

1741 – Celsius Remarks

AMSTERDAM

Magnus von Celse (1709-1784)

see Svenska Linnesällskapets Arsskrift 2006 for a drawing



Drawings of Clara the rhinoceros made in Amsterdam in 1741 by Magnus Celsius in his Dagbok (KB M 231). For information see Broberg, G., 2006. Review of Faust, Zoologische und Botanische Einblattdrucke. Svenska Linnesällskapets Arsskrift 2006: 167-171, fig. 1. The manuscript in the Kungliga Bibliotheket in Stockholm (M 231) entitled Dagbok under en resa genom Sverige, Danmark, Holland, Frankrike och Tyskland åren 1741–42.

Broberg, G., 2006. Review of Faust, Zoologische und Botanische Einblattdrucke. Svenska Linnesällskapets Arsskrift 2006: 167-171, fig. 1

Celse, Magnus von. 1741. Dagbok under en resa genom Sverige, Danmark, Holland, Frankrike och Tyskland åren 1741–42. Kungliga Bibliotheket in Stockholm (M 231).

The passage runs - in Swedish:

på Buttermarkt i synnerhet woro åtskillige charaltaner, som på en theater pratade om sine drougerier och essenser, samt allehanda gyckelspel och främmande djur at se, såsom i synnerhet en lefwande Rhinoceros, som hade, som sades owanligt wara, nödt hornet af sig; han war stor som en ox, mycket tiockare; war dessutan stinkande och foetidus altöfwer ad udorem ut/. Huden war likasom skild uti flera stora bracteis /?/, såsom han warit öfwerlagd med stora skildpadde skal; Hufwudet war ganska stort och ungefär af denna skapnad. /two figures/ fötterna woro tweklöffwade, och benen tiocka samt stadoge. Ibland wiste han gapet emot dem som sågo på hoonom, då han andades en frän och stinkande lukt. Åt hö, kiöt eller annat hwad honom gafs. Berättades wara kommen nyligen från Ostindien med en skeppare, som hade hälften af penningarne som betalas af de som fråga honom, den andra hälften disponerades af Magistraten till de fattige, i hwilket observeras här med alle penningar för sådane spektakel. Widare såg jag

en lefwande Elephant med en pukel på ryggen, etc

Or in rough translation:

"In Buttermarkt there were several mountebanks who on a scene /theater/ talked about their pharmaceuticals, and quite a number of rarities, especially a living Rhinoceros, which had - what was said to be unusual - worn down its horn, He was big like an ox but much thicker. Furthermore, he had a bad smell. The skin seemed separated into several bruteis/?/ as if he been covered with big turtle shells; the head was very large and had roughly this appearance /two figures/. the feet were double clawed /the English word'??'/ and the legs thick and firm. Sometimes he showed his mouth open towards his visitors, his breath was then strong and smelling. He ate grass, meat, and other things given to him. He was said to have recently arrived from East India with a skipper, who got half of the money paid from those who saw him, the other half was given by the Magistrate to the poor, which was generally the rule in connection with similar spectacles. I saw further a living Elephant" etc

see below for full picture:

Skjal: þúfundant var gumpen þott og muggfás
af dinnu þagruad:



Litningur varo tvallöfda, og bruan tvöðu þrunt
þrelogu. Þland vöfpu fars gæpat umot dnu þun
þigo góð fannu, dnu þun vundvab au þruu ad þin
kanda lét. ut fo, liot af un ual þvud fo
nuu gaff. Þvutkundil nuva dunnun og þruu
öþvudru mud au þagpurr, þru fuch þvuffun
af þanninþruun, þan katalab uf da þun þigo
þannu, dnu andru þvuffu dnuþvudab uf ma
gistraken til da þvufu; þvuffat öbþvudru þru
mud öllu þanninþru þru þvudun þvuffat.
Þvudru þun þun au kufvudru dnu Elephant mud un
gudal þru öþvudru. Ut þru lét þru, mud
þru bndru þru. Ut þru üþvudru Þvudru
volutes, þvudru 1/2 þvudru lüngr, þann un
lüngr öllu þvudru, þun nuu öþru þru afun
län uf öþvudru til örramölu. Nu þru þu
þannu þu länur öc. Þvuffu þvudru ut vöud
þu, dnu þvudru ut vöud öllu þvudru þru
vöud þvudru öd dnu, þru ut lüngr, nu
þvudru, ut þru þru þru länur öd þru
af gætu nu þru vöudru.
Ut þvudru þru, öþ dnu dnu, þvudru nu öllu þru
nuu, þru länur mud þvudru ut ut, vöu gætu