

OFFICIAL GUIDE BOOK
TO THE
New York Zoological Park

[COMPLETELY REVISED]

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ILLUSTRATED BY ELWIN R. SANBORN



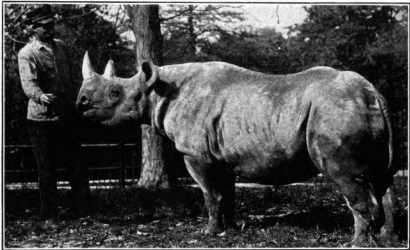
WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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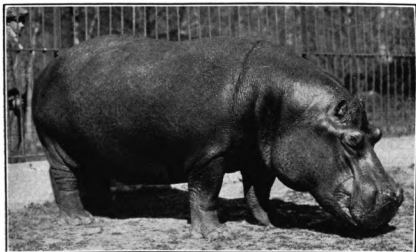


AFRICAN BLACK RHINOCEROS

The African Two-Horned Rhinoceros, (*Rhinoceros bicornis*), is represented by a large and fine female specimen, which was acquired in 1906. "Victoria" was captured in July, 1905, in the northern point of Tanganyika Territory, within about sixty miles of the head of Speke Gulf, which is the southeastern arm of Lake Victoria Nyanza. The elevation is between 4,000 and 5,000 feet. She was slung on a pole, and carried, six days' journey on men's shoulders, to the shore of the lake.

From thence she was transported by steamer to Port Florence, at the head of the Uganda Railway, thence by rail 500 miles to Mombasa. Ever since her arrival in New York, "Victoria" has thriven, and behaved excellently. Captivity does not seem to fret her in the least. She is very docile, very friendly toward her keeper, and it is quite apparent that she enjoys life.

The African Two-Horned Rhinoceros once was very abundant throughout the whole of the fertile plains region of east and south Africa, but the onslaughts of hunters have exterminated it from probably nine-tenths of the territory that it once occupied. Today, the Englishmen of Africa are earnestly endeavoring to regulate and abate the slaughter of African big game, and good results in that line are being accomplished. It is to be hoped that the protection lines will now be drawn so tightly



NILE HIPPOPOTAMUS

around the game that remains that it will be perpetuated for centuries to come.

The Indian Rhinoceros, (*Rhinoceros unicornis*).—A full-grown Indian Rhinoceros is one of the most wonderful of all living animals. It seems like a prehistoric monster, belonging to the days of the dinosaurs, rather than a creature of today; and the killing of so grand a creature solely for the sake of "sport" and a stuffed head to hang upon a wall, is murder, no less. It is quite time that the most wonderful works of animated Nature should universally be recognized as safe from attack with the rifle and knife.

The Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros is the largest of all living rhinoceroses. A full-grown male is about 5 feet 6 inches in shoulder height, and 10 feet 6 inches long from end of nose to root of tail. The length of the horn is not great, rarely exceeding 12 inches. The skin is very thick, and lies upon the animal in great rigid slabs, which are divided by articulating areas of thinner skin.

So pronounced is the rarity of the great Indian Rhinoceros that for nearly fifteen years only three living specimens came to the United States.

Our first Great Indian Rhinoceros was born in 1906, arrived here in 1907, and lived in our Elephant House until it suddenly

expired of a heart disease in 1918. After many and fruitless efforts to obtain a successor, Mr. Frank Buck journeyed to northern India in 1922, and returned with two fine young Indian rhinos, one for us and one for the Zoological Gardens of Philadelphia. Both animals are alive, and thriving. Our specimen is growing very rapidly and perfectly, and presently will develop into a magnificent adult. Unfortunately every Indian Rhinoceros in captivity seems determined to keep its one horn worn down to its base, thereby losing an important feature.

The Hippopotamus, (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), is more frequently seen in captivity than any of the large rhinoceroses, or the African elephant. In the lakes and a few of the large rivers of central East Africa it still exists in fair numbers, and still is killed for "sport."

Strange as it may seem, this very inert and usually lethargic monster can, under what it deems just provocation, become very angry, and even dangerous. A few years ago, in one of the rivers of Uganda, a hippopotamus not only overturned a boat, but killed one of its native occupants by biting him.

The Hippopotamus breeds readily in captivity, even under poor conditions, and the supply for the zoological gardens of the world is maintained in that way. The fine male specimen exhibited in the Zoological Park was purchased from the Central Park Menagerie, for \$3,000, and came as a gift from Mr. Samuel Thorne. "Peter the Great" was born on July 13, 1904, and he is now 22 years old. He is a most agreeable and successful animal. His weight on November 1, 1909, at five years of age, was 3,114 pounds; but since that time his weight has been unascertainable. He never has been ill, never has missed a meal, and always is willing to exhibit the interior of his cavernous mouth.

The Pygmy Hippopotamus, (*Hippopotamus liberiensis*), is a great zoological novelty, and second in rarity only to the okapi. An adult Pygmy Hippo is only *one-fourteenth* the size of an adult Nile Hippo. Our three original specimens, a female and two males, have been exhibited in the Elephant House for 14 years. They arrived in 1912, and were captured in Liberia, West Africa. The cost price of the trio was \$15,000. They have excellent appetites, never have been ill, and they seem to enjoy their new home. Their habits, capture, and their home surroundings have been fully described in the *Bulletin* (No. 52) and the Annual Report for 1912 of the Zoological Society.