

# **MENAGERIE MISCELLANY**

**SIX ESSAYS - TWO AUTHORS**

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# MENAGERIE MISCELLANY

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## INTRODUCTION

This group of essays form the latest of the Bartlett Society's occasional 'special publications', which, as most members know, are issued as and when suitable material arises and are extremely varied in style, format and content.

The pieces included here were originally submitted for the Newsletter but seemed slightly beyond its scope, so they are now given a more lasting form in this miscellany.

Of the two authors, Clin Keeling is well known as the founder of the Bartlett Society. Roger Edwards is our newest member, although for several years he has been accumulating information about the opportunities people in Glasgow have had to see animal species from other countries.

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# The Exeter 'Change Tour of 1798

The four wagons of Gilbert Pidcock's menagerie rolled into Glasgow early in January 1798. In the eighteenth century Glasgow, rich from the tobacco trade, had expanded westwards from its ancient cathedral and university, and into a neatly laid out new suburb. The menagerie opened for business on land probably now part of George Square.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January, the *Glasgow Advertiser* noted: *FOREIGN LIVING RARITIES. - There came into town this day from Greenock, four broad wheeled caravans, drawn by twenty horses, containing the largest assemblage of birds and beasts ever exhibited in this kingdom in the age or memory of man.*

The following day a rival newspaper, the *Glasgow Courier*, carried a detailed advertisement (Figure 2). The same advertisement with minor changes appeared on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> in the *Advertiser*. Presumably in response to complaints from proud Glaswegians, references to 'England' have been changed by the end of the week to 'Great Britain.' Such advertisements continued to appear for several weeks. I seem to remember a claim that George Wombwell was the first menagerist to advertise in the press. This shows he was not, and I suggest that such claims - of the biggest, oldest, or longest variety - are best treated with caution.

Over and over again the press coverage mentioned Exeter 'Change. We can reasonably infer from this that by the 1790s Exeter 'Change was known far beyond London, even 400 miles north in Scotland. However, whilst this was not the first visit by a menagerie to these parts, there is nothing in the press record to indicate that Mr Pidcock's operation had visited Scotland before.

The advertisements highlight the following animals: Asiatic elephant, Bengal tiger, pelican, South American vulture, Imperial vulture, nilgai, African ram, and a two-headed heifer. The heifer sounds like the animal exhibited in 1791, and discussed by the great surgeon and anatomist, John Hunter (Note 3). This animal list may not be exhaustive: one newspaper refers to a *variety of other animals and birds too numerous to insert.*

I assume that the four wagons mentioned were all beast wagons, and the organ was in a separate vehicle, although it may be that there were only three beast wagons. Later in the tour we learn that the elephant wagon was drawn by eight horses, so presumably the other three beast wagons had four horses each.

It would appear that *The Advertiser* was particularly diverted by Mr Pidcock and his animals. On 15<sup>th</sup> January, it reported: *Merit ought to be rewarded; it is but a tribute due to Pidcock, the proprietor of living animals and birds at Exeter 'Change, that he deserves well of the public; they have seen it, for such a daily assemblage of rank and fashion that honour this popular exhibition with their presence is truly astonishing. We understand that the grand collection of Living Rarities, belonging to Mr Pidcock now exhibiting at the head of Miller Street, will, from a very distinguished encouragement received, be continued for a few days longer. This collection is certainly the most extensive and curious ever seen in this place.*

On 19<sup>th</sup> January, the *Advertiser* even published a ballad in honour of the menagerie (Figure 3). The author of the ballad is not given, and we should not dismiss the possibility that Gilbert Pidcock provided it himself. The ballad introduces further animals to our list, animals mentioned nowhere else: ostrich, savage Arabian (?), cassowary, panther, leopard, two sea animals, wolf, monkeys, cockatoos, and warbling birds.

An excellent poster, illustrated by the renowned Thomas Bewick of Newcastle, survives from the period (Figure 4). The poster, it seems, was pinned up as local advertising during peregrinations of the Exeter 'Change menagerie. It is dated 1795, and lists the contents of four wagons: Indian rhinoceros, Asiatic elephant, Grevy's zebra, African lion, Bengal tigers, leopards, hyaena, antelope, South American vulture, but no organ.

Some of the text of this poster is incorporated verbatim into the Glasgow press advertisements, and I suspect that it or something similar also appeared there. Are the animals mentioned in the ballad based on the exhibition itself, on a poster, or on the fancy of the anonymous poet? We may never know.

With his use of advertising, press stories and posters, Gilbert Pidcock demonstrates a remarkable flair for marketing. A further strategy was the production of Pidcock's Exhibition coin-like tokens, many of which have survived (Figure 1). There are tokens depicting the antelope, cockatoo, nilgai, ostrich, pelican, tiger, and two-headed cow, with others showing a beaver, crowned crane, lion, eagle, Indian rhinoceros, toucan, Grevy's zebra, to say nothing of the wanderoo. Elephant tokens seem to have been particularly popular, and provide us with a name; he was called James.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January we learn that the Foreign Living Rarities will move the next day down to Glasgow's Old Bridge, about half a mile away. On 26<sup>th</sup> January, *those ladies, gentlemen, and others who have not yet paid a visit to these astonishing works of creation ought therefore to avail themselves of the last intimation, as it is probable they will never have another opportunity of viewing the same grand collection, or any other equally curious or so well entitled to admiration.*

On 28<sup>th</sup> January, Mr Pidcock is presented with *a most beautiful and extraordinarily fine bird, very large; it is not to be paralleled in this kingdom. It was taken by Captain Duncan Douglas of the ship Pandora, 400 miles from land, on his passage from Newfoundland to Greenock. This non-descript bird is variegated with a variety of beautiful colours and striped similar to those of the zebra, except the head, breast, legs, &c., which are entirely white.*

Finally, on 31<sup>st</sup> January, the four wagons set off for Falkirk, to exhibit there on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, before continuing on to Stirling and then Edinburgh. The *Edinburgh Advertiser* of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February takes up the story with an advertisement informing its readers that the menagerie was exhibiting at the 'Earthen Mound' in Edinburgh. The text of the advertisement is already familiar to us, with a few words added to introduce Captain Douglas's still-unidentified bird.

From subsequent press coverage we learn that the display was giving *more general satisfaction than any other hitherto exhibited in this city*, that the elephant was estimated to weigh nearly four tons and cost £1,000, and the tiger was nearly double

the size of any previously seen in North Britain. The menagerie was open from 11 am to 7 pm. The *Caledonian Mercury*, which carries more information about the menagerie than the other Edinburgh titles, prints the ballad.

Mr Pidcock's menagerie finally left the Mound on 17<sup>th</sup> March. It proceeded no further than Edinburgh's Grassmarket, before stopping there for a few more days. We first learn of Mr Pidcock's menagerie in the port of Greenock. I wondered whether it had travelled up to Scotland by boat, and perhaps headed south again from Edinburgh's port of Leith. However, the Edinburgh papers make it clear that the menagerie's route from Edinburgh was first to Dalkeith, and from there to Haddington, Dunbar, and Berwick, on the road southwards towards London.

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Figure 1      Pidcock elephant token,  
c.1795 Blackburn with  
Darwen Borough Council

The largest Elephant ever seen in England.

**MALE ELEPHANT.**  
 The LARGEST ever seen in England.  
 It arrived in the Rose East-Indiaman, September 4<sup>th</sup> 1793. The Sagacity and Knowledge of this Animal is absolutely beyond any thing that human Imagination can possibly suggest; it will lie down, and rise again at the word of command, notwithstanding the many fabulous tales that have been told of their having no joints in their legs; it will take up the smallest piece of money, a tankard, bucket, or any thing else that is given to it, and deliver it to any person he is desired; it has two Ivory teeth, one standing out on each side of his trunk, which, when full grown, measure from six to nine feet long, and are very valuable. In the EAST INDIES, they carry heavy burdens on their backs, sometimes a war tower with twenty men; and are taught to fight with their trunks, in which they take a large chain or bar of iron, and do wonderful execution in battle, &c. &c.

**A REAL BENGAL STRIPPED ROYAL MALE TYGER,**  
 Which arrived in the Henry Dundas East Indiaman, and was landed at Blackwall, March 9, 1797. His colours are placed alternately in the most beautiful stripes, and are parallel, distinct, and narrow. The whole animal is streaked in this admirable manner, so as appear to the distant beholder as if curiously covered with ribbons. In short, the distinguished works of the creation are wonderfully displayed in the beauty and elegance of this extraordinary animal. That tender BIRD, the

**PELICAN OF THE WILDERNESS,**  
 Which is so remarkable in its nature, as to be recorded in sacred History. It has a large cavity or pouch underneath its bill, which will contain a pail full of fish and water, and is the largest ever seen in this Kingdom.

*A South-American Vulture, or Condor Minor,*  
 From the Brazils. Its wings, when extended, measure eight feet from point to point, and in a wild state will carry away a lamb with ease.—Also

**AN IMPERIAL VULTURE FROM VIENNA,**  
 The largest ever seen in England. A most beautiful *Royal Male Nilgai, or Horned Horse,*  
 This animal is most delicately formed; it is an inhabitant of the interior parts of India remote from our settlements, and was brought down as a curiosity to Europeans; it is remarkably tame.

**WONDERFUL HEIFER WITH TWO HEADS.**  
 Four horns, four eyes, four ears, and four nostrils, through each of which it breathes. One of the heads, together with the horns, represents that of a BULL—the other, of a COW. Each have measures as inches long. She is 13 hands high, and is universally allowed to be the most astonishing Phenomenon in Nature. Likewise,

*An African Ram with Four Circular Horns,*  
 And its body covered with HAIR instead of WOOL.

**A LARGE AND FULL ORGAN.**  
 On a new and curious construction, in a separate caravan, displaying several select pieces of music. Admittance, Ladies and Gentlemen, 1 s. each. N. B. Foreign birds and beasts bought and sold, or exchanged, by G. Pidcock. Enquire as above, or at his Grand Menagerie, Exeter-Change, Strand, London.

Yesterday arrived from Exeter Change, Strand, London, in four large broad wheeled magnificent caravans, drawn by twenty horses, and to be seen at the head of Miller's Street, Glasgow, the largest assemblage of chosen Living Rarities that ever travelled this kingdom in the age or memory of man - consisting of a most stupendous male elephant, the largest ever seen in England. It arrived in the Rose East-Indiaman, September 4<sup>th</sup>. 1793. The sagacity and knowledge of this animal is absolutely beyond anything that human imagination can possibly suggest: it will lie down, and rise again at the word of command notwithstanding the many fabulous tales that have been told of their having no joints in their legs; it will take up the smallest piece of money, a tankard, bucket, or anything else that is given to it, and deliver it to any person he is desired; it has two ivory teeth, one standing out on each side of his trunk, which, when full grown, measure from six to nine feet long, and are very valuable. In the East Indies, they carry heavy burdens on their backs, sometimes a war tower with twenty men; and are taught to fight with their trunks, in which they take a large chain or bar of iron, and do wonderful execution in battle, &c. &c. A real Bengal striped royal male tiger, which arrived in the Henry Dundas East-Indiaman, and was landed at Blackwall, March 9, 1797. His colours are placed alternately in the most beautiful stripes, and are parallel, distinct, and narrow. The whole animal is streaked in this admirable manner, so as appear to the distant beholder as if curiously covered with ribbons. In short, the distinguished works of the creation are wonderfully displayed in the beauty and elegance of this extraordinary animal. That tender bird, the pelican of the wilderness, which is so remarkable in its nature, as to be recorded in sacred history. It has a large cavity or pouch underneath its bill, which will contain a pail full of fish and water, and is the largest ever seen in this kingdom. A South-American Vulture, or Condor Minor, from the Brazils. Its wings, when extended, measure eight feet from point to point, and in a wild state will carry away a lamb with ease. Also an Imperial vulture from Vienna, the largest ever seen in England. A most beautiful Royal Male Nilgai, or Horned Horse. This animal is most delicately formed; it is an inhabitant of the interior parts of India remote from our settlements, and was brought down as a curiosity to Europeans, it is remarkably tame. The wonderful heifer with two heads, four horns, four eyes, four ears, and four nostrils, through each of which it breathes, &c. One of the heads, together with the horns, represents that of a bull - the other, a cow. Each horn measures 25 inches long. She is 13 hands high, and is universally allowed to be the most astonishing phenomenon in Nature. Likewise, an African Ram with four circular horns, and its body covered with hair instead of wool. A large and full organ, on a new and curious construction, in a separate caravan, displaying several select pieces of music. Admittance, Ladies and Gentlemen, 1 s. each. N. B. Foreign birds and beasts bought and sold, or exchanged, by G. Pidcock. Enquire as above, or at his Grand Menagerie, Exeter-Change, Strand, London

Figure 2 Glasgow Courier, 6 Jan 1798  
 Photo: D. Warrillow.

A NEW SONG,  
UPON THE EXHIBITION IN MILLER STREET  
To the tune of "Bachelor's Hall."

Amateurs, cognoscenti, and lovers of merit,  
O haste, and reward then both genius and spirit,  
'Tis Pidcock I mean, who deserves public praise,  
His labours shall be the just theme of my lays,  
No longer let gewgaws and trifles attract,  
On good sense and prudence he would not exact.

*Chorus.*

Haste away, haste away, to Pidcock's repair,  
And view his Collection both pleasing and rare.

II

Each day monsters start up in this curious age,  
And horses and elephants grace our grand stage;  
While Pidcock more modestly acts a wife part,  
Depends on dame Nature, not trusting to Art -  
To that goddess alone, with his curious collection,  
He hopes to obtain the Public's protection.

*Chorus.*

III

The beautiful pelican claims your delight,  
And an ostrich of nine feet enraptures your sight;  
A savage Arabian next puts in his claim,  
Says - many beholders more merit his name;  
The royal nilgai, or fine horned horse,  
More cornuto's you see at a horse-race or course.

*Chorus.*

IV

The grand cassowary, sans tongue, wings, and tail,  
O'er the mind of the curious is sure to prevail;  
No doubt there are many, on this stage of life,  
With no tongue, but wings, to a shrew of a wife.  
The tiger and panther are surely a feast,  
For each must be rank'd a most beautiful beast.

*Chorus.*

V

Sea animals (two), a fierce leopard likewise,  
And a ravenous wolf that would tear out your eyes.  
Here are birds that will warble as if on the spray,  
Your moments to 'guile, and appease sad dismay,  
And the Monkeys and Cockatoos chatter and clatter,  
Their counterparts cannot unravel the matter.

*Chorus.*

VI

Though last, yet not least here's a wonderful cow  
With two heads; says Paddy, O that a Bull, how?  
For, och! 'pon my conscience, since I came from Louth,  
I ne'er saw a Cow open more than one mouth.  
So, if Pidcock has rarities as he expresses,  
He's surely deserving of daily caresses.

*Chorus.*

And our...  
O haste and reward then both genius and spirit,  
'Tis Pidcock I mean, who deserves public praise,  
His labours shall be the just theme of my lays,  
No longer let gewgaws and trifles attract,  
On good sense and prudence he would not exact.

*Chorus.*

Haste away, haste away, to Pidcock's repair,  
And view his Collection both pleasing and rare.  
And view, &c.

II.

Each day monsters start up in this curious age,  
And Horses and Elephants grace our grand stage;  
While Pidcock more modestly acts a wife part,  
Depends on dame Nature, not trusting to Art -  
To that goddess alone, with his curious collection,  
He hopes to obtain the Public's protection.

*Chorus.* Haste away, &c.

III.

The beautiful Pelican claims your delight,  
And an Ostrich of nine feet enraptures your sight;  
A Savage Arabian next puts in his claim,  
Says - many beholders more merit his name;  
The Royal Nilgai, or fine Horned Horse,  
More cornuto's you see at a horse-race or course.

*Chorus.* Haste away, &c.

IV.

The Grand Cassowary, sans tongue, wings, and tail,  
O'er the mind of the curious is sure to prevail;  
No doubt there are many, on this stage of life,  
With no tongue, but wings, to a shrew of a wife.  
The Tiger and Panther are surely a feast,  
For each must be rank'd a most beautiful beast.

*Chorus.* Haste away, &c.

V.

Sea Animals (two), a fierce Leopard likewise,  
And a ravenous Wolf that would tear out your eyes.  
Here are Birds that will warble as if on the spray,  
Your moments to 'guile, and appease sad dismay;  
And the Monkeys and Cockatoos chatter and clatter,  
Their counterparts cannot unravel the matter.

*Chorus.* Haste away, &c.

VI.

Though last, yet not least here's a wonderful Cow  
With two heads; says Paddy, O that a Bull, how?  
For, och! 'pon my conscience, since I came from Louth,  
I ne'er saw a Cow open more than one mouth.  
So, if Pidcock has rarities as he expresses,  
He's surely deserving of daily caresses.

*Chorus.* Haste away, &c.

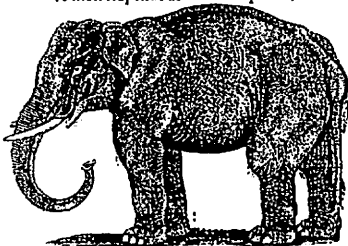
Figure 3 Glasgow Advertiser, 19 Jan 1798

1795.  
 (For this Day only)  
 To be seen in the **MARKET-PLACE** on this Town,  
**PIDCOCK'S**  
 Grand Collection of Foreign Animals and Birds,  
 From Exeter-Change, Strand, London,  
 Shows to every Hour, in four magnificent Caravans,  
 CONTINUED TO THE

**Real Unicorn  
 or RHINOCEROS.**

This last Year, 1794, a young Rhinoceros, brought from the Cape of Good Hope, was the first of its kind ever seen in this Kingdom. It was brought to the City of London, and was the first of its kind ever seen in this Kingdom. It was brought to the City of London, and was the first of its kind ever seen in this Kingdom.

A most stupendous Male Elephant,



This last Year, 1794, a young Rhinoceros, brought from the Cape of Good Hope, was the first of its kind ever seen in this Kingdom. It was brought to the City of London, and was the first of its kind ever seen in this Kingdom.

A beautiful ZEBRA.



This animal is found in a great number of different parts, and is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old.

A fine young LION.



This animal is found in a great number of different parts, and is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old.

Two Royal Bengal Tigers.

This animal is found in a great number of different parts, and is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old.

Two beautiful spotted Leopards.

This animal is found in a great number of different parts, and is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old.

A HYÆNA.

This animal is found in a great number of different parts, and is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old.

AN ANTELOPE.

This animal is found in a great number of different parts, and is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old.

A South American Vulture; or, Condor Minor.

This animal is found in a great number of different parts, and is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old. It is a great number of years old.

1795. (For this day only) to be seen in the market-place in this town, Pidcock's grand collection of foreign animals and birds, from Exeter-Change, Strand, London, drawn by twenty horses, in four magnificent caravans, consisting of the real unicorn or rhinoceros. This most singular of all quadrupeds, when full grown, is at least twelve feet long, from the extremity of the muzzle to the origin of the tail, and the circumference of his body is nearly equal to his length. The rhinoceros which came to London in the year 17(8?)9 was sent from Bengal. Though not above two years of age, the expense of his food and journey amounted to near one thousand pounds sterling. This surprising animal is most curiously covered with an impenetrable coat of mail, and Nature has furnished him with a strong weapon of defence, which is a sharp-pointed horn, growing out of his forehead, and measures, when full grown, from eighteen to twenty-four inches long. He is so gentle, that any person may approach him with the greatest safety. A most stupendous male elephant, the largest ever seen in Great Britain. The sagacity and knowledge of this extraordinary animal is absolutely beyond anything that human imagination can possibly suggest; it will lie down and rise up at the word of command, notwithstanding the many fabulous tales that are told of their having no joints in their legs; it will take up the smallest piece of money, a tankard, bucket, or anything else that is required, and deliver it to an person in company. A beautiful zebra. It is remarkably striped with three different variegated colours, and is quite another variety to that which our Queen had presented to her about thirty years back. His head and body resemble those of a fine horse; but it is a distinct species of itself, quite different from either the horse, ass, or mule. In short, the works of the Creator are wonderfully displayed in the fine features, and elegance of this extraordinary animal. A fine young lion. This most magnanimous animal is superior in courage, and universally acknowledged sole monarch of the whole brute creation; his majestic look, and tremendous roaring, - striking terror throughout the kingdom of quadrupeds. It is a native of Africa, in the vast deserts of which country, under the influence of a scorching sun, they attain to a prodigious strength and ferocity. Two royal Bengal tigers. They are male and female, and both in one den, an instance of which was never before known in this country. Two beautiful spotted leopards. They are male and female, and curiously adorned with various colours. A hyæna. This animal is very ferocious, and it is impossible to tame it. It imitates the human voice in a very striking manner. An antelope. This animal is of the deer kind, and is said to be the swiftest on the face of the globe. A South American vulture; or, Condor Minor, from the Brazils. N.B. Foreign beasts and birds, bought, sold, or exchanged, but G. Pidcock; enquire as above, or at his Grand Menagerie, over Exeter-Change, Strand, London Admittance - One Shilling each. Printed by T. Burton, No. 31, Little Queen-Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Figure 4 Theatre Museum collection.



## NOTES:

1. Modern spelling has been substituted in the quotations.
  2. Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Mr David Warrillow of Glasgow for drawing my attention to the original advertisement, and providing a photograph of it. I would also like to thank the Theatre Museum and Blackburn and Darwen Borough Council for permission to reproduce their images of artefacts in their collections.
  3. London Chronicle, January 1791. "*Now exhibiting at the Lyceum Strand. The surprising heifer with two heads. This very remarkable creature has two heads, four horns, four ears, four nostrils, through each of which it breathes. This truly wonderful curiosity is the only one of the kind in Europe; and what is more astonishing, it takes its sustenance with both mouths at the same time, to the admiration of the faculty, and the beholders in general; and it is also the received opinion of John Hunter, Esq., Professor of Anatomy, that it has two hearts. One of the heads, together with the horns, represents that of a bull, and the other a cow. The height of the animal is thirteen hands, and each horn measures twenty-five inches long.*" - as quoted on [www.thegalloper.com](http://www.thegalloper.com).
  4. Pidcock's Exhibition tokens. The tokens seem to date from 1795, with a later issue in 1801. Many such tokens are advertised on the internet. The Blackburn elephant token is atypical - the ears large and the name omitted.
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## TWO FOOTNOTES BY CLIN KEELING

See page 3: the newspaper report on the Exeter 'Change Tour of 1798, dated 28th January, mentions the presentation of an unidentified bird. Apart from the "beautiful colours", which in all probability were showman's hype (a form of hyperbole not completely unknown today), this is otherwise a reasonable description of a female Snowy Owl, while its mode of acquisition - i.e. planing down onto a ship in a northerly latitude, is almost unique to the species.

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See page 16: the *Evening Times* report on the opening of the Scottish Zoo mentions an Elephant named Piccaninny. An interesting point here. When Jumbo was tragically run down and killed at St. Thomas, Ontario on 15th September 1885, he was accompanied by another (very small) Elephant, which was also struck by the engine, resulting in a broken leg. This was successfully splinted and treated - a terrific achievement for the time, in fact it would be considered excellent stockmanship and veterinary care today. The animal's name? Piccaninny! Which makes you think.

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# Mr Miles' Exeter 'Change Tour

Some years ago my attention was drawn to ballad texts as a source of information about early animal collections. It has taken me seven years to take this advice on board, but recently I investigated the broadsheet collection in Glasgow's Mitchell Library. Sadly, I drew a blank with the ballads. I did, however, come across two handbills about Mr Miles. Although bound separately in the portfolio, they clearly belong together.

You will notice that the area chosen by Mr Miles to display his collection is beside the Old Bridge, the site used by Gilbert Pidcock in 1798. Late eighteenth century maps of Glasgow show a strip of open ground beside the River Clyde to the west of Glasgow's mediaeval bridge.

Dating this tour has not proved straightforward. I have failed to find any newspaper coverage of the visit. The *Miles and Polito Menagerie* at the Bartholomew Fair in 1799 was also in six caravans ([www.thegalloper.com](http://www.thegalloper.com)). This tour probably took place in the following decade. The siege of Seringpatam in 1799 marked the capitulation of Mysore. Presumably, animal collectors followed in the wake of the military once things had settled down a bit. It is unlikely that these handbills were printed before 1805; the long 's' is not used - the *Glasgow Herald* (for example) replaced this with the short 's' in August 1805 when the paper changed hands on the death of the proprietor. The latest possible year would be 1822, when Robert Chapman, the printer, retired.

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THE TWO HANDBILLS ARE REPRODUCED OVERLEAF.

# MILES'S NEW and GRAND EXHIBITION.

Just Arrived,

And now Exhibiting, in SIX Commodious Caravans,  
END OF THE OLD BRIDGE.  
THE MOST EXTENSIVE, RARE, AND VALUABLE COLLECTION OF

## Wild Beasts AND BIRDS,



(SELECTED FROM EXETER CHANGE, LONDON,)

That ever Travelled this Kingdom;

*Consisting of the most Wonderful Productions of Nature!*

Among which are,  
THE MOST MAJESTIC

### ROYAL MALE LION,

Which is so eminently distinguished from the rest of the Brute Creation, for his long and flowing Mane, that surrounds his awful Front; his huge Teeth, and large brilliant Eyes, that roll about in his head like two balls of fire, and shine with peculiar lustre. When irritated, he sets forth such tremendous Roars, as to imitate distant claps of thunder; his magnanimous appearance is such, that no tongue or pen can describe; yet so tame and docile, that the Keeper, (like Daniel of Holy Writ) can fondle with him as a lamb.—This is the Great Male Lion that cost the Proprietor, Mr. MILES, the enormous sum of SIX HUNDRED GUINEAS; and is universally allowed to be the Largest and Finest Lion ever landed on the British Shore.

### A BEAUTIFUL ROYAL LIONESSES.

That accompanies him in the same Caravan.

### Large Bengal Tyger,

The only MALE TYGER travelling this Kingdom, whose terrific appearance excels any before seen in this Country, being in strength far superior to the Lion, and in beauty surpasses all others, as will be obvious to every beholder. He will carry on his back an Ox or a Buffalo, with the greatest ease.

### A BEAUTIFUL LEOPARD and LEOPARDESS.

THOSE SINGULAR AND ASTONISHING QUADRUPEDS

### THE KANGAROOS,

MALE and FEMALE, with their Young Ones, one of them a year old. What renders these creatures still more curious, is, that the Female is furnished with a pouch or cavity, wherein it has a Young One a month old, which enters and leaves at pleasure, and which is not to be seen in any other Exhibition.

### TWO BEAUTIFUL OSTRICHES,

From NEW SOUTH WALES, the only birds of this description that ever travelled in Great Britain, whose swiftness is far superior to that of any horse. The Male stands 10 feet high.

# Grand Cassiowary,

Arrived this day, and cost the Proprietor ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS.

This Bird, though not so tall as the Ostrich, yet more bulky and proportionably made, is an inhabitant of the island of Java in the East Indies. The fierceness of his countenance conspires to render him formidable; the singularity of his formation, by being about 5 feet high, covered with Feathers of variegated colours, each Quill has two Feathers, and he is crowned with an impenetrable Helmet of Horn.

## NOBLE PANTHERS,

From the RIVER PLATA, South America.

### *Tiger Cats, Male and Female,*

From SERINGAPATAM, the most beautiful animal of that description ever seen. These animals, striped like the Tyger, and spotted like a Leopard, are allowed to surpass all Quadrupeds.

## ROYAL HUNTING TYGER,

FROM SERINGAPATAM.

The Ravenous Untameable

## H Y E N A,

Resides in the caverns of mountains, in clefts of rocks, or in holes and dens which it digs in the earth. Its disposition is ferocious, and though taken young, can never be tamed. Like the Wolf, he lives by depredations, but is stronger, more daring, and rapacious. It inhabits Asiatic Turkey, Syria, Persia, and Barbary. The superstitious Arabs, when they kill those dreadful creatures, bury the head, for fear it should be applied to magical purposes. When irritated for want of food, it tears up the earth, where dead men or beasts are deposited.

## REAL SATYR,

Standing 6 feet high, from the interior of SOUTH AMERICA, and stronger than any two men. Such an animal as was never seen in Britain.

A PAIR OF

### *Jackalls, or the Lion Providers;*

These are the only Animals a Lion will not destroy.

## THE ABYSSINIAN OUNCE,

The only one ever brought to Britain.

C I V E T C A T.

The Wolverine, or Glutton.

## A PAIR OF COTAMUNDAS.

A well known Enemy to the Crocodile and Alligator.

A Pair of Orange-Crested Cocatoos.

## EAGLE OF THE SUN.

SILVER FALCON.

From the EAST INDIES.

SILVER-HEADED VULTURE.

STORK, from Holland.----LAROQUETS, from Botany Bay.

A PAIR OF MACAWS.

Two Pair of HORNED OWLS, from Bohemia.

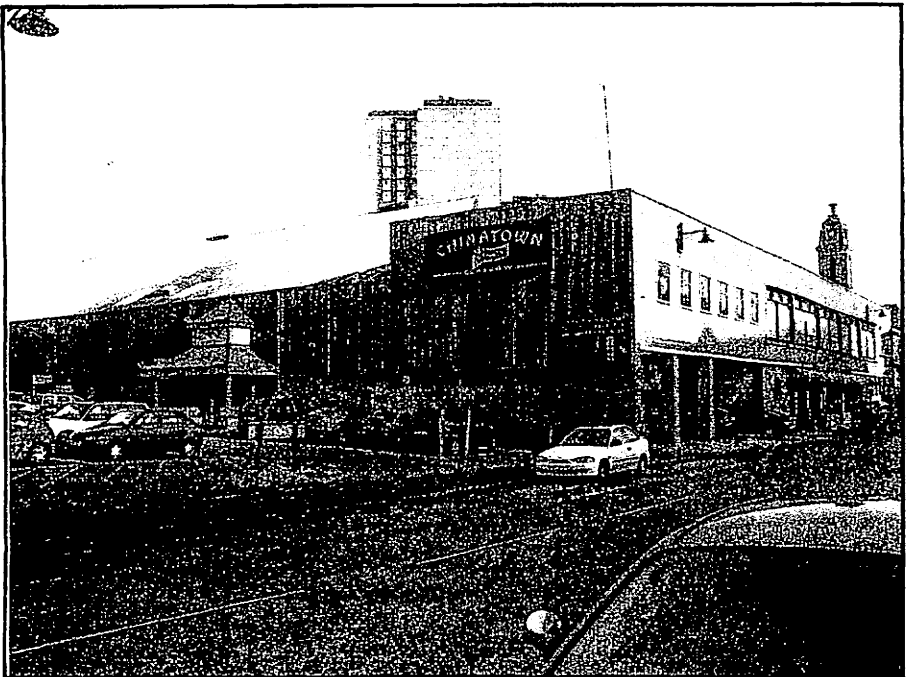
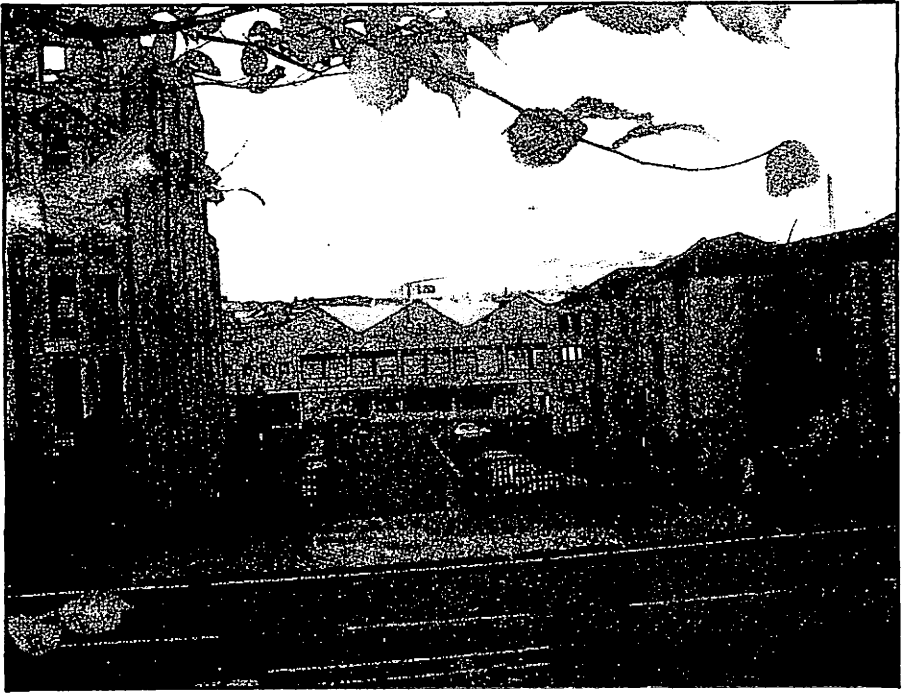
With more than ONE HUNDRED other rare and valuable WILD BEASTS and BIRDS.

Also a great variety of *Natural Curiosities*, which cannot be described in the limits of a Handbill.

Mr. MILES, grateful for the liberal encouragement he has received from an enlightened Public, most respectfully begs leave to assure them, that his present Collection, which has cost him some Thousands of Pounds to procure, is considered by the Naturalist as the most rare and valuable ever offered to the view of a British People.

ADMISSION, to LADIES and GENTLEMEN, Two Shillings;—TRADESMEN, &c. One Shilling.—To be seen from 11 in the Morning till 8 in the Evening; and as they are fed between 8 and 9, any Ladies or Gentlemen, who may wish to see them fed, 3s. each.—Birds and Beasts bought, sold, or exchanged.

Printed by R. CHAPMAN, Glasgow.





# The Scottish Zoo 1897

The opening of the Scottish Zoo in May 1897 was well covered in the local press, but particularly so in this article in the *Evening Times*.

I have been shown photographs of the interior of the Scottish Zoo. Regrettably, their owner has not granted permission to reproduce them here, but I can confirm that the *Evening Times'* line drawings of cages and vivarium are pretty accurate.

*The Daily Record* reports that the building has two entrances from New City Road, and is provided with three emergency exits at the far end of it, precaution rendered advisable in view of the Paris catastrophe. Hence the place can be cleared of spectators in a few seconds. In this connection it may be interesting to state that the free space for spectators leaves eight feet more room than can be found in any other place of entertainment in the city.

A few days after the doors opened, the *Evening Times* reports that one of the large pythons in this collection deposited about 30 eggs. This is perhaps the first occurrence of the kind in Scotland, and it is certainly the first in Glasgow. It will be of interest to naturalists to watch whether any signs of incubation will be exhibited as was done in the Zoological Society's Gardens, London, in a similar case in 1862.

Although the zoo was surrounded by buildings of the city, Edward Bostock was able to walk his hoofstock into the countryside. I would like to know what the local landowners thought of this. A significant benefit of the zoo's location was that in the late nineteenth century the Glasgow Veterinary College was just a short walk away.

I had once been told that all trace of the Scottish Zoo building had disappeared in the 1970s beneath the M8 motorway. When I consulted an old map recently, however, I realised it is still there, with the motorway elevated immediately behind it. The building, re-roofed and subdivided, retains its three gables and trapesoidal plan, and the rear elevation seems largely unchanged.

Roger Edwards  
Glasgow, Feb 2006  
[hystrix@hotmail.com](mailto:hystrix@hotmail.com)

## OPENING OF THE SCOTTISH ZOO.

When Mr Bostock christened the transformed Olympia in New City Road the Scottish Zoo he chose a very appropriate title; for this is the only permanent collection of what the Psalter calls "beasts wild and tame" in all Scotland, and it is in every respect worthy of its national character. The building is lofty and spacious, and the ventilation is perfect, there being an entire absence of that disagreeable smell which is so generally associated with wild beast shows. Internally,

nightly performances for which Mr Bostock has engaged the best possible talent, and of a sufficiently diverse character to maintain the continuous interest of audiences from week to week. At the south end of the Zoo is a fountain, surrounded by a pond in which various aquatic fowls disport themselves. At night the lighting is effected by means of numerous electric lamps, the current to which is supplied from the Corporation mains, while



FEEDING TIME—JUST A SMELL TO GO ON WITH.

the Zoo has been tastefully laid out. Cages line all the walls, with the exception of those parts which are required for the two large entrances from New City Road and the three emergency exits at the rear. In the centre is a circus, arranged and upholstered in a style equal to that of any other similar place of entertainment, and in its arena there will be



THE GIANT NEGRESS AND THE LLAMAS.

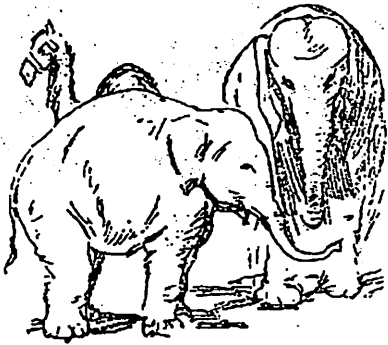
there is a sufficiency of gas jets to illuminate the building should the newer light fail.

The collection of birds and beasts is remarkably fine, nearly all the various types being represented, while the animals are in the healthiest condition. The African lion "Wallace," the Asiatic lion, "Prince," and the numerous lionesses and cubs are splendid specimens of the leonine race. The Indian elephant, "Sir Roger," is



a well-proportioned animal, so large that he weighs 5 cwt. more than the famous "Jumbo."

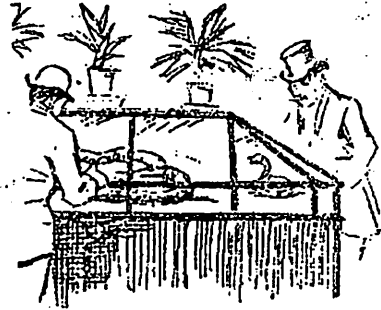
Beside him is a female elephant, "Piccaninny" by name, of the same breed as her male companion. Alongside them are camels and dromedaries. Mr Bostock has been fortunate in securing two pythons of an abnormal size. These repose in a glass case, and are alone worth going to the Zoo to see. Among the other animals are tigers, wolves, jackals, brown bears, a polar bear, a lynx, several



HIG STOCK.

kinds of wild cats and kangaroos, a llama, snakes, alligators, monkeys, goats, deer, baboons, a rare green macaw, and others of the cockatoo tribe, humming birds, a civet, hyænas, zebras, vultures, and leopards. Performances are given with a number of these animals by lion-tamers and other men, as well as by a negro giantess. But apart altogether from the entertainment aspect, the opening of the Zoo affords the long-wished-for opportunity of studying natural history in the best of all forms. The schoolboy and the student will here learn more about the habits and characteristics of these strange beasts and birds in a few hours than he will by months of reading, while the artist will find the Zoo an exceedingly useful resort for studies of animal life. By the extent and variety of the collection, Mr Bostock has

provided all classes of dwellers in the West of Scotland



REPTILES.

with an opportunity for combining instruction with entertainment. His widespread connections at home and abroad will enable him to add fresh attractions, and this he has arranged to do. In what was revealed at a private view last night and to the public this afternoon, he has more than fulfilled the high expectations which were formed of the Scottish Zoo, and this is the best guarantee that his performances in the future will be equal to his promises. It only remains for the people to give their hearty support to the venture. The Zoo is not only situated in a leading thoroughfare in the midst of a large population, but it is convenient of access from all parts of the city.

## THE FATE OF NUMBER THREE

As most aficionados are aware, by the time of George Wombwell's death in 1850 his eponymous menagerie had grown to such a prodigious size that, for practical purposes, it had been divided into three still sizeable independent parts. Number 1 (the original) was operated until 1865 by his widow, Ann (although there's still some debate as to whether she was really his girlfriend), who in turn handed it over to his niece, Mrs. Edmonds; in time a nephew named Alexander Fairgrieve managed it - then in 1872 it came under the auctioneer's hammer in Edinburgh. This sad event has been very well chronicled, largely on account of the dramatic way in which the prime purchase - Maharajah, the bull Asiatic Elephant - was walked all the way to his new home at Belle Vue but, rather surprisingly, the reasons for the somewhat sudden sale have never been made really clear, whether it was due to financial difficulties, family discord, illness or what. As things stand after getting on for a hundred and forty years we can but speculate.

The Number 2 collection, or "The Late G. Wombwell's No.2 Menagerie", was destined to become famous as "Bostock and Wombwell's", due to Emma Wombwell, another of George's nieces, having married one James Bostock, who had joined the show as a horseman and driver, in 1852; by all accounts he had previously lived on a farm near Leek, in Staffordshire, before settling into a new way of animal-care extremely well. This was the menagerie that finally came off the road early in 1932, when most of its stock was purchased by the Zoological Society of London for its infant Whipsnade.

So far so good, but what of the smallest subsidiary - Wombwell's Number 3 menagerie? This is the one we read, hear, know about least - in fact it's been tersely recorded that "it rapidly declined and was sold" - but as far as I can gather it had quite an interesting story to come, so I've tried to gather together what seems to have been recorded about it, although I readily admit it isn't much.

It was bequeathed to George's nephew, George Wombwell, who was born at Stoke Newington, then a village outside London, in March 1822, and who had married one Fanny Kinton. Despite being the smallest of the three menageries it nevertheless employed over twenty staff to start with. In early 1851, just after they had set out on the road, an Elephant "crushed" a member of staff named Thomas Burrows, who fortunately recovered from his injuries. At this juncture we're left to speculate whether this was a deliberate attack or an accident; there have been so many cases of Elephants killing people by "crushing" them - a move that can look so very innocent - but these have been mainly in zoological gardens, doubtless because in such places there are high and firm walls handy; in a circus or menagerie tent it's far more difficult to do a proper job in this way!

On one occasion he was cleaning out a black Tiger's den when it suddenly attacked him, before being successfully beaten off with a broom handle, leaving him unharmed - which brings up an interesting point. As you know, a melanistic Tiger appears to be just about the world's rarest animal - in fact there's debate as to whether there's ever been an authenticated sighting of one - yet old George, and others of his family, not infrequently refer to those travelling in their collections, indeed it would appear from my own researches that they owned no fewer than four of these rarest-of-the-rarities at various times! Then, while perusing some

statements attributed to young George, the "mystery" immediately became crystal clear! He said the most interesting animals he'd ever owned were three black cubs, the progeny of one of these black Tigers and a Leopardess: they were "black all over but with darker spots" - so obviously they were melanistic Leopards, or "Black Panthers" to the bloody-minded! In any case, there has never been an authenticated instance of a successful mating between a Tiger and a Leopard; one or two abortions, yes, but never a living cub.

For a time Number 3 did well - in fact it's recorded it was by no means unusual for it to take over £200 a night in cash, which was a vast sum then - but during 1855 things began to go seriously wrong, beginning at Edinburgh, when one violently stormy night gale force winds blew over no fewer than six of his beast waggons on a hillside; it isn't recorded whether any animals were killed or hurt, or indeed how such structures were righted again. Shortly afterwards, in Peebles, his Horse-tent caught fire and thirty Horses burned, twelve of which had to be destroyed.

He started back towards England, but while crossing the snowy Pennines between Huddersfield and Manchester an appalling, in fact haunting, tragedy struck, when the Elephant waggon became inextricably stuck in a snowdrift; after twelve days its unfortunate inhabitant died. We can but imagine this horror - the desperate attempts to pull, drag and push the vehicle free, the obviously unsuccessful attempts to keep the Elephant warm and protected from the northern winter, its gradually weakening condition... For all we know now the waggon might have been jammed at some sort of angle, which would have made the suffering even worse. In short it's a scenario distressing to visualise or contemplate. Ironically, George had been offered no less than £650 for this Elephant only a short time before: I relate this simply as it suggests it must have been a very fine animal indeed.

The final straw came when the show was at Hackney - not far from where George was born - when many of his animals fell victim to "an epidemic and died one after the other." At this juncture it's difficult to suggest what this might have been, particularly as another source implies it affected only his big Cats. If this is so, I'd suggest the trouble could well have been Infectious Feline Enteritis (I.F.E.) - which is still about but not really a problem as today such animals are almost automatically inoculated against it - but of course the veterinary services of the 1850s can barely be equated with those of today. If, on the other hand, whatever it was had broken out among the stock generally, I'd suspect gastro-enteritis, which wouldn't have been so difficult to treat, even then. Things are complicated, though, by another report that said it was the carnivores that were affected by - a "specialist" said - a form of rinderpest. To the best of my knowledge, this disease (which is straight German for "Cattle Illness") affects only ungulates!

Anyway, George fell into debt, and what was left of the collection had to be sold at auction. The prices raised were disappointing, to say the least. For example, five nearly new beast waggons fetched on average £8 apiece; the animals included a Jaguar, a pair of Leopards (presumably spotted!), a Nylghai, a Hyena, a Jackal, "six Monkeys", an Alpine Wolf, a Baboon, a Civet, "some birds", a "Russian Bear" and two "Esquimaux Dogs". However, there were scarcely any buyers, with the Bear raising £3.15.0, the Monkeys from 5/- to 10/- each and the Dogs 4/- and 6/- respectively - in fact the whole sale raised not much above a hundred pounds. George's loss was not far short of £5,000 and he was bankrupted.

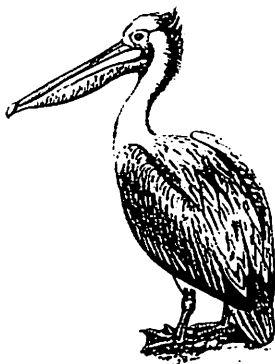
At this juncture it will be interesting to contemplate the animals that were left at the end; as you see, there were some good ones among them, which suggests the show in its entirety must have been well worth visiting.

One is forced to wonder whether the five waggons were the only ones left (it was said the amount they raised wasn't the original cost of their springs!) - and note the Nylghai; as I've pointed out before it was quite astonishing how this, the largest Asiatic Antelope, was a popular subject in travelling shows and seemed to do well in the narrow confines of a beast waggon. We are left to speculate on the species of the Hyena, Jackal, Monkeys and Civet, while "Alpine Wolf" and "Russian Bear" were then popular names for the European Wolf and Brown Bear respectively, although it's interesting to bear in mind that Russian Bear was being used by the showman Frank Farrar, founder of Colchester Zoological Garden, as recently as the 1960s. The "birds" would have been chiefly Parrots, plus possibly a Pelican and even a Crane, while Esquimaux Dogs were Huskies - then rather topical subjects at a time when serious polar exploration was getting under way.

For some considerable time George earned his living playing the cornet in various circus bands but eventually, in old age, he was reduced to playing solo on street corners and outside pubs for coppers that passers-by tossed into his cap. By the end of the 19th Century, in utter penury and with Fanny in an infirmary (dementia? incurably ill?) a national newspaper tracked him down to his regular London pitch and wrote up his life story. A relief fund was launched (and well supported by readers from all over the country) but it was only a temporary respite. Things went from bad to worse, despite his uncle, E.H. Bostock of menagerie fame, learning of his predicament and sending him 10/- each week, and eventually he was forced to seek assistance from the parish - a move made only by the desperate and destitute due to it being regarded as the epitome of degradation at the time.

He died at Tottenham - again not far from his birthplace - on 26th February 1909, aged 87.

Clin Keeling



## WAS KATHLEEN GUILTY?

Of the innumerable strange events that have gone towards the making of the fascinating story of the London Zoological Garden, that concerning the death of Peter, a very young African Elephant, has always struck me as one of the strangest.

He arrived at R.P. as a presentation, on 11th August 1928, and was given a very young - in fact little more than a calf - Black Rhinoceros named Kathleen as a companion. Normally a Goat was - still is? - provided as a companion for a lonely young mammal, but here was a decided departure from the norm.

On 29th July 1929, it was reported that Kathleen had made a savage and seemingly unprovoked attack on Peter which resulted in his suffering a broken scapular thus rendering him unable to stand. He was removed to the infant - if not embryonic - Whipsnade (which didn't open until two years later) on the 30th July: he died there on 1st August.

Frankly, I've never believed that Kathleen was physically capable of doing this amount of damage - in fact I've a half-formed idea he might have slipped on, say, a wet concrete or stone floor, while I find the "reasoning" to move him to Whipsnade, which would have involved a most uncomfortable road journey, absolutely inexplicable. At that time the Z.S.L. possessed a large and reasonably well equipped sanatorium at R.P. (at the rear of the present Bird House) whereas Whipsnade had no veterinary facilities of any kind, or indeed even anywhere to house just a young Elephant, so why was this extraordinary decision taken? It's a rhetorical question, as we'll probably never know the answer. The fact remains it looks almost as though R.P. wanted desperately to get poor Peter off its hands PDQ - as per my somewhat suspicious mind!

I've recently obtained this photograph of the two animals. Note that Peter appears to be a Forest Elephant (*cyclotis*) while Kathleen's horn looks incapable of hurting anything! Incidentally, she grew to adulthood at R.P.

Clin Keeling



## ANOTHER RHINOCEROS MYSTERY

As is reasonably widely known among aficionados, as the SS "Orchis" arrived at London Docks on the evening of 7th December 1872, a Sumatran Rhinoceros (of the Hairy-eared form, if you recognise it) among its cargo gave birth to an apparently healthy calf. When it's borne in mind that it's known the animal(s) belonged to a reasonably prominent dealer/importer named Rice, it's perhaps rather surprising that, as things have stood ever since, it isn't known what became of either of them.

As I say, this much is fairly common knowledge.

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The life and work of a zoological historian is fascinating, highly fulfilling - and awash with (mainly pleasant) surprises. This came home to me, most forcibly, this last March (2006), when I located a "Letter-To-The-Editor" that had appeared in the now long-defunct magazine *Land and Water* (which by all accounts was a good one) dated 14th December 1872. It was penned by a prominent personality whose name is well known to you - Frank Buckland (Francis Trevelyan Buckland). As is, again, well-known he had a peculiar propensity for eating most unlikely things - such as Rhinoceros flesh (which he said resembled very tough beef) and chops from an exhumed Z.S.L. Leopard which had been dead for some time - but rather surprisingly his multivorous activities did not contribute to his death, in 1883.

His letter is far too lengthy to appear here in its entirety, but it's devoted to the Rhinoceros birth and contains much hitherto unreleased/unknown information.

It appears - and this, for a start, is revealed for the first time - that at the beginning of the 73 days voyage from Singapore, a pair of Sumatran Rhinoceroses had been placed in separate cages on the deck but "the frightful waves smashed the cage of the male, and he died on the voyage." Quite likely, but perhaps more likely, I cannot help feeling, he had to be shot as he rampaged about the deck...

Frank Buckland went on to explain that these animals had been caught in Malacca (later, Malaya) in "pitfalls" and it appears that "out of six or seven Rhinoceroses so caught, the average is only one uninjured and fit to send to Europe." - which, of course, was an appalling state of affairs. When he went to see mother and baby they had been installed at No.1 King's Place, Commercial Road, London and - this is interesting - were the property of Messrs. C.W. Rice, A.H. Jamrach and C. Hagenbeck. The calf was described as having a "ridiculous-looking innocent hairless face, not unlike that of a newly-born Mouse; it carries its ears folded backwards like a Hare, and its body is covered with black hair; while it has a little horn as big as a shilling on its nose. It had a narrow squeak for its life." This was because, shortly after birth, it squeezed between the bars and was found wandering on deck, getting wet and cold, under the winter sky.

Mr. Bartlett (now that name rings a bell, somewhere) was approached for advice, and on his suggestion it was wrapped up in blankets and removed to Mr. Rice's house, where the latter's wife tended it before a roaring fire before the mother arrived in her travelling crate. It's interesting, and could be highly significant, that Bartlett specified that under no circumstances should Cow's milk be offered - which causes one to wonder whether he knew, even then, that this milk is

far too "feeble" and generally lacking in nutriment to be of much use to a great many other species.

The mother was obviously steady enough to be milked "like a Cow", and the youngster took it from a bottle, but he became so lively that Mrs. Rice was unable to hold him, so he was reunited with his mother and the two installed in a warm and dark corner of the Rice establishment, where Junior was given "a box to himself and a feather bed to sleep on". The box in this context must have been a loose-box, as one Jack, who was described as Rice's head keeper, slept in it with him to ensure he was "warm and comfortable".

The female - which was described as "a great beast about 10 feet long and about four feet six inches high" (although I wouldn't have thought she'd have been as long as that; if she were she must have resembled the result of some unspeakable *amore* between a Rhinoceros and a Dachshund) - had hitherto been very tractable, "but now she is getting a little savage, even though she has a nice warm Horse-rug tied over her, and has the best of food." The calf was strong and active, walking about by itself in and out of the box and lying by the mother after feeding from her.

Frank Buckland again: "I have tasted the milk of the Rhinoceros. It is excellent. I suppose I am about the only man who has tasted Rhinoceros milk and eaten the steak of a young Hippopotamus in London." He went on to say he'd be "very sorry" if these two interesting and valuable animals were allowed to cross the Atlantic, and trusted sincerely that the Council of the Z.S.L. would see fit to purchase them - but obviously this was not destined to come about.

By sheer luck, rather than my skill or otherwise as a researcher, I've also come upon another account of the birth in a copy of *The Field*, of approximately the same date; it isn't signed, so we can but assume it was penned by a staff journalist. Thus we learn:

"Whatever may be said of the birth of a young Hippopotamus in the Zoological Society's Gardens" - this would have been the animal to become the famous Guy Fawkes, born 5th November 1872 - "the event has since been eclipsed by the birth, in the London docks, of a young Rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*)" - yes, it really gave the scientific name! - "the same species as the animal which lately died in the Gardens." (Again, this would have been the very short-lived female which arrived as a £600 purchase of Jamrach on 21st August 1872, and died exactly a calendar month later.) Almost unnecessarily it was pointed out that as the birth was both unexpected and unprepared for, plus its adverse circumstances and conditions on board ship, it was quite astonishing that the calf should be doing so well. The event took place in the Victoria Docks, by the way. "Jack" informed the writer that the youngster suckled no fewer than seven times during the night before his visit.

Whoever-he-was described how he was led down some steps into a dark stable where, by the light of a bull's-eye lantern, he could see the far end had been partitioned off with sacking in order to exclude light. In this compartment the female was lying down, but the calf, seemingly attracted by the light, walked confidently towards these disturbers of its peace and so gave them an excellent view of himself - "In appearance it reminds one of the young Hippopotamus, but has a longer head and apparently stands higher on its legs... From its feeding so well we have little doubt that it will live and grow, and it is hoped Fellows of the Zoological Society and their friends may be saved a journey to the Far East, by inspecting the new arrival in their own Gardens if it can possibly be secured for them."

As I say, previously only the barest bones of this matter seem to have been recorded for posterity, but now these two accounts have together contrived to clothe the skeletal material with a reasonable amount of new and interesting tissue. Let's cast about it a bit...

For a start, both writers were struck by how sturdy and healthy the calf was - doing well in fact and clearly, to use a trendy term, having "bonded" with its mother, so in theory at least its future was "set fair". However, one noted authority, none other than Richard J. Reynolds of Atlanta, Georgia, specifically states elsewhere that it lived only a fortnight - but without revealing any details and/or source.

Apart from this, it seems strange that after this fairly detailed account of their installation in a decidedly grim part of the East End, not another word appears to have been uttered or penned about either animal: I first read about the unlikely birth close on half a century ago, and although I've made reasonably thorough efforts to discover more about their fate(s), have been utterly and completely unsuccessful. Note that both scribes hoped the animals would be purchased for Regent's Park, but they obviously weren't, while Frank Buckland hinted very clearly they were United States bound - almost as though he had inside information on the issue. Certainly, though, there seems to be no date or destination given for their or the female's departure from Rice's care, or in fact how long the latter was with him. The obvious move at this juncture is to check on whether any examples of this spectacular species arrived in the States around this period, so it's time to consult Dr. Reynolds' carefully researched and chronicled records of Rhinoceroses in trans-Atlantic collections.

In fact there were two - both in circuses - in the 1870s. The Adam Forepaugh show boasted of a "monster two-horned hairy Rhinoceros as large as an Elephant" in 1874, and which was killed when its beast waggon fell through a bridge while on tour the following year, while in 1873 "John Robinson's World Exposition" exhibited a "double-horned, three ton, black Sumatran Rhinoceros, cost \$13,000". This, apparently, was still with the show as relatively late as 1880. Either of these could have been the Rice/"Orchis" animal, but unfortunately no dates of arrival or acquisition are given.

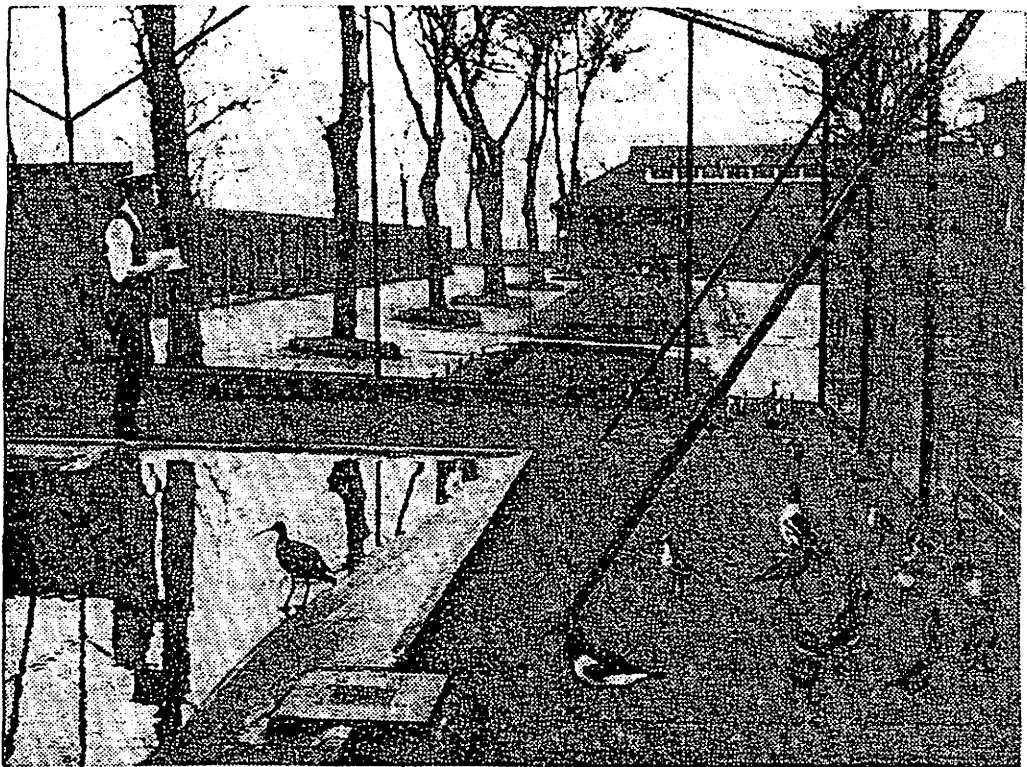
My own feelings - a hunch if you like - is that she did not reach the States. I feel it's far more likely, especially given the recent birth, that she succumbed *en route*, either to metritis - a common malady caused by the unnoticed retention of a piece of placenta - or eclampsia or post parturition septicaemia, any of which would "fit". Consequently it's more than likely her mortal remains were cast into the mid-Atlantic.

As I say, it's no more than an educated guess - but it would take a great deal of disproving.

Clin Keeling

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# TAKING THE CENSUS AT THE ZOO

## The Waterfowl Vary From Day to Day

This old press photograph dates from the 1930s: I don't know the specific year, but the date's the 31st December, as the keeper is obviously carrying out the annual stock census, which at R.P. was always traditionally on that date.

It shows the wonderful old Waders Aviary which was situated directly to the east of the 1876 Lion House. To the left can be seen the paddocks attached to the then Deer and Cattle Sheds, while in the background the Wolves and Foxes Dens can clearly be seen.

The Aviary must have been newly constructed as when I recall it (up to the late 1950s) it was beautifully landscaped with grasses, bushes and other herbage, sandy areas and shingle "bays".

Identifiable among what appears to be a predominance of small waders are an Oystercatcher, a Curlew and a Goldeneye.

Clin Keeling

