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John Graham
Major 1769

Henry LOSTON

~~John BARTER
Mungton Malpease~~

Indian Painting during the British Period

Tuesday, 9th September – Saturday, 27th September 1986

Weekdays 11-6, Saturdays 10-1

197 BC ac. 17th-18th

108 0531

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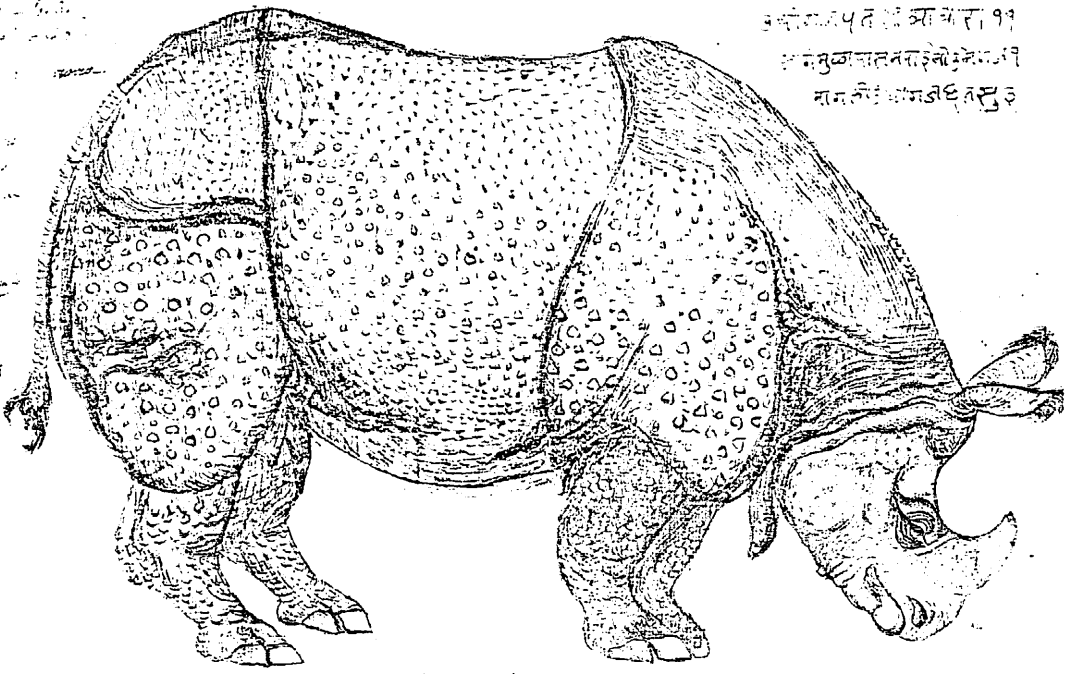
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01-930 9308

*This drawing of the rhinoceros of the Indian continent is from the collection of the British Museum, and is from the life of the animal in the year 1790.
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सुखं गच्छतु ॥
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GANGARAM CHINTAMAN TAMBAT, POONA, 1790

The following three drawings and wax models were commissioned from the artist by Sir Charles Warre Malet, Resident in Poona (1786-1796) as a record of the animals in the Royal Menagerie.

For the background to Malet's stay in Poona, and his association with the artist James Wales, see Mildred Archer *op. cit.*, 1979, pp. 336-355.

Robert Skelton has pointed out that *Tambat* means a copper smith and that his description by Wales as a sculptor may refer to the fact that he cast copper images by the lost wax process. See notes under catalogue no.9 below

- *The favourite camel of Sir Charles Malet*

Watercolour and gouache on laid paper; 18.5 x 21.5 cm

Inscribed by the artist in ink in Mahratti and by Charles Malet: 'The Figure of the Common Camel of Hindostan accurately taken from a Living one by Gangaram Chintaman Tambat of the following Dimensions: from the Tip of the upper Lip to the highest Part of the Head between the Ears 1 ft 10½ ins. Thence to the Middle of the hollow taken with the curve of the neck 4:7. Thence to the Root of the Tail avoiding the Height of the Hump 4:11½. Thence to the tip of the Tail 2:1. From the Top of the Hollow to the Ground 7:5. From the rising between the Hump and the Tail to the Ground 7:4. Height of the Hump from the edge of the Hair'

Inscribed by Malet and dated 'Poona 1790'

Provenance: Sir Charles Warre Malet and by family descent, 1982

See illustration



Gangaram Chintaman Tambat, Poona, 1790,
for Sir Charles Warre Malet

8 *A rhinoceros in the Peshwa's menagerie at Poona*
 Watercolour and gouache on laid paper: 22 x 36 cm
 Inscribed by the artist in ink in Mahratti and by Charles
 Malet: 'This Drawing and Wax Figure of a Rhinoceros
 belonging to Mudarao Narrian Peshwa was taken from
 the Life with great Fidelity at Poona in November
 1790 by Gangaram Chintaman Tambat, the Age of
 the Rhinoceros was supposed to be about 25 years
 of the following Dimensions viz. From the Outside
 of the Tail to the foremost Wrinkle of the Neck
 ft 8 $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins. From the said wrinkle to the Top of the
 Nose ft. 2 $3\frac{1}{2}$. From the forefoot to the Shoulder
 Height ft. 5. 11. From the Hind foot to the Top of the
 Rump ft. 6. 3. From the Root of the Horn nearest the
 nose to the point 1. It was said by the Keepers that
 the Horn would grow. Poona 28 Oct. 1790. C.W.M.
 This Animal is Retromingent but the genital parts
 when activated by concupiscence are projected as in
 the accompanying drawing in which the urinal line
 is also described. The colour of the animal is excellently
 conveyed in the wax Figure'
 Provenance: as above
See colour illustration

9 *The Peshwa's lion*
 Painted wax model on a wooden base; 12.8 cm high
 at the shoulder
 Robert Skelton, in a recent letter, has written 'I recall
 that the material used by some *cire perdue* craftsmen in
 India is not bees wax but a substitute called *dhuma*
 which is the aromatic gum of the sal tree (*Shorea*
robusta) boiled with mustard oil. This produces a hard
 shiny black substance when cold but when slightly
 warmed it becomes as malleable as bees wax.
 Perhaps this is what your figures are made of?'
 Provenance: as above

10 *A leopard belonging to the Peshwa*
 Painted wax model on a wooden base; 11 cm high at
 the shoulder
 Provenance: as above

11 *The Peshwa's tiger*
 Painted wax model on a wooden base; 11 cm high
 at the shoulder
 Inscribed in ink in Mahratti
 Provenance: as above

12 *A darzi.*
 Pen and ink, watercolour and gouache on laid paper;
 13.6 x 16.3 cm
 Provenance: as above