

# Wanderings in Burma

BY

GEORGE W. BIRD

(*EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT, BURMA.*)

---

With Illustrations and Maps

---

FIRST EDITION.

---

**Bournemouth :**

F. J. BRIGHT & SON, THE ARCADE.

**London :**

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & Co., LTD.,  
STATIONERS' HALL COURT, E.C.

1897.

The charge for labour varies in different Towns. In Thayetmyo it is Eight Annas per Rupee weight (*tical*) of Silver used. In Mandalay it is Twelve Annas per *tical*. For more delicate work the charge is frequently One Rupee per *tical*.

#### IVORY CARVING.

Ivory Carving is practised chiefly in Rangoon, Moulmein, and Mandalay. Although well executed specimens are frequently to be met with, the Burmese are far behind the Chinese in the excellence of their workmanship.

The principal articles manufactured are *dah* handles, figures of Men and Animals, Chess-men, Cups, Paper-knives, and Card cases. As in other industries, the traveller will frequently be unable to procure any finished specimens, but will have to place his order, and rely upon a friend to see that it is executed. The Burman, in his happy-go-lucky way, neither advertises his wares, nor keeps a stock on view.

#### BRASS WORK.

This industry is carried on chiefly in Amarapura, Sagaing, and in Rangoon. The principal articles of manufacture are Bells, Gongs, Images of Gaudama, Dishes, Bowls, and other domestic utensils. Some of the Bells and Images are of vast size and weight.

The Bells—unlike those of European manufacture—have no tongues, but are suspended by a shackle to a cross beam, supported on two upright posts. They are sounded by striking the lower part of the outer rim with a deer's antler, or a piece of heavy wood.

Brass images of Gaudama—sometimes of enormous size—are to be found in nearly all Buddhist shrines. At Mandalay small specimens are to be got. These are often utilised as paper weights by Europeans and others.

Gaudama Buddha is represented in three postures:—the Sitting, as when he attained Buddha-hood; the Sleeping,

## SHOOTING AND GAME.

---

The list appended gives the principal wild animals to be met with in the jungles of Burma.

Elephant	( <i>B. Tau-tsin.</i> )
Rhinoceros	( <i>B. Kyan.</i> )
Tapir	( <i>B. Ta-ra-shu.</i> )
Wild Hog	( <i>B. Tau-wet.</i> )
Sambur	( <i>B. Tsat.</i> )
Brown antler'd Deer	( <i>B. Tha-min.</i> )
Hog Deer	( <i>B. Darai.</i> )
Barking Deer	( <i>B. Gyi.</i> )
Wild Goat	( <i>B. Tau-sait.</i> )
Bison	( <i>B. Pyaung.</i> )
Wild Buffalo	( <i>B. Tau-gvwè.</i> )
Wild Cattle	( <i>B. Saing.</i> )
Gayal, or Mit-hun	( <i>B. Ain-pyaung.</i> )
Sun Bear	( <i>B. Wet-wân.</i> )
Otter	( <i>B. Hpyan.</i> )
Wild Dog	( <i>B. Tau-kwè.</i> )
Jackal	( <i>B. Myè-kwè.</i> )
Grey Civet Cat	( <i>B. Kyaung-myin.</i> )
Common Civet Cat	( <i>B. Kyaung-ka-do.</i> )
Binturong, or Monkey Tiger	( <i>B. Myauk-kya.</i> )
Tiger	( <i>B. Kya.</i> )
Leopard	( <i>B. Kya-thit.</i> )
Leopard Cat	( <i>B. Thit-kyaung.</i> )
Jungle Cat	( <i>B. Tau-kyaung.</i> )
Gibbon	( <i>B. Myauk-lwè-gyaw.</i> )
Monkey	( <i>B. Myauk.</i> )
Hare	( <i>B. Yón.</i> )

In the King's time, an Elephant Keddah was maintained at Amarapura, within three or four miles of the present Capital, Mandalay, and a "catch" was made every year, the animals being driven into the Keddah by the valleys debouching from the Shan Hills.

### RHINOCEROS.

Three varieties of this family are procurable in the forests of Burma, viz : The lesser one-horned (*B. Kyan-tsin*), The Ear-fringed two-horned, and the Sumatran variety. Dr. Mason writes as follows on the Lesser One-horned:—"The common Singled-horned Rhinoceros is very abundant. Though often seen on the uninhabited banks of large rivers, as the Tenasserim, they are fond of ranging the mountains, and I have frequently met with their wallowing places on the banks of mountain streams two or three thousand feet above the plains. They are as fond of rolling themselves in mud as a Hog or a Buffalo. The Karens have quite as much fear when travelling of a Rhinoceros as they have of a Tiger. When provoked, the Rhinoceros, they say, pursues his enemy most unrelentingly, and with indomitable perseverance. If to escape his rage the huntsman retreats to a tree, the beast, it is said, will take his stand underneath for three or four days in succession without once leaving his antagonist. There are seasons when the rhinoceros is very dangerous, and ferocious, attacking everything that comes near its haunts."

### TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS (*R. Lasiotis*.)

Blyth remarks :—"In the Rhinoceroses of this type the hide is comparatively thin, and is not tessellated or tuberculated, nor does it form a 'coat of mail,' as in the preceding variety, but there is one great groove (rather than fold or plait) behind the shoulder blades, and a less conspicuous crease on the flank, which does not extend upwards to cross the loins, and there are also slight folds on the neck and at the base of the limbs, the skin being moreover hairy throughout."

"There is also a second horn placed at some distance behind the nasal one. Until recently the existence of more than one species was unsuspected."

"I have reason to believe that this is the Two-horned species which inhabits the Arakan Hills, those of Northern Burma, and which extends rarely into Assam."

#### R. SUMATRANSIS (*B. Kyan.*)

This type is much smaller than the preceding species, with a harsh and rugose skin, which is black and clad with bristly black hairs, the ears less widely separated at base, and filled internally with black hairs, the muzzle anterior to the nasal horn much broader, and the tail conspicuously longer, tapering and not tufted at the end, horns attaining considerable length and curving but slightly backwards. This species is the ordinary Two-horned Rhinoceros of Tenasserim and the Malay countries, and would seem to be replaced in Arakan by *R. Lasiotis*, which perhaps also spreads into Assam and Tenasserim. According to Helfer the *R. Indicus*, in addition to the *R. Sondaicus*, inhabit the northern portion of the Tenasserim province.

#### TAPIR (*B. Ta-ra-shu.*)

"Has four toes in front, three behind. Snout produced into a short fleshy mobile trunk. Hair close and short.

"The Tapir has been long known to exist in the Southern province, but has never been heard of north of the valley of the Tavoy river. It is believed that none have ever been caught or killed in the provinces, except one that was procured from a Karen by a writer of the late Major Macfarquher, of Tavoy. It was a very inoffensive animal, and became as much domesticated as a cat. It followed its master round the compound like a dog, but looked as unseemly as a hog. It differs in no respects from the Malay Tapir, has the same white-blanket-like appearance on its back, and, like that, frequents the uplands. Though seen so rarely, the Tapir is by no means uncommon in the interior of the Tavoy and Mergui provinces."