

REALLY, RHINOS!

VOL. 4 #1 SPRING 1990

Please accept my apologies for sending this issue soooooooooo late. During the past few months some personal setbacks almost made me an extinct rhinophile! I believe I am back on track, albeit a slower one, and I promise too have the Summer issue out on time! Thank you for your understanding and patience. Rhinosincerely, Judyth Lessee, editor.

D.B.A. RHINO



There is a company called *Rhino Replacement Parts* and guess what they sell? Are you ready - gun repair parts, specialty ammunition and various other gun related items! But wait! Before you get the tar and feathers - Tom Davis, International Sales Manager, assured me in his letter that the company collects rhinobilia too; that their cartoon rhinos are not depicted as ugly or evil (they shoot back at poachers!) and they are very interested in rhino conservation. If you are a gun toter and would like a catalogue, send \$3 to Rhino Replacement Parts, PO Box 669, Seneca, SC 29679. (803) 882-0788.

A Battle We Dare Not Lose

[excerpts from *Our Living World*, third quarter, 1989, courtesy of Margie Matters, African Arts, Ltd., Tucson, Arizona]

A major ivory and rhino horn smuggling ring has ben cracked by the SA (South African) police. Conservationists believe that police swoop confirms fears that South Africa is being used as an export zone to legitimize or smuggle through illegal wildlife trade, particularly elephant ivory and rhino horn. New penalties of R100,000 fine and/or 10 years' jail Are due to come into force soon. This cracking of the smuggling ring coincides with mounting public concern for the future survival of the rhino and elephant in Africa, in the face of a devastating wave of poaching.

The poaching menace has moved south into Namibia and Swaziland and at least 20 rhinos have been killed for their horns in the past few months. Southern Africa is the last stand of the black rhino. Where thirty years ago there were more than 100,000 rhinos and even ten years ago their numbers reached 15,000, today's estimates place the rhino population at fewer than 3,000. The SA Nature Foundation is

funding rhino conservation and anti-poaching work in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

- In Natal, researcher Richard Emslie is studying black rhino in an SA Nature Foundation/Endangered Wildlife Trust/Natal Parks Board project to develop the best methods for managing these animals and increasing SA's population.

- The new Sam Knott Nature Reserve near Grahamstown has ideal habitat for black rhino and will support a new population.

- A helicopter was made available to Zimbabwe Parks board to assist in tracking poachers and boosting morale among game rangers.

- In Namibia, the Foundation is funding rhino conservation work by Garth Owen Smith and Blythe Loutit.

Through your donation, small or large, the Foundation can strengthen anti-poaching forces, study the rhino's habitat requirements, transfer rhino to safe ares, fence new sanctuaries, and continue action against the cruel and illegal international trade in rhino horn. Every donation of R50 (\$131) or more will receive a Zakkie Eloff print featuring white rhino. All donations will receive a certificate expressing the thanks of the Foundation on behalf of the black rhino. Send your contributions to: Save the Rhino, SA Nature Foundation, PO Box 456, Stellenbosch 7600, South Africa.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



Welcome "Harry", a black rhino born at the Fort Worth Zoological Park on August 18, 1989. May you have a healthy, long life!



RHINOS LIVE... ...But Not For Long!

Tom Davis, of Rhino Replacement Parts sent me a brochure on Rhino Rescue, USA. I am quoting liberally from this pamphlet which appears to have been written and translated in Kenya which explains some of my editorial comments. Artwork is lifted directly from the pamphlet too.

On the entire continent of Africa, where once hundreds of thousands of rhinos roamed, today there are less than 8,500! The southern white rhino was declared extinct by the late 1890's. Several years later a small herd of whites were discovered in South Africa. After an intensive conservation program they now number 3,00 animals. [unsubstantiated]

Although the white rhino is less aggressive than the blacks, they are still dangerous in the wild. They are both big and powerful animals, needing plenty of room to roam. Males are territorial during the mating season and can injure one another. It is for this and other reasons of conservation that rhinos must be relocated to safe areas within their natural habitat.

Bob Ougua, chief warden of the Kenya *Mayroo* [Meru?] Wildlife Park and his team spent months tracking down poachers who are out to slaughter rhinos so they can collect about \$150 each for the horn from unscrupulous *African politicians and*

black market dealers.. [exact words here]

Zimbabwe is a country regulated by socialism and is rich with farmland, industry, and mining. Tax money is

readily available for the Zimbabwe Rhino Projects. Kenya, on the other hand, is a struggling republic whose gross national product is less than the budget of most medium sized cities in the United States. The Kenya Rhino Rescue Project is hurting for funds, as the government has no money to fight the onslaught of poachers out to make a fast buck.



RHINO RESCUE TEAM, U.S.A. and the Kenya Park Rangers need you help to stop these money hungry poachers before the only rhinos left alive will be in a zoo. Glenn Tatham, chief warden of the Zimbabwe National Park has recently obtained the status of dominant guard over that country's national parks' rhino population. His rangers are fully equipped with automatic firearms and other special weapon needed to eliminate the poaching problem and eliminate them they do! With remorse, they are killing and capturing more than 60 *poachers a month.* [figures unsubstantiated]

AK-47's. Tragically, relocation of rhinos and other scientific projects don't stop them from being slaughtered by poachers. What can YOU do to help the situation? Join Rhino Replacement Parts and pledge your financial support to the Kenyan Park Rangers. How? A donation, no matter how small or large can help buy AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition for a Kenyan Park Ranger to exterminate a poacher and to save the life and future of the rhinoceros as a species. They are

DEAD serious. Your donations will not be used for scientific study but specifically for the protection of the rhinoceros population by whatever means it takes.

Send whatever donation you can made payable to Rhino Rescue U.S.A. Fund PO Box 52, Walhalla, SC 29691. You can also purchase the 1 hour National Geographic Video "Rhino Wars" (VHS only) for \$34.50. Profits from the sale of this video will also go to the Rhino Rescue Project Fund.

BETTER LATE... ...THAN NEVER

Hail the returning rhino. (well, back in April, 1988). Bloomington, Indiana's favorite rhinoceros sculpture is back on a solid limestone base at Harmony School after students at the middle school took on the return of the 3,500 pound sculpture as there pet project, raising most of the sculptor's asking price of \$6,000 with various fund-raising activities. I don't know if any "Save the Rhino" t-shirts are still available, but if you are interested in the Harmony rhino and/or wish to make a donation to their fund (they may still be short a few scheckels), write to: Harmony School, 909 E. 2nd, Bloomington, IN 47401 (812) 334-8349.

ADOPT A RHINO

There is still time to adopt a rhino at the Winston Safari Park (PO Box 1600, Winston, OR 97496-0231) You can be an aunt or uncle for only \$50 a year. If you have a garden but don't live near a zoo, you may also wish to purchase some ZOODOO which is a generic term for various grades of zoo compost, a product of a rather complex process of recycling animal and vegetable waste.

R H I N O P H I L I G H T S

We proudly introduce a rhinophile whose name belies his obsession with rhinos. Meet A. Stan Bland, III of Portland, Oregon:

My allegiance to the rhinoceros spans most of my thirty six years. The evolution of my fascination with rhinos segued from my devotion to dinosaurs when I was a child - I suppose this came as a result of my identification of the rhinoceros as a survivor of the Mesozoic era. This champion offered living, breathing, and thundering evidence of this mystical age, and served to maintain a foothold for me in the primordial miasma of what could have been.

My affinity for rhinos, as well as the resultant nickname, followed me through my high school football days as a lineman - a period that I was somehow able to survive. By this time I had begun putting together a modest collection, and researching the rhino. At this point, I had my first experience with people who would look at me curiously with pinched expressions on their faces, and ask, "Why? What's so great about rhinos"? Any rhinophile is all too familiar with this question. It is typically asked by people in a tone of voice that smacks of a mitigated accusation of lunacy. Typically, the stock response regarding my reverence for rhinos addresses their true character and their fragile existence. To me, the rhino's character is one of detached docility - unless of course, someone messes around with her/him. Which brings us to the fragility of the rhino. There are many people who are driven to mess with the rhino due to the cross-cultural value of their horn. Whether obtained for circuitous sale as a sexual stimulant or for carving into dagger handles, the price paid for rhino horn may well reduce the species to a myth. Even when provoked, these juggernauts are defenseless against high-powered rifles.

The most frequently asked question regarding my personal collection is one of quantity. I haven't the slightest idea of how many rhinos are grazing within my home. I do know that it is hard to find a free spot for each rhino that comes through our door. I have often thought of herding them together into one room to let them get acquainted with one another, and to swap stories, compare horns, etc. However, if I were to do this, I would probably have to count them - then I would know exactly how many there are. I don't want to know; I just want to take care of them.

Years ago, rhino collecting was truly a challenge. There weren't that many around. To find a new and unique rhinoceros was a distinct coup. I spent a good deal of time scoffing at people who collected frogs, owls, unicorns and the like - far too easy pickin's, and far too cute. Today, there seem to be more rhinos out and about in the marketplace. The thrill of the search is mollified a bit, but on the other hand, this indicates that rhinos are grabbing for and receiving more public attention; perhaps more support.

My collection consists of rhinos made from most every medium imaginable, large to tiny, primitive to intricate, black to white, here to there. The only type of house-rhino that I do not collect are the cutesy rhinos. The words "cute" and "rhino" have no business being near one another unless they are describing a calf. The cute rhinos that I have been presented with do a terrific job maintaining law and order in my sock drawer. As is the case for any collector, each piece is valuable to me in terms of its origin, background, sentimental value, etc. I do try to deploy my rhinos tastefully around the house so that it doesn't look saturated. Some are out in the open and rampant, others are tucked

back in dark crannies. Still others only come out at night to cavort and push the furniture around.



Throughout the ages, the rhinoceros has come to be equated with unbridled toughness and resilience, as is evidenced by the adoption of the rhino as a logo for several companies and corporations. The tenuous existence of the rhinoceros has created a different symbolic image: one of hope, and one of fear for its right to survive amidst demand for its death.

I have chosen the rhinoceros as my personal endangered species. I certainly cannot give adequate attention to all of the other species. The readers of *Really, Rhinos!* are of the same ilk, I assume. I implore all rhinophiles to continue to support the rhinoceros on whatever front, and by whatever means are available to them.

continued on next page...

...Rhinophilights Continued

Write, donate, legislate, educate, pray. It would truly be a shame to have to show our grandchildren these silly little figurines that we collect, and explain to them that they were not really dinosaurs or unicorns. [ed note:- and it was not mythology or meteors that destroyed them, but the most "intelligent" species on earth]

A. Stan Bland III, 8605 S.W. 52nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97219, (503) 245-1522.

P.S. Ask Stan about the rhino t-shirt he found. It has an original rhino on it that I doubt you've seen before. Thanks, Stan!

What? You get enough ZOODOO at work? Then adopt-a-coat rack instead! For only \$47.83, you too can have a (23"wide x13"high x 10.5"deep) rhino rack for your very own home. Write to: K-M Concessions, Train Station-City Park, Denver, CO 80205.

PACHYDERM POETRY



A Rhinoceros on My Head

*Every day I wear a rhinoceros,
right on the top of my head.
And every night I take him off before
I climb in bed.
I hang up my rhinoceros on the
bedpost by the horn
Then I put my rhinoceros back on my
head the first thing the next morn.*

Guy Gilchrist

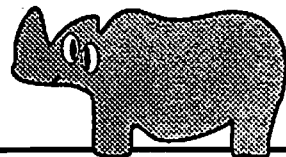
"Night Lights and Pillow Fights:
A Trip to Storyland"

Endangered Rhinos.

New homes sought. One-of-a-kind Sergio Bustamante ceramic. Facsimile of Chinese roof tile rhino. Bronzes. Soapstones (large). Watercolors, batiks, fine art posters, ALL BEAUTIFULLY FRAMED. Must sell before July 20th. Send your wish list if you collect a specific species or medium. Sadly must pare 1,000+ rhino collection down to 100 max. Help me out and increase your collection simultaneously. Call me at (602) 881-0018 x125 (M-Th from 4:30-8:30 MST) or write to Judyth Lessee, Really, Rhinos! PO BOX 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285.

BETTE DAVIS EYES?

Check out your local card shop or supermarket. Hallmark is selling a sheet of puffy, padded stickers which have elephants, hippos and of course rhinos. The beady little eyes roll around. One sheet costs \$1.60.



REALLY, RHINOS! is published quarterly. Annual subscription rate is \$15 (\$19US overseas), \$5 of which is donated to rhino conservation projects.

Reader feedback is encouraged. All correspondence should be sent to Judyth Lessee, Editor, Really, Rhinos!, Ltd P O Box 1285, Tucson Arizona 85702-1285 USA (602)327-8277

REALLY, RHINOS! LTD.

P O Box 1285

Tucson, AZ 85702-1285