

the Hardwicke collections, as depicted in the magnificent folio atlas entitled "Illustrations of Indian Zoology" (1830-1834[1835]), which contains 43 herpetological plates. Unfortunately, no text or further plates were published after Thomas Hardwicke's death (1835), due to Gray's dispute with the former's executors, and the manuscript remains unpublished. Gray's "Synopsis of Species of the Class Reptilia," published originally in an English edition of Georges Cuvier's "Animal Kingdom" (1831) and reprinted separately as "Synopsis Reptilium" (also 1831), was a competent world list which foreshadowed his catalogues of the British Museum collections (turtles in 1844, lizards 1845, snakes 1849, Amphibia 1850). Later, he issued a more in-depth catalogue of the "Shield Reptiles"—the turtles, crocodylians, amphisbaenians, and tuatara, according to Gray's taxonomy—in five parts (1855-1873). In 1867 he published "Lizards of Australia and New Zealand," using plates issued previously as part of the H.M.S. *Erebus* and *Terror* reports, and in 1872 supplied the text for the re-issue of Thomas Bell's magnificent illustrations of turtles.

Gray's most spectacular novelty was the tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*), which he described in 1842, although he wrongly put it in the family Agamidae. Perhaps Gray's single most important act, in the development of the British Museum into the world center for herpetology at the end of the 19th Century, was his hiring of Albert Günther, in 1857, as his own replacement in charge of reptiles and fishes.

• *References*: "John Edward Gray, Ph.D., F.R.S.," p. 113-118. In L. Reeve (ed.), *Portraits of Men of Eminence*, L. Reeve Co., London, 1863; "Dr. John Edward Gray," anonymous, *Proc. Linnean Soc. London*, 1874-1875: xliii-xlvii, 1875; "John Edward Gray," by G. S. Boulger, *Dict. Natl. Biogr.*, London, 8: 452-453, 1921; "The Miscellaneous Autobiographical Manuscripts of John Edward Gray (1800-1875)," by A. E. Gunther, *Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, ser. Hist., 6: 199-244, 1980. • *Portrait*: British Museum (Nat. Hist.), courtesy Ann Datta. • *Signature* (1853): Smithsonian Institution Archives, courtesy William Cox and Alan E. Leviton.

BELL, Thomas (1792-1880).

Bell, a noted zoologist and the leading British dental surgeon of his day, was born on 11 October 1792 at Poole, Dorsetshire. He entered medical college at Guy's and St. Thomas's hospitals, London, in 1813, and the Royal College of Surgeons in 1815. He was dental surgeon at Guy's Hospital for most of his professional career (1817-1861), specializing in diseases of the teeth, and was concurrently Professor of Zoology at King's College, London, beginning in 1836. Bell was a leading member of the British scientific establishment and held important positions in the Zoological, Linnean, Ray, and Royal societies, being elected a Fellow of the latter in 1828.

It was Bell, as President of the Linnean Society of London, who presided at the celebrated meeting on 1 July 1858 at which Charles Darwin's and A. R. Wallace's classic papers on natural selection were read. Later, in summarizing



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that year's discoveries, Bell stated: "The year which has passed . . . has not indeed been marked by any of those striking discoveries which at once revolutionise . . . it is only at remote intervals that we can reasonably expect any sudden and brilliant innovation which shall . . . confer a lasting and important service on mankind." Bell remained hostile to Darwinism throughout his life. He retired to Gilbert White's estate at Selborne, Hampshire, which he had purchased, and published a classic edition of White's "Natural History" (1877). He died there on 13 March 1880.

Besides his well-known books on British mammals and crustaceans, Bell is best remembered for his herpetological work. His *magnum opus*, "Monograph of the Testudinata," issued in eight parts from 1832 to 1842, was never finished due to his publisher's bankruptcy; it contained 40 magnificent handcolored plates, in folio size. These plates were reissued in 1872, together with 20 or sometimes 21 additional previously-unpublished plates, under the authorship of James deC. Sowerby and Edward Lear, the original artist and lithographer, with a brief text by John E. Gray; this reissue was reprinted in 1970. In 1838-1839, Bell published his "History of British Reptiles," the first synthesis of this subject; a revised edition was issued in 1849. He also contributed the herpetology volume (published in 1842-1843; reprinted 1975 and again in 1980) in the series "Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. *Beagle*," edited by Charles Darwin. Bell's accomplishments were primarily as an excellent compiler and popularizer, rather than as an original scientist, and as one who was more at home in his study than in the field.