

A

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

(Giving a full EXPLANATION)

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Rackstraw's Museum :

CONSISTING OF

A large and very valuable COLLECTION

OF MOST CURIOUS

ANATOMICAL FIGURES,

And real PREPARATIONS:

ALSO

FIGURES resembling LIFE;

With a great Variety of

Natural and Artificial Curiosities.

TO BE SEEN

At No. 197, FLEET-STREET,

Between CHANCERY-LANE and TEMPLE-BAR,

L O N D O N.

M DCC LXXXIV.

30 pp

1784

the size of the Animal : the Tusks being equal to those of a Lion. This Animal had a Vermilion-coloured streak down the middle of the face, and light blue Cheeks, with hands very like the Human.

No. 59.

Skeletons of various kinds of Monkeys.

No. 60.

Skeleton of a Large Dog.

No. 61.

Ditto of an Italian Greyhound.

No. 62.

Ditto of a Leopard.

No. 63.

Ditto of a Hyæna.

No. 64.

Ditto of a Rhinoceros.

No. 65.

Ditto of two large Cocks.

No. 66.

Ditto of a Stork.

No. 67.

Ditto of a Swan.

No. 68.

Ditto of a Pigeon.

No. 69.

Ditto of an Ostrich.

No. 70.

Ditto of an Eagle.

No. 71.

The Astonishing Skeleton of a Sperma-Ceti Whale, measuring seventy-two feet in length : The Skull alone measuring fifteen feet in length, and is supposed to weigh three Tons : This great weight of bone is probably buoyed up in the Sea, by a vast quantity of fat, or oil, contained in

in the Cellular Membrane between the skin of the Head and the upper surface of the Skull: From this Oil, and also from that which surrounds the body, the Substance, called Sperma-Ceti, is extracted. This kind of Whale has One Row of sharp-pointed teeth along each side of the Lower-Jaw, but none in the upper; with these 'tis probable, he can devour Fish of a considerable size.

The Elastic Substance, called Whale-bone, is no part of the above-described Whale; but of another kind, called the Whale-bone-Whale; which having no teeth, is provided with this substance instead; and feeds on a kind of Shrimps, and other small fish, which abound in the Greenland Sea, so much that a small quantity of water cannot be taken up without numbers in it: This Elastic Substance forms the net, or snare, by which the small fry is taken: and in the following manner. It grows by a great number of slips, from each side of the roof of the mouth, all along from the fore, to the back part, something resembling the teeth of a comb: from the inner edges of these slips, there grows a large quantity of hair, exactly like horse-hair. When the Whale takes in a mouthful of water containing these small fish, he expands this Apparatus; then by contracting it and closing his mouth, he entangles the fish with the Hair, and strains the water from them, by forcing it out through the Blow-hole; (a passage from the mouth through the hind part of the head) by which he also breathes: The swallow of this Whale is said to be very small, which is most likely the case; as his food does not seem to require a large one. The Sperma-Ceti-Whale has also a Blow-hole, but more particularly for the purpose of Breathing.

No. 72.

The Lower Jaw-bones of a Whale-bone-Whale, which, from their shape, have been mistaken for ribs, by many people.

No. 73.

An Ancient Mummy, in the original case, or coffin, brought from Egypt; being the real body of an Egyptian preserved

preserved since death near four thousand years ; and interpreted by the learned in the Hieroglyphics, which appear on the coffin, to be the Remains of Pharaoh's Daughter, aged 37 years. These Hieroglyphics are the Pictures of Utensils, Birds, and other Animals ; and were made use of in the first method of writing, before characters, or letters were invented. On the middle of the coffin is a Picture of the Goddess Isis, worshipped by the Egyptians ; on the shoulders are Pictures of Hawks, Busts, emblems of their God Osiris ; and down the sides, are emblems of several other Idols. The coffin is made of a thick wood, called Sycamore, not so subject to rot as other wood ; it is covered without and within with a preservative, which is probably a composition of pitch, wax, gums, &c. It is made in two parts, which were originally joined ; securely inclosing the body from the air. When the coffin was broke open, the Body was found in the preserved state whole, and finely decorated and painted with Hieroglyphics, which appeared quite fresh. In those Mummies which have been pulled to pieces, all the real Human Bones have been found remaining entire ; next to these the remains of the dried flesh, neatly bound and wrapped with a vast quantity of linnen rollers. The particular Art has been lost many years. These Mummies have been found in a vast piece of ground like a Burying-place, near Sakora, a village in the neighbourhood of Cairo in Egypt, in which are found several Pyramids, and where, under ground, in square Rooms or Pits, in several Niches, these Bodies have been preserved for thousands of years, dressed and adorned in various manners.

A Fine Print representing three Views of the above-described Mummy, may be purchased at This Museum.

No. 74.

A Mummy of a small Child, taken out of the coffin, and inclosed under a glass.

The COLLECTION of NATURAL and ARTIFICIAL RARITIES; consisting of preserved Animals, and parts of Animals; Birds and Fishes, &c. Dried, and in Spirits.

IN the Glass-Case (lettered A,) is a Collection of Rare and Curious Animals, Lizards, Snakes, Insects, Fishes, &c. neatly preserved in spirits, with their names affixed.

No. 75.

Several Large Calculi or Stones, extracted by Surgical Operations from the Urinary Bladders of different people.

No. 76.

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An Extraordinary Large and Curious Gall-stone (with a few smaller ones) being the largest of forty-seven stones, which completely filled and stuffed up the Gall-Bladder of an Elderly Man, from whom they were taken after death: The Remainder of the Number were made a present of. With the above, are two stones taken from the Gall-Bladder of another Man.-

No. 77.

A Large and Fine Brain-Stone, so called from its surface being convoluted something like the Brain. It is a Natural Production, and a kind of coral; growing on rocks by the sea-side.

No. 78.

The Real Hide of a Rhinoceros, finely preserved; representing that curious Animal as Alive. The Rhinoceros is generally accounted the next four-footed Beast in largeness of size to the Elephant; has A Horn rising from the upper part of the nose or snout, where No Other known

D

Animal

Animal hath it ; the snout is pliable, ending in a point, which it can turn upwards, downwards, and sideways, and seems formed to turn up the earth in order to its feeding on the roots of plants ; the Eyes are small and placed low on each side of the head ; has large Ears, which stand upright, on the upper part of the head ; the whole Animal is covered with a very thick rough chapped skin of an Ash-colour, not pliable, except in the Plaits and Folds of such parts as are necessary to give the Animal motion, which fall one over another backwards ; and these folds, it is said, harbour Centipedes, Scorpions, small Snakes, and other animals ; there are large rising knobs on the skin of the legs, and hind quarters, which receive its weight when lying down ; there are three hoofs on the fore-part of each foot ; It has no hair excepting a few black ones at the end of the tail, and some thinly scattered on the Ears. This One was brought from the East-Indies.

Near the above-described, is placed, A very fine Large Horn of a full-grown Rhinoceros ; round the Base or Bottom of which there is a considerable quantity of short stubbed Hair.—Next to this is placed the Bone of the Horn of another, which though short, has a large Base, and is not so sharp-pointed at the Top as the Horn itself.

No. 79.

An Armadillo, a four-footed animal from the Brazils, with a snout like a Hog ; is covered with scales like armour, and feeds on roots, sugar-canies, and poultry.

No. 80.

A Porcupine, the body is covered with Quills, which It raises in its defence ; the nose is blunt with large nostrils in form of slits ; its upper lip is divided like that of a hare, with whiskers like those of a cat ; its eyes are small, the ears are very like those of the Human, and the legs are short ; It makes a grunting noise something like that of a Hog.

No. 81.

A most beautiful Representation of the Head and Neck of an Antelope, with the real Horns affixed, which are very Large and Fine.—The Antelope partakes of the Goat

and Deer-kinds ; is remarkable for having fine Eyes : They are so swift that Falcons are trained for the purpose of catching them, which by fixing on their heads, and blinding them with their wings, render them easily overtaken by their Pursuers.

No. 82.

A fine representation of the Head and Neck of a Lions, with the Mouth wide open ; moulded from one that died in the Tower.

No. 83.

An extraordinary beautiful Bird-of-Paradise, in fine preservation ; brought from the Island of Ceylon, in the East-Indies ; remarkable for the beautiful colours, and Delicacy of its Feathers ; and for the two Long Wine-like Feathers which project from between the Wings.

No. 84.

A beautiful Drake, from Carolina ; well preserved.

No. 85.

A Young Shark, (called the Blue-Shark) near seven feet in length, finely preserved ; and with the assistance of Glass Eyes appears as alive.

No. 86.

A Sword-Fish, near the full size ; remarkably curious for the Sword-like-bone, which projects in a straight line with the body from its Head, and is a continuation of the upper jaw * : Also for the Largeness of its Eyes.

No. 87.

A Needle-Fish, very curious for its hard scaly coat, and the length and sharpness of its jaws, in which there is a row of teeth.

No. 88.

A Fish, called a Surgeon, having a singular scaly coat.

* Among the Fish preserved in spirits, (in a glass-case, A) is another kind of Sword-Fish, in which the Sword projects from the lower-jaw.

No. 89.

A Remora, or Sucking-Fish, having a curious Apparatus under the lower-jaw, by which it fastens itself to different things.

No. 90.

A Globe-Fish, curious for its shape, and prickly-coat.

No. 91.

Two Crocodiles, from the River Nile in Egypt. They are amphibious voracious Animals, in shape resembling Efts and Lizards; living partly in Rivers and partly on the Land by the side of them; are covered with very hard scales, scarcely to be wounded; have four short legs; and a long thick tail, gradually tapering from the body; are very swift but not easily turning themselves; have long jaws, with a row of sharp-pointed teeth closing between each other; and a wide swallow: They grow to the size of thirty feet in length, and upwards: This animal is described in the forty-first chapter of Job, under the name of the Leviathan.

No. 91.*

A very fine large Skull of that wonderful Animal the River-Horse, (or Hippopotamus, from the Greek words, Ippos, a Horse, and, Potamos, a River,) mentioned in the fortieth chapter of Job, under the name of Behemoth; a four-footed amphibious animal, (next in size to the Rhinoceros) found in the River Nile, and other large Rivers and Lakes of Africa, sometimes swimming with his head above water, sometimes walking at the bottom under water, and often coming on land, where they have been caught, by digging large pits for them to fall into.

No. 92.

The Skull, and Back-Shell, of an extraordinary Large Turtle.

No. 93.

The Skull of a Porpoise-Fish.

No. 94.

No. 94.

The Skull of a large Sea-Bull, with the surprising Tusks, by which they lay hold of the Ice, or any thing they mean to ascend. They inhabit the Greenland-Seas.

No. 95.

The Bone of the Penis of the Sea-Bull.

No. 96.

The Bone which projects from the head of the Saw-Fish, in the same manner as the Sword does from the Sword-Fish.

No. 96.*

A most curious Skull of the Barbaroussa, from the East-Indies, a kind of wild Hog, having four surprising long Tusks, two from the lower jaw, and two from the upper, these last pierce the upper lip, on each side of the nose, and rise circular to the forehead, resembling horns; he is longer-legged, and of a more slender make than any of the rest of the hog species, and feeds on grass and leaves of trees.

No. 97.

The Tusk of a Narwal-Whale, commonly called, the Horn of the Unicorn-Fish. The Young of this kind are always provided with two of these Tusks, but generally shed One, and retain the Other; yet Old Ones have been caught with two full-sized Tusks; They project in a straight line with the body of the Fish, from two sockets in the fore-part of the upper-jaw.

No. 98.

The Jaws of the Tiger-Shark; having eight rows of teeth, as sharp, at the points and edges, as knives; which it can raise or depress at will.

No. 99.

The Jaws of another kind of Shark, very different from the former.

No. 100.

No. 100.

The Skull of a Rhinoceros.

No. 101.

The Beak of a Bird, called the Pelican.

No. 102.

The Legs and Feet of the Cassowary Bird.

No. 103.

A Large King-Crab.

No. 104.

A pair of Snow-Shoes, made use of by the Laplanders
to walk on the surface of the snow.

No. 105.

A quiver of Indian Arrows.

* * * Besides the Above-mentioned, there are many other
Curiosities, Rarities, &c.

*The COLLECTION of FIGURES resembling
LIFE.*

A GRAND Figure of His Late Majesty, George the Second; in his Parliament Robes, standing on an elevated platform, under a rich canopy; near which, is a Representation of the Crown.

A Bust of His Present Majesty, King George the Third.

A Figure of the present Prince of Wales, when an Infant.

A Bust