

# My Animal Friends

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and acts as a spring tonic, a bit of old mother earth apparently being necessary to health.

Rhinoceroses are far more difficult to obtain. It is only a question of time when these curious animals will not be shown at all in zoos or circuses, as they do not breed well in captivity. There are in existence five different species, three in India and two in Africa. Both African species are of the two-horned variety. One African species is known as the Black Rhinoceros and the other as the White or Square-lipped. The latter is becoming so scarce that, according to excellent authority, only about ten pairs exist. It may not be long, therefore, before this giant passes into the class of extinct animals. Both the African species have extremely poor eyesight in the daytime. When charging, if provoked, they rely largely on an acute sense of smell.

A large female Indian rhinoceros in the Philadelphia Zoo is one of the last to come out of India alive. She was captured and sold to us by Mr. Frank H. Buck, one of the most famous of animal collectors. During the summer of 1923, arrangements were made with Mr. Buck by both the Philadelphia and

New York Zoölogical societies to pay seven thousand dollars apiece if he would land in each of their respective gardens one rhinoceros in first-class condition. On those terms, Mr. Buck set out on his hazardous task and carried out the orders most satisfactorily. Later he told me personally the following interesting story of his adventure:

Nepal, where Mr. Buck made his headquarters, is ruled by a maharajah, who, in that country, is even more powerful than the rajah. Only because of Mr. Buck's personal acquaintance with the maharajah was he allowed to go into the country where white men are barred. The animals were captured by building a large corral and driving both young and old into it. After the calves were roped, the old ones were driven out. The calves were then pushed into roughly made crates and were hauled over thirty miles of bad roads on rickety two-wheeled carts drawn by Indian buffaloes. Two huge elephants were also taken along to carry food for the animals, as the trip consumed three days. At the village of Rexal, the crates containing the valuable animals were placed on the flat cars of a narrow-gauge railroad and borne to the

banks of the Ganges River, where they were transferred to a steamboat for the trip to Calcutta. They arrived there just in time to catch the SS. *President Wilson*, which carried them to San Francisco. Thence they were rushed across the United States to their Philadelphia and New York destinations by train.

The Philadelphia specimen arrived on May 24th. It was put on exhibition immediately, and in a few minutes stood quietly munching its food as if a voyage half around the world were nothing. As they look at some of the animals in the zoo, few people realize what a tremendous expenditure of time, expense, and trouble was required to capture and transport them.

In the East the rhinoceroses are considered the most valuable of all animals, as they are thought to possess great medicinal value. Skin, toenails, horn, and hair are all used in preparing various remedies. The horn is considered of exceptional medicinal value. Our animal, upon arrival, lacked a small portion of its horn. It was clipped off, probably by some native, to be stewed up and used as a tonic. When received at Philadelphia, the specimen was judged to be about

two and one-half years old and weighed six hundred and forty pounds. It grew rapidly, and as this is written weighs about four thousand pounds (two tons). A rhinoceros kept captive in the Calcutta Zoo for many years was said to have reached the enormous weight of eighty-five hundred pounds (four and a quarter tons).



**INDIAN RHINOCEROS, *Rhinoceros unicornis***

There are five different species of rhinoceros, three from India and two from Africa. In India there are both one and two-horned species. The picture above represents the one-horned species and was captured in Nepal, a province of India.