

**SOURCES
ON
THE THREE RHINOCEROSSES
LIVING IN LONDON
IN THE EXETER 'CHANGE AND THE LYCEUM
FROM 1790 TO 1814**

BY

**KEES ROOKMAAKER
JOHN GANNON
JIM MONSON**

2015

1. CLARK'S RHINOCEROS 1790-1793

[DEPICTIONS](#)
[TRANSCRIPTS](#)

2. PIDCOCK'S RHINOCEROS 1799-1800

[DEPICTIONS](#)
[TRANSCRIPTS](#)

3. POLITO'S RHINOCEROS 1810-1814

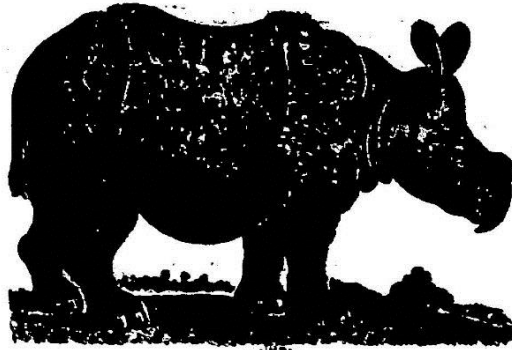
[DEPICTIONS](#)
[TRANSCRIPTS](#)

SOURCES IN SUPPORT OF THE PAPER:

Rookmaaker, L.C., Gannon, John and Monson, Jim, 2015. The lives of three rhinoceroses exhibited in London 1790-1814. *Archives of natural history* 42 (2): 279–300, figs 1-8. [abbreviated ANH]

1. CLARK'S RHINOCEROS

CLARK'S RHINOCEROS – DEPICTIONS



**The RHINOCEROS,
OR
Real UNICORN,
Just arrived at the
LYCEUM,
NEAR
EXETER - CHANGE
In the STRAND,**

FROM the Empire of the GREAT Mogul, he was presented to an English Nobleman by an EASTERN RAJAH, as a Rarity seldom to be met with, and His Lordship has complimented the curious of his native Country by presenting him to a Gentleman who has carefully brought him home for their Inspection

HE is about two Years old in perfect Health

THIS wonderful Beast with his Impenetrable COAT OF MAIL and other singularities is so fully described and admired by Naturalists in general, that we presume it is sufficient to inform those who Contemplate and Admire the boundless Productions of the Creation, that this Herculean Quadrupede is to be seen as above.

Admittance One Shilling each Person.

Figure C1. Handbill, Rhinoceros “Just arrived at the Lyceum”, [1790] (British Library, Lysons Collectanea).

“The rhinoceros, or real unicorn, just arrived at the Lyceum, near Exeter-Change in the Strand. From the Empire of the Great Mogul, he was presented to an English Nobleman by an Eastern Rajah, as a Rarity seldom to be met with, and His Lordship has complimented the curious of his native Country by presenting him to a Gentleman who has carefully brought him home for their Inspection. He is about two Years old in perfect Health. This wonderful Beast with his impenetrable Coat of Mail and other singularities is so fully described and admired by Naturalists in general, that we presume it is sufficient to inform those who Contemplate and Admire the boundless productions of the Creation, that this Herculean Quadrupede is to be seen as above. Admittance One Shilling each Person.”



Figure C2. Handbill, Young rhinoceros with short horn extended in pencil outline, 1790 (John Johnson Collection, Oxford).
“The Young Rhinoceros or real Unicorn, Arrived in London June the 5th 1790 from the Empire of the Great Mogul, taken from life at the Lyceum near Exeter ‘Change in the Strand.’”



Figure in ANH figure 1. Handbill, Young rhinoceros with long horn (probably imaginary), 1790 (Victoria & Albert Museum, Enthoven Collection).
“The Young Rhinoceros or real Unicorn, Arrived in London June the 5th 1790 from the Empire of the Great Mogul, taken from life at the Lyceum near Exeter ‘Change in the Strand.’”

TO BE SEEN,
At the LYCEUM,
In the STRAND:
THAT most WONDERFUL of all Animals which has so much
engaged the Attention of Naturalists for Ages past,
The RHINOCEROS,
WHO is more compact in his formation and stronger made than the ELEPHANT,
and has an impenetrable COAT OF MAIL, a formidable HORN on his Nose
and other singularities which have attracted the Observant, the Wise and the Great,
Time immemorial; therefore in this enlightened Age, when the Works of the Great
Creator, as to their Perfections and Variations, are so deservedly admired, it is pre-
sumed a sight of this formidable Beast in Armour, which forms so conspicuous a Link
in Creation's Chain, will please every rational Beholder. Admittance One Shilling.

A L S O,

Three Stupendous Ostriches,
Lately arrived from the Coast of Barbary
" Whose like Earth bears not on her spacious Face,
" Alone in Nature stands the Wonderous Race."
These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feather'd Tribe in
the whole Creation, one of them measures upwards of eight Feet high, although but
a young One, in the Memory of Man three such extraordinary Birds have not been seen
together in this Kingdom, neither is there another of the Kind in England.
Admittance only Six-Pence each Person
And last, though not the least,
Is the ROYAL
Lincolnshire O X,
Which is allowed by the best Judges to be the LARGEST and FATTEST ever
seen in this or any other Country, he is Nineteen Hands high and three Feet four
Inches across the Hips, in short, this Living Mountain strikes every Beholder with
Wonder. This Animal has apparently acquired these Superiorities by his own Saga-
city, his food is Hay, which he Dips in Water that stands within his reach, before he
Eats it, This act of Rationality in the Brute is pleasing, its Effects are obvious, and
may prove Instruction to the Feeders of Cattle. Admittance One Shilling each Person.

Figure C4. Handbill advertising animals in the Lyceum, 1790-1791 (from Milner 1989).

To be seen, at the Lyceum, In the Strand: That most wonderful of all Animals which has so much engaged the Attention of Naturalists for Ages past, The Rhinoceros, Who is more compact in his formation and stronger made than the Elephant, and has an impenetrable Coat of Mail, a formidable Horn on his Nose and other singularities which have attracted the Observant, the Wise and the Great, [since] immemorial; therefor in this enlightened Age, when the Works of the Great Creator, as to their Perfections and Variations, are so deservedly admired, it is presumed a sight of this formidable Beast in Armour, which forms so conspicuous a Link in Creations Chain, will please every rational Beholder. Admittance One Shilling.

ALSO, Three Stupendous Ostriches, Lately arrived from the Coast of Barbary
"Whose like Earth bears not on her spacious Face,
alone in Nature stands the Wonderful Race."

These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feather'd Tribe in the whole Creation, one of them measures upwards of eight Feet high, although but a young One, in the Memory of man three such extraordinary Birds have not been seen together in this Kingdom, neither is there another of the Kind in England. Admittance only Six-Pence each Person.

And last, though not the least, Is the ROYAL Lincolnshire OX, Which is allowed by the best Judges to be the LARGEST and FATTEST ever seen in this or any other Country, he is Nineteen Hands height and three Feet four Inches across the Hips, in short, this Living Mountain strikes every Beholder with Wonder. This animal has apparently acquired these Superiorities by his own Sagacity, his food is Hay, which he Dips in Water that stands within his reach, before he Eats it, This act of Rationality in the Brute is pleasing, its Effects are obvious, and may prove Instruction to the Feeders of Cattle. Admittance One Shilling each Person.

Figure in ANH figure 2. Burt, A chained rhinoceros. Hand coloured etching (Plate in Burt 1791).

Figure in ANH figure 3. Charles Catton, Rhinoceros, undated [? 1793]. Pen with grey-wash, 8.4 x 15.5 cm (Norwich Castle Museum).

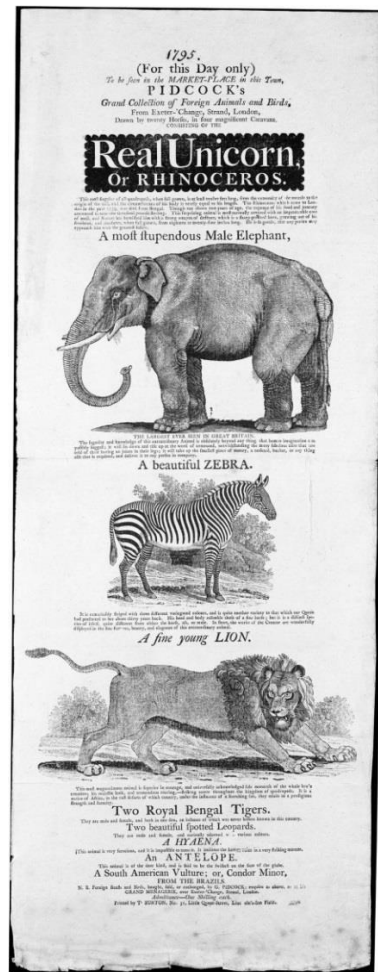


Figure C5. Handbill advertising a “Real Unicorn or Rhinoceros” in the menagerie of Gilbert Pidcock, 1795 (Victoria & Albert Museum, London).

“1795. – (For this Day only) – To be seen in the Market-Place in this Town, – Pidcock’s Grand Collection of Foreign Animals and Birds. From Exeter-Change, Strand, London, Drawn by twenty Horses, in four magnificent Caravans, Consisting of the Real Unicorn, or Rhinoceros. This most singular of all quadrupeds, when full grown, is at least twelve feet long, from the extremity of muzzle to the origin of the tail, and the circumference of his body is nearly equal to his length. The Rhinoceros which came to London in the year 1739, was sent from Bengal. Though not above two years of age, the expense of his food and journey amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling. This surprising animal is most curiously covered with an impenetrable coat of mail, and nature has furnished him with a strong weapon of defense, which is a sharp-pointed horn, growing out of his forehead, and measures, when full grown, from eighteen to twenty-four inches long. He is so gentle, that any person may approach him with the greatest safety. ... N.B. Foreign Beasts and Birds, bought, sold, or exchanged, by G. Pidcock, enquire as above or at his Grand Menagerie over Exeter-Change, Strand, London. Admittance – One Shilling each. Printed by T. Burton, No. 31 Little Queen-Street, Lincoln’s Inn Fields.”



Figure C6. George Stubbs, Rhinoceros, unsigned, undated [?1792-93]. Oil on canvas, 70 x 92 cm. (Royal College of Surgeons, London, RCSSC/P 267).

Stubbs's posthumous studio sale on May 26, 1807

Basil Taylor 1971 - George Stubbs.

71. Indian Rhinoceros sleeping. This drawing was probably one of the 'Nine studies of the Rhinoceros in different attitudes' included in the posthumous sale of 1807 (first day, lot 15) and as such one of the studies made in connection with pl.72.

72. Indian Rhinoceros. Painted for John Hunter, about 1772. The animal was exhibited at Pidcock's Menagerie, Exeter 'Change, Strand, in 1772. The picture was one of those, by various artists, which Hunter obtained for his scientific museum, ultimately located in his Leicester Square Museum.

CLARK'S RHINOCEROS – NEWSPAPER SOURCES – TRANSCRIPTS

The Times – 12 May 1788. [no rhinoceros]

EXHIBITION OF BEASTS and BIRDS in the GREAT ROOMS over EXETER CHANGE.

CONSISTING of the finest Collection exhibited to the Public these 20 years, and was collected at a vast expense from Asia, Africa, and America. The Curious as well as the Public in General, cannot fail of being Pleased and Entertained with this rare Assemblage of Quadrupeds, and feathered part of the Creation. This being the vacation for Young Gentlemen and Ladies, the Proprietor is determined to gratify them as well as the Public in general, with the inspection, at the moderate Price of Six Pence each.

NB – The Large Beasts are well secured in Iron Dens; there is no offensive smell, and each care taken, that Ladies and Children may view with the greatest safety. Several Curious Foreign Birds to be Sold.

The Times – 20 January 1790. [no rhinoceros]

JUST ARRIVED from a Remote Part of the GLOBE, and to be SEEN in the EXHIBITION ROOM over EXETER EXCHANGE.

THAT Renowned BIRD of Ancient Fame, a LIVING PELICAN. This Inhabitant of the Wilderness, History gives an extraordinary account of, for its paternal affection and care of its young, as well as for its remarkable formation and singular appearance, which is grand and attractive, not only affording

delight to the eye of every beholder, but conveys pleasure and information to those who admire the wonderful productions of the Creation. If what is truly rare and pleasing merits inspection, the Proprietors presume this stupendous Bird will claim in the attention of the curious. So strange a subject of the Feathered Tribe has not been seen in this country for upwards of 40 years.

NB – There are a variety of Foreign Birds in the same room to be sold or exchanged, and the most money given for curious birds and other subjects of Natural History.

The Times – 22 May 1790. [no rhinoceros]

FOR EXHIBITION.

THE ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE OX and his MACHINE.

To be SOLD by AUCTION, By Messrs TATTERSALLS, On TUESDAY next, May 25, at Twelve O'clock, At the LYCEUM, in the Strand.

NB – Admittance to view the Ox, previous to the Sale, One Shilling, and at the place of auction One Shilling each person.

The Times – 24 June 1790. [no rhinoceros]

The Lincolnshire Ox at the Lyceum in the Strand continues on exhibition a few days longer, to astonish the public, his magnitude has engaged the attention of the naturalist, and has surprised every cursory observer. The uncommon good temper of the beast, and cleanly treatment of his keepers – may be supposed to contribute in a great measure to his healthiness and increasing bulk.

The Times – 24 June 1790. [no rhinoceros]

The Lincolnshire Ox at the Lyceum in the Strand continues on exhibition a few days longer, to astonish the public, his magnitude has engaged the attention of the naturalist, and has surprised every cursory observer. The uncommon good temper of the beast, and cleanly treatment of his keepers – may be supposed to contribute in a great measure to his healthiness and increasing bulk.

The Times – 23 July 1790. [no rhinoceros]

JUST LANDED FROM AMERICA, And to be seen in the elegant Front shop of the LYCEUM in the STRAND, From Nine in the Morning till Nine in the Evening.

THE WONDERFUL AMERICAN ELK, upwards of thirteen hands and a half high, justly discerned one of the greatest Curiosities of Animated Nature, and the only one of the species ever seen in Great Britain!

The Public are respectfully informed, that the Animal now offered to their inspection (the species is rarely to be met with even in America) exceeds in size and beauty, any animal of his kind and age. The shape of his body resembles that of an elegant horse, which he excels in swiftness, and in fine appearance of his breast and shoulder. His neck and head are stately beyond description; the former measures four feet in circumference; and he can with care reach nine feet two inches and upwards with his nose. But what renders this remarkable creature still more curious is, his having two holes in his head, one under each eye; resembling a valve, through which he breaths and snorts occasionally, though not perceptibly, (being curiously closed up by lids resembling eyelids) unless opened by the keeper or himself.

Since the 31st of March the Elks horns have grown out about a yard in length, five feet wide, and twelve inches round the bottom of each horn. There are ten branches, some above twenty-six inches long.

The different parts of this animal's body have an obvious resemblance to four beasts of the field – the camel, the horse, the cow, and the deer.

Admittance, Ladies and Gentlemen, One Shilling.

The Animal is very pleasing in countenance, perfectly inoffensive, and is to be sold.

Ladies and Gentlemen may be assured, that every line inserted in this advertisement is strictly true.

Morning Herald, London 26 July 1790 (after Clarke 1986: 73)

We hear Mr. Clark of Exeter Change is singular in his possessions, having perhaps what no Englishman before has had, the supporters of the King's arms alive, a Lion and Male Unicorn. The Rhinoceros is really the unicorn ... is two years old, upwards of four feet high, about 15 hundredweight: a greater living curiosity has never appeared in this century.

[Daniel Lysons, Collectanea: or, a Collection of Advertisements from the Newspapers, vol.2. BL, 1889.e.5.]

The Times – 27 July 1790. [no rhinoceros]

At the LYCEUM, in the STRAND, Will be shown to the PUBLIC for a few Days, The ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE OX.

THIS uncommon ANIMAL was bred at Gedney, in the County of Lincoln, in November 1782, and fed (without Oil-cake) by Mr JOHN GIBBONS, of Long Sutton, in the said County; all judges agreed, that he is much the LARGEST and FATTEST ever seen in England, being 19 hands high and three feet four inches across the hips; his beef and tallow are computed to weigh 2,800lb.

His is so remarkably docile, that great numbers of Ladies view him every day.

The Times – 23 September 1790. [no rhinoceros]

At the LYCEUM, in the STRAND, Will be shown to the Public for a few days, at One Shilling each Person.

THE ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE OX, removed from the duke of Gloucester's Riding House, in Hyde Park. Was carried 120 miles in a machine drawn by eight Horses.

This uncommon animal was bred at Gedney, in the county of Lincoln, in November, 1781, and fed (without oil-cake) by Mr John Gibbons, of Long Sutton, in the fair county: all judges agree, that he is much the largest and fattest ever seen in England: being 19 hands high, and 3 feet 4 inches across the hips; his beef and tallow are computed to weigh 2800lb. He is so remarkably docile, that great numbers of Ladies view him every day.

It being the particular desire of several Gentlemen of distinction to have the likeness of this noble Animal, handed down to posterity, a subscription is opened, for a print of the Ox, from a painting of Mr Stubbs, at Half a Guinea.

NB – Subscriptions taken at the Lyceum; and a ticket given that will always admit the subscriber and a lady, to see the Ox.

The Times – 1 November 1790.

The Music composed and compiled by Mr. SHIELD.

WONDERFUL PRODUCTIONS OF THE CREATION
Exhibited at the Lyceum and Exeter Change in the Strand.

In the former is that renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, lately arrived from Barbary, one of them is upwards of eight feet high; three such Birds have not been seen together in this country in the memory of Man; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever bred in this or any other Country; at their Menagerie over Exeter Change is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, considerable Additions have been lately made; they now amount to near 500 in Number.

Admittance to see the Rhinoceros is the Ox is, the Ostriches &c. The Birds and Beasts together 1s. or separate 6d. each person. Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged.

TO BE DISPOSED OF.

WONDERFUL PRODUCTIONS OF CREATION.

Exhibited at the Lyceum and Exeter Change in the Strand.

In the former is that renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, lately arrived from Barbary, one of them is upwards of eight feet high; three such Birds have not been seen together in this country in the memory of Man; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever bred in this or any other Country; at their Menagerie over Exeter Change is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, considerable Additions have been lately made; they now amount to near 500 in Number.

Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s. the Ox 1s. the Ostriches 6d. The Birds and Beasts together 1s or separate 6d each person. Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged.

The Times – 3 November 1790.

WONDERFUL PRODUCTIONS OF CREATION.

Exhibited at the Lyceum and Exeter Change in the Strand.

In the former is that renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, lately arrived from Barbary, one of them is upwards of eight feet high; three such Birds have not been seen together in this country in the memory of Man; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever bred in this or any other Country; at their Menagerie over Exeter Change is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, considerable Additions have been lately made; they now amount to near 500 in Number.

Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s. the Ox 1s. the Ostriches 6d. The Birds and Beasts together 1s or separate 6d each person. Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged.

The Times – 6 November 1790.

WONDERFUL PRODUCTIONS OF CREATION.

Exhibited at the Lyceum and Exeter Change in the Strand.

In the former is that renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, lately arrived from Barbary, one of them is upwards of eight feet high; three such Birds have not been seen together in this country in the memory of Man; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever bred in this or any other Country; at their Menagerie over Exeter Change is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, considerable Additions have been lately made; they now amount to near 500 in Number.

Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s. the Ox 1s. the Ostriches 6d. The Birds and Beasts together 1s or separate 6d each person. Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged.

The Times – 22 November 1790. [no rhinoceros]

The Duke of NORFOLK has purchased the Elk lately exhibited at the Lyceum, for one hundred guineas, and has given it the range of Arundel Park.

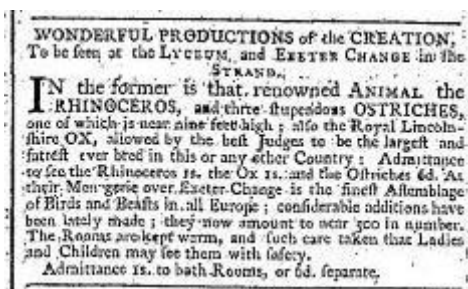
The Times – 23 November 1790.

WONDERFUL PRODUCTIONS OF CREATION.

Exhibited at the Lyceum and Exeter Change in the Strand.

In the former is that renowned ANIMAL the RHINOCEROS, and THREE STUPENDOUS OSTRICHES, lately arrived from Barbary, one of them is upwards of eight feet high; three such Birds have not been seen together in this country in the memory of Man; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever bred in this or any other Country; at their Menagerie over Exeter Change is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, considerable Additions have been lately made; they now amount to near 500 in Number.

Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s. the Ox 1s. the Ostriches 6d. The Birds and Beasts together 1s or separate 6d each person. Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged.

The Times – 31 December 1790.**WONDERFUL PRODUCTIONS OF CREATION.**

Exhibited at the Lyceum and Exeter Change in the Strand.

In the former is that renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, lately arrived from Barbary, one of them is upwards of eight feet high; three such Birds have not been seen together in this country in the memory of Man; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever bred in this or any other Country; at their Menagerie over Exeter Change is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, considerable Additions have been lately made; they now amount to near 500 in Number.

Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s. the Ox 1s. the Ostriches 6d. The Birds and Beasts together 1s or separate 6d each person. Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged.

The Times – 1 February 1791.

Wonderful Productions of the Creation, Exhibited at the LYCEUM and EXETER CHANGE.

IN the former is that Renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, which in magnitude and plumage exceed all the feathered tribe in the known world; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever seen; he measures nineteen hands high. At their Menagerie over EXETER CHANGE is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction. Admittance to both Rooms 1s, or 6d separate. Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s, the Ox 1s, and the Ostriches 6d each person.

Curious Birds, Beasts, &c bought, sold or exchanged.

The Times – 3 February 1791.

Wonderful Productions of the Creation, Exhibited at the LYCEUM and EXETER CHANGE.

IN the former is that Renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, which in magnitude and plumage exceed all the feathered tribe in the known world; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever seen; he measures nineteen hands high. At their Menagerie over EXETER CHANGE is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction. Admittance to both Rooms 1s, or 6d separate. Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s, the Ox 1s, and the Ostriches 6d each person.

Curious Birds, Beasts, &c bought, sold or exchanged.

The Times – 10 February 1791.

Wonderful Productions of the Creation, Exhibited at the LYCEUM and EXETER CHANGE.

IN the former is that Renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, which in magnitude and plumage exceed all the feathered tribe in the known world; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever seen; he measures nineteen hands high. At their Menagerie over EXETER CHANGE is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction.

Admittance to both Rooms 1s, or 6d separate. Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s, the Ox 1s, and the Ostriches 6d each person.

Curious Birds, Beasts, &c bought, sold or exchanged.

The Times – 19 February 1791.

Wonderful Productions of the Creation, Exhibited at the LYCEUM and EXETER CHANGE.

IN the former is that Renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, which in magnitude and plumage exceed all the feathered tribe in the known world; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever seen; he measures nineteen hands high. At their Menagerie over EXETER CHANGE is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction. Admittance to both Rooms 1s, or 6d separate. Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s, the Ox 1s, and the Ostriches 6d each person.

Curious Birds, Beasts, &c bought, sold or exchanged.

The Times – 19 March 1791.

Wonderful Productions of the Creation, Exhibited at the LYCEUM and EXETER CHANGE.

IN the former is that Renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, and three stupendous Ostriches, which in magnitude and plumage exceed all the feathered tribe in the known world; also the Royal Lincolnshire Ox, allowed by the best judges to be the largest and fattest ever seen; he measures nineteen hands high. At their Menagerie over EXETER CHANGE is the finest Assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction. Admittance to both Rooms 1s, or 6d separate. Admittance to see the Rhinoceros 1s, the Ox 1s, and the Ostriches 6d each person.

Curious Birds, Beasts, &c bought, sold or exchanged.

The Times – 15 April 1791. [no rhinoceros]

ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE OX.

THE Proprietors beg leave to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and curious in general, that the above OX will still continue to be exhibited as usual at the Lyceum in the Strand until Tuesday next, April 19, 1791, prior to his being slaughtered, which will be on Wednesday the 20th Instant, in honour of the Birth Day of Her Royal Highness Princess Mary.

This extraordinary Animal measures Nineteen Hands high, and Three Feet Four Inches across the Hips.

NB – The Remains of the Royal Ox will still continue for Public Inspection at the above place, after slaughtered, on Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st, and Friday 22nd instant, and positively no longer.

Those Ladies and Gentlemen who would wish to have any part of this extraordinary ox are desired to send their respective orders to Messrs Cross and Hampton, butchers, No 133, opposite the Lyceum as above. Admittance 1s each. Servants Half price.

The Times – 23 April 1791.

LIVING RARITIES at the Lyceum and Exeter Change, in the Strand. In the former is that renowned animal the RHINOCEROS, also a most beautiful ZEBRA, curiously striped with variegated colours; the distinguished works of the Creation are wonderfully displayed in the fine features, beauty, and elegance of this extraordinary creature; and last, though not least, are three stupendous OSTRICHES, one of them measures near nine feet high; these birds exceed in magnitude and plumage all the feathered tribe in the known world.

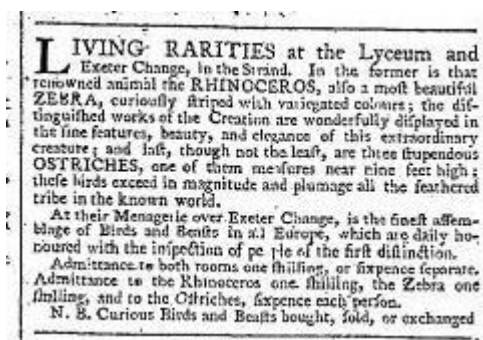
At their Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction?

Admittance to both rooms one shilling, or sixpence separate.

Admittance to the Rhinoceros one shilling, the Zebra one shilling, and to the Ostriches, sixpence each person.

NB – Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, and exchanged.

The Times – 25 April 1791.



LIVING RARITIES at the Lyceum and Exeter Change, in the Strand. In the former is that renowned animal the RHINOCEROS, also a most beautiful ZEBRA, curiously striped with variegated colours; the distinguished works of the Creation are wonderfully displayed in the fine features, beauty, and elegance of this extraordinary creature; and last, though not least, are three stupendous OSTRICHES, one of them measures near nine feet high; these birds exceed in magnitude and plumage all the feathered tribe in the known world.

At their Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction?

Admittance to both rooms one shilling, or sixpence separate.

Admittance to the Rhinoceros one shilling, the Zebra one shilling, and to the Ostriches, sixpence each person.

NB – Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, and exchanged.

The Times – 27 April 1791.

LIVING RARITIES at the Lyceum and Exeter Change, in the Strand. In the former is that renowned animal the RHINOCEROS, also a most beautiful ZEBRA, curiously striped with variegated colours; the distinguished works of the Creation are wonderfully displayed in the fine features, beauty, and elegance of this extraordinary creature; and last, though not least, are three stupendous OSTRICHES, one of them measures near nine feet high; these birds exceed in magnitude and plumage all the feathered tribe in the known world.

At their Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction?

Admittance to both rooms one shilling, or sixpence separate.

Admittance to the Rhinoceros one shilling, the Zebra one shilling, and to the Ostriches, sixpence each person.

NB – Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, and exchanged.

The Times – 31 May 1791.

LIVING RARITIES at the Lyceum and Exeter Change, in the Strand. In the former is that renowned animal the RHINOCEROS, also a most beautiful ZEBRA, curiously striped with variegated colours; the distinguished works of the Creation are wonderfully displayed in the fine features, beauty, and elegance of this extraordinary creature; and last, though not least, are three stupendous OSTRICHES, one of them measures near nine feet high; these birds exceed in magnitude and plumage all the feathered tribe in the known world.

At their Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction?

Admittance to both rooms one shilling, or sixpence separate.

Admittance to the Rhinoceros one shilling, the Zebra one shilling, and to the Ostriches, sixpence each person.

NB – Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, and exchanged.

The Times – 23 June 1791.

LIVING RARITIES at the Lyceum and Exeter Change, in the Strand. In the former is that renowned animal the RHINOCEROS, also a most beautiful ZEBRA, curiously striped with variegated colours; the distinguished works of the Creation are wonderfully displayed in the fine features, beauty, and elegance of this extraordinary creature; and last, though not least, are three stupendous OSTRICHES, one of them measures near nine feet high; these birds exceed in magnitude and plumage all the feathered tribe in the known world.

At their Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction?

Admittance to both rooms one shilling, or sixpence separate.

Admittance to the Rhinoceros one shilling, the Zebra one shilling, and to the Ostriches, sixpence each person.

NB – Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, and exchanged.

The Times – 25 June 1791.

LIVING RARITIES at the Lyceum and Exeter Change, in the Strand. In the former is that renowned animal the RHINOCEROS, also a most beautiful ZEBRA, curiously striped with variegated colours; the distinguished works of the Creation are wonderfully displayed in the fine features, beauty, and elegance of this extraordinary creature; and last, though not least, are three stupendous OSTRICHES, one of them measures near nine feet high; these birds exceed in magnitude and plumage all the feathered tribe in the known world.

At their Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest assemblage of Birds and Beasts in all Europe, which are daily honoured with the inspection of people of the first distinction?

Admittance to both rooms one shilling, or sixpence separate.

Admittance to the Rhinoceros one shilling, the Zebra one shilling, and to the Ostriches, sixpence each person.

NB – Curious Birds and Beasts bought, sold, and exchanged.

The Times – 28 September 1791.

The BEAUTIES and RARITIES of the CREATION.
At the LYCEUM, and over EXETER CHANGE, in the STRAND.

IN the former is that renowned Animal the Rhinoceros, or real Unicorn; also a most beautiful Zebra, curiously striped with variegated Colours, allowed to be the most perfect Animal of the Kind ever seen in this Country.

At the Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest Assemblage of Foreign Birds and Beasts in Europe, amongst which are an Ostrich, the Pelican of the Wilderness, a Pair of beautiful Crown Birds, the Saginir, the Egyptian Ibas, the Golden and common Vulture, the Terriedo or Crested Cuckow, the Scarlet Lewrey, a curious Non-descript, and a Variety of beautiful Quail Birds.

In the adjoining Room is the handsomest Lion in Europe, with a great Number of very curious Animals.

The utmost Value given for curious Birds and Beasts, by T. CLARK.

The BEAUTIES and RARITIES of the CREATION.

At the LYCEUM, and over EXETER CHANGE, in the STRAND.

IN the former is that renowned Animal the RHINOCEROS, or real Unicorn, very formidable, and a prodigious size, having a coat of Mail, together with the Horn that proceeds from his Nose, as described by Historians, to be a defence against the Elephant.

Also, a most beautiful Zebra, curiously striped with variegated colours, allowed to be the handsomest Creature of the kind ever seen in England, and is so very gentle as to be rode, that Ladies or Children may approach him without danger.

In addition to the Zebra, is an Imperial Sheep, with a remarkable Coat of Wool, likewise adorned with Horns, singularly grand and elegant.

At the Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest Assemblage of Foreign birds and Beasts in Europe, amongst which are an Ostrich, the Pelican of the Wilderness, a Pair of beautiful Crown Birds, the Segitaiy, the Egyptian Ibis, the Golden and common Vulture, the Terricoo or Crested Cockow, the Scarlet Lewrey, a curious Non-descript, and a great Variety of beautiful small Birds.

In the adjoining Room in the handsomest Lion in Europe, with a great Number of very curious Animals.

The Utmost Value given for curious Birds or Beasts, by T CLARK.

The Times – 6 October 1791.

The BEAUTIES and RARITIES of the CREATION.

At the LYCEUM, and over EXETER CHANGE, in the STRAND.

IN the former is that renowned Animal the RHINOCEROS, or real Unicorn, very formidable, and a prodigious size, having a coat of Mail, together with the Horn that proceeds from his Nose, as described by Historians, to be a defence against the Elephant.

Also, a most beautiful Zebra, curiously striped with variegated colours, allowed to be the handsomest Creature of the kind ever seen in England, and is so very gentle as to be rode, that Ladies or Children may approach him without danger.

In addition to the Zebra, is an Imperial Sheep, with a remarkable Coat of Wool, likewise adorned with Horns, singularly grand and elegant.

At the Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest Assemblage of Foreign birds and Beasts in Europe, amongst which are an Ostrich, the Pelican of the Wilderness, a Pair of beautiful Crown Birds, the Segitaiy, the Egyptian Ibis, the Golden and common Vulture, the Terricoo or Crested Cockow, the Scarlet Lewrey, a curious Non-descript, and a great Variety of beautiful small Birds.

In the adjoining Room in the handsomest Lion in Europe, with a great Number of very curious Animals.

The Utmost Value given for curious Birds or Beasts, by T CLARK.

The Times – 21 October 1791.

The BEAUTIES and RARITIES of the CREATION.

At the LYCEUM, and over EXETER CHANGE, in the STRAND.

IN the former is that renowned Animal the RHINOCEROS, or real Unicorn, very formidable, and a prodigious size, having a coat of Mail, together with the Horn that proceeds from his Nose, as described by Historians, to be a defence against the Elephant.

Also, a most beautiful Zebra, curiously striped with variegated colours, allowed to be the handsomest Creature of the kind ever seen in England, and is so very gentle as to be rode, that Ladies or Children may approach him without danger.

In addition to the Zebra, is an Imperial Sheep, with a remarkable Coat of Wool, likewise adorned with Horns, singularly grand and elegant.

At the Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest Assemblage of Foreign birds and Beasts in Europe, amongst which are an Ostrich, the Pelican of the Wilderness, a Pair of beautiful Crown Birds, the Segitaiy, the Egyptian Ibis, the Golden and common Vulture, the Terricoo or Crested Cockow, the Scarlet Lewrey, a curious Non-descript, and a great Variety of beautiful small Birds.

In the adjoining Room in the handsomest Lion in Europe, with a great Number of very curious Animals.

The Utmost Value given for curious Birds or Beasts, by T CLARK.

The Times – 5 December 1791.

The BEAUTIES and RARITIES of the CREATION.

At the LYCEUM, and over EXETER CHANGE, in the STRAND.

IN the former is that renowned Animal the RHINOCEROS, or real Unicorn, very formidable, and a prodigious size, having a coat of Mail, together with the Horn that proceeds from his Nose, as described by Historians, to be a defence against the Elephant.

Also, a most beautiful Zebra, curiously striped with variegated colours, allowed to be the handsomest Creature of the kind ever seen in England, and is so very gentle as to be rode, that Ladies or Children may approach him without danger.

In addition to the Zebra, is an Imperial Sheep, with a remarkable Coat of Wool, likewise adorned with Horns, singularly grand and elegant.

At the Menagerie over Exeter Change, is the finest Assemblage of Foreign birds and Beasts in Europe, amongst which are an Ostrich, the Pelican of the Wilderness, a Pair of beautiful Crown Birds, the Segitaiy, the Egyptian Ibis, the Golden and common Vulture, the Terricoo or Crested Cockow, the Scarlet Lewrey, a curious Non-descript, and a great Variety of beautiful small Birds.

In the adjoining Room in the handsomest Lion in Europe, with a great Number of very curious Animals.

The Utmost Value given for curious Birds or Beasts, by T CLARK.

The Times – 27 December 1791.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM in the Strand,

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe. The late Additions over the 'Change are two singular Varieties of Rams brought a Thousand Miles to ornament this Collection, and which very much please the Public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced. The Collection of Birds, has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all Ages; the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great Strength, sets the whole Creation at defiance, and, as a treat to the School Boys, is shewn with him, without any addition of Expence, the most beautiful Zebra ever seen.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe: the latest additions over the 'Change are two singular varieties of Rams fetched a thousand miles to ornament this Collection, and will very much please the public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced; the Collection of birds has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all ages, the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great strength, sets the whole Creation at defiance, and a treat to the School Boys, is shown with him, without any addition of expense, the most beautiful Zebra seen.

The Times – 2 January 1792.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe: the latest additions over the 'Change are two singular varieties of Rams fetched a thousand miles to ornament this Collection, and will very much please the public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced; the Collection of birds has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all ages, the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great strength, sets the whole Creation at defiance, and a treat to the School Boys, is shown with him, without any addition of expense, the most beautiful Zebra seen.

The Times – 4 January 1792.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe: the latest additions over the 'Change are two singular varieties of Rams fetched a thousand miles to ornament this Collection, and will very much please the public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced; the Collection of birds has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all ages, the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great strength, sets the whole Creation at defence, and a treat to the School Boys, is shown with him, without any addition of expense, the most beautiful Zebra seen.

The Times – 5 January 1792.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe: the latest additions over the 'Change are two singular varieties of Rams fetched a thousand miles to ornament this Collection, and will very much please the public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced; the Collection of birds has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all ages, the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great strength, sets the whole Creation at defence, and a treat to the School Boys, is shown with him, without any addition of expense, the most beautiful Zebra seen.

The Times – 6 February 1792.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe: the latest additions over the 'Change are two singular varieties of Rams fetched a thousand miles to ornament this Collection, and will very much please the public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced; the Collection of birds has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all ages, the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great strength, sets the whole Creation at defence, and a treat to the School Boys, is shown with him, without any addition of expense, the most beautiful Zebra seen.

The Times – 11 February 1792.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe: the latest additions over the 'Change are two singular varieties of Rams fetched a thousand miles to ornament this Collection, and will very much please the public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced; the Collection of birds has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all ages, the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great strength, sets the whole Creation at defence, and a treat to the School Boys, is shown with him, without any addition of expense, the most beautiful Zebra seen.

The Times – 1 March 1792.

To be SEEN over EXETER 'CHANGE, and at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

THE best COLLECTION of LIVING CURIOSITIES in Europe: the latest additions over the 'Change are two singular varieties of Rams fetched a thousand miles to ornament this Collection, and will very much please the public; the Lion is supposed to be near maturity, and all agree that a handsomer was never produced; the Collection of birds has never been equalled in this Country. At the Lyceum is that most wonderful of the Animal Tribe which has attracted the attention of all ages, the Rhinoceros, which from his impenetrable Coat of Mail, and great strength, sets the whole Creation at defence, and a treat to the School Boys, is shown with him, without any addition of expense, the most beautiful Zebra seen.

Admittance 1s. Servants 6d.

The Times – 22 October 1792.

The RHINOCEROS, or real UNICORN, Purchased by G PIDCOCK, of MR CLARK, of Exeter 'Change. To be seen (alive) for a few days only, (as preparations are making to take a tour round the country) at the LYCEUM, in the Strand, that most wonderful of all animals, which has so much engaged the attention of the Naturalists for ages past.

THE RHINOCEROS.

This infant Animal, only 3 years old, weight near thirty hundred weight. From this specimen it evidently appears, that the Rhinoceros is more compact in his formation, and stronger made than the Elephant, having an impenetrable Coat of Mail.

The Times – 16 January 1793.

EXETER CHANGE. FOREIGN BIRDS AND ANIMALS, By Messrs HUMBLE and HENDERSON, On the Premises, the 24th Instant, in small Lots.

THAT beautiful Collection of BIRDS and ANIMALS, now exhibited in the Great Room over Exeter Change, in the Strand, consisting of a select Collection of both living and dead specimens.

All Admission Tickets that are, or may be given out, will be received until the 23d inclusive; until which time, that singular animal, the Kangaroo, from Botany Bay, will be exhibited with the above collection.

Catalogues may be had six days preceding the Sale, at the Auctioneers, the corner of Bedford Street, Strand, and at the Place of Sale.

The Times – 13 April 1793.

G PIDCOCK respectfully informs the Nobility, Gentry, &c that the Great Room over Exeter Change in the Strand, is now fitted up in a very elegant manner, for their reception: and also begs leave to acquaint them, that he has procured a number of capital and unparalleled living rarities. In addition to those exhibited there before. The curious in general find themselves highly gratified with the sight of these rare and chosen specimens, who are now shown to be the completest collection in this kingdom; amongst which are, two Aethiopian Savages, two fine young Panthers, a Bengal Tiger, a real laughing Hyena, a Mountain Lioness, a Fiery Lynx, a Muscovey Cat, a curious Leopard, a Wild Man of the Wood, a Satyr, &c. A Royal Crown Bird, the Imperial vulture, a Condor Minor Vulture, and fifty other animals and birds too numerous to insert.

NB – The Unicorn, or Rhinoceros, the Cow with two heads, &c still continue for public inspection, for a few days only, at the Lyceum.

Birds, beasts bought, sold, or exchanged. Enquire as above.

23 April 1793:**From, Clarke, T.H., 1986. The Rhinoceros from Durer to Stubbs: 1515-1799. London.**

On 23 April 1793 Pidcock took out an insurance policy 'on a Rhinoceros & Carriage for the same travelling about the Country for Exhibition, not exceeding Two Hundred Pounds'. Was Pidcock aware of the injury, and, if so, had he declared this to the underwriters? One doubts it. Further, the value of only £200 sounds absurdly low when compared with the known cost of other such animals, the first London beast of 1684 for example; quite apart from the value of the carriage. Did Pidcock succeed in his claim? Possibly Pidcock never made one.

The Times – 5 June 1793.

Amongst a variety of ILLUMINATIONS which were last night given in honour of his Majesty's Birthday, those of the Proprietor of the exhibition over Exeter Change were amongst the most distinguished. The situation is very favourable for an illumination, and the Proprietor's loyalty irradiated the vicinity where his Exhibition is given with great brilliancy. The well-judged distribution of the lamps and transparencies had the most pleasing and agreeable effect. The day before

yesterday the Rhinoceros, or real Unicorn, belonging to G Pidcock, Proprietor of the Grand Exhibition over Exeter Change, which has been exhibited for some time with so much applause, was brought, by his Majesty's most gracious command, to Windsor Lodge, for the inspection of their Majesties, when the Royal Family were graciously pleased to express their satisfaction in contemplating this very surprising and curious animal.

The Times – 18 October 1793.

EXETER 'CHANGE, STRAND.

Just arrived, in the last fleet from India, and to be seen alive, in the Great Room, over Exeter 'Change, a most stupendous LIVING MALE ELEPHANT. Amongst all the various reproductions of the creation, wonderful as they appear for formation, size, or strength, the Elephant rises superior, in such of these particulars, to all the quadrupeds in the known world, and this animal is not only remarkable for its surprising and singular form, but also for its amazing sagacity, as it approaches the nearest to human reason, and is capable of doing many things which are supposed to be far beyond the capacity of a brute. Its strength is so great, that it carries a calife or tower on its back, and is able to kill a horse by one blow with its trunk, which is a long cartilaginous tube, hanging between its teeth, wherewith he feeds himself; notwithstanding out on each side of its trunk, which when full grown, measures from six to nine feet long, are ivory, and of great value. Admittance One Shilling each.

G PIDCOCK respectfully informs the Nobility, Gentry &c that two beautiful KANGUROOS, male and female, brought over in the Atlantic, the vessel in which Governor Phillips arrived from Botany Bay, are removed to the Grand Menagerie, now exhibiting as above. Admittance, 1s.

NB – Foreign Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged. Enquire as above.

Anonymous, 1819. Mounted animals bought at Bullock's sale brought to Edinburgh. Caledonian Mercury Monday 14 June 1819

... While individuals are thus patriotically contributing to the museum, the Principal and Professors have purchased the classical cabinet of zoology in the possession of M. Dufresne of Paris, and have added many splendid and rare animals to the collection, from the museum of Mr. Bullock, now selling in London.

A few days ago, there were landed at Leith, from one of the London traders, many packages, with objects of natural history, for the College Museum, purchased at the sale of Bullock's Museum in London, by Dr Adam of Edinburgh. One of the cases contained the finest specimen in Europe of the male greaffi, or cameleopard. It is nearly eighteen feet high, and in perfect preservation. Professor Jameson has already the female, and, we believe, no other museum in the world possesses both the male and female of this wonderful animal. Another bulky case inclosed a large and perfect Asiatic elephant: there was taken from a third, a magnificent specimen of the great rhinoceros; and a fourth contained two fine lions, one of them measuring fully nine feet in length. The black orang outang, an animal very rarely met with in cabinets of natural history, and a beautiful collection of monkeys and baboons, were taken from another case. The splendour and beauty of the cases of preserved fishes and of birds, were very striking, as well as the appearance of the ichneumons, the jackall, the gigantic manis, the wombat, the pigmy antelope (not larger than a hare), and many other curious and rare quadrupeds.

We are informed the Lords of the Admiralty have instructed the Admiral on this station to dispatch one of his squadron to Havre, to take on board the zoological collection of Dufresne, lately purchased in Paris, for the University of Edinburgh, by a well-known naturalist, Captain Brown of this city.

2. PIDCOCK'S RHINOCEROS 1799-1800

PIDCOCK'S RHINOCEROS – DEPICTIONS

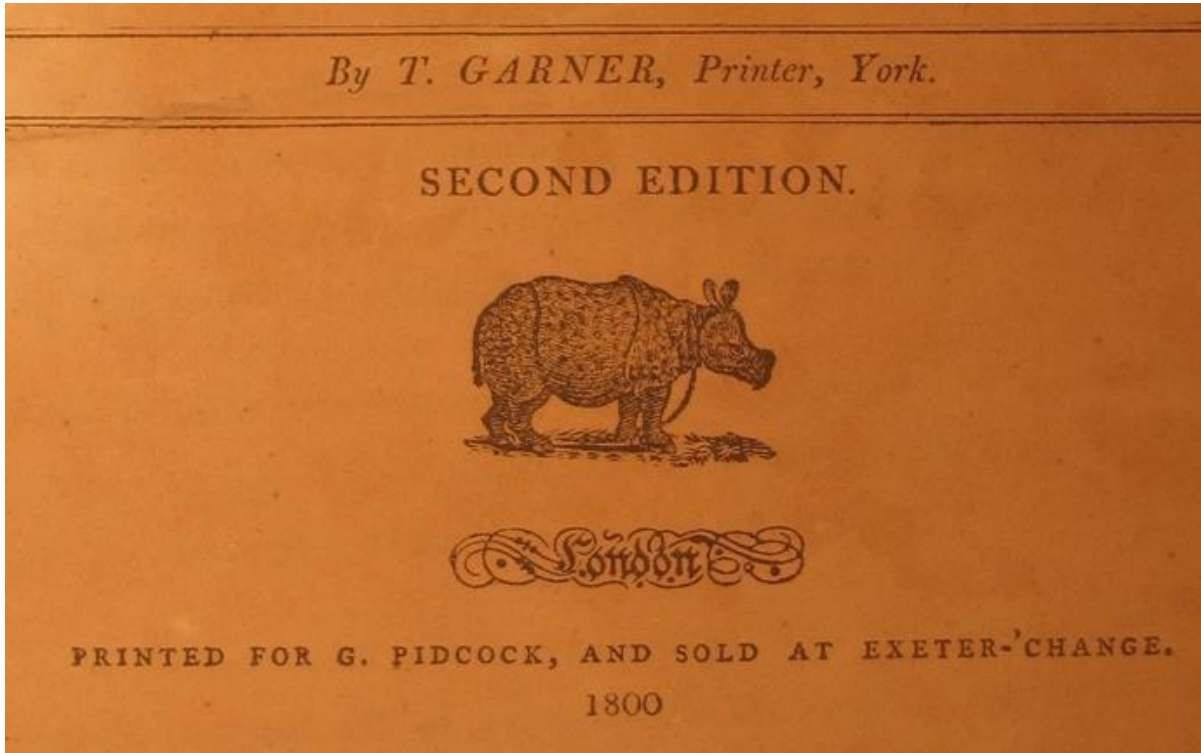


Figure PID1. Vignette of rhinoceros on title-page of Garner (1800).



Figure PID2. Token halfpennies showing a rhinoceros, of which several examples were issued by G. Pidcock and T. Hall from about 1793 to 1800 (Private collection).

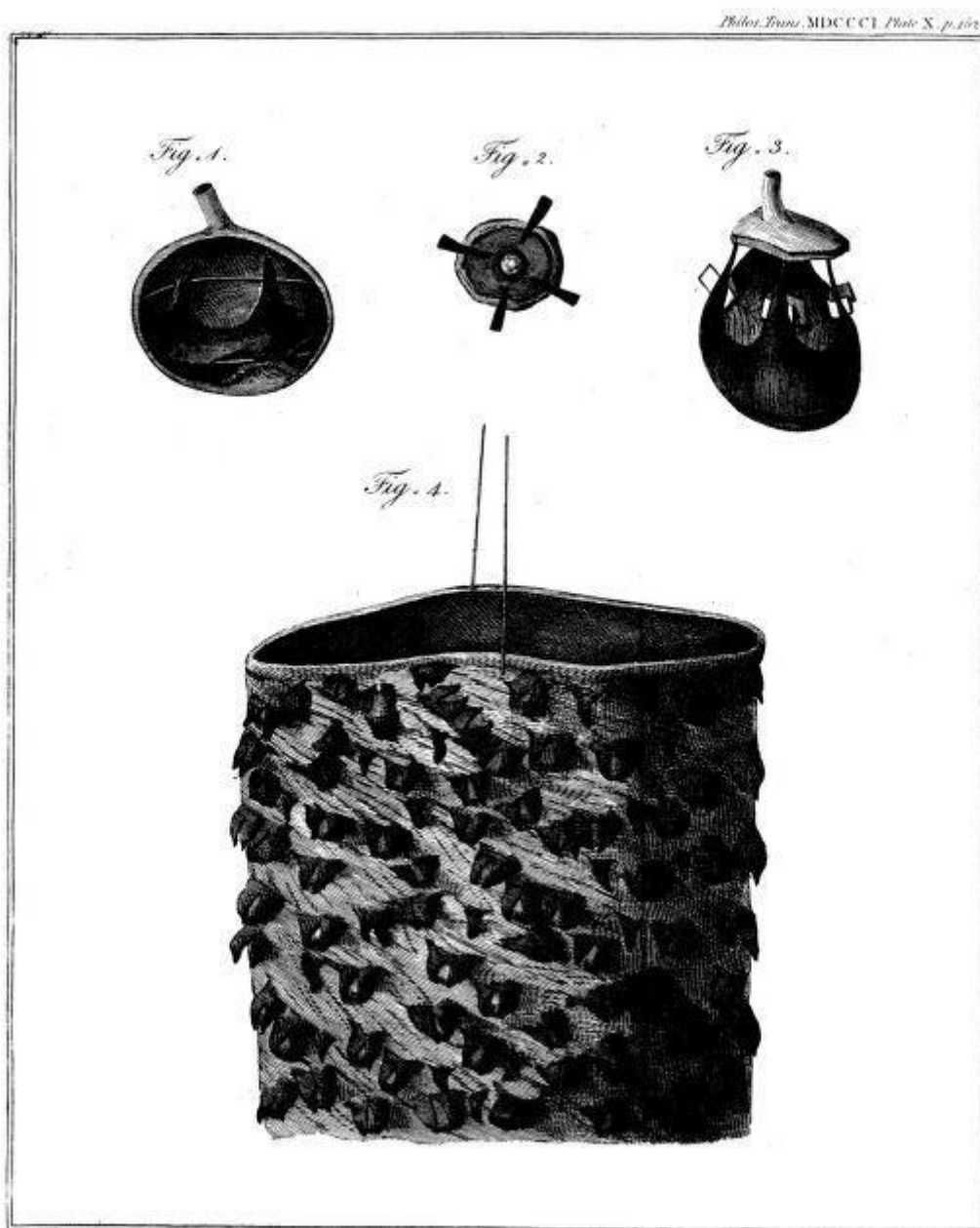


Figure PID3. Eye and intestine of rhinoceros dissected by H. Leigh Thomas (1801).

Figure in ANH figure 4. Thomas Rowlandson.



Figure PID4. Thomas Rowlandson. Resemblances between the Countenances of men and beasts, in album of Sketches on Comparative Anatomy. Undated. Pen and brown ink. (British Museum, 1885,1212.182-244).

Figure in ANH figure 5. Samuel Howitt, "Studies from nature at Exeter 'Change", undated [?1799]. Sepia wash. (Private collection).

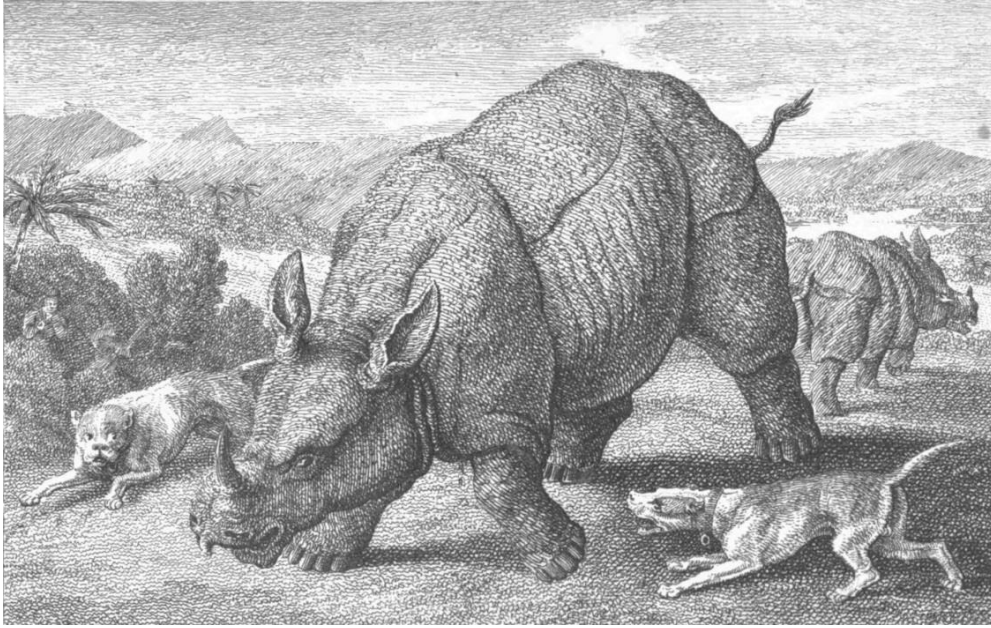


Figure PID5. Samuel Howitt, “Rhinoceros Hunting”, etching. (*Sporting Magazine or Monthly Calendar*, June 1799).

Figure in ANH figure 6. Samuel Howitt, Study for Oriental Field Sports. No. 26 in bound set of 40 watercolours exhibited at Leger Galleries, London, 1976.



Figure 17. Samuel Howitt, “A rhinoceros hunted by elephants. Un rhinoceros chassé par des elephants” – “Sam. Howitt del. from the original design of Capt. Thom. Williamson. Edward Orme excudit. H. Merke, sculp.” (Williamson, *Oriental Field Sports* [part 9, dated January 1, 1806], plate 11).

PIDCOCK'S RHINOCEROS – NEWSPAPER SOURCES – TRANSCRIPTS**Derby Mercury – 20 January 1790. [no rhinoceros]**

WILD BEASTS and BIRDS, All Alive.

Are now exhibit at the WHITE LYON, DERBY.

THE Noble HE BENGAL TYGER – This magnanimous Animal needs no other Recommendation than to behold him. Our learned Authors have described him to be the most beautiful of Quadrupeds. Likewise TWO MOUNTAIN LYON TYGERS, Male and Female, from South America, the Species of which was never before seen in England in the Age or Memory of Man, and they are universally admired by all who view them. Also upwards of TWENTY other ANIMALS and BIRDS equally as curious.

Admittance 1s each; a Price by no Means adequate to the Variety of Curiosities exhibited.

Was you to range the mighty Globe all o'er,
From East to West, from North to Southern Shore,
Was you to pass through doleful Deserts, where
Bright Sol, or Luna lights the Hemisphere,
Or under th'Line of Torrid Zone to go,
No Woods, Groves, or Mountains more can show
To you, than I in this my Forest small;
Come, at one View you have a Sketch of all.
The WHOLE of the COLLECTION to be SOLD.
Enquire of G Pidcock.

Derby Mercury – 27 January 1790. [no rhinoceros]

Grand Assemblage of Wild Beasts & Birds, ALL ALIVE, Now exhibiting at the White Lion, DERBY.

THOSE who have already seen them have been struck with Amazement at their great Variety and Beauty, acknowledging them to be both marvellous and wonderful Productions of Nature. Amongst them are those beautiful Creatures the Mountain Lion Tyger and Tygress, from the River La Plate, South America; their first Arrival in England, was in February last; they copulated at Weymouth in August, and the Female brought forth a live Cub at Norwich, Oct 22nd, 1789 – an Instance never known in the Memory of Man.

There are upwards of TWENTY OTHER different ANIMALS and BIRDS, which equally contribute to the Pleasure and Amazement of the Spectators.

The Room is spacious and clean, and the Beasts young and pleasing; adapted to the Inspection of Naturalists, and those who admire the uncommon Varieties of the Creation.

Admittance One Shilling each Person.

NB The above collection to be SOLD in one Lot.

Enquire of G PIDCOCK, Proprietor.

Derby Mercury – 4 February 1790. [no rhinoceros]

A TREAT for the NATURAL HISTORIAN, *And others.*

THE EXHIBITION of WILD BEASTS and BIRDS, at the *White Lion* Inn, still continues to attract the Attention of the Curious. Indeed such a Collection has very rarely been seen, for so trifling an Expense, in this or any other Kingdom; and they justly merit that Admiration and Astonishment which they receive from all Ranks of Spectators.

This grand Menagerie consists of Two Mountain Lion Tygers, Male and Female, from South America; the noble He Tyger, from Bengal, so universally admired as the most beautiful of all Quadrupeds; two Satyrs, or Aethiopian Savages, from the Coast of Africa; the amazing Porcupine, half Beast and half bird, from Algiers; a curious Ape, from Ape's Hill, in Barbary; a Coata Munda, from the River Nile,

in Egypt; four beautiful Maccaws, from the River Gambia; two Cockatoos – with a Number of other Curiosities too tedious to insert.

Admittance One Shilling each.

Astonish'd Crowds the wondrous Scent behold;

Confess that half its Beauties were not told.

Nature's great Wonders may be viewed here;

And rich in Grandeur these her Works appear.

NB the above Collection to be SOLD in one Lot.

Enquire of G PIDCOCK, Proprietor.

Derby, Feb 3, 1790.

Derby Mercury – 18 February 1790. [no rhinoceros]

Grand Display of Natural Curiosities.

G PIDCOCK's Exhibition of WILD BEASTS, BIRDS, &c may still be seen at the White Lion Inn, *Derby*. To give a full Description of their Beauty and Variety would be impossible; suffice it to say, that they have received the Testimonies of all Ranks of People, as the best Collection ever seen in this Kingdom, at so small an Expense.

All Ranks and Ages here with Pleasure view

A scene of grandeur and of beauty too

No need to travel now to foreign climes;

Creation here in brilliant order shines.

Admittance One Shilling each.

NB The above Collection to be SOLD in one Lot. Enquire of G PIDCOCK, Proprietor.

G PIDCOCK returns his grateful Acknowledgements to the Inhabitants of Derby and its Environs, for the liberal Encouragement he has received, and wishes to inform them, that he means to remain about a fortnight longer in this town, in order that all Ranks of People may have an Opportunity of gratifying their curiosity.

Derby, Feb 17, 1790.

Derby Mercury – 4 March 1790. [no rhinoceros]

WILD BEASTS & BIRDS, *All Alive!!*

Are now exhibiting at the WHITE LION, Derby.

THE NOBLE HE BENGAL TYGER – this magnanimous Animal needs no other Recommendation than to behold him. Our learned Authors have described him to be the most beautiful of Quadrupeds.

Likewise, TWO MOUNTAIN LYON TYGERS, Male and Female, from South America, the Species of which was never before seen in England, in the Age or Memory of Man, and they are universally admired by all who view them.

Also upwards of TWENTY other ANIMALS and BIRDS, equally curious.

Admittance 1s each; a Price by no Means adequate to the Variety of Curiosities exhibited.

Were you to range the mighty Globe all o're,

From East to West – from North to Southern Shore,

Were you to pass through doleful Deserts, where

Bright Sol, or Luna, lights the Hemisphere,

Or under th'Line of Torrid Zone to go,

No Woods, Groves, or Mountains more can show

To you – than I in this my Forest small;

Come, at ONE View you have a Sketch of ALL!

G PIDCOCK returns his grateful Acknowledgements to the Inhabitants of Derby and its Environs, for the liberal Encouragement he has received, and wishes to inform them, that he means to remain a

few days longer in this town, in order that all Ranks of People may have an Opportunity of gratifying their curiosity.

The Whole of the Collection to be SOLD in one Lot. Enquire of G Pidcock.

The Times – 18 February 1791. [no rhinoceros]

A MOST WONDERFUL PRODUCTION of NATURE Arrived yesterday at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

A beautiful high-bred, Bright Bay COLT, of the Race kind; matched before it was brought forth, to run at Newmarket, for 200 guineas a side, when three years old; it was foaled the 10th of March last, with only three legs, two behind, and one before; the fore-leg is situated almost in the centre of the chest; he is full of vigour, and walks very nimbly. He was got by Sir C Bunbury's Diomed, out of Bacelli (which was the dam of Marcia) now the property of Lord Derby.

Also is exhibiting in the Front Room, the surprising HEIFER, with two heads, four horns, four eyes, four ears, four nostrils through each of which it breathes; and what is most remarkable, it takes its sustenance with both its mouths at the same time, to the admiration of every beholder.

Admittance, 1s each.

NB – the most money given for any curious Animal, if alive, by G Pidcock. Enquire as above.

The Times – 19 February 1791. [no rhinoceros]

A MOST WONDERFUL PRODUCTION of NATURE Arrived yesterday at the LYCEUM, in the STRAND.

A beautiful high-bred, Bright Bay COLT, of the Race kind; matched before it was brought forth, to run at Newmarket, for 200 guineas a side, when three years old; it was foaled the 10th of March last, with only three legs, two behind, and one before; the fore-leg is situated almost in the centre of the chest; he is full of vigour, and walks very nimbly. He was got by Sir C Bunbury's Diomed, out of Bacelli (which was the dam of Marcia) now the property of Lord Derby.

Also is exhibiting in the Front Room, the surprising HEIFER, with two heads, four horns, four eyes, four ears, four nostrils through each of which it breathes; and what is most remarkable, it takes its sustenance with both its mouths at the same time, to the admiration of every beholder.

Admittance, 1s each.

NB – the most money given for any curious Animal, if alive, by G Pidcock. Enquire as above.

The Times – 12 March 1791. [no rhinoceros]

Three of the most Wonderful Productions of Nature ever seen alive in Europe, arrived a few days ago at the LYCEUM, in the Strand.

In the Front Room is the surprising HEIFER, with two heads, four horns, four eyes, four ears, four nostrils through each of which it breathes; and what is most remarkable, it takes its sustenance with both its mouths at the same time, to the admiration of every beholder, &c.

Admittance, 1s each.

Also, in a separate apartment, a beautiful high bred bright BAY COLT, of the race kind; it was foaled March 10, 1790, with only three legs, two behind, and one before; the fore-leg is situated in the centre of the chest; he is full of vigour, and walks very nimbly. He was got by Sir C Bunbury's Diomed, out of Bacelli (which was the dam of Marcia) now the property of Lord Derby.

Also the IRISH DWARF, 36 years old, and only three feet six inches height, four feet round the breast, two feet two inches round the head, and what is more remarkable, he can span from his knees to his toes ends, though his fingers are short; he weighs 13 stone, and will engage to carry two men that weigh 20 stone each, both at the same time.

Admittance, 1s Each.

NB – the most money given for any curious Animal, if alive, by G Pidcock. Enquire as above.

Hampshire Chronicle – 11 July 1791. [no rhinoceros]

We hear from Ascot-Heath Races, that those living wonders, from the Lyceum and Exeter 'Change, in the Strand, London, are now proceeding to *Newbury, Ringwood, Southampton, Portsmouth, Portsdown, &c.* The collection consists of two stupendous Ostriches (male and female), 9 feet high each, from the coast of Barbary; the Heifer with two heads; and the wonderful Bay Colt foaled with only three legs; also the strong Irish Dwarf, &c, likewise the savage laughing Hyaena; the Bengal Tyger; the noble Lioness; the African Ram; the ravenous Wolf, and twenty other animals and birds too tedious to insert.

NB The most money given for all sorts of foreign Birds and Beasts, if alive, by G Pidcock. Please to apply as above.

Chester Chronicle – 14 October 1791. [no rhinoceros]

Just arrived from the Lyceum and Exeter Exchange, Strand, London, and to be seen during the fair, in the market-place, two of the grandest assemblages of living rarities in all Europe: consisting of two stupendous and royal OSTRICHES, male and female. These birds exceed in magnitude and texture of plumage all the feathered TRIBE in the CREATION. They already measure each upwards of NINE FEET high, although very young! Also a BENGAL TYGER, a young LIONESS, a real spotted HYAENA, a ravenous WOLF, two ring-tailed PORCUPINES, an African RAM with four circular horns, and twenty other Animals and Birds, too numerous to insert.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

Likewise in the other Exhibition is, The ROYAL HEIFER, with TWO HEADS, a beautiful COLT, of the race kind, foaled with only THREE LEGS, got by Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed, out Barcelli, which was the Dam of Marcia, now the property of Lord Derby; Also, a RAM with SIX LEGS.

In addition to the animal curiosities one of the most extraordinary productions the human species will be shown, namely the double-jointed IRISH DWARF, who will engage to carry 2 of the largest men now existing, both at the same time.

Admittance as above.

Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged, by G Pidcock.

The above collection will proceed to Warrington, Liverpool, Manchester, &c.

Derby Mercury – 29 December 1791. [no rhinoceros]

(Article.)

The living rarities lately arrived in this town, are an unparalleled assemblage. The royal Ostriches, whose majestic height exceed nine feet, impress every beholder with wonder; and the beautiful Bengal Tyger, from the eastern world, the young Lioness, the Queen of the forest – the fierce and untameable Hyaena, the voracious Wolf, the fretful Porcupine, to say nothing of the *Lufus Naturae* in that matchless wonder the two-headed Cow, the three legged Colt, the fix legged Ram, and the Herculean Dwarf – all united, form a most complete & astonishing assemblage of living curiosities. (Advert.)

Two of the Grandest Assemblages of LIVING RARITIES in all Europe, from the Lyceum and Exeter Change, Strand, London, are now exhibiting in the Market Place in this town. These Two Collections consist of

Two Stupendous & Royal OSTRICHES, male & female.

These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feathered tribes in the creation.

They already measure each upwards of Nine Feet high, although very young.

A Bengal TYGER, a young LIONESS, a real spotted HYAENA, a ravenous WOLF, two ring-tailed PORCUPINES, an African RAM *with four circular horns*, and twenty other Animals and Birds, to numerous to insert.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

And the other Exhibition is, The ROYAL HEIFER, *with Two Heads, Four Horns, Four Eyes, Four Ears, and Four Nostrils*, through each of which it breaths, &c and what it more surprising, she takes her Sustenance with both Mouths at the same Time, to the Astonishment of every Beholder.

A beautiful COLT, of the race kind, foaled with only *Three Legs*, got by Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed, out Barcilli, which was the Dam of Marcia, now the property of Lord Derby.

Also, a RAM with *Six Legs*.

NB The *double-jointed* IRISH DWARF, who describes the above, is 36 years of age, three feet six inches high, four feet round the breast, two feet two inches round the head, and what is more remarkable, he can span from his knees to his toe ends, tho' his fingers are but short. He is 13 stone weight and his amazing strength is beyond conception. He will engage to carry 2 of the largest men now existing, both at the same time.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

BIRDS and BEASTS bought, sold, or exchange'd, by G PIDCOCK.

This collection will positively stay no longer than Saturday, as the Proprietor intends to proceed to Nottingham on Monday next.

Stamford Mercury – 27 January 1792. [no rhinoceros]

Two of the grandest assemblages of Living Rarities in all Europe, from the Lyceum and Exeter 'Change, Strand, London, are now at Louth, in this county, and will be at Boston market on Wednesday, February 1st, Spalding on Tuesday the 7th, and will proceed to Lynn, Wisbech, Stamford, and Grantham marts, &c, &c. The first exhibition consists of

Two Stupendous & Royal OSTRICHES, MALE & FEMALE.

These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feathered tribes in the creation.

They already measure each upwards of Nine Feet high, although very young.

A BENGAL TYGER, a young LIONESS, a real spotted HYAENA, a ravenous WOLF, two ring-tailed PORCUPINES, an AFRICAN RAM *with four circular horns*, and twenty other Animals and Birds, to numerous to insert.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

And the other Exhibition is, The ROYAL HEIFER, *with Two Heads, Four Horns, Four Eyes, Four Ears, and Four Nostrils*, through each of which it breaths, &c; and what it more surprising, she takes her Sustenance with both Mouths at the same Time, to the Astonishment of every Beholder.

A beautiful COLT, of the race kind, foaled with only *Three Legs*, got by Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed, out Barcilli, which was the Dam of Marcia, now the property of Lord Derby. Also, a RAM with *Six Legs*.

NB The *double-jointed* IRISH DWARF (who describes the above), is 36 years of age, three feet six inches high, four feet round the breast, two feet two inches round the head, and what is more remarkable, he can span from his knees to his toe ends, tho' his fingers are but short. He is 13 stone weight, and his amazing strength is beyond conception; he will engage to carry two of the largest men now existing, both at the same time.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

BIRDS and BEASTS bought, sold, or exchanged, by G PIDCOCK.

Stamford Mercury – 3 February 1792. [no rhinoceros]

Two of the grandest assemblages of Living Rarities in all Europe, from the Lyceum and Exeter 'Change, Strand, London, will be in Spalding, in this county, on Tuesday next, and will proceed to Lynn, Wisbech, Stamford, and Grantham marts, &c, &c.

The first exhibition consists of

Two Stupendous & Royal OSTRICHES, MALE & FEMALE.

These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feathered tribes in the creation.

They already measure each upwards of Nine Feet high, although very young.

A BENGAL TYGER, a young LIONESS, a real spotted HYAENA, a ravenous WOLF, two ring-tailed PORCUPINES, an AFRICAN RAM *with four circular horns*, and twenty other Animals and Birds, to numerous to insert.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

And the other Exhibition is, The ROYAL HEIFER, *with Two Heads, Four Horns, Four Eyes, Four Ears, and Four Nostrils*, through each of which it breaths, &c; and what it more surprising, she takes her Sustenance with both Mouths at the same Time, to the Astonishment of every Beholder.

A beautiful COLT, of the race kind, foaled with only *Three Legs*, got by Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed, out Barcilli, which was the Dam of Marcia, now the property of Lord Derby. Also, a RAM with *Six Legs*.

NB The *double-jointed* IRISH DWARF (who describes the above), is 36 years of age, three feet six inches high, four feet round the breast, two feet two inches round the head, and what is more remarkable, he can span from his knees to his toe ends, tho' his fingers are but short. He is 13 stone weight, and his amazing strength is beyond conception; he will engage to carry two of the largest men now existing, both at the same time.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

BIRDS and BEASTS bought, sold, or exchanged, by G PIDCOCK.

Stamford Mercury – 17 February 1792. [\[no rhinoceros\]](#)

Two of the grandest assemblages of Living Rarities in all Europe, from the Lyceum and Exeter 'Change, Strand, London, are now in their peregrination to Lynn, Wisbech, Stamford, and Grantham marts, &c, &c. The first exhibition consists of

Two Stupendous & Royal OSTRICHES, MALE & FEMALE.

These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feathered tribes in the creation. They already measure each upwards of Nine Feet high, although very young.

A BENGAL TYGER, a young LIONESS, a real spotted HYAENA, a ravenous WOLF, two ring-tailed PORCUPINES, an AFRICAN RAM *with four circular horns*, and twenty other Animals and Birds, to numerous to insert.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

And the other Exhibition is, The ROYAL HEIFER, *with Two Heads, Four Horns, Four Eyes, Four Ears, and Four Nostrils*, through each of which it breaths, &c; and what it more surprising, she takes her Sustenance with both Mouths at the same Time, to the Astonishment of every Beholder.

A beautiful COLT, of the race kind, foaled with only *Three Legs*, got by Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed, out Barcilli, which was the Dam of Marcia, now the property of Lord Derby. Also, a RAM with *Six Legs*.

NB The *double-jointed* IRISH DWARF (who describes the above), is 36 years of age, three feet six inches high, four feet round the breast, two feet two inches round the head, and what is more remarkable, he can span from his knees to his toe ends, tho' his fingers are but short. He is 13 stone weight, and his amazing strength is beyond conception; he will engage to carry two of the largest men now existing, both at the same time.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

BIRDS and BEASTS bought, sold, or exchanged, by G PIDCOCK.

Stamford Mercury – 24 February 1792. [\[no rhinoceros\]](#)

Two of the grandest assemblages of Living Rarities in all Europe, from the Lyceum and Exeter 'Change, Strand, London, are now in their peregrination to Lynn, Wisbech, Stamford, and Grantham marts, &c, &c. The first exhibition consists of

Two Stupendous & Royal OSTRICHES, MALE & FEMALE.

These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feathered tribes in the creation. They already measure each upwards of Nine Feet high, although very young.

A BENGAL TYGER, a young LIONESS, a real spotted HYAENA, a ravenous WOLF, two ring-tailed PORCUPINES, an AFRICAN RAM *with four circular horns*, and twenty other Animals and Birds, to numerous to insert.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

And the other Exhibition is, The ROYAL HEIFER, *with Two Heads, Four Horns, Four Eyes, Four Ears, and Four Nostrils*, through each of which it breaths, &c; and what it more surprising, she takes her Sustenance with both Mouths at the same Time, to the Astonishment of every Beholder.

A beautiful COLT, of the race kind, foaled with only *Three Legs*, got by Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed, out Barcilli, which was the Dam of Marcia, now the property of Lord Derby. Also, a RAM with *Six Legs*.

NB The *double-jointed* IRISH DWARF (who describes the above), is 36 years of age, three feet six inches high, four feet round the breast, two feet two inches round the head, and what is more remarkable, he can span from his knees to his toe ends, tho' his fingers are but short. He is 13 stone weight, and his amazing strength is beyond conception; he will engage to carry two of the largest men now existing, both at the same time.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

BIRDS and BEASTS bought, sold, or exchanged, by G PIDCOCK.

Stamford Mercury – 16 March 1792. [\[no rhinoceros\]](#)

Two of the grandest assemblages of Living Rarities in all Europe, from the Lyceum and Exeter 'Change, Strand, London, are now at PETERBOROUGH, where they will remain till Saturday Evening; will attend STAMFORD Midlent Fair till Friday, Evening, in the Yard (late Mr Hudson's) below St Mary's Hill; and from thence will proceed to GRANTHAM, NEWARK, GAINSBOROUGH, &c.

The first exhibition consists of

Two Stupendous & Royal OSTRICHES, MALE & FEMALE.

These Birds exceed in magnitude and texture of Plumage all the feathered tribes in the creation. They already measure each upwards of Nine Feet high, although very young.

A BENGAL TYGER, a young LIONESS, a real spotted HYAENA, a ravenous WOLF, two ring-tailed PORCUPINES, an AFRICAN RAM *with four circular horns*, and twenty other Animals and Birds, to numerous to insert.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

And the other Exhibition is, The ROYAL HEIFER, *with Two Heads, Four Horns, Four Eyes, Four Ears, and Four Nostrils*, through each of which it breaths, &c; and what it more surprising, she takes her Sustenance with both Mouths at the same Time, to the Astonishment of every Beholder.

A beautiful COLT, of the race kind, foaled with only *Three Legs*, got by Sir Charles Bunbury's Diomed, out Barcilli, which was the Dam of Marcia, now the property of Lord Derby. Also, a RAM with *Six Legs*.

NB The *double-jointed* IRISH DWARF (who describes the above), is 36 years of age, three feet six inches high, four feet round the breast, two feet two inches round the head, and what is more remarkable, he can span from his knees to his toe ends, tho' his fingers are but short. He is 13 stone weight, and his amazing strength is beyond conception; he will engage to carry two of the largest men now existing, both at the same time.

Admittance 1s. Servants half price.

BIRDS and BEASTS bought, sold, or exchanged, by G PIDCOCK.

Stamford Mercury – 27 April 1792. [\[no rhinoceros\]](#)

On Friday the 13th instant, as Mr Pidcock was proceeding from Gainsborough to Brigg, with his exhibitions of birds and beasts, a terrible clap of thunder, attended with lightening, took place, which frightened the horses, and they set off on full gallop, threw the ostrich carriage over, broke it to pieces, broke the back of the female ostrich, which died the next day, and the male ostrich was

bruised in so terrible a manner, that it died at Newark, on Wednesday the 25th. The Irish dwarf had his collar bone broke, and was otherwise much hurt, but is now in a fair way of recovery.

Derby Mercury – 3 May 1792. [no rhinoceros]

During the late terrible storms [Friday the 13th instant], as Mr Pidcock was proceeding from Gainsborough to Brigg, with his exhibitions of birds and beasts, a terrible clap of thunder, attended with lightening, took place, which frightened the horses, and they set off on full gallop, threw the ostrich carriage over, broke it to pieces, broke the back of the female ostrich, which died the next day and the male ostrich was bruised in so terrible a manner, that it died at Newark, on Wednesday the 25th. The Irish dwarf had his collar bone broke, and was otherwise much hurt, but now is in a fair way of recovery.

Aberdeen Journal – 13 May 1799. [no rhinoceros]

The Public in general are particularly requested to take notice, that there is arrived, and now exhibiting in the Market-place, Aberdeen, the grandest collection of FOREIGN BIRDS and BEASTS, from the four Quarters of the Globe, ever exhibited in this kingdom. The collection will continue exhibiting each day till Friday evening, and positively no longer.

They consist of a most stupendous MALE ELEPHANT, the largest ever seen in Great Britain. The sagacity and knowledge of this animal is wonderful in the extreme, and is so tractable, it will do any thing you desire it.

A most beautiful ZEBRA: It is an animal alternately striped from head to foot, in a most beautiful manner, and landed July 1798.

A fine young LION: It is a native of Africa and but lately arrived.

Three ROYAL TYGERS: These animals are much larger than the Lion, and are extremely beautiful.

Two beautiful spotted LEOPARDS: They are admirably interspersed with beautiful tints, and not two alike about them.

Three ravenous laughing HYAENAS: They will imitate the human voice in a wonderful manner.

An ANTELOPE: It is a most beautiful animal of the Deer species.

Two South America VULTURES, or CONDORE MINORS, from the Brazils: Their wings, when extended, measure from 8 to 9 feet – they are Birds of prey. With several other Animals, too numerous to insert in the limits of our paper.

Foreign Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged by G PIDCOCK. Enquire as above.

ADMITTANCE – ONE SHILLING EACH.

NB They will proceed from hence to Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, Forfar, &c, &c and will be at Stonehaven on Saturday first.

Manchester Mercury – 23 June 1799. [no rhinoceros]

We can assure the public from good authority, that Pidcock's entire New Collection of foreign Birds and Beasts will be at Preston, and continue during the Race Week, consisting of a large Male Elephant, the largest in the kingdom; a most beautiful Zebra, taken four hundred miles from the Cape of Good Hope, adorned with hundreds of stripes, and not two alike; Three royal striped Bengal Tigers, two in one den, an instance before never known; a fine young Lion; Two beautiful Spotted Leopards; Two ravenous Hyaenas; the beautiful Antelope, the swiftest animal on the face of the globe; a South American Vulture, or Condore Minor; the tender Bird the Pelican of the Wilderness. Admittance one shilling each.

The Times – 25 November 1799.

On Wednesday last, Pidcock's famous Rhinoceros, and some other wonderful Animals, which have been on tour through Kent, on their return to town were exhibited to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, at her residence at Blackheath, when she was pleased to express her approbation

of them, and at the same time make the Proprietor a very handsome present. These Animals are going to the Continent, but will be exhibited this day, and no longer, in this kingdom, near the Elephant and Castle, London Road, St George's Fields.

On Wednesday last, Pidcock's famous Rhinoceros, and some other wonderful Animals, which have been a tour through Kent, on their return to town were exhibited to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, at her residence at Blackheath, when she was pleased to express her appreciation of them, and at the same time made the Proprietor a very handsome present. These Animals are going to the Continent, but will be exhibited this day, and no longer, in this kingdom, near the Elephant and Castle, London-road, St. George's-fields.

The Times – 27 November 1799. [\[no rhinoceros\]](#)

On Saturday last a beautiful young Numidian Lion was landed at the Custom House, and was afterwards conveyed to Exeter 'Change in the Strand, to be added to that truly Grand Menagerie. It is so exceeding tame, that the Keeper goes into the den with it. There are upwards of 200 other Beasts and Birds, which have been selected from the most remote parts of the world; amongst which there are 4 of the largest Bengal Royal Tigers that ever seen in this country; and no less than six Kangaroos, which are natives of Botany Bay, and are quite a variety to all other animals, as their hind legs are more than three times the length of the fore ones; one of them stands upwards of 5 feet high. There are also two Crown Pigeons, which are as large as a Turkey, and are the only birds of the kind that ever were known to be brought to this kingdom alive. Foreign Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged by G PIDCOCK as above. [NO MENTION OF RHINO]

The Times – 28 November 1799. [\[no rhinoceros\]](#)

On Saturday, the 16th instant, was landed at the Custom House, a noble young Male Lion, which was immediately sent to Exeter 'Change, in the Strand, and is now exhibited with near 200 other Animals and Birds; also in exhibited with a large Elephant, six Kangaroos, lately arrived from Botany Bay. In a separate room is a stupendous Skeleton of a Whale, 66 feet long, is perfect in every part, and would be a great acquisition to any Tea Garden, or other public place; it will be sold very cheap, as the Proprietor wants the room to receive a collection of Foreign Animals, which have just arrived from a tour through Scotland, and are to be seen or sold near the Elephant and Castle, St George's Fields. Also 10 Caravans, and a number of capital draught Horses, to be sold.

The Times – 17 December 1799.

The GRAND MENAGERIE, at Exeter 'Change, in the Strand, since the late additions of Foreign Animals and Birds, which have arrived there, within these few days past, has become one of the most entertaining promenades in town; it consists of near 200 different species of living Birds and Beasts. In one apartment is a stupendous Elephant and 6 Kangaroos, from Botany Bay, which are the latest discovery of Quadrupeds. Admittance 1s each. In the great room is added a noble young Male Lion, 4 Bengal Tygers, whose limbs are larger than an ox; also 2 Royal Crown Pigeons, which are nearly as large as a turkey, and are the only birds of the kind ever brought to England alive. Admittance 1s each. In a separate apartment is an Optical Exhibition, far exceeding anything of the kind ever yet invented. Admittance 1s each, or the three Exhibitions for 2s 6d. Foreign Birds and Beasts bought, sold or exchanged by G Pidcock as above.

The Ipswich Journal – 3 May 1800.

We hear that there is on the road from Exeter 'Change, Strand, London, Pidcock's Grand Collection of Foreign Animals and Birds; they consist of the largest elephant in Great Britain, the noble lion and lioness, two royal Bengal tygers in one den, they are male and female; two leopards, male and female; two hyaenas, male and female; two fiery lynx, male and female, from the burning

mountains; an antelope, and several other animals and birds, too tedious to insert. It is expected they will be exhibited at our fair on Monday next [5 MAY 1800].

The Ipswich Journal – 3 May 1800.

To be seen in the MARKET PLACE, in this Town DURING THE FAIR, PIDCOCK'S GRAND ASSEMBLAGE OF CURIOUS FOREIGN ANIMALS and BIRDS, FROM EXETER 'CHANGE, STRAND, LONDON.

In Four magnificent Covered Caravans, Consisting of a most Stupendous ELEPHANT. The sagacity of this Herculean animal is so wonderful, that, without ocular demonstration, which may be had by applying at the carriages, Naturalists themselves are inclined to doubt. This singular quadruped has been but a short time in London, and was never exhibited in the country till Monday, the 8th of April 1800. At the word of command, he removes to springs and a bolt, with his proboscis, and, in a curious manner, opens the door of his apartment. He performs various tricks with a pail, money, &c. A LION and LIONESS. Victory was cubbed on the glorious 1st of August, 1798, the day on which Admiral Nelson obtained the ever memorable victory over the French fleet, at the mouth of the Nile, from which circumstances this animal derives his name. This most magnanimous animal is superior in courage, and universally acknowledged sole monarch of the whole brute creation; his majestic look, and tremendous roaring, striking terror throughout the kingdom of quadrupeds. It is a native of Africa, in the vast deserts of which country, under the influence of a scorching sun, they attain to a prodigious strength and ferocity.

Two ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS: they are male and female, both in one den, and instance of which was never before known in this country.

Two curious SPOTTED LEOPARDS; they are male and female, and curiously adorned with various colours.

Two RAVENOUS HYAENAS; they are male and female, very ferocious, and it is impossible to tame them. They imitate the human voice in a very striking manner.

A beautiful ANTELOPE. This animal is of the deer kind, and it is said to be the swiftest on the face of the globe.

They are all well secured in strong iron dens, so that the most timorous person may approach them without fear of being hurt.

NB – Foreign beasts and birds, bought, sold, or exchanged, by G Pidcock; enquire as above, or at his Grand Menagerie, over Exeter 'Change, Stand, London.

Pamphlets, neatly printed on fine wove paper, giving a description of the animals and birds, to be had at the carriages.

3. POLITO'S RHINOCEROS 1810-1814

POLITO'S RHINOCEROS – DEPICTIONS

29

WELL WALK, CHELTENHAM,
(FOR A FEW DAYS ONLY.)
THE GRANDEST
Living Productions
of HINDOSTAN, the southern Regions of AFRICA, and the Peruvian Mountains of SOUTH AMERICA.

S. POLITO,
Of the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, London.
Ever desirous of gratifying a generous and enlightened Public, he is happy to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and the curious, that he has availed himself of the present opportunity of bringing forward such rare and remarkable objects of Natural History, which he flatters himself all Europe cannot equal, viz. the Supporters

RHINOCEROS,



Or, REAL UNICORN;

Which is considered the most formidable of all Terrestrial Animals; its strength is not inferior to that of the Elephant, and in size, it only appears less by the different formation of its body and shortness of its legs; it covered with an impenetrable coat of mail or armour, capable of resisting the force of a market-bull, and armed with a formidable horn over its nose, with which it can tread any animal every thing before him, and has been known to eat a whole herd of Elephants in dinner, and even to destroy a whole village. The first that escaped the event in which they were transporting him for a present to the Pope of Rome. The one here presented to the Public, arrived in England in July, 1810, and the prodigious manner in which he has grown, since his arrival, is the greatest astonishment that ever was known in this country, he having increased fully a Ton in weight, and more than double its bulk: is between 3 and 4 years old, and it is supposed, that in a short time there will be no caravan able to contain him, so that his travelling will be but for a few months.

ALSO, A MOST BEAUTIFUL
Zebra, from Ethiopia,



In which it seems as if the most exquisite Works of Art had been combined with Nature in this wonderful production; its symmetry of shape, or beauty of colour, is the most elegant of all quadrupeds; it unites the graceful figure of a Horse, with the firmness of the Stag; is beautifully striped with regular lines, black and white; the head, neck, and body, are loaded as it were round with thick, which encompassing the face and thighs in the same manner, gives the stripes a contrary direction from those on the neck and body, and together produce the effect of a little horse in miniature. It is a native of the southern regions of Africa, and was lately brought from the Cape of Good Hope.

And that new and admirable Animal,
CAMELUS PACO,
Or Alpaca,

A native of the Andes, (Mountains of Peru) and occasionally used as a beast of burden. The head, neck, breast, fore legs, and half of its body, are as white as a Swan; the other parts approaching to purple, covered with long shining silky wool, originally manufactured for the clothing of the Incas; was the Queen's Robe of, and insinuated as a Token of Friendship by, the ANACAPONI; adopted as the presiding Divinity of the CAHUAS; is the subject of the most beautiful Allegories of the Peruvian History, and is unquestionably

The only one ever brought to England.

In mild and gentle manners are unequalled in any other quadruped, its features are emblems of the soft and gentle climate of South America, and its general construction beyonds the prevalent Mode of Nature in its most favoured productions.

Admittance only One Shilling.

Figure POL1. Handbill issued for the exhibition of Polito's menagerie at the Well Walk, Cheltenham. Undated [1811]. (British Library, Lysons Collection).

"The one here presented to the Public, arrived in England in July 1810, and the prodigious manner in which he has grown, since his arrival, is the greatest astonishment that ever was known in this country, he having increased fully a Ton in weight, and more than double its bulk: is between 3 and 4 years old, and it is supposed, that in a short time there will be no caravan able to contain him, so that his travelling will be but for a few months."

Figure in ANH figure 7. Samuel Howitt, Rhinoceros. Undated [1810-12].

Figure in ANH figure 8. Samuel Howitt, Three rhinoceroses. Undated [1810-12].



Figure POL2. Samuel Howitt, "Rhinoceros" – "Pub. by W. Bullock, London Museum, Piccadilly, April 2, 1812" (Bullock, *Companion*, 1812).

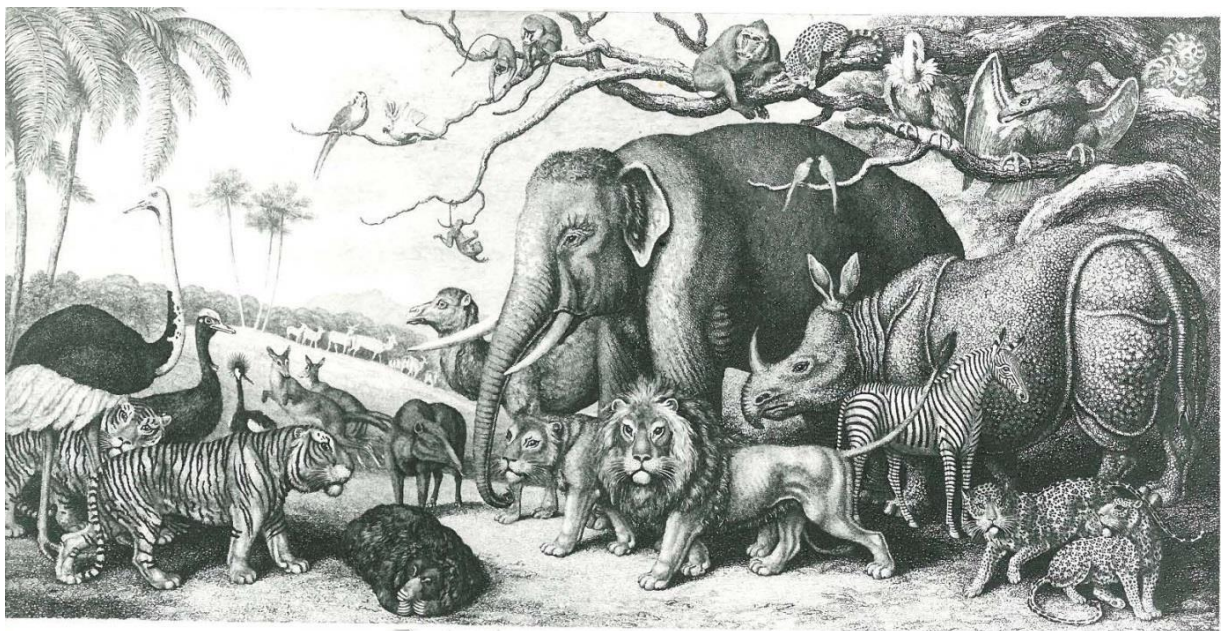


Figure POL3. Samuel Howitt, broadsheet: "Taken from Life amongst the numerous Assemblage at the Royal Menagerie, Exeter 'Change, Strand, London. Drawn & Engraved by S. Howitt. Published by S. Polito, Proprietor, 1813." (Museum of London).



Figure POL4. Samuel Howitt, "Anecdote of Hunters & Rhinoceros", coloured aquatint (Howitt, *Foreign Field Sports*, 1813).



Figure POL5. Samuel Howitt, "Shooting a Rhinoceros. Published May 31st. 1820 by J. Wheble & J. Pittman, 18 Warwick Square. London." Signed lower left corner: Howitt. (*Sporting Magazine, or Monthly Calendar* vol. 6 no. 32, 1820).

POLITO'S RHINOCEROS – NEWSPAPER SOURCES – TRANSCRIPTS**Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 15 February 1810. [no rhinoceros]**

LIVING ELEPHANT, Just Arrived from India in the Hon Company's Ship Winchelsea, Captain W Moffatt.

S POLITO respectfully informs the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public, that he has obtained possession of an extremely fine ELEPHANT, and (by permission) [will exhibit him in] a [unintelligible] Caravan in KINGSMEAD'S FARE, For a few Days only previous to Bristol Fair.

"The stupendous size, strength, and sagacity of the Elephant, have in all ages rendered it the admiration of mankind." The one here presented to the public was lately procured by the Proprietor at an enormous expense, being the only one at this present time in Europe; it is between three and four years old, and one of those distinguished by the Indians of *the cast of Koomereagh*, which are the finest and largest Elephants in the world. It is so remarkably tame and tractable, that his keeper can with pleasure make him perform so many wonderful and entertaining tricks, which without seeing would appear incredible.

Admittance, Ladies and Gentlemen 1s each; Servants, Children, &c 6d. Open from 11 o'clock in the morning till 8 in the Evening.

The Norfolk Chronicle – 17 February 1810. [no rhinoceros]

The grandest assemblage of living Curiosities which the history of collection could ever boast of, is now exhibiting in the Market Place, Lynn, during the Mart, and will no doubt afford no small degree of pleasure to the inhabitants of that and other neighbouring towns; particularly the admirers of the wonderful productions of nature, in having an opportunity of viewing a Menagerie which has become an object of universal admiration. The finest specimens of Lions, Royal Tigers, Ostrich, and Pelicans, in nature, are among this multitude of foresters; Panthers, Leopards, Hyaena, Cassowary, Emews, Condor, Vulture, Crown Birds, and those singular rarities, the Adjutants; and several new-discovered animals, with upwards of one hundred other quadrupeds and birds, all in the finest health and condition, and kept so remarkably safe and clean, forming altogether such a constellation of animated nature, as no eye ever witnessed in any other part of Europe. It is a pleasure to observe, that the proprietor (Mr Polito) generally meets with that patronage justly deserved for his indefatigable and spirited exertions.

The Hampshire Chronicle – 23 April 1810. [no rhinoceros]

A report has been circulated some months past, to the deepest regret of many thousands of the inhabitants of this country, that Mr Polito, with his superb collection of Foreign Beasts and Birds, were entirely lost in attempting to go to Ireland; but we feel great pleasure in being able to inform the public quite to the contrary, as Mr P had not only made wonderful progress in his Menagerie that he exhibited in those parts last April, but he has lately taken the whole Menagerie at Exeter 'Change, Strand, London, and has obtained possession of a remarkably fine Elephant, brought to England in the Hon East India Company's ship Winchelsea, Capt William Moffat, which will be exhibited at Rumsey fair on Monday; and it is expected he will be offered for public inspection for a day or two, in this town, on his way the Exeter 'Change, London.

The Oxford Journal – 30 June 1810. [no rhinoceros]

(Part of a larger advert.)

By Permission of the Rev the Vice-Chancellor and the Worshipful Mayor.

ROYAL MENAGERIE, Exhibited by special command to her Majesty and Royal Family, at Windsor, June 13th 1809.

S POLITO, duly impressed with grateful recollection of former patronage, begs leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of the university and City of Oxford, and its vicinity, that he will avail himself of the present opportunity of offering his GRAND EXHIBITION of LIVING CURIOSITIES, during the Installation; which, in addition to his original Collection, will include all those valuable and most extraordinary BIRDS and BEASTS, that he has lately obtained at enormous sums, and have, previous to this time, been exhibited separately; among them is a Stupendous ELEPHANT...

S Polito humbly assures his friends and the public, that he feels a great pleasure in having the opportunity of exhibiting his superb Collection in Oxford, previous to its being deprived of a number of its most valuable objects, which are intended to ornament the Menagerie at Exeter 'Change, London, lately purchased by him, and now fitting up in a superior style.

The Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury: and Boston, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Grantham, Louth, Newark, Wisbech, and Peterborough General Advertiser – 27 July 1810.

On Monday se'nnight a fine zebra was landed from on board the Sally, from the Cape of Good Hope; and the following [Tuesday, 17 July] day an elephant, from on board the Marquis of Wellesley East Indiaman; as also a rhinoceros, from on board the Metcalfe; and two royal tygers from on board the Melville.

Morning Post – 17 August 1810.

The Rhinoceros, or Unicorn of the Ancients, a stupendous Elephant, a beautiful Zebra, two Ostriches, and other rarities, are just arrived at the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, which, with the finest specimens of Lions, Royal Tygers, &c, &c added to the original collection, by S POLITO, forms at this present time the grandest emporium of living curiosities ever known in any part of the habitable world.

The Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire General Advertiser – 23 August 1810.

[no rhinoceros]

(Part of a longer article.)

ROYAL MENAGERIE, EXHIBITED BY SPECIAL COMMAND, *To her Majesty and Royal Family, at Windsor*, June 13, 1809.

TO BE SEEN IN THE CIRCUS, CHELTENHAM, On FRIDAY and SATURDAY the 24th and 25th inst. *And positively no longer.*

S POLITO, BEGS leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of this Town and its Vicinity, that he will avail himself of the present opportunity of offering his Grand Exhibition of Living Curiosities; and, in addition to his original Collection, he has included all those valuable and most extraordinary Birds and Beasts which he has lately obtained at enormous sums, and have, previous to this, been exhibited separately, at no less a premium than the whole is now offered; amongst which are A STUPENDOUS ELEPHANT.

MALE OSTRICH.

A NOBLE LION.

A BEAUTIFUL LIONESS...

S POLITO humbly assures his Friends and the Public, that he feels it a great pleasure in having the opportunity of offering his superb Collection in this Town, previous to its being deprived of a number of its most valuable objects, which are intended to ornament the Menagerie at Exeter 'Change, London; lately purchased by S P and not fitting up in a superior style.

Birds and Beasts, sold or exchanged, by the Proprietor.

The Manchester Mercury – 13 November 1810. [no rhinoceros]

[Part of a larger advert.]

Salford Fair.

ROYAL MENAGERIE.

Exhibited by special command to Her Majesty and Royal Family at Windsor, June 13, 1809.

S POLITO begs leave to inform Ladies and Gentlemen and the Public, that he will avail himself of the present opportunity of offering his grand EXHIBITION of *Living Curiosities*; and in addition to his original collection, he has included a number of valuable and most extraordinary Birds and Beasts, which he has lately obtained at enormous sums: Amongst which are a STUPENDOUS MALE ELEPHANT...

S POLITO humbly assures his Friends and the Public, that he feels a great pleasure in having the opportunity of offering his superb Collection once more at Salford Fair, previous to its being deprived of a number of its most valuable objects, which are intended to ornament the Menagerie at Exeter Change, London, lately purchased by S P and now fitting up in a superior style.

Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged by the Proprietor.

Lancaster Gazette – 1 December 1810. [no rhinoceros]

POSITIVELY FOR THIS DAY ONLY.

ROYAL MENAGERIE, (The only one now travelling the United Kingdom, from Exeter Change, London.) *Exhibited, by special command, to Her Majesty and the Royal Family, at Windsor, June the 13th, 1810.*

S POLITO AVAILS himself of this opportunity of offering once more in Lancaster, his GRAND EXHIBITION of LIVING CURIOSITIES; in addition to his original collection, he had included a number of valuable and most extraordinary Birds and Beasts, which he has lately obtained at enormous prices; and which are now to be seen in DALTON SQUARE; amongst which are THE ONLY MALE ELEPHANT, In this Kingdom;

A FULL-GROWN LION and LIONESS, *TIGER and TIGRESS*, GREAT OSTRICH, With a great Number of other Beasts and Birds.

The above Collection being on its way to Edinburgh, can be exhibited in Lancaster for this day only; on Tuesday next, it may be viewed at BURTON-IN-KENDAL; and on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday next, at KENDAL.

The Scots Magazine – 1 January 1811. [no rhinoceros]

Monthly Memoranda in Natural History.

FOREIGN ANIMALS.

Having, about three years ago, made some remarks on Mr Miles's collection, which was then exhibiting here (Scots Magazine for February 1808), it would be wrong to pass unnoticed one still richer in such curiosities, which is at present in this city. Mr Polito has certainly brought to Edinburgh at this time, the finest collection that ever appeared in Scotland.

Of order of *Bruta*, we find the Elephant and the Sloth. The keepers tell us, that the Elephant, which is a male, is of the Ceylon breed, and little more than three years old. These must be mistakes. I have been assured, that the present animal was calved at Chittigong.

The Morning Chronicle – 2 January 1811.

The highest commendations, universally bestowed by the numerous visitors of Nobility and Gentry, on the unremitting exertions of the celebrated POLITO, at his Royal Menagerie, Exeter 'Change, who, by his unwearied attention, has procured, at an enormous expense, an entire new Exhibition, containing a greater number and variety of living curiosities than ever was before known at any one place in the world. His forest of Lions, Royal Tigers, Leopards, Hyena, Jaguars, and other ferocious animals, is truly grand. The amazing other ferocious animals, is truly grand. The amazing sagacity and size of the Elephant and Rhinoceros exceeds description. The beauty and symmetry of the Zebra, Kangaroo, and Antelope, together with the infinite and splendid assemblage of Birds,

NB. All transcripts and research copyright © of Kees Rookmaaker, John Gannon, Jim Monson, 2015

amongst which is the great African Ostrich, eleven feet high, most certainly afford the admirers of nature's choicest productions the richest opportunity ever offered, or could possibly be expected.

The Caledonian Mercury – 28 February 1811. [no rhinoceros]

EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY.

A little past ten o'clock on Saturday night, Mr Polito's private apartment in the Menagerie, on Earthen Mound, was broke into, and robbed of about one hundred pounds Sterling. The robber or robbers forced three locks before the money was got at, but with which the got clear off.

The Caledonian Mercury – 18 March 1811. [no rhinoceros]

For the Benefit of the Edinburgh Charity Workhouse.

ROYAL MENAGERIE, EARTHEN MOUND.

MR POLITO once more intimates to the Public, the that EXHIBITION will continue open for this week only, and in order to express his gratitude for the patronage he has received during his stay in this Metropolis, begs leave to inform the public, that he intends to exhibit his collection on Friday, for the Benefit of the EDINBURGH CHARITY WORKHOUSE.

The Caledonian Mercury – 23 March 1811. [no rhinoceros]

Mr Polito had generously given £22 15s to the Charity Work-house of this City, being one day's exhibition of his Menagerie, Earthen Mound.

The Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle – 1 July 1811.

S POLITO announces to the inhabitants of Portsmouth, Portsea, and their vicinities, his intention to visit the approaching FREE-MART Fair, with his rare and valuable selection of LIVING ANIMALS, from the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change.

S Polito has been at considerable expense, for the purpose of providing convenient caravans for the Beasts, and he hopes they will prove no small gratification to the Public. Among his selection there will be a Rhinoceros, or real Unicorn, of enormous size; a most beautiful Zebra; a pair of very fine Lions, of different breeds from that shown last year; a pair of stupendous Ostriches; with a suitable assortment of other Beasts and Birds.

ROYAL MENAGERIE, *London, June 15.*

The Leeds Mercury – 6 July 1811. [no rhinoceros]

DURING THE FAIR.

Under the Patronage of their Majesties.

THE ROYAL MENAGERIE; From Exeter 'Change, London.

S POLITO begs Leave to inform the LADIES AND Gentlemen, and the Public, of this Town and its Environs, that he will avail himself of this Opportunity of offering his GRAND EXHIBITION of LIVING CURIOSITIES, for the last Time in This Town, the LARGEST MENAGERIE that ever travelled this Kingdom, amongst which are, the most Scientific Animals in the World, a stupendous MALE ELEPHANT, From the Island of Ceylon.

Lately brought to England, in the Walthamstow East Indiaman. The Stupendous Size, Strength, and Sagacity of the Elephant have in all Ages rendered it the Admiration of Mankind; being undoubtedly the largest, strongest and most Sagacious of all terrestrial Animals, and absolutely the only Male one at this present Time in Europe.

A NOBLE LION, From Senegal, which has always been considered, even from its Infancy, as one of the finest of its Species, is now the only full grown Lion in this Kingdom; his Majestic Appearance justly entitles him to the ancient Name – "The King of the Beasts," striking every Beholder with the Idea of Magnanimity and Grandeur.

A BEAUTIFUL LIONESS, The only survivor of the original Breed of Lions in the Tower.

ROYAL TIGER AND TIGRESS: The Male is by far the largest that was ever brought from India, and accompanied by that fine Female, originally in the Collection, forming the grandest and most beautiful Pair of those tremendous Animals ever seen in Europe.

A Pair of those singular Quadrupeds, THE LARGE KANGAROOS, Male and Female, from Botany Bay. A NOBLE PANTHER, from the River La Plata, in South America.

ROYAL MENAGERIE, *London, June 15.*

The Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle – 8 July 1811. [no rhinoceros]

S POLITO announces to the inhabitants of Portsmouth, Portsea, and their vicinities, his intention to visit the approaching FREE-MART Fair, with his rare and valuable selection of LIVING ANIMALS, from the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change.

S Polito has been at considerable expense, for the purpose of providing convenient caravans for the Beasts, and he hopes they will prove no small gratification to the Public. Among his selection there will be a Rhinoceros, or real Unicorn, of enormous size; a most beautiful Zebra; a pair of very fine Lions, of different breeds from that shown last year; a pair of stupendous Ostriches; with a suitable assortment of other Beasts and Birds. A PAIR OF HANDSOME LEOPARDS, The finest in the Kingdom. An uncommon Animal, lately discovered in the interior Parts of Bengal, called THE URSINE SLOTH. A real AFRICAN HYENA. The MAGGOT, or GREAT APE.

RACOONS, and upwards of Fifty other Animals.

A GREAT EMEW, or SOUTHERN OSTRICH, From Vandiemans Land, Seven Feet High.

The Cassowary of New South Wales.

That Wonderful Bird of Ancient Fame, THE PELICAN, The only one travelling this Kingdom.

A Beautiful BALEARIC CRANE, ROYAL CROWN BIRD.

A Pair of remarkably Rare Birds, lately brought to Europe from the interior of Africa, called the ADJUTANTS, or GIGANTIC CRANES.

One of those Rarities of the New World, whose Existence has always been considered as fabulous, THE BLACK SWAN, Rara Avis in Terris, nigroque simillima Cygno.

The CONDORE MINOR of South America.

And a great Variety of other Birds, of the most splendid Plumage in the known World.

Admittance to see the Whole of the Grand Menagerie – Ladies and Gentlemen 1 shilling – Children Half-price. Feeding Hours from Eight till Nine o'clock in the Evening; 2s.

S P begs Leave to remark, that, as the Art of Puffing (?) is so generally practised in most Kinds of Exhibitions, those who are not acquainted with his Principles, may suppose the above to be on the same Kind; but he humbly assures the Public, that although some expressions might appear unsupportable, he will at all Times submit to the Judgment of the Spectators, and only wishes to be treated with that Candour which he has so indefatigably, and will unremittingly endeavour to merit. The Clean and Secure State of the Animals, is generally noticed with the highest Credit to the Managers.

The Leeds Mercury – 13 July 1811. [no rhinoceros]

POSITIVELY TO CLOSE THIS DAY.

Under PATRONAGE of their MAJESTIES.

THE ROYAL MENAGERIE, FROM EXETER 'CHANGE, LONDON.

S POLITO begs Leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen, and the Public, of this Town and its Environs, that he will avail himself of this Opportunity of offering his GRAND EXHIBITION of LIVING CURIOSITIES, For the LAST DAY in this Town, the LARGEST MENAGERIE that ever travelled this Kingdom.

Admittance to see the Whole of the Grand Menagerie – Ladies and Gentlemen 1 Shilling – Children Half-price. Feeding Hours from Eight till Nine o'clock in the Evening; 2s.

The Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle – 17 July 1811.

S POLITO announces to the inhabitants of Portsmouth, Portsea, and their vicinities, his intention to visit the approaching FREE-MART Fair, with his rare and valuable selection of LIVING ANIMALS, from the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change.

S Polito has been at considerable expense, for the purpose of providing convenient caravans for the Beasts, and he hopes they will prove no small gratification to the Public. Among his selection there will be a Rhinoceros, or real Unicorn, of enormous size; a most beautiful Zebra; a pair of very fine Lions, of different breeds from that shown last year; a pair of stupendous Ostriches; with a suitable assortment of other Beasts and Birds.

ROYAL MENAGERIE, *London, June 15.*

The Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 22 July 1811.

PORTSMOUTH – DURING THE MART.

S POLITO, of the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, London, ever desirous of gratifying a generous and enlightened Public, begs leave to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and the curious, that he has availed himself of the present opportunity of bringing forward such rare and remarkable objects of natural history, which he flatters himself all Europe cannot equal: viz, the stupendous RHINOCEROS, or real Unicorn; also a most beautiful ZEBRA, from Ethiopia; a majestic LION, from Barbary, and a beautiful LIONESS, from Senegal, of a distinct breed from those exhibited last year; the SERVALL; a TIGER CAT, from Sierra Leone; a LAUGHING HYENA; an extraordinary fine LEOPARD, from Senegal; a gigantic Male OSTRICH; a pair of KANGAROOS; the BLACK SWAN; a pair of Balearic Royal Crown CRANES, from the Coast of Guinea; a pair of CURASOES, from the Bay of Honduras, &c, &c, &c.

NB The above is a selection from the Royal Menagerie, Exeter 'Change, all different from the animals S POLITO had the honour of exhibiting in Portsmouth before.

Admittance one shilling each.

The utmost value given for all kinds of Foreign Birds and Beasts.

Mr P intends being at Magdalen Hill, afterwards at Southampton, and will then visit Salisbury for a short time, on his way to Bath and Bristol.

The Hampshire Chronicle – 22 July 1811.

(Part of a larger advert.)

MAGDALEN HILL FAIR

S POLITO, of the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, London, ever desirous of gratifying a generous and enlightened Public, begs leave to inform the Nobility, Gentry and the curious, that he has availed himself of the present opportunity of bringing forward such rare, and remarkable objects of Natural History, which he flatters himself all Europe cannot equal, viz, the stupendous RHINOCEROS; or, REAL UNICORN..

NB – The above is a selection from the Royal Menagerie, Exeter 'Change, all different from the animals S POLITO had the honour of exhibiting at the Fair last year.

Admittance one shilling each.

The utmost value given for all kinds of Foreign Birds and Beasts.

Mr P intends being at Magdalen Hill Fair, and afterwards will stay a short time at Southampton, and Salisbury, on his way to Bath and Bristol.

The Hampshire Chronicle – 29 July 1811.

(Part of a larger advert.)

MAGDALEN HILL FAIR

S POLITO, of the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, London, ever desirous of gratifying a generous and enlightened Public, begs leave to inform the Nobility, Gentry and the curious, that he has availed himself of the present opportunity of bringing forward such rare, and remarkable objects of Natural

History, which he flatters himself all Europe cannot equal, viz, the stupendous RHINOCEROS; or, REAL UNICORN...

NB – The above is a selection from the Royal Menagerie, Exeter 'Change, all different from the animals S POLITO had the honour of exhibiting at the Fair last year.

Admittance one shilling each.

The utmost value given for all kinds of Foreign Birds and Beasts.

Mr P intends being at Magdalen Hill Fair, and afterwards will stay a short time at Southampton, and Salisbury, on his way to Bath and Bristol.

The Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 19 August 1811.

During the last week, Mr Polito, from Exeter 'Change, has exhibited his collection of wild beasts in a booth in the Market place of this city, and has had a great number of visitors, who have been highly gratified, particularly by the sight of that stupendous animal the Rhinoceros.

Trewman's Exeter Flying Post – 17 October 1811.

(Part of a larger advert.)

On SOUTHERNHAY GREEN, near the HOSPITAL, *EXETER*.

S POLITO, sole Proprietor of the Royal Menagerie, Exeter 'Change, London, ever desirous of gratifying a generous and enlightened public, begs leave to inform the nobility, gentry, and the curious, that he has availed himself of the present opportunity of bringing forward such rare and remarkable living objects of natural history, which he flatters himself all Europe cannot equal, *VIZ*: The stupendous RHINOCEROS, or real UNICORN, which is the most rare, singular, and formidable of all terrestrial animals; its strength is not inferior to that of the Elephant, and in size it only appears less by the different formation of its body and shortness of its legs; is covered with an impenetrable coat of mail or armour capable of resisting the force of a musket ball, and armed with a formidable horn over his nose, with which he can tear up almost every thing before him, but so gentle that he will suffer any person to touch him...

To avoid imposition, S POLITO respectfully assures the public, that neither the Lion, Rhinoceros, Male Elephant, Ostrich, Pelican, Crown Crane, Adjutant, Black Swan, Male and Female Royal Tygers, or *perfect* Hyaenas, are to be met with in any travelling exhibition, at the present time in this kingdom, but at the above, which the proprietor will be accountable to prove, if required; and that no other collection has any connexion whatever with Exeter Change.

Trewmans Exeter Flying Post – 24 October 1811. [no rhinoceros]

EXETER, WEDNESDAY, October 23.

It is but justice to assert that Mr Polito's exhibition has proved wonderfully attractive to the nobility, gentry, and the public in general of this city, and its environs, during the last week; on the evenings of Monday and yesterday in particular, we never witnessed such vast crowds going and coming from this truly gratifying collection. The interior as well as the exterior parts of the caravans were fancifully illuminated: in front was a brilliant display of variegated lamps in different forms; and in the space encircled by the carriages, were upwards of one hundred large mould candles, whereby the numerous spectators could distinctly discern the vast assemblage of the most beautiful animals and birds ever introduced into this part of the country. We hear that Mr Polito intends visiting Plymouth, where we have no doubt but he will experience a reception similar to those which he has experienced in every part of his tour to the west; and which his indefatigable attention for the public gratification and accommodation so justly deserve. We regret that Mr Polito's stay in the west and England will be but of short duration, as we are credibly informed that most of the animals are wanted for the 'Change during the winter season.

The Morning Chronicle – 24 December 1811.

The formidable rhinoceros at the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, is just returned from a tour in the country, and is so wonderfully improved in size and condition, and is so wonderfully improved in size and condition, that one would hardly believe it was the same animal; he now measure full ten feet in length, and about eleven in circumference; his weight must be immense, according to the solidity of his body and limbs. The proprietor declares it the greatest enterprise he ever encountered, in removing it from his habitation to his travelling house, and back again – and indeed it is not to be wondered at, when History informs us that such an animal has destroyed the ship in which it was being transported from Lisbon to Rome, in the year 1513, which was the first rhinoceros ever seen in Europe. He is now, however, safely secured in a new apartment built for the purpose during his absence from the metropolis.

The Morning Chronicle – 22 February 1812.

A Fresh Supply of PHEASANTS of various kinds, now on SALE, at the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change, London. They are of a remarkable fine quality, bred tame, for the purpose of stocking gentlemen's grounds, and they must all be sold in a short time. Applications by letters (post paid) will be duly attended by S Polito. The Exhibition contains the finest and largest Rhinoceros, Elephant, Lions, Tigers, Ostrich, &c that ever was seen in this kingdom, and some hundreds of other rare and beautiful Quadrupeds and Birds.

The Times – 7 March 1812.

PHEASANTS.

A fresh SUPPLY, and the last for this season, about 150 brace, consisting chiefly of the common brown sort, and ring necked, are now on sale at the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Exchange, with a small assortment of Bohemia, pied, white, and silver ditto, in fine condition. Application by letter, post-paid, will be duly attended to, by S Polito. The Exhibition-Rooms, are now completed in superior style, and contain the finest Rhinoceros, Elephant, Lion, Tigers, and Ostrich, ever seen in this kingdom; with some hundred other rare Quadrupeds and Birds.

The Morning Chronicle – 4 September 1812. [no rhinoceros]

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR.

The preparations for this annual festival appear to have been on the usual extended scale. Richardson, Sunders, Gyngell, and Scowton, have raised their gorgeous Theatres on the same space they occupied last year. Miles and Polito have brought a most formidable body of savage animals into the field. There are also elephants enough to equip a Nabob. The Fair was proclaimed yesterday by the Lord Mayor.

The Morning Chronicle – 30 December 1812.

Amongst the numerous entertainments and sights now exhibiting in the Metropolis, we cannot help remarking with great pleasure to our readers, the numerous crowds that are continually flocking to the superb Collection of Living Curiosities now exhibiting at Mr Polito's magnificent menagerie, Exeter Change, Strand, where Natural History at once presents itself to the visitors, for there the stupendous Theatrical Elephant, immense Rhinoceros, majestic Lion, Tyger, Nylghaw, Lama, &c, &c combined with every description or rare and curious Birds, from all parts of the globe proves a very agreeable and instructive sight, particularly worthy the attention of the Juvenile World.

The Morning Chronicle – 16 August 1813. [no rhinoceros]

The Princess Charlotte of Wales, accompanied by the Duchess of Leeds and daughter, and Miss Knight, paid a visit to Polito's Menagerie of wild beasts and birds in this town. Her Royal Highness was particularly pleased with the exhibition, and stayed to see the animals fed.

The Leeds Mercury – 6 November 1813. [no rhinoceros]

EXHIBITED BY ROYAL COMMAND *To her Majesty, the royal Princesses, and to the Princess Charlotte of Wales, at Windsor, August 24, 1813.*

DURING THE FAIR.

Rare, Beautiful, and Most Valuable Addition to POLITO'S SUPERB MENAGERIE, (The very Last Arrival from India), Will be exhibited during the Fair, with that unrivalled Collection of the choicest Productions of Animated Nature; THE NILGHAU; Acknowledged by Connoisseurs as the most elegant Quadruped or Hindostan; is about 14 Hands high, and of the most graceful Shape and Appearance; he has Two Short Horns growing immediately over his Eyes, which give him the Appellation of the HORNED HORSE. It seems to partake of the Species of the Horse, Cow, and the Antelope, and is in every Respect a most admirable Production of Nature's wonderful Works.

This valuable Exhibition will be found, as already well attested, greatly to exceed any former Periods, as S Polito has brought the Whole of his Travelling Collection, and in Respect to Variety, Beauty, and Perfection, may with Propriety challenge the Whole World to produce at One View such a numerous and choice Assemblage: amongst which are the finest, most perfect, and beautiful ZEBRA, That has been seen in this Kingdom in the Memory of Man; in which it seems as if the most exquisite Works of Art had been combined with Nature in this wonderful Production. In Symmetry of Shape and Beauty of Colour, it is the most elegant of all Quadrupeds. It unites the graceful Figure of a Horse with the Fleetness of a Stag, and is beautifully striped with Regular Lines, Black and White.

The Stupendous and Sagacious MALE ELEPHANT; The wonderful Size, Strength, and Sagacity of the Elephant have in all Ages, rendered it the Admiration of Mankind; but the present seems to be One of the most scientific of their numerous Race, and, by the Command of his Keeper, will perform so many wonderful Tricks, that he will not only astonish and entertain the Audience, but justly prove him the half-reasoning Beast.

The only MALE LION Travelling this Kingdom, full grown, with a flowing Mane, whose majestic Countenance justly entitles him to the ancient name – "The King of the Beasts."

FINE LIONESSE, the only Survivor of that original Breed of Lions that have been in the Tower of London upwards of One Hundred Years.

Male and Female Royal Tigers, From Bengal, which for Size and Beauty were never equalled in this Kingdom.

The SPOTTED or LAUGHING HYAENA, from the Cape of Good Hope. Of those animals many fabulous Accounts have been given, both in ancient and modern Times, particularly by the Exhibitors of Wild Beasts, but here they will be faithfully described.

The Ravenous WOLF, from the Alps. A Noble PANTHER, from the River La Plata. Several distinct Varieties of the finest LEOPARDS in the World. The JAGUAR, or TIGER CAT, from Amboyna. A singular animal lately discovered in the Interior of India called the URSINE SLOTH. Male and Female KANGAROOS, from Botany Bay, and a vast Number of other interesting Quadrupeds.

Also, the following BIRDS: *The Great EMEW, or SOUTHERN OSTRICH*, From Van Diemen's Land, Seven Feet high. GRAND CASSOWARY, from the Island of Java. That wonderful Bird of ancient Fame, the PELICAN OF THE WILDERNESS, The only one travelling in this Kingdom. A remarkable and rare Bird, lately brought from the Interior of Africa, called The ADJUTANT, or GIGANTIC CRANE. One of those Rarities of the New World, whose Existence has been considered fabulous, called the BLACK SWAN. "Run avis in terra, nigroque simillima cygno." The CONDOR MINOR, of South America. And a Variety of other Birds, of the most splendid Plumage in the Known World.

Admittance, during the Fair only, Ladies and Gentlemen, One Shilling – Children & Servants, Sixpence.

S Polito, with due Respect, returns his sincere Thanks for the kind encouragement he has on all occasions so liberally experienced from an enlightened Public, and is highly proud to have it in his Power to afford that Pleasure and Satisfaction so universally expressed – an ample Reward for his

unremitting and indefatigable Exertions in procuring Objects worthy of Attention; and humbly assures his numerous Friends and Patrons, that should this chance to be the last Time of his Exhibition at Leeds Fair, the Impulse of Gratitude shall never cease in his Mind.

The Liverpool Mercury – 24 December 1813. [no rhinoceros]

We have the satisfaction to announce to the Public, that Polito's Menagerie, forming by far the most extensive collection of rare living Animals travelling the Untied Kingdom, will arrive in this town in a few days. A most noble Lion, an Elephant, and that beautiful creature, the Zebra, are amongst this valuable assemblage, which forms on the whole one of the richest treats that can be offered to the thinking mind.

The Liverpool Mercury – 29 April 1814

DEATHS.

On Monday the 18th instant at Manchester, Mr Polito, Proprietor of the Menagerie, Exeter Change, London.

The Northampton Mercury – 25 June 1814. [no rhinoceros]

EXHIBITED BY ROYAL COMMAND.

To her Majesty, the Royal Princesses, and the Princess Charlotte of Wales, at Windsor, Aug 14, 1813.

DURING BROUGHTON-GREEN FAIR.

RARE, beautiful, and most valuable Addition to POLITO'S SUPERB MENAGERIE (the very last Arrival from India) will be exhibited during the Fair, with that unrivalled Collection of the choicest Productions of animated Nature.

The NILGHAU...

This valuable Exhibition will be found, as already well attested, greatly to exceed any former Periods, as S POLITO [Polito's wife Sarah White] has brought the Whole of her Traveling Collection; and in Respect to Variety, Beauty, and Perfection, may with Propriety challenge the whole World, to produce at one View, such a numerous and choice Assemblage. Amongst which are the finest, most perfect, and beautiful ZEBRA...

The Animals are regularly fed at Nine o'clock in the Evening – Admittance 2s 6d each.

S POLITO, with due Respect, returns her sincere Thanks for the kind Encouragement she has, on all Occasions, so liberally experienced from an enlightened Public, and is highly proud to have it in her Power to afford that Pleasure and Satisfaction so universally expressed – an ample Reward for her unremitting and indefatigable Exertions in procuring Objects worthy of Attention; and humbly assures her numerous Friends and Patrons, that should this chance to be the last Time of her Exhibition at this Fair, the Impulse of Gratitude shall never cease in her Mind.

The Leeds Mercury – 6 August 1814. [no rhinoceros]

DEATHS.

On Wednesday se'nnight [27 July 1814], Mrs Polito [Sarah White], widow of Mr S Polito, of the Royal Menagerie, Exeter Change.

Cheltenham Chronicle – 6 October 1814. [no rhinoceros]

FOR EXHIBITION, THIS DAY AND TOMORROW, At the Bottom of Portland Street, Cheltenham.

POLITO'S ROYAL, WONDERFUL, AND PLEASING MENAGERIE, FROM EXETER 'CHANGE, LONDON.

INDISPUTABLY the most grand, rich, and complete Collection of rare and beautiful living ANIMALS, that was ever known to travel in any part of the World, is now offered for the inspection of Amateurs, Connoisseurs, and the Public, which affords an opportunity of viewing at one glance, every kind of extraordinary, rare, and valuable Quadrupeds and Birds, that ever crossed the ocean, such as have always been considered as leading objects of Exhibition, exclusively of several singular

Animals, entirely new to this Country. The very last Arrival from India, will be exhibited with that unrivalled Collection of the Choicest productions of Animated Nature; The Horn'd Horse, or Nilghau...

FINEST, MOST PERFECT, & BEAUTIFUL ZEBRA...

THE STUPENDOUS & SAGACIOUS MALE ELEPHANT...

ADMITTANCE – Ladies and Gentlemen, TWO SHILLINGS, and others, ONE SHILLING.

The Animals are regularly fed at Nine o'clock in the Evening, admittance 2s 6d each.

Mr J POLITO [Polito's brother, John Polito], with deference; begs leave to announce his arrival in this Town, from Exeter 'Change, with a more NUMEROUS COLLECTION of ANIMALS and BIRDS than were ever known to be assembled at any other period, remote or modern, as he has not only succeeded to that inimitable Collection so lately posses by his late Brother, Mr S POLITO, but has also made considerable acquisitions, which now forms one of the grandest Exhibitions ever offered to the notice of an enlightened and inquisitive Public.

The Oxford Journal – 29 October 1814. [no rhinoceros]

By permission of the Rev the Vice-Chancellor and the Worshipful Mayor.

NOT TO BE EQUALLED IN THE WORLD, And to be seen in Gloucester Green, OXFORD.

The rare, beautiful, and most valuable addition to POLITO'S ROYAL MENAGERIE, *From Exeter 'Change, London.*

Indisputably the most grand, rich, and complete Collection of rare and beautiful LIVING ANIMALS that ever was known to travel in any part of the world, is now offered for the inspection of Amateurs, Connoisseurs, and the Public, which affords an opportunity of viewing, at one glance, every kind of extraordinary, rare, and valuable QUADRUPEDS and BIRDS that ever crossed the Ocean, such as have always been considered as leading objects of exhibition, exclusively of several singular Animals, entirely new to this country.

Admittance, Ladies and Gentlemen, *Two Shillings*; Others, *One Shilling*.

The Animals are fed at Eight o'clock in the evening; admittance, 2s 6d.

Mr J POLITO, with deference, begs leave respectfully to announce his arrival in this city, from Exeter 'Change, with a more numerous Collection of Animals and Birds than was ever known to be assembled at any other period, remote or modern, as he has not only succeeded to that inimitable Collection so lately possessed by his late brother, Mr S Polito, but has also made considerable acquisitions, which now form one of the grandest Exhibitions ever offered to the notice of an enlightened and inquisitive public.

Mr P begs to observe, his stay in this city will not exceed *Monday next*, on account of other engagement