



native guides, which demonstrates the essential role of local knowledge in enabling European scientific exploration. The book also reveals the interconnected nature of nineteenth-century scientific networks, where knowledge, specimens, and people moved fluidly between metropolises and colonies.

The collections Pohl amassed in Brazil were remarkable in their scope. Among them were thousands of plants, and many mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, insects, shells, minerals, as well as some Indigenous artifacts that act as a testament to his interactions with Indigenous groups. In addition, Pohl not only sent live animals destined for the menageries of the Austrian imperial court, but also arranged the transport of two Indigenous individuals to Vienna; their ultimate fate is a deeply problematic episode reflecting the colonial-era practice of human exhibition.

Pohl's publications were an important outcome of the expedition, with his two-volume travelogue being of relevance not only to historians but also ethnologists, due to the linguistic samples from native Brazilian peoples it contains. Pohl's taxonomic work named numerous plant genera to honour members of the Austrian imperial family, further illustrating how scientific achievements often reveal social and patronage networks. In turn, in recognition of Pohl's botanical work, Martius named the genus *Pohlana* in his honour. Reproductions of depictions of many of these specimens by artists such as Thomas Ender (1793–1875) and Michael Sandler (1790–1850) illuminate this book.

The book is not only a rich biography of Johann Baptist Emanuel Pohl and a valuable resource for historians due to the vast previously unpublished archive material it presents, but also a critical examination of imperial science in the early nineteenth century. It makes a significant contribution to the historiography of scientific travel. The author's rigorous engagement with archival materials and the reconstruction of Pohl's journey offers readers a glimpse into the social, diplomatic, economic, and political dimensions of scientific exploration. Scholars interested in the intersections of science and empire will find much to appreciate in this work.

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ROOKMAAKER L. C. (Kees). *The rhinoceros of South Asia*. Emergence of Natural History series, Volume 6. Brill, Leiden and Boston: 2024. iv, 835 pp.; illustrated. Price €295. ISBN 9789004544888 (hardback), ISBN 9789004691544 (e-book – free pdf download).


On 20 May 1515 the most famous rhinoceros in the world arrived in Lisbon, Portugal as a gift from Mufazar Shah II to the Portuguese Governor Afonso de Albuquerque, who donated it to King Dom Manuel I. This rhinoceros is very familiar to us 500 years later, because it was portrayed in a sketch by Albrecht Dürer, although he never actually saw the animal. He based his sketch on a drawing and letter sent to him in Germany and so he can be forgiven for not getting every detail correct. The woodcut of Dürer's sketch shows a heavily armour-plated rhinoceros with a curious twisted horn planted on its shoulders. The rhinoceros did not survive long. King Dom Manuel I decided to present it to Pope Leo X, but after a brief visit to Marseilles on the way, the ship carrying the rhinoceros sank in a heavy storm at the end of January or early February 1516. This is just one of the many fascinating and highly detailed accounts that have been compiled by Kees Rookmaaker in *The rhinoceros of South Asia*. Rookmaaker has studied rhinoceroses for more than 50 years and is custodian of the Rhino Resource Center (www.rhinosourcecenter.com), which rightly proclaims itself as the largest rhino information website, so there is nobody better qualified to have written this beautiful, sumptuous book.

Packed with information and abundantly illustrated, *The rhinoceros of South Asia* is the new standard reference on the history of three species of rhinoceros known from South Asia: the Indian or greater one-horned rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*; the Javan rhinoceros, *R. sondaicus*; and the Sumatran rhinoceros, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*. However, only one species – the Indian rhinoceros – survives in modest numbers in special areas of the Indian sub-continent today, with the other two hanging on, critically endangered, in tiny numbers in their respective island homes. The book is divided into three

sections, one per species, which follow a similar format with chapters on taxonomy and nomenclature, history of captivity in South Asia and historical records in the relevant Rhino Regions. So much more is known about the Indian rhinoceros that the section devoted to it occupies two thirds of the book with additional chapters on its fossil record, rock art, Mughal arts and sciences, and exports to the east and west, among others. There are also chapters on protecting Indian rhinoceroses in various national parks in India and Nepal, which include census data from the establishment of these protected areas or their rhinoceros populations until the most recent records, which are all fully referenced. A rather depressing, but also astonishing, chapter is on the hunting camps of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, who recorded in his book, *Thirty-seven years of big game shooting in Cooch Behar* (1908), that 207 Indian rhinoceroses were hunted between 1871 and 1907, but Rookmaaker has recalculated this to 217. There are detailed lists of participants in shooting parties with dates given for each year accompanied by numerous disheartening photographs of dead rhinoceroses and other species. Finally, an epilogue presents new historical ranges for all three species based on the records compiled by Rookmaaker.

The rhinoceros of South Asia is not a traditional natural history of the three rhinoceros species that inhabited the region. Rather, it is a rich and complex account of the changing relationship between rhinoceroses and people seen through the perspectives of history, different cultures and the increasing rarity and extirpation of at least two species. The extent of the data in *The rhinoceros of South Asia* is almost overwhelming but will undoubtedly be valuable in modelling the decline and loss of these species throughout their ranges. I found this book to be an absolute delight.

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ROOS, Anna Marie and KELLER, Vera (editors). *Collective wisdom: collecting in the early modern academy*, Techne 10. Brepols, Turnhout: 2022. 325 pp.; illustrated. Price €85 (hardback); €85 (e-book). ISBN 9782503588063 (hardback), ISBN 9782503588070 (e-book).

The development from the seemingly chaotic display of *naturalia* and *artificialia* in private cabinets of curiosities or *Kunstkammern* in the Renaissance to the creation of well-ordered public museums in the Enlightenment has been studied extensively. However, what has not been clarified until now are the roles of scientific societies and the many theoretical writings on museums they produced in the process of this transition. It is this hiatus that the editors, Vera Keller and Anna Marie Roos, have set out to fill with this volume.

The book is based on three workshops that were organized by the editors, as principal investigators of a networking grant awarded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, in 2018 and 2019 in Germany and the UK. The workshops dealt with 'Early modern English and German collecting networks and practice: medicine and natural philosophy', 'Antiquarian science in the scholarly society', and 'Collecting and collections: lives and digital afterlives'. As can be gathered from the network's website (www.collectivewisdom.uoregon.edu), the lion's share of the contributions is based on papers that were delivered in the first two workshops.

The Leopoldina in Halle, the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Royal Society of London were institutional partners of the project and hosts of the workshops. This explains why many of the eleven essays deal with collecting in these learned societies, or with early modern naturalists and scholars that belonged to related or similar, but less well-known, academies in England and Central Europe.

The volume's focus on early modern museology is, indeed, a very interesting and welcome perspective from which to study early modern scientific societies and their collection practices. It works well in the essays that adhere closest to this approach, such as those by Kelly Whitmer on Johann Amos Comenius's (1592–1670) collection-based pedagogy; Georgiana Hedesan on Ole Worm's (1588–1654) famous museum in relation to his ideas about university reforms; Fabian Kraemer on the Leopoldina's journal, the *Miscellanea Curiosa*, as a cabinet of curiosities on paper; and Vera Keller on the authorship of