

REALLY RHINOS!



VOL 5, #2 1991

Dear Really, Rhino! Subscribers:

This special expanded issue is my gift to you as I celebrate my 10th year of rhino collecting! I bought my first rhino in Wanaka, New Zealand in July, 1981 and last week I just purchased a cloisonne rhino from China. I haven't counted my collection in a year but 1100 is in the ballpark. One of these days I will rhinophilight myself. My greatest wish for the next ten years is to have more subscribers to this newsletter. Please share Really, Rhinos! with your friends and help me to have 1100 subscribers. That would be an even better collection!

Rhinosincerely,



Judyth Lessee
Editor



A LITTLE JACK FOR A LOTTA JACK!

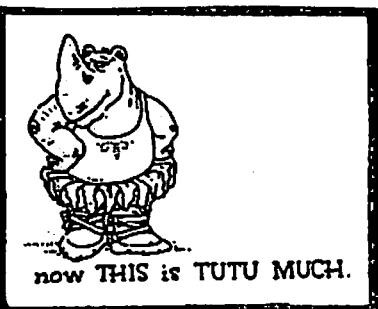
Unless you live within driving distance of Winston, Oregon, you may want to consider purchasing a 10 minute video all about Jack, the male white rhino that lives at Wildlife Safari. Jane Kenney and I had a devil of a time waiting for Jack to even show up when we visited two years ago. You get him at your convenience and in the comfort of your home for only \$59.95. I believe the postage is \$5.00 and the video is VHS only. Write to: Rainbow Educational Video 170 Keyland Court, Bohemia, NY 11716. 800-331-4047.

P.S. The Wildlife Safari has a wish list that includes oranges, apples, bananas, carrots, yams or sweet potatoes for their rhinos. If you would like to contribute to the this mega-meals-on-wheels, write to Sally Lawson, Safari Game Search Foundation, PO Box 1600, Winston, OR 97496-0231.

BITE OFF THEIR HEADS, MUNCH ON THEIR TAILS.

Well.... I actually don't know anyone comes across a new product called Small World Animal Grahams, let me know if rhinos are included in the package, which by the way is environmentally safe (packaged in recycled paper)

boxes filled with educational information and a portion of the proceeds from sales goes to protect endangered animal species. The cookies come in 10 shapes (rhinos??) representing endangered species, and included in each box is a collectible animal card with a photo of an animal and information on how to get involved in protecting it. Please let me know WHERE you find these cookies and an address of the baker or manufacturer.



UPDATE ON NAMIBIAN RHINOS

[David A. Buitron, SWARA, 14(2):20-30,

March/April, 1991]

"The Namib Desert has given rise to a number of unique plant and animal adaptations including the wonderplant which seems to have moved underground as a way of coping with the harsh desert climate. The seeds of this 'tree' happen to be one of the favorite brows-foods of Namibia's desert adapted black rhinos.

"There are still an estimated 90 of the so-called 'desert-rhinos' thinly scattered over the vast semi-arid region known as the kaokoveld in the northwest of the country. And together with another 350 rhinos living in and around Etosha, they comprise the total remaining population of *Diceros bicornis bicornis*, one of four currently recognized sub-species of black rhino in Africa. One of the long term management goals of rhino conservationists in Africa is to breed up minimum populations of 2,000 of each sub-species, and in Namibia there is already more than sufficient habitat for this under protection.

"Since 1982 in Damaraland, the Auxiliary Game Guard Programme, largely a creation of Namibian conservationist Garth Owen-Smith, was begun to help counteract the

poaching of rhinos whose numbers had dropped from about 300 to since 1970. Funded mainly by private businesses and nongovernmental organizations, this program provided for the appointment of game guards by chiefs and other community leaders from among the Himba and Herero tribes resident in the region. The guards were then supplied with uniforms, rations of food, and small cash salaries in return for helping Nature Conservation rangers monitor the wildlife population. The guards worked closely with the rangers to report any illegal activities. Owen-Smith is one of the originators of this concept - conservation extension, involving rural communities in conservation efforts in ways that produce tangible benefits for these communities while at the same time encouraging them to take an interest in the protection of their wildlife heritage.

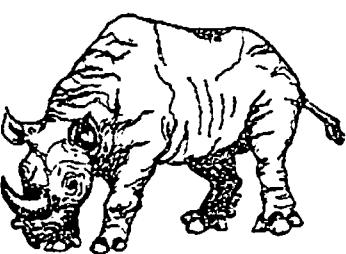
"Unfortunately, just as the Kaokeveld rhino population was beginning to make real gains in numbers, severe poaching pressure on the rhinos began anew. Being thinly scattered over a huge area they were very difficult to protect in any direct way. Urgent action was called for which resulted in the decision to launch Operation Bicornis, a program involving both the de-horning and translocation of a certain number of rhinos. It was a last ditch measure

undertaken only after it was agreed there was nothing to lose. It was done by darting the rhinos from helicopters, sawing the horns off with hand saws, trimming the stumps carefully with hoof-clippers and files, and then sealing them with Stockholm Tar to prevent infection.

"At the time of this writing, no ill effects have been observed, three calves that have since been born to de-horned rhinos are doing well and the poaching of rhinos in Damaraland has stopped. The notion of de-horning rhinos in order to protect them from poachers had only been a topic of debate prior to Operation Bicornis, but Namibia's decisive action has now given conservationists a case study to look at. From this, decisions might be made as to the applicability of de-horning to small and threatened rhino population elsewhere in Africa."

"EXPERTS RACE TO SAVE DWINDLING RHINOS"

[By William K. Stevens, *New York Times*, Tuesday, May 7, 1991, p. B5, B9]. Great facts, even better photos and illustrations. If you can't find the issue, let me know.



Now you can buy Mark Maglio artwork at reasonable prices!

8 NOTECARDS/ENVELOPES (black rhino)

\$7.00 ppd.

BOOKMARK (white rhino)

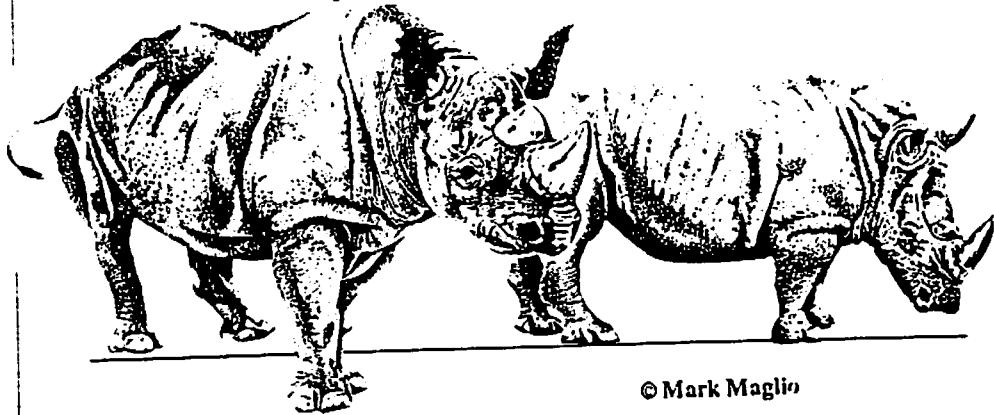
\$1.00 ppd.

T-SHIRT, 100% cotton

\$14.00 ppd.

T-SHIRT, 50/50

\$12.50 ppd.



© Mark Maglio

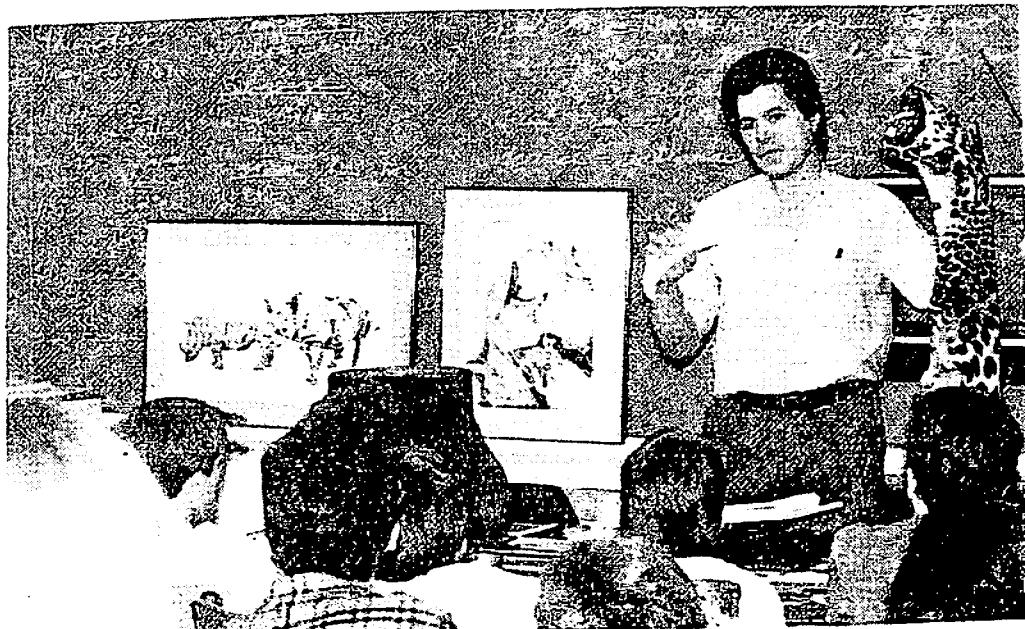
White Rhinoceros

Ceratotherium simum

- Order: Perissodactyla
- Family: Rhinocerotidae
- Distribution: South and northeastern Africa.
- Survival Status: Threatened.

Read more about wildlife...

Send your order and check or money order made payable to Really, Rhinos!, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285. All profits will be donated to Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary (Kenya).

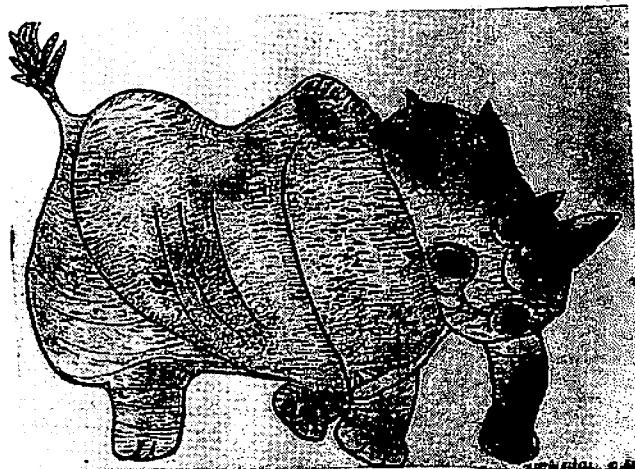


FINE ART FOR FINE CAUSES

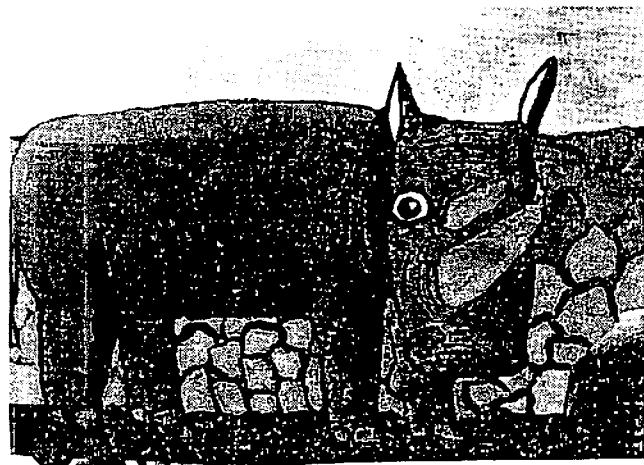
A limited number of original rhino art, painted by schoolchildren from Dvur Kralove and exhibited at the International Symposium on Rhinoceros Biology and Conservation at San Diego in May, 1991 are available (unframed) for \$35. Three have already been sold. If I get all the pictures sold, Really, Rhinos! subscribers will have the privilege of feeding some very important rhinos for a whole year! Please consider buying one or more of these delightful pictures. With your permission, I will give your name to Petr Spala who will let the individual artists know who bought their works. You can imagine how good the children will feel knowing their work has raised money (and quite a lot of money!) to help their beloved rhinos. Send your check or money order payable to Really, Rhinos, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285.



1 *Lucie Ebnerova, 10 years*



2 *Martin Flegl, 10 years*



3 *Jirina Zabova, 13 years*

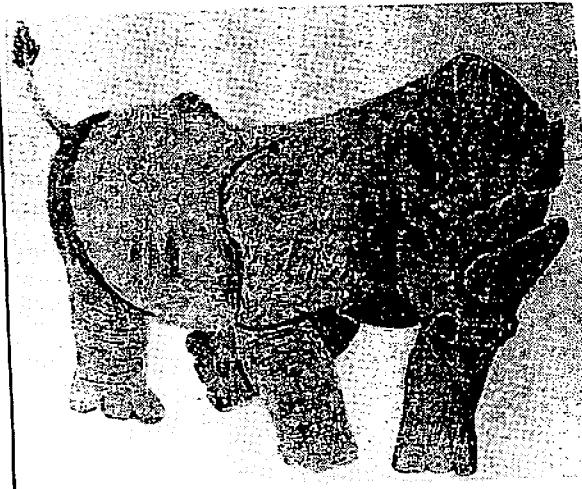


4 *Eva Dykovska, 9 years*

Pictures painted by children from the town of Dvur Kralove in Czechoslovakia to greet the participants of the International Rhino Conference and to promote all conservation efforts in general. The children (ages 6 to 14) are interested in painting and attend special classes to practice their hobby. The zoo animals are among their favorite subjects to paint. Pictures are 18" x 24" and in color.



5 Jiri Goldsmid, 12 years



6 Hana Bohmova, 12 years



7 Jana Robkova, 8 years



8 Jana Zemkova, 9 years

"SAVING THE RARE RHINOS OF BOHEMIA"

[by Karen Breslau, *Newsweek*, June 10, 1991, p.58]

"Vychodoceska Zoo in Dvur Kralove, Czechoslovakia, has acquired one of the most diverse and prolific collections of African hooved animals and other rare species in the world. Virtually isolated from the international scientific community following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, zookeepers improvised their own breeding techniques. Assistant director Kristina Tomasova worries that Dvur Kralove might succumb to nascent capitalism. Only a fraction of the \$1.3 million the zoo needs to operate each year will be made available by the fledgling Environmental Ministry. Already the zoo has laid off 105 of its 250 employees and in May it closed its research institute for gene-pool preservation. To raise money, the zoo has introduced an "adoption" program, asking donors to contribute the cost of a year's worth of food. A northern white rhino costing 12,000 crowns (about \$400) would cost a Czechoslovak about four months' salary. .



Petr Spala
Head of Research Institute

"The health and diversity of the original African stock of rhino has spawned a strong, disease-resistant generation. The survival rate for newborns ranges from 70 - 95 percent for most species, extraordinary by international standards. Dvur Kralove curators have resisted the obvious temptation of selling a few of their rare animals to the highest bidder in order to endow perpetual care for the others.

Miroslav Svitalsky, rhino curator, said that despite the offer of \$300,000 by a private dealer for an infant white rhino, he sold the calf to a German zoo for a fraction of the price, so that the animal will remain in a registered international breeding program."

'POP' GOES THE RHINO!

If you work with or have children, you might wish to purchase this set of whimsical holiday posters which includes, ahem... a Father's Day poster which has a papa rhino and two offspring. Cost: \$9.95+ from Upstart, 32 East Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Call them toll-free for the exact amount (800-448-4887). NOTE: this poster is not for those obsessed with anatomical correctness!

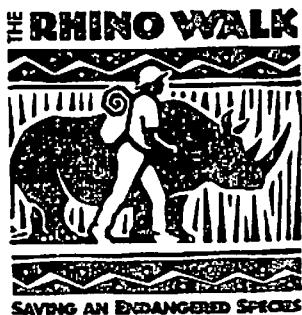
Save the Rhino Day
February 29, 1992

UNICORNIS: THE GREAT INDIAN ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS

[by Arup Kumar Dutta, Konark Publishers, 1991, approx. \$40]

With so much attention given to the African rhino, it is refreshing to see a coffee table book devoted exclusively to the Asian species. Dutta presents copious facts written in a flowing style with many anecdotes. History, generic characteristics, habitat, reproduction, food, diseases, future are all presented with beautiful photographs and clear maps. Assam and Kaziranga reserves are heavily researched. If your local bookstore cannot provide it, write to the gift shop at the San Diego Zoo. *Namastay.*

Col. Sprgs-Denver	July 16-23
St. Louis	July 26-27
Indianapolis	July 28-29
OHIO	Aug 3-14
New Orleans	Aug 15-17
Atlanta	Aug 18-21
Boston	Aug 22-24
Philadelphia	Aug 25-27
Baltimore	Aug 31 - Sept. 3



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

Mark Maglio is a graphic artist in Plainville, CT who spends his free time illustrating endangered and threatened animals. 'I started working back in commercial graphics but I still couldn't get away from animals. Each (drawing) I did, I got more involved. And, of course, along with this comes the awareness of things. You can't just draw animals and say, 'Oh, that's enough. I just like drawing them.' You start to get involved with how endangered they are and what's happening to their habitat. You start to be more knowledgeable of things that are going on. It comes with the territory.'

'Mark is active in many groups, such as Greenpeace, HALT (Help Abolish Leghold Traps) and the William Holden Wildlife Refuge. Usually Mark attends protests or sends donations but what he tries to do most is offer his artwork at no charge to the different groups. The wildlife protection groups then use his work to help in fundraising activities. He finds he keeps getting involved with the rhino. 'The rhino seems to be an animal that really sticks with me. They're not cute enough for people to consider them as a cause. It's unfortunate because they are very regal animals.' An illustration Mark has in process depicts a solitary rhino on an island...isolated. The drawing is called 'The Last Rhino.' But I don't want to be so negative," says Mark. "So I was going to word it at the bottom, 'The Last Rhino...Or Is It?'

"The lives of the animals that Mark chooses is to draw are on the line now. Their fate is in the hands of man. Unless current conditions change, many will be extinct by the year 2,000. Mark's illustrations seem to capture their vulnerability and innocence. "When I do anything at all," says Mark, "the first and foremost thing that I always have to get across are the eyes and the expression of the face. Every second I'm working on the art, my mind never goes in any other direction but the animals themselves. It is painful to see this happening to them. I have pictures all over the place of rhino being shot or their horns cut off with chainsaws."

"Mark's pen and ink illustrations often take 40-80 hours to complete. He uses a technique called 'stipple' creating light and dark values by using dots. The closer the dots, the darker the values. The detail precision and patience this technique demands is overwhelming, hence the long hours. Each original illustration is about 24" x 30" in size. Most reference material for his work comes from his own photographs taken at various zoos. Mark still goes back to the San Diego Zoo where he is allowed into the cages for close-up photographs.

"In addition to his artwork, Mark also visits schools to educate students about wildlife and environmental issues. 'I was in a school and I'd show [the kids] a picture of a rhino and they'd say, 'Yeah, they cut their horns off.' There's a lot of exposure. Kids do pay attention to a lot of it. 'When people come up to me and say, 'What can I do? I can't go to Africa to save the elephants.' I say that you can do something here environmentally. It is all connected, the world we live in. If you're saving land, you may be saving a species of animal when you think about it. It's just like a sweater - everything all woven together. You pull one strand out and it's going to start falling apart. It's going to start unraveling."



JIMINY CRICKET!

A rhino tourist adorns the cover of the May, 1991 issue of *Cricket Magazine* (\$2.95). *Cricket* is a well-established children's magazine whose editorial board includes such eminent authors as Lloyd Alexander, Virginia Hamilton, Trina Schart Hyman, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Jim Trelease. I don't think they knew that May 1st was Save the Rhino Day but what a great coincidence. Inside this issue you will find whimsical illustrations, short stories and poems all about guess what?! Without official permission, here is one quick poem:

HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS NOSE

, J. Patrick Lewis

*The very first Rhino (from Tokyo)
Just loved telling joke after joke,
But he also told lies
Of incredible size
Which is how he became a Rhinocchio.*



QUICK! WHAT WAS THE LAST COMIC BOOK YOU READ?
A pro-environment comic book called *Green Arrow*, has at least one issue (#47, June, 1991) on rhinos and poachers.. Check with your local bookstore or write directly to DC Comics, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. (\$1.50)
Note: Content is adult in nature.
(Thanks, Tony!)

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SAN DIEGO 1991

Highlights

In the next issue

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\$5 of which is donated to rhino conservation projects.

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Time to Renew

Last issue