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Thomas Pennant
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History of Quadrupeds

Thomas Pennant (1726-98) was a keen geologist, naturalist and antiquary, who wrote a number of successful travel books about the British Isles as well as works on science. Linnaeus supported his election to the Royal Swedish Society of Sciences in 1757, and in 1767 he became a Fellow of the Royal Society. His work in zoology also earned him an honorary degree. His *History of Quadrupeds* (1793), aimed to promote natural history among a wider readership, originated in an informal index to John Ray's *Synopsis* of 1693. In his preface, Pennant acknowledges the monumental *Histoire naturelle* by the Comte de Buffon, as well as works by Klein (1751), Brisson (1756), and particularly the work of Linnaeus, though Pennant strongly disagreed with Linnaeus's classification of primates as including humans with apes. Pennant's two-volume book, beautifully illustrated with over 100 engravings, provides an accessible overview of the state of zoological classification at the end of the eighteenth century. Charles Darwin owned a copy and had it sent to him in South America during the *Beagle* voyage.

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History of Quadrupeds

VOLUME 2

THOMAS PENNANT



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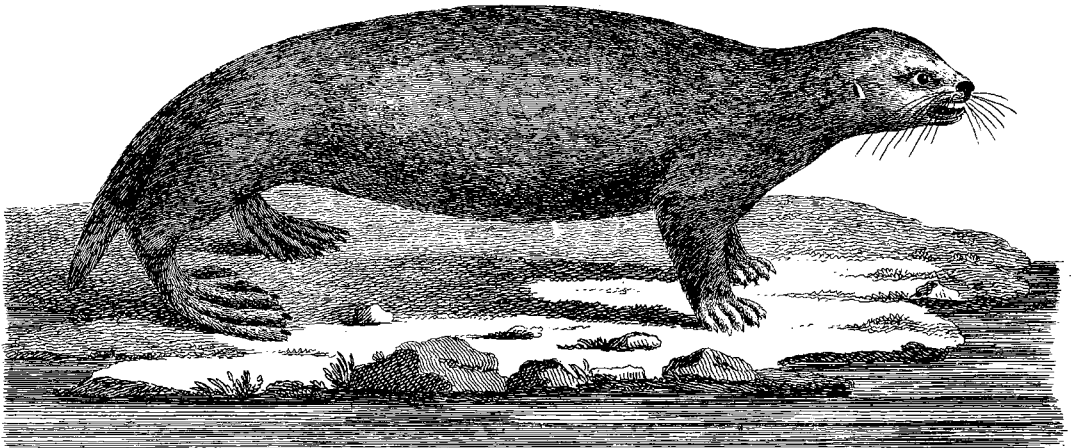
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