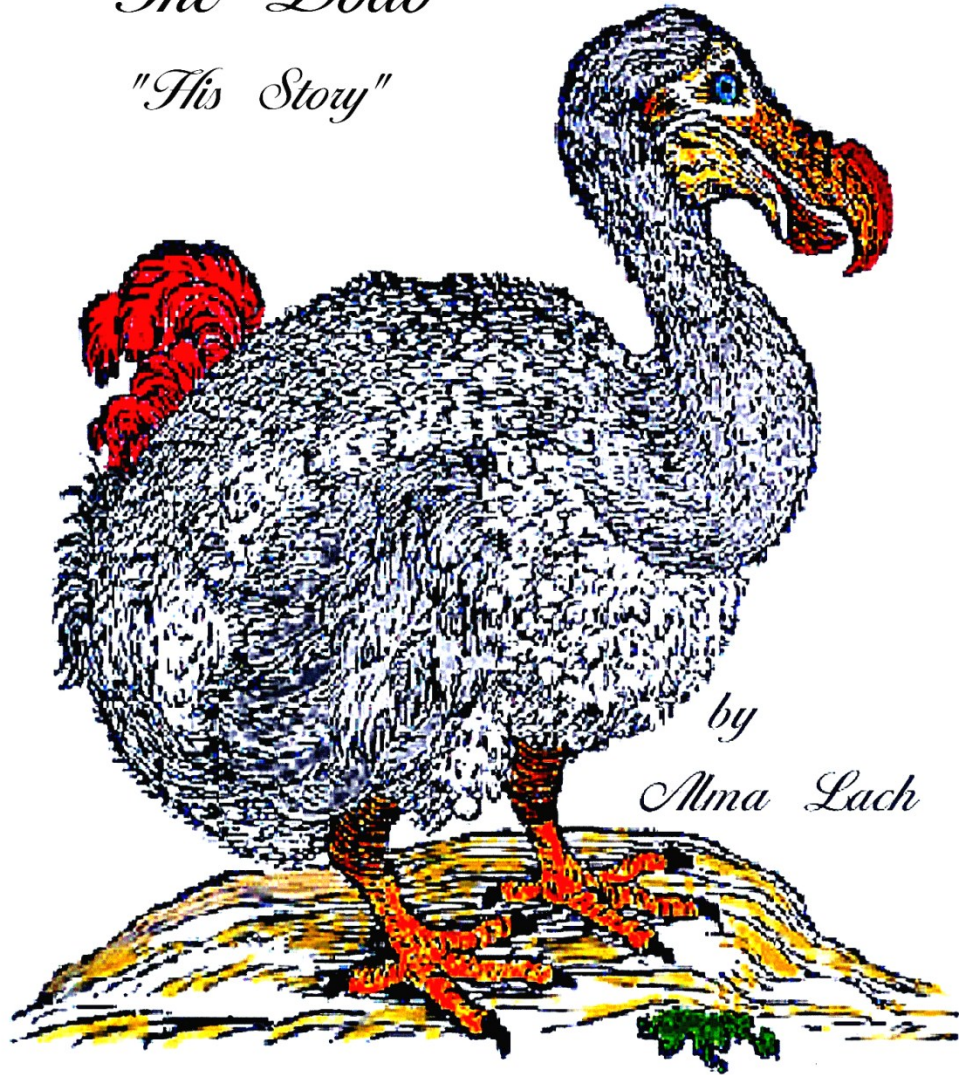


The Dodo

"His Story"



by
Alma Lach

The DODO
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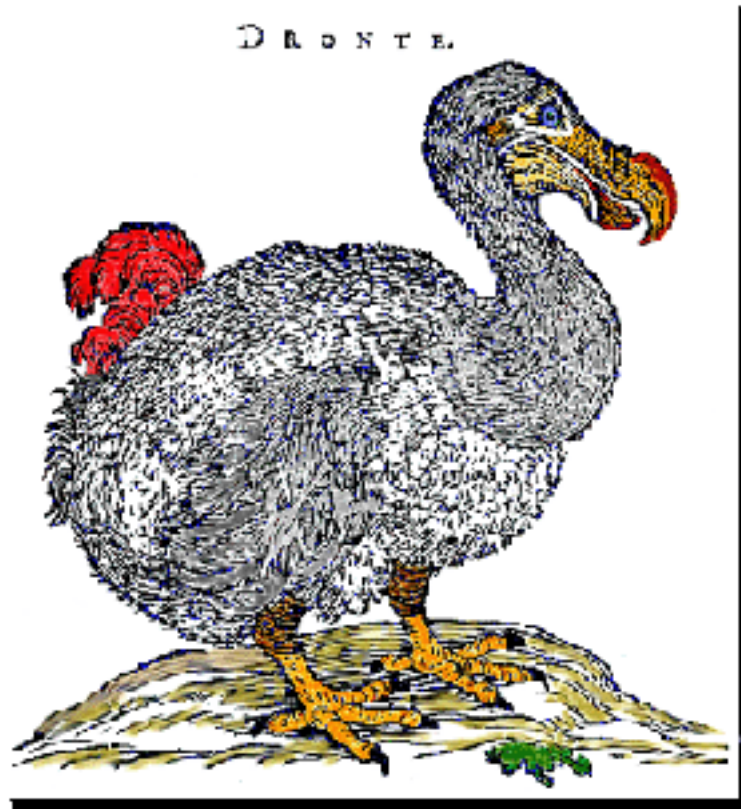
You met The Dodo as the organizer of the caucus-race when you read [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#). Remember this picture where he hands Alice her prize of a [thimble](#)?



Credit: [Wikipedia](#). Art of John Tenniel, from [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#), Lewis Carroll, 1865.

Now, let me tell you "His Story."

Over three hundred years ago this awkward-looking bird called "[Dodo](#)" lived on the peaceful little Island of Mauritius ([link](#) to map).



The Dodo. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Mauritius Island was volcanic and set in the middle of the Indian Ocean, several hundred miles east of Madagascar. Soft winds off the ocean kept the air clean and fresh. Rolling waves bathed the white sandy beaches leaving pebbles, fresh ocean vegetation, and strange flotsam. In Dodo's time he roamed freely among the exotic plants and trees--there were no humans or other predators--only plants, animals and birds--beautiful birds!

Dodo was not one of the beautiful ones. He had a clump of funny tail feathers artists would paint in hopes of brightening his otherwise drab plumage and clusters of heavy, coarse feathers covering his tiny, useless wings. His beak might have been orange, hooked at the end and much too big for the rest of him. His legs grew on the back-end of his body, which made him front-end heavy

To keep his balance and walk with dignity he held his head high and pulled back. It was a kind of a "goose stance," which is fine for a goose with webbed feet, but Dodo's skinny toes made walking difficult over the sand and over the terrain of Mauritius. He waddled and stumbled around the Island with his friends.

Dodo's best friend was "Patty" Parakeet. She was beautiful with colorful feathers cascading down her back into a long tapering tail. In flight she looked like a rainbow. When Patty was with Dodo, she kind of hop-flew as Dodo stumbled his way along. Her voice was musical, and she sang a lot, while Dodo's voice was a kind of goggle-grunt-ugh-sound. Patty usually did the talking--Dodo did the thinking .

They were in no way alike--except in their liking for each other!

To see them together
Some said 'twas sad,
Patty so beautiful
Dodo so drab!

D. PSITTACO BONTIUS.



Patty the Parakeet. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

STROLLING THE BEACH

Dodo and Patty spent hours on the beach. Patty nibbled at the fresh, crisp seaweed, while Dodo scooped up pebbles with his long beak to add to his gizzard. Like most fowl, Dodo did not have teeth to chew his food before swallowing. His over-sized gizzard-tummy, once filled with pebbles and sometimes even with rocks, would grind and chew his food. Once his gizzard was full of stones, he then dined on ripe berries and choice pips of the [Calvaria Major](#) trees. The trees gave life to Dodo, and he unknowingly gave life to the trees.

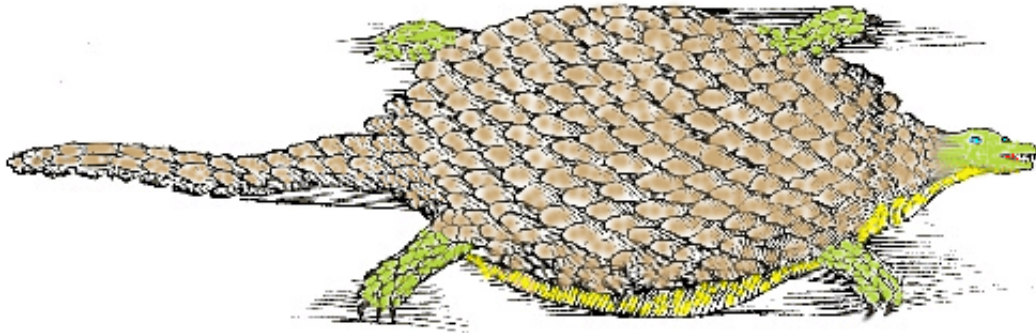
Patty and Dodo were without a worry as they ate and talked their way along the sea. Bumping into a huge rock reminded them of their friend Tony the Tortoise, whom they had not seen for a while. "Let's find him," said Patty, and the search began. Tony's home was the shell he carried on his back. Therefore, he was hard to find since he was always moving, and when he did settle down, he often looked like a rock.

In their search they ran into Flappy, the flying dragon with the long, twirly tail. Patty chirped, "we're looking for Tony, want to join us?" "Sure," Flappy responded in his deep Dragon voice, "it's too nice a day to do nothing!"



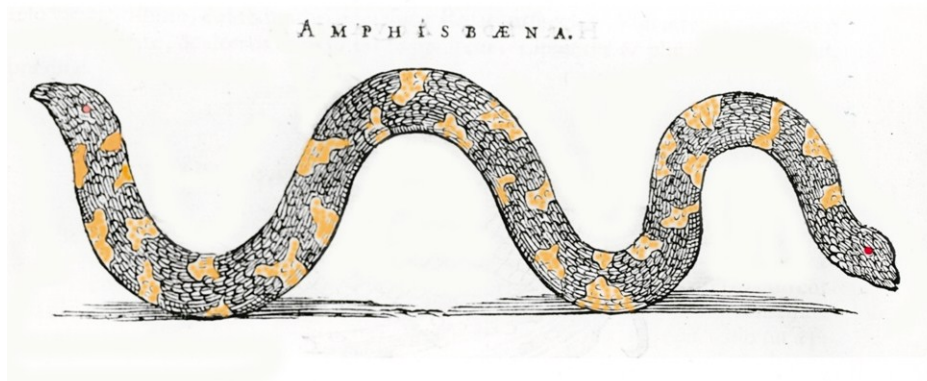
Flappy the Flying Dragon. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

T E S T U D O S Q Y A M A T A, *Tamach* D I C I A.



Tony the Tortoise. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Finally the three found Tony secluded in the shade of a big boulder; with him was Jasper, the two-headed snake, who could carry on two conversations at the same time. He could even eat and talk at the same time without being scolded by his mom!



Jasper the two-headed snake. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Jasper greeted his friends with a quick "hello" out of his left mouth while his right mouth hissed about the strange and funny sight he had seen on the sea's horizon. Tony, without even saying "hello" to his friends, said, "come on, let's go see what Jasper is hissing about!"

Jasper humped along on the ground at the head of the parade. But Patty, in flight, took the lead. She screeched excitedly back to them--"hurry, wait until you see it--a big sheet that looks like Flappy's wing--but white like the clouds! Come on, hurry," she impatiently commanded as her friends lumbered across the beach. "You're always slow," she added, "and I'm always waiting!"

Dodo in his usual clumsy fashion tripped over an insignificant flat white rock. Jasper, since he had two heads, saw what had happened, so he just backed-up and helped Dodo to his feet. Jasper kept hissing that he couldn't see a thing, when all of a sudden they heard strange noises coming from the ship. Two-legged creatures in big black hats were pointing toward shore while exclaiming, "What funny looking animals! Are they real? Are they alive? Let's go see!" ordered the biggest one.

The first of these strange creatures to hit the beach was called Hans. He immediately noticed Dodo. "What kind of a bird are you? You look like a swan, but your feathers are dark and your neck is short. Maybe you're a turkey, but you have no wings. What do you call yourself? If you're a bird, why don't you have wings--how can you fly without wings?"

Patty Parakeet was the talker for the group. "Dodo is my best friend; these are all my friends, and we live here. This is our home--but who are you? Why do you come here? What do you want?"

"We are Dutch sailors, and we come from [Holland](#). We have been sailing for weeks on the high seas, and we have run out of fresh fruits and water to drink. Hopefully, you can help us," said the sailor called Hans.

During this conversation Dodo began pecking away at Hans' funny looking wooden shoes. When the sailor fell over laughing, Dodo was startled. He walked up close to the fallen Dutchman for a better look. Hans stopped giggling, opened his eyes and Dodo asked, "I'm sorry, did I hurt you?" "No," laughed Hans, "your pecking tickled my feet and when I'm tickled, I laugh!" Hans got up, put a friendly hand out to Dodo and they left in search of berries and water.

The other sailors stood laughing at Dodo's awkward appearance and lop-sided way of walking. Hans and Dodo were a funny looking pair. But Hans, eager not to offend his new friend said, "don't worry about them--the world is full of things that ignorant fellows will laugh at."

Hans and Dodo gathered nuts and berries and then filled the water jugs. Together they loaded the strange vessel with the white sail. Dodo enjoyed being with Hans and watched in awe as the huge sail was hoisted straight up from the deck by sailors pulling on ropes. Then, all of a sudden, without any warning, a strong wind blew off the island, the sail inflated, and the ship headed out into the open sea. Some sailors were left behind. Dodo, with a tiny wing, waved good-bye to his friends on the island. But not to Patty Parakeet. She took to the air, and with the help of an off-shore breeze joined Dodo aboard ship.

Patty the Parakeet
Dodo's constant companion
Spoke "Dodo" on Mauritius
But "Dutch" on the [Galleon!](#)

DODO GOES EAST

Dodo and his friends sailed eastward from Mauritius to the far side of the Indian Ocean. The voyage was long and lonely. Dodo missed his family and friends. After many days on the water they arrived at an island called [Java](#) (follow Dodo and Hans through the Indian Ocean to Java by navigating on the map [link](#)). The dock was busy with men--and all in the same black hat and wooden shoes like those Hans wore. "Are they all relatives?" mused Dodo; and then he noticed many different animals and birds, ones he had never seen before. Dodo was full of questions.

"Hans," asked Dodo, "why do all these men dress like you? Are they all your relatives? And, tell me about these funny looking animals--and why did you call my friend Tony a Turtle when he's a [Tortoise](#)?"

"So many questions, Dodo," responded Hans. "No, these men are not my relatives. They are my countrymen who have moved here from Holland. Java is now their home, and they help unload and load the ship. Just as you did on Mauritius. Look, here comes the Rhinoceros Bird!"

"These animals are no funnier looking than you are!" continued Hans, somewhat irritated. They are just different. This is where they live--Java is their home--just as Mauritius is yours. They greet me when I come, and they hope for Dutch food treats. Watch, I'll toss this [Edam](#) (cheese) to him -- you know he looks like you--maybe he is your relative!"

"I don't think so; he's more like a duck," responded Dodo. "And that," said Hans pointing into a tree, "is the delicious, edible Indian Quail, rarely found here any longer. I guess we've eaten too many." Dodo pondered that remark for a very long time--"they eat birds?"



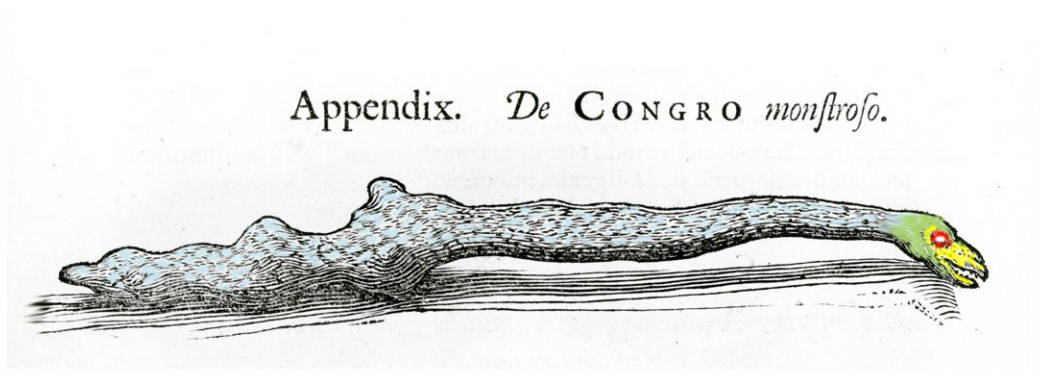
The Rhinoceros Bird. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.



The Indian Quail. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

As Dodo thought about the quail, the Montrose Sea-eel slished his way along the edge of the water, and Hans pointed him out.

Dodo thought he might possibly be a one-headed relative of Jasper. But Dodo did not have time to think much about him because the big pile of pebbles on the beach began to move toward the ship. "Look," screamed Dodo, "it moves!" "That's the Scaly Lizard," replied Hans.

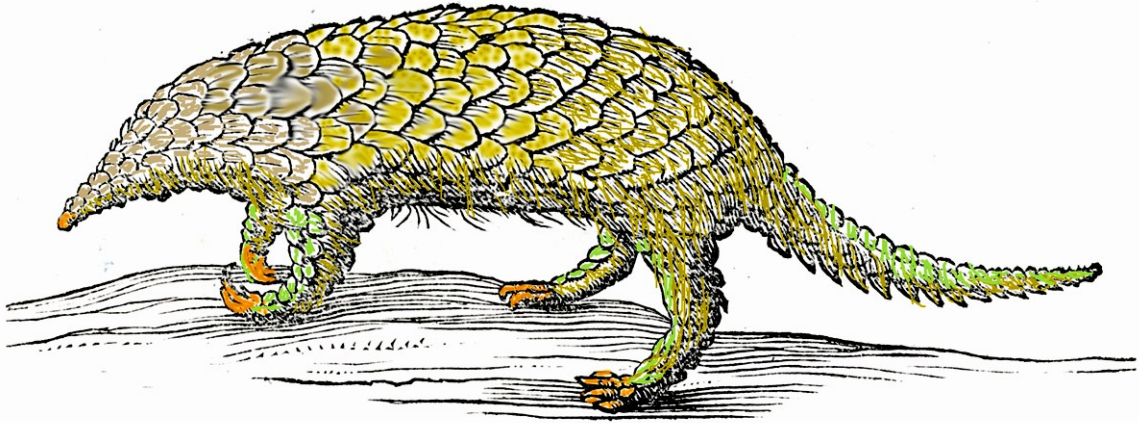


The Montrose Sea-eel. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Dodo especially liked his textured legs but could not find his eyes. "How can he see if he has no eyes?" asked Dodo. "Oh, he's got eyes, and he sees you, that's why he got up." Hans jokingly added, "he wants a better look at the silly looking bird aboard my ship." Hans went on, "The people in China dry the Lizard's scales and use them as medicine." "Medicines," said Dodo, "what are medicines?"

"Let me answer some of your other questions, first" remarked Hans. "Not all sailors wear wooden shoes--only Dutch sailors. We wear them out of doors and then leave them outside when we go inside. They are easy to slip in and out of. With so much water around us, wooden shoes help to keep our houses and cabins clean and dry. I don't know why we wear black hats--maybe because we don't have feathers--like you! Or, maybe it is just another custom--like wooden shoes."

L A C E R T V S S Q U A M O S V S .



The Scaly Lizard. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Hans paused for a bit before answering Dodo's query about Tony. "Why I called Tony a turtle instead of a tortoise is easy. While they may look alike, their living conditions are very different. Tortoises live mainly on land, while turtles enjoy water. With so much water in Holland, we mainly have turtles and no tortoises. With so much water around your Island home, I thought Tony was a Turtle! Who knows, maybe he is! Both are members of the [Chelonia](#) (order) family and both have soft bodies encased in a hard shell with four feet and a head that can pull back into the shell. We think of their shell as, 'moveable shelter,' and also their protection. But if Tony wants to be a tortoise, I'm sorry I called him a turtle."

"Dodo," Hans noted, "you have many fine questions! Soon, however, you will realize there is a reason for almost everything, even if you don't know what it is at the time. It's all so new and strange to you," said Hans, "it is your

first trip away from home. Maybe you're just a bit homesick. Come on, let's go ashore and see what we can find."

They bought beautiful textiles: silks for the women and cottons for the men. Food specialties included spices and especially peppercorns. They would be used in exchange for goods found on the other islands Hans planned to visit.



Credit: Peppercorn photograph by the author.

Every day they shopped. Dodo was beginning now to understand what it was his new friend did, and Dodo found shopping and sightseeing exciting. The market with its beautiful fruits brought more questions from Dodo. He had never seen colors like these and "people eat them," he asked..."and

what do they taste like?" "You'll see, you'll eat them on the ship," replied Hans.



Credit: Photograph by the author of an Asian marketplace.

The water jugs were filled and they were ready to lift anchor. Hans observed that Dodo seemed less lonely and was excited as the threesome from Mauritius set sail from the dock at Java.

A VISIT TO THE ISLAND OF BALI

They arrived at the dock in [Bali](#) early in the morning on a day bright with sunshine (find Bali on the map [link](#)). The thick shade of the [mango](#) trees protected the merchants selling textiles. From the shore to the fringe of the wooded hills luxuriant [rice fields](#) stretched before them. The rice beds made interesting patterns, since they were arranged at different levels so they could be watered from the streams off the mountains. Hans tried to explain this seemingly complicated irrigation system to Dodo.



Credit: [Wikipedia](#) image, Doron.

Dodo's focus, however, was on the animals that were approaching. "Look," screamed Dodo. "Yes," said Hans, "They always seem to know when I'm coming, or maybe they are always here, I don't know, but they too want to be fed. Sometimes they eat our cheeses and sometimes they play with them; you'll see!"

First to stroll along was the prickly Indian Porcupine with a long, snaky tail. Hans cautioned Dodo not to touch the Porcupine's coat: "it's made of sharp needles that can poke right through your feathers!"



The Porcupine of Bali. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Then swimming along the shore came the frightening Crocodile. He had a mouthful of teeth and sharp spikes along the top of his tail. "He looks ferocious; is he?" asked Dodo.



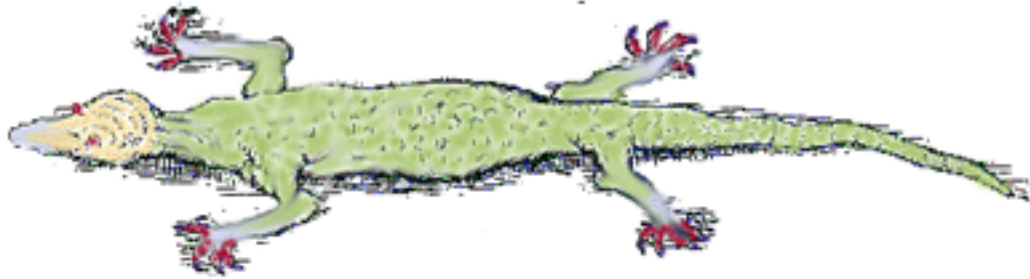
The Crocodile of Bali. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

"Only if you bother him when he is eating. Keep your distance--watch him catch this Edam cheese, and notice his tongue when he opens his mouth. It's not what you expect in a tongue. His is anchored, all along the underside, to his jaw. His tongue is different because he lives much of his time in the water and he can control the air intake when he breathes so water doesn't go into his lungs. He's the only animal I know with a tongue like that! He can't stick it out at you!"

"Funny," said Dodo, "a big cavernous mouth and no real tongue. How does he swallow?" In one big gulp down went the Edam; then the crocodile burped, a big comforting burp with his mouth wide open, and lumbered off for a nap.

Dodo chuckled, Hans laughed; then the tiniest of the island creatures lay stretched out on a branch. "Oh," exclaimed Hans, "there is a [chameleon](#); they are never more than six inches long and hard to find. I call her Camilla. She has long toes so she can cling to branches, and she runs like lightning!"

SALAMANDRA INDICA.



Camilla the Chameleon. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Hans continued, "she is a lot like Patty in that she is colorful, but, unlike Patty, she can change her colors at any time to match her surroundings. That is her protection. It makes her hard to find. She always seems to play hide-and-seek with me, and I seldom see her. I'm happy she came along for you to see."

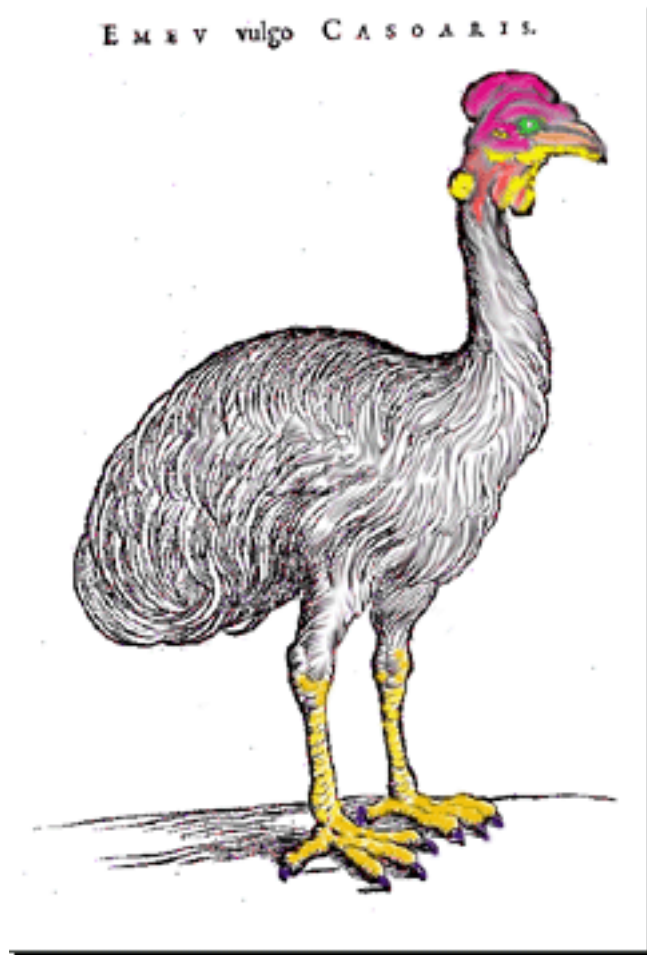
"Now," said Hans, "we must stop playing with animals and do our shopping. We need great quantities of rice; that is our main purchase here." Dodo learned about "barter," how to trade one commodity for another. He marveled at Hans and the way he exchanged the black pepper of Java for the beautiful long white-grained rice of Bali. Then, once the rice was aboard ship, they shopped for cotton materials and trinkets.

Bali was fun. Dodo's Island of Mauritius had no humans until Hans came with his funny wooden shoes, so you can imagine how excited Dodo was to see women, beautiful women in colorful dresses! The trading and buying trip was over and it was time to leave Bali and sail to the [Spice Islands](#) (navigate on this [link](#)).

A VISIT TO THE ISLAND OF CERAM

A visit to Ceram (or, “Seram”--find it on the map [link](#) and navigate to it on this [link](#)) was essential for their everyday needs, but anchorage was always difficult because of [Coral Reefs](#). Fortunately they arrived on an incoming [tide](#), so had no problem.

Once ashore Hans ordered supplies put aboard ship; then he and Dodo headed for the mountains in search of fruits and berries. Patty had disappeared. They climbed through dense undergrowth, then sat down to rest.



Doctor Frank. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

From their vantage point they spotted a tall Grey bird with long legs, a neck equally as long as his legs and topped with a shiny red head of skin. He had no wings, but he ran as fast as an ostrich. He approached the two. "This is the [Emu](#)," volunteered Hans.

"They live only on this island, and I have never seen one before in his natural habitat. We have them in our Botanical Gardens in Holland, but there they are not free. We're lucky to see him in his natural environment."

Dodo mused. "He's a lot like me. He lives on only one island, he's a bird without wings, he can't fly, and he's drab. But, he can run and I can't and he's tall and I'm not. I guess we're not alike. What is your name and what do you do," asked Dodo? With dignity the Emu responded, "I'm called Dr. Frank." "You're a bird Doctor, I was once called "Doc"--maybe we are alike," said Dodo.

Dr. Frank ignored the comment and continued, "I work here with the men and on neighboring Banda, known to us as the nutmeg island (find it on the map [link](#) and navigate to it on this [link](#)). There are also some [nutmeg trees](#) here; you're standing under one." Dr. Frank stretched his long neck and pecked off a nutmeg. "Here, try one," he commanded.

Dodo pecked at it--"it tastes funny," he said. "Sure it does," replied Hans. "You don't eat the outside, it has to be removed. It's a lot like eating a pip from the Calvaria Major Trees. The bark has to be removed to get to the inside! "

"Here," said Dr. Frank, "I'll get you another one. Nutmegs are a spice with many different parts. First, we take off the bark area. Once that is off we let it dry, then we have a lacy brown netting, that is called Mace and once that is removed we have the nutmeg. Now, taste it," ordered the nutmeg specialist.

"Oh--I don't like it" and Dodo spit it out. "Here, try the Mace," said Dr. Frank. Dodo tasted again, "I still don't like it--either one!" "Well," snapped Dr. Frank, "you're not supposed to--Nutmeg and Mace are used in cooking!"



Credit: Photograph of nutmeg by the author.

"But, you will," chirped Patty
Perched high in the tree
"I'm picking green nutmegs
To take out to sea."

"I will?" a surprised Dodo responded, "is that you Patty, and where have you been?" "I've been eating nutmegs. Parakeets and Parrots love green nutmegs, and,

You'll love my
Green Nutmeg jam
I'll make with these
We pick on Ceram.

Before Dodo could respond to Patty up in the tree, Dr. Frank queried Dodo, "and what do you do?" "Oh, I sail from island to island helping Hans. Soon we will go back to my island home. I live on Mauritius. Why don't you come along--you could visit my island and then come back with Hans on his next trip. I'll ask Hans"--and Dodo did.

"Great," replied Hans and jokingly he added, "now you'll have an Emu as well as a parakeet to teach you Dutch!"

Thunder in the distance warned them of an approaching storm. They hurried off the mountain and back to the safety of the ship.

DODO SAILS HOME

Dock workers had loaded the ship, and the storm passed out to sea. Patty's favorite green nutmegs were given special care by the nutmeg specialist--Dr. Frank. On an out-going tide the anchor was lifted, and the ship cleared the coral reefs. Dodo and his friends sailed westward toward Mauritius (retrace Dodo's trip home: [link](#)). Dodo was anxious to get home.

Early one morning, just at daybreak, the mountains of Mauritius came into view. Dodo was bubbling over with excitement. Did his friends on the island see the ship with the big white sail coming over the horizon? Will they be waiting for me on the beach? Have I changed? The ship dropped anchor and Dodo stopped dreaming. He was home!

Dodo rushed, as much as he could rush, from the ship with Dr. Frank right behind on his claw heels. Not a single Dodo was on the beach! "Where are my friends and family" cried Dodo? He picked up a pip from the Calvaria Major tree and nearly choked when a big Dutchman in wooden shoes yelled, "I thought you were all supposed to be dead!" (Related cartoon at this [link](#)).

Dutchmen and oinking pigs were everywhere. Dodo stumbled back to Hans who scared them away. Dr. Frank, always protective, took four long steps to Dodo's side. Hans picked up Dodo and sat him on the Emu's back. As for Patty, she was screaming like a [Magpie](#) and decided Dr. Frank's back was a pretty good spot, so she joined Dodo. Oinking pigs are frightening, even if you can fly!



Dr. Frank, Dodo, and Patty. Source: Bontius. Credit: Based on photographs by the author of original black and white line drawings in Bontius. Color added by the author. John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.

Dodo had a hard time keeping his balance. His feet sank into the feathers and he was constantly tipping back and forth. Patty just clung to Dr. Frank's feathers, as if they were twigs, and continued to scream! Hans was baffled, Dodo was babbling, and only Dr. Frank remained calm.

Finally Hans said, "I don't know--I'll take the three of you back to the ship and then return to the island for answers." As they left the island Dodo kept babbling, "pigs everywhere--and where is my family? Where are my friends?" Tiny Dodo tears streaked down his feathered cheeks. Through his sobbing he kept asking, "What has happened to my family, my friends, and my home?"

Back on Mauritius, Hans found sailors and pigs everywhere. The sailors found Mauritius the perfect stop-over as they traveled to and from Holland. To survive, they had stocked the Island with pigs to provide them with bacon and chops to enjoy with the nuts and fruits found there. But the Island was small and food for the pigs was soon exhausted. Even the trees had been chewed on and the flowers destroyed. Dodo's friends that could fly had left. But the Dodos could not fly. Their nests on the ground served up eggs to hungry pigs and sailors. Only Dodo survived, because he was with Hans.

Hans returned to the ship. Sad that his countrymen had brought the pigs--yet knowing only too well that it was for their survival as they traveled to and from Holland. But how could he explain this to Dodo? Hans thought "was there not a way we could have all lived on Mauritius together?" But no answers came to him.

The [sun](#) had dropped behind the mountains of Mauritius. On the bow of the ship sat Dodo staring out at his homeland silhouetted against a brilliant sky. He wept! Dr. Frank stood tall and protective beside him. Patty, not knowing what to do, sang cheerful songs.



Credit: [Wikipedia](#) image, Alvesgaspar.

Hans sat down beside Dodo. Together they cried. Dr. Frank was puzzled. He did not understand sadness and crying. Hans recounted finding a surplus of pigs and an insufficient supply of food for them to eat--even the trees suffered from their chewing. "Hopefully," consoled Hans, "some of your family sailed away, just as you did with me. Maybe we will meet them along the way. The birds that could fly have flown to other islands."

"Now," explained Hans, "you cannot at this time live on Mauritius. You, Patty, and Dr. Frank will come home with me to Holland. You and Patty will live with me. Dr. Frank will join his relatives in the [Botanical Gardens of Amsterdam](#). You will find us very different from anything you have seen. You will learn Dutch and maybe end up wearing wooden shoes!! Perhaps in the future you can return home." Hans felt better, but Dodo continued to shed tears for his family and friends. Crying made him feel better.

Finally, Dodo recovered and realized that, had it not been for Hans, he too would not have survived the invasion of his Island home. Dodo was grateful, "but," he wondered, "does one have to destroy the other in order to survive?"

Could we not have all lived on Mauritius together? Could we,..." and Dodo stopped because no answers came!

Dodo watched his island home disappear into the darkness of night. A full moon rose over the horizon of the Indian Ocean as Dodo and his friends set sail for their new home in Holland (trace Dodo's trip: [link](#)).

DODO SAILS AWAY

The night was clear and the stars sparkled. Aboard ship Hans explained simple [navigation](#) to the three of them. There were no modern-day instruments. North was where the North Star was and Hans explained its relationship to the [Big Dipper constellation](#). The [Milky Way](#) was pointed out, and Hans told Dodo how, when he was a boy, he would wish upon a star and say:

Star light, star bright
First little star I've seen tonight
I wish I may, I wish I might
Get the wish, I wish tonight!

"Did you ever get your wish?" Dodo asked. "I don't remember that I did," responded Hans. "But let me tell you a bit about the Country that will be your home. Where do I start? Perhaps with the [windmills](#) and [canals](#); you will see those first from the ship."

Hans explained the workings of windmills as best he could. But it was hard for Dodo to understand how big arms, draped with sails, caught the wind, went round and round, and pumped water into the fields. Then, those same arms went round and round and ground grain into flour, which was baked into bread. Visualizing a Dutch windmill is difficult for anyone, but practically impossible for a Dodo!

Every day Dodo asked Hans, "how much longer will it take?" And every day he got the same answer; "depends on the [wind](#)." Dr. Frank kept his sea legs in shape by jogging around the ship, and Patty spent her time with the sailors and learned a whole new vocabulary!



Credit: [Wikipedia](#) image, Lucas Hirschegger.

DODO ARRIVES IN HOLLAND

Finally, the ship sailed into the [English Channel](#) (trace Dodo's trip: [link](#)). As they approached the shores of Holland, windmills appeared in the distance, and Dodo screamed, "that's a windmill!" Hans was pleased. "You will see many things to excite you, and you will astonish my people--they have never seen a real live Dodo before. You will get a lot of attention, I hope it doesn't spoil you!"

The dock was crowded, just as it always was for returning ships--but this day was very special!

The ship docked, and the sail came down. The sailors started unloading its precious cargo from the distant east. But it was not the spices, jewels, or textiles that got attention. It was a clumsy bird stumbling down the gangplank followed by his long-legged feathered friend, called Dr. Frank, and a colorful

parakeet babbling Dutch! Dodo wasn't quite as awkward as he appeared to be--after all he didn't have his land legs yet!

The Mayor greeted Hans and bestowed honors and citations upon him. He even gave him the Bird Medal of Honor for having brought the great "Dodo" to Holland. It was a real feather in the Mayor's hat; he had--what [Paris](#) did not--the great unknown Dodo!

Merchants of the city wrote their European friends boasting their little country of windmills had a real live Dodo bird!

Officials, tourists and artists from every country in Europe came to see the great and unusual bird of Mauritius. Hans was happy for the attention Dodo had brought his country and glad to see Dodo enjoying his fame!

Dr. Frank quietly moved about among the tourists watching the whole affair from high above. He was content in his protected environment, knowing that he would soon join his relatives in the famous Botanical Gardens of Amsterdam--after all, he was too tall to live in a Dutch house!

Patty remained with Dodo. She was the interpreter for all those Europeans, speaking words that Dodo did not understand, such as "Merci" and "Danke Schön."

Tourists came and went--but the artists came and worked. They sketched and did line drawings, some as large as a turkey. Then they left [Amsterdam](#) and returned home with their art creations of the famous Dodo of Mauritius. From their drawings artists have made oil paintings.

Through their art Dodo Lives!



Credit: "The Dodo & Given," by Roelant Savery (1626). Donated to the British Museum by George Edwards. ([Wikipedia](#) image, [Dodo](#))



Credit: "The Dodo," by [Jan Savery](#) (1651), Ashmolean Museum and Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

Dodo was finally alone. Alone in the quiet of a soft Dutch night. Alone he sat—thinking and talking to himself. “Why” he muttered, “am I in Holland and the Dutch in Mauritius? Why must one destroy another to survive? Is there not a better way?”

Hans approached Dodo with his painting of him as a "Dutch Dodo," but he stopped. In the silence of this lonely Dutch night he heard Dodo say:

"Through art I live, but

Is my story unique?

Is it one of a kind?

Or, are there others?

To which we are blind?"



Hans's painting of "Dutch Dodo." Credit: Original line art of Susan Phillips, commissioned by the author and colored and adjusted by her. Line art reprinted here with permission of the University of Chicago Press.

"Yes, Dodo there are others, and one is of special interest to you. The beautiful Calvaria Major Trees of Mauritius, that nourished you, may now be a threatened species. Why?

Because of your extinction there are no Dodos on Mauritius to eat the pips from these trees and they may soon be gone.

You and the great Calvaria Major Trees lived happily together--each not knowing--but each dependent on the other. Then humans came into your lives-- you became extinct--and now because of your extinction (and perhaps other factors) the great [Calvaria Major Trees](#) may be an endangered species!"

One scientist states (Temple, 1977), although others might suggest or demonstrate different outcomes:

"[The]...tree Calvaria major found on the island of Mauritius is nearly extinct because its seeds apparently required passage through the digestive tract of the now-extinct dodo ...to overcome persistent seed coat dormancy caused by a specially thickened...[shell]."

Dodo remains are few, although the discovery of a mass grave in 2005 increased the pool of fossil remains. British, other European, and U.S. Museums have small collections. The University of Amsterdam has created the [Dodo Research Programme](#) .

Intact images of Dodos, are however, only artistic images. Thus, we also bring you *Dodo's Coloring Book* so that you can create images of Dodo and Friends in your own way, based on the original line art drawings colored here by the author! Each image is framed and ready for you to color...

Through your art--"Dodo Lives!"

Credits

Beyond those given as links in text.

- About the Author: <http://www.AlmaLach.com/>
- The black and white line art of the Dutch Dodo was drawn by Chicago artist Susan Phillips. It is reproduced here, colored and modified by the author (using Adobe PhotoShop), with permission of the University of Chicago Press. The modified forms of the original drawing appear in this book as Hans's painting of Dodo in Holland.
- The animal engravings are photographs done by the author (with permission) from Bontius, J. Historia naturalis ed medic in Piso. De Indiatris que re naturali et medica. (Amsterdam, 1658). Trans. In Opuscula selecta neerlandicorum de arte medica. X (Amsterdam, 1931). Credit: John Crerar Library, University of Chicago Library.
 1. The Dodo, facing page 258
 2. Patty the Parakeet, facing page 242
 3. Flappy the Flying Dragon, facing page 236
 4. Tony the Tortoise, facing page 275
 5. Jasper the two-headed snake, facing page 267
 6. The Rhinoceros Bird, plate after 250
 7. The Indian Quail, plate after page 242
 8. The Montrose Sea-eel, plate after page 266
 9. The Scaly Lizard, plate between pages 256-57
 10. The Porcupine of Bali, facing page 217
 11. The Crocodile of Bali, facing page 222
 12. "Camilla" the Chameleon, facing page 232
 13. "Doctor Frank," plate after page 258
- Coloring and adjustment of the original line drawings, done by the author, were performed in Adobe PhotoShop.
- Sandra Lach Arlinghaus supplied, creative and editorial work of various sorts.
- Text prepared in Microsoft Word, Office 2010 and converted to Adobe Portable Document File format for publication.
- Hardware used: Hewlett-Packard, HP Pavilion desktop models; HP scanning equipment; Film cameras of various kinds.

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