

AN
HISTORY
OF THE
Wonderful Things of Nature:

Set forth in Ten severall *Classes*.

Wherein are contained

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Written by *Johannes Jonstonus.*

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BY

A Person of Quality.

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OF
Naturall Wonders.

The Seventh Clafsis.

Wherein are set down the Wonders of
Four-footed Creatures.

Seneca l. 3. de ira. c. 30.

WE are troubled with frivolous and vain matters. A red colour makes a Bull angry, and a viper is stirred by a shadow. A picture will make Bears and Lions fiercer. All things that are cruell and ravening by nature are moved with vain things. The same things happen to unquiet and foolish spirits; they are stricken with jealousy and suspicion of things.

CHAP. I.

Of the Elk, and the Ram.

THe Elk is a four-footed beast commonly found in Scandinavia; in Summer of an Ash-colour almost; in Winter it turns toward black. The horns are fit for footstools, each of them is 12 pound weight, and two foot long. His upper lip hangs out so long, that he cannot eat but going backwards. Men write, that he is subject to the falling sicknesse; and that the remedy he hath is to lift up the right claw of the hinder foot, and put it to his left Ear. It holds the same vertue, if you cut it off when he goes to rut in August or September. He is commended for his swiftnesse, for he will run as much ground in one day as a horse shall in three. He is very strong; for a strong blow with his foot will kill the hunter. The Ram for six Winter months sleeps on his left side; but after the vernal equinoctiall, he rests on his right. *Alianus* hath discovered this

this, but the Butchers deny it. In *Camandis* a County of *Tartary*, they are as big as Asses, their tails weigh 30 pound weight. One was seen in the Court of the King of the *Arabians*, whose tail weighed 40 pound, *Varotom*. *Cardanus* ascribes that to its cold temperament, when the rest of the bones will no more be extended. Let it should be choked with his own fat, he sends down the humour into his tail.

CHAP. II.
Of the Asses.

IN the Kingdom of *Persia*, Asses are so esteemed, that one of them is sold for 30 pound of gold; amongst the *Pitties* they are as big as our *Rams*, *Paul Penet*. In *Egypt* they amble so swiftly, that one will go 40 miles a day without any hurt, *Scallig*, *Exerc.* 2. 17. f. 1. She doth sparingly dip in her mouth when she drinks. She is afraid, saith *Cardanus*, For when she beholds the great shadow of her ears in the water, she is fearfull they will be wet. There are some founts in *Africa* that do not drink: She saileth when she seeth another Ass, or upon a dunghill. For Nature doth stirre them up being incited by the acrimony of the smell. *Cardan.* l. 19. *Subtil*. Observation proves, that where an Ass hath crop't a vine branch, the vine will grow more fruitfull. The monument of this matter was seen at *Nauplia*, where an Ass of stone was set up in thankfull remembrance for posterity. *Valimanius* writes, that there is a fruitfull Orchard, in the middle whereof she was buried, *Aldrovand.* l. 1. *de quadr.* c. 2. In *Hebrus* when they have eaten *Heinlock* they fall as dead, that they seem to be dead. The Countrey-men are deceived by it, for oftentimes they rise up and fright them when they have pull'd off their skins at molt, *Mathiol.* in *Dioscorid*. Sheep will run into the fold, if you pen them in an Asses stall. If one be stung by a *Scorpion*, if he lie upon an Ass with his face toward the tayl, the Ass will endure the pain; and not he. It is a sign of it, because she will dye farding, *Cervul.* Asses milk is commended. *Poppea*, the Wife of *Domitius Nero*, who conceived in all 500 times, did wash her body in a Bath of Asses milk, thinking to stretch her skin thereby, *Plin.* l. 15. c. 28. *Namus* of *Cytle*, being in a Consumption, recovered by feeding on Asses flesh. Moreover, there are some in *Sydia* whose horn contains a *giant* Water, for it will pierce through Iron vessels. Some in *India* have one horn in their forehead. Who drinks but of that is preserved from a disease; but if any venomous matter be drunk, it is called forth. They are so strong, that they will kill a horse to thrust with them. Also there was a wonderfull one, that was sent as a present with other gifts by the King of *Assyria* to *Ptolemy* King of *Egypt*. The hair was wonderfull, the body was full of breakes, the hooves were long and equall lined, *Pontan.* de *mag.* lib. 1.

CHAP. XXX.

Of the Wild Goat call'd Oryx, and the Panther or Leopard.

Pliny reckons *Oryx* amongst wild Goats. When the Moon comes to the East, it looks upon it and cries; and men say, that for hate thereof, it will digge up the ground with its forefeet, and will set the very balls of the eyes to the ground, and cast it up. Some think it doth the same when the Sun riseth; what place soever in the desert it finds water in, it will trouble it by drinking at it, and stir the mud, and throwes dust into it, that it may not be fit to drink. The *Panther* smells so sweet, that it will allure all the wild beasts; but the frowning countenance it hath, frights them; wherefore he hides his head, and so they come and are caught. In the right shoulder they have a mark, like to the Moon; and as that increaseth, this likewise increaseth, and decreaseth, *Alberti*. It breeds but once in the life-time, if we credit the *Author of the Book of naturall things*. When the young ones are grown in the Mothers belly they will not tarry, but tear out their passage: she with pain is delivered of them, and so can never after conceive again, the parts being corrupted where the seed should stay. *Demetrius Physicus* writes of it, that one of them lay in this way waiting for a man, and suddenly appeared to him: he was frightened, and began to run away, but the wild beast came and tumbled before him that was frightened, and was grieved at it. Which also may be understood of a *Panther*: For she had littered, and her Whelps were fallen into a pit. First therefore he had cause to pity her, and not to be afraid; and next to take care: and he was secure, as he understood the cause of her grief, and followed her, she gently laying her claws and drawing him by the garments; and he had his life for a reward for taking out her whelps; and she having got her young ones again, went along with him, and guarded him out of the desert, and she was jocant and merry, that it might easily appear how gratefull she was, and not to wrong him for his good deeds; which is a rare thing in a Man. They love wine, and when they are drunk they are catcht. The Holy Ghost likenceth *Alexander the Great*, who founded the *Græcian* Monarchy, to the *Leopard*. You shall see the application in *Cl: Domino Conrado Grafero*, our Master, in his *Isagogue of Universal History*, a Work never can be enough commended.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXI.

Of the Frog.

Frogs couple in the Spring, and lay their spawn in the spring of the year following; in the middle of it the frog lieth hid; the Frogs being come forth, shew their great heads, *Alberti*. At *Luzania* they catch Bees when they come to drink at the water; it is observed, that they will eat a dead mole, *Alberti*. In *August* their mouth is so shut, that they can neither eat nor drink, nor cry; and you can hardly open it with your hand, or with a stick, *lib. de nat. rer.* Their young ones are destroyed by the leaves of Mullens, or Nut-leaves cast into the water, *Alan*. If a candle lighted be set on the bank, they will leave croking, *African. in Geopont*. Their spawn is first found in *March*, wash your hands in it, and it will cure the Itch. *Gesner* saith it will cure the worms, whereof a fellon is a kind, if you lay it on your fingers. The *Egyptian* Frogs when they light upon a water-Snake, will take a seed in their mouths, and so they cannot be devoured, *Gilim*. A Toad buried, will breed again of his own ashes. But in *Dariene* a Province of the New World, they breed presently from the drops that fall from their slaves hands; whilst they waver the pavements. *Martyr* changeth them in Summer into Fleas; he ascribeth it to the filthy muddy Ay. If you beat him with a wand, he will first cast forth his venom by his legs, and then he sweats some drops like milk. *Frederick Duke of Saxony* gave one of them to hold till it grew hot; it was first thrust through with a wooden spit, dried in the shade, and wrapt in Sarsnet; and this was his remedy to stanch blood. *Gesner* makes the reason to be, Cold. *Boyas* is a kind of Toad, especially of a brown colour, and in hot Countries is of a cubital magnitude, and sometimes carries its young on its back. In the forehead of this Toad is the stone found, sometimes it is white, sometimes brown, which is best, if it have a yellow spot in the middle. Some say it is onely a bone; some say it is bred of that bird-limy froth, which Toads meeting together in Spring-time do breathe into the forehead of one of the chief of them. *Gesner l. 2. de Ursaris*, he cannot believe that it is a stone. He that would hear more of Frogs, shall find it in the books of *Libavius*, his *Batrachiorum*, if he reads them.

CHAP. XXXII.

Of Rangifer, and Rhinoceros.

Rangifer breeds in the North, specially in *Normy* and *Spitzland*; it is like a *Harr*, but bigger in body, and exceeding strong. He hath three ranks of horns on his head, so that in each there are two, and his head seems to be set about with twigs. Of these two are greater

ter than the rest; when they come to perfection, they are five cubits, and have 25 branches in them, *Alberus*. They are milked, and will go 30 miles a day, *Olaus*. *Rhinoceros* is a Beast as big as an Elephant, he hath one horn in his nose, and from thence he hath his name. It is moderately bent, and so sharp, that it will pierce stones and Iron, *Alian*. His skin is very thick with skaly crusts, in colour and figure like a Tortoise shell; It is so fast, that a Dart can hardly enter it. He is an Elephants enemy, when he fights with him, he whets his horn on a stone; then putting his horn under the Elephants belly, where it is softest, he rends him. He that will see examples, let him read *Camerarius* in *Subsivis horis*.

CHAP. XXXIII.

Of divers Serpents.

IN the Province of *Caraiá*, under the King of *Tartaria*, some *Serpents* are ten yards long, and ten hands broad; some want forefeet, but have clawes in the room of them. Their eyes are as great as two small loaves. They are wonderfull good in Physick. For one, bit by a mad dog, if he drink but a penny weight, presently he will be suddenly cured; and a woman in labour, if the taste never so little thereof, will be delivered immediately; *Paul Venetus*. *Americus Vespasius* saw some in the *Indies* that men did eat. They were as big as Klds, and a yard and half long, their feet were long, armed with strong claws; their skin was of divers colours, and nose like a *Serpent*. From the ears to the end of the tail, a certain bristle went quite through the back, that you would think they were Serpents indeed. *Calecut* breeds the like so great as Boars, and sometimes with greater heads; four feet, no venom, yet they bite dangerously, *Ludovic. Rom. in Navig.* In *Hispaniola*, called *Hivana*, of the west-*Indies*, there are some like to these. Their back is with prickles, their heads crested, they are mute, with four feet, a Lizzards tail, very sharp teeth, they are bigger than Conies, they live indifferently in Trees, Land, or Water, and will suffer hunger many dayes. Anno 1543, there appeared four-footed beasts in the borders of *Germany* near to *Styria*, they were like Lizzards, and had wings, their biting was incurable. Anno 1551, about St. *Margarets* day in *Hungary* near *Zischa*, about the River *Theisa*, they were found in the bodies of many: They killed about 3000 men. Some came out of mens mouthes, but they went in again. It is almost incredible what is reported of those places: That multitudes of them were found in piles or handfulls of wheat: and when the Country men thought to burn them, there came a great many more forth, and charged them with mans voice to forbear, saying, that they were not bred naturally, but sent by God to punish men for their sins.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIV.

Of the Squirrel, and Ape-fox.

THE *Squirrels* have but one blind gut, as great as a stomach, and in dissection it is alwayes found twoln with excrements, *Vesalius*. They are said to have a bony generative part. They foresee a tempest, and opening their holes on the contrary side, they shut those places where the winds will blow, *Albert*. When it would passe over the water for to find food, he takes the bark of a Tree that is very light, and sets it on the water, sitting in it, and steers it with his Tail lifted up, and so the wind carries him over, *Autor. lib. de natur.* The *Ape-fox* is a Creature in *Paryana*, a Country of the *Indies*: Before, he is like a Fox; behind, an Ape: he hath mans feet, and Owls ears: under his common belly he hath another belly like a Wallet; she keeps her young in this, and it comes not forth but to suck, *Gillius*. *Peter Martyr Decad. 1. l. 9.* saith, he saw one dead, amongst such vaste Trees, that 16. men together could nor fathom round.

CHAP. XXXV.

Of the Ape.

THEre are in some Countries *Apes* in abundance. *Posidonius* saw a wood full of them in the borders of *Lybia*. In a word, *Alexander* saw Mountains full of them in the *Indies*. He thought when he espied them by chance, standing upright, that an Army was ready to besiege him, *Ellan*. Amongst the *Troglodites* they have Manes like Lions, and the greatest are as tall as weathers, *Scalig. in Exercit.* In the *Indies* *Mediterranean*, they are huge bodies, and they follow civill Merchandise without any offence. *Galen* thought them the likest to Mankind, amongst all creatures, for their Bowels, Muscles, Arteries, and Nerves. But *Vesalius* saith, they are the most unlike in the Muscles of the Thorax, that move the arm, cubit and thigh, and those that move the shoulders and toes; and lastly, for the inward structure of the hand. A Male was seen, whose heart had two points, *Albert*. *Scaliger* saw many without tails, as great as a boy of eight years old, and a male and female with their young. If the young desire any thing, the mee is admonished by the mee clinching his fist, and he will correct her with a fierce look; as being guilty of ill-using her young ones. *Mattanus* saith, that those which have such tails, are sad when the Moon is decaying, and they rejoyce and adore the new Moon. He addes, That some were seen to play at Chesse, for they will imitate a man unluckily; for an Ape saw a Midwife wash the Child, and bind him up in swathebands, and lay him in the