



THE

GRAND MAGAZINE.

For JANUARY 1759.

A Compendious COURSE of NATURAL HISTORY, continued from Vol. I. page 597.

The Natural History of the RHINOCEROS.

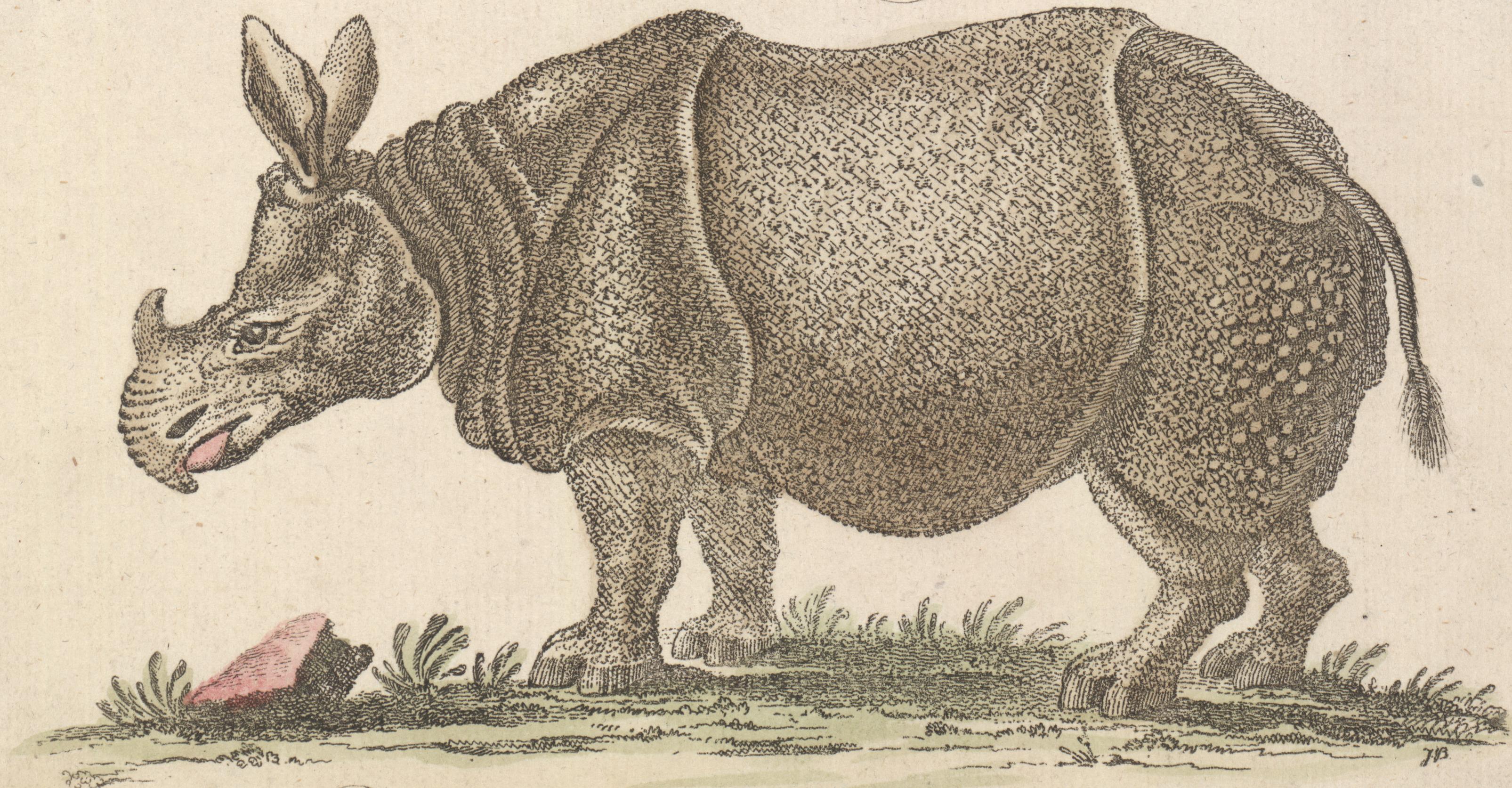
With a Copper Plate of that curious Animal, in its Natural Colours.

THE Rhinoceros is generally accounted the next four-footed beast in magnitude to the elephant, a print of which may be seen in our Magazine for September, p. 429. The height of that represented on the plate was about five feet five inches; its length great in proportion to its height, being, by report of its keeper, fourteen feet from its nose to the end of the tail, when extended.

The head is of a long make, having a hollow between the forehead and the horn, which rises from the upper part of the snout, where no other known animal hath it. The snout seems formed to turn up the earth, in order to its feeding on the roots of plants; it being very pliable and ending in a point, which it can turn upwards, downwards, or sideways; the nostrils are placed on each side of it. The lower lip is almost square, flattish forwards, with the two croppers appearing on the sides, of a lively flesh colour. The eyes are small, placed pretty for-

ward on each side of the head; it has large ears in proportion, which stand erect on the upper part of the head. The whole animal is covered with a very thick, rough, chapped skin, of an ash colour, having plaits and folds in all such parts as are necessary to give the creature motion, falling one over another backwards, which the figure better expresses than any words can describe. This I drew from a female in London, A. D. 1752; but could not find any rising knobs on the skin, all over the body in a regular manner, as expressed in some late figures: to me it only appeared very rough and chapped, except on the hind quarters, which receive its weight when it first lies down, where those rising knobs are very large on the skin. The tail had a few black hairs at its end; the ears also had some scattered hairs on them: in other parts I observed no hair. The back is hollow, and the belly sinks downwards pretty much: the legs are short and thick in proportion; the feet are round behind, having hoofs forwards, which by two divisions are separated into three parts on each foot; but they have not the little hoofs in the hinder part of the foot, such as we see in swine, deer, sheep, &c. The horn is but small, the creature not being nearly arrived

The female Rhinoceros.



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