

JAVA, SUMATRA, AND THE OTHER ISLANDS *of* *the* DUTCH EAST INDIES

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TRANSLATED AND WITH A
PREFACE BY BERNARD MIALL



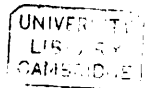
WITH A MAP AND 47 ILLUSTRATIONS

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BROMO AND THE SEA OF SAND.



Frontispiece.

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beast fights with which they still, though less often than of old, enliven their principal feasts or receptions.

The larger animals are hunted most of all in the Preangers, where they are most plentiful and most dangerous. The natives try to take them alive in heavy traps, the principle of which is very much that of a rat-trap; in this way some of the finest tigers find their way to the special quarters in the palaces of the Sultan of Djokjakarta or the Susuhunan of Surakarta, where they are kept in reserve for some future festival; but the greater number are drowned in their traps, which are carried to the nearest river, in order that the beasts may be killed without damage to their skins. Tigers are also taken by many other means.

For every tiger killed the hunter receives a Government bounty; and the skin, deprived of its teeth, claws, and whiskers, which the native regards as a very powerful fetish, and one for which he will pay a considerable price, is also sold on the spot for a very fair price. Some skins are sent to Europe; but the greater number remain in the Archipelago, where they are employed in the making of rugs and saddlery and for decorative purposes; unfortunately the process by which they are tanned is usually so unsuccessful that, under the influence of insects and the damp, such articles quickly lose their lustre and their value.

Although there are no wild elephants in Java, there are herds of rhinoceros, which gradually decrease as the uncultivated tracts of the island are reclaimed. The Javanese kill them all the more willingly because the hide of a rhinoceros will often fetch more than 200 florins (over £16) on the spot. The natives eat the flesh, and the horns are sold at a high price to the Chinese, who believe them to possess remarkable medicinal and restorative qualities. The Javanese themselves believe that a little disc of rhinoceros horn applied to a serpent's bite will neutralise the venom; the hide serves to make whips and switches; while

the Chinese sometimes carve the horns, mount them on a base, and send them to Europe. The Javanese, in order to avoid injuring the hide, always prefer to snare the rhinoceros rather than shoot it.

The wild pig abounds in Java. The principal species are, the *widjung*, or "coffee-pig" (*Sus vittatus*), whose flesh is excellent eating, and the *gonteng* of the mountains, called *wraha* in the plains, or "callous swine" (*Sus verrucosus*), which is far less highly appreciated. In order to protect their crops, and on account of its ferocity, the Javanese hunt the pig relentlessly; they do not, however, gain much by the sport, as their religion forbids them to eat the flesh of swine, which is accordingly left to the Chinese. In some of the mountain regions, however, this law is less strictly observed, and the dried flesh, cut into thin slices, and sold under the name of *dendeng*,¹ finds plenty of consumers who do not boggle over its origin. The great wild buffalo, or *banteng* (*Bos sondaicus*), which is shot and eaten on the spot, is a profitable quarry, as its hide, horns, and hooves are employed in the manufacture of a large number of articles for every-day use or for exportation.

Deer (*rusa*) are almost as plentiful as wild pigs, and are hunted even more eagerly. The dried venison, or *dendeng*, is a staple article of commerce in the Archipelago; the horns and hide are utilised in various industries. The young antlers, still covered with a mossy skin, are also bought at a fair price by the Chinese, who regard their fortifying virtues to be even superior to those of the rhinoceros horn. The dried tendons are also secured for the tables of the wealthy, and are even exported to China; they are used in the manufacture of a succulent sweetmeat.

Stag-hunting, whether undertaken with the rifle or with hounds, is a passion which the Europeans share with the natives. The result is a gradual but percep-

¹ All dried meat, whether seasoned with spices or not, is called *dendeng* in Java.