

V. *An Account of a Pair of very extraordinary large Horns found in Wapping some Years since, with a probable Account, whence they came, and to what Animal they belonged. By Sir Hans Sloane, Baronet, President of the Royal Society, and of the College of Physicians.*

Many Years since, Mr. Doyly, (who was a great searcher after Curiosities, and gave Name to a sort of Stuffs worn in Summer,) found a Pair of extraordinary large and strangely shaped Horns in a Cellar, or Warehouse, at *Wapping*, where they had suffered much by Worms and otherwise, being eaten pretty deep on their Surfaces, in many Places. They had lain there so long, that when he bought them, no body could inform him, either of the Country whence they came, or when, or how they had been lodged there. They resembled in several things the Horns of Goats, which made many People think, that they had belonged to an Animal of that kind, in all likelihood as large as the *Moose-Deer* in *America* is of its kind. The Royal Society being informed of this matter, Mr. *Hunt*, their Operator at that time, made a design of them, on which Dr. *Hook* read a Lecture at a Meeting of the Society at *Gresham-College*. This Lecture and the Design, are, I think, lost; but I remember, that he suspected them to be the Horns of the *Sukotyro*, as the *Chinese* call it,

it, or *Sucotario*, a very large and odd-shaped Beast, mentioned and figured by *Nieuhoff* in his *Voyages and Travels to the East-Indies* (a), where he gives the following Description of it: *It is of the Bigness of a large Ox, with a Snout like a Hog, two long rough Ears, and a thick bushy Tail. The Eyes are placed upright in the Head, quite different from other Beasts; on the side of the Head next to the Eyes stand two long Horns, or rather Teeth, not quite so thick, as those of the Elephant. It feeds upon Herbage, and is but seldom taken.* Many People thereupon went to see them at Mr. *Doyly's*, who was offered a considerable Sum of Money for them, but refused it, and after a very severe Sickness, wherein I attended him, very much, as he thought, to his Advantage, he made me a Present of them.

They are both almost streight for a considerable length, and then turning crooked, they run on tapering towards a small and pretty sharp end. They are not round, but compressed and flattish, and have large transverse *Sulci*, or Furrows on their Surfaces, waved or undulated on their under parts. They differ some small matter in largeness. Measuring one [Fig. 1.] from the great end, or *Basís*, A B, where it was fixed to the Head, along the outward Circumference, I found the length A C D to be six Feet, six Inches and a half, the length by the Line B D was four Feet $5\frac{1}{2}$ Inches, the Diameter of the *Basís* A B was $6\frac{1}{4}$ Inches and its Circumference one Foot five Inches. This weighed 21 Pounds, 10 Ounces, and contained in the hollow part exactly five quarts of Water. In the other [Fig. 2.] the length of the outward Circumference A C D was six feet four inches, the Line B D four feet seven in-

(a) P. 360. of the *English Edition*.

ches, the Diameter of the *Basis* seven inches, and its Circumference one foot six inches. This weighed 21 pound, 13 ounces and a half, and contain'd in the hollow part 4 quarts and a pint, but would have held more, if it had not been very much broke at the large end.

The Commander of an *East-India* Merchant Ship upon seeing them, told me, that he had seen such in the *Indies* on a large *Bufalo's* Head. I am inclined to think, that they must belong to a very large sort of Bulls or Cows, who are Natives of *Æthiopia*, and other of the midland Parts of *Africa*, and are mentioned by many of the Ancients, perhaps not without some fabulous Additions, though, which is strange, very few of the Modern Writers take any notice of them.

Agatharchides *, a *Cnidian* who flourished about the CL. *Olympiad*, near 200 Years before Christ, is the first

* This *Agatharchides* lived in the time of *Ptolemy Philometor*, and is mentioned by several of the Ancients, as an Historian, and a Philosopher of the Sect of the *Peripateticks*. Monsieur le Clerc (*Histoire de la Medecine*, p. 387.) ranks him among the Physicians of that time, though that was not properly his Profession; and the reason he gives for it is, because he described, in one of his Books, a Distemper which had not been taken notice of by *Hippocrates*, nor any other Physician before him. We are indebted for this Particular to *Plutarch* (*Symposiakōn Lib. VIII. Quæst. 9.*) who says, upon the Authority of *Agatharchides*, that the Nations about the Red Sea, amongst many strange Distempers, they are liable to, are troubled with a particular sort of Serpents, (or Worms,) which breed in the Legs and Arms, where they sometimes eat their way through, so as to skew their Head; but upon touching are apt to slide back, and creeping between the Interstices of the Muscles, occasion intolerable Inflammations. *Plutarch* adds, that this Distemper (which appears plainly to be the Guinea-Worm, or *Vena Medeni* of Arabian Writers, of which see my Natural History of *Jamaica*, Vol. I. p. 126. and Vol. II. p. 190, 326. and which is a Distemper still subsisting, as well among those very Nations, of which *Agatharchides* speaks, as among the Negroes upon the Coasts of *Guinea*, and the Inhabitants of several Parts of *Persia*) had not been observed any where else, neither before, nor since the time of this Historian.

first among the Ancients, who mentions and describes this large and voracious Bull; and it will appear by what follows, that most of the subsequent Writers have copied him. His Description of this Animal, in some Remains of his Treatise of the Red Sea, which are extant in *Photius's Bibliotheca*, (b) and were from thence printed in the *Geographiæ veteris Scriptores Græci minores*, published by Dr. Hudson, is, according to the Translation of *Laurentius Rhodomannus*, as follows, *De Tauro Carnivoro*. *Omnium, quæ adhuc commemoravi, immanissimum & maximè indomitum est Taurorum genus, quod carnes vorat, magnitudine crassus domesticis & pernecitate antecellens, insigniter rufum. Os ei ad aures usque deductum. Visus glauco colore magis rutilat quam Leoni. Cornua alias non secus atque aures movet, sed in pugna, ut firmo tenore consistant, facit. Ordo pilorum inversus, contra quam aliis animantibus. Bestias etiam validissimas aggreditur, & cæteras omnes venatur, maximèque greges incolarum infestos reddit malicio. Solum est lancea & arcu invulnerabile, quod in causa est, ut nemo id subigere, (quamvis multi id tentarint,) valuerit. Ideò rectè putatur, etiam à Troglodytis, fortitudine leonis, & velocitate equi, & robore Tauri præditum, ferroque cedere nescium. Diodorus Siculus (Biblioth. Lib. III.) hath barely, and almost Word for Word, transcribed *Agatharchides*, and hath added only the following Particulars; that the Eyes of this Animal are shining at Night; that after it hath killed other Beasts, it devours them, and that, in its Attacks upon Flocks of Cattle, it is not to be terrified, either by the Strength of the Shepherds, or the great Number of Dogs. The following short Passage*

(b) P. 1364. Cap. XXXIX.

relating to this same Animal is taken out of *Strabo* (c). *Sunt & ibidem* (in Arabia) *tauri feri, ac qui carnem edant, nostros & magnitudine & celeritate longè exsuperantes, colore ruffo.* *Pliny, Histor. Nat. Lib. VIII. C. XXI.* seems likewise to have copied *Agatharchides*: His Words are, *Sed atrocissimos habet (Æthiopia) Tauros Sylvestres, majores agrestibus, velocitate ante omnes, colore fulvos, oculis cæruleis, pilo in contrarium verso, rictu ad aures dehiscente, juxta cornua mobilia, tergori duritia filicis, omne respuens vulnus. Feras omnes venantur: Ipsi non aliter, quam foveis capti, feritate semper intereunt.* In the XLV Chapter of the said 8th Book of *Pliny's* Natural History, he mentions a sort of Indian Oxen, *Boves Indici, quibus Camelorum altitudo traditur, cornua in latitudinem quaternorum pedum.* It is not unlikely, but that these Indian Oxen are the same with the *Æthiopian* ones above described; especially if we suppose, that the Transcribers of *Pliny* have, by mistake wrote *latitudinem* instead of *altitudinem*. *Solinus* (d) hath barely copied *Pliny*, with this difference only, that he calls them *Indicos Tauros*, whereas *Pliny* himself hath described them amongst the *Æthiopian* Beasts, which might very well happen, *Æthiopia* being reckoned, by some of the Antients, as part of *India*. The description of *Ælianus* (e) agrees perfectly with that of *Agatharchides*, of whom, it seems, he also borrowed it; only he fixes the Size of these extraordinary Oxen to twice the Bigness of the common *Grecian* Ox. There is another Passage in *Ælianus* (f), which seems to relate, both to this large

(c) *Geogr. Lib. XVI. p. 775. Edit. Casaubon.*

(d) *Polyhistoris Cap. L. II. p. 58. Edit. Salm.*

(e) *Hist. Animal Lib. XVII. c. 4.*

(f) *Hist. Animal Lib. III. c. 34*

kind of *Æthiopian Oxen*, and the Horns, now in my possession. His Words are, *Ptolomæo secundo ex India cornu allatum ferunt, quod tres amphoras caperet : Unde conjicere possumus bovem illum, à quo ejusmodi tantum cornu extitisset, maximum fuisse.* Ludolfus, in his *Historia Æthiopica*, (g) speaking of the large *Ethiopian Oxen*, conjectures, that they are the *Taurelephantes*, which *Philostorgius*, a *Cappadocian*, says, (h) were brought to *Constantinople* in his time, where he saw them. The Words of *Philostorgius*, as transcribed by *Ludolf* in his *Commentarius ad Historiam suam Æthiopicam* (i), are, *Habet & Terraila maximos & vastissimos Elephas; imo & Taurelephantes, ut vocantur, quorum genus quoad cætera omnia bos maximus est, corio verò coloreque elephas, & fermè etiam magnitudine.*

From all these several Writers it appears, that there is in *Æthiopia* (and probably the midland parts of *Africa*, where Travellers seldom come) a very large Animal of the *bovinum* genus, at least twice as big as our Bulls or Oxen, with Horns proportionably large, but otherwise differing from them in many respects. It is true, that in the accounts of uncommon things, given by antient Writers, an allowance must sometimes be made for something fabulous mix'd with what is true, which is the less surprizing, as they had many things only by hear-say: but as to this large sort of Bulls, it is confirmed by modern Writers, that there is such an Animal in those Countries, though there is none, I know of, that hath given a description of it in the least satisfactory. *Ludolf* in

(g) Lib. i. c. 10.

(h) Lib. III. c. II.

(i) P. 145.

his *Historia Æthiopica*, (k) says, that there are in Æthiopia Bulls of an uncommon size, twice as large as those in Hungary and Russia; and that having shewn some of the largest Oxen in Germany to Gregory, an Abissynian (from whose Writings and informations he collected the Materials for that Work) he said, they were but of a middling size. The Letters of the Jesuits frequently mention the largeness of these Oxen, and the said Ludolf cites the following passage out of a Letter of Alphonfus Mendezius, Patriarch of Æthiopia, dated June 1, 1626. *Buoi grandissimi, di corna smisuratamente grosse é lunghe, talmente, che nella corna di ciascuno di esse potea capire un otre piccolo di vino*: that is, very large Oxen, with vastly thick and long Horns, one of which would contain a ^{small} Uter of Wine. F Bernier, in his account of the Great Mogul's Country, (m) says, that among many Presents, which two Æthiopian Ambassadors should have presented to Aurengzeb there was a prodigious large Horn of a Bull, full of Civet, which having been measured by him, he found the Basis, or large end, to be half a foot in Diameter. This Horn, as Bernier farther observes, was brought by the Ambassadors to Dehli, the place of Residence of the Great Mogul; but it was not presented to him, because, being distrest'd for Money, they had sold the Civet out of it, long before they came thither.

Upon the whole, it seems to me, that these Horns, and likewise that mentioned by Bernier, are the Horns of a large sort of Bulls or Cows, in Æthiopia, and the

(k) Lib. I. c. 10.

(l) Comment. in Hist. Æthiop. p. 145.

(m) Tome. II. p. 43.

inward parts of *Africa*, which, in all likelihood, is the same with that described by *Agatharchides*, *Pliny*, and those other ancient Writers mention'd above. But I cannot as yet, for want of a more accurate description, be certain, whither it is the same with the *Sukotorio*, or *Sukotyro* of *Nieuhof* ⁿ, though there is a good deal of reason to think, that it is. *Gessner* (o) speaks of a very large Horn, which was hung by a Chain to a Pillar in the *Minster*, or Cathedral, of *Strasburgh*, and which is not unlikely to be of the same sort with these. He says, that being measured along the outward circumference, it was found to be four *Roman Yards* long, and he conjectures it to have been the Horn of a large old *Urus*, which was hung up there, for its monstrous size, perhaps two or three hundred Years before his time. As to these, which are now produced before the *Royal Society*, 'tis very likely, that when the *English* had a great Commerce at *Ormus*, they were brought thither from some neighbouring Country, and afterwards carried over into *England* by some curious Person.

(n) *Loc. supra citato.*

(o) *Icones Animal. Quadrup. Edit. 2d. Tigur. 1560. p. 34.*