

# Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>Foreward</i>	xi
<b>1 Intangible Natural Heritage: An Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
ERIC DORFMAN	
<b>2 The Intangible Roots of Our Tangible Heritage</b>	<b>16</b>
ADRIAN NORRIS	
<b>3 Case Studies of Intangible Natural Heritage from Museum Collections</b>	<b>43</b>
JOHN A. LONG	
<b>4 ‘That Singular And Wonderful Quadruped’: The Kangaroo as Historical Intangible Natural Heritage in the Eighteenth Century</b>	<b>56</b>
MARKMAN ELLIS	
<b>5 “Project INH”: A Case Study of the Role of Museums in the Interpretation of Intangible Natural Heritage</b>	<b>88</b>
B. VENUGOPAL	
<b>6 On Nature’s Terms: Preserving the Practice of Traditional Backcountry Recreation in New Zealand’s National Parks</b>	<b>105</b>
LEE DAVIDSON	
<b>7 Poetically, Man Dwells With Crickets: Nature and Culture of Chinese Singing Insects</b>	<b>125</b>
XINGBAO JIN AND ALAN L. YEN	

top slots allocated by individual search engines. Papers published only in a Web format can regularly change or disappear altogether, lessening their ability to make a long-term contribution to the state of knowledge of a subject. However, by contrast, the long- or well-established scientific journals with established archives of past publications and the many archives, which republish papers for downloading, can be a boon to researchers.

## RECENT AUCTION SALES OF HISTORIC TAXIDERMISTRY

Valuing the scientific and cultural importance of objects is both a tangible and intangible problem facing all museums. Collecting museum specimens is often a costly exercise; most institutions benefit from the time and expertise of many hundreds of collectors who have, over the years, contributed objects at their own expense. Museums who accept these items into their care are undertaking a long-term commitment to conserve and store them, as well as making a tacit agreement to render them accessible for future research. The presence of a specific object within a museum's collection may, or may not be, justified on purely aesthetic grounds. Mounted trophy heads are a prime example. They are often large, difficult to display and take up a great deal of valuable storage space. However, even these unloved items can have both scientific and monetary value.

In 1997, Manchester Museum made an attempt to estimate the cost of collecting<sup>45</sup> natural science material, also highlighting the monetary value that could be placed on museum holdings. But even after this publication, which supported the earlier Cost of Collecting report,<sup>46</sup> many museums in Britain and Europe still placed little value on their natural science holdings, from either a monetary or scientific perspective.

Contrary to earlier trends, in recent years the monetary value of specific individual pieces of taxidermy has soared. In Britain in the 1950s and 1960s, old cases containing taxidermy had little monetary value and could be acquired easily at very little cost. In the 1980s and 1990s, few auction rooms would sell this type of material for fear of falling foul of the complex conservation regulations or hostile public opinion. The recent resurgence of interest is testified by the results of a number of sales by auction of private trophy collections. For example, Tennants Auctioneers of Leyburn, Yorkshire, England, have sold a number of such private trophy collections in recent years. In 2005 they sold the collection of Kenneth Whitehead for a combined total of £470,000. In July 2006 the collection of trophies amassed by Christian Oswald, removed from a wooden hunting chalet in Bavaria, was sold. This collection included the antlers of the extinct Giant Elk *Megaloceras giganteus* with an estimated sale price of £20–30,000. The importation of much of this material from continental European sources must reflect the higher prices paid in Britain at auction for individual specimens in such collections.

The increase in prices for taxidermied specimens is an identifiable trend. In the autumn of 2007, Tennants sold the collections of Ken Aldridge and

Richard Grassmann (1930–2006). In July 2008 the collection of Jacques and Micheline Henrijean of Belgium was sold. This large collection included a magnificent specimen of the Polar Bear *Ursus maritimus*, which sold for the hammer price of £11,500 (with a buyer's commission of 15%, the total paid for this single item was £13,225). The antlers of the extinct Schomburgk's deer *Cervus schomburgki* reached a hammer price of £5,500, an Alaskan brown bear *Ursus arctos middendorfi* reached £8,800, and two mounted jaguars *Panthera onca* brought £7,500 and £4,200, respectively. Another polar bear was sold for £6,200. In the same sale was a small Giant

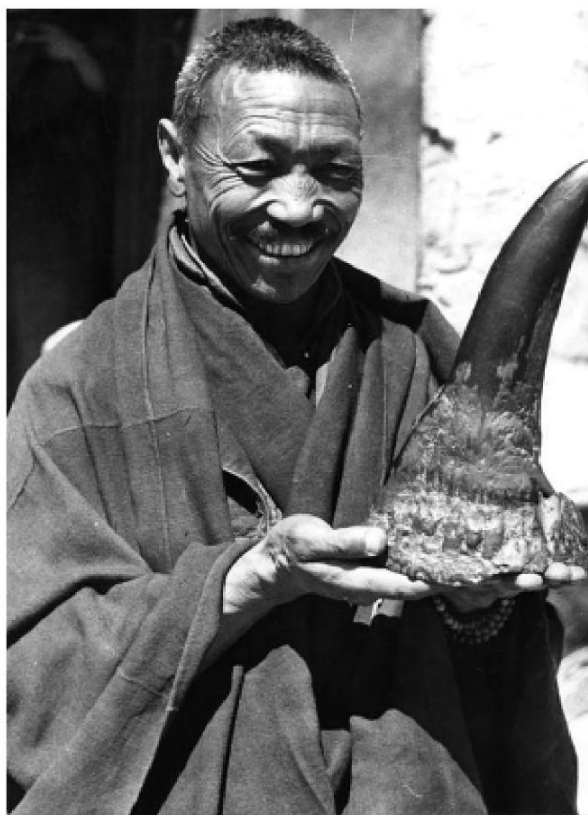
Table 2.2 Hammer Price of Rhino Heads Sold at Tennants 2008–2010

No.	Species	Material	Collection information	Price
<b>April 2008</b>				
804	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Mounted head	ca. 1900	£29,000
<b>November 2008</b>				
1235	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	Northern Guaso, Nyiro Rowland Ward	£19,000
1255	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Mounted head	Gerrards, London	£15,000
1282	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	H. Burton, London	£20,000
1310	<i>Ceratotherium sinum</i>	Mounted head	Sudan 1921 Rowland Ward	£65,000
1343	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Mounted head	Rowland Ward	£7,000
1413	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	British East Africa Rowland Ward	£16,000
<b>Summer Sale July 2010</b>				
1139	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Anterior horn	ca. 1910	£19,000
1146	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	Namibia pre-1947	£1,900
1153	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	Shot 08/24/1907 by W. A. Bowring	£42,000
1163	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	Limpopo region ca. 1930 (Rowland Ward)	£70,000
1176	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	ca. 1913	£41,000
1195	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Both horns	German-East Africa. Shot ca. 1933 Max- Dietrich Gaudchau	£46,000
1162	<i>Ceratotherium sinum</i>	Both horns	Limpopo region ca. 1930 (Rowland Ward)	£106,000
1211	<i>Ceratotherium sinum</i>	Anterior horn	WSB 1907	£43,000
1221	<i>Ceratotherium sinum</i>	Mounted head	South Africa	Not Sold

Clam 59 × 62 cm, which brought a hammer price of £750, and a Galapagos Giant Tortoise *Geochelone elephantopus* collected in circa 1909, which came in at £4,000.

Rhinoceros horn, in particular, has attracted high prices at auction, as demonstrated by results from the sales catalogues published following each sale date.

Traditional Chinese medicine places great value on rhino horn as a cure for many ailments, including headaches, hallucinations, typhoid, fever, rheumatism and gout (Figure 2.2). Some other cultures still consider items made from rhino horn to be prestige items. For instance, daggers called “Jambiya” with rhino horn handles are presented to Yemeni boys at age 12 as a sign of manhood. Thus, objects made from such exotic materials can bring with them added and much-valued status.



*Figure 2.2* Rhinoceros horn has been important to traditional medicine in Asia for a considerable time. “*Umgebung von Samyeh, Nashorn*” (Tibetan Monk with Rhinoceros Horn), 1938, by Ernst Schäfer, courtesy of *Deutsches Bundesarchiv* (German Federal Archive), *Bild 135-S-15-17-39*.

# Intangible Natural Heritage

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