

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums

Newsletter

AUTUMN 2011



**Cover Story: Rosie the Rhino
lost her horn on 28 July**

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we look forward

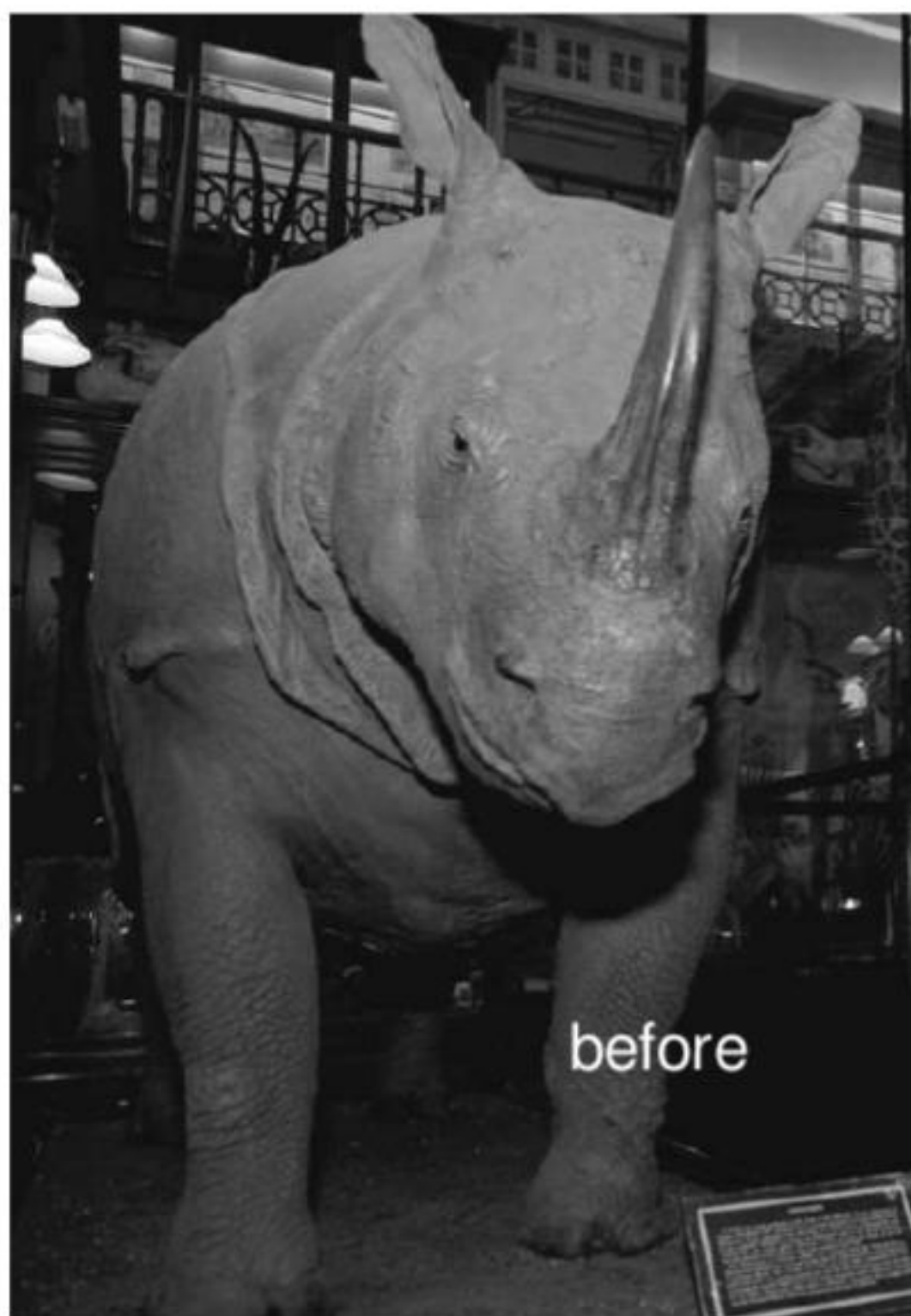
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to promote the past

*The Friends of the Ipswich Museums
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Rosie the Rhino

The theft of Rosie's horn made news worldwide.



The plight of Rosie the hornless Rhino is a story that was broken by the local media when robbers struck at Ipswich's High Street Museum.

At 12.27am on Thursday 28 July, two men forced their way through a fire escape at the rear of the museum and swiftly wrenched off Rosie's 45 cm (18 inch) horn. They paused only to collect the skull of a black rhino, before fleeing.

The Ipswich rhinoceros-horn is just one of many that have been

stolen from museums and auction houses across Britain and Europe, driven by soaring prices for horn in the Far East. The Natural History Museum in Tring was broken into and had replica horns stolen, a museum in Belgium also had thefts in July and museums in Africa have also been targeted by thieves – this really is a global problem.

Images of the iconic rhino Rosie have appeared not only in our daily newspapers, such as the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Express, but have been attracting readers of the New York Times, the Washington Post and a host of other papers and television stations from North America to China.

As police across Europe hunt the gang who have stolen rhino horns from museums in England, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Portugal, Germany and the Czech Republic, Ipswich Borough Council's Cultural Director Jonathan Owen said the media response had been "phenomenal".

He explained: "Only today I was talking to the American NBC news channel about Rosie and they wanted to do 're-enactments' of the theft. Before that we had a



over the world have reacted to the story of our hornless rhino. Certainly, the story has made big headlines in Asia, Canada, the US and across Britain and Europe.”

Rosie, who was named in the 1960s after a public competition, became an icon for the Museum after a book was written about her and her image was sketched by celebrated artist Maggi Hambling.

A remembrance book for Rosie has been set up where visitors can write messages expressing their feelings about Rosie and what has happened; the book will be added to Rosie’s object file within the museum’s collection.

reporter over from the New York Times and the South China Morning Post. An Irish daily paper has also phoned us today for updates. It seems that people all

Suffolk Social Services Looked after Children Education Services session

As part of a growing partnership with Suffolk Social Services’ Looked After Children Education Support Services, we had a one day art session at Ipswich Museum during the summer holidays. Working with artist Alison Stockmarr we used the museum as inspiration to create a range of objects under the theme ‘Fakefacts’. The young people worked very hard and very creatively to make their own fake artefact, often these were animal teeth or bones, but one girl made her own shabti. Much fun was had

creating medals and thinking up what award the medal was for! Overall it was a brilliant day and they all went home with a bag of their own museum artefacts.

Geri Cowell
Assistant Community Outreach Officer

Editors note: Shabtis are ancient Egyptian funerary figures that were placed inside tombs. They were usually a few centimeters high and provided a labour force for the deceased person in the after life.