

WILD ANIMAL

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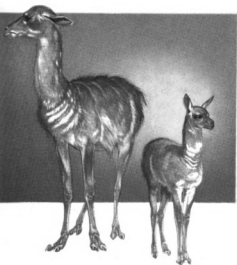
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OF THE WORLD

Animal Portraits by MARY BAKER

Introduction by ROY CHAPMAN ANDREWS



RHINOCEROS, AFRICAN BLACK

THE DRY, thorn-bush country of southern and eastern Africa is the home of the two-horned Black Rhinoceros, today greatly reduced in numbers and range. Its body is about ten feet long, its tail twenty-eight inches. Usually, but not invariably, the hind-most of the two horns is the smaller. The record front horn is fifty-three and a half inches long, and was taken from a female.

While it is called the "Black" Rhinoceros, its hide is dark brown rather than a true black; in this respect, its name no more describes it than does the name of the White Rhinoceros, which is merely a slaty gray-black. The White Rhino, found in very small numbers in the Sudan and nearby, is

more descriptively called the Square-lipped Rhinoceros. The Black Rhino's lip is hooked rather than squared.

The Black Rhinoceros is a truculent animal. Its sight is poor but its senses of smell and hearing are keen and when it senses danger, it is quite likely to charge rather than to run away. For such a large animal, it is surprisingly light on its feet and is able to wheel and start off in another direction as easily as a polo pony.

Except when annoyed or frightened, the Rhinoceros is harmless and it spends its days browsing on twigs or sleeping in thorn scrub. Somali tribesmen hunt it to make shields of its thick hide.



RHINOCEROS, INDIAN

THERE ARE several kinds of Rhinoceroses in India, Indo-China and through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Borneo, but the one-horned Indian Rhinoceros is the largest, a big one being more than fourteen feet long and standing as much as six feet four inches at the shoulder. Its single horn is shorter than that of the African black rhinoceros, however, being only about twenty-four inches long. The Sumatran Rhinoceros, which stands some four feet four inches high, is covered thinly with short black hair. Its longest horn is only about nine inches long.

Although the Indian Rhinoceros is protected by law, poachers kill many for the sake of the horn, which is sold to the Chi-

nese for medicine for half its weight in gold. Even rhinoceros blood is considered good medicine and is worth \$1 a pound dried. In some Eastern countries, people believe that poison becomes harmless if it is drunk out of a cup made of rhinoceros horn and despotic rulers who are afraid of being poisoned like to have a horn cup handy at meal time.

At one time the Indian Rhino was found all the way from the northwest frontier of India to French Indo-China, but today it is confined to a much smaller area of Nepal Terai, northern Bengal and Assam. It is not a very aggressive animal and like other rhinos, it is a browser, feeding on twigs and grass.

