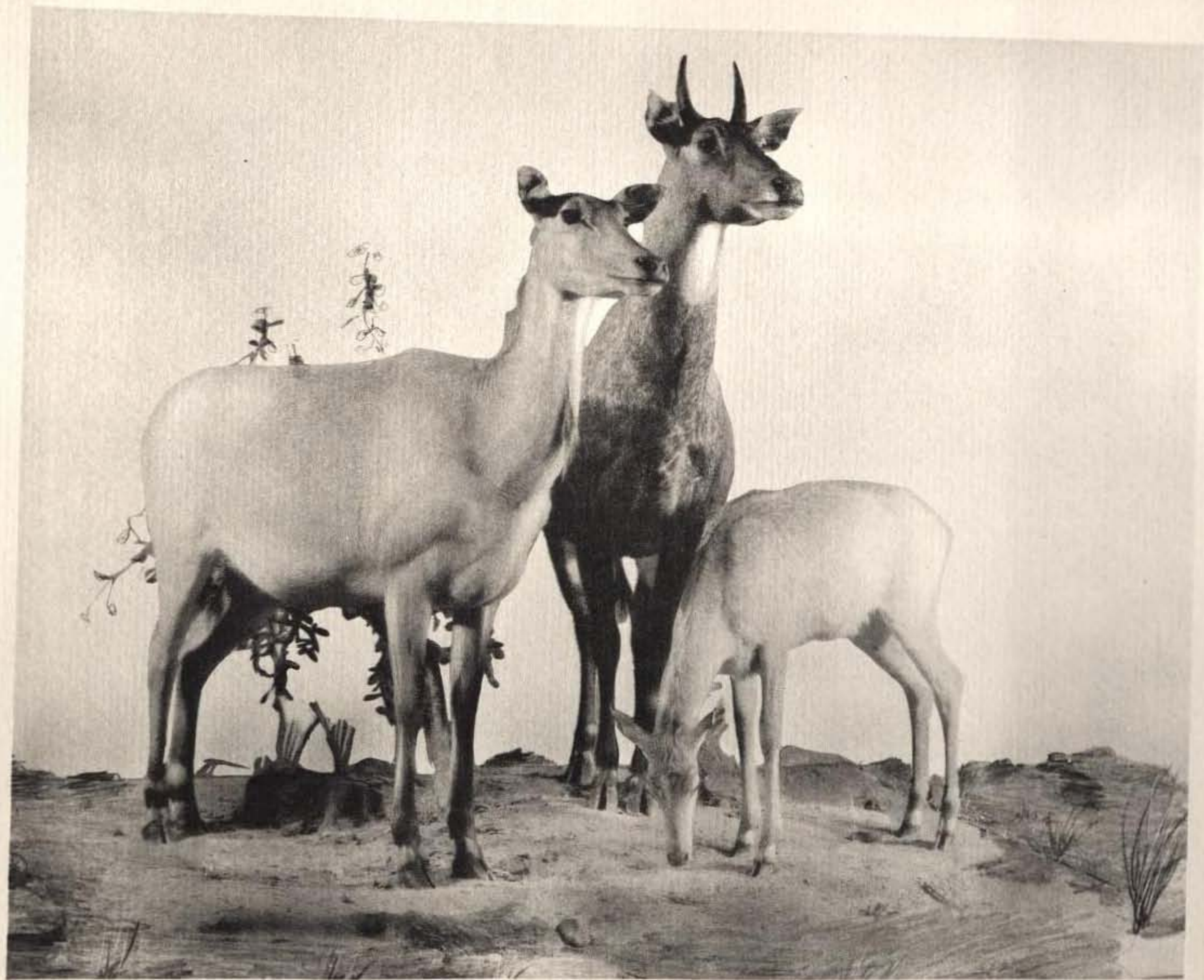
ANIMALS BY JOHN W. HOPE
BACKGROUND BY F. L. JAQUES



NILGAI, OR BLUE BULL
(*Boselaphus tragocamelus*)

This is the largest of Asiatic Antelopes. It is remarkable among mammals for the dissimilarity of coloration between the sexes. It is widespread over the Indian Peninsula.

ANIMALS BY JAMES L. CLARK



SAMBAR AND SWAMP DEER, OR BARASINGHA

(*Cervus unicolor* and *Cervus duvauceli*)

The Sambar is the largest of Indian Deer. It is more widely and generally distributed than any other species of deer of the region.

The Swamp Deer is confined to the Indian Mainland up to the base of the Himalayas. It is restricted to the vicinity of water, where because of the poor footing it is usually hunted from elephant back. The group represents a scene in a marshy tract in the Tarai, along the foothills of the Himalayas.

The Sambar were collected through the courtesy of the late Newab Sultan Jahan, Begum of Bhopal, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.I., G.B.E. For the Swamp Deer the Museum is indebted to the Maharani Surat Kunwar, O.B.E., of Karigarh, Oudh.

SAMBAR BY JAMES L. CLARK; SWAMP DEER BY J. W. HOPE
BACKGROUND BY C. C. ROSENKRANZ



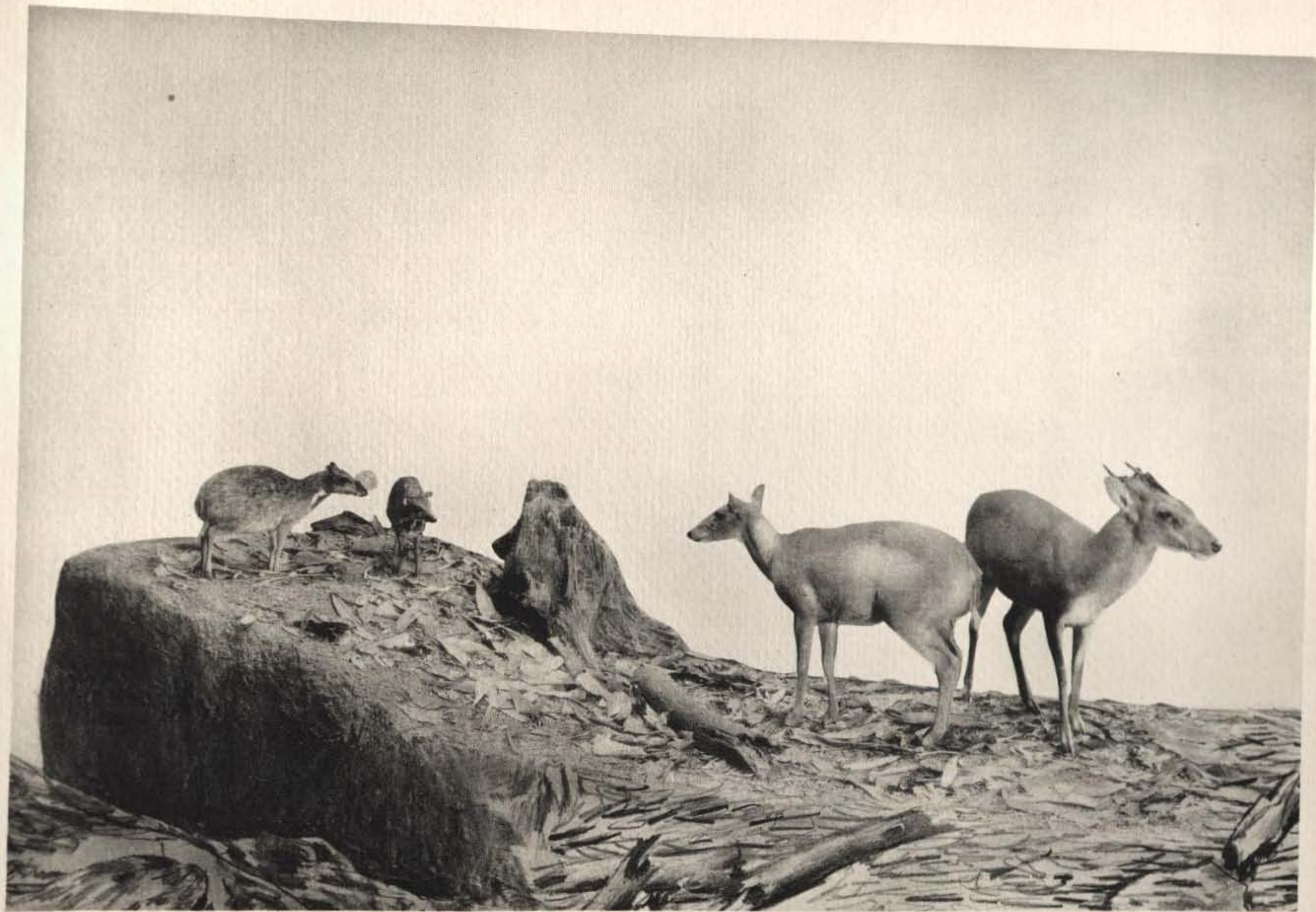
MUNTJAC AND SPOTTED CHEVROTAIN

(*Muntiacus muntjac* and *Tragulus meminna*)

The Muntjac, or Barking Deer, is notable for the long, slender bony pedicles which support its small antlers. The pedicles continue down over its face as converging ridges which give the animal the name of Rib-faced Deer. The male possesses large tusks which project beyond the margin of the upper lip. These tusks are used in defense. There is a large scent gland in the skin of the forehead, as well as the more usual pair beneath the eyes.

The Chevrotain, or "Mouse Deer", as it is often misnamed, is not a deer, though it has some of the same characteristics as the Cervidae. It chews the cud and has a divided stomach. However, the Chevrotain has no antlers and the bones of its feet are different from those of deer.

ANIMALS BY JOHN W. HOPE



GAUR

(*Bos gaurus*)

The Gaur frequents the hilly country and occurs up to 6,000 feet, but is not found in the lowlands inhabited by the Water Buffalo. Though the tallest ox in the world, the Gaur is shy and inoffensive, not ferocious. However, having poor sight and hearing, it may charge suddenly, and solitary bulls are likely to be dangerous if unexpectedly disturbed. The range of the Gaur extends over the hilly sections of the Indian Peninsula, Burma and the Malay Peninsula.

ANIMALS BY LOUIS JONAS

BACKGROUND BY C. C. ROSENKRANZ



FOUR-HORNED ANTELOPE AND INDIAN SMOOTH OTTER

(*Tetraceros quadricornis* and *Lutra macrodus*)

The Four-Horned Antelope is the only living four-horned wild mammal, though fossil mammals with four horns are known, and a variety of domestic sheep has developed this double number. It is found in pairs or small groups in hilly, lightly wooded country near water. It is unknown in Ceylon and east of the Bay of Bengal.

The Otters, of which several species are known in India, are essentially weasels which have taken to water and grown larger. Their toes are webbed and they are good swimmers and divers. In some parts of Asia, Otters are kept tame and used for catching fish or to drive them into nets.

ANTELOPE BY JOHN W. HOPE

OTTER BY RAYMOND POTTER



TSINE, OR BANTING

(*Bos sondaicus birmanicus*)

This is the characteristic wild ox of the Malay region. It is found through Burma down over the Malay Peninsula. It is replaced by other races on the islands of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bálí. The species has little trace of the shoulder hump seen in other Asiatic oxen and carries no dewlap. It is said to be mute except for a snort of warning. The Banting is probably one of the progenitors of domestic cattle though no modern breed may be pointed to as a direct descendant.

To the left of this group is a pair of Jungle Fowl, a species certainly the ancestral form of some, if not of all, of our domestic fowls.

Group collected through the courtesy of Sir Harcourt Butler, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.C.L., I.C.S.

ANIMALS BY JOHN W. HOPE
BACKGROUND BY A. A. JANSSON



HOG DEER, OR PARA AND INDIAN WILD BOAR

(*Cervus porcinus* and *Sus cristatum*)

The Hog Deer is a small relative of the Sambar. It inhabits the river flats and prefers tracts where the grass is of moderate height. It is found chiefly on the plains of the Indus, in the Ganges Valley and in Burma.

The Indian Wild Boar is much like the European Wild Boar, but differs in color and size. The true wild boars are typical of the Eurasian mainland and outlying islands. This particular species is typical of the Indo-Malayan region.

ANIMALS BY WALTER ESCHERICH



SAMBAR ATTACKED BY WILD DOGS

(*Cervus unicolor* and *Cyon dukhunensis*)

The Sambar is a large deer with three-pronged antlers as is typical of the rusine group of deer. The Indian Sambar and its close relatives occur over a large section of wooded Southern Asia, and is an important food resource to many carnivorous mammals such as the tiger and the wild dog.

The Wild Dog, because of its great numbers and the relentlessness with which the packs—sometimes numbering forty or more—hunt down the game of the forest, is considered the scourge of the land.

The stag was collected through the courtesy of the late Newab Sultan Jahan, Begum of Bhopal, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.I., G.B.E.

ANIMALS BY R. H. ROCKWELL
BACKGROUND BY C. C. ROSENKRANZ



LION

(*Felis leo*)

The Lion of India is generally conceded to be identical with that of North Africa. It was formerly widespread in southern Asia. In India, it is now confined to the Gir Forest, an area of about 400 square miles, where the species is rigidly protected.

Collected by the courtesy of His Highness, Sir Mahabat Khan, K.C.S.I., Newab of Junagadh.

MOUNTED BY JAMES L. CLARK



WATER BUFFALO

(*Bos bubalis*)

The Water Buffalo is the animal of grassy plains where water is abundant and where they make the mud wallows to which they are partial. The Buffalo usually live in large herds which split into smaller ones during the breeding season. It is this form of Buffalo that is widely domesticated. They are used as draught and milch cattle. Within the range of the wild form, which includes the Indian Peninsula and Burma, the tame herds interbreed with the wild individuals.

ANIMALS BY WALTER ESCHERICH
BACKGROUND BY WILLIAM R. LEIGH



SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS

(Rhinoceros sumatrensis)

This species, the smallest of living rhinoceroses, though bearing two horns, is more nearly allied to the single-horned Indian rhinoceros than to the African two-horned forms. Though sometimes called the hairy rhinoceros, the hair on the adult is thin and scattered, the ears and tail being the only truly hairy parts. The young of the species is possessed of a luxurious coat.

The territory of this rhinoceros formerly extended from Assam, through Burma and Siam and the Malay Peninsula, into the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

For permission to take these specimens, the Museum is indebted to Sir Harcourt Butler, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.C.L., I.C.S.

ANIMALS BY R. H. ROCKWELL



THAMIN, OR ELD'S DEER

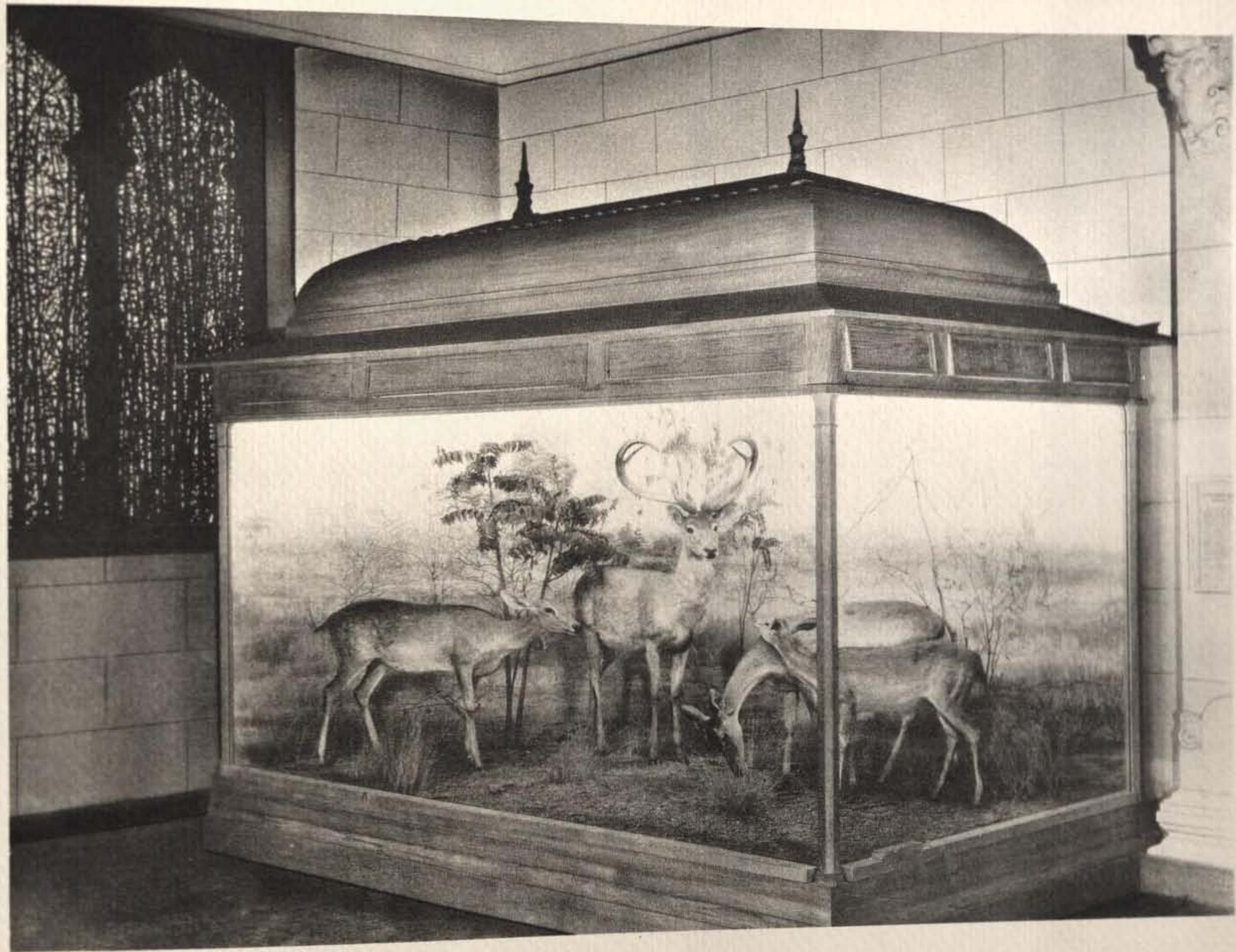
(*Cervus eldi*)

The Thamin is remarkable chiefly for the graceful curve of its antlers. The usual sound made by the Eld's Deer is a barking grunt; that of the stag is longer and louder than that of the hind. The flat alluvial tracts east of the Bay of Bengal and in the Malay Peninsula constitute its chief range.

For permission to collect these animals, the Museum is indebted to Sir Harcourt Butler, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., D.C.L., I.C.S. Governor of United Provinces (1918-1922) and Burma (1922-1927).

ANIMALS BY JOHN W. HOPE

BACKGROUND BY F. L. JAQUES



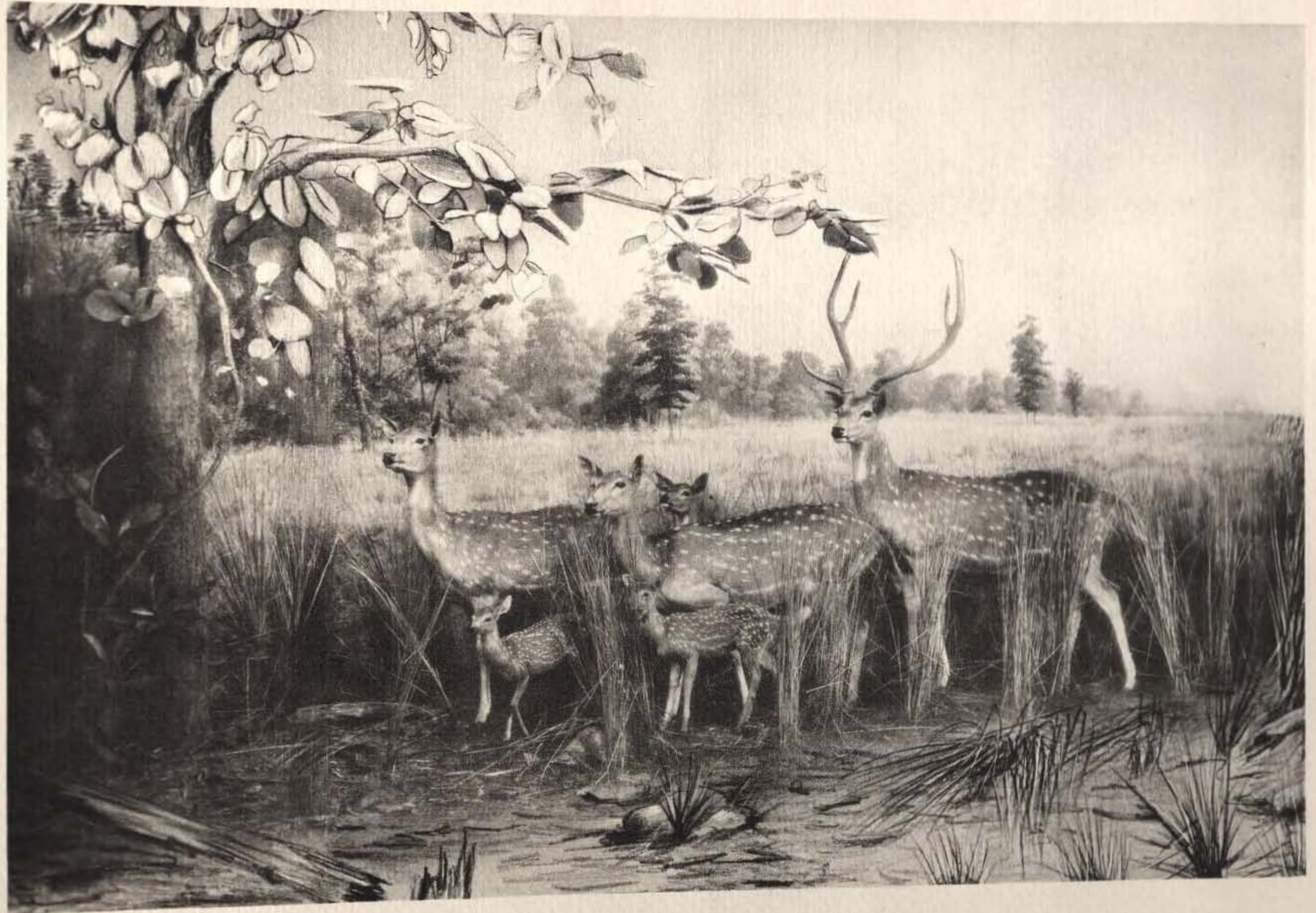
CHITAL OR AXIS DEER

(Cervus axis)

The Chital is generally considered the most beautiful of all the deer. Its coat is permanently spotted, a condition occurring only in the young of most of the deer family. The species occurs over much of the peninsula of India from the foothills of the Himalayas into the Island of Ceylon.

Collected through the courtesy of Maharani Surat Kunwar, O.B.E., of Karigarh, Oudh.

ANIMALS BY CLARENCE ALBRECHT
BACKGROUND BY C. C. ROSENKRANZ



INDIAN RHINOCEROS

(*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

The great one-horned Indian Rhinoceros is characterized by its thickened skin which has the appearance of riveted armor plate, and which was so shown in the famous wood engraving by Albrecht Dürer. Although once widespread in the peninsula of India this two-ton herbivore is now practically confined to the grassy jungles and muddy lowlands of the alluvial plains of Assam.

The specimens in the group were collected near the border of Nepal.

For permission to take these specimens the Museum is greatly indebted to The Late General His Highness Sir Chandra Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.C.L.

ANIMALS BY R. H. ROCKWELL
BACKGROUND BY A. A. JANSSON



HOOLOCK GIBBON

(*Hylobates hoolock*)

The Gibbon is the smallest, as well as the most arboreal, of the anthropoid or man-like apes. Though capable of walking upright, it is by habit thoroughly arboreal and travels chiefly by swinging with its long arms from branch to branch or tree to tree. The Gibbon has been known to swing a distance of forty feet and catch the branch with safety. When swinging along, the food is sometimes carried by the feet.

The Hoolock Gibbon inhabits Upper Burma, Assam and Southern Yunan. Other species occur elsewhere in the Malayan region.

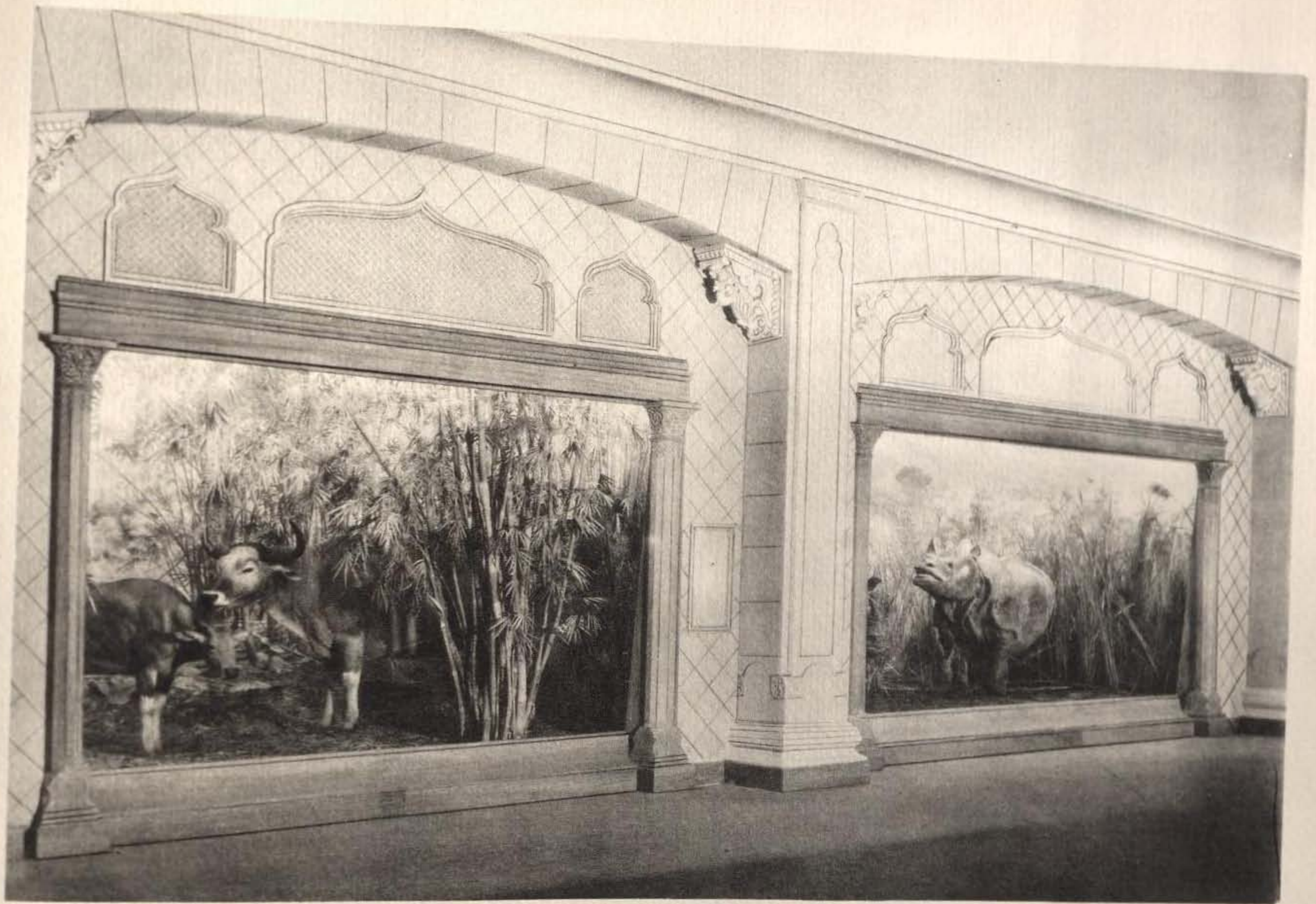
ANIMALS BY ROBERT ROCKWELL

BACKGROUND BY A. A. JANSSON

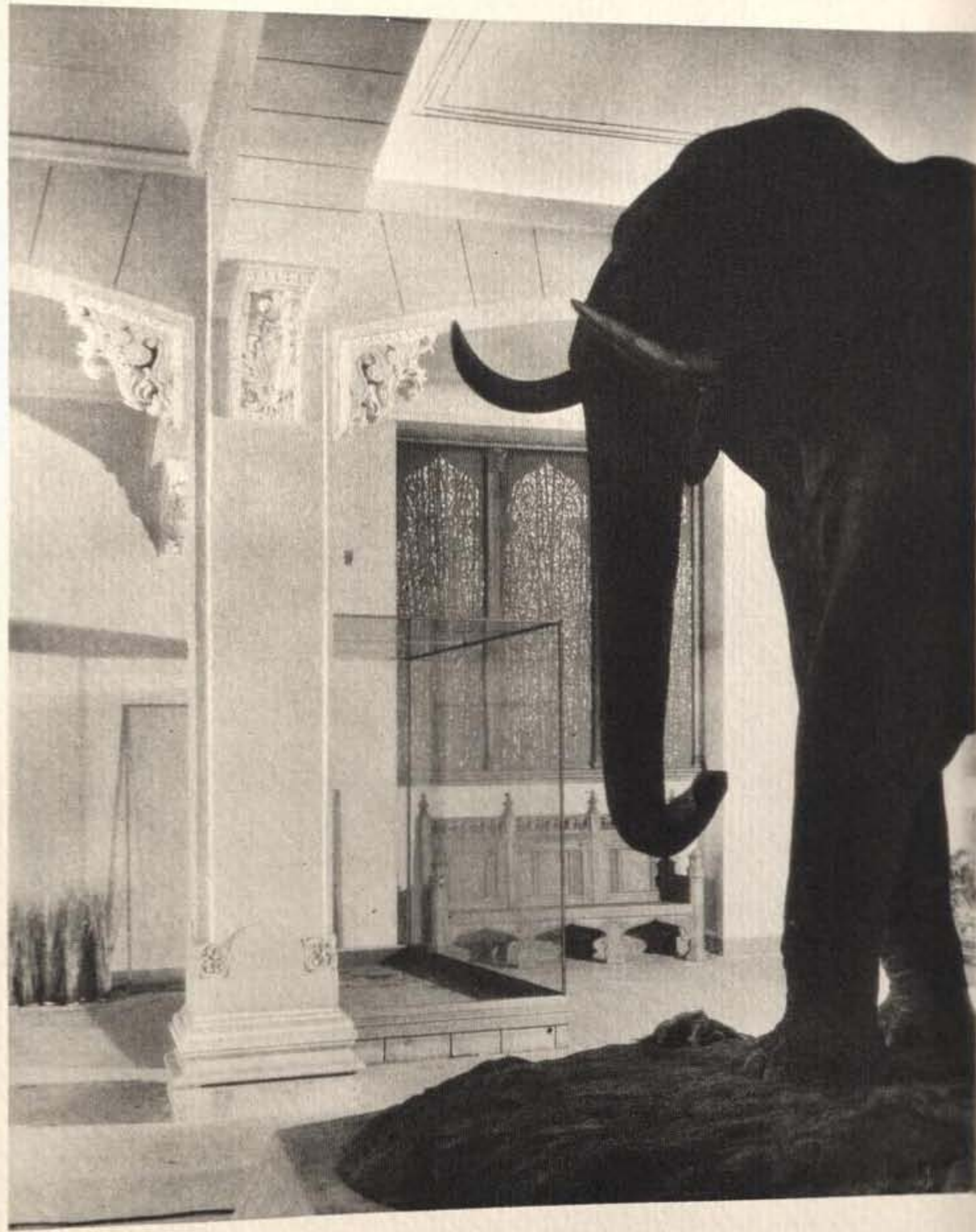


ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS OF HALL AND GROUP CASES

The ornamentation in the Hall is unobtrusive, but the designs have been very carefully selected and executed. They are faithful representations of the older Indian architecture.



A detail of the lateral alcoves showing an ornamental bench of teak, and the effective bamboo pattern of the window screen.



SCREEN

A reproduction of an old sporting print of a tiger hunt.



