

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

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This volume has its origins in discussions held in 2022 on how to mark the centenary of the 1923 opening of the University of Glasgow's Zoology building, now named after its founder, John Graham Kerr (JGK), Regius Professor 1902-1935. Fifty years before, in 1973, the building's 50th anniversary was the occasion for a dinner and the internal publication of a pamphlet containing short articles on Glasgow Zoology's history to date. For the centenary, the organising team (Pat Monaghan, Neil Metcalfe, Roger Downie, Maggie Reilly, Mike Rutherford and Jennifer Crawford) decided on a number of events and activities, but also that the occasion was a suitable opportunity to put together a substantial historical account. The team approached the funding and publications representatives of Glasgow Natural History Society, who agreed that a Supplement to *The Glasgow Naturalist* would be a suitable publication vehicle for this history, testifying to the close links between the Society and the University.

It was easy to decide on some of the major contributions to this volume: JGK had written a memoir after his retirement from Parliament (where he had represented the Scottish Universities), but this had not been

published, despite the efforts of his widow. The memoir, with explanatory notes, is the most substantial component of the book. Annotated versions of the 1973 articles are also included. While the book was being assembled, we were sent a set of notes made by a student from JGK's lectures in 1917, and these make a fascinating contribution, along with a contextual commentary. The major new writing in the book includes Maggie Reilly's history of the Hunterian Zoology Museum and its contributions to the work of the department, and a score of short articles on the different aspects of Glasgow Zoology as they have evolved over a century, including many of the people involved.

We are very grateful to all the authors who so willingly responded to our requests, sometimes at short notice as we remembered topics worth including. We hope that readers find the contents of this book as interesting as we did. We would like to thank all who helped put this volume together, especially Lorna Kennedy, Nathan Miller, and Ruth Maclachlan who formatted all the articles according to *The Glasgow Naturalist* style.