



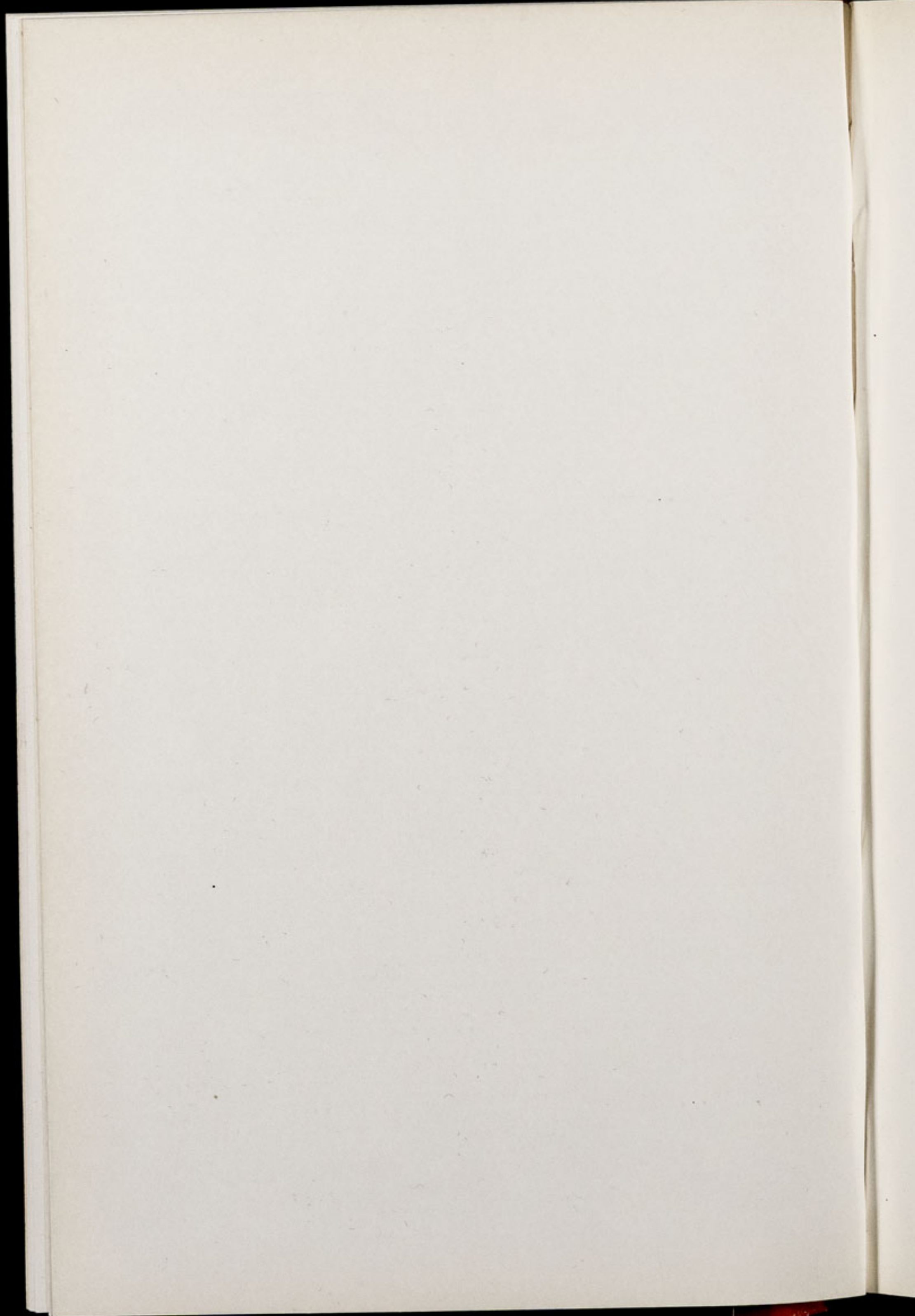
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON - BY - CHESTER

April 1978

Price 12p



The North of England Zoological Society
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER

“Samantha,” the new baby Hippo

By courtesy of Mel Grundy, N.U.J.

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ANIMAL ADOPTION SCHEME

In the March issue of the magazine we reported a visit to the Zoo by the B.B.C. Team of *Look North—Nationwide*. The Team has made a second visit.

On the first occasion Mr. Stuart Hall of *Look North—Nationwide* posed with the Asian Elephants; "Jubilee" was determined not to be left out of the fun. We feel sure the Team enjoyed the visit, Mr. Hall especially. We were relieved to see that he was 'suitably' dressed for the visit, for anyone who has to deal with elephants will understand that their smell is quite strong, and distinct from that of any other animal. Elephants themselves like to smell humans all over, and whilst doing so tend to dribble somewhat!

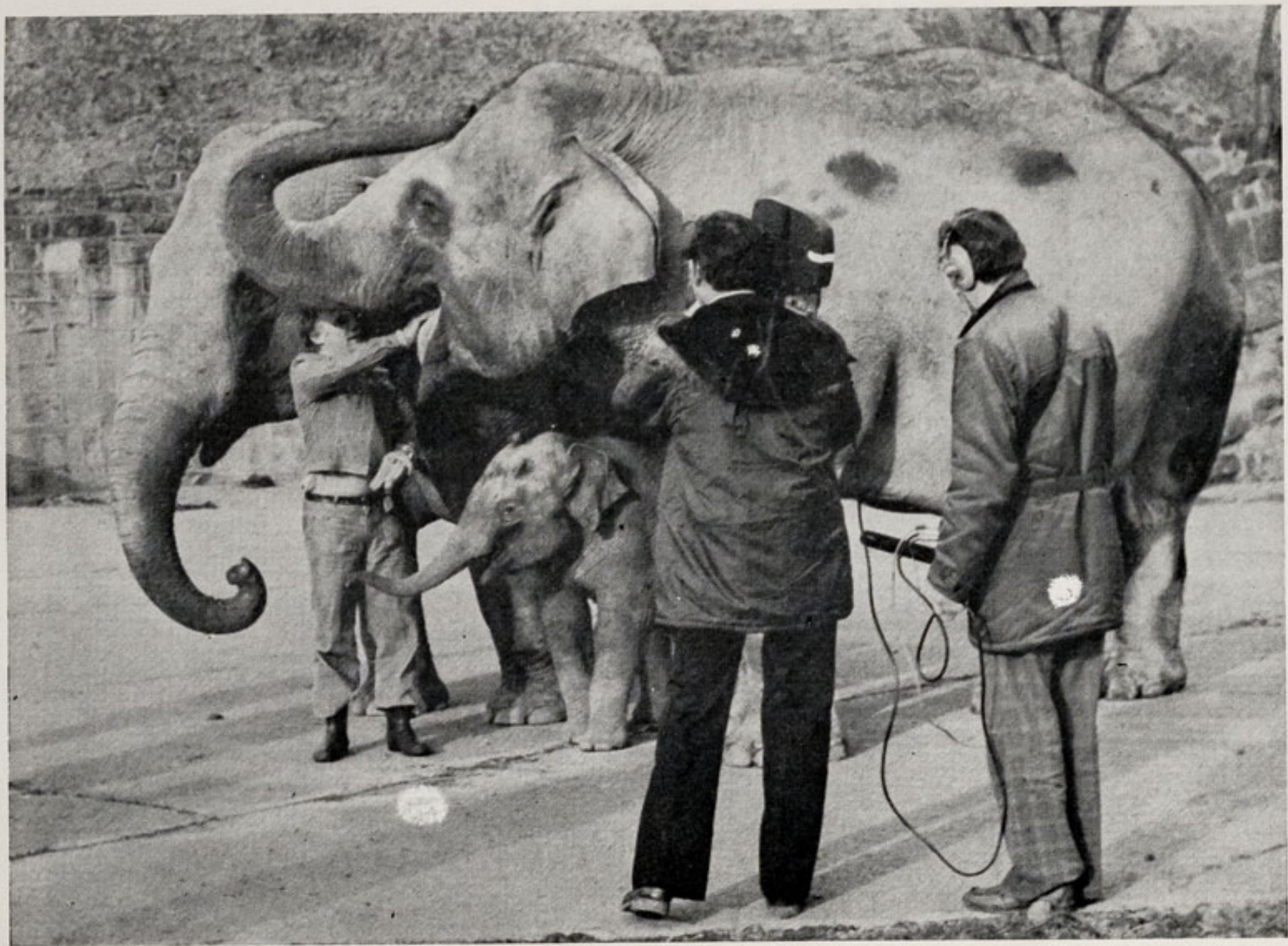
In the photograph on Page 3 readers will observe that Mr. Hall is feeding the elephants with bread, and appears to be quite undaunted by the task. The bread which we provide for the elephants is baked in our Zoo Bakery and given as part of their diet. This exercise resulted in a delightful clip of film which was shown on television in the *Look North* Series.

On the second visit of the Team, the Chinchillas and the Lion-tailed Macaques were featured. A Chinchilla was put into a small cage for the film, as the Chinchilla Enclosure did not lend itself to filming. In the Zoo we give the animals hollow logs in which to hide and they are often out of view.

Fortunately on this occasion the Camera Crew were also able to film the female Lion-tailed Macaque with her baby which was born recently. We are very pleased with this birth, as these animals are in danger of becoming extinct in the wild.

AROUND THE ZOO

It is with pleasure that we are able to announce the birth of a female Hippopotamus now named "Samantha." This is the latest birth to our pair "Myra" and "Generino." "Myra" gave birth to the



By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

MR. STUART HALL AND CAMERAMEN OF THE B.B.C. NATIONWIDE—LOOK NORTH TELEVISION PROGRAMME
WITH THE ASIAN ELEPHANTS

youngster on Good Friday evening in full view of a crowd of visitors who appeared most interested in the proceedings. The baby was able to stand within an hour of its birth. Shortly afterwards, "Myra" went into the Pool followed by the baby who appeared to experience no problems. It is a fact that a number of Hippos are born in water and are able to suckle there.

The pair was a popular attraction over the holiday week-end. It was necessary to move the male into a neighbouring enclosure as the female was rather aggressive towards him shortly after the baby was born. Although the male would not attack the baby, the mother becomes rather anxious on these occasions. After a period of about two weeks we will be able to re-introduce "Generino" to his family. This follows the procedure we have adopted for some time with other births and found it to be the best method.

* * *

In the February issue of the magazine it was announced that a baby Grey Kangaroo was observed in the mother's pouch. The baby is now leaving the pouch on occasions and having a romp around the Paddock (Enclosure 68). In the adjacent Paddock the baby Red Kangaroo is not quite as advanced, but may be seen eating grass from the safety of its mother's pouch. As she grazes so does the baby.

* * *

Recent births include the Baggot Goat, which unfortunately is another male. This particular breed of goat is becoming quite rare; it is believed there are now less than 29 females in the World today.

Another Arabian Gazelle has been born. Again, it was thought the mother was not looking after this animal and it was taken away for hand-rearing. The youngster is progressing satisfactorily.

Seven Soay Lambs have been born, and these can be seen in Enclosure 107.

Two female Kinkajous have been received into the collection. They have been put into the Small Mammal House and introduced to a young male bred in the collection last year. Hopefully, this will establish another breeding group.



By courtesy of J. Walker, Daily Mirror

TWO OF OUR SOAY LAMBS BRED RECENTLY IN THE ZOO

GENERAL NEWS

As most of our readers will know, another attempt has been made to poison "Pharoah," one of our tigers. Although this animal almost died he is now slowly recovering in spite of the fact that this is the fourth occasion on which he has been the victim of such an attack. This is only one of many poisoning incidents which have taken place at the Zoo over the past few years and it is terrible to think that anyone can be so persistently cruel to our Big Cats. They are beautiful and valuable animals, and many letters of sympathy have been received from members of the public expressing their anger and disgust at such treatment of them.

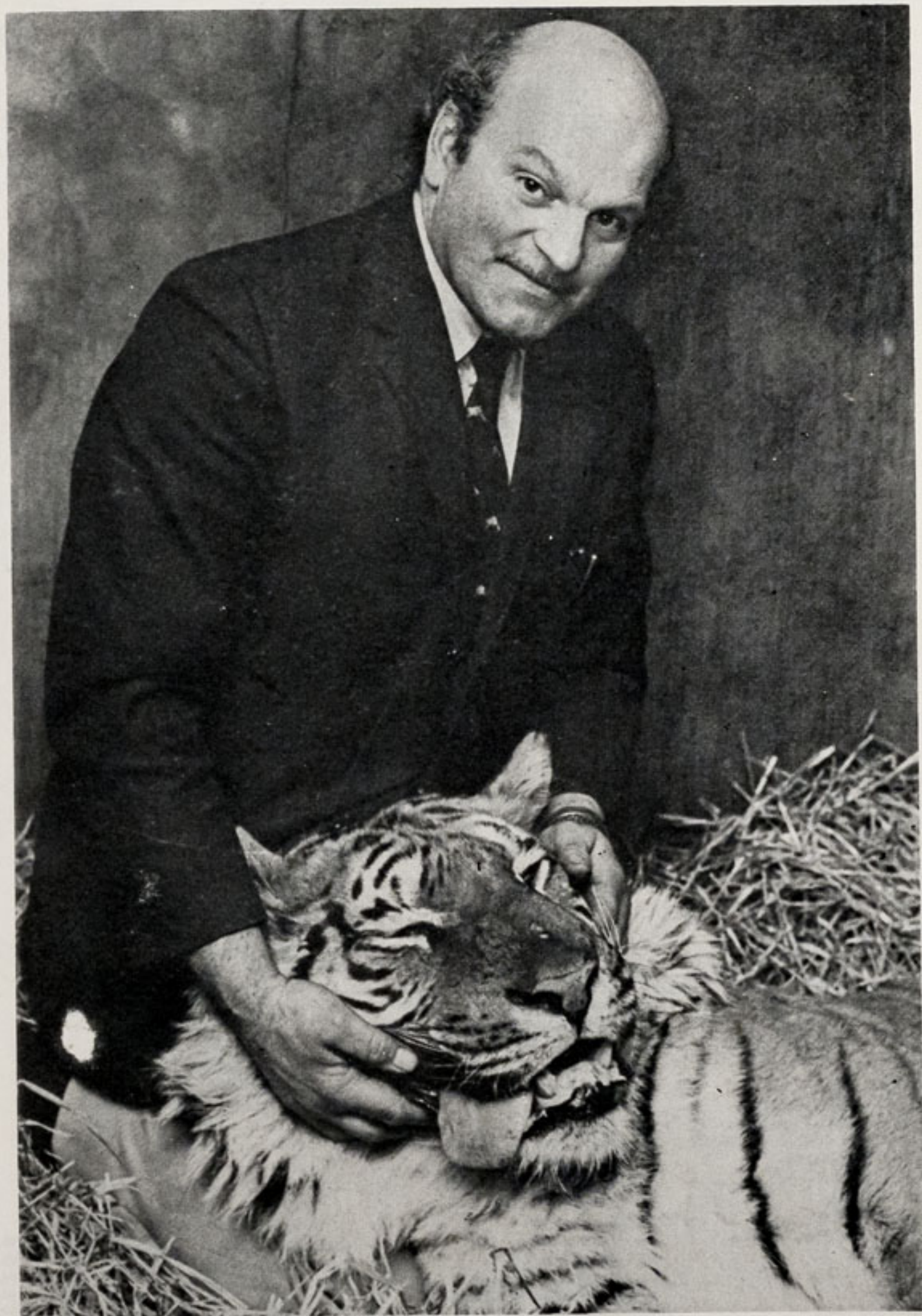
NEW ARRIVALS

A pair of Large Tree Shrews (*Lyonogale tana*) and a pair of Common Tree Shrews (*Tupaia glis belangeri*) have been received into the collection. The new arrivals can be seen in Enclosure 36.

Tree Shrews are found in the forests of eastern Asia, ranging from India through South-western China, thence eastward through Malaya, the Sundas, Borneo to the Philippine Islands. It is interesting that these creatures exist in that area which some believe to be the point of origin of the Primates, including Man.

The phylogenetic relationship of the Tree Shrew is not very clear. These animals have anatomic features which appear to relate them to an anomalous group, the Elephant Shrews. Other peculiarities even suggest a marsupial association, whilst certain structures are so generally indicative of Primates that many zoologists list them as the most primitive of the Primates.

Recent work has shown that Tree Shrews have reproductive habits different from those of the Primates, and are of the most primitive among mammals. The female suckles her young until they are bloated with milk; this forms about two fifths of their weight. She then leaves them and sleeps with the male in a separate nest, only returning to her young at 48-hourly intervals to give milk. The young



By courtesy of Mel Grundy, N.U.J.

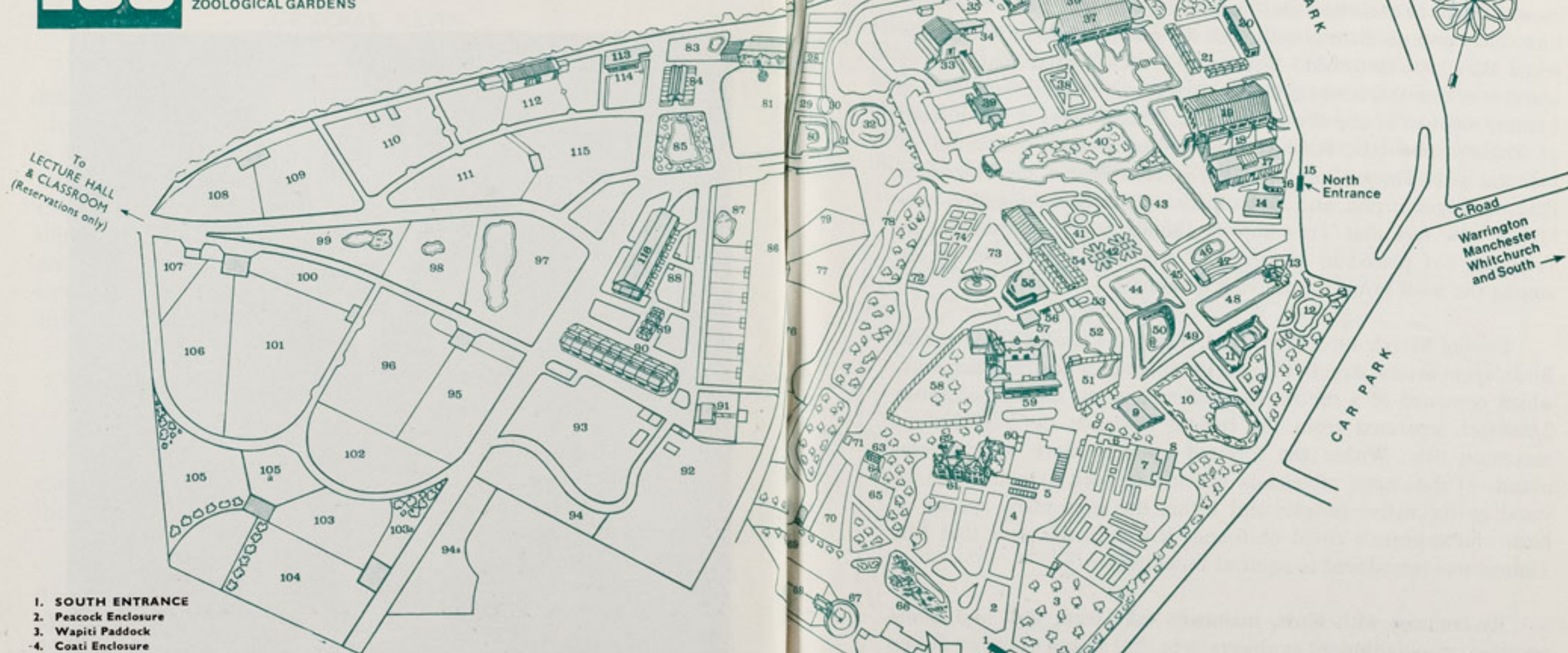
MR. PETER WAIT, CURATOR OF MAMMALS, WITH "PHAROAH"

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos. 1-16 from South Entrance
or Nos. 16-116 from North Entrance then return to Nos. 1-16

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily
from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.**



1. SOUTH ENTRANCE

2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Coati Enclosure
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, INVALIDS' TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Bears
12. Jubilee Gardens (Noah)
13. Kiosk
14. AQUARIUM
15. NORTH ENTRANCE
16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, LOST CHILDREN
17. PARROT HOUSE
18. Free Flight Aviary
19. APE HOUSE
20. Shop and Kiosk
21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
22. TOILETS
23. Tuatara Exhibit
24. Peccaries
25. Waterbus Halt
26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
27. Condor Aviary
28. Jackal and Hyena Enclosures
29. Animal Enclosure
30. Porcupine Enclosure
31. Coypus
32. Beavers
33. Giraffe House

34. Camel House
35. Waterbus Halt
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL & REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Mammal House
40. Gibbon Island
41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Waterfowl Enclosure
47. Penguins
48. Seallions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Big Cat Enclosure
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. Anteaters
54. BIRD HOUSE
55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
56. Ape Nursery
57. TOILETS
58. Lions
59. SOUVENIR SHOP
60. TOILETS
61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT

62. P.O. Telephone
63. Aviary
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Wallabies and Kangaroos
68. Kangaroo Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Cheetahs
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt
73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Waterbus Halt
79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
80. Brown Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Emus, Cranes and Flamingos
88. Outside Monkey Enclosures
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Tiger Enclosures

92. Antelope
93. Antelope
94. Antelope
95. Llama
96. Zebra
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Waterfowl Enclosure
99. Waterfowl Enclosure
100. Black
101. Wall
102. Animal
103. Reindeer

104. Pere David's Deer Paddock
105. Przewalski's Horses
- 105a. Onager
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Musk Oxen
108. Bison
109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
111. Antelope Enclosure
112. RHINOS
113. TOILETS
114. Mpila Snack Bar
115. Antelope Enclosure
116. MONKEY HOUSE

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

- LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
BEARS—3-15 pm
POLAR BEARS—4 pm
SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-30 pm, 3-30 pm, 4-30 pm

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED
FROM TIME TO TIME

move around in their nest and maintain a constant body temperature. They give no distress calls, and the mother shows no response when they are disturbed. Youngsters reach sexual maturity at about four months, whereas the smallest of the Primates, the Mouse Lemur, matures at about eight months. This process is reminiscent of Lagomorpha (the Rabbit), which also gives a minimum of parental care. The genital apparatus of Tree Shrews also resembles that of Lagomorpha and Marsupials. Consequently many zoologists now feel that Tree Shrews should not be considered as Primates, but placed in an order, Tupaioidea, by themselves, as among the most primitive of living mammals.

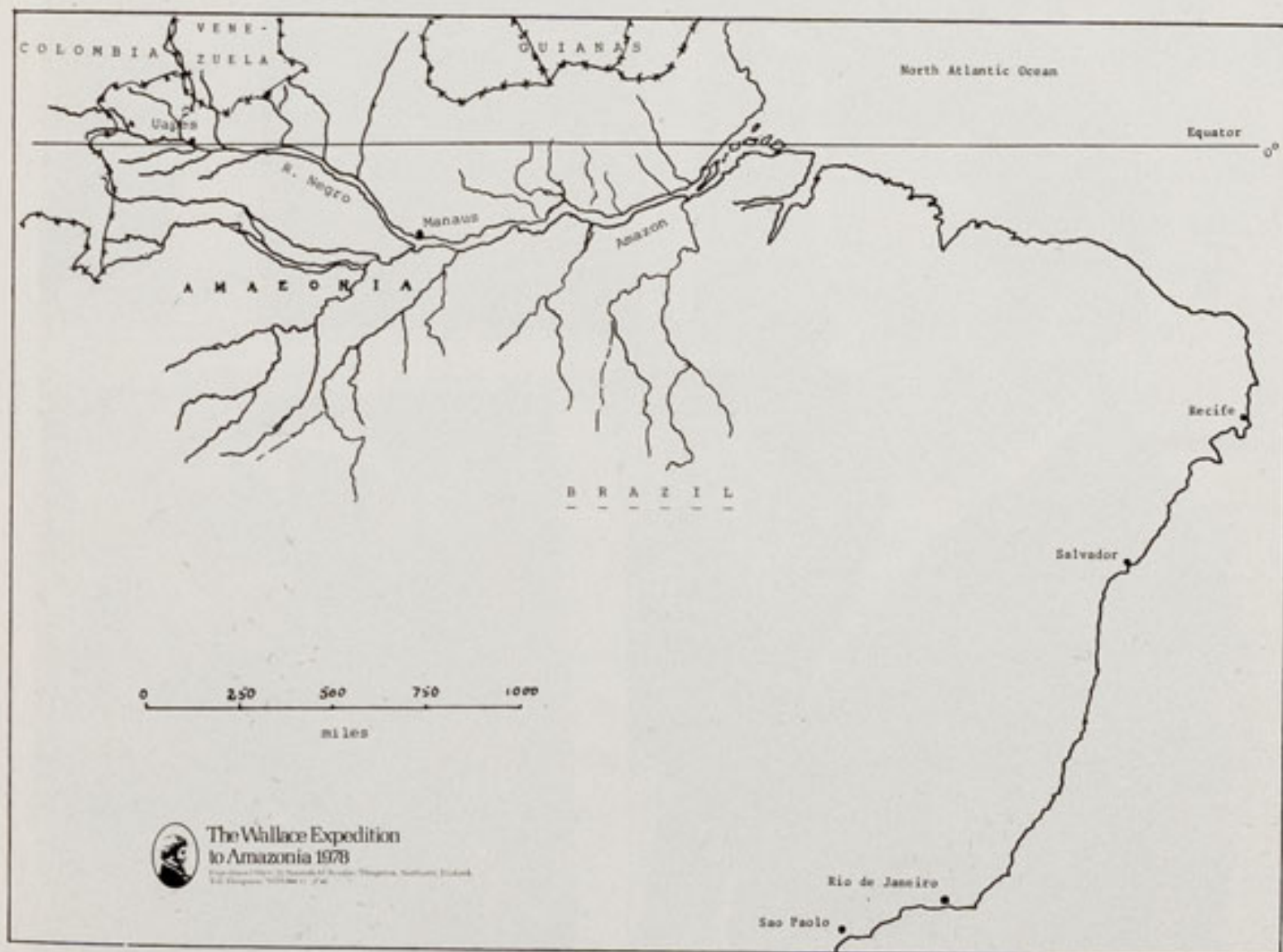
During March 1962 Mr. W. H. Timmis, Curator of Apes and Birds, spent several days in the interior uplands of northern Sarawak, which consisted of a central forested area at an altitude of about 3,000-feet separated from the coastal lowlands by a 6,000-foot mountain belt. Within the forested uplands there were several islands of flat, open tablelands which had been extensively cultivated by the native peoples and within this area many species of birds and mammals could be found. It was in this area that Mr. Timmis was introduced to squirrel watching.

By contrast with birds, mammals may seem dull and uninteresting; popular indeed as objects to be shot at, but not as creatures to be watched and studied. The reason for this is clear enough. Most mammals are active only at night and are not at all easy to watch or photograph. Two groups of mammals provide exceptions to this rule—the Monkeys and the Squirrels. Both are active by day and, like birds, can be studied with no more equipment than a pair of field glasses.

Bird watching is a deservedly popular pastime. With their brilliant colours, musical notes, and day-loving habits, birds can be pursued with field glasses and camera as casually or as seriously as the naturalist may wish, and they never fail to provide amusement and interest.

One of the commonest animals to be found within the forested uplands of northern Sarawak was the Tree Shrew, which looks sufficiently like a Squirrel to be included under the same Malay name, Tupai.

Tree Shrews can be found in such localities as coconut plantations, cultivated land far from any forest; in fact, several Tree Shrews had been caught in snares in old and secondary jungle by local natives. Several years later Mr. Timmis saw many Tree Shrews along with Tree Squirrels and Ground Squirrels in the Lake Gardens of Kuala Lumpur and Fraser's Hill in Malaya. These could be watched from the windows of a car parked by the roadside.



A map showing the area around the River Uapés and the River Negro where the Wallace Expedition Team will be carrying out their survey of flora, fauna, soil and climatic conditions

AMAZON EXPEDITION

Following an article in the April 1977 edition of the *Chester Zoo News*, the organisation of the Wallace Expedition is now almost complete and most of the scientific equipment and stores have been collected.

Mr. W. H. Timmis, our Curator of Apes and Birds, who is a member of this Expedition will carry out a survey of birds and reptiles to be found in tropical jungles in the region of Taragua, a settlement on the River Uapés in Northern Amazonas. This is an area close to the equator with a very humid climate and daily rain



By courtesy of J. Smith, N.U.J.

A print of the Purple-breasted Cotinga being displayed by Mr. Timmis in his home at Chester Zoo. The original painting by David Ord Kerr, a member of the Expedition Team, will be drawn for on the return of the Team to the United Kingdom. One of the owners of a signed and numbered coloured print of the painting will be the lucky winner. It could be you!

A limited number of these colour prints are still available

showers. Birds will be caught in mist nets, which will be hung at various levels from large tropical trees; the birds will then be photographed, weighed and measured before being released. Specimens of zoological interest will be kept in portable aviaries and studied over a period of several weeks, in order to fill the many gaps in our knowledge of tropical birds, their calls, ecology, displays and comparisons of food and habitat.

A special study will be made of the breeding and behaviour of the Nocturnal Curassow (*Nothocrax urumutum*) and if possible it is hoped to bring back three pairs for further scientific study. This species is one of the most interesting and least known of the Curassows. The establishment of captive breeding groups is needed urgently. Their status in the wild already gives rise to grave concern and many species belonging to the group are on the verge of extinction.

To help raise the £17,500 cost of the Expedition, famous artist David Ord Kerr, has painted a picture of the rare Purple-breasted Cotinga. Only 350 signed and numbered prints are being issued at a cost of £12.50 each. Upon the return of the Expedition a draw will take place and the owner of the winning ticket will be presented with the original painting. Prints are available from:—Mr. W. H. Timmis, The North of England Zoological Society, Zoological Gardens, Chester.

AQUARIUM NEWS

We are pleased to report the following species that have been acquired for the collection:

	<i>Tank No.</i>
Black Widow Tetra (<i>Gwynnocorymbus ternetzi</i>)	2
Glass Catfish (<i>Kryptopterus macrocephalus</i>)	6
Clown Loach (<i>Botis macracanthus</i>)	17
Long-finned Characin (<i>Alestes longipinnis</i>)	17
Chequerboard Cichlid (<i>Crenicara maculata</i>)	18
Spanner Barb (<i>Barbus lateristriga</i>)	21
Half Beak (<i>Dermogenys pusillus</i>)	23
Rainbow Characin (<i>Exodon paradoxus</i>)	31

Species for the collection (<i>cont'd.</i>)	Tank No.
Guppy (<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>)	70
<i>Leporinus affinis</i>	34
Snake Eel (<i>Myrichthys colubrinus</i>)	45
Scorpion Fish (<i>Pterois volitans</i>)	43
Orange-striped Trigger Fish (<i>Balistapus undulatus</i>)	43
Hovercraft Boxfish (<i>Ostracion gibbosus</i>)	44
Butterfly Fish (<i>Chaetodon collaris</i>)	44
Angler Fish (<i>Antennarius striatus</i>)	47
Domino Damsel (<i>Dascyllus trinaculatus</i>)	48
Electric Blue Damsel (<i>Pomacentrus coeruleus</i>)	48
Yellow-tailed Blue Damsel (<i>Abudefduf exanthurus</i>)	48

On our list of new species there is the intriguing name of the Hovercraft Boxfish. This is of the Family *Ostraciontidae* which includes the cowfishes previously recorded in our magazine. Species within this Family have scales which change into hard, bony plates fused together, thus forming a box-like container. This is called a carapace, surrounding the fish. Holes in the carapace allow for the eyes, gill opening, snout, the fins, and the anus. These boxfishes are not at all lively in the tank as they are very poor swimmers. Their expert manoeuvrability however makes up for this and their unusual shapelessness is of interest in the Aquarium.

Another species of fish on the list is that of the Angler Fish which is of the Family *Antennariidae*. The term "angler" is aptly used as the first spiny dorsal ray is developed into a fishing decoy held by the Angler Fish in front of its mouth. Small fishes make a dart for the "bait." These little fishes are however drawn down into the gullet of the Angler Fish, ever ready to consume all the little fishes that come its way.

* * *

As stated in the last issue of the magazine, it was our intention to catch and return the fish taken from the Waterways to their original "home" when work on the Canals had been finished. This has now been done and the Golden Orfe, Tench and Carp can once again be seen.

GARDENING NOTES

At this time of the year the propagation of plants for the summer bedding schemes is almost complete and the greenhouses and frames are filled to capacity. At the same time we can see the results of last year's work for the flower displays this Spring.

There was a time during the second week of February when we were having severe frosts and thought we would lose many of the plants. The leaves of the wallflowers and pansies were drooping very badly but fortunately the weather changed and the displays should be very good.

The daffodils on the Islands are plentiful this year and can now be seen to better advantage as a result of the willows having been polled during the winter. However new shoots will soon grow on the willows and their appearance should be greatly enhanced this summer.

Quite the most interesting parts of the Gardens at this time are the Rockeries. From early Spring one can always find something in flower. The bulbs extend from the first snowdrops to the tulip species flowering in May.

We have four species of Gentians on the Rockeries. The first to flower in the Spring is *Acaulis*. It grows to about six inches high and has large trumpet-shaped flowers. *Acaulis* is quite strong-growing compared with the species *Sino-ornata* which blooms in the summer and has smaller flowers; it also grows to about six inches. *Gentiana septemfida* flowers in late summer, being twelve inches high with rich blue flowers. *Gentiana asclepiadea* flowers in July and August, growing to about eighteen inches; the common name of this plant is 'Willow Gentian.'

Among the early flowering plants is *Saxifraga apiculata*, which is yellow and four inches high. *Arabia rosea* flowers for a long period but is not so robust as the double flowering white *Arabis*. The

common name is 'Wall Cress' or 'Rock Cress' and, as the name suggests, several species originate from Arabia.

Primula wanda is one of the early flowering *Primulas*, with brilliant purple flowers and usually needs protecting from birds with a few strands of cotton. *Primula denticulata* is early flowering and has pale violet flowers, about one foot high. Two groups of these are planted by the water's edge in the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Garden. The name 'Primula' comes from the Latin 'Primus,' meaning first, and referring to the early flowering of many of the *Primula*.

Many varieties of *Ericas* are now in flower, the flowering periods being usually from March to April and August to September. A small area is planted with *Erica* above the Jubilee Garden, and other groups are planted amongst the Rockeries. One of the earliest varieties to flower is 'Winter Beauty,' with pale pink flowers. *Vivelli* flowers at the same time and has a bronze foliage during the winter. Springwood White is one of the best early whites and the brown anthers show up well by protruding above the flowers. Springwood Pink is a soft pink; both these varieties spread very quickly. *Darleyensis* is more vigorous and upright, with rosy-pink flowers. The varieties which flower in Summer and Autumn are best trimmed in April, to keep them in shape, and the flowers will come on the new growth.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms can be obtained from the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £2.30, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shops or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.



The following notice is displayed on several boards in the grounds
Please comply with it at all times

FEEDING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS

IT IS AN OFFENCE for any member of the public to offer food of any description to any Animal or Bird in Chester Zoo.

This regulation is made for the sake of the health of the Animals and Birds. Since the NO FEEDING rule was introduced, the number of deaths has dropped appreciably and sickness due to wrong feeding has been virtually eliminated.

What you may be offering to an animal may only be a sweet or an inoffensive piece of bread, but it can mean a death sentence for the animal. For example, a cough drop, which may relieve your cough, can cause instant death to many Animals and Birds in the Zoo.

You must not lose sight of the fact that you are only one of over a million visitors who visit the Zoo annually. If for instance an elephant had one bun from only one tenth of a day's visitors during the summer, it would eat between three and four thousand. You can guess the result.

We realise what a temptation it is for visitors, particularly children, to feed our Animals and Birds and this is why we invite members of the public to be present at the official feeding times.

This is a polite warning to you, asking you not to feed the animals. If you ignore it, the Keepers are authorised to ask you to leave the Gardens.

If you really love Animals and Birds, you will appreciate the wisdom of the ruling — No feeding by members of the public.

**PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF
ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS
CONDITION**

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