

HISTORY OF ANIMALS

LEADING CURIOSITIES & FEATURES

WITH THE CONSOLIDATED

P.T. BARNUM'S
GREATEST SHOW
ON EARTH,
THE GREAT
LONDON
CIRCUS,



SANGERS'
ROYAL BRITISH
MENAGERIE
AND THE
INTERNATIONAL
ALLIED SHOW

P.T. BARNUM,
J.A. BAILEY,
J.L. HUTCHINSON.
SOLE OWNERS.

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A COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED

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HISTORY OF ANIMALS

CONTAINED IN THE

Department of Comparative Zoology,

AND ALL THE CURIOSITIES

WITH

P. T. BARNUM'S GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

AND

The Great London Circus,

SANGER'S ROYAL BRITISH MENAGERIE

—AND—

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIED SHOWS.

P. T. BARNUM, JAS. A. BAILEY, and JAS. L. HUTCHINSON,
Sole Proprietors.

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THE RHINOCEROS. (*Rhinoceros Unicornus.*)

THE Rhinoceros is one of the most remarkable of the pachydermatous mammalia, closely allied to the elephant, tapir, and the hippopotamus. There are several varieties still extant, many of the earlier species having become extinct, which can only be recognized by their fossiliferous remains. There are two or three species found in Asia, Sumatra, and Borneo, while there are several inhabiting the various portions of Africa.

There are a few characteristics common to all the varieties of this remarkable group: one is the almost uniform conformation of the body, excepting size, and the other is the horny projection from the nose, the Indian Rhinoceros having but one, while the African varieties have two. This so-called horn is of peculiar structure, and is no way connected with the skull. It seems to be developed exclusively from the skin, and belongs to the same rank as the hirsute, bristles, spurs, and quills of other animals. They grow with the development of the animal, until they become long, sharp and inflexible, capable of doing fearful execution as a weapon of aggressive or defensive warfare. If closely examined, these *cornia* will be found hard and smoothly polished at the tip, while the base is rough and split into innumerable filaments, constituting a kind of cushion to soften the concussion caused by its frequent onsets with its enemies. He is an ugly and disagreeable brute, utterly devoid of any sense of gratitude, and irate to the last extreme. No amount of good treatment or caressing will avail with him. In every species, whether of the unicornus or bicornus varieties, the Rhinoceros is defective in sight, from the fact of his not being able to see objects perfectly, in front of him, so deeply are his eyes set in his head. The skin of the Rhinoceros is very thick, capable of resisting the force of an ordinary bullet. In the Asiatic species, the heavy flabby folds in which the skin is gathered hang massively over the shoulders, throat, flanks, and haunches, which give the animal a very rough, uncouth appearance. The skin upon the abdomen is comparatively soft, which, like the heel of Achilles, seems to be the only vulnerable point of attack. The horn of the Indian Rhinoceros is not so long nor so well developed; yet, even with this short weapon, he is capable of doing fearful execution in ripping up the earth and defending himself against the onsets of the largest elephants, against many of which he is represented, by experienced hunters, to be more than a match. The average height of the Rhinoceros is about four feet, although they have been known to attain to six feet. Its color is dark purplish brown, approximating, in some of the Borele varieties, to a deep black.

King Ava, who glories in the title of "Lord of the White Elephants," generally monopolizes every white elephant and rhinoceros in his domain, as he employs them, especially the former, in state processions and parades, decorating them with rich ornaments of gold and priceless jewels, quartering them in the most magnificent houses of state. The pro-

prietors of this organization have recently offered \$25,000 for a white rhinoceros, safely landed on the dock in New York City, and hope to be able to gratify the curiosity of their American friends, although at a fabulous price, by affording them an opportunity of seeing the first white rhinoceros ever witnessed in America.

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THE BADGER. (*Meles taxus*.)

The American Badger, as compared with the European, is generally less in size, and of a lighter make; the head, though equally long, is not so sharp toward the nose, and the markings on the fur are remarkably different. A narrow white line runs from between the eyes for some distance toward the back, the rest of the upper part of the head is brown, the throat and whole under jaw are white, the cheeks partly so; a semi-circular brown spot is placed between the light part of the cheeks and the ears.

The American Badger frequents the sandy plains or prairies, which skirt the Rocky Mountains, as far north as latitude fifty-eight degrees. It abounds on the plains watered by the Missouri, but its exact southern range has not been defined by any traveler. The sand-prairies, in the neighborhood of Carlton-house on the banks of the Saskatchewan, and also on Red River, that flows into Lake Winnipeg, are perforated by innumerable badger-holes, which are a great annoyance to horsemen, particularly when the ground is covered with snow.

Whilst the ground is covered with snow, the Badger rarely comes from its hole, and it passes the winter in that climate, from the beginning of November to April, in a torpid state.

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VLACKE VARK, or ABYSSINIAN WART HOG.

This animal belongs to the family of swine. In the conformation of its head it bears a striking resemblance to the hippopotamus, although smaller and more densely covered with hair and bristles. It is a formidable-looking beast, and seems to be an intermediate species between the rhinoceros and hippopotamus. The first specimens of this strange-looking animal were imported from Abyssinia to the Zoological Gardens in London, about twenty-five years ago. We happened to be in London when these *Engalla*, or Abyssinian Wart Hogs, were first installed at the Royal Gardens, at Regent's Park, London. Of course, all the city was in excitement to see the marvelous *nouveaux arrives* from the unexplored regions of Abyssinia. We, noticing the interest and excitement which these beasts caused in London, determined to secure one or more for our show. But, as remarkable as it may appear, after a lapse of twenty-five years, we have but recently been able to secure for our great Zoological Institute the first ever seen in America. It will be exhibited in conjunction with this Great Traveling Show during the traveling season.

The general color of the Vlacke Vark is of a blackish hue on the crown of its head and neck, and along the ridge of the back, and a dull brown on the remainder of the body, with a grayish tint upon the abdomen. The tusks of an adult male are about twelve inches long, and are a most terrible weapon. They have been known to cut a large-sized mastiff nearly in two by a single stroke, or sever the fleshy parts of a man's thigh. Its retreating haunts are among the labyrinth of holes abandoned by ant-bears, into which it plunges back foremost, and suddenly disappears out of sight. The structure of the teeth is very curious, and well worthy scientific investigation. This animal is sometimes known as *Ethiopian Wild Boar*, or the *Abyssinian Phacochoere*, although it differs materially from that animal. It lives to the age of fifteen or twenty years, and is a terrible pest on account of its frequent depredations. This specimen will be viewed as an object of great interest by naturalists.

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HIPPOTAMUS. (*Hippopotamus amphibius*.)

This show is entitled to the credit of being the first and only managers in America to secure and place on exhibition a live Hippopotamus, at great risk of life and property, and at an actual outlay of gold sufficient to constitute the ransom of a king. There are several varieties found in all parts of Africa, always in proximity to rivers and streams of water, in which element they spend more than half of their time sleeping or floundering, a terror to both land and marine monsters, and a havoc to all neighboring crops. Their legs are short, but their bodies are of enormous size. Their skin is of a dark reddish-brown color, full of cracks, chaps and cross-etchings, with dapplings of irregular dark spots on the sides and upper portion of the body. The skin is from one to two inches thick, full of pores, through which exudes a disagreeable oily substance—probably the brute's only antidote against disease, arising from its indiscriminate mixture and caperings in all kinds of malarious waters, which abound in the latitude of its habitation. They have been known to grow seventeen or eighteen feet in length, and from five to six feet in height. The enormous feet and tusks are formed scissors-like, with which they clip the vegetation upon which they feed, like a pair of shears. The tusks of the Hippopotamus, or River-horse, are very solid or compact, admirably adapted for making delicate philosophical apparatus and articles of dentistry. It is an expert swimmer, and, like the elephant, possesses the faculty of sinking or rising in the water at will. It is captured by means of traps, pitfalls, harpoons, and massive nets of rope—being able to capsize the largest vessels—used for this purpose. The appetite of this animal is voracious, having a stomach capable of stowing away five or six bushels of provender at a single meal. As its natural element is water, it will be readily seen how difficult and hazardous is the attempt to procure one of these marvelous beasts for exhibition in a traveling show, as it must always be supplied with a tank of water, out of which it will not exist for any length of time. No one but the liberal and audacious proprietors of this mammoth enterprise would think of providing the public with such a rare amphibious specimen of zoology, when the above-named facts are taken into consideration. And yet, in the face of all this, the owners of this Great Show, with the determination that the people shall be satisfied, have caused another expedition to be fitted out, at an expense of \$25,000, which has been successful in capturing and landing safely, in New York City, a splendid and monstrous living specimen, which can be seen daily on exhibition in our Zoological Department.