

japonicus was not described until 1837), he believed it to be the skeleton of a man who drowned in the biblical Flood, and named it "Homo diluvii testis." Scheuchzer's religious zeal was fully expressed in the date on the title page of his book, not 1726 but "MMMM XXXII"—4032 years after the Great Flood! In 1811, Cuvier examined Scheuchzer's illustration and predicted that it was a salamander based on the exposed bones, and later proved it by uncovering the rest of the skeleton. In 1837, J. J. von Tschudi finally named it *Andrias Scheuchzeri*.

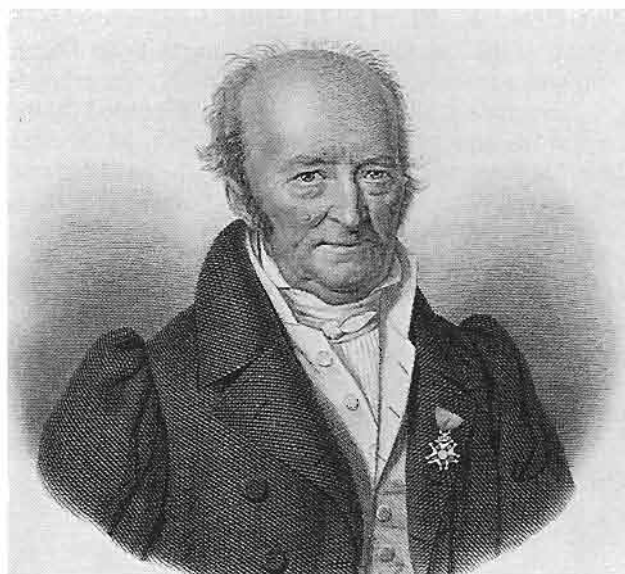
Amphibians and reptiles formed a natural part of Cuvier's "Règne," although the sections treating them were only superficial reviews of the world's herpetofauna; the details were left to be filled in later by his protégé A.-M.-C. Duméril. Nevertheless, the world fame of Cuvier led to many later editions and translations of the "Règne," which therefore had enormous influence for decades. Herpetologically, the most important of these were the "Iconographie" of F.-E. Guérin-Méneville (atlas in 1829 [-1844], text 1844) and the so-called "Disciples edition" of Cuvier (reptiles by G.-L. Duvernoy, 1836-1849 [1837-1842]) in France, the German editions of H. R. Schinz (1822) and F. S. Voigt (1832), and the English edition edited by E. Griffith and E. Pidgeon (1831 [1830-1831]), with the important synopsis added by John E. Gray.

• *References*: "Le Baron George [sic] Léopold-Christien-Frédéric Cuvier," by C. L. Laurillard, *Biogr. Univ. (Michaud) Ancien. Mod.*, new ed., 9: 590-600, 1855; "Iconographie de Georges Cuvier," by L. Bultingaire, *Arch. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat.*, ser. 6, 9: 1-11, 1932; "Georges Cuvier," by Y. Chatelain, *Dict. Biogr. Franç.*, 9: cols. 1438-1442, 1961; "Georges Cuvier Zoologist," by W. Coleman, *Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge (Massachusetts)*, (xii), 212 pages, 1964; "Georges Cuvier," by F. Bourdier, *Dict. Sci. Biogr.*, 3: 521-528, 1971. • *Portrait*: Adler collection. • *Signature* (1823): Royal Society, London, courtesy K. Moore.

LATREILLE, P.-A. (1762-1833).

Pierre-André Latreille, a French priest who turned naturalist, was an eminent entomologist who, among other interests, also studied reptiles. He was born on 29 November 1762 in Brives (now Brive), Corrèze, where his interest in natural history began at an early age. He was educated at the Collège du Cardinal-Lemoine in Paris, then graduated from the University of Paris in 1780 and was ordained a priest in 1786. But his ecclesiastical career was cut short by the French Revolution, during which so many Catholic clergy perished. Latreille himself was briefly imprisoned but won his freedom when he found a new species of beetle in his cell and smuggled it out to some naturalists who used their influence to have him released. Later, he abandoned the priesthood and joined the staff at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, eventually succeeding his colleague, J.-B. Lamarck.

Besides entomology, Latreille also published on animal classification and he authored one of the classics on the



subject, "Familles Naturelles du Règne Animal" (1825). In this book he was the first to separate amphibians as a class from reptiles, following his colleague Alexandre Brongniart (1799) who first recognized the distinctive characteristics by which amphibians can be naturally separated from reptiles. Latreille was recognized as one of the leading zoologists of his day, like Georges Cuvier, and he received many honors, among them election to the Institute de France and the Legion d'Honneur. He died in Paris on 6 February 1833.

Latreille's herpetological work began with his little book on French salamanders (1800). In 1801 he co-authored the four-volume "Histoire Naturelle des Reptiles," with C. S. Sonnini, part of the so-called Dèterville edition of Georges Buffon's great encyclopedia. This work, which covers the herpetofauna worldwide, was almost entirely written by Latreille, as Sonnini wrote only the section on salamanders and the preliminary "Discours." The importance of this book was sufficient to justify a new edition in 1826 and a reissue four years later; all three versions have 54 plates, and come in either handcolored or plain editions. By way of comparison, Sonnini and Latreille's work was far less comprehensive, both in text and illustration, than the "Histoire Naturelle . . . des Reptiles" (1801-1803) by Latreille's sometimes friend F.-M. Daudin, which was written for a rival publishing firm.

• *References*: "Pierre-André Latreille," by A. J. L. Jourdan, *Biogr. Univ. (Michaud) Ancien. Mod.*, 23: 329-331, n.d.; "Pierre-André Latreille," by J. V., *Nouv. Biogr. Gén.*, 29: cols. 850-854, 1862; "Pierre-André Latreille a Brive," by L. de Nussac, G. Steinheil, Paris, vii, 264 pages, 1907; Harper, 1940; "Pierre-André Latreille," by R. W. Burkhardt, Jr., *Dict. Sci. Biogr.*, 8: 48-49, 1973. • *Portrait* (1832): Courtesy Bibliothèque Nationale. • *Signature* (1791): From de Nussac, 1907.