

UPDATE ON THE SOCIETY ARCHIVE – May 2026

As was the case at the time of the update I provided within the February newsletter, my activities over the course of the last few months have largely been focused on the task of ensuring that the sizeable quantity of material left to the Society by the late Rob Bradshaw is stored in a secure and efficient fashion, moving documents into secure and airtight containers where necessary, and sorting the material into rough categories in order to facilitate the process of cataloguing and consolidation.

However, as a result of several distinct factors I have been able to significantly expand the collection of *International Zoo News* issues held within the Society archive, to the point that (barring a handful of specific issues which I will discuss anon) we are likely to be able to boast a "complete" set of the publication from 1954 to 2016 within the near future.

- Firstly, in the time that has elapsed since the archive first entered my custody and I initially assessed the *IZN* holdings, I have been slowly attempting to fill gaps within the archive using a combination of scanned back-issues retrieved from the now-defunct website for the publication using the Wayback Machine, and scans of issues held within my personal collection of *IZN*. These have been stored on a portable USB drive located within the relevant archive box.
- Secondly, over the last few months I have started the lengthy process of assessing the significant quantity of *IZN* back issues kindly donated to the archive by Tim Brown during the 2024 Society AGM at Marwell Zoo, along with the (also significant) quantity of *IZN* back issues contained within the Bradshaw donation; this has allowed me to replace many of the issues previously represented only in digital form with hard copies, and add several dozen issues which had previously been entirely-unrepresented.
- Thirdly, in late March I entered into correspondence with Dr Stephen Petersen, the Director of Conservation and Research at Assiniboine Park Zoo in Canada; as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, Petersen now has custody of the zoo history collection which once belonged to Phil King, and having discovered a lengthy discussion of *International Zoo News* which I had written on the ZooChat forum offered me several early copies of the publication, including a handful of the early 1951-52 editions produced by Bert Jørgensen. These have now also been scanned and incorporated into the Society archive.
- Finally, in early April I entered into correspondence with Daniel Ziegler, of Stichting Rhino Resource Center, as a result of Ziegler happening across the same ZooChat discussion; Ziegler was interested in exchanging scanned copies of *IZN*, having noted that many of the editions held by the Rhino Resource Center or his associates at the Milwaukee County Zoo library were absent from the list of editions held by myself, and visa versa. In fact, between those editions held within my personal collection or the Bartlett Society archive on one hand, and those held by the Rhino Resource Center or Milwaukee County Zoo on the other hand, we anticipate that all parties concerned will hold near-complete sets of the 1954-2016 publication shortly - with only three missing editions and two which have sustained significant damage.

As a result, the Archive Team is now in the position to kindly request that no further editions of *IZN* dating from 1971 onwards are donated to the archive, although hard copies of earlier editions remain welcome. Furthermore, we would like to request that if any members of the Society own copies of the following early *IZN* editions within their personal collections, they are kind enough to send scanned PDF copies to my email address; this will allow the completion of the main run of this publication within the Bartlett Society archive:

- 1957 vol 4:1
- 1957 vol 4:2

- 1959 vol 6:2
- 1963 vol 10:2
- 1964 vol 11:5

Scanned copies of the early Bent Jørgensen editions would also be very much appreciated, but are of lower priority at present.

Alongside the above, there have been a handful of smaller developments in the past few months:

- Society member Martin Platt has kindly donated several newsletters and a significant quantity of annual reports pertaining to Bristol Zoo.
- David Round has kindly donated his entire collection of the Zoo Grapevine publication – as a result, the archive now contains a complete set of all IZES publications barring the latest issue of Grapevine, and no further donations are required. This has also resulted in a large number of spare back issues becoming available, which I intend to distribute on request at the next Society AGM.
- David Lomas has advised me that the Chester Zoo archive contains several spare annual reports which represent editions currently absent from the Society archive; these will be sent to my address at some point in the near future.
- The Society Archive *may* receive some portion of the Phil King collection in the future, although this is by no means definite at the time of writing; the intention of Dr Stephen Petersen is to establish a museum of Canadian zoo history at Assiniboine Park Zoo using the King collection as its nucleus, and he has indicated that he is open to donating any material which would not be relevant to this purpose to the Bartlett Society.
- I have recently got back in touch with Rebecca Denham – daughter of the late Ken Denham – and she has kindly written a short biography of her father for inclusion within my eventual Journal article on the sizeable collection of Morecambe Marineland material which she donated last year.

Finally, alongside the above high-priority request by the Archive Team for scanned copies of specific *International Zoo News* editions, please consult the information provided in the February newsletter for lists of Chester Zoo annual reports and *Ratel* back issues which are requested for donation.

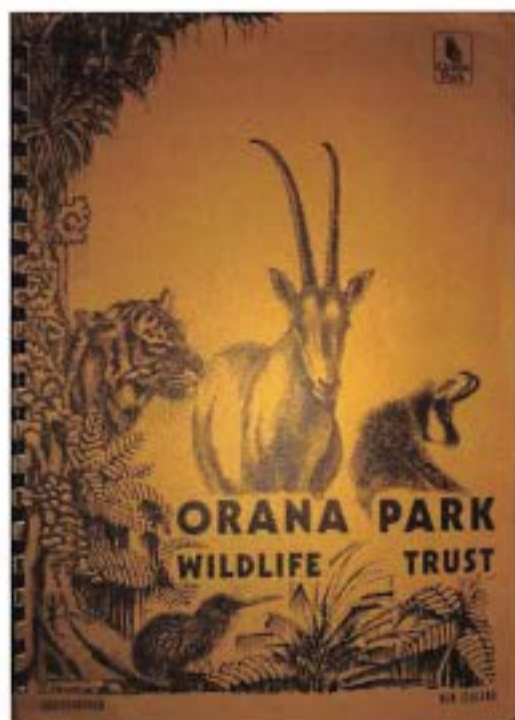
As always, feel free to contact me via email with any questions, requests or feedback.

David Howlett

TREASURES OF THE ARCHIVE: A Masterplan from the Antipodes

Although much of the material present within the Society Archive pertaining to a specific zoological collection (as opposed to more general publications such as *International Zoo News*) tends to have a distinctly British focus, we 'are' fortunate enough to also have access to a substantial quantity of material relating to a range of collections overseas. Perhaps one of the most interesting and valuable documents falling under this latter category is a masterplan for Orana Wildlife Park in New Zealand, given the insight it grants into the very earliest years of the collection in question.

The masterplan covers a number of topics, as follows:



- A handful of paragraphs detailing the events which led to the development of Orana Wildlife Park (originally called Orana Park Wildlife Trust) after the South Island Zoological Society formed in 1970 with a view to opening the first zoological collection on the South Island.

- A detailed description of the site chosen, an area of green-belt land to the northwest of Christchurch called McLeans Island, and the various advantages which the location grants for the successful establishment of a zoological collection.

- Information relating to the three planned phases of development: an initial 12-hectare area featuring a general display of birds and mammals and a drive-through reserve for African Lions, which had opened at the time of publication; an additional 40-hectare area intended to comprise an African Plains exhibit section, and which commenced construction in 1978 shortly before

the publication of this document; and a 28-hectare area intended to display a range of North American forest fauna, and which was estimated to be completed in approximately 10 years.

- A policy document regarding the factors behind the choice of species to be held at the collection once construction was complete, including ability to tolerate the climate of the South Island without additional heating, the feasibility of importing sufficient numbers to establish viable breeding groups given the likelihood that losses would be impossible to replace, and the expense of constructing suitable housing for the species selected.
- A summary of the progress made to date, including information relating to the species displayed at the collection at the time of opening on 26th September 1976 and those obtained subsequently, details of the exhibits being constructed at the time of publication as part of the second phase of development, a full breakdown of the projected costs for this phase, and a map showing the intended layout of the African Plains exhibit complex.
- A list of the eight members of the Orana Park Trust Board and their occupations, along with details relating to the permanent and part-time staff working at the zoo itself.
- Information pertaining to the education and research activities undertaken by the collection up to the time of publication, including an organised programme of activities for school groups in the Canterbury region, and work on the behaviour, nutrition, pathology and breeding pathology of South Island Kiwi alongside the University of Canterbury.
- A summary of the financial status of the Trust in the years following the opening of the collection, providing details for each year end relating to gate takings, donations and grants received, fixed assets, expenses and debts, and overall accumulated funds.

It is unclear how this particular document became part of the Bartlett Society Archive, considering the fact that it relates to a collection on the other side of the world from most of our members both past and present, was produced in the mid-1970s, and was already present within a box of miscellaneous unsorted items when I first took custody of the archive – if any members happen to recall donating this item at some point in the past, I would be very interested to hear from you!

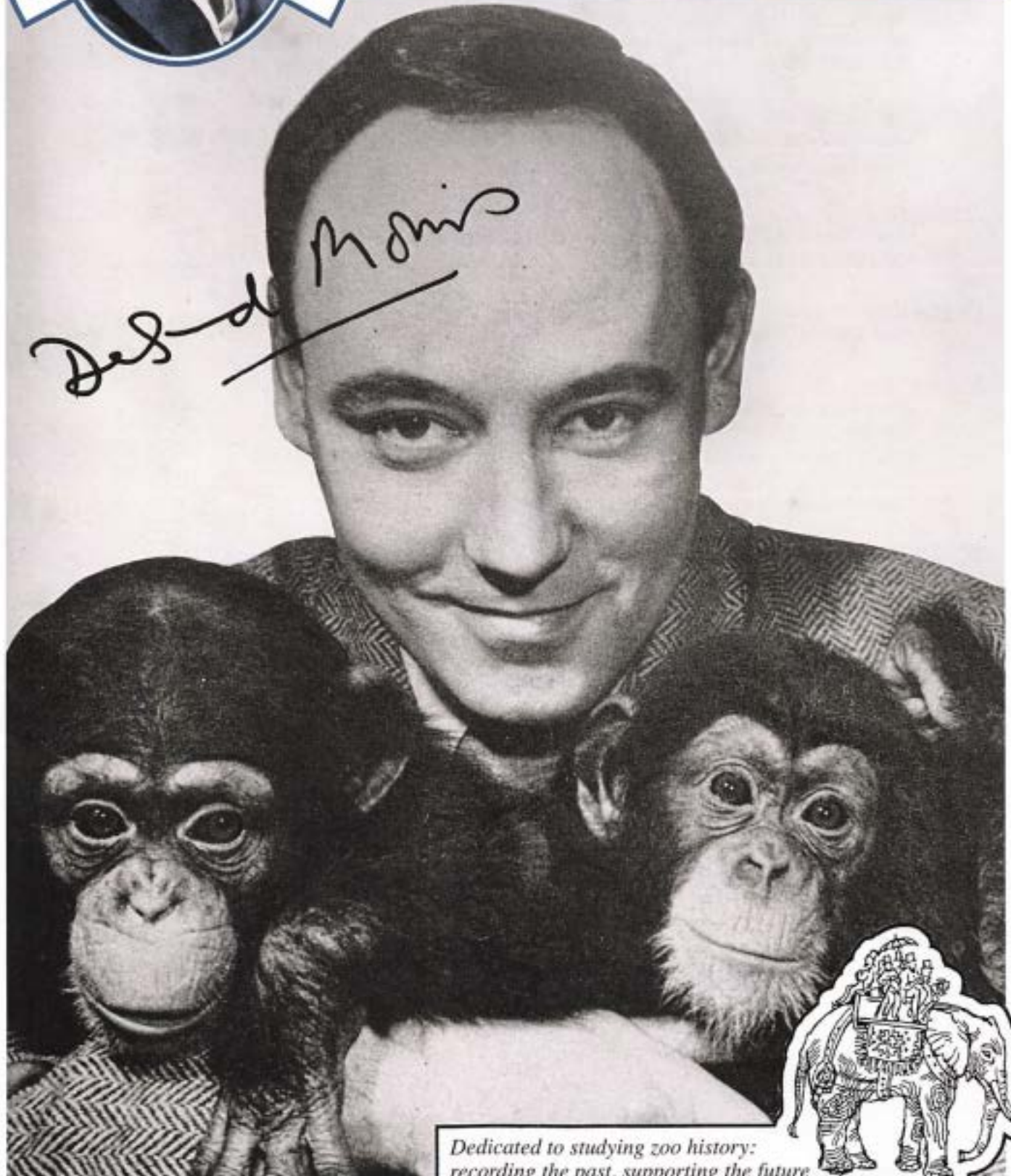
David Howlett



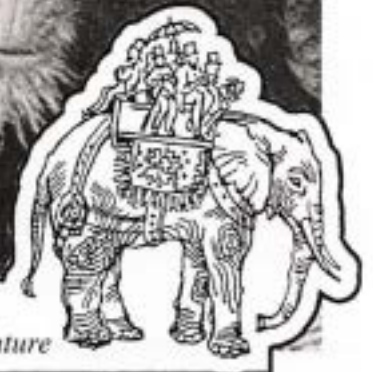
The Bartlett Society

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*Dedicated to studying zoo history:
recording the past, supporting the future*



THE BARTLETT SOCIETY

FOUNDED BY C.H. KEELING ON 27th OCTOBER 1984

Acting Chairman

Joe Mersey, 8 Devonshire Road, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex, PO21 2SX
(012 4346 5538 answer phone)

Vice-Chairman, Newsletter & Journal Editor:

John Adams, 61 Belmont Road, Portswood, Southampton, SO17 2GD
(023 8055 4376)

Membership Secretary:

Christine Grant, 18 Willis Court, Bencurtis Park, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9QF
(020 8776 2220)

Treasurer:

David Davis, 63 Bargery Road, Catford, London, SE6 2LP
(020 8698 8511 answer phone)

Webmasters:

Paul Murphy and Rob Vaughan

Archive Team:

John Adams - adamsjohn@talk21.com
David Howlett - david.p.howlett@gmail.com
David Lomas - davidlomas.per@gmail.com
Paul Murphy - zoohistory@gmail.com
David Round - dnround@yahoo.co.uk

TO CONTACT ANY OF THE ABOVE YOU MAY ALSO E-MAIL zoohistory@gmail.com

website: zoohistory.co.uk

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Front cover: Desmond Morris who died on the 19th April 2026 at the age of 98. See page 8.