

not used
28/2/42

Thayer

Aug 1983

NOTES ON THE FIRST LIVE RHINOCEROS TO BE EXHIBITED IN AMERICA

Indian rhinoceros (in litt R.J.Reynolds,III, 3/10/78)

Captured near foot of one of the Himalayan Mountains, May, 1829, aged about three months (from ads 1830 season)

Sent to Prince of Calcutta, August 1, 1829; purchased from him, January, 1830 (ads)

Landed in Boston, May 9, 1830 (ads)

Advertised as: The Greatest Natural Living Curiosity, this beast was accompanied by a pair of Mocos and an ichneumon.

It is presumed that Titus & Angevine, or June, Titus & Angevine were the exhibitors since the animal was with their National Menagerie in 1831.

Route:

Boston, Washington Gardens, May 14 to ?, 1830 (Reynolds, Bandwagon, 11/68, p10)

New York, 350 Broadway, June & July, 1830 (Odell, III, p476)

Philadelphia, 66 South 4th Street, Sept. 11 to Oct. 9, 1830 (Poulson's, 9/11-10/9)

Wilmington, Dela., Oct. 19 to 23, 1830 (Delaware Gazette, 10/19)

Baltimore, Oct. 28 to Nov. 29, 1830 (American, 10/28-11/29)

Washington, Dec. 6 to 19, 1830 (United States Telegraph, 12/6-19)

Using the same advertisements and cuts the American National Caravan in 1831 carried the rhino, mocos and ichneumon plus other animals (including the first Bactrian camel to be exhibited in America). This was definitely June, Titus & Angevine or Titus & Angevine (depending on when the Junes were involved)

Route:

Lancaster, Pa., April 18, 19, 20

Harrisburg, Pa., April 23

Easton, Pa., Sept. 8 (litho from this date at American Antiquarian Society)

Pittsfield, Mass., Oct. 28

1832: American National Caravan (Titus & Angevine)

Grand National Menagerie (June, Titus & Co)

These two titles were used at different ends of the season, but ads and cuts and animal lists makes it doubtful they were separate shows.

An elephant was added for January (Reynolds, Bandwagon, 11/68, p5) and another by December (Providence) Farmers and Manufacturers Journal, 12/27/32)

Route:

Boston, Jan. 28 to ?, (Reynolds, ibid)

New Haven, April 18, 19 (Columbia Register, 4/14)

Durham, Conn., April 23

Middletown, Conn., April 24, 25 (Middlesex Gazette, 4/18)

Hartford, April 30

Salem, Mass., June 21, 22, 23 (Essex Register, 6/21)

Boston, by December 27.

* WAS IMPORTED 1826

FIRST LIVE RHINOCEROS 2

- 1833: National Menagerie (June, Titus & Co.)
Went out of Union Street, Boston in April.
Route fairly well known. Rhino mentioned in most ads.
Wintered in either Providence or Boston.
- 1834: National Menagerie (June, Titus, Angevine & Co.)
Route fairly well known. Copy of ad in Bandwagon 11-12, 68.
Rhino advertised as 8 years old. Wintered 37 Bowery.
On August 1 J.R. and Wm. Howe & Co. purchased half-interest
in the rhino (and other animals), apparently to beef up
their inventory for the formation of the Zoological Institute.
They did not transfer the rhino and in 1835 the Howe menagerie
was combined with June, Titus, Angevine to become unit # 1, ZI.
- 1835: The Association's Celebrated Menagerie and Aviary from the
Zoological Institute, New York.
Essex Gazette, (Haverhill, Mass.), 18 April 1835 quoting
Boston Traveller (n.d.):

The rhinoceros belonging to the NYZI died on the second day after leaving that city on the summer tour to some of the New England states. It was imported at this port, five or six years ago when it was quite small and had grown to be much the largest animal of its kind in this country. It was in fact the first living rhinoceros that ever reached our shores and his weight was about 4,500 pounds. He was valued at \$18,000.

NOTES ON THE SECOND LIVE RHINOCEROS TO BE EXHIBITED IN AMERICA

Imported by Doctor Burroughs on ship Georgian (in October, 1830?)
Three years old and weighed 1590(ads in Poulson's 12/9/30 to 1/3/31)

1830: Exhibited beginning December 9 at 48 South Fifth St., Philadelphia.

The advertising cuts used for this animal and the Titus, Angevine one were consistent over the years. The one used for this animal show a rhinoceros with his head raised, mouth open, as if bellowing.

1831: New and Rare Collection of Living Animals. We believe the show was owned by Raymond & Ogden because the animals were consistent in 1831, 1832 and 1833. In the latter year the names of the partners were advertised.

Route:

Painesville, Ohio, July 27 (Painesville Telegraph, 7/20)
Ravenna, Ohio, August 11
Doylestown, Ohio, August 16
Wooster, Ohio, August 17, 18 (Republican Advocate, 8/6)
Pittsburgh, Sept. 2 for one week?
Washington, Ohio, September 19
Cambridge, Ohio, Sept. 20 (Guernsey Times, 9/17)
Lancaster, Ohio, Oct. 18, 19
Chillicothe, Ohio, Oct. 26, 27 (Scioto Gazette, 10/26)
Savannah, Ga., December 19 to January 14 (Savannah Republican, 12/19)

1832: New and Rare Collection of Living Animals
Only change was the addition of elephant, Hyder Ali, in December.

Route:

Charleston, SC, Dec. 18 to 27 (Charleston Courier, 12/18)

In 1833 this show became Raymond & Ogden's Menagerie of Wild Beasts and Birds.

1833: Raymond & Ogden's Menagerie
Route sparsely found. Advertised 3 year old rhino.
Wintered on road.

1834: Raymond & Ogden; Raymond, Ogden, Waring & Co. later in season.
Route fairly well known. Rhino consistently advertised.

1835: The Association's Celebrated Menagerie and Aviary from the
Zoological Institute, Baltimore. Branch # 7, ZI.
Have complete route. Rhino now advertised as largest in
country, 5,000 pounds. Noell E. Waring, mgr.

1836: Mammoth Exhibition from Zoological Institute, New York.
Noell E. Waring, mgr. This was a combination of Nathan
Howe's ZI show of 1835 and the Branch #7 of 1835.
Route well documented. Rhino present.

SECOND LIVE RHONOCEROS 2

1837: Purdy, Welch, Macomber & Co.

This was the Mammoth Exhibition of 1836, perhaps leased outside the ZI. Not relevant here. Route fairly well known. Rhino present.

1838: No rhinos on road. This one may have died.

1839: June, Titus ,Angevine had only rhino on road.

1840: J.E.M. Hobby & Co., a Raymond affiliate, carried a stuffed rhino. Could be this one.

1841: R.D. Lines & Co. carried stuffed rhino. A Raymond affiliate, so could have been one carried by Hobby in 1840.

NOTES ON THE THIRD LIVE RHINOCEROS TO BE EXHIBITED IN AMERICA

Imported on brig Neponset to Boston from Calcutta. Essex Gazette Haverhill, Mass.) 14 May 1831:

...has brought an elephant and a rhinoceros, both living. The latter is small, but the elephant is very large... (This elephant was Mogul)

1831: Exhibited at Lion Tavern, Washington St., Boston as "Great Hunting Elephant and Rhinoceros." (Columbian Centinel, 7 June 1831)

No more is found of this animal, though a clue exists. In August and September, 1834 Raymond & Ogden in Ohio and Indiana noted in their ads "there being a small collection of animals in this part of the country, having a young rhinoceros, etc." Raymond & Ogden had their rhino with them, of course, and were comparing it in size to this calf. The only one they could be referring to is our subject as the next (or fourth one) only landed in September, 1834. There were five menageries in the West in 1834, none of which advertised a rhino. It could be that a menagerie was on tour of which no ads were found (unlikely). Or, it could have died prior to our finding the ads of the company that carried it (i.e., if we found an October ad and the calf had died in September).

Another fact keeping this one alive is that June, Titus, Angevine under the title Mammoth Menagerie from the Zoological Institute, New York, in 1837 carried a female rhinoceros, whereas in 1836 they had a large male. This female could be the third one imported as no others are found. The question rises, where was she from 1831 to 1837?

Proceeding on that basis:

1838: No rhinos on road.

1839: June, Titus, Angevine & Co. had one-horned rhino. The 1837 specimen had been auctioned in Somers, August 1837. This could have been it. In the winter of 39-40 killed by Siam while exhibiting in Bowery Amphitheatre.

1840: Stuffed rhino carried by June, Titus, Angevine.

1841: Unit III of June, Titus, Angevine carried stuffed rhino.

NOTES ON THE FOURTH LIVE RHINOCEROS TO BE EXHIBITED IN AMERICA

Imported on ship Alleghany from London to Philadelphia on
* 4 September 1834. (in litt Bailey Howes to Epenetus Howe,
Chindahl Papers, CWM, Baraboo).

1834: Exhibited beginning November 28 by Purdy, Welch & Co.
(Poulson's ADA, 28 November 1834 et subs)

1835: The Association's Celebrated Menagerie and Aviary from the
Zoological Institute, Philadelphia. Ex-Purdy, Welch & Co.
Entire route known. Rhino advertised in most ads.

1836: Zoological Exhibition from Baltimore (Teed, Brown & Co.)
Successor to Purdy, Welch & Co. Some route known.
Rhino advertised.

1837: Mammoth Exhibition from Zoological Institute, New York
(Waring, Raymond & Co.) Successor to Teed, Brown & Co.
Some route available. One-horned rhino advertised.

Nothing more known of this one.

* Thayer (in litt 28 Aug 83) says this is day Howes loaded
the animal in London. Arrival in USA would have
been later, of course.

NOTES ON THE FIFTH LIVE RHINOCEROS TO BE EXHIBITED IN AMERICA

Imported on ship Susan from Cape of Good Hope to Hingham, Mass. on 19 May 1835. Zebedee Macomber in charge of shipment. (Hingham Gazette, 23 May 1834 quoting Boston Traveler (n.d.)

Exhibited 45 Union Street as Entire New Menagerie June 1 to July 13, then distributed among ZI menageries.

Large male rhino in shipment sent to June, Titus, Angevine unit of the ZI.

On September 10, 1835 in Litchfield, Connecticut JTA advertised that they received large, male rhino as part of Boston Zoological Association shipment, which was the Susan cargo. Obviously, they received it sometime in July.

Since they had female rhino in 1837, this large male must have died during 1836 season.

R.J.R NOTE ①

Newport Rhode Island Republican for 8 July 1835 says this was a two-horned rhino thus suggesting that an African rhino came to America 33 years before the reputed first one arrived at the London zoo.

RJR NOTE ② Data from John Polacsek via Thayer (2 Jan 84)

Boston Investigator of 12 June 1835 says that the shipment aboard Susan included both Asian and African animals mentioning, specifically, a Java pony, tigers, and a "Hindustan bear" with "elongated head [and] long, shaggy hair" [sloth bear?]. Also, that the shipment included animals which agents of the company "in different parts of Asia succeeded in transmitting to Cape Town." The rhino is described without reference to number of horns^{or} other other physical characteristics except that it "is altogether the largest of his species in the United States, and will astonish those who have seen only the small ones heretofore landed." Conclusion: probably a Great Indian! This same article says that last year [i.e. 1834] a party engaged by the Company [Macomber et. al] went far into the interior of S. Africa "in pursuit of the rhinoceros and cameleopard." They were returning with 4 cameleopards, the skin of a two horned white rhinoceros, and 2 living rhinoceroses "when they were attacked by Caffers who took the animals and all the baggage, the hunters barely escaping with their lives."

RHINOCEROSES IN AMERICA - 1848-1862
An attempt at sorting.

Stuart Thayer, November, 1989

In March, 1840, the elephant Siam killed the June, Titus, Angevine & Co. rhinoceros at the Bowery Amphitheatre in New York. In its report of the event the Spirit of the Times of 28 March said that this left but one rhinoceros in the country.

In 1841, Waring, Raymond, Weeks & Co. claimed that it had a rhinoceros. None of the three Raymond-owned caravans of 1842 made such a claim. From 1841 to 1848, no animals were advertised in the United States.

Under the assumption that we have dealt with the first five (perhaps six) rhinos to be imported in previous papers, we turn to what might be termed "the second batch."

A) The 1848 ads of Raymond & Waring's Unrivalled and Long Established Menagerie," known in shorthand as the "Pierce unit," after its lion trainer, list a recently added Asiatic rhinoceros. The boilerplate of the newspaper copy reads:

This is the second rhinoceros ever brought to America, and the third or fourth ever shipped from Asia. This stupendous and formidable creature arrived from the East Indies...since the menagerie commenced the summer tour and, of course, has been very recently added to their collection.

(Portland, Maine, Daily Eastern Argus, 4 September 1848)

It was not the second rhinoceros ever brought to America, nor the second Great Indian (R. unicornis) to be imported. It might have been the fourth Great Indian to arrive here. The description in the ads includes a reference to its "Cuirass-encased" body," which seems to bespeak the Great Indian.

In 1849, this animal was transferred to the "Driesbach unit" of the firm. Here it was advertised as the "first and only one in America since 1836." A male rhino was imported in June, 1835, and none since, which may be the basis for the statement.

The animal was with the "Driesbach unit" in 1850. In 1851 the title, but none of the animals, was shifted and this caravan became "Raymond & Co. and Van Amburgh & Co." It remained so in 1852 and 1853.

In late August, 1853, under the title "Van Amburgh's Menagerie," this show and its rhino were placed aboard the Floating Palace upon which it cruised the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers until April, 1855.

rhino 2

The Van Amburgh Menagerie was a wagon show in 1855. None of the ads we have lists the rhinoceros, but a notice in the Burlington, Iowa, Hawk-Eye of 22 August tells of it. The cage containing the animal fell through a bridge and the rhinoceros was seriously injured and led away with some difficulty. This may have been a fatal accident as the rhino is not mentioned again.

B) In 1850, the Raymond & Van Amburgh Menagerie advertised a rhinoceros and said that it was the first one in America since 1836. Our information on this show in this year is very sketchy. The use of the same wording as that in the "Driesbach unit" ads of 1849 is suspicious. However, in 1851, they advertised a rhinoceros (their title had been changed to "Raymond & Driesbach") and so it appears that there were two in the Raymond fold.

No rhino was with the Driesbach name in 1852, when the animals were combined with Welch's circus, nor in 1853, when part were combined with the Mabie Circus and part with the Rivers & Derious circus.

In December, 1853, a winter show titled "Broadway Museum and Menagerie," opened at 337 Broadway in New York. It featured Driesbach, the elephant Hannibal and a rhino. Hyatt Frost, in the Brewster (NY) Standard of 18 March 1887, said these animals came from the Rivers & Derious combination of 1853. Thus, we still have two Raymond rhinos. This one (B) must have been on the farm in 1852 and 1853. It died at 337 Broadway on March 20, 1854 (New York Clipper, 25 March 1854).

C) Sands & Quick (R. Sands & Co. and G.C. Quick & Co.'s Circus and Menageries United) had two caravans on the road in 1852. Both advertised that their animals came from Wombwell's, London, and the estates of the late Earl of Derby. This must indicate an auction or sale in London in 1851. One of the units was managed by G.C. Quick and it had a rhinoceros.

The same animals, minus the rhino, were on the Mabie circus in 1854.

The rhinoceros seems to have gone to the Barnum Caravan (S.B. Howes, manager). The Caravan was on the road from 1851 through 1854, but advertised a rhinoceros only in 1854. Sands and Howes were partners in other ventures and we dare to speculate that Sands (or maybe Howes) sold the rhino to the Barnum company.

The Barnum Caravan was auctioned in November, 1854, but no bids were received for the rhinoceros.

rhino 3

In 1855, Howes put out "S.B. Howes Menagerie combined with Myers & Madigan's Circus," of which the rhinoceros was a member. In November of that year Howes auctioned his animals and Joseph Cushing bought the rhino for \$575.00. We suspect some under-the-table shenanigans here, as a price of \$575.00 shouldn't have deterred anyone from buying the animal at the Barnum auction the year before. Cushing and Howes were close friends and about to launch a circus in England.

John Kunzog, admittedly a poor source, in "The One Horse Show," states that Dan Rice bought "Old Put" the rhinoceros that he featured for several years, from Avery Smith (partner of Sands and Howes) for \$700.00, and first showed him in 1855. The New York Clipper says Frank Rosston broke "Old Put" to the ring in the fall of 1856, and, indeed, we find no ads for the animal on the Rice show before the 1857 season. "Old Put" died circa 1862.

We find no more mention of rhinoceroses on menageries in America until late July, 1868, when the Van Amburgh company claimed one (which might well have been a tapir).