

EDWARD 1759

THE GRAND MAGAZINE.

For JANUARY 1759.

A Compendious COURSE of NATURAL HISTORY, continued from
Vol. I. page 597.

The Natural History of the RHINO-

CEROS.

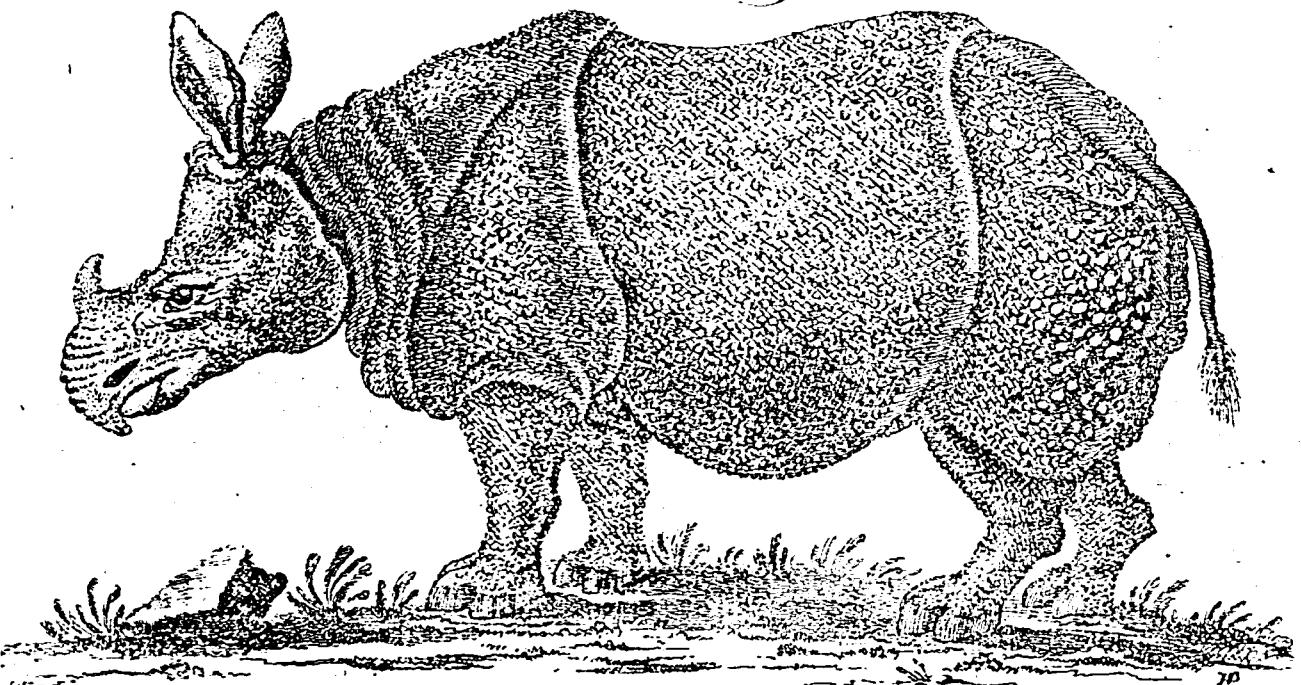
With a Copper Plate of that curious
Animal in its Natural Colours.

THE Rhinoceros is generally accounted the next
four-footed beast in magnitude to the elephant,
a print of which may be seen in our Magazine for
September, p. 429. The height of that
represented, on the plate, was about five
feet five inches; its length great in pro-
portion to its height, being, by report
of its keeper, fourteen feet from its nose
to the end of the tail, when extended.

The head is of a long make, having
a hollow between the forehead and the
horn, which rises from the upper part of
the snout, where no other known animal
hath it. The snout seems formed to turn
up the earth, in order to its feeding on
the roots of plants; it being very pliable
and ending in a point, which it can turn
upwards, downwards, or sideways; the
nostrils are placed on each side of it.
The lower lip is almost square, flattish
forwards, with the two croppers appear-
ing on the sides, of a lively flesh colour.
The eyes are small, placed pretty for-

ward on each side of the head; it has
large ears in proportion, which stand
erect on the upper part of the head.
The whole animal is covered with a ver-
y thick, rough, chapped skin, of an ash
colour, having plait and folds in all such
parts as are necessary to give the crea-
ture motion, falling one over another
backwards, which the figure better ex-
presses than any words can describe.
This I drew from a female in London,
A. D. 1753; but could not find any ris-
ing knobs on the skin, all over the body
in a regular manner, as expressed in some
late figures; to me it only appeared ver-
y rough and chapped, except on the
hind quarters, which receive its weight
when it first lies down, where those ris-
ing knobs are very large on the skin.
The tail had a few black hairs at its end:
the ears also had some scattered hairs on
them; in other parts I observed no hair.
The back is hollow, and the belly sinks
downwards, pretty much: the legs are
short and thick in proportion; the feet
are round behind, having hoofs for-
wards, which by two divisions are sep-
arated into three parts on each foot; but
they have not the little hoofs in the hind-
er part of the foot, such as we see in
swine, deer, sheep, &c. The horn is
but small, the creature not being nearly
arrived

The female Rhinoceros.



Engraved for the Grand Mag. Printed for R. Griffiths in Paternoster-Row.

John Johnson Collection Animals on show

2 A particular Description of the Rhinoceros.

arrived at its full stature." Edwards's Natural History.

The Rhinoceros, called by the modern Indians Abudu, is found in the island of Java, and is common enough in the kingdoms of Bengal and Patana. The ancients have frequently mentioned this animal, but without giving an exact description of it. Pliny contents himself with saying, that it has a horn on its nose; that it sharpens it upon a stone before it engages with the elephant, there being a natural antipathy between these two creatures, and that they are nearly of the same bigness; but that the Rhinoceros has shorter legs, and that the skin is of the colour of a box-tree. Aelian, who has given a detail of very common animals, did not think it necessary to describe the Rhinoceros, because all the world had seen it in the shows which the emperors exhibited for the amusement of the people. Strabo says that he saw the Rhinoceros at Alexandria, but is as superficial in his as Pliny, though he cites Artimenes. Dio Cassius only tells us, that these creatures appeared for the first time at Rome, in the triumph of Augustus.

Le Compte tells us, that the Rhinoceros is one of the most extraordinary animals in the world. He resembles the wild-boar, but prodigiously larger, and his skin is all over covered with scales of a brownish colour, and an uncommon hardness. His head is large, his mouth small, and his snout of a great length, and armed with a strong thick horn, which renders him terrible to the tigers, the buffaloes, and the elephants. But what appears most wonderful in this animal is his tongue, which nature has covered with a rough membrane resembling a file, which flays every

thing he licks. As we have animals here which make a grateful repast upon thistles, whose small points are agreeable to the nervous filaments of the tongue, so the Rhinoceros eats with pleasure the branches of trees, bristled all over with the largest thorns. I have frequently given him these whose points were very sharp and long, and it was wonderful to see with what greediness and dexterity he immediately licked them up, and chewed them in his mouth without the least seeming inconvenience. Sometimes indeed his mouth would be a little bloody, but that seemed even to render the taste more agreeable, and these small wounds to appearance, made no other impression on his tongue, than the particles of salt and pepper make on ours.

Though the greatest part of his body is wrapt up in armour, and those who attack him are exposed to great danger, yet the Indians hunt him as they do other animals, because his carcase is of great use to them. The Moors eat his flesh, however hard it may be. His horn is not less curious than useful. When it is cut through the middle, on each side appears the figure of a man, small birds, and the like, whose outlines are marked by little white strokes, as in the Egyptian flints. Most of the Indian kings drink out of cups made of this horn, because it sweats at the approach of all kinds of poison. The people of Java also set a great value on this animal, because there is no part of it but what is useful in medicine. They are persuaded, that there cannot be a better antidote against poisons of all kinds than its horn, and they attribute to it the same qualities as the ancients did to that of the Unicorn.

Account of the ENGLISH COLONIES in North America, continued from Vol. I. Page 619.

(See a Map of these Colonies in our Magazine for October.)

VIRGINIA.
THE situation of this country is peculiarly happy and convenient. It has the river Patowmack on the north-east, which separates it from Maryland; the Atlantic ocean on the east; Carolina on

the south; and the Appalachian mountains on the west. It lies between the parallels of latitude 36° and 40° north, and 74° and 79° of west longitude. Its extent from north to south is about 240 miles, and its breadth from east to west about 150.

The

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