

Jean-Baptiste Oudry

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Prix de la Fondation Paul Cailleux 1972

In two volumes

Vol. I

Garland Publishing, Inc., New York & London



1977

Ex.: Salon of 1742, no. 38.

Bibl.: Gougenot, p. 388; Groth, p. 83, no. N 44; Schlie, no. 792; Seidel, pp. 89, 99-101, 106; Locquin, no. 19; V.-R., no. VII, 33.

This apparently did not belong to the series commissioned for the Royal Botanical Garden (see text, Chapter V, pp. 112-113), even though it was shown in the Salon as having been painted for the King, and even though Oudry sold it to Schwerin at the same time as that series. The only decent description is in Groth's catalogue of 1792: "Das Weibchen von einem Luchs, sitzend auf einem grünen Platze, neben einem Luchse." A picture in Schwerin until the last war, with only one lynx, was described by Schlie as possibly a partial copy by Findorff of the lost original. Listed in the Salon livret, and in Oudry's correspondence of 1750 with Schwerin, as a "guide-lion"; this has been interpreted by later authors as meaning lion-tamer, so the picture has usually been catalogued as a portrait (only Gougenot lists it among the animal subjects). "Guide-lion" is one of many eighteenth-century names for various sorts of lynxes.

P349

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(S)

Rhinoceros.

Schwerin, Staatliches Museum, inv. no. 1928.

Oil on canvas, 3.10 by 4.56 m.

Hist.: painted after nature at the Foire Saint-Germain in 1749; sold to the Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin in 1750 for 800 livres.

Ex.: Salon of 1750, no. 38.

Bibl.: Schlie, no. 807; Seidel, pp. 90, 99-101; Locquin, no. 336; V.-R., no. I, 180.

A drawing for the picture is in the British Museum (Cat. D751). Oudry gave a plaster model of the rhinoceros to Prince Friedrich in 1750; it was still in Schwerin in Seidel's day, but I have not looked for it. Although supposedly painted from nature, the animal is very close to Dürer's famous woodcut of 1515. But then all rhinoceroses look alike.

P350

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(S)

Lion.

Schwerin, Staatliches Museum, inv. no. 1932.

Oil on canvas, 3.07 by 2.58 m. Signed and dated 1752.

Pen and watercolor. 315 by 300 mm.

Pasted onto the album page.

D749

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Wild Boar Seated.

Zürich, Kurt Meissner.

Gouache on buff paper. 288 by 420 mm. Inscribed below left:
J. B. Oudry.

Ex.: Zürich 1967, no. 32 (repr.); Stanford-Detroit-New York
1969-1970, no. 13 (repr.).

Perhaps identical with one of two drawings from the Lempereur
collection (Cat. D768, 769).

D750

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Head of a frightened fox. (Fig. 263)

Schwerin, Staatliches Museum, inv. no. 4578 Hz.

Pastels on olive-green paper. 266 by 413 mm.

Bibl.: Seidel, p. 106; Locquin, no. 787; V.-R., no. II, 92.

A superb late work, after 1740. The same head appears in two
other drawings (Cat. D734, 773).

D751

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Rhinoceros.

London, British Museum, inv. no. 1918-6-15-7.

Black and white chalk on blue paper. 276 by 444 mm. Inscribed
below left, in ink: Oudry fecit.

Hist.: William Mayor, London (Lugt 2799, below right, recto);
Sir Edward J. Poynter, Bart. (Lugt 874, below right, recto); his
sale, London, Sotheby, 24-25 April 1918, no. 223 (L 32 to
Colnaghi); Otto Britt, who gave it to the museum in 1918.

Bibl.: A Brief chronological description, 1871 ed., no. 320,
and 1875 ed., no. 561; Locquin, no. 783; V.-R., no. II, 110.

A finished study of the animal, without the landscape, for the
painting executed in 1749 and shown in the Salon of 1750
(Cat. P349).