

WILD ANIMALS AND THE CAMERA

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WITH 12 MOUNTED COLLOTYPE PLATES AND 58 ART
REPRODUCTIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES
TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR

TORONTO
BELL & COCKBURN

bear is put down as a "bit of a fool," but he is prone to bite, and the belief that he hibernates is an erroneous one, as numbers were shot by Captain Jackson during the long arctic winter.

RHINOCEROS AND HIPPOPOTAMUS

The Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) "Tom" is the oldest mammal at the Zoo, having been presented in 1886, and although he has been at the Gardens twenty-five years, gives no indication that he may not live another fifty years, the average life of these animals being about a hundred years.

Contrary to popular belief, the skin of the rhino is quite soft, and is easily pierced by a bullet or pricked with a knife. The weight of these gigantic animals can be reckoned by tons, and for this reason precautions are taken that "Tom" (into whose enclosure not one of

the keepers will venture) cannot quietly lean against any one who might be stupid enough to risk the probability of being crushed to death.

Though known to the ancients, the first specimen seen in Europe was sent from India to the King of Portugal in 1513. Although there are several species of the Asiatic rhinoceros, the "one-horned," represented in the photograph of "Jim," is the rhinoceros *par excellence*. They inhabit the great grass jungles which form such a large portion of the plains of India. upon which they feed, and are practically exclusively grass-eaters. The enormous height and density of these grass jungles are described as follows by General Kinloch: "Year after year, in the short space of two or three months, these giant grasses shoot up to a height of from twenty to thirty feet, forming, with the wild cardamom, various other broad-leaved plants, and numerous creepers, a



"JIM," THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS,
(*Rhinoceros unicornis*.)
(Lived forty years at the Zoo.)

tangled cover which shelters the elephant, the rhinoceros, and the buffalo as effectually as a field of standing corn affords concealment to the partridge or the quail."

The hide of the rhinoceros is of great thickness, combined with immense folds; and this apparent armour has given rise to the impression that it is spear and bullet proof, and that the only parts free from this protection are between the joints of the armour. This belief was erroneous, as the following amusing story, also related by General Kinloch, proves:

"A soldier in India, who had heard of this legend, fired point-blank at a tame rhinoceros which had been captured by his regiment during the Mutiny, in order to obtain ocular proof of its truth. Needless to say, as the shot was well aimed the unfortunate animal fell dead, which meant a considerable loss to the regimental prize-fund."

The idea that the hide of the Indian

rhinoceros was bullet-proof may have arisen from the fact that the Indian princes employed the dried hide as a covering for the shields of their soldiers. The hide, when dried, is remarkably hard, but on the living animal it is quite soft.

It is a curious fact that the rhinoceros, unlike other animals, except the hippopotamus, does not fall over on its side when shot, but collapses within its own track into a position resembling that of crouching.

The young Indian rhinoceros, with the two native keepers who accompanied the collection of animals, was brought over from India by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1906. The animal has grown tremendously since its arrival, and is perfectly tame in comparison with "Tom," who is without exception the most untrustworthy animal in the Gardens.

The Hairy-eared Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros lasiotis*) hails from Chittagong, on the



YOUNG RHINOCEROS.
(*Rhinoceros unicornis*.)
(Presented by H.R.H. the
Prince of Wales, 1906.)



THE HAIRY-EARED RHINOCEROS.
(*Rhinoceros lasiotis*.)

east side of the Bay of Bengal. This species has two horns and in common with all Rhinocerotidæ belongs to the Odd-toed Ungulate, having but three toes on both the fore and hind feet, each of which ends in a strong hoof. Why this quaint animal should have been named after the few hairs growing on its ears is doubtful. The specimen illustrated was the most comical animal in the Gardens. You only wanted to watch him when let out in the open-air enclosure on a wet day, when the clay soil of Regent's Park was well saturated. He loved to grovel in the clay mud, and literally tried to bury himself in it. When he arose from his *Schlamm-bad* covered from head to foot, he presented a most amusing appearance. He was very nervous; it was only necessary to shuffle the feet on the gravel as he passed by to start him off at a gallop, and his antics were most grotesque. Unlike the one-horned species,

this animal's hide is not thick, and does not cover it in sections like a series of armour plates. This valuable specimen, which cost the Society about £1,000, died last year.

In the Bible "Imprinted in London by Robert Barker, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majestie" (the "Breeches" Bible, A.D. 1560), the rhinoceros is called the "unicorn," and unicorn is the word expressed in the version still used in our churches. An engraving of a coin of Domitian (Roman Emperor, A.D. 81-96) shows on the reverse the distinct form of a two-horned rhinoceros. The coin, coupled with the epigram of Martial, has greatly puzzled antiquaries and led some of them astray, as they could not be convinced that a rhinoceros with two horns ever existed. It was evidently known in Rome, and was used in the arena, and a description of a fight between a two-horned rhino and a bear

exists ("De Spectaculis Libellus," Ep. xxii), by which it appears that the rhinoceros tossed the bear with his *double horn* as easily as a bull tosses a bulldog.

The Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), "Guy Fawkes," was born in the menagerie on November 5, 1872, and, although a female, was named after that notorious conspirator whose effigy was annually burned on the top of Primrose Hill, which faces the Zoo, before the hill was enclosed and turned into one of London's cultivated pleasure resorts. The name was chosen as a reminder of the date, and not on account of any revolutionary spirit exhibited by the animal, which was docile, and the press of thirty-nine years ago went into raptures over the "beautiful little thing." The lippo has never been a great favourite with the public, which is proved by the fact that very little of the food given