

[Newspaper cutting titled: New wonders at the Royal Aquarium (November 1881?) in Mr. Farini's (William Hunt) Gallery. These are Captain Georges Costentenus and the Leopard Boy].

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NEW WONDERS AT THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.

Mr. Farini's latest wonders were on public view at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, last night, and a private view was accorded to the members of the Press in the afternoon. One of the new arrivals is a man said to be a Greek prince, who is tattooed from head to foot. According to Mr. Farini's statement this gentleman, with an Englishman and an American, was engaged in mining operations in Chinese Tartary, and owing to some dispute they rose in rebellion against the forces of the Khan. Having been defeated, they were severally sentenced to be put to death or tattooed, and, choosing the latter alternative, the American and Englishman succumbed to the operation, which, to the amazement of the Tartars, the noble Greek survived. Six hours a day for six months were occupied in the exercise of the barbaric art on the person of the poor Greek, causing him the most excruciating agony. By measuring a few square inches of the flesh of the victim, counting the punctures, and multiplying the result for the whole body, it is computed that over 7,000,000 distinct punctures must have been made. The body is covered with a multiplicity of designs, embracing some 388 figures of beasts, birds, fishes, and reptiles. There are also from 10,000 to 15,000 hieroglyphics which no one has been able to decipher, but it is supposed that they have reference to the different animals in proximity to them. Speaking of the general appearance of the man, it may be of interest to mention that he enters the room wrapped in a rich Indian shawl, steps upon a dais in front of the spectators, and throwing off his covering, his loins only being girt, he displays a well-proportioned muscular frame. The colour of his skin, however, is, in consequence of the tattooing, a pale indigo blue. It is at first difficult to bring one's self to believe that he is not wearing a tight-fitting skin, but a closer inspection dispels this idea, which, by the way, is quite natural at first sight owing to the unnatural appearance of a blue man. Between the delicate tracery of the characters in indigo and cinnabar runs a thin line of pale pink flesh colour in infinite variety of design, difficult to follow, and not always capable of definition or being even appreciably shapeable. He wears a ribbon round his neck from which depend some military orders and a diamond brilliant. Captain Georges Costentenus, for such is the name of this living phenomenon, has been a major in the Russian army, and speaks Italian, Russian, Spanish, French, Turkish, Armenian, and several other Eastern languages. He is 45 years of age, but looks older—consequent, no doubt, in a great measure on the horribly painful martyrdom he has suffered. A greater living curiosity could hardly be conceived—certainly not desired. The captain is an affable gentleman, shakes hands freely with the visitors, submits patiently to the closest scrutiny, and is likely for a long time to come to be "the lion" of the metropolis. Mr. Farini's second curiosity is a "Leopard Boy"—an African negro lad, with woolly hair and dark brown face and neck, whose body, arms, and legs are variegated or spotted with a whitish tint. These spots are various in size and shape, but are well defined. The black woolly head of hair is also interspersed with white patches. It is supposed that this extraordinary physical phenomenon is a hybrid between two races of people of totally different colours, and that nature has formed an incomplete amalgam, leaving the flesh in patches in lieu of the usual light or dark skin of the mulatto or quadroon. The boy, who is 12 years of age, is intelligent, and not at all averse to the minute inspection and handling of the intensely curious.

M. A. Nov 22, 1881.