

a meeting and discuss sponsorship, etc. But just to clarify: the Lill-Skansen sponsorship is the biggest single sponsorship – with funds from one single sponsor. There are many other projects in Sweden that have brought in lots more money, but divided between many sponsors. I don't know if you have heard of the Göteborg ship?

*John Regan:* 'A little bit'

*Tomas Andersson:* 'An 18th-century ship that was rebuilt – and I think they put in €50 million or something – but that involved hundreds and hundreds of sponsors. This is the biggest one with a single sponsor.'

*John Regan:* 'And that's good for Skansen because you don't have to spend as much time securing and servicing the sponsorship when you just have one sponsor?'

*Tomas Andersson:* 'Yes.'

*John Regan:* 'And I guess it is quite unusual for KFS as a socially-orientated organisation to act as a sponsor? So, without intruding on any confidential issues, for further sponsorship, are you only looking to old-established partners that are socially orientated, or will you be targeting interests that are more purely commercial?'

*Tomas Andersson:* 'I would say that we are going for organisations of a more commercial nature. KFS is a great partner, but there are not many of that kind in Sweden, so we have to look towards the fully commercial sector.'

*John Regan:* 'Tomas, thank you for your time. JRA and the international community of nature sites are very grateful for your time and for sharing your experience.'

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John Regan Associates Ltd assists zoos, botanic gardens and similar organisations to attract major transformational funding. Enquiries welcome: *E-mail* [John@Johnreganassociates.com](mailto:John@Johnreganassociates.com); *Tel.* 0044 (0)161 434 1681.

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# **CALCUTTA ZOO 1880s: EVIDENCE OF A HITHERTO UNRECORDED JAVAN RHINOCEROS**

BY KEES ROOKMAAKER

Throughout history, only four specimens of the Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) have ever been exhibited in a zoo, in Adelaide, Calcutta and London (Rookmaaker, 1998). Even when animals kept by dealers or in private collections are added, the total only reaches 22. There is, of course, a constant search

for additions to this list, and those may well be there, because the species is easily confused with the Indian or greater one-horned rhinoceros (*R. unicornis*), especially when the historical record is deficient. Personally I have always tended to err on the safe side, i.e. referred to an animal as *R. unicornis* unless there is positive evidence or an irrefutable suggestion to the contrary. Hence the quest continues.

Charles Thomas Buckland (1824–1894) of the Bengal Civil Service was one of the founders and the first president of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens opened in Alipore in 1875. He wrote a popular paper in 1890 on some of his personal experiences with Indian animals (Buckland, 1890). He recalled his endeavours to find a replacement ‘when our large rhinoceros in the Calcutta Zoo died,’ which must refer to the female Indian rhino which lived in the zoo from 7 April 1877 to May 1880. Finding that he was unable to obtain one from a native prince, he wrote to his friend Tyjumul Ali, then magistrate in the Sundarbans, asking him to catch a rhinoceros.

Buckland continues: ‘Several months passed, when one day a man appeared with a letter to me. “Honored Sir, Herewith I send you a rhinoceros, which my shikaris have caught after much labour. They shot the mother and then secured the young one. Please forgive me for sending such a small one, but it will soon get bigger. I am your obedient servant, Tyjumul Ali.” It was a dear little beast, and quite gentle, so that a man could ride on it. It grew very fast, but it got fever when its large teeth began to come, and so it died.’

The two Javan rhinos known to have been in the Calcutta Zoo lived from 1877 to before 1883 and from 1887 to c. 1892. The second animal was transferred from the private collection of the King of Oudh, hence it cannot have been the animal mentioned by Buckland. The Sundarbans, the delta of the River Ganges now located in Bangladesh and India, has traditionally been a home of *R. sondaicus* and is outside the range of *R. unicornis* (Rookmaaker, 1997). Any rhino caught in this region must have belonged to the rarer of the two species. It is unfortunate that Buckland’s information is quite sparse on particulars. Regarding the tooth eruption, in a black rhinoceros all permanent premolars and molars have erupted when the animal is about two years old (Anderson, 1966).

Hence the conclusion must be that there was a young Javan rhinoceros in the Calcutta Zoological Gardens for about a year sometime during the 1880s, which died when it was just under two years old.

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Cover Illustration: Debby, Assiniboine Park Zoo's popular and long-lived polar bear. (Photo: Ron Boily)