



### *The Marquess of Willingdon*

It is with great sadness that we record the death of the man who for so many years personified the Society as its very active President, Inigo Brassey Freeman-Thomas, second Marquess of Willingdon. Nigs, as he was always known to his friends, was a tower of strength to the Society, from the day in February 1951 when he succeeded the Duke of Devonshire, to the annual general meeting of 1974, when he handed on the torch to Lord Zuckerman and himself was elected President Emeritus. For the first fifteen years he was also Chairman of Council, skilled, friendly, wise and informed. He was in no small part responsible for the success of the two great enterprises that made the Society's name in the late 50s and early 60s: Operation Oryx, which resulted in the successful establishment of the World Herd of Arabian Oryx at Phoenix, Arizona, and Operation Noah, which rescued thousands of animals from the rising flood waters of Lake Kariba in what were then Northern and Southern Rhodesia. His last benefaction to the cause of conservation was to enable the Society to acquire for the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust two Indian lions, to start a breeding stock of this endangered subspecies of lion. In 1961 he was one of the select band of conservationists who drew up the guidelines for the British National Appeal of the World Wildlife Fund, and was a founder trustee. In the FPS he will be remembered as the man who, sensitive to new thinking, changed the style of the Society and steered it into the modern world.

### *The 4th Earl of Cranbrook*

The 4th Earl of Cranbrook, who died on November 22nd, 1978, aged 78, was a member of the FPS Council from 1966 to 1971, and a Vice-President from 1976 until his death. He was a most distinguished naturalist and conservationist with a special interest in British mammals and the wildlife of his native county of Suffolk, becoming President of both the Mammal Society and the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation. His forte was as a legislator, and he was responsible for the passage through Parliament of the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, based on principles agreed at a meeting of interested bodies held in the FPS offices, at the Society's initiative. He also promoted a law on the use of poisons in the countryside, and helped greatly with the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975. As Chairman from 1965 to 1971 of the old Animals Advisory Committee under the Animals (Restriction of Importation) Act, 1964, he was largely responsible for the successful launching of Britain's pioneer measure to control the international trade in wild animals. He was also briefly a member of the IUCN's Survival Service Commission.

R.S.R.F.