



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

REPORT
OF
THE COUNCIL
OF
THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING,

APRIL 29, 1829.

LONDON:

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1829.

R E P O R T,

&c.

SINCE the last Anniversary Meeting so much progress has been made towards the accomplishment of the designs of the original founders of the Society, that the Council have a peculiar gratification in submitting the details of their proceedings in the past year to the consideration of the Fellows.

The first and most important matter they have to communicate is, that the Society is incorporated and has become a Chartered Body, under the name of "THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON." The necessity and expediency of this measure were always obvious. The narrow means of the Society were before unequal to the expense which the cost of a charter would require; but as soon as its resources became enlarged, the consent of His Majesty was obtained to the incorporation of the Fellows; and the Charter has been lately sealed, and is as follows.

"GEORGE THE FOURTH by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting; Whereas several of our loving subjects are desirous of forming a Society for the advancement of Zoology and Animal Physiology, and the introduction of new and curious subjects of the Animal Kingdom; and having subscribed and expended considerable sums of money for that purpose, have humbly besought us to grant unto them, and to such other persons as shall be elected as hereinafter mentioned, our Royal Charter of Incorporation, for the better carrying on the same: Now, therefore, know ye, that we being desirous to encourage so laudable an undertaking, have, of our especial grace, given and granted, And We do hereby give and grant, that our right trusty and entirely beloved Cousin and Councillor Henry Marquis of Lansdowne, our right trusty and well beloved George Lord Auckland, and our trusty and well beloved Charles Baring Wall, Esquire, Joseph Sabine, Esquire, and Nicholas Aylward Vigors, Esquire, and such others as shall from time to time be appointed and elected Fellows of the Society in manner hereinafter directed, and their Successors, shall for ever hereafter be, by virtue of these presents, One Body Politic and Corporate by the name of "THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON," for the purposes aforesaid, and by the name aforesaid, to have perpetual succession, and to have a Common Seal, with power and authority to alter, break, and renew the same at their discretion; and by the same name to sue and be sued, to implead and be impleaded, and answer and be answered unto, in every Court or Place of Us our Heirs

and Successors. And we do constitute and appoint, that the persons hereby incorporated, and their successors, shall be for ever able and capable in the law to purchase, receive, and possess to them and their Successors any Goods and Chattels whatsoever, and (notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain) to purchase, hold, and enjoy to them and their Successors any Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments whatsoever, not exceeding at the time or times of purchasing such Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, respectively, the yearly value at a Rack Rent of Two Thousand Pounds in the whole. And we do hereby declare and grant, that they the said Henry Marquis of Lansdowne, George Lord Auckland, Charles Baring Wall, Joseph Sabine, and Nicholas Aylward Vigors, shall be the first Fellows of the said Society; and that they or any three or more of them shall, and may, on or before the twenty-ninth day of April one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, under their respective hands in writing, appoint such other persons to be Fellows, Honorary Members, Foreign Members, and Corresponding Members of the said Society, as they may think fit. And We do further declare and grant, that for the better government of the said Society, and for the better management of the Concerns thereof, there shall from the date of these presents, thenceforth and for ever, be a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Council of the said Society; and that such Council shall consist of twenty-one Fellows of the said Society, whereof the President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be three. And we do further declare, that the said Henry Marquis of Lansdowne shall be the first President, the said Joseph Sabine the first Treasurer, and the said Nicholas Aylward Vigors the first Secretary. And that

they, the said Marquis of Lansdowne, George Lord Auckland, Charles Baring Wall, Joseph Sabine, and Nicholas Aylward Vigors, or any three or more of them shall, and may, under their respective hands, appoint such other discreet persons, being Fellows of the said Society, to be Members of the said Council, as they shall think fit, nevertheless, so that the number thereof shall not exceed twenty-one. And We do further declare, that the aforesaid President, Treasurer, and Secretary hereby appointed, and the Council to be appointed as aforesaid, shall continue in such their respective offices until the twenty-ninth day of April one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine. And we do further direct, that the Fellows of the said Society, or any eleven or more of them shall, and may, on the said twenty-ninth day of April one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, and also shall and may on the twenty-ninth day of April, or as near thereto as conveniently may be in every successive year, assemble together at the then last or other usual place of Meeting of the said Society, and by method of Ballot remove from the then present Council five of the persons of whom it shall be composed; and also shall and may by the like method of Ballot elect five other persons, being Fellows of the said Society, into the Council, in the room and stead of those so removed, who, together with the persons not so removed, shall form the Council for the then next ensuing year; and also shall and may in like manner remove any other person from the said Council who may have been elected as hereinafter is provided, in the place of one dying or resigning, and in like manner may either elect another Fellow of the said Society in the room and stead of the one elected as aforesaid, or re-elect the one so

elected. And also that the Fellows of the said Society, or any eleven or more of them shall and may, at the time and in manner aforesaid, by the like method of Ballot, elect from among the Members of the Council, when formed and elected in manner aforesaid, one person to be President, one person to be Treasurer, and one person to be Secretary of the said Society, for the year then next ensuing. And We do further declare and grant, that in case of the death or resignation of the President, Treasurer, or Secretary, or of any other Member of the Council for the time being, of the said Society, the Members for the time being of the Council of the said Society, or any five or more of them (the whole having been duly summoned) shall and may from time to time, within the space of three Calendar Months next after such death or resignation, or as near thereto as conveniently may be, by method of Ballot elect some other person, being a Fellow of the said Society, to supply the place of such President, Treasurer, or Secretary, or other Member of the Council so dying or resigning; and the Person so elected shall be and remain a Member of the Council of the said Society, and President, Treasurer, or Secretary, as the case may be, until the next Annual General Meeting of the said Society ensuing such election. And We do further will and declare, that the President for the time being, so soon after his appointment as conveniently may be, shall and may nominate and appoint any number of persons, being Members of the said Council, not exceeding six, to be Vice Presidents of the said Society for the year ensuing; and in case of the death or resignation of any person so appointed, he shall and may nominate and appoint any other person, being a member of the Council,

in the room or stead of the person so dying or resigning, for the remainder of the year then ensuing. And We do further declare and grant, that from and after the said twenty-ninth day of April one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, the Fellows of the said Society, or any eleven or more of them, shall and may have the power from time to time, at the General Meetings of the said Society, to elect by method of Ballot such persons to be Fellows, Honorary Members, Foreign Members, and Corresponding Members of the said Society; and such Fellows, Honorary Members, Foreign Members, and Corresponding Members, to remove from the said Society as they shall think fit. And We do further declare and grant, that the Council of the said Society for the time being, or any five or more of them (the whole having been duly summoned), shall and may from time to time nominate and appoint such persons as they shall think proper, to be Officers and Servants for carrying on and executing the necessary concerns of the said Society; and such Officers and Servants to remove as they shall see occasion; and also shall and may have power, according to the best of their judgment and discretion, to make and establish such orders and bye-laws as shall appear to them useful for the regulation of the said Society, for the management of the Estates, Goods, Lands, Revenues, and Businesses thereof, and for fixing and determining the times and places of meeting of the said Society, and also the times, place, and manner of electing, appointing, and removing all Fellows, Honorary Members, Foreign Members, and Corresponding Members of the said Society, and for regulating and ascertaining as well the rights, privileges, and advantages, as the qualifications of persons to become Fellows, Hono-

rary Members, Foreign Members, and Corresponding Members of the said Society respectively, and also the sum and sums of money to be paid by them respectively, whether upon admissions or otherwise, towards carrying on the purposes of the said Society; and the same Orders and Bye-laws from time to time, as they may see occasion, to alter, suspend, or repeal, and to make such new Orders and Bye-laws in their stead as they shall think most proper and expedient, so as the same be not repugnant to these Presents, or the Laws of this our Realm. Provided that no Bye-laws to be made, or alteration or repeal of any Bye-law, shall be considered to have passed and be binding on the said Society, until notice of such Bye-laws or such alteration or repeal of any Bye-law shall have been publicly given at a General Meeting, nor until the same shall have been hung up in writing in some conspicuous place in the common meeting room of the said Society during the space of three calendar months, nor until the same shall have been confirmed by method of Ballot by the Fellows of the said Society, or any eleven or more of them, at the next General Meeting of the said Society, to take place after such notices shall have been given as aforesaid.—In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness ourself at our Palace at Westminster this twenty-seventh day of March, in the tenth year of our Reign.

“(By Writ of Privy Seal.)

“SCOTT.”

THE very late period at which the Charter was completed has not allowed the parties, authorized thereby to act, to do more than to confirm the election of those Fellows who had been previously approved, and to nominate a Council. The total number of Fellows appointed under the power given by the charter is 1326. All subsequent elections of Fellows will be made by the Society at their regular monthly meetings, which will hereafter be held. The Council nominated under the provisions of the Charter has had a very short existence, having been able to hold only one meeting; at which it was imperative on them to remove a portion of themselves, and to submit the election of the successors of that portion to the Society at large on this their Anniversary. It would have been very desirable that the Laws for the government of the Society and its Officers should have been prepared and submitted to the consideration of the Society previous to this day,—but this could not be effected. A code of Bye Laws is however in preparation, and will be submitted to a General Meeting of the Society (as directed by the Charter) as early as possible.

The establishment of a periodical communication between the Council and the Members of the Society, will be one of the objects of these Laws. It is proposed that a Meeting of the Society shall take place on the first Thursday in every month, in the house of the Society, when the business will be conducted in the manner of similar institutions—elections of Fellows will take place—reports on the progress and state of the establishments will be made—as well as communications of any interesting matters resulting from experiments conducted under the authority of the Society, when such can be furnished.

The Finances of the Society are in a very satisfactory state.—The accounts of the last year have been audited, and the following is the summary of the Receipts and Expenditure of the year.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand January 1, 1828 . . .				843	13	4
Admissions	3200	0	0			
Compositions	2360	0	0			
Annual Payments	1540	0	0			
Payments for Ivory Tickets	114	9	0			
Catalogues of Museum sold	17	5	6			
Received from Visitors to the Garden	4017	16	0			
Ditto Ditto Museum .	236	17	0			
Sundries	28	12	6			
				11515	0	0
				<u>£12358</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>

ABSTRACT OF PAYMENTS.

FOR BRUTON STREET.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Works and Repairs	42	19	0			
Furniture, &c.	25	15	0			
Insurance	34	18	6			
Rents, Rates, and Taxes	400	5	8			
Salaries of Officers and Men	304	6	11			
Collector's Poundage	102	4	0			
Cost of Subjects for Museum	27	3	0			
Expenses of the Museum, including Cabinets and materials for pre- serving specimens	329	4	10			
Printing, Stationery, and Stamps ..	108	4	8			
Housekeeping expenses, including Coals, Candles, &c.	118	1	9			
Miscellaneous charges for Postage, Porterage, and Carriage of Parcels, and other petty disbursements ..	185	19	10			
				1679	3	2

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
<i>Brought over</i>	1679	3	2				
FOR THE PARK.							
For Buildings and Building Materials	4364	2	6				
For wages to Carpenters, Bricklayers, and Labourers ..	749	1	8	£.	s.	d.	
	<hr/>			5113	4	2	
For Plants, Seeds, Gravel, &c. in Garden formation ...	481	1	0				
For wages to Garden Men	474	6	1				
	<hr/>			955	7	1	
Furniture, &c.....				107	13	4	
Rents, Rates, and Taxes				142	4	0	
Salaries of Officers and Men	320	18	11				
Ditto Keepers..	304	17	2				
	<hr/>			625	16	1	
Purchase of Animals				392	7	6	
Carriage of Animals, Menagerie charges, Keepers' travelling expenses and Working Dresses....				183	6	0	
Provisions				558	11	0	
Housekeeping expenses.....				28	19	11	
Miscellaneous charges and petty cash disbursements				258	7	1	
	<hr/>			8365	16	2	
	<hr/>			10044	19	4	
Paid for £1052 12s. 7d. 3½ per cent reduced	1000	0	0				
Balance at Banker's January 1, 1829.	1313	14	0				
	<hr/>			2313	14	0	
	<hr/>			£12358	13	4	

The debts of the Society at the expiration of the year were only 337*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*; while the sums due to it amounted to 993*l.* 7*s.* exclusive of 1000*l.* which had been invested in the Funds.

The books containing the details of the accounts are on the table for the inspection of the Fellows.

It having appeared to the Council very desirable that a certain portion of the income of the Society should be reserved from present expenditure and invested as permanent capital, a Resolution was made to lay by a sum equal to one-fifth of the receipts from all sources, after the 1st of January 1828: and in pursuance of this, £1580 has, up to the present time, been laid out in the purchase of Stock, in addition to the £1000 above mentioned.

Under the expectation that the receipts and consequent expenditure of the Society would continue to be considerable, an Accountant duly qualified has been recently engaged, and arrangements have been made for the keeping and posting the accounts of the Society in so perfect a manner, as not only to show at all times the actual state of its finances, but to exhibit the details of expenditure under separate heads, and the Debtor and Creditor account of the Society, with every individual belonging to or employed by it. These are now considerably advanced; and when completed, will at all times be accessible to the Fellows on application.

Since the last Anniversary, the arrangement of the Museum in Bruton Street has occupied much of the attention of the Council. Additional cases have been erected, wherever space could be obtained, for the exhibition of the different collections; and two persons have been in constant employment in preparing and setting up the more interesting specimens. An assistant has also lately been added, for the arrangement of the Shells, Insects, and the other smaller subjects of the collection; and much care has been bestowed upon the various de-

partments of Comparative Anatomy. An instructive as well as an attractive series in every branch of Zoology, but more particularly in the groups of Mammalia, Birds, and Insects, has thus been arranged for inspection. A Catalogue of the more important objects in the Museum has been published; and a more detailed List, accompanied with scientific notices, of all the species is in preparation.

The Council have, however, to regret that the limited accommodations of the house in Bruton Street abridge their power of exhibiting the collections to advantage. Every room is now fully occupied; and not only are the subjects crowded to excess, but the greater portion of the collection cannot be shown for want of room, and is necessarily kept for safety out of view. To counterbalance these disadvantages, the Council look with pleasure to the increasing resources of the Society, which already allow them to indulge the hope that at no distant period they may be authorized to erect a Museum on a larger scale, and on a plan commensurate with the importance of this great object of their institution. In the meantime they have made such arrangements as will facilitate the inspection of every part of the collection; and the officers more especially attached to this branch of the establishment are always at hand to exhibit whatever is valuable or instructive to the Fellows and their friends.

The increase in the number of subjects in the Collection during the last year has been considerable, and many of the additions have been of the utmost importance to science. The whole of these, with a few exceptions, have been presented by the friends of the Society. A detailed list of these donations, which are too numerous for inser-

tion in this Report, is laid upon the table; a reference to the contents of which will evince that the spirit of liberality, which laid the foundations of this already valuable Collection, has not decreased.

A very extensive correspondence has been established with naturalists of foreign countries, and persons resident in distant parts, who are anxious to promote the objects of the Society. Through these channels many valuable acquisitions have been already received; and it is expected that much of novelty and interest will continually pour in to increase the attractions of the Museum and Menagerie.

THE GARDEN in the Regent's Park is the principal source of attraction and of expense. The nature of the soil, which consists of a thick ungrateful clay, increases the cost of every work. The health of the animals requires that oak floors be raised above the surface of the ground; and it is necessary to lay a thick substratum of dry material under every enclosure and every walk. These disadvantages are however amply counterbalanced by its immediate vicinity to the town. The Council have, notwithstanding the nature of the soil, endeavoured to give to the Garden all the attractions which good cultivation and an abundance of flowers can afford: and they have to return their thanks for the very liberal supplies for this purpose which they have occasionally received from the Horticultural Society. The resort to the Garden has far surpassed the most sanguine expectations of the Council; 112,226 persons have visited it during the last year.

Exclusive of workshops and accommodations for the persons employed on the ground, and the improvement,

alteration, and repairs of the works before erected, the following additions to the buildings, &c. have been completed since the last Report:—A house and enclosure for Pelicans—A hut with yards for Cows and Sheep—A range of cages for Owls—An aviary (with a covered seat) for small Birds—Another aviary for Hawks—A shed and enclosure for Beavers—A house and cage for Turtle-doves—A house and yards for Kangaroos—An enclosure and pond for small Ducks—dens for Dogs—and several other smaller works.

The following are now in progress:—enclosures for Foxes and Dogs—house, pond and enclosure for Otters—large wire cages for the collection of Monkeys—a large cage for Maccaws—and some temporary dens for large Quadrupeds.

Much difficulty has been experienced in the care and preservation of the Quadrupeds and Birds during the winter. The Council in the middle of last summer foresaw the necessity of providing a warmed repository for the tender animals during the colder months of the year; and accordingly a plan of such a building was prepared, and designed to be erected on the ground agreed to be let to the Society by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests on the north side of the carriage-road in the Park. Circumstances occurred to prevent this design being carried into effect; and the same causes frustrated the attempt in the autumn of erecting within the Garden a temporary building, with proper apparatus for warming and ventilating, in which it was intended to keep and exhibit the animals during the winter.

Objections to these measures by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests were the causes which prevented the

intention of the Council being executed. They are unwilling to observe on or to enter into detail on these, the whole matter being still under discussion. A memorial upon the subject has been presented by the Council to the Treasury; and they look with confidence to a successful result to their application in support of an establishment to which public attention and public favour have been unusually drawn.

Some of the most delicate and tender of the Animals have been kept during the winter in a stable in the neighbourhood of the Garden; which, after the above-stated disappointment, was hired, and temporarily fitted up for their accommodation. From thence a part have already been returned to the Garden, and the others will be brought back as soon as the season will permit, and due receptacles shall be prepared for them.

Since the autumn the Society has incurred the loss of some valuable animals, principally from the want of proper accommodation occasioned by the difficulties before adverted to, and the consequent crowded state in which many of the things were necessarily kept. The Council have been greatly indebted to the gratuitous assistance given to their keepers by a professional gentleman of acknowledged skill in the attendance on such of the animals as have been afflicted by disorder. The causes of death have been carefully investigated by proper examination of the subjects; and the information thus acquired has and will continue to operate beneficially, in the recovery of things similarly afflicted.

It is well known that in all menageries the casualties are numerous, and not to be kept down by the long experience and observations of those who manage such esta-

blishments. Extreme difficulty must always exist in the preservation of health to animals placed in a situation so foreign to all their natural habits. With many the chance of life must always be precarious, and especially for the first year after their arrival in this country. The losses would be fewer were the hardiest subjects only to be kept; but in endeavouring to gratify the curiosity of the Fellows and the Public, if this consideration was to be attended to, many of the most curious and interesting objects would not be procured.

The number of species and varieties now living of Animals belonging to the Society is 194; of which 69 are quadrupeds, and 125 are birds. The whole amounting to 627 individuals, of which 152 are quadrupeds, and 475 are birds. They are at present generally in good health, order, and condition. Measures have been taken to add to them, especially by the acquisition of some of the larger and stronger Quadrupeds; and these will be brought forward and exhibited as speedily as dens and enclosures can be prepared for them.

The Council very reluctantly postponed to a late period the attempt to render the Society more directly and practically useful by experiments in breeding, and in the domestication of foreign animals. The establishment in the Regent's Park is obviously unfit for this purpose. Its limited space and great publicity operate strongly against the success of such attempts; and the results have only been satisfactory with some species of aquatic fowls which were last year bred upon the Lake. For these objects the Council have long seen the necessity of forming an establishment at such a distance from London as should ensure sufficient quiet, and at the same time should be easily

accessible: and they have with this view concluded a negociation with Mr. Pallmer and the Corporation of Kingston for the occupation of a Farm, consisting of a house with some convenient buildings, and about thirty-three acres of land, nine miles from Hyde Park Corner, in a beautiful situation under the wall of Richmond Park, with a very light soil peculiarly favourable for rearing birds, full of very abundant springs, and with some excellent ponds.

The Council have effected the purchase of seven acres and a half of freehold land (part of the above) for £1100, and have taken the remainder for twenty-one years, renewable at the end of ten years for the same term—the entire rent being £160 per annum. They at present propose that the Farm shall be accessible to all the Fellows, accompanied by their friends, in the same manner as the Garden and Museum. They believe that the funds of the Society will be found fully equal to the additional outlay which will be occasioned by this establishment. Should they be mistaken in this hope, the plan must be abandoned; and with this view the Council have provided that the lease of Mr. Pallmer's land may be given up at twelve months' notice.

The Council can promise few results from the Farm in the present year: the late period at which it was occupied precludes the possibility of doing much in the way of breeding: the establishment now is very small, and their attention must be almost entirely applied to the repairs of the buildings and fences, to acquiring stock, and to forming receptacles for it. At present the place holds out far less attractions than will be found there in succeeding years.

The application of the Farm to the purposes and objects of the Society will be under the following heads:—1st. In affording a convenient relief and assistance to the Menagerie in the Park, by removing from it such Quadrupeds and Birds as may require a quiet place to bring forth and rear their young: also in receiving the duplicates of the collection which it may be expedient to keep in hand to replace those which are exhibited in the Park, when necessary; and likewise to maintain such as want a more extended range than the Garden at present admits of, or which it is necessary to allow to remain at liberty. 2nd. The rearing various domesticated Quadrupeds and Birds, both of ornamental as well as useful varieties, with a view of having their kinds true and free from mixture; or in effecting improvements in the quality or properties of those which are used for the table; and likewise in domesticating subjects from our own or foreign countries, which have not hitherto been inmates of our poultry or farm yards. 3rd. The conducting experiments in all matters relating to breeding and points of animal physiology connected therewith, the range of which is very various and extensive. Many of these will require much time to be completed; some may be brought to a conclusion within a year or two. It is remarkable that there have never been published any correctly recorded facts on which the opinions at present entertained by physiologists on many of such matters can be supported. It is to be hoped that the Zoological Society may be the instrument of settling many questions of this description in a satisfactory manner.

In the objects of attention at the Farm, the breeding and trying experiments with fish are of course included.

The Council submit the following view of the means of the Society, and of their application. Its income arises from the annual payments of the Members, which may be taken at present at £2000 ; from the compositions and admission fees paid by new Members, which they believe will still continue to be considerable ; from the interest on their funded property ; from the receipts at the Garden in the Park ; from the receipts at the Museum ; and from the produce of such articles as shall be disposed of to the Fellows from the Farm, together with the receipts from the admission to the same, in case such a plan should be adopted. It is hoped that the income from the Garden will much exceed its current expenses. To the Museum with the office, and to the Farm, the Council appropriate £1000 respectively, from the amount of the annual subscriptions ; and the outgoings of these will be further supported by the several receipts from these establishments. The surplus resources of the Society will be applicable to buildings and other permanent works, one-fifth of the whole income being always reserved to be invested, as before stated, as permanent capital.