



# SPIKE IN BEWITCHING

## Opinion: Rare Rhino Resonates



Image: De Rhinocrote, Gessner, Conrad. 1551. Conradi Gesneri medici Tigurini Historiae animalium Lib. I. de quadrupedibus uiuiparis. Liber 1-2, Tiguri : Apud Christ. Froschouerum.

Over 500 years ago, German artist Albrecht Dürer made a woodcut of a rhinoceros without ever having seen one in real life. His picture was based on a quick sketch of an Indian rhinoceros by an unknown artist as well as stories he had heard from explorers who told him what they had seen.

While his image had some pretty major inaccuracies, it became very popular in Europe and the rest of the world. It was even printed in science textbooks for more than 300 years. His drawing was the only picture of a rhinoceros that many people ever saw. It has been said that probably no animal picture has ever had such a big influence on the arts.

This story from history depicts how necessary the practices of careful research, source comparison, and fact checking are in the spreading of information.

-Wiz Snailflute, Reference Librarian with the Ministry of International Archives and Historical Collections.



## Local Author's Tome Sheds Light in Dark Time

Since late August, beloved potions professor Hubris Snipe has been housed in St. Mango's Home For Wonky Wizards due to insisting on speaking in incomprehensible utterances, repeating the same phrase over and over. Officials have been quite unable to make sense of the situation, but it seems that help may have been under our noses the whole time. Local biohistorian Gregorio Normovich is long famed for his lengthy exploration of spells, The Gregarious and Non-Normative Book of Potions.Sources at the Ministry suggested in a statement that the use of Normavich's text will certainly be considered. It's just a matter of time.

His book, which has become required reading in nationwide wizardry schools, contains thoroughly researched and verified histories and recipes for Codice Coactio and Latens Loquella; the two are among the list of Spells of Interest in the ongoing search for a cure. Interestingly, the two share the same antidote an ancient elixir called Furtivus Frango. Codice Coactio is a forbidden ancient spell. It compels the bewitched to carry out given commands immediately upon hearing or seeing the phrase, and with no recollection. When the words are spoken upon a person, they remain susceptible to its power indefinitely. Latens Loquella, though not forbidden, is certainly controversial in its use. It has also fallen out of the mainstream and has been relatively obscure for the last nine or so centuries. This code scrambles the speech and turns it into code.

Normavich is also known for his extensive Latin translations of common plants used in spells and potions: <https://library.si.edu/verifiedlatintranslations>

## A Cite for Sore Eyes



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