CARNEGIE

MAGAZINE

CARNEGIE INSTITUTE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CARNEGIE

VOLUME VI PITTSBURGH, PA., JANUARY 1933 NUMBER 8



Doorway to the Office of the College of Fine Arts

Carnegie Institute of Technology

(See Page 227)

fields of metallurgical research: metallography, including microscopy and heat treatment; crystallography, including X-ray studies; physics, including plasticity and elasticity; and physical chemistry, including metallurgical reactions, films on metals. Each of these four sections will be headed by an expert in the field, who will be assisted by less experienced men.

An organization such as this may properly serve in another direction. The Bureau will receive graduate students, candidates for the doctorate under the director, who also serves the Institute of Technology as professor of metallurgy. With a trained scientific personnel continuously engaged in advanced research, such newcomers in the research field will have an admirable opportunity to become acclimated to the research atmosphere. The Bureau should, therefore, in time make its contribution to metallurgy in the form of well-trained research metallurgists, sophisticated not only in metallurgy

but also in the correlative sciences of

physics and chemistry.

From what has been said I hope it may be agreed that the present plans are correctly drawn to represent the proper type of scientific ability to attack metallurgical research with the best of modern tools. I should hasten to add, however, that it is not the intention to divorce this group from the general metallurgical interests of the community, to make it highbrow in any sense of the word. There is no industry where phenomena of scientific interest are so obviously on display or so profusely manifested as the metallurgical. The metallurgical scientist turns to these industries as a fount of information, metallurgical behavior which he may study under careful laboratory control. Properly organized, such an institute is closely bred with industry, lending its assistance wherever possible, meanwhile attempting its best to add to the store of sound scientific knowledge.

THE WHITE RHINOCEROS

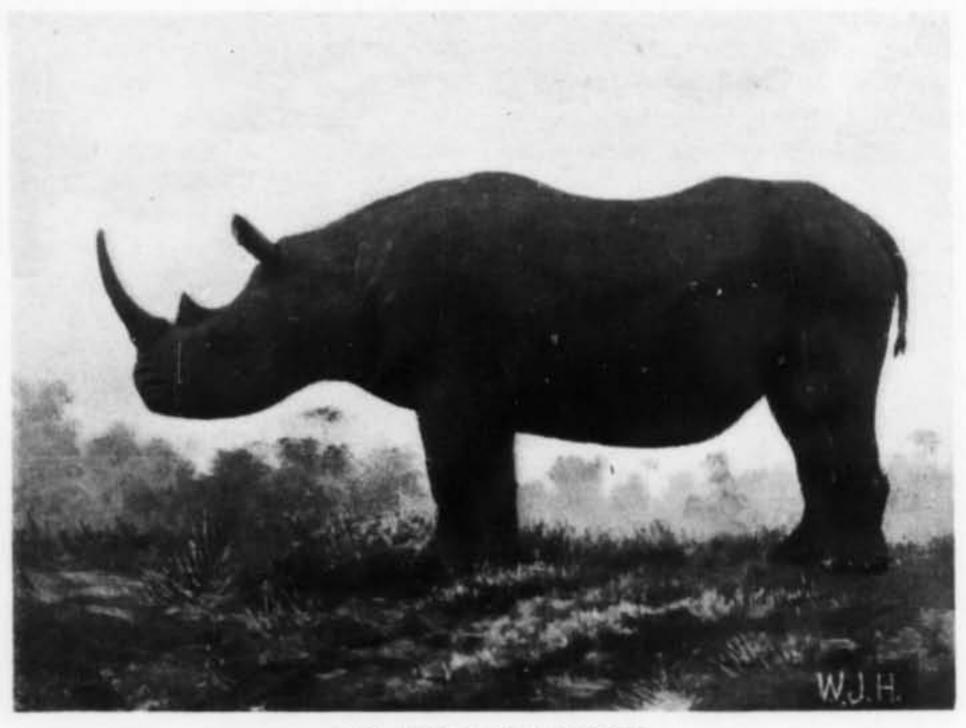
How This Great and Rare Beast Made its First United States
Appearance in Pittsburgh

By W. J. HOLLAND

[Dr. Holland's interest in natural history was keenly exercised almost up to the final moment of his life, and this article was written during his last days. It shows its author in one of his reminiscent moods, and it is a pleasure to the Carnegie Magazine to be able to print one of the last pieces to which he put his signature. A personal note on Dr. Holland appears on another page of this number.]

The broad-lipped, or white rhinoceros —rhinocerus simus Burchell—when the first white settlers took possession of South Africa, was a not uncommon mammal. Gradually, however, the great beast succumbed to the rifle and in the last decade of the nineteenth century was reported to be verging upon extinction.

My successor as Naturalist of the United States Eclipse Expedition to West Africa in 1889 was Harvey Brown, who was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy on my recommendation to take my place, he having originally been named as my assistant on that expedition. When the U.S.SS. "Pensacola" reached Capetown after the work of the expedition had been completed in Angola, Brown tendered his resignation and became a member of the mounted force, which under orders of Cecil Rhodes went north and took possession of the land which is now known as Rhodesia. Brown, who long since has passed away, left us a remarkable ac-



THE WHITE RHINOCEROS

count of what befell that expedition and himself in his most readable volume entitled "On the South African Frontier," of which Cecil Rhodes said that it was "the best book of its kind that had ever been written." While soldiering in Rhodesia, Brown did not entirely give up his taxidermic work, and the collections which he made ultimately became the property of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, under the roof of which, after his first return from Africa, he completed his volume and in the taxidermic laboratory of which he worked for a while. He then returned to Africa with his wife, who was the daughter of Chancellor Snow of the University of Kansas. He later became the Mayor of Salisbury and after some years passed away.

While Brown was collecting in Rhodesia, I wrote him urging him to secure a specimen of the great white rhinoceros. We had some correspondence in which he told me that, so far as he knew, the only surviving specimens of this great mammal were near Beira in Portuguese East Africa in a very secluded swampy tract of land, which was difficult of access. I urged him to go there without delay and collect at least one or two of these specimens, offering to provide from my own purse the necessary expenses. As I recall, this was prior to the foundation of the

Carnegie Museum.

Brown went to Beira, but discovered that unfortunately he was too late. Very shortly before he reached the spot where the remnants of the expiring species were found, a party of hunters, bent upon the same mission as he, had been there and had shot four specimens which they had found, and had killed a calf. The skin and the skeleton of the calf they did not preserve, but Brown obtained the skull of the calf lying upon the ground. It later was acquired by the Carnegie Museum, and is at present in the keeping of Childs Frick, whose wonderfully rich East African collections are among the chief ornaments of this Museum. Four specimens collected by hunters who preceded Brown found places in different museums. Cecil Rhodes purchased one of them shot by Arthur Eyre, had it mounted by Rowland Ward of London, and presented it where it now is. The Czar of Russia bought one specimen, which he placed in the Imperial Museum at St. Petersburg, now Leningrad, and I have seen it there. Hon. Walter Rothschild, now Lord Rothschild, bought the other two specimens, presenting one of them to the British Museum and reserving the other for his private collection at Tring.

While spending a week-end at the countryseat of the late Lord Rothschild as the guest of his oldest son, the celebrated naturalist, he showed me in his museum the specimen of rhinocerus simus there installed, and I remarked to him, 'That is one great quadruped, a specimen of which the Carnegie Museum will never possess,

as the beast is extinct."

He turned to me with a smile and said, "You are wrong. I will make you wise. It has quite recently been discovered, as I know, that there is a little remnant of the species at Lado on the upper White Nile and an English officer has just brought back to London a good skin of the white rhinoceros, together with a well-preserved skull. It is now in the custody of Messrs. Gerrard and Sons, the taxidermists, and if you will go there, I think you can buy it for your Museum." This was in the summer of the year 1901.

On leaving my friends at Tring I went immediately to Gerrard and Sons and negotiated with them for the specimen and secured it for the Car-

negie Museum.

In 1912 Theodore Roosevelt, who was then campaigning on the Progressive (Bull Moose) ticket for the presidency of the United States, came to Pittsburgh. On the afternoon of the day when he was to make his campaign speech in Pittsburgh, he came to the Carnegie Museum and, surrounded by a bevy of reporters, asked for me. I naturally was glad to see him and he said to me, "I want you to conduct me through your Museum. I especially wish to see the collections of African mammals which you have." He spent

an hour and a half in my company and then took, as he said, 'regretful leave.' 'I must now go out to the house of Mr. William Flinn, where there is to be a reception, and then I am to make my speech in the evening. I would like to spend more time with you talking about Africa and its big game.' An amusing incident occurred as he came up to the case in which the white rhinoceros was displayed. Throwing up his hands, he said, 'Holland, where did you get that specimen? I am astonished at seeing it.'

"Oh," said I, "that is the specimen shot by Major Gibbons of the British Army at Lado, brought out in 1901."

He said, "But I thought it was in London. I have been saying that the only white rhinoceroses in America are those which I myself shot at Lado."

I answered, "I cannot help it, Colonel, that specimen has been here for ten years. You are evidently eligible for election in a certain club which I understand you have founded."

"Come on, I do not care to discuss that

matter any further."

In 1908 the late Richard Lydekker in The Field of February 22 gave the subspecific name 'cottoni' to the race of the white rhinoceros which occurs at Lado, naming it in honor not of Major Gibbons, who brought out the specimen first taken at Lado, which we have, but after Major Powell-Cotton of the British Army, who at a later date had presented to the British Museum a skull and horns which he had collected at Lado.

The first white rhinoceros installed in a museum in the United States was in Pittsburgh in 1902. In an adjoining case there are two black rhinoceroses, one of which was secured by Mr. Roosevelt on his African expedition, the other by Mr. Frick, when he went on his first expedition to collect big game on the black continent. The two species of rhinoceros indigenous to Africa are thus represented by splendid specimens in our great collection.