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INTERNATIONAL ZOO NEWS

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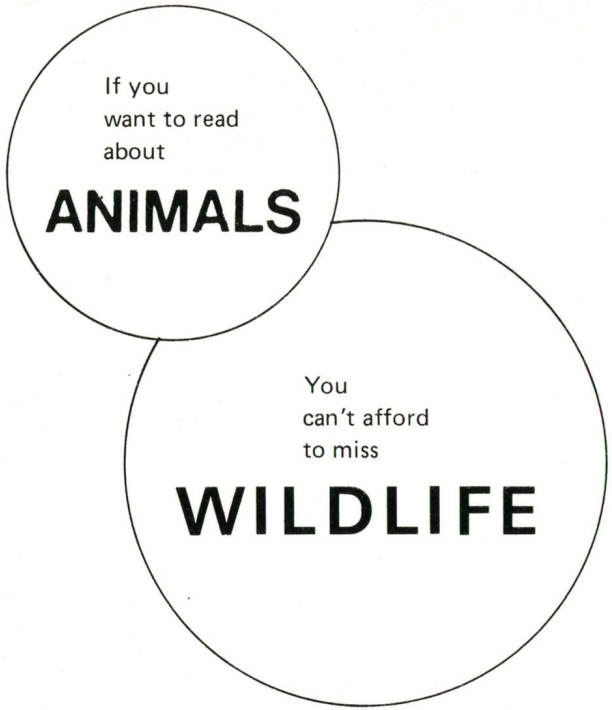
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Editorial

Zoological collections like to publicize their breeding successes with rare species, and zoos which publish annual reports naturally list their breeding records for the year. Very few, on the other hand, publish their mortality figures, unless exceptional longevity is involved. Thus, we often have little idea of the net increase or otherwise in captive populations of any given species. It might be worth considering how this could be rectified, and what practical value such a record system would have.

ISIS, the International Zoo Yearbook and the studbooks already kept for endangered species fulfil this need for rarities, but for the majority of animals commonly exhibited, a record system is needed which would provide a clear indication of the current status of each species. Individual zoos could promote such a programme by publishing their breeding and mortality records for selected species in a new form. For instance, the annual data for, say, a herd species, might read thus: 3.5/2.1 + 1.2 - 0.1/1.0 = 3.4/2.3. This would indicate that at the beginning of the year the herd contained 3.5 adults and 2.1 young below breeding age; 1.2 young were born; one adult female died and an immature male died, leaving the herd with 3.4 adults and 2.3 young below breeding age. Acquisitions and disposals could be shown separately, with the total herd figure amended accordingly.

The main purpose of the record would be to indicate the status of the species in each collection, to all other collections which exhibited that species. Its main application would probably be to herd species of mammal, waterfowl, and other colonial birds, and some fish species. The immediate value of these statistics might be enhanced if they were published together in a newsletter with a regional circulation. Thus, one could instantly locate a collection in one's own country likely to be able to accommodate a potential buyer or seller. Provided that each zoo kept adequate records of their blood lines, one would then have the makings of a studbook, without the arduous collations required of all studbook keepers.

Collections which suppress their mortality figures do nothing to improve the 'Noah's Ark' image which zoos strive to cultivate. Nor can zoos which do not publish annual reports – which means virtually all the commercial zoos – continue to claim that they contribute significantly to conservation. Captive breeding records must show net increases if they are to do that, and breeding programmes are essentially co-operative, which means sharing accurate and complete information.

We have no idea how useful surplus and wanted stock lists are to our readers. But if any zoo, or group of zoos, would like to send us information in the form suggested, we will publish it and test its value.

contd overleaf

EDITORIAL (Continued)

The artificial horn grafted on to a Black rhinoceros in Lisbon Zoo, reported in this issue, strikes us as the ultimate in cruel, vulgar and misleading showmanship. Apparently, there is no sign telling the public that the horn is artificial, nor do we know whether the grafting operation was performed before the animal came to the zoo or afterwards. We trust it was before, but in that case, Lisbon Zoo must be open to criticism for acquiring and exhibiting the animal. As our correspondent Pierre Brouard says, what possible scientific purpose can this monstrosity serve? What is certain is that it is a shameful breach of the obligations which all zoos share to care for their animals and educate the public.

Geoffrey Schomberg



Photo: Pierre Brouard

THE DIMINUTIVE PAN

by Don Cousins

When Dr. E. Schwarz first scientifically described the Pygmy chimpanzee or bonobo *(Pan paniscus)* in 1929 it was from a skin and skull in the Tervueren museum. Unlike the discovery of many other animals, which were preceded by rumours, legends and travellers' tales, the scientific emergence of the Pygmy chimpanzee was devoid of such trimmings. Certainly the odd specimen did turn up in early zoological collections, but largely these went unrecognised. There is undeniable proof that a male specimen named "Mafuca", who lived in the Amsterdam Zoo from 1911 to 1916, was a bonobo (a photograph of this animal, taken by A. J. W. de Veer, was published in the Dutch journal *"De Prins"* in March, 1913, and is probably the oldest known photograph of *Pan paniscus),* and there is little doubt that the male, "Chim", owned by Dr. R. M. Yerkes in the years 1923–1924 was also a Pygmy chimpanzee. A female specimen named "Malenga" was captured in February, 1926 and kept privately by a Mrs. Trompet before being sent to Antwerp Zoo in 1933. Possibly there were other early specimens but without existing evidence to prove their identity.

During their lifetime in captivity, both "Mafuca" and "Chim" were identified as being something rather more unusual than ordinary chimpanzees. Indeed, they could hardly have been thought otherwise as physically pygmy chimpanzees differ greatly from normal specimens. They are about half the weight of the common chimpanzee and are shorter in stature by about 15 per cent. Frail looking by comparison, they have long, spidery limbs which are quite gibbon-like and their faces are black with a pronounced and unmistakable clear area around the mouth. The lips are red and the ears black, much smaller than in ordinary chimpanzees, and partly concealed by long side whiskers. The head is more rounded and the supra-orbital arcades smaller than in *Pan troglodytes*, while the voice is of a high piercing quality. Two outstanding characteristics are its habit of vigorously shaking one or both outstretched hands, and the habit while resting, of tucking its feet under its body and resting on them.

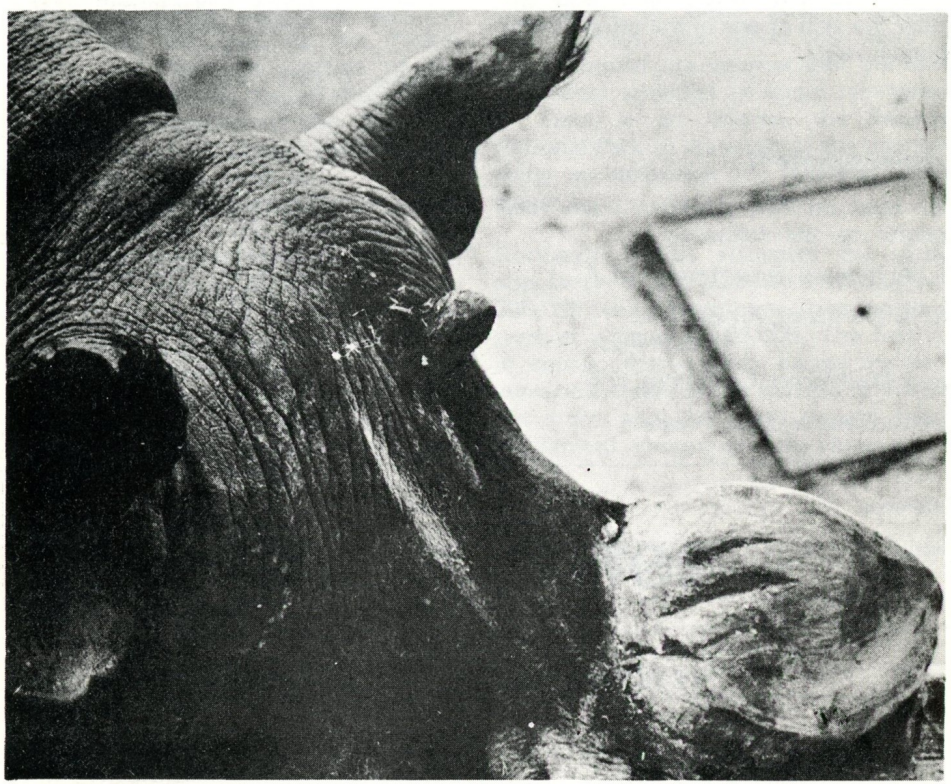
The Pygmy chimpanzee has the same number of chromosomes as the common chimp: 48, but a study of chimpanzee blood groups has revealed distinct differences between *Pan paniscus* and *Pan troglodytes;* that of the former resembling more closely the blood group of man. Indeed, the blood group of the Pygmy chimpanzee is closer to man's than any other living primate and many primatologists regard *Pan paniscus* as being closer to man's early ancestors than any other non-human primate.

The distribution of the bonobo is, according to the bulk of the literature, confined

LISBON'S UNUSUAL ZOO GUEST

A 3-Horn Black Rhino *(Diceros bicornis)*

by Pierre Brouard



Black rhinocerous at Lisbon Zoo, Portugal, showing an artificial third horn. *Photograph by Pierre Brouard*

Among the fantastic animal houses of the Lisbon Zoo, the rhinoceros house invariably attracts visitors, because of its varied population, although this is essentially of African origin. Black rhinos breed there quite regularly.

Last December, an unusual Black rhino was on view. Its head prides itself not only on the two horns which are distinctive to the species *Diceros bicornis*, but on three horns, this latter having no common characteristic with the third horn which possibly appears in some Asiatic species. This third horn is situated far from the two conventional ones, on the forehead, on the place where the horn of the famous and legendary Unicorn, appears.

It is obvious that this third horn is not natural. It has been grafted, evidently recently, onto this adult rhino. A 10 centimetre diameter hole has been bored in the thick skin of the animal and the extra horn, of a non-identifiable origin, has been driven into the head of the "patient". The diameter of the hole being a little larger than the diameter of the horn itself, some pins have been wedged to eliminate the gap, thus ensuring that the horn grows straight up.

This is the first *live* specimen of a rhino which I have observed with a third artificial horn. Some specimens with identical grafts are to be seen in some museums. But what is the meaning of such an artifice and is it relevant to zoological research?



Black rhinocerous at Lisbon Zoo, Portugal, showing an artificial third horn. *by Pierre Brouard*