



The British Herpetological Society (BHS)

Commemorative Symposium

London, Saturday 24th November 2018

Maxwell Knight, the original “nature detective” and Second World War MI5 agent.

Birkbeck College (Gordon Square annex) 43 Gordon Square London WC1H 0PD

Saturday 24th November 2018, 1.00 pm (13.00) until 6.00 pm (18.00).

Organised by the British Herpetological Society (BHS), with support from the British Chelonia Group (BCG), the Amateur Entomologists Society (AES), the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), the Frightened Face of Nature (FFON) and others.

The Symposium commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of Maxwell Knight, the famous naturalist and renowned MI5 agent. It will recount and reassess his life and work in the 21st century, with reference to contemporary environmental issues such as species conservation, captive-breeding of endangered species and public education. Literature and specimens from Maxwell Knight's collection, including long-lost manuscripts from his original filing cabinet, will be on display. During breaks and at the end of the symposium there will be a showing of Maxwell Knight's original television/lecture films.

PROGRAMME

- 13.00 Arrival and Registration. Viewing of literature.
First session, introduced by Mrs Margaret E Cooper (Chairman)
- 13.25 Introductory lecture: “Maxwell Knight the naturalist” – *Professor John E Cooper*
- 13.45 Introductory lecture: “Maxwell Knight the spy-master” – *Mr Simon King*
- 14.15 Presentation: “The frightened face of nature: challenges facing the planet” – *Mr Paul Pearce-Kelly*
- 14.35 “Newts, nadders and neophyte naturalists” – a dramatic interlude (*Provisional title – re-enactment of MK's childhood encounter with youths and newts at a Surrey pond*) - *Simon King, John Cooper and others*
- 15.05 Tea and coffee break. Viewing of literature and items from Maxwell Knight's collection.
Second session, introduced by Professor John E Cooper (Chairman)
- 16.20 Presentations “Advances in the health and welfare of captive animals” – *Mr Alan Graham*
- 16.45 Presentation “Educating the next generation: culture, care and conservation” – *Ms Victoria Burton/Mr Dafydd Lewis*
- 17.15 General Discussion. Short accounts by people who either knew Maxwell Knight or who were influenced by him. Tributes from herpetologists, field naturalists, conservationists, biologists, animal care staff and others (*Mark Rose, FFI; John Burton, formerly BBC; June Chatfield, Haslemere; Graham Wellstead, Surrey.....*)
- 17.45 Closing Remarks (*Professor John E Cooper*).
- 18.00 Departure.

For further information see also: <https://thefrightenedfaceofnature.com/maxwell-knight-symposium/>