

Official Guide to Dublin Zoo

Compiled by Edmund Terence Murphy, *Director*

4 juli 1971



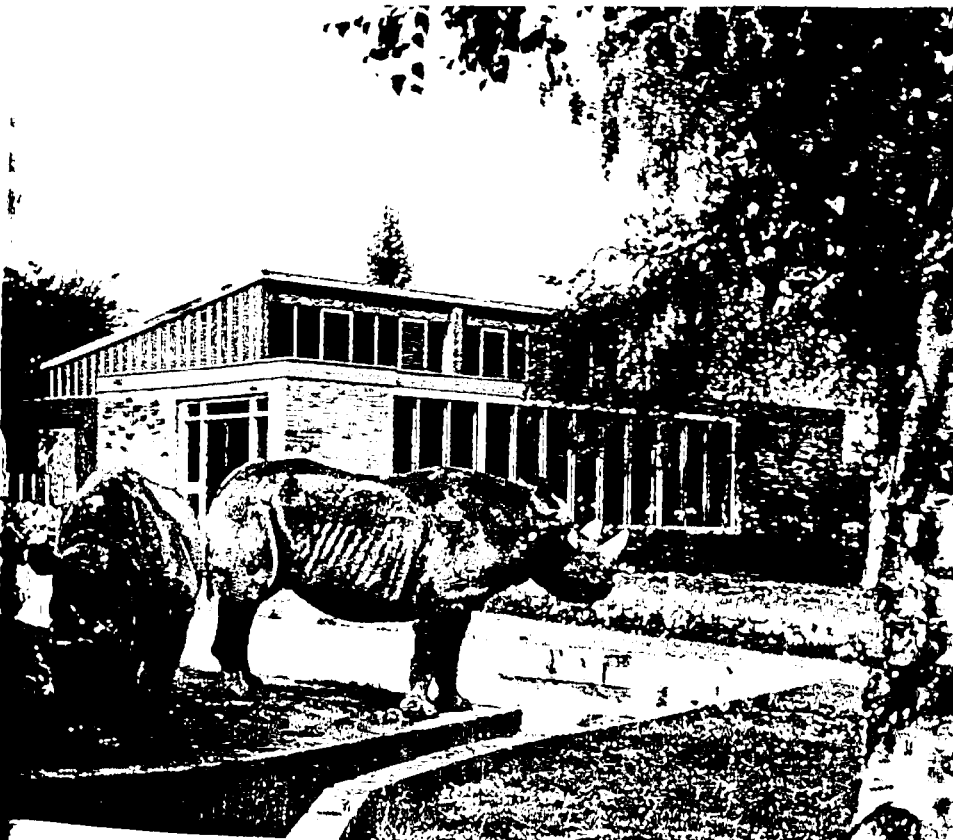
Acknowledgments

The Society extends grateful acknowledgments to the Press, Bord Failte, Professional and Amateur Photographers for permission to reproduce their photographs in this book.

Published by the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland

hinoceros

African Black Rhinoceros



There are five species of Rhinoceros in the world today, two in Africa, the Black and the White Rhino, and three in Asia, the Great Indian Rhino, which is now found in very limited areas of Bengal, Assam and Eastern Nepal; the Javan and the Sumatran Rhinos which are now almost extinct.

The African Black and the African White Rhinos are both two-horned species, the main difference in appearance is not the colour, but the shape of the mouth; the Black has a narrow and prehensile lip, adapted for browsing off bushes, while the white has a broad mouth suitable for grazing. The Great Indian, a single-horned Rhinoceros, differs from the former two by having the skin in heavy folds, which gives the appearance of armour plate. The Javan Rhino is a smaller edition of the Indian. The Sumatran, the smallest of the five species, has smoother skin sparsely covered with hair. All these Rhinos are being hunted, especially the Indian, owing to the Eastern belief that the horn is a powerful aphrodisiac. This horn is comprised of coarse closely-knit fibres outgrowing from the skin and not attached to the skull as it would appear. It is very hard and kept sharpened to a point by the Rhino rubbing it against trees and anthills. Rhinos are mainly browsers, feeding and drinking by night only. They eat leaves, twigs and smaller roots, but are often observed grazing.