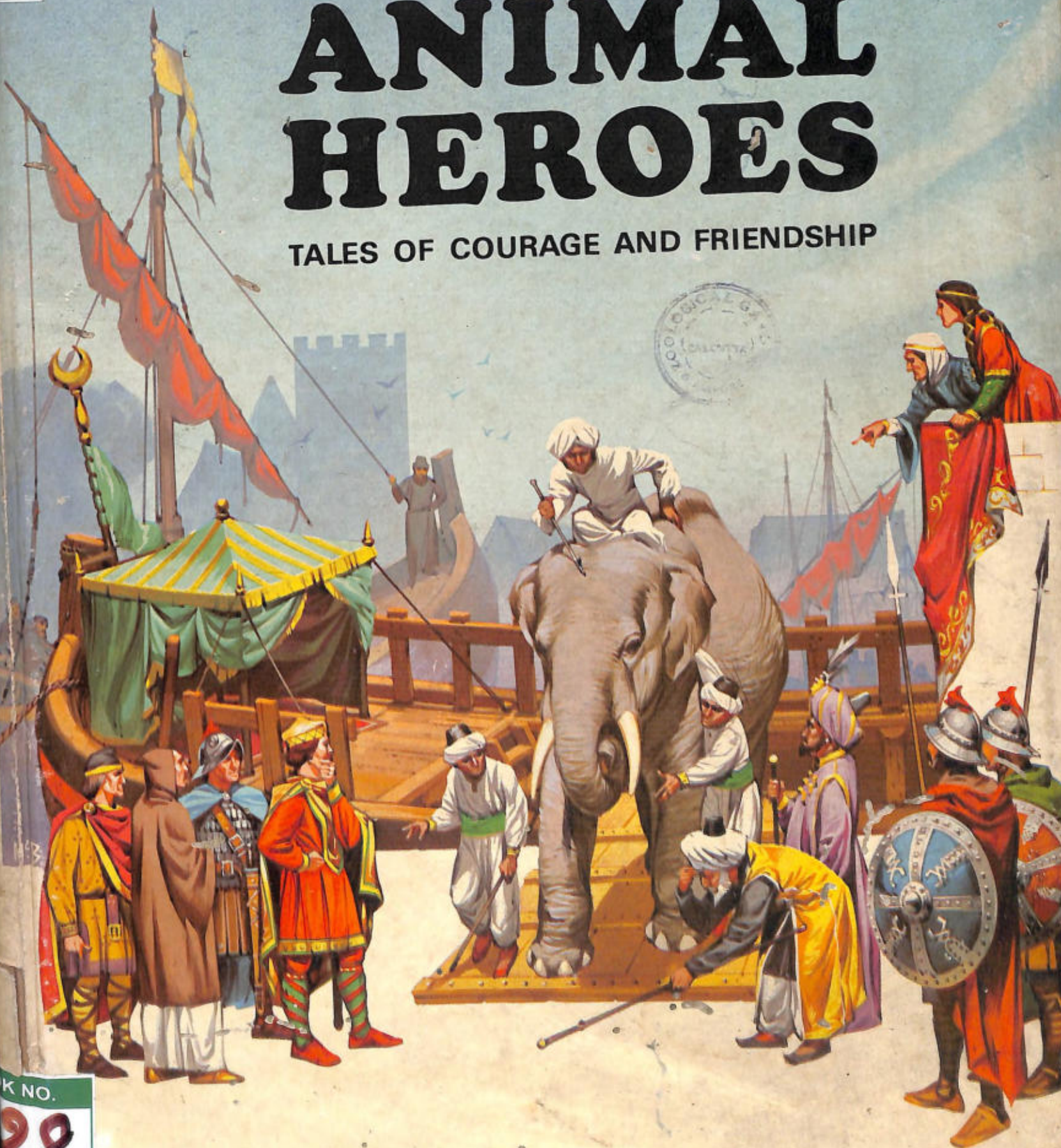




ANIMAL HEROES

TALES OF COURAGE AND FRIENDSHIP



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ANIMAL HEROES

TALES OF COURAGE AND FRIENDSHIP



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The nunnery bear

The Emperor Charlemagne (742-814) was King of the Franks, and founder of the Holy Roman Empire.

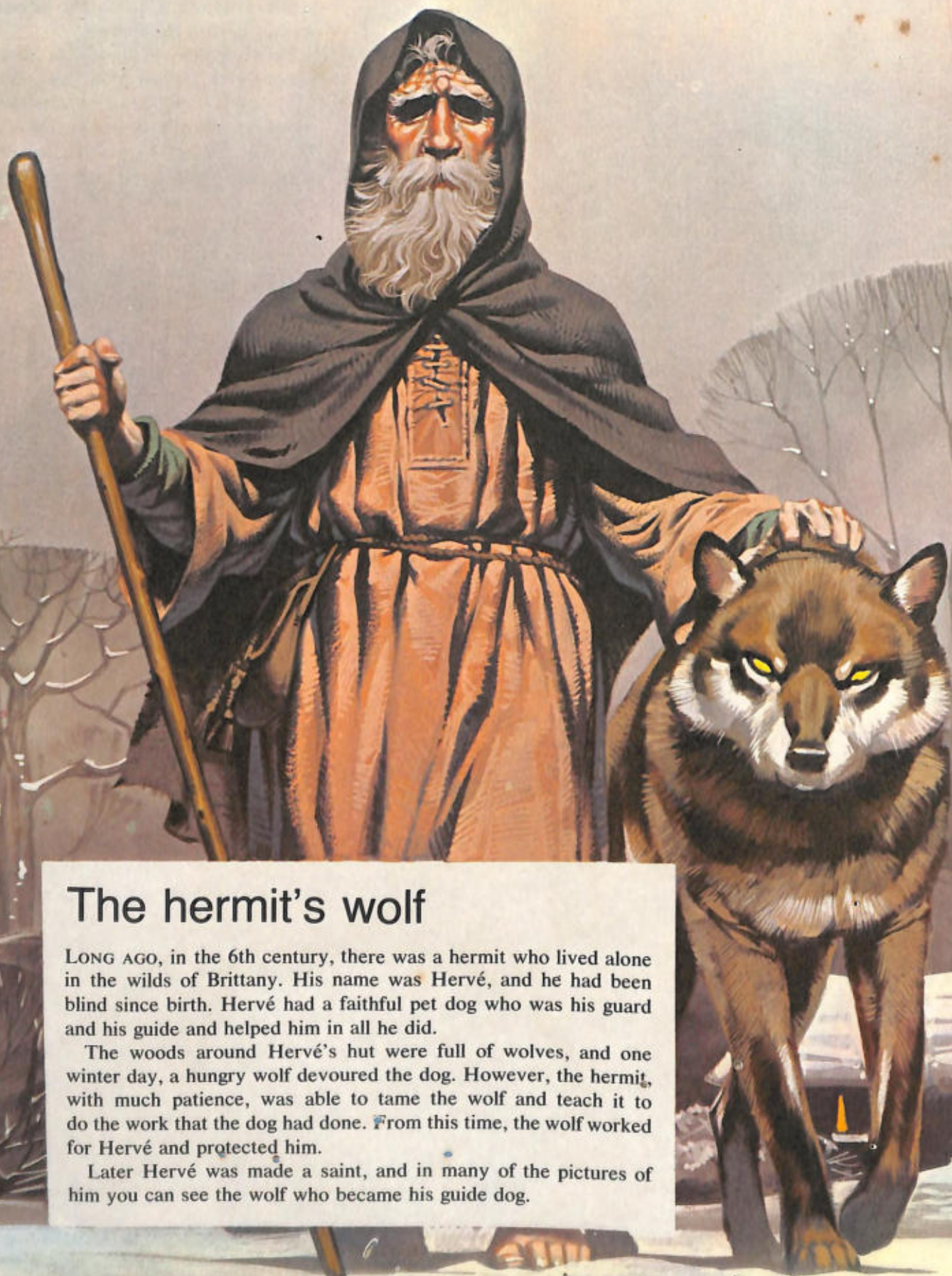
One day, the emperor was out hunting a bear. As he galloped over the brow of a hill in pursuit, he saw that the bear had taken refuge under a shrine by a nearby nunnery, and was humbly licking the feet of a nun. Charlemagne saw this as a sign that the bear should be spared, and decreed that the nuns should keep it for the rest of its life. This was nice for the bear, but not always easy for the nuns, especially when the bear discovered that they also kept bees—and so honey.

The beaver

Long ago, before the white man settled in North America, the beaver was a friend to the Indians.

The beaver's great skill in damming rivers, felling trees and digging canals transformed uncultivated woods into fertile meadows. He is a peaceful and loyal creature. Beavers were sometimes kept as house pets by the Indian people. Although the beaver eats only bark and plant shoots himself, he would enjoy fishing expeditions like this, for it is by a river that he is most at home.





The hermit's wolf

LONG AGO, in the 6th century, there was a hermit who lived alone in the wilds of Brittany. His name was Hervé, and he had been blind since birth. Hervé had a faithful pet dog who was his guard and his guide and helped him in all he did.

The woods around Hervé's hut were full of wolves, and one winter day, a hungry wolf devoured the dog. However, the hermit, with much patience, was able to tame the wolf and teach it to do the work that the dog had done. From this time, the wolf worked for Hervé and protected him.

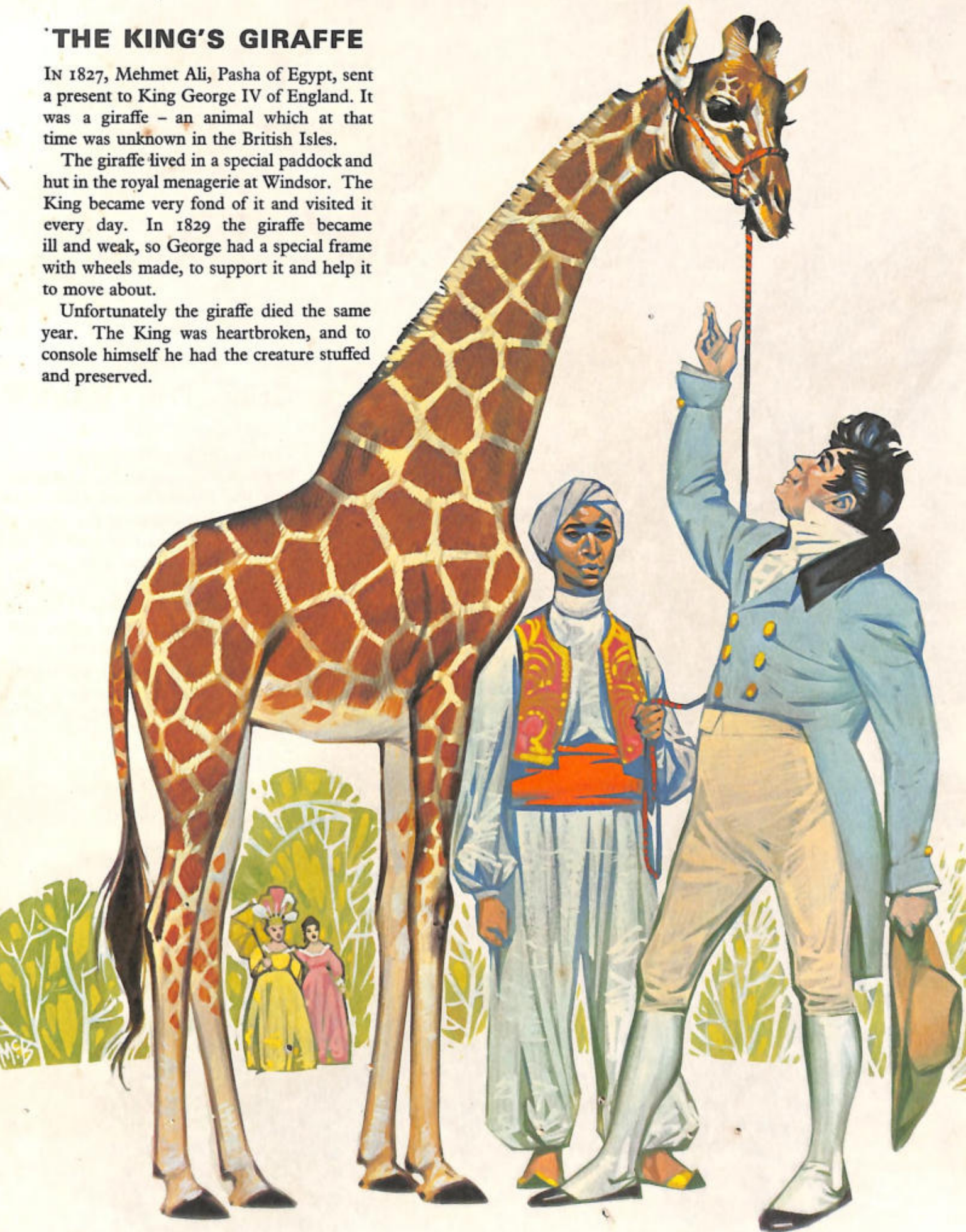
Later Hervé was made a saint, and in many of the pictures of him you can see the wolf who became his guide dog.

'THE KING'S GIRAFFE

IN 1827, Mehmet Ali, Pasha of Egypt, sent a present to King George IV of England. It was a giraffe – an animal which at that time was unknown in the British Isles.

The giraffe lived in a special paddock and hut in the royal menagerie at Windsor. The King became very fond of it and visited it every day. In 1829 the giraffe became ill and weak, so George had a special frame with wheels made, to support it and help it to move about.

Unfortunately the giraffe died the same year. The King was heartbroken, and to console himself he had the creature stuffed and preserved.





GRIP THE RAVEN

Charles Dickens, the famous author, loved animals and birds. Among his pets was a raven named Grip, who was quite a character in the Dickens household. He used to peck at the ankles of the Dickens children—but only in fun, of course!

One of his favourite tricks was to steal pennies and other coins, and then bury them in the garden.

Grip died after eating a very strange meal, consisting of white paint, and his last words to Dickens were "Hallo old girl!"



BARRY

BARRY worked for the St. Bernard monks more than 150 years ago and is still considered the bravest dog of all. He saved more than 40 lives. In 1815, during a terrible blizzard, his uncanny instinct told him someone needed help, so he set out into the storm.

A soldier was caught in a snowdrift; through the blizzard he mistook Barry for a wolf and in self-defence pulled out his knife and stabbed the dog. Barry, badly wounded, went back to the monastery for help, but after bringing the monks he died from the wound.

To this day the head dog at the monastery is called Barry in honour of the first and bravest Barry.

Dick Whittington and his cat are famous figures both in the history of London and in pantomime. Tradition says that Dick came to London as a poor boy of 13 with his cat as companion. He found work as a kitchen boy in the household of a rich London merchant who, when his ships sailed, allowed his servants to send something to be traded abroad. Dick sent his cat.

A foreign ruler, whose palace swarmed with mice and rats, paid a fine price for the animal. Thus it was that clever puss laid the foundation of his master's fortune. But Dick, ill-treated by the cook, ran away before news of his luck reached London. As he rested on Highgate Hill, he heard Bow Bells peel out:

*Turn again, Whittington,
Lord Mayor of London!*

Dick went back, married the merchant's daughter, increased his fortune and became Lord Mayor of London.

DICK WHITTINGTON'S CAT



THE POET'S LOBSTER

A lobster was the unusual pet of French poet and writer, Gérard de Nerval, who lived between 1808 and 1855. The poet was both fond of animals and a little eccentric, and the lobster was only one of his strange pets.

He was seen one day in the gardens of the Palais-Royal in Paris pulling along a live lobster tied with a blue ribbon. When asked why he had such a ridiculous pet he replied that his pet was no more ridiculous than a dog or a cat or a tame lion.

He liked lobsters, he said, because they were quiet, serious creatures and knew the secrets of the sea.





THE ROMAN CROW

LONG AGO, in the days of the Roman Empire, a young crow hatched out of its egg on the roof of a temple.

He became the pet of a cobbler of Rome, who taught the bird to say a few words, including the names of some of the most important men in the city. Gradually the bird learnt to call out the correct name as each of these men approached; this pleased them enormously and was very good for the cobbler's trade!

By the time the crow died, it had become so famous and so well-loved that it was given a lavish funeral by the citizens of Rome.



The first pekingese

Little more than a hundred years ago, no one in England had ever seen a pekingese dog. As you can guess from the name, they were found in the Summer Palace in Peking, China, by an Englishman, Admiral Lord Hay. The dogs were the official palace dogs, and some were even bred small enough to be carried around in the wide sleeves of the emperor's robes. Then, in 1860 the admiral brought a pekingese back to England. Three years later, he brought back a pair of the dogs so that they could be bred in this country. Queen Victoria was fascinated by them. Years later, in 1893, she was presented with one, which lived with her at Windsor.



Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) was king of Macedonia and conqueror of most of Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt and the Persian Empire of Darius.

When Alexander was a boy, the magnificent horse Bucephalus was brought to the court of his father, Philip II, to be sold for 13 talents. All were eager to buy him, but none could get near the wild, unrideable horse. Alexander begged his father to let him try. He discovered that Bucephalus was terrified of his own

shadow; so he turned Bucephalus towards the sun, calmed him, and rode away. When his father saw this he said: "My son, seek a kingdom worthy of thy greatness; Macedonia is too small for thee."

There grew a friendship and trust between man and horse that lasted until Bucephalus died after the battle at Hydaspes in 326 B.C., at the age of 30. Alexander was inconsolable and raised the city of Bucephala over the grave, in what is now a part of Pakistan.

Bucephalus





The geese of Rome

Long, long ago, around 390 B.C., the Gauls attacked the city of Rome. The people of the city took refuge in the Capitol: this was Rome's citadel or stronghold on the Capitoline hill and also a sacred area for temples, notably for that of the Roman god, Jupiter Capitolinus.

After they had been besieged in the Capitol for some time, the people were starving and weak from lack of food, but in spite of this, they spared the sacred geese belonging to the temple. Then, one night, the Gauls discovered a secret way up the Capitoline hill, and having climbed up, were about to launch an attack on the Capitol and the people inside, when the sacred geese gave the alarm.

Their loud honkings and squawkings alerted the Romans, who rushed for their weapons, repulsed the Gauls and saved the Capitol.

THE EMPEROR'S ELEPHANT

The Emperor Charlemagne (742-814) was the founder and ruler of the Holy Roman Empire, and conqueror of a great part of Europe.

At the same time there lived another great ruler, Harun al Rashid, Caliph of Baghdad, who raised his empire, or caliphate, to the peak of its power, so that it covered south-western Asia and northern Africa. He is also well-known as the caliph of the *Arabian Nights*.

These two leaders were on good terms and exchanged gifts on several occasions. One of these gifts was an Indian elephant named Abul-Abbas, which was sent by the caliph to Charlemagne's court. Abul-Abbas lived there for 15 years and was sometimes visited by the emperor.



The snake killer

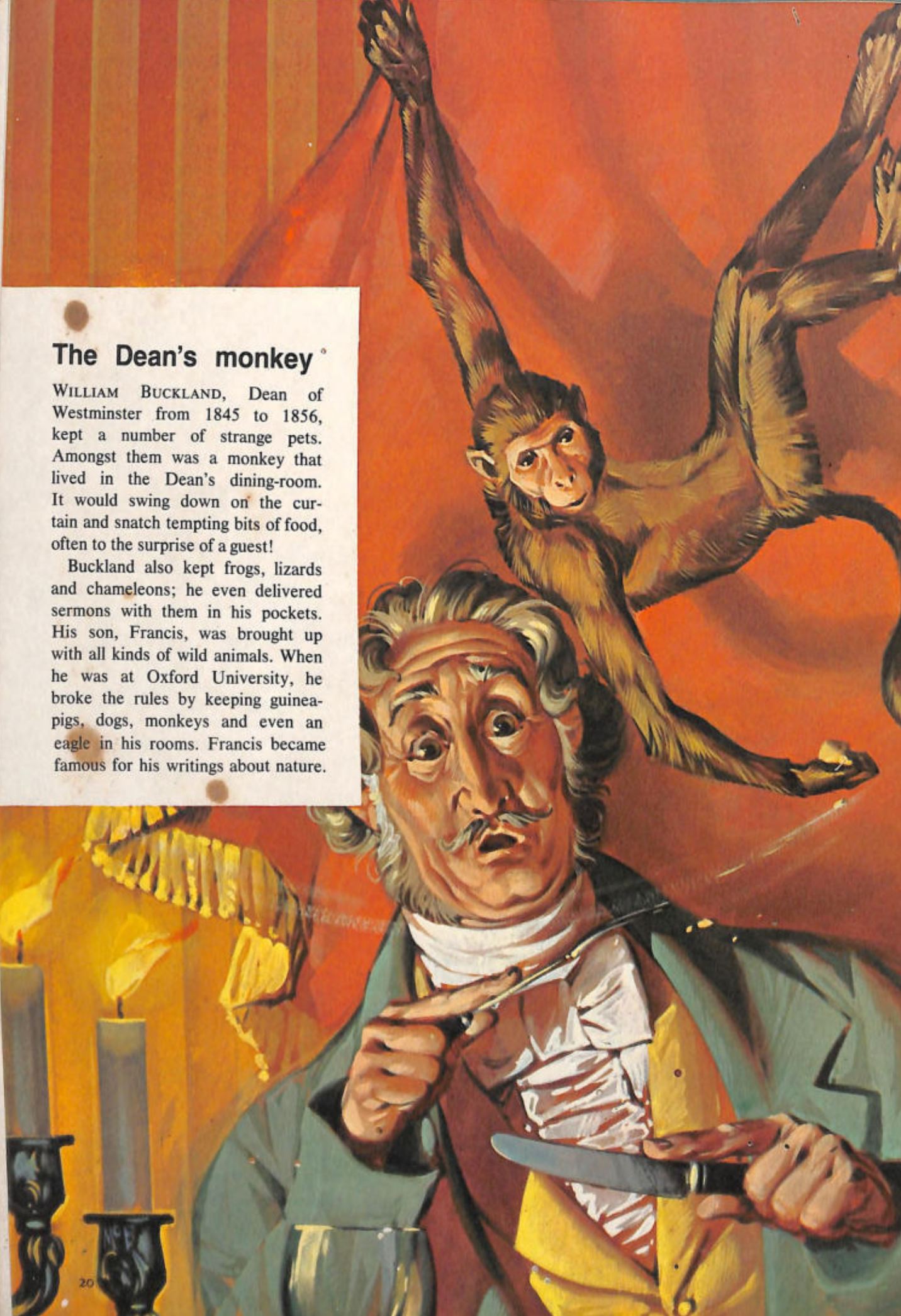
In India, some families keep a mongoose as a working pet and a watchdog against pest intruders. A mongoose does not depend on men for its food, as most pets do; it can easily kill and eat any small animals, such as rats, mice and birds. But it is for the killing of its natural enemy, the snake, that the mongoose is specially valued as a member of the household. This fierce little creature seems to be quite unafraid of any snake, even the dreaded cobra. Thanks to its fantastic agility, needle-sharp teeth, ability to go for the thinnest part of the snake's skin and to avoid being bitten, the mongoose nearly always wins.



The Dean's monkey

WILLIAM BUCKLAND, Dean of Westminster from 1845 to 1856, kept a number of strange pets. Amongst them was a monkey that lived in the Dean's dining-room. It would swing down on the curtain and snatch tempting bits of food, often to the surprise of a guest!

Buckland also kept frogs, lizards and chameleons; he even delivered sermons with them in his pockets. His son, Francis, was brought up with all kinds of wild animals. When he was at Oxford University, he broke the rules by keeping guinea-pigs, dogs, monkeys and even an eagle in his rooms. Francis became famous for his writings about nature.



The actor's puma

EDMUND KEAN was born in 1787 and became one of the best-known English actors.

His private life was as colourful as his acting. He kept as a pet a beautiful puma, which came from South America.

The puma travelled all over the country with Kean, wandered around the house, and went for walks with him as a dog would.

He would roll on the floor in front of people whom he specially liked, so that they could tickle his ribs. He once escaped, and passers-by were terrified until a watchman recognized him and led him home.



Caligula's horse

The Roman Emperor Caligula was born in A.D. 12. His name was really Gaius, but as a child he lived in camp with his father's army, and was treated as a kind of mascot; he wore a miniature uniform, including "caligae" (boots), from which he got the name Caligula, or "Little Boots". He seems to have been proud of this name, for he continued to use it.

Later, he had a severe illness and after that he behaved very strangely and became very cruel.

He had a horse called Incitatus (Rapid) which, he decreed, must be given the rank of Consul (a position of great authority in Roman Government) and treated in all ways as a human consul. Caligula appointed a special retinue of servants for Incitatus, and built him a marble and gold stable with an ivory manger, and even draped the horse with garlands of flowers and strings of pearls.



FLUSH

IN 1842 the Victorian poet, Elizabeth Barrett, a semi-invalid, was given a spaniel pup who soon became the spoilt darling of the whole Barrett household in Wimpole Street. Elizabeth adored the animal. "What should I do without my Flushie?" she wrote. But one dark day Flush disappeared. A rascal named Taylor, leader of the "Dogstealers of Whitechapel", had stolen him and was asking ten guineas for his return. Furious, Elizabeth Barrett drove with her maid to the East End and demanded that Flush be returned there and then.

Twice again her pet was taken like this, altogether costing his mistress twenty pounds in ransom money. Later, when Elizabeth secretly married the poet, Robert Browning, against her father's will, Flush went with the couple as they fled to Italy. But not before Flush had shown some jealousy of the poet in an occasional nip. All ended happily, though. In sunny Florence, Elizabeth's health bloomed, while Flush lived on to a contented - and fat - old age.





Dog on the tuckerbox

THE STORY of the dog who sat on the tuckerbox goes far back into Australian folklore. The dog was owned by a drover who left him to guard the provisions (in the tuckerbox). The drover went into Gundagai, a town in southern New South Wales, nine miles away (or was it five miles?—no one knows now), and was killed in a brawl. When his friends arrived and realized he was not coming back, they tried to make the dog go on with them, but he would not move. He would wait, as he had been told, for his master. So he stayed with the tuckerbox until he died. A monument commemorating his devotion still stands on the road to Gundagai.

Burton's menagerie

Sir Richard Burton, who lived in the last century, became famous for his travels in the East, in Africa and in South America, and for his writings about them.

During his travels, Burton collected quite a menagerie of pets; while he was away, his wife looked after them and added pets of her own to the collection. Among them were four English terriers, a Kurdish

puppy, a white Persian cat, a lamb, a white donkey, a camel, a leopard, a St. Bernard dog, turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons, white mice, horses and goats.

The leopard became the family favourite, even though it behaved rather wildly and used to scare all the other creatures by shrieking at the top of its voice. It worried the goats so much that one of them finally drowned itself in disgust. When the leopard chose to leap on and off the backs of the donkey and the camel, there was complete chaos in Burton's menagerie.





THE KING'S FALCON

In the Middle Ages falconry was a popular sport and many English kings kept falcons and made pets of them. King Richard I was no exception. You may know him better as Richard Coeur de Lion, or Lion Heart. Richard joined the Third Crusade in 1191 and took with him the falcon you can see in the picture.

The Crusades were wars, between 1096 and 1291, against the Turks and the spread of Islam. Richard led the Third Crusade with Philip Augustus of France.

Wherever the king travelled he took his pet falcon. The falcon did not wear a hood as did other falcons of the day, who were trained to hunt birds. This one rode on Richard's glove and was tame enough not to fly away and get lost.



Farm-hand Johnnie

Johnnie, a ten-year-old Rhesus monkey, is not only a pet. He is a farm labourer owned by a sheep and wheat farmer in Victoria, Australia.

Johnnie can, and does, start and drive a tractor, open and shut gates, and, as you can see, round up sheep. He even guards the farm-house at night. He has complete freedom around his owner's property,

which is in the Wimmera district of Victoria. Johnnie is officially recognized by the Australian government as a farm-hand and his owner receives an annual tax concession from the government for his keep.

Rhesus monkeys come from Bengal in India and grow to a height of about two feet. They are good imitators, which explains how Johnnie learned his "human" skills.



Charles Kingsley's wasps

CHARLES KINGSLEY was a clergyman and author who lived in the last century. He was famous for the books, such as *The Water Babies* and *Westward Ho!*, that he wrote for children.

He was very tender-hearted and could not bear any

creature to be hurt or destroyed. Two wasps, one of which he had saved from drowning, lived in a crack in the window-frame of his dressing-room. He also watched over a family of toads that, lived year after year in a hole in his lawn. As well as these unusual pets, he kept white cats in his stables and black ones in the house.

Rossetti's bull

Dante Gabriel Rossetti was a poet and painter, who lived in England in the middle of the 19th century. He made a pet of a rather bad-tempered Indian white bull, which he kept in the back garden of his house in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, in London. His reason for keeping this strange pet was, he said, that its eyes reminded him of a girl whose portrait he had once painted.

Rossetti finally had to get rid of this creature when it ate the lawn bare, trampled the hedge into the ground and kicked the summer house to pieces. But he did not feel lonely for long; he soon acquired several other unusual pets, including a peacock, two armadillos and a raccoon.



The gallant mare

ANGUS MACDONALD and Edward Henham shared a log cabin in ice-bound north-west Canada.

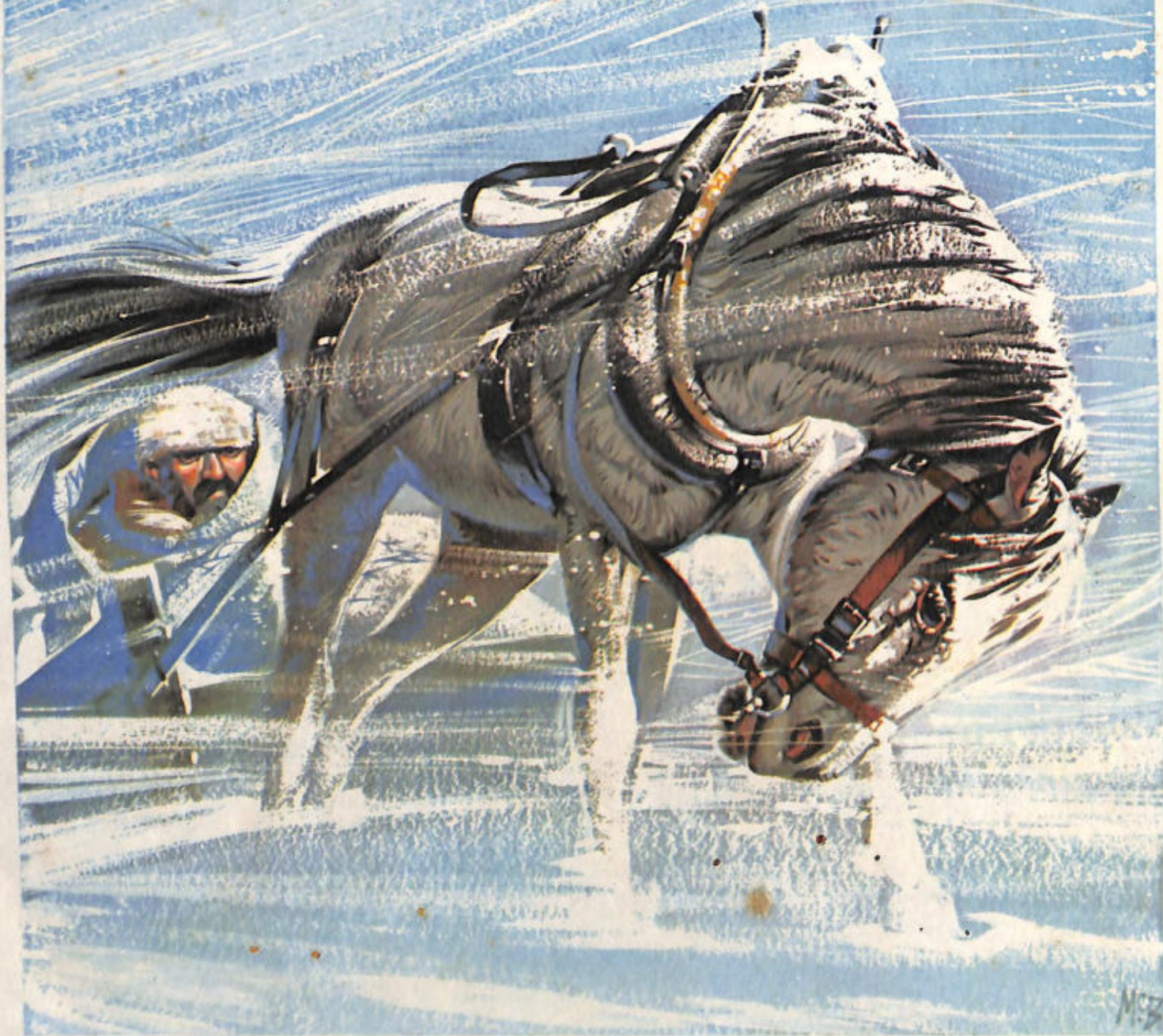
One day in March 1891, Macdonald set off to spend two days in Regina, Saskatchewan; this meant a five-mile journey by sleigh to the settlement of Balgonie, before he could catch the train. Henham would meet Macdonald here in two days' time.

Just as Henham was setting out, a Sioux Indian came to warn him that a great storm was coming—and at once a whirlwind of snow and ice struck.

The Indian agreed to keep the stove burning in the hut, and Henham, dressed in his warmest clothes, harnessed Kitty the mare to the sleigh. He

reached Balgonie to find the place almost deserted—and the train cancelled.

He turned Kitty and headed for home as the storm grew, but soon Henham realized that he was lost in a prairie blizzard—which meant almost certain death. He tried to turn back, but his hands were frozen and he could not feel the reins. Then Kitty started off, sniffing the air for direction and pawing the ground for a firm track. The tempest raged yet more fiercely and somewhere wolves bayed. It seemed hours later when Henham was lifted from the sleigh, for Kitty had brought him home, and saved his life. She was never fit to pull the sleigh again, but Henham tended her with loving care for the rest of her days.



Pharaoh's lions

RAMESES II, of Egypt, was very fond of lions. When he sat in state, receiving foreign visitors, his lions sat near the throne, reminding everyone of his power. And when he went on one of his military campaigns his lions went with him. When the battle was at its height, and the Egyptian army was about to win yet another victory, Rameses would release a lion or two to turn the enemy's retreat into panic-stricken flight.

Unfortunately we do not know what these royal lions were called, but Rameses had a picture of one carved in a battle-scene at Karnak so that future generations would remember his pets.





THE MAN WITH THE DONKEY

No one knows how many lives were saved by the man with the donkey. He worked in Gallipoli in the First World War for only three weeks before he was killed, but he and his donkey became heroes. He was an Anzac (a member of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps).

The man's name was John Simpson Kirkpatrick, but he joined the Australian Army's 3rd Field Ambulance as John Simpson. He was born in England and had an instinctive love of animals. When he found a stray donkey

at Gallipoli he realized it would be useful for carrying soldiers with leg wounds. He mostly called the donkey Duffy, but sometimes it was Abdul or Murphy.

Day and night Simpson worked with his little donkey carrying the wounded from the battle area to safety behind the lines. All the soldiers talked about "the man with the donkey" and admired his courage. But such fearless work could not go on, and on May 19th, 1915, Simpson was shot through the heart.

Battle dog

The Assyrians, whose mighty empire in Asia was at its peak 2,000-3,000 years ago, were war-loving people.

Perhaps it was because of this that they thought so highly of their huge, fierce dogs of war. Before a battle the dogs were starved to make them extra savage.

About 530 B.C. dogs like these were bred as sheep dogs at Molossis, now part of Greece. They were later adopted by the Persian court of Cyrus, for hunting. When they began to be used as war dogs, the villages where they were bred were exempted from paying taxes.

Later, one of these dogs was sent as a present to Alexander the Great; he destroyed it because it would not fight with a lion. He was then sent another and told that it was not for fear but for scorn of the lion that the dog refused to fight, and that this one should be put to fight a bull. It killed the bull; and so these ferocious creatures, ancestors of our mastiff dogs, became favourites at Alexander's court too.



Mailie the ewe

Robert Burns (1759–1796) was Scotland's greatest poet. His first book of poems brought him £500; with it he bought a farm, on which he kept "nine or ten milch-cows, some heifers, four horses and several pet sheep; of the latter he was very fond." Burns was much too fond of animals to be a successful farmer. His favourite was a ewe, whom he called Mailie, who followed him everywhere. He wrote of her:

"Through a' the toun she trotted by him;
Wi' kindly bleat, when she did spy him
She ran wi' speed."





The Cardinal's carp

LONG AGO, probably in Roman times, a large family of freshwater fish was introduced into British ponds and rivers. This was the carp family.

In the Middle Ages, the carp was cultivated by monks

in special ponds in the monastery grounds, to provide them with a constant supply of fresh food. So, it is not so surprising that Cardinal Wolsey, who was adviser to King Henry VIII, should have made friends with one such carp. This huge fish used to swim to greet the cardinal whenever it was called by him.



The royal cheetah

Francis I ruled France at much the same time as Henry VIII was King of England – as you could guess from Francis' clothes in the picture.

He was a man of learning who brought to his splendid court many of the most famous artists and scholars in Europe.

Francis was a famous sportsman. He loved tournaments and playing tennis, but he loved hunting best of all. When the royal hunting parties rode out, Francis' pet cheetah rode with them.

As you probably know, cheetahs are among the swiftest animals. They can move almost as fast as an express train over short distances, and are still used in India and Persia to hunt antelopes.

Francis' cheetah, in its collar of solid gold, must have been a splendid sight as it sprang into action.



DOG OF THE MOUNTAINS

For more than 1,500 years dogs like this have been working high up in the Pyrenean mountains to guard and protect flocks of sheep from wolves, bears and robbers. These creatures live almost wild and seem to be quite fearless in defence of their flock. It is thought that the ancestors of this Pyrenean mountain dog came from Tibet, as long ago as the late Bronze Age; in medieval times, armed with a spiked collar, the Pyrenean was widely used as a war dog. Then, when Louis XIV of France was Dauphin (the equivalent of our Prince of Wales) he brought one from the Pyrenees to guard his chateau; soon these dogs became enormously fashionable and no chateau was considered to be complete without one. Today many are kept as pets, while others still work as "shepherds of the Pyrenees".



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