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The Natural History Museum

A Catalogue of
Portraits, Paintings and Sculpture at
The Natural History Museum, London

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London 1995

xii. 70 + plates

Moa

111. Painting, oil on canvas, by George Edward Lodge (1860-1954), before 1907

No inscription

Dimensions: 175 × 140 (164 × 129)

Provenance: Bequeathed to the Museum by Lord Rothschild in 1937, along with his extensive zoological collection. Rothschild presumably commissioned it for his book on extinct birds.

Notes: The painting, which was based on feathers and mummified remains, depicts *Megalapteryx huttoni*.

Reference: Rothschild, 1907, plate 41.

Vertebrate animals: mammals

Elephants

112. Painting, oil on canvas, by Wilhelm Kuhnert (1865-1926), before 1911

Inscribed: (on frame) At the river-side - elephants; (on canvas) Wil Kuhnert

Dimensions: 80 × 93 (58 × 71)

Provenance: Bequeathed by Sir William Garstin in 1925, having been purchased by him from the Fine Art Society Gallery in 1911.

Notes: Kuhnert was a very popular natural history artist who specialized almost entirely in African game animals (Kuhnert, 1957).

Buffalo

113. Painting, oil on canvas, by Wilhelm Kuhnert (1865-1926), before 1911

Inscribed: Wil Kuhnert

Dimensions: 57 × 44 (46 × 34)

Provenance: Bequeathed by Sir William Garstin in 1925, having been purchased by him from the Fine Art Society Gallery in 1911.

Reference: Regan, 1936, opposite p. 656.



Beached whale

114. Painting, oil on canvas, artist unknown but said to be northern school with Spanish influences [seventeenth century]

No inscription

Dimensions: 64 × 140 (48 × 123)

Provenance: Found in a storeroom in the British Museum in 1878, and transferred to the Department of Zoology. Said to be from the Sloane Collection.

Notes: Sloane's catalogue of paintings has an entry: '137. The whale by Miller', which may refer to this item.²⁶ The animal depicted is either a fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalis*), a sei whale (*B. borealis*) or a Bryde's whale (*B. edeni*). A scale along the bottom of the painting gives the animal a length of 46 feet.

Rhinoceros

115. Painting, oil on canvas, by James Parsons (1705–1770), 1739

No inscription

Dimensions: 122 × 147 (96 × 121)

Provenance: Found in a storeroom in the British Museum in 1878, and transferred to the Department of Zoology. Said to be from the Sloane Collection.

Notes: This animal was brought to London from Bengal in 1739 and put on show. Parsons sketched it and published a description of the animal (Parsons, 1743). He made two paintings, of which this is one. The whereabouts of the other is not known.

Reference: Rookmaaker, 1978, p. 19.

Tigers

116. Painting, oil on canvas, by John Charles Dollman (1851–1934), undated

No inscription

Dimensions: 101 × 152 (75 × 126)

Provenance: Presented to the Museum by Captain J. Guy Dollman.



Baboon

* 117 and *118. Two paintings, oil on canvas, by P. Mahler (fl.1893–1924), undated

Inscribed: P. Mahler

Dimensions: Both 46 × 38

Provenance: Bequeathed by Lord Rothschild in 1937, along with his extensive zoological collections.

Description: Head and neck of *Papio hamadryas*, the hamadryas baboon, facing forward in one painting, and facing right in the other.

Notes: Mahler illustrated two French zoological books in 1893 and 1924.

Gorilla

119. Painting, oil on canvas, by Henrik Grönvold (1858–1940), undated

Inscribed: H. Grönvold

Dimensions: 158 × 116 (130 × 98)

Provenance: Bequeathed by Lord Rothschild in 1937, along with his extensive zoological collections.

Notes: Rothschild was fascinated by the size and strength of gorillas, and published a paper on them in 1923 (Rothschild, 1923).

Chimpanzee

* 120. Painting, oil on wood, by J. Slijpers, before 1904

Inscribed: Jos. Slijpers, Antwerpen

Dimensions: 33 × 24

Provenance: Bequeathed by Lord Rothschild in 1937, along with his extensive zoological collections.

Description: Head and chest of the chimpanzee *Simia styrus marungensis*, facing forward.

Reference: Rothschild, 1904, fig. 112



