

ZSL AT 200

SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND THE NATURAL WORLD



SHNH SUMMER MEETING, 1-3 JULY 2026

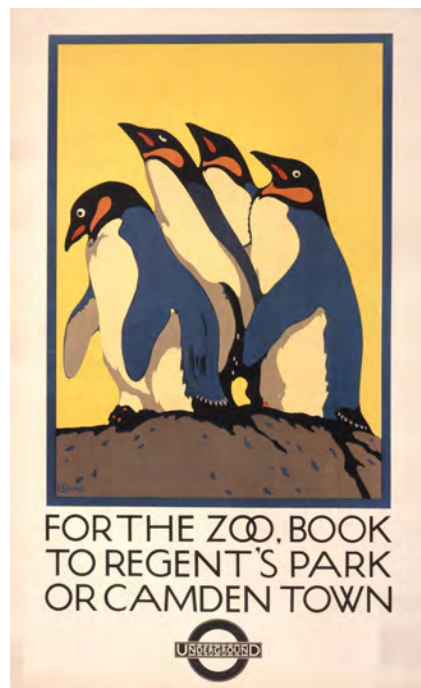
Zoological Society of London
Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY

THE SOCIETY FOR THE
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Cover Image

Detail from 'For the Zoo, book to Regent's Park'
Charles Paine (1895-1967)
colour lithograph, 1921

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Programme design: Will Beharrell
v.1.4

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE

9:30 AM

Arrival and Registration

10:15 AM

Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

10:30 AM

Panel One

The tumultuous years of the Zoological Club of the Linnean Society of London
Isabelle Charmantier, The Linnean Society of London

An object reptile or how Timothy the Tortoise nearly ended up at ZSL
Stephanie Holt, University of Oxford

11:30 AM

Break

12:00 PM

Panel Two

Institutional identity, research, and record: the founding of the *Proceedings* and the *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London*
Beth Gaskell, The British Library

Broadcasting beasts: radio, early television and the Zoo c.1923-1939
Max Long, Lincoln College, University of Oxford

1:00 PM

Lunch

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE, CONTINUED

2:00 PM

Keynote Lecture

'Down pythons' throats we thrust live goats': snakes, zoos and animal welfare in nineteenth-century Britain

Professor Helen Cowie, University of York

3:00 PM

Break

3:30 PM

Panel Three

Obaysch and Tanja: zoological stardom and animal identities in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries

Wessel Broekhuis, ARTIS Amsterdam Royal Zoo

Life in death: a living perspective of animals through London Zoo's death books 1870-1900

Daniel Phillips, Independent Scholar

4:30 PM

Break

5:00 PM

Panel Four

From specimen to encounter: butterflies, affect, and immersive insect exhibition at the Zoological Society of London

Marlowe McCaffrey, University of Oxford

Deep time encounters at the Zoo, 1880 to the present

Chris Manias, King's College London

7:00 PM

Conference Dinner (pre-booking required)

Côte Brasserie, 26-27 Devonshire St, London W1G 6PL

PROGRAMME

DAY TWO

9:15 AM

Arrival (Introduction and Housekeeping at 9:40)

9:45 AM

Panel Five

Carl Hagenbeck in London: animals and architecture, trade and inspiration, 1864–1913.

Herman Reichenbach, Tierpark Hagenbeck

The London Zoo and the transnational circulation of zoological culture in the Spanish press (nineteenth–early twentieth centuries)

Nuria Benítez Prián, Independent Scholar

Learning from other zoos: the ZSL and its zoo travellers, 1863–1938

Oliver Hochadel, IMF-CSIC (Barcelona)

11:00 AM

Break

11:30 AM

Panel Six

Women in zoology and ZSL: moving on through the twentieth century

Ann Sylph, Independent Scholar

Public gardens, private ambitions: Walter Rothschild and the use of ‘depositing’ within the gardens of the Zoological Society of London

Elle Larsson, University of Westminster

12:30 PM

SHNH Annual General Meeting and Prizegiving

PROGRAMME

DAY TWO, CONTINUED

1:15 PM

Lunch

2:15 PM

Travel Time to Tour Venues

3:00 PM

Collections Tours

We will be offering multiple tour options, detailed below. Further information will be shared nearer the time.

- **ZSL Library**
- **UCL Grant Museum of Zoology**
- **British Library**
- **Angela Marmont Centre for UK Nature (NHM)**
- **NHM Library and Special Collections**
- **Members' Reading Room, Royal College of Surgeons**

Or, remain at ZSL for self-guided visit of heritage points e.g. tunnel, plinths etc.

6:00 PM

Informal Dinner and Drinks at a local pub (TBC)

PROGRAMME

DAY THREE

9:30 PM

Arrival and Registration

9:55 PM

Introductions and Housekeeping

10:00 AM

Panel Seven

The Zoological Society of London: its 200-year history in artworks and artefacts in the Society's Library

Ann Datta, Independent Scholar

Captive subjects: art and photography at the London Zoo, 1828-1914

Daniel Kennedy, Independent Scholar

11:00 AM

Break

11:30 AM

Panel Eight

Julian Huxley at the Zoo, 1935-1942

Joe Cain, UCL Department of Science and Technology Studies

The last Prosector at the Zoological Society of London: William Charles Osman Hill

Carina Phillips, Royal College of Surgeons of England / University College London / Natural History Museum, London

An 'enviable record of "basic research"': institutionalising science at the Zoological Society

Miles Kempton, Christ's College, University of Cambridge

PROGRAMME

DAY THREE, CONTINUED

12:45 PM

Lunch

13:45 PM

Panel Nine

Stars and stripes: what ZSL's long history with giraffids reveals about the many dimensions of its scientific and conservation endeavours

Simon Pooley, Birkbeck University of London

Whipsnade Zoo, a ZSL story: how has the UK's first open zoo influenced conservation breeding and veterinary care

Buffy Beck and Maddie Humfries, Whipsnade Zoo

The role of ZSL in originating and growing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Michael Hoffmann, Zoological Society of London

Craig Hilton-Taylor, IUCN, Simon N. Stuart, Synchronicity Earth

H. Resit Akçakaya, Stony Brook University

Rajan Amin, Zoological Society of London

Jonathan E.M. Baillie, Natural State

Monika Böhm, Global Centre for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo

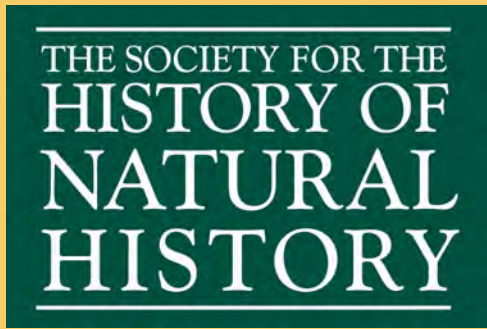
and Sophie E.H. Ledger, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London

3:00 PM

Closing Remarks

3:15 PM

End of Conference



The Society for the History of Natural History is a friendly society for everyone interested in the historical and bibliographical study of all branches of natural history, including their social and cultural aspects, across all cultures

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