

REALLY RHINOS!

64, Winter, 1992

ARE THERE ANY RHINO COLLECTORS OUT THERE?

Some nice comments about my newsletter (thank you!) but I still wonder how many of you buy any of the rhinos mentioned in each issue? How committed are you really? I know I am a rhinophile because I've noticed a real drought in rhinobilia lately. Do you give feedback to rhino vendors or encourage artists to make rhinos? Remember, we are most interested in keeping rhino vendors in business to provide future collectibles but we also want to inform other rhino collectors, artists and the general public in general about our concern for the rhino in the world. I have seen some great rhinos but can't purchase them because a minimum quantity is required. As a group we have more buying power and influence than any one of us individually. I encourage you to make one new year's resolution for 1993: support known rhino vendors, give them feedback; encourage them to seek out new and different rhinos; and when offered, please purchase them!

Remember your best rhino dealers are Debbie Byrne's *Rhino Connection* (1-800-423-1111) and Bud Meech's

Rambunctious Rhino (813-752-5466). Use them or lose them.

**AS THE YEAR EXPIRES,
SO WILL YOUR
SUBSCRIPTION** to Really, Rhinos! I have decided to make subscriptions renewable once a year. Thanks to those of you who already renewed your subscription. Some of you are actually getting this issue free. As of January 1, 1993, all subscriptions will run from January - December. Anyone else who wishes to continue receiving the newsletter, please send your check (still \$15!!) by January 30th. I will not be sending out renewal notices or reminders. If there are questions, drop me a line or call and leave a message on the horn (602-327-9048).

A GONGAI*

Price/slash on a limited edition (300) solid pure silver rhinoceros sculpture. Only fifteen remain. Rumor has it one gentleman from New Jersey bought one to add to his 6,500 piece rhino collection. (and you thought I had a lot!) The black rhino sculpture was \$575 but is now \$378.50. Check, MC or VISA are welcome. Mystica & Co, Inc. 1265 Birchrun Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425. (215) 469-0535. FAX (215) 469-0999.

*Arizona slang for bargain.

TONS OF RHINO CHEER TO THE FOLLOWING BIRTHDAY BABE

Debbie Byrne 1/27

Debbie's first rhino was Scott Alexander's rhino book back in 1984. Her most unusual rhino is made from blue lapis. She has more than 300 rhinos. You can send personal rhino greetings to Debbie c/o the *Rhino Connection*, 1125 South Rogers, Clarksville, AR 72830. [Ya think president-elect Clinton ever shopped in Debbie's emporium?]

If you never filled out a rhino questionnaire, please let me know and I will send you one. The more we know about each other, the more we can support us!

NOW SAVE \$200

Black Rhinoceros Sculpture
limited to 300 pieces
Signed & Numbered by artist
Solid Fine Silver, 999
1204" x 1112" x 1112"



DAGGERS DRAWN ON RHINOS AGAIN

By Esmund & Chryswel Bradley Martin, BBC Wildlife, July, 1992, p. 69

"Conservationists are worried that reports of a large increase in the amount of African rhino horn imported into Yemen - one of the main consumers of the product - may signal a renewed increase in poaching of an animal that has already been hunted almost to extinction. A slump in the economy, a wider use of both water buffalo horn and plastic, and a decline in the rhino horn supply resulted in the mid 1980s in a decline in imports to about 250g a year. Now it seems that between August, 1990 and March 1992, just one Yemeni dagger producer was able to buy 750g - accounting for the deaths of at least 260 black rhinos.

This dealer - who is based in Yemen's capital, San'a, and is the country's main producer of daggers with rhino horn handles - accounts for more than 80% of Yemen's rhino horn imports. According to him, almost all of the horn was supplied by Tanzanians of Yemeni origin and by Koreans. Large consignments used to go by air to San'a, despite a 1982 law banning rhino horn imports. But a few years ago, the government lightened up the customs control of the airport, and only small quantities of horn now slip through, mainly in the personal luggage of Sudanese businessmen and teachers working in Yemen.



Where is the rhino horn coming from? Some may be from old stocks still held in Burundi or elsewhere, but the craftsmen carving the handles are not complaining that the horns are riddled with insect holes, which is what happens when they have been stored for some time. It is more likely that some shipments are originating from Tanzanian rhinos, and probably also from a few animals killed in northern Mozambique and Kenya. But much of it may be coming from Zimbabwe, where the worst poaching in Africa has been taking place - more than 250 rhinos were killed between late 1990 and March 1992.

From 1988 until at least 1990, Zimbabwean rhino horn was being taken to Lusaka, Zambia, and shipped either by air to Swaziland or by road to South Africa where Taiwanese businessmen were buying it for re-export to Taiwan. Now, though, the south African authorities have clamped down on this trade, and Taiwanese dealers have become more interested in Asian rhino horn, which they prefer for both medicinal and investment purposes.

Whatever the sources and trade routes, possession of rhino horn once it has arrived in Yemen is now illegal, which is why Yemen's foreign minister Dr. Abdul Karim al-Iryani has said he will ban the internal trade in raw rhino horn - in effect, to ban its use. The workshops of dagger producers will be inspected regularly, and if any craftsman is caught carving raw rhino horn, he will be fined."

✓ CANCELLED CZECH ✓

A 26-year old female northern white rhino at Dvur Kralove Zoo (Czechoslovakia) suffered a prolapsed vagina in her tenth month of pregnancy and aborted a well-developed female fetus. There is a high risk of recurrent of the condition with a future pregnancy. Two younger females are also at Dvur Kralove and one of them has been mated and is believed to be pregnant. Zoo officials are hopeful that breeding of northern whites will continue at Dvur Kralove. If you would like to contribute to these efforts, purchase one of the remaining rhino pictures for sale from the International Rhino Conference. All proceeds go to Dvur Kralove. Pictures are in color, hand painted, about 24 x 30 and sell for \$35 unframed. Let me know if you are interested.

RECOURS! AYUDEME!

World Wildlife Fund

World Wildlife Fund has an emergency request for help from its members re: rhinos. Below are excerpts from the letter written by Eric Peterson, Conservation Director.

rhino upsurge in poaching for their horns has urged WWP to take emergency measures to protect endangered rhinos in Asia and Africa. Although horn trade is now illegal in ITCES, slaughtering rhinos at a record pace. In the price of rhino horn quadrupled and wealthy businessmen have begun to view rhino horn as a investment. Many are purchasing horn from wholesalers and selling it as a high-priced commodity that will skyrocket in value as the last rhino rhinos from the face of the

destruction of habitats rhinos at an alarming rate. Financial assistance and rhinos are desperately need to adequately patrol rhinos. We must take action to raise essential funds and to secure the survival of the rhino.

rhino Rhino Poaching is the most enemy of the Javan rhino. But limited habitat in the remaining reserve in Indonesia and disease are also great concern and have it necessary to consider relocation projects for this

small population. WWF is working with governments in Southeast Asia on high-priority conservation projects that will create and manage new sanctuaries for this desperately imperiled rhino species.

Sumatran Rhino Efforts to breed this species in captivity have not been successful to date. If this species is to survive, its only hope is through improved protection at existing sanctuaries and the establishment of new reserves. We must proceed full force with increased funding for projects in Kenahi-Seblat National Park and the Gunung Leuser National Park in Sumatra, two areas large enough to maintain viable populations of this species.

Black Rhino Wildlife authorities in Zimbabwe (home to about half of the world's population) have launched a last-ditch effort to save dwindling black rhino populations. WWF recently joined this race against poachers by pledging over \$250,000 in emergency aid to support dehorning operations. Officials hope that these efforts will head off killing of the animals for their horn. The horns are sawed off while the rhino is tranquilized and grow back at the rate of several inches every two or three years.

White Rhino Effective conservation efforts after 1920 have resulted in a steady increase in the surviving population of southern African white rhinos living in the Umfolozi Game Reserve. By the mid-1960s, their numbers had

risen from an estimated 200 to nearly 2,000. As a result of this success, white rhinos were captured and relocated to their former range, and the animals were removed from the endangered species list. By contrast, white rhino populations in northern Africa have suffered severely from poaching in recent years and the population has declined to only 24 animals in Garamba National Park in eastern Zaïre. There is an urgent need to protect those remaining white rhinos in the northern part of the African continent. Adequate protection is vital to the preservation of the species.

Greater One-Horned Rhino On the brink of extinction, by the 1960s only 75 animals in Nepal's Royal Chitwan National Park. Since then, careful management of existing populations has developed through cooperative action by WWF and the Nepalese government. Today the estimated number of one-horned rhinos living in the wild in Nepal is now 400! In Kaziranga national Park located in northeast India, fewer than 100 rhinos existed at the early part of the century. Today at least 1,200 rhinos roam the park. Of course this species is still seriously endangered and WWF is currently involved in a five-year plan to continue protection. Increased funding, more equipment and additional project staff members are needed to ensure the survival of the rhinos translocated to Royal Bardia

National Park.

Recommendations. If the rhino is to win the battle against extinction, here is what is most urgently needed:

- Funds for a comprehensive rhino sanctuary to manage and monitor the imperiled javan rhino (\$250,000)

- Royal Bardia National Park Greater One-Horned Rhino Program Reintroduction (\$38,500)

- Study impact of Rhino Dehorning in Zimbabwe and Namibia (\$25,000)

- Establish rhino sanctuaries in Zimbabwe and Kenya (\$300,000)

The rhino is in serious trouble but there is time to save the rhino if we act now. We must raise the money so desperately needed as quickly as possible. Additional funding and conservation measures must be implemented now if the rhino is to survive into the next century. For over three decades WWF has proved that timely intervention can save a species - even when it's pushed to the brink of extinction. Please encourage all WWF members to give generously to help us achieve these all-important goals."

[ed note: I have donated \$100 on behalf of Really, Rhinos subscribers. Please consider directing some of your holiday cheer to these WWF projects.

What Gooey Rhinos do Rhinos do better
The rhinos.



[from 102 Gooey Jokes, by Margan Matthews, Watermill Press, 1992, p.13.]

Put a Stop to It

If you're sick and tired of all the junk mail that comes to your house, there is something you can do about it. Ask the writer in your house if they would like to skip junk-mail delivery. If they won't, send the names of the people in your family to:

Direct Mail Marketing Association
4 Star Line Road
New York, NY 10017



September

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Seen in a kids' calendar. I thought this page would be especially appreciated.

NEED LAST MINUTE GIFTS? Don't forget your local zool! I just found some inexpensive (less than \$10) rhino gifts at the Phoenix Zoo. Book outlets and used book stores can be goldmines for books about or including rhinos. Check out teacher supply stores. I found great rhino stickers for \$2. P.S. I still have a few Mission Rhino books (\$5) and some duplicates for sale if you are desperate. Call me to order.



Ornament available from WWF. Call 1-800-634-4444 to order.

My rhino wish list for 1993:

- more rhino subscribers
- more input (stories, ideas, pictures) from YOU
- a LLADRO rhino for my collection
- + continued support of rhino conservation efforts by us all
- support of our rhino vendors who will find more wonderful rhinobilia for our collections and.....
- goodwill to all men, women & RHINOS EVERYWHERE!

Happy New Year



The best is yet to be in 93!

WHICH DR. SEUSS BOOK INCLUDES THIS ILLUSTRATION?

The 3 R's by Dr. Seuss & His Friends



Reading, Rhyming and Rhinoceros

Send me a rhino stationery pad if you have the answer and a rhino mug if you find me the actual book)

Kids PROMOTES ENDANGERED SPECIES through their League. Kids can pick up a free endangered species pin for two and please send me one, thank you.) T-shirts sell for 21. Trading cards with endangered animals and stickers have been seen in *Sports Illustrated for Kids*. Visit your local GapKids store and see what they have.

WHO'S THAT MAN?



Rhinophile and paleontologist extraordinaire, Dr. Donald Prothero recently appeared on "Jeopardy" and did a great job. Too bad there weren't any rhino questions but Dr. P. really knew his chemistry! Congratulations, Donald!



California law says that a tollgatherer may prevent from passing through his tollgate or tollbridge any animal that has not paid the toll.

(from the *Esperanto Crazy Laws* by Dick Hymus, Scholastic, 1997)

R/H/I/N/O/C/E/R/O/S

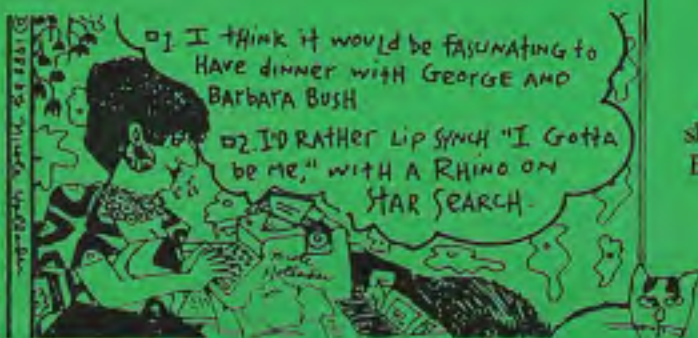
How many words can you find? Any language is o.k. as long as it is a real word. Send me your list and I will publish it in the next issue. Maybe a treat for the one with the longest list? Hmmmmmm?

choose	inch
chose	iron
crier	noose
crooner	nose
eons	once
eros	osa
err	rice
her	rinse
hero	rose
hier	shine
hoe	snorer
honor	soon
horse	sore
ice	??????



The very merriest of holiday seasons. Wishing you health, happiness and peace. Thank you for your continued support of Really, Rhinos! and for your love and concern for unicornis and bicornis everywhere.

Judyth



Really, Rhinos! is published quarterly. Annual subscription are \$15 (\$20 overseas) of which \$5 is donated to rhino projects.

Reader feedback and rhino citations should be reported to Judyth Lessee, Editor, Really, Rhinos! PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285 (602) 327-9048

Note: if you find errors, please know they are printed for those who always look for them. We try to print something for everybody.

REALLY, RHINOS!
PO Box 1285
Tucson, AZ 85702-1285

* To keep your subscription current, please send your check no later than January 30, 1993.