

Thomas BOREMAN

A

# DESCRIPTION

OF THREE HUNDRED

## ANIMALS,

VIZ.

BEASTS,		SERPENTS,
BIRDS,		AND
FISHES,		INSECTS.

WITH

A particular Account of the Manner of  
their Catching *Whales* in GREENLAND.

Extracted from the best AUTHORS, and  
adapted to the Use of all Capacities.

Illustrated with COPPER-PLATES,  
whereon is curiously engraven every BEAST,  
BIRD, FISH, SERPENT, and INSECT,  
described in the whole BOOK.

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A NEW EDITION,  
CAREFULLY CORRECTED AND AMENDED.

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PSALM I. 10, 11.

For every Beast of the Forest is mine, and the Cattle  
upon a thousand Hills. I know all the Fowls of the  
Mountains, and the wild Beasts of the Field are mine.

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M.DCC.LXXXVI.

### 3 A Description of BEASTS.

than a Fox, yet is so fierce and bold, that it seizes on such Beasts, as Cows, Hogs, Sheep, &c. and sometimes it will attack a Man. It is reported, that when this Creature seizes his Prey, he makes an hideous Noise, which gives Notice to the Lion, who immediately comes, if within hearing; at whose Sight the Jackall goes a little aside, till the Lion has fully satisfied his Hunger, and marches off; and then returns, to feed on what the Lion has left. His Head is like a Fox's, and his Body like a Badger's.

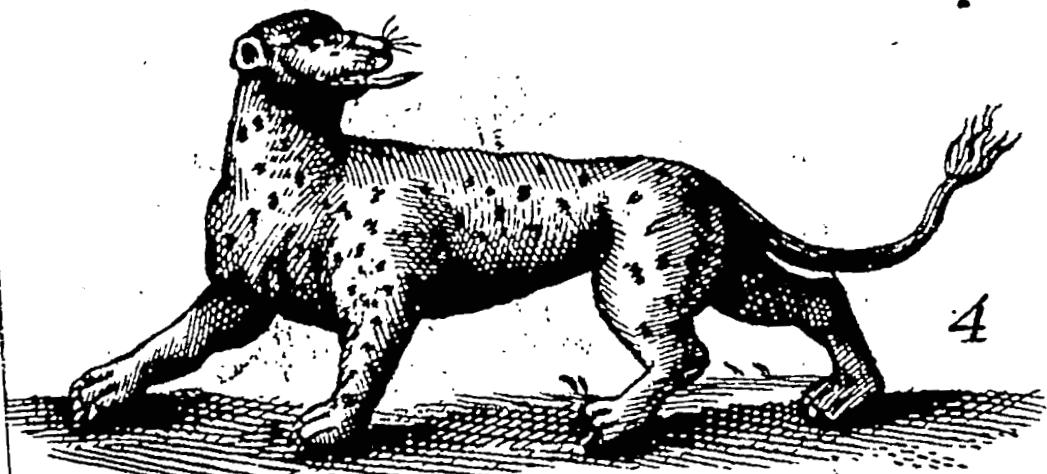
4. THE PANTHER is in Shape somewhat like a Lioness, but not quite so large. His Hair is short and mossy; his Skin is of a bright yellow, beautifully mark'd with round black Spots, and is said to send forth a fragrant Smell; and bears a great Price. He is a very fierce and cruel Beast, greedy of Blood, very swift, and catches his Prey by leaping. It is the Nature of this Creature, in some Places, to hide himself amongst the thick Boughs of Trees, and to surprize his Prey, by leaping upon it suddenly. His Tongue, in licking, grates like a File.

5. THE LÉOPARD is both in Shape, Nature and Colour, very much like a Panther, being spotted like that Creature, and is said to be engendered between a Panther and a Lioness, &c.

6. THE TIGER is in Shape somewhat like a Lioness, but has a short Neck. His Skin is beautifully spotted, not with round Spots, like a Panther, nor with several different Colours. It is very wild and fierce, exceeding ravenous, and of a prodigious Swiftness. He spares neither Man nor Beast, but if he can satisfy his Hunger with the Flesh of Beasts, he'll not attempt on Mankind. It is seldom taken but in Defence of its Young.

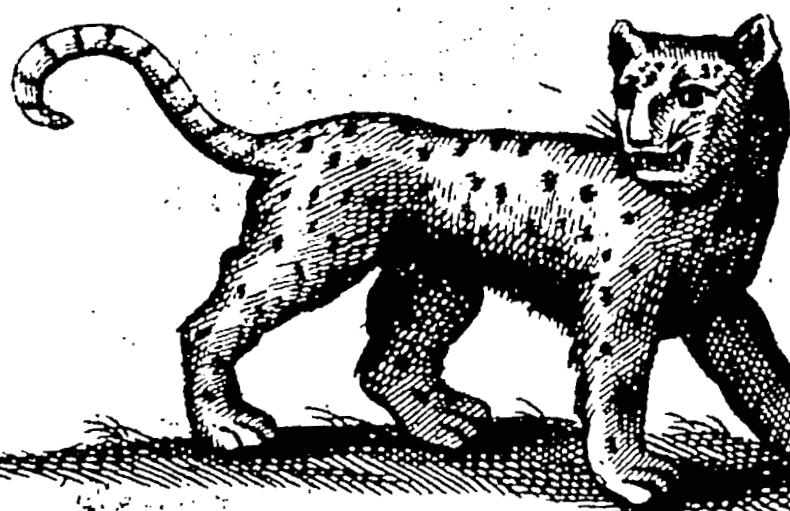
7. THE RHINOCEROS, so called because of the Horn in his Nose, is bred in *India* and *Africa*. His Colour is like the Bark of a Box-Tree. He is said to be in Shape somewhat like a wild Boar, and not

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A PANTHER

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A LEOPARD

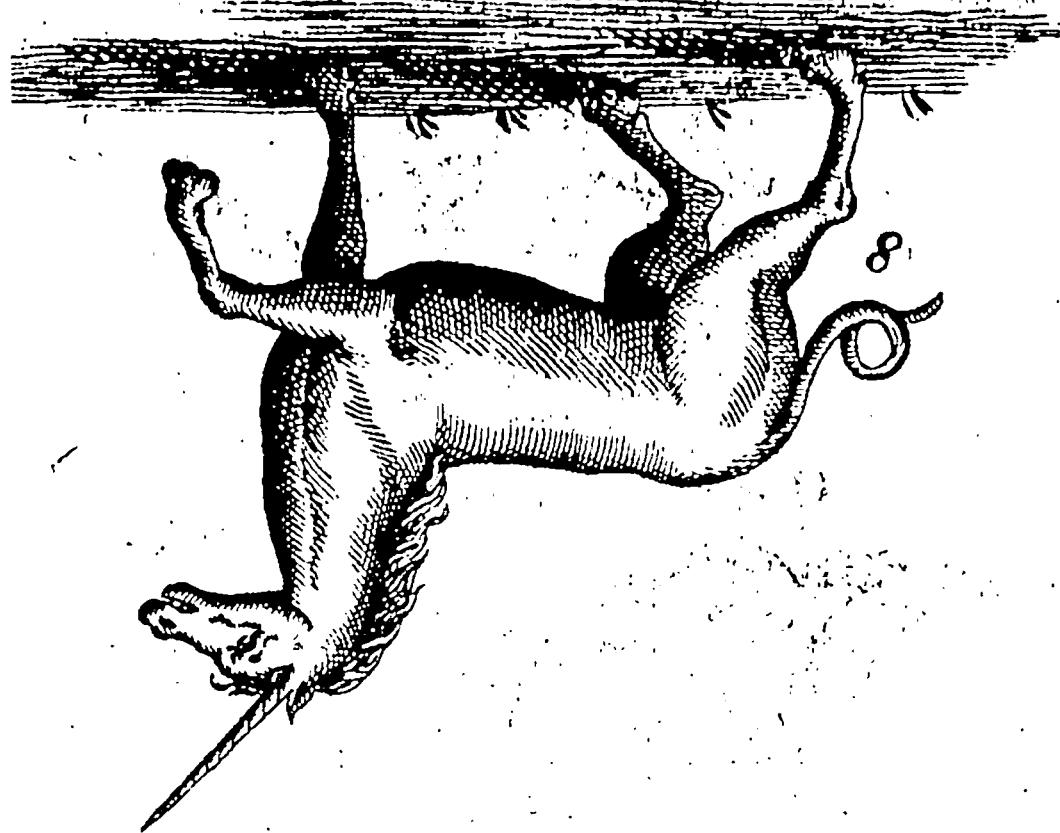
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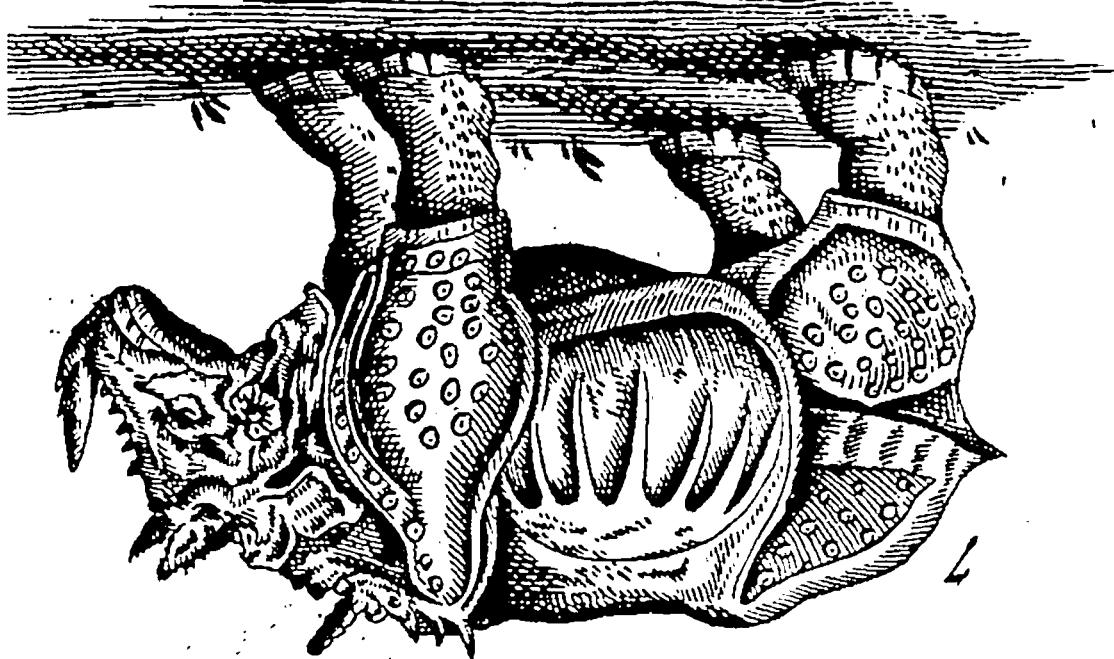
A TYGER

AN UNICORN



8.

A RHINOCEROS



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## *A Description of BEASTS.* 6

not much unlike an Elephant; and near as long, but not so high, having shorter Legs. He has two Girdles upon his Body, like the Wings of a Dragon, from his Back down to his Belly; one towards his Back and Mane, and the other towards his Loins and hinder Parts. His Skin is so hard, that no Dart is able to pierce it, and covered over with Scales, like the Shell of a Tortoise. His Legs are also scaled over down to the Hoofs, which are parted into four distinct Claws. The Horn upon his Nose is so very hard and sharp, crooked towards the Crown of his Head, that some say it will pierce through Iron or Stone: He is said frequently to whet his Horn against a Flint, &c. that he may be prepared, whenever he is attacked by an Enemy. He is a mortal Enemy to the Elephant, whom he seldom meets without a Battle; and aims chiefly at his Belly, being the softest Place, which if he misses, the Elephant is too hard for him with his Trunk and Teeth. The Naturalists say, that he grunts like an Hog. The Manner of taking him being so variously and uncertainly related, I thought it not worth describing.

8. THE UNICORN, a Beast which, tho' doubted of by many Writers, yet is by others thus described: He has but one Horn, and that an exceeding rich one, growing out of the Middle of his Forehead. His Head resembles an Hart's, his Feet an Elephant's, his Tail a Boar's, and the rest of his Body an Horse's. The Horn is about a Foot and a half in Length. His Voice is like the Lowing of an Ox. His Mane and Hair are of a yellowish Colour. His Horn is as hard as Iron, and as rough as any File, twisted or curled like a flaming Sword; very straight, sharp, and every where black, excepting the Point. Great Virtues are attributed to it, in expelling of Poison, and curing of several Diseases. He is not a Beast of Prey.

9. OF BEARS there are two Kinds, a greater and lesser; the latter of which is more apt to climb Trees. *Muscovy*, and other Northern Countries produce white Bears, for the most Part of a very large

Size. The Head of a Bear is his weakest Part, as the Head of a Lion is the strongest. By a small Blow on his Head he has often been killed. His Mouth is like an Hog's, but longer; being armed with Teeth on both Sides, like a Saw. He will not willingly fight with an armed Man, but, when he does, he stands upright, and takes the Man between his fore Feet, and hugs him; but the Man, being covered all over with a Kind of Iron Armour, receives no Hurt; and may easily, with a sharp Weapon, pierce through his Heart. He is generally taken with Nets, into which he is driven, or allured by a Stratagem. The Bear is a great Sleeper, and a sluggish, indolent Creature, yet not observed to be long-lived; they should rather seem to be short-lived, from their very short Period of Gestation, or going with Young, scarce reaching to forty Days.

10. THE ANT-BEAR is a four footed Beast, as big as a pretty large Dog, with rough, dark brown Hair. It has short Legs, a long Nose, little Eyes, a very little Mouth, and a Tongue like an Earth-worm, five or six Inches long. It feeds on Ants, and is commonly seen near an Ant's Nest. It takes its Food by laying its Nose down flat on the Ground, upon or near the Path that the Ants travel in; and puts out his Tongue cross the Path, the Ants passing to and fro, when they come to it making a Stop, and in a few Minutes the Tongue will be covered all over with Ants; which the Creature draws in suddenly, and so eats them very greedily. It is to be met with in several Parts of Armenia.

11. THE WOLF is a very ravenous Creature, and as dangerous to meet with, when hungry, as any Beast whatever. But, when his Belly is full, he is to Men and Beasts as meek as a Lamb. It inhabits the Mountains, except in Winter-Time, when it roars about the Gates of Cities and Towns; and kills both Sheep and Goats, &c. He is very subtil in seizing and destroying such Creatures as are stronger than himself. When he falls upon an Hog, or a Goat, or such small Beasts, he does not immediately kill