Edited for the Council of the Society by
C. A. Gibson-Hill, M.A., F.R.S.A., F.R.A.I.

Geographical Notes on some Commodities involved in Sung Maritime Trade

by

Paul Wheatley, M.A., Ph.D.

**Journal of the Malayan Branch,
Royal Asiatic Society,
Vol. 32, pt 2, June 1959.**

pp. 1-140

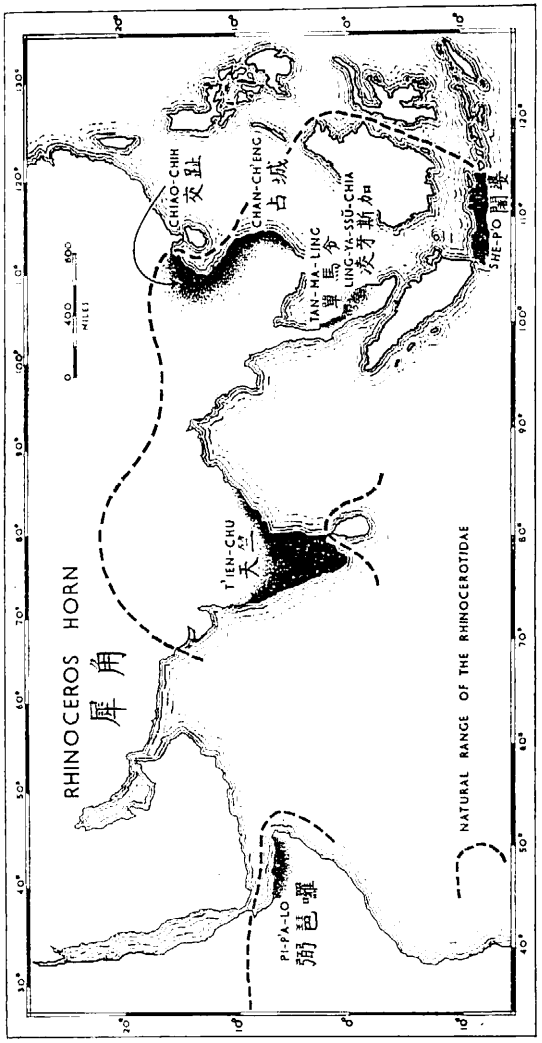

FIGURE 6. Regions known to Chinese traders as sources of rhinoceros horn.

p. 223), as long ago as 1876, drew attention to a representation of *wu-ming i* in the *Pen-ts'ao Kang-mu* 本草綱目 (Fig. 34), which he identified as the hydrated iron oxide known as limonite ($2Fe_2O_3 \cdot 3H_2O$). On the evidence at present presented Hanbury's must be considered the more likely identification.

犀角 *(Hsi chio)* Rhinoceros horn

Chao Ju-kua includes rhinoceros horn among the exports from the region of the Red River delta, Annam and the northern part of the Malay Peninsula (Ligor, Fo-lo-an and Langkasuka): this could have been obtained from the smaller, two-horned *Rhinoceros sumatrensis*, Fischer, or the slightly larger, single-horned *R. sondaicus*, Desm., which was formerly as plentiful as *sumatrensis* in the peninsula, and probably the commoner of the two forms north of it. In addition it was possible to obtain rhinoceros horns from Java (presumably *R. sondaicus*, the only living species known from the island, though *sumatrensis* occurs in southern Sumatra), India (*R. unicornis*, Linn., which formerly spread over the greater part of India, ranging from Assam in the east to the Punjab in the west, and from the region of Madras in the south northwards to Sikkim and Nepal), and the Zanzibar coast of Africa (*R. bicornis*, Linn., and probably also the more southern form, *R. simus*, Burchell). See *Chu-fan-chih*, **1**, pp. 1, 3, 17, 18, 24 & 44: also *Sung shih*, Bk. 489.

珊瑚樹 *(Shan-hu- shu)* Precious coral

Coral (as we now use the term) is either the calcareous or horny exoskeleton secreted by certain marine organisms, or the whole living organism with hard skeleton and fleshy organs complete. The coral organisms are variously defined. Some authorities (including most lexicographers, for whom brevity is a serious consideration) limit the term to certain species of the phylum Coelenterata (the Anthozoa, or Madreporaria, and a few Hydrozoa). Others (including many zoologists) add a small number of species from the Polyzoa, Foraminifera and Porifera, together with the so-called Coral Algae or Nullipores. But whether we take the narrow or the broad view of what constitutes a coral organism, there are (for us) a considerable number of different kinds of coral, varying in form, habitat and colour. Formerly the term had a very limited application. Prior to the second half of the sixteenth century the Greek *korallion*, with its Italian form *corallium* and other derivatives, was applied only to the Mediterranean Red Coral. This is a single, clearly defined species, (though it subsequently aquired two names, being both the Precious Coral or *Corallium nobile* of Pallas, and the Red Coral or *Corallium rubrum* of Lamarck, of which the former has the right of priority). Originally, therefore, coral had a limited,