

Pachyderm

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Even within the rather limited confines of his subject matter, there is much to interest the general reader, not least in the plentiful and fascinating illustrations (although these are unsourced). The famous Dürer woodcut was based on a merchant's drawing done in Lisbon in 1515, and the Pietro Longhi rhino painted in Venice in 1751 may have been a Javan. The tufted-eared Sumatran in Fig. 78 makes clear the naming of 'Rapunzel' in the Bronx Zoo. Surprising facts are many throughout this book - Joymothi, the Basel matriarch, had 70 descendants at the time of writing, and Clara from Assam, who toured Europe in 1758 was priced too high even for Sun King, Louis, XIV's elastic purse. Such subtext gives the book a third gain: it entertains while it instructs.

LE RHINOCÉROS DANS L'ART DE LA PRÉHISTOIRE A NOS JOURS.

Pierre Millet

Paris, privately published, 1995, pp, i-v, 1-83, illustrated. Price not stated.

Reviewed by Kees Rookmaaker
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In that wonderfully chatty and informative newsletter *Really, Rhinos!* which is already in its twelfth year, the editor Judyth Lessee regularly includes profiles of people affected by some kind of 'rhinomania' and who collect everything 'rhinocerot' obtainable. That such people are not only found in the Americas is obvious, and Pierre Millet of Paris, France is a case in point. Although he would have liked to state in truth that he was drawn to rhinoceros horn in search of an ingredient which could give a local brand of cigarettes some kind of aphrodisiacal property, his hobby in fact started when searching for a nicely esoteric way to occupy his ailing wife. Soon the house was filled with hundreds of these solitary animals in all shapes and kinds. His book, a slim volume of 83 pages, is a rather more comprehensive tour through realms of rhinocerot art. One chapter is devoted to the animal in rock engravings, found in France and in Africa. The second chapter deals

with rhinos in China, in the Indus valley, in Egypt and in comparison with unicorns. He continues with the rhinoceros depicted by Dürer and its manifold derivations. A last chapter is a mixed bag of more recent images, including the life-size bronze rhinoceros made by Alfred Jacquemart in 1877 and now standing in front of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, another in mahogany by Mateo Hernandez found in the gardens of Armande Béjart in Meudon, just outside Paris, and a 1979 painting of a rhinoceros being carried on a bier by Stanislas Lepri. Zoological notes, a chronology of paleontological styles, an extract of a traditional Chinese medicine, the unicorn passages in the Bible, and a bibliography of 58 items conclude the volume. Millet did not aim his book to be as comprehensive as T.H. Clarke's *The Rhinoceros from Dürer to Stubbs* (1986) and it would fall short in many other respects as an academic treatise. The French text is intricate, the plates interesting but often poorly reproduced. This book will appeal to any rhinoceros aficionado looking for the esoteric, the eccentric, the unusual, not least because the book, privately published, seems to be just about unobtainable.

LE RHINOCÉROS: AU NOM DE LA CORNE.

Alain Zecchini

Paris, Editions l'Harmattan, 1998. pp. 1-270, with 8 monochrome plates. ISBN 2-7384-6677-x. Price in UK: STg: 22.95.

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Disgraceful, antediluvian, anachronistic, heavy, homely, stubborn, solitary, irascible, dangerous, but more than this, essentially lovable. That is how the author starts this book stated to be the first monograph on the rhinoceros in the French language. For once, that claim rings a bell of truth, unless one would consider Claude Guérin's extensive (1185pp.) treatise, primarily on extinct species, but with many interesting comparisons with the recent rhinos (*Les Rhinoceros du*

Miocene terminal au Pleistocene superieur en Europe occidentale, 1980). Alain Zecchini works as a scientific journalist specialising in nature and wild animals. I am one of those people who starts reading a book at the end. Here one notices the absence of an index, but a reasonably comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography, unformatted, with one hundred titles in English as well as French. The text itself is indeed comprehensive, consisting of many short chapters on different subjects, including systematics, morphology, social structure, role in the ecosystem, interspecific relations, interactions with man, the recuperation of the white rhinoceros, trade and even a special chapter on the Bhutanese princess who was arrested in Taiwan in 1993 with 22 rhino horns in her luggage. It is refreshing to find the book arranged by subject matter than in the traditional species oriented approach. Zecchini did not intend to present new facts or new insights, but he has achieved a remarkably readable and well-researched overview of the biology and conservation of five recent species of rhinoceros. Following the French tradition of publishing, the book is a paperback, with well reproduced but uninteresting illustrations all combined on eight plates, and with rather unimaginative computer typesetting. Zecchini's text is a welcome addition to the rhinoceros literature as it introduces animals to a wide public in francophone countries.

THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT AS A GAME RANCH ANIMAL

Proceedings of a symposium, 29-30 April 1991
Re-edited by J. van Heerden and B.L. Penzhorn, 1995
South African Veterinary Association: Wildlife Group, Ondersteport, 0110, RSA
ISBN 1-875088-02-4

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This publication is a re-edited version of the 1991 symposium, part of a series that pulls together a wealth of information from wildlife scientists and

managers from southern Africa. This well executed series contains much new information presented by professionals directly from their own research and observations. Other titles that would interest wildlife managers are on buffaloes, sable antelopes, cheetahs, lions and leopards. Of particular interest to the readers of *Pachyderm* would be the proceedings of the 1994 symposium, "Rhinos as Game Ranch Animals". The entire series is a necessary component of every wildlife manager's library.

The elephant book starts with a historical perspective of the elephant in southern Africa, population numbers, ranges and elephant's relationship with man. Several chapters discuss elephant habitats, the positive and negative effects of elephants on their ecosystem and how these factors affect the creation of elephant sanctuaries. There are guidelines for determining minimum space requirements, minimum group size, herd structure and minimum facilities needed to create new elephant populations. Advantages and disadvantages of placing elephants on game ranches are discussed.

Two chapters contain a discussion of the hardware necessary for electric fencing and boma construction. The fencing, boma and ecosystem chapters will assist those who wish to maintain elephants in enclosed or semi enclosed areas as well as those wishing to exclude elephants.

Certain articles such as those regarding capturing, culling, and hunting of elephants will inflame some individuals involved in the elephant debate. However the writers are cognizant of the controversies which surround their topics and present the information as they should; as professionals who have grown up and lived with elephants. They are aggressively exploring all the options that man has in order to live in harmony with elephants. Their experiences should be taken into account.

A collection of physiology and veterinary topics are presented including: 1) health conditions during capture and boma operations (a summary of 761 individuals), 2) blood values of elephants under a variety of anaesthetic regimens, 3) digestive physiology, 4) post mortem protocols, and 5) infectious diseases (or the lack thereof except for anthrax). All together this impressive collection represents direct measurements from well over 1,000 African elephants. Occasionally important