

German customs seize rhino horns

IN APRIL 1979 141 rhino horns were seized by West German customs authorities in Bremen. They had been posted as parcels from Nairobi (by the firm of *Hassaco Ltd. (KLA)*, not registered in Kenya) to a West German ivory trader, *Weinz Bros* in *Veitsrodt*, via *Transatlantic Expeditions*. The addressee claims that he "did not order the horns", and *Interpol* are now undertaking further investigations in Germany and in Kenya. Black market retail prices for rhino horn in Asia can go as high as \$18,000 per kg (\$500 an ounce).

In January 1980 79 rhino horns, carried in the suitcase of a Kenyan passenger from Zambia, were confiscated at Frankfurt airport. It appears that the horns were destined for another West German ivory trader. Curiously enough, a newspaper advertisement in the Thai language had appeared in *The Nation* (Bangkok, 20 September 1979), in which "Rhinoceros Hornpowder for Men" was offered for sale by a Mr H. Kiessling, P.O. Box 125, Munich, West Germany.



Photo: Michael Wolf, QUICK

German customs officials hold up one of the smuggled rhino horns sent by parcel from Nairobi. Behind them is the rest of the haul.

Official imports of rhino horn into Japan - 1978

Origin	Weight	Value	Price per kg
Kenya	367 kg	\$110,342	\$301
South Africa	350 kg	\$106,380	\$304
Hong Kong	120 kg	\$ 40,200	\$335
Singapore	120 kg	\$ 6,532	\$408
Total:	853 kg	\$263,454	Average: \$308

Official imports of rhino horn into Taiwan - 1978

Origin	Weight	Value	Price per kg
South Africa	166 kg	\$ 14,301	\$ 86
Hong Kong	84 kg	\$ 9,057	\$108
Singapore	12 kg	\$ 1,379	\$115
Other	643 kg	\$ 49,365	\$ 77
Total:	905 kg	\$ 74,102	Average: \$ 82

Rhino-product shops in the Far East

Sample of the larger traditional Chinese medicine shops - 1979

Place	Number of shops examined	Number selling rhino products
Singapore	15	8 (53%)
Hong Kong (Kowloon)	15	11 (73%)
Macao (China)	9	7 (78%)
Taipei (Taiwan)	9	9 (100%)
Bangkok (Thailand)	23	12 (52%)
Chiangmai (Thailand)	5	3 (60%)
Total:	76	50 (66%)

Average retail prices of rhino horn per kilo - 1979

Place	Type	Price
Singapore	Almost all African	\$11,615
Hong Kong	Almost all African	\$11,103
Macao	Almost all African	\$ 4,127
Taipei	African	\$ 1,596
	Indian	\$17,090
Bangkok	Mostly Sumatran	\$ 3,654
Chiangmai	Sumatran	\$11,764
Average:		\$ 8,707

Source: *Esmond Bradley Martin*

Africa's rhino populations

Black rhino *Diceros bicornis*

Angola:	low hundreds
Botswana:	under 20
Cameroon:	c.100
CAR:	at least 1000
Chad:	very few
Ethiopia:	a few
Kenya:	under 1500
Malawi:	20-50
Mozambique:	low hundreds
Namibia:	c.190
Rwanda:	20-40
Somalia:	a few
Sudan:	under 500
Tanzania:	4000-9000
Uganda:	low tens
Zaire:	probably extinct
Zambia:	under 5000
Zimbabwe:	850-1350

Northern white rhino

Ceratotherium simum cottoni

CAR:	probably a few
Sudan:	500-600
Uganda:	very few
Zaire:	under 400

Southern white rhino

Ceratotherium simum simum

Botswana:	c.50
Mozambique:	c.60
South Africa:	2200
Zimbabwe:	c.160