



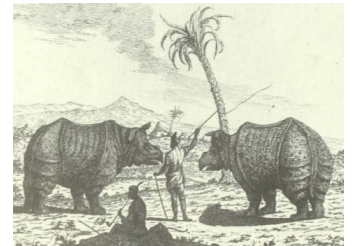
RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

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NEWSLETTER #81 JUNE 2026

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 81st issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker. The RRC has a total of 30,235 references and 7,600 images.



THE RRC WEBSITE HAS BEEN FULLY RENOVATED
NEW LOOK – BETTER SEARCHES
NEW SOFTWARE – NEW CLARA FEATURE – MANY IMAGES

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The Rhino Resource Center is a Charity (Registered KvK Utrecht 30185802)
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RRC NOW 30,000 REFERENCES

On 30 March 2026 the total references to books and articles about the rhinoceros reached a grand total of 30,000. From humble beginnings, we have come a long way. This is now a grand library, with an unimaginable amount of valuable information about the rhinoceros, both fossil and living.

And there are also about 7,600 images –
mostly with exact information of artists and provenance.

The RRC only includes references which are verified – in most cases we have seen a physical or digital copy. We try to be as accurate as possible in our listings. None of this is AI or computer-generated, all entries are added by one of our editors after verification. And yes, please send us any additions for future archiving.

RRC NEWSLETTERS ALL COMBINED – 1 to 81

Soon after launching the RRC website, we imagined that it would be a good idea to send out an electronic newsletter with all the latest additions. The first RRC Newsletter was sent in 2005, and almost without interruption we have continued until this edition, no. 81 in 2026. Each newsletter has information about new books on the rhinoceros or other topics which happen to come across our desk.

We have now combined all newsletters as a collection on the new RRC website:

<https://rhinoresourcecenter.com/collection/rrc-newsletters/>

Newsletters are sent out on 1 March, 1 June, 1 September and 1 December.

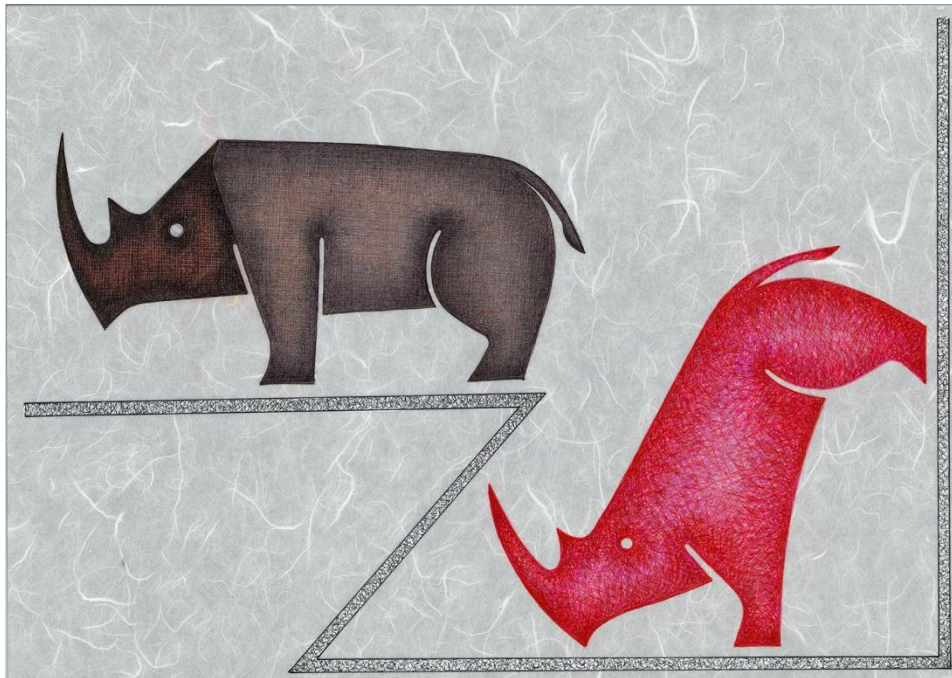
NEW GERAADS FOSSIL RHINO DATABASE

Updated 27 April 2026.

The database is a major resource compiled by Denis Geraads (France) together with 22 international experts. It is a comprehensive catalogue of all known Neogene and Quaternary localities in the Old World that have yielded Rhinocerotidae fossils identified to at least genus level. The primary focus is geographic distribution rather than taxonomic revision. References are carefully included.

<https://rhinoresourcecenter.com/collection/welcome-to-the-geraads-fossil-rhino-database/>

ROBERTO ROMANELLO - THE TWO AFRICAN RHINOCEROSSES



<https://rhinosourcecenter.com/library/images/romanello-2026-tribute-to-emmanuel-billia/>

Description: The illustration depicts two artistic, unquestionably original rhinoceroses by the architect Roberto Romanello (Udine, Italy, 1958), an internationally distinguished and polyhedral artist (graduated in Architecture from the prestigious University of Venice) who has always dedicated his life to figurative and plastic art, then transferring its own experience and aesthetic sensitivity to his realisations in the field of interior decoration, architecture and design. A still unpublished work, the two rhinoceroses represent a kindly personal present from its author to Emmanuel M.E. Billia – one of our faithful RRC editors.

DOCUMENTS AS PDF ON THE RRC

One of the long-standing criteria for inclusion in the RRC database is that one of our editors must have seen a physical or complete digital copy of the reference. Partly that is to avoid mistakes, largely because a reference on its own still begs the question where the item might be found. With the growth of the internet and the important programs of digitisation of older literature, most items are now found online, in a PDF format. The RRC adds to the digitisation, but only in a limited way due to lack of resources.

This past quarter the RRC has scanned and made available some important older sources:

1. [Sody, H.J.V. 1941](#). De Javaansche neushoorn, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, historisch en biologisch. Buitenzorg, Archipel Drukkerij en Het Boekhuis. pp. i-vii, 1-156, figs. 1-25. – This book is very rare in its original format as most copies were destroyed in WW2. A German translation of 1959 by Erna Mohr is a good replacement, more commonly available.
2. [Berger, A. 1910](#). In *Afrikas Wildkammern als Forscher und Jäger*. Berlin, Paul Parey. pp. i-xvi, 1-431. This book is an important source about the Nile Rhinoceros, with good photographs. A partial scan (rhino part only) thanks to Dan Ziegler.
3. [Berlin Zoo; Ochs, A.; Mercado, H. 2005](#). International studbook for the African black rhinoceros, *Diceros bicornis* (Linné, 1758), 01.01.2005. Tenth edition. Berlin, Zoologischer Garten. pp. i-vii, 1-233.



EL HURGADOR BLOGSPOT SERIES

'Rinocerontes / Rhinos' is a long series of blogs by Mr Javier Fuentes, a Spanish lover of art. Started in 2012 and adding about 6 new blogs annually up to the present, there are now 112 editions. Each blog highlights the works of historical and contemporary artists, all showing the rhinoceros in different fashions.

It is a pleasure to report that the author has given permission to the RRC to include his blogs, and we are in the process of adding them to our database. These include many works especially of current-day artists which are often difficult to find or access in other media.

The blogs are of course also available on the internet, and an index of the rhinoceros series is here:

<https://elhurgador.blogspot.com/p/rinocerontes-rhinos.html>

El Hurgador on the RRC:

<https://rhinoresourcecenter.com/library/authors/el-hurgador-arte-en-la-red-blog/>



NEW CHAIR OF ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP

This Specialist Group of the IUCN-Species Survival Commission is a counterpart of the African Rhino Specialist Group. All three species of rhinoceros in Asia are threatened, and conservation is especially critical for the Sumatran and Javan rhinoceros species – they will almost inevitably go extinct unless very serious and full action is taken now or very soon. The Chair of AsRSG Dr Bibhab Talukdar has decided to retire after many years of dedicated service. All members of the AsRSG are grateful to Dr Bibhab for his efforts both in South Asia and in South-East Asia, also representing the group in many international venues and meetings. Thanks Bibhab.

From March 2026, he is handing over to Dr Amirtharaj Christy Williams as the new Chair. We are looking forward to many years of critical leadership.

[Williams, A.C. 2026](#). IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group – May 2026 Chair’s 30-day report. *Asian Rhinos* no. 4: 1-4.

NOVELIST GEORGETTE HEYER IN UGANDA

It was a surprise to find a story in *The Sphere* of 1929 connecting the rhinoceros with Georgette Heyer. My mother loved Heyer’s books and we were always chasing new ones to give for her birthday. In August 1925 she married George Ronald Rougier (1900-1976) who worked as a mining engineer. They went together to Karagwe in the south of Uganda for his work in 1927-1928. During this time, George went hunting and shot this black rhino with a long forward protruding horn. And she wrote about it.

[Heyer, Georgette 1929](#). The horned beast of Africa. *The Sphere* 117 (1535) 22 June 1929: 656.



Original caption: “Unique: A record rhino whose horn grows straight outward from his snout instead of upward, shot by the husband of the author of the accompanying article.” Too bad the hunter or his wife are not in the photograph. The front horn measured 33 ½ inches, 85 cm.

NAN E. SCHAFFER 1953-2026



Many years back, around 2002, I first met Nan. She had traveled to a restaurant in Nylstroom, South Africa, where we talked, together with Anna Merz, about my hopes for a rhino encyclopedia, which later transformed to the RRC. The pub was very noisy, the talks were productive, a start of a friendship based on rhino conservation.

Nan told me that she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on 7 August 2024, went on to fight these health issues, but sadly passed away on 27 March 2026, aged just 72 years.

Trained as a zoo veterinarian, she was recognized as a leading expert in rhinoceros reproduction. The conservation authorities in Malaysia have benefitted from her rare expertise in diagnosing the recurrent reproductive issues, especially in females of the Sumatran rhinoceros.

In 1996, she founded SOS Rhino, a nonprofit headquartered in Chicago focused on international coordination and habitat protection for all five rhino species. She authored numerous peer-reviewed studies on non-human primate and pachyderm reproduction while working with institutions like the Lincoln Park Zoo and Baltimore Zoo. Throughout her career, she also served as a consultant for zoos and governments internationally, including in Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, and Australia.

She contributed her special skills and advice at a long series of pivotal conferences where she discussed issues relating to the conservation strategies for all rhino species. She was supported throughout by her life-partner Karen Dixon, since their wedding on 5 July 2008.

[Butler, R.A. 2026.](#) Nan Schaffer, veterinarian who helped unlock the science of rhino reproduction, has died, aged 72. www.mongabay.com 25 April 2025: 1-5.

Nan Schaffer – SOS Rhino

Brookfield Zoo Chicago awarded their most prestigious recognition award, the George B. Rabb Conservation Medal, to Nan on 7 October 2025 at their 22nd annual Conservation Leadership Awards Dinner. Her accomplishments were amplified with the evening's surprise announcement that she has received a Lifetime Achievement Award, in 2025 from President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Nan was a special person. She loved rhinos, she loved working with rhinos, she loved encouraging scientists and the general conservation community in their genuine quest to take the right decisions leading to long-term survivor of the rarest mammals.

To me personally, and to my wife Sandy, Nan was a special friend from the start of this century. Together with Karen, she recognized the importance of the Rhino Resource Center where all literature can be accessed everywhere in the world, helping workers in the field who otherwise would not have access to libraries or to the publications of the world's leading scientists.

Nan, you are missed.

Kees Rookmaaker



Malaysian Rhino Conservation Workshop 1995, with attendance including on first row: Nan Schaffer (4th from right), Nico van Strien (3rd from right), Tom Foose (7th from right) and Esmond Bradley Martin (9th from right) – all part of RRC board or sponsors.

RHINOCEROS PUBLICATIONS BY DR NAN SCHAFFER

<https://rhinoreourcecenter.com/library/authors/schaffer-n-e/>

NAN SCHAFFER: ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

[Payne, J.; Dixon, K.K.; Lusli, S.; Zainuddin, Z.Z.; Indrawan, M.; Rookmaaker, L.C.; Schaffer, N.E.; Wahab, A.Z.A.; Kretzschmar, P.; Havmoller, R.G.; Agil, M.; Yoganand, K. 2025.](#) The most endangered extant rhino species is now on the verge of extinction. *Pachyderm* 66: 214-220.

[Payne, J.; Dixon, K.K.; Lusli, S.; Zainuddin, Z.Z.; Indrawan, M.; Yoganand, K.; Rookmaaker, L.C.; Schaffer, N.E.; Wahab, A.Z.A.; Kretzschmar, P.; Havmoller, R.G.; Agil, M. 2025.](#) The Sumatran Rhinoceros: what went wrong and how to move forward. [chapter 12]. In: Melletti, M.; Talukdar, B.; Balfour, D. 2025. *Rhinos of the world: ecology, conservation and management*. Berlin, Springer. pp. 307-331. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-67169-2_12

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[Felshman, J.; Schaffer, N.E. 1998.](#) Sex and the single rhinoceros. *Chicago Reader* 1998 February 20: 1, 24-27.

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- [Kretzschmar, P.; Sipangkui, R.; Schaffer, N.E. 2009.](#) Eye disorders in captive Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*) in Sabah, Malaysia. Proceedings of the international conference on diseases of zoo and wild animals 2009: 236-242, figs. 1-6.
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- [Hermes, R.; Hildebrandt, T.B.; Portas, T.J.; Goeritz, F.; Bryant, B.; Kretzschmar, P.; Walzer, C.; Schaffer, N.E.; Ladds, P.; Blottner, S. 2006.](#) Testis and epididymis ultrasonography and fine-needle biopsy in the rhinoceros for tumor and fertility diagnosis. Proceedings of the European Association of Zoo- and Wildlife Veterinarians 2006: 1-2.
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- [Schaffer, N.E.; Beehler, B.A. 1988.](#) Overview of procedures and results of semen collection from ambulatory rhinoceroses. Proceedings of the AAZPA Annual Conference 1988: 273-279, tables 1-5.
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- [Schaffer, N.E.; Meuli, L. 1984.](#) Urine collection: Value in reproductive research. AAZPA Regional Conference Proceedings 1983: 400-411, 12 figures.

THE NEW RRC WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE

We released the new look RRC website on 21 February 2026.

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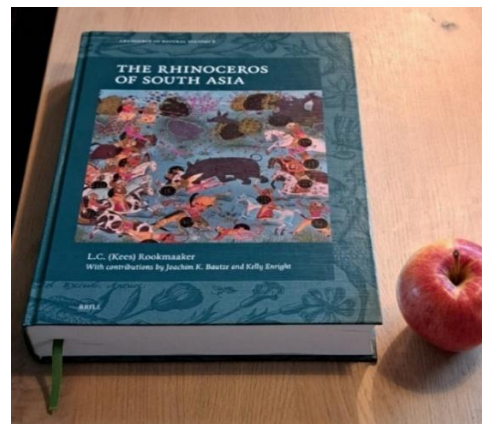
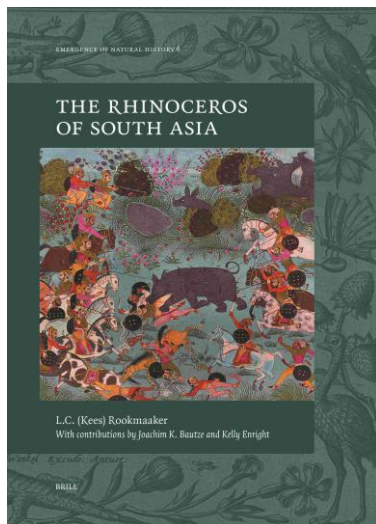
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THE RHINOCEROS OF SOUTH ASIA



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THE RHINOCEROS OF SOUTH ASIA

by

KEES ROOKMAAKER

(Editor of the Rhino Resource Center)

with chapters by JOACHIM K. BAUTZE and KELLY ENRIGHT

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Rookmaaker, Kees. 2024. *The Rhinoceros of South Asia*. Leiden: Brill (Emergence of Natural History, vol. 6), pp. i-liv, 1-835.

With contributions by Joachim K. Bautze and Kelly Enright.

Total 67 chapters, 889 pages, 707 figures (often in colour), 38 maps, 75 tables, 82 datasets, bibliography with 3081 items, index.

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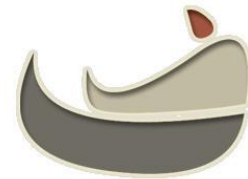
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NEW LITERATURE (finalized 30 May 2026)

In this past quarter (March to May 2026), we have added 477 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to **30,235**.

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Below I have listed all new entries since 2000 in four categories: General (all species), African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil rhinos.

Most additions are available on the website.

Search for them on the RRC, it's easy.

Always check the [RRC website](#) first, many papers are available there.

NEW GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

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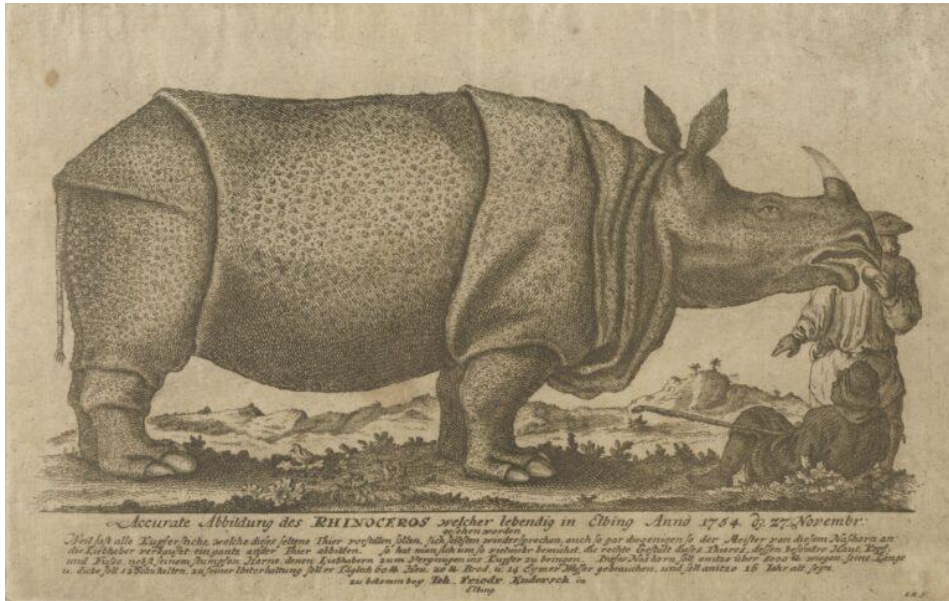
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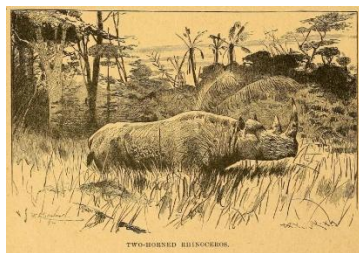
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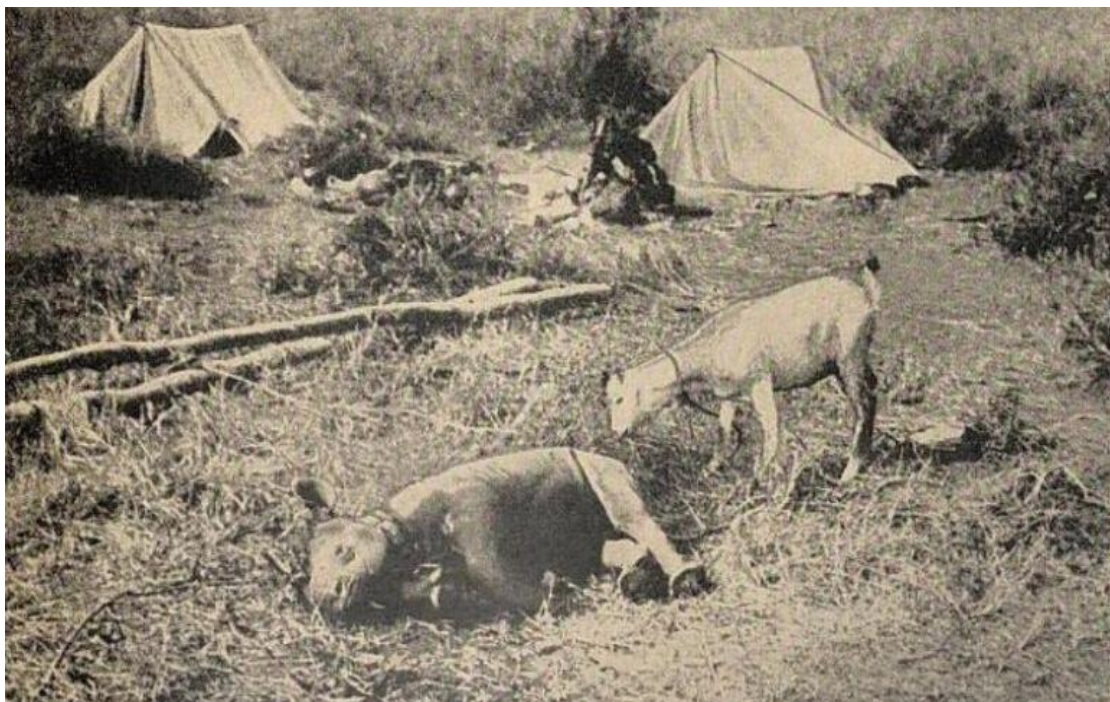


NEW PUBLICATIONS ON AFRICAN RHINOS

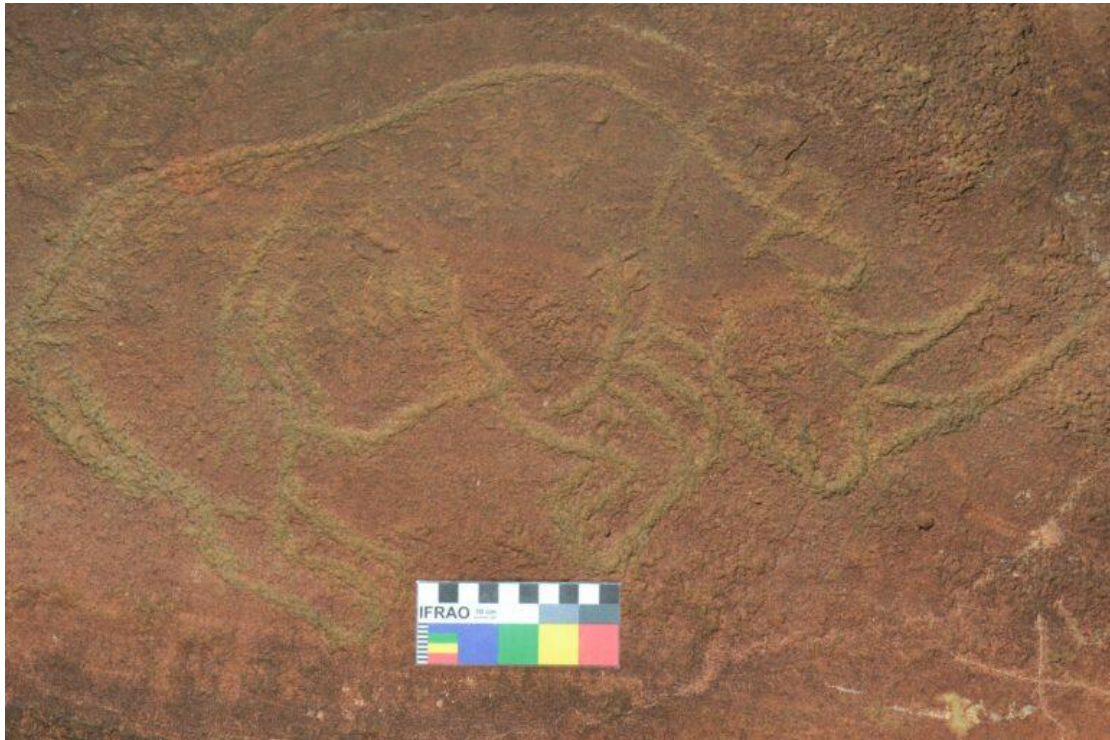
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Young female black rhinoceros. Photo taken soon after capture in 1903 by C.G. Schillings on the west side of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. She lived in Zoo Berlin 29 January 1904 to March 1908. From: Heck, L. 1904.



Petroglyph showing a two-horned rhinoceros, in a heritage site north of Klerksdorp, N.W. Province, South Africa. Photographed 2025. Courtesy Lynette Boardman. [Boardman, L.; Klerk, T. de; Lamprecht, A.; Yates, C. 2024.](#)

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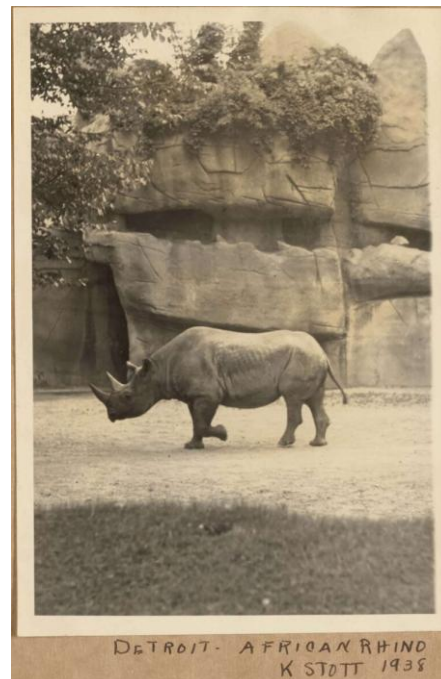
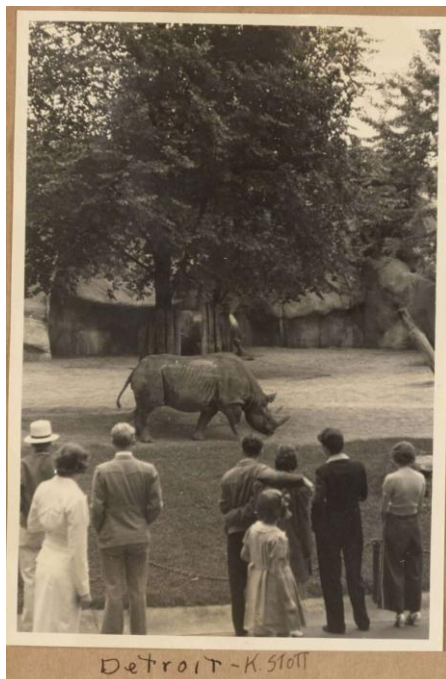
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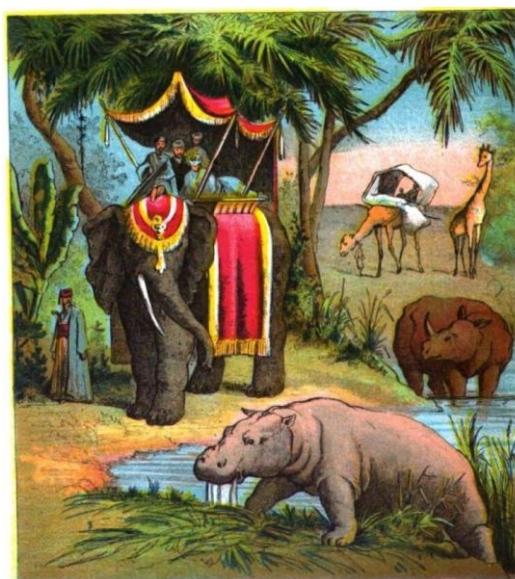
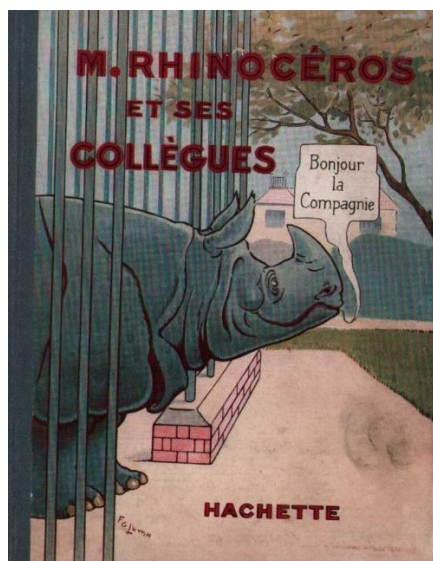
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Old India

- courtesy Joachim Bautze.

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NEW GERAADS FOSSIL RHINO DATABASE

Updated 27 April 2026.

The database is a major resource compiled by Denis Geraads (France) together with 22 international experts. It is a comprehensive catalogue of all known Neogene and Quaternary localities in the Old World that have yielded Rhinocerotidae fossils identified to at least genus level. The primary focus is geographic distribution rather than taxonomic revision.

<https://rhinoresourcecenter.com/collection/welcome-to-the-geraads-fossil-rhino-database/>

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