

The Society was founded in 1883 for the purpose of exchanging notes and observations on Zoology and exhibiting interesting specimens of animal life. Its funds are devoted to the advancement of the study of zoology and botany in the Oriental Region. The Society also promotes measures for conservation of nature.

Membership of the Society is open to persons of either sex and of any nationality, proposed and recommended by one or more members of the Society; and also to persons in their official capacity, scientific societies, institutions, clubs, etc. in corporate capacity.

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Members receive during a year three issues of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* now in its 78th volume, and four issues of *Hornbill*, the Society's popular publication.

Journal Editors

J. C. Daniel, P. V. Bole and A. N. D. Nanavati.

Advertisements for publication in *Hornbill* are welcome. Rates : Inside full-page Rs 500/-; half page Rs 250/-; back cover Rs 1000/-.

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The first annual subscription of members elected in October, November, or December will extend to the 31st December of the year following the election.

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all involved in the snake skin trade. The survey points out that snake skin items occurred less frequently than the other reptile species, because it is a less desirable leather. While bags by Medell Londor of W. Germany cost between \$340-390, Japanese made products are priced in the \$100-300 range. Japanese trade in 1979 was thus consistent with the 1970 levels of over 20,000 kg of skins, which came from Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore.

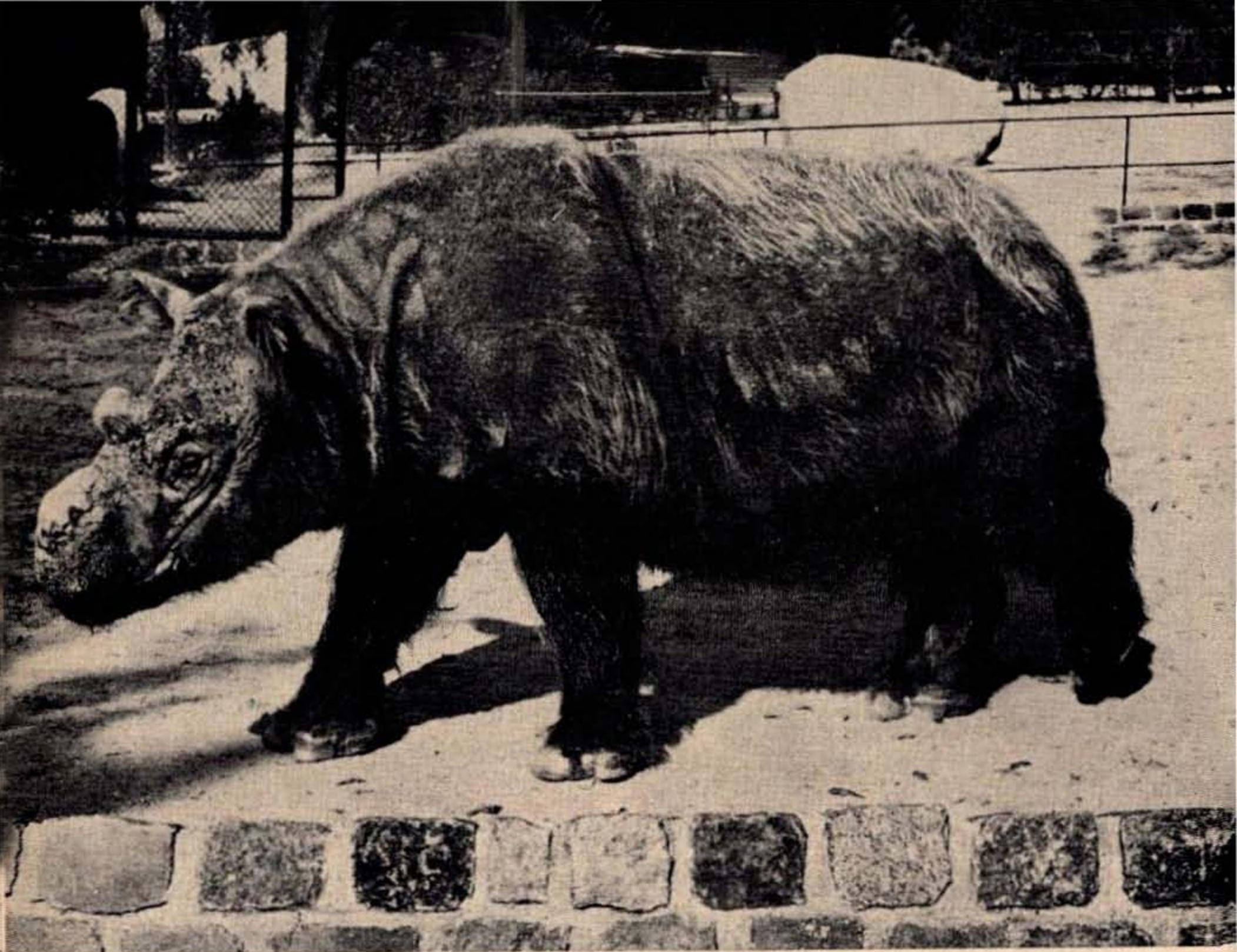
(4) *Spotted Cats*. At least 20% of any fur collection, be it a department store or a fur boutique, is composed of spotted cats. The fashion industry is pushing these cats. Recently some stores have been offering 'last chance' sales to clear out cat stocks in what seems to be a direct response to CITES. However, exclusive furriers maintain a very low profile vis-a-vis CITES. In general all furs are promoted from a purely fashion standpoint, and the Japanese consumer is affluent, sophisticated and status conscious, but unfortunately environmentally unaware.

The rarest species are found at fantastic prices: clouded leopard \$25,750 to \$124,270, tiger \$94,750, snow leopard \$33,000, ocelot \$23,795 to \$32,400, Bengal tiger \$72,000 to mention a few. Cheaper furs include those of leopard cats \$1500 to \$2950, mountain civet \$1140, civet cat \$1740, wild cat \$2900, tiger cat (full length) \$3750, and mountain cat \$4400.

Pangolin trade increasing. TRAF-FIC (USA) recently issued a Pangolin 'alert' as it appears that U.S. imports of pangolin skins have been increasing considerably. It is believed that only three Southeast Asian species, *Manis crassicaudata*, *M. javanica* and *M. pentadactyla* are involved; all three species are listed on CITES Appendix II. In spite of being totally protected in Indonesia, Singapore, West Malaysia and Thailand (although *M. javanica* may be exported under quota in Thailand) there is little doubt that the majority of pangolin skins in international trade originate from these countries.

Hunting in Mongolia. Some of the world's rarest animals have been preserved in Mongolia. However, the future of these endangered species is bleak, because now the Mongolian government has included the snow leopard *Panthera uncia* (which is on Appendix I of CITES) in its hunting programme. For US \$50,000 one West German and two U.S. firms are offering the big-game hunter the chance to bring back the prestigious snow leopard trophy. Other attractive game for hunters include the Altai argali *Ovis ammon ammon*, and the Siberian ibex *Capra sibirica*, for which the price is only \$10,000 and \$6000 respectively.

Sumatran Rhino found dead in Sabah. The Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) has a total population of 300 and it is protected in Malaysia. However, a



Sumatran Rhino, a species on its last legs

Photo: E. P. Gee

recent killing in Sabah has come to light. It is believed that poaching is not effectively prevented because of the lack of trained manpower in the Silabukan area.

The rhino is now in double jeopardy as the area is scheduled to be cleared for timber over the next five years. Deforestation particularly affects the Sumatran rhino as

for intrinsic behavioural reasons, it has the lowest population density of any rhino—1 per 4000 hectares.

According to a *Traffic Bulletin* correspondent, the Malayan Nature Society in Singapore is to petition the government to sign CITES which would be a very welcome step.

ARZA BHATIA