

Book reviews

Run Rhino Run

Esmond and Chrysee Bradley Martin
Chatto and Windus, £9.95

This is probably a unique book: the first, lavishly illustrated book dealing with a single aspect of the trade in wildlife. The photographs are excellent, not only adorning the text, but really adding to it. In their studies, the Bradley Martins have demonstrated how virtually all the parts of rhinos—not just horn, but urine, skin, hair, dung, blood, teeth etc.—are used in some form or other for a wide variety of purposes in traditional medicines. The aphrodisiac qualities famous to western man are only rarely encountered, though the *djambias*—middle eastern daggers—are still popular with virile Yemenis. According to the Bradley Martins, rhino horn *djambias* sell for up to \$12,000; however, recently one was auctioned in London and only fetched just over £600.



In their summary of the hopes for the future, the authors put a lot of emphasis on educating the Asians who provide the bulk of the market. However foolish the belief in the medicinal qualities of

rhino horn may seem to us, it is worth remembering that Spanish fly is still on sale in London's Soho, and that most newspapers and women's magazines (in the UK) carry horoscopes. . . . But these are matters of interpretation and the heart of this book is its wealth of excellent data presented in a highly readable form. Regular readers of *Oryx* will already be familiar with Esmond Bradley Martin's work, since it was in this journal that some of his original research was published. For the complete picture, covering all five species of rhino, this book is highly recommended.

John A. Burton

NB: Copies of 'Run Rhino Run' are available from ffPS at £11.55 (\$20.15) including p and p. Copies of a poster are also available free (please send large SAE)

Prince of Cats

Arjan Singh

Jonathan Cape, £8.50

This beautifully illustrated book will delight anyone interested in animal behaviour. In an earlier book, *Tiger Haven*, the author described his success in returning a young zoo-bred tiger to the wild. He now tells the story of a similar though even more difficult effort with leopards. From 1971 to 1978 he devoted his energies to the task with a single-mindedness which can only be described as phenomenal. His first subject was Prince, originally rescued from a back-street trader as a young cub. The obvious difficulty of rearing it without becoming hopelessly imprinted as a surrogate parent were tackled with great skill. On daily excursions into the surrounding forest the young leopard gradually learned to kill its own prey and after two years established a completely independent existence. It reappeared later to mate with Harriet, one of two orphaned cubs which the author had similarly reared to maturity. Two cubs were born in the wild from this mating and were carried back to the house by Harriet to escape the monsoon flooding. Another cub was born from a later mating with Prince. The leopards were constantly at risk from the local tigers, from poachers and from the villagers, who remained convinced that all leopards were extremely dangerous animals. Despite every

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