



From 1857 to 1859 Tschudi returned to South America, travelling through much of the southern half of the continent, and during 1860-1861 returned again on an official mission to Brazil on behalf of the Swiss government. In 1866 he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires at the Swiss Embassy in Vienna and in 1868 was promoted to the rank of Ambassador. He held the latter position until 1888 when he retired to his country home, "Jakobshof," at Edlitz, a small town near Vienna, where he died on 8 August 1889.

Tschudi's herpetological research was a small part of his life's work, which was in the tradition of Alexander von Humboldt. Throughout his life he continued to publish major works dealing with ethnography, geography, meteorology, and medicine. His herpetological output was only 12 titles (from 1836 to 1847), but included several important works. In 1837, Tschudi named the fossil salamander (*Andrias Scheuchzeri*), which for nearly a century had been called "Homo diluvii testis"—as the name suggests, it was thought to be the remains of a human witness to the Great Flood—until Georges Cuvier demonstrated, in 1811, that it was a giant salamander.

Tschudi's most famous work, "Classification der Batrachier" (1838), was an attempt to unite into one system both fossil and Recent species, thus showing the influence

of his teacher, Louis Agassiz. Many familiar amphibian genera were described in this book (e.g., *Ambystoma*, *Crinia*, *Hynobius*, *Microhyla*, and *Plethodon*) and its continuing importance justified a reprinting in 1967. The herpetology section of his "Fauna Peruana" opus was issued in 1845 (1846), and contained 12 beautiful handcolored plates in folio; however, all the new species described in this book had been briefly defined in *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* in 1845 (reprinted 1968).

• *References*: "Johann Jakob von Tschudi," by F. Ratzel, *Allg. Deutsch. Biogr.*, 38: 749-752, 1894; "Jean-Jacques de Tschudi" by P.-É. Schazmann, *Éd. Mensch und Arbeit*, Zürich, 200 pages, 1956 (1955); "Johann Jakob von Tschudi: His Life and Herpetological Work," by R. Mertens, p. iii-vi. *In* Tschudi's Classification der Batrachier, repr. ed., Soc. Study Amphib. Rept., Athens (Ohio), 1967. • *Portrait*: From Schazmann, 1956 (1955). • *Signature* (1837): Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, courtesy Lothar Forcart.

PETERS, Wilhelm (1815-1883).

Wilhelm Carl Hartwig Peters, German zoologist and explorer of East Africa, was born in Coldenbüttel, near Eiderstedt, Schleswig, on 22 April 1815, the son of a pastor. When Peters was ten years old, the family moved to Flensburg, on the Danish border, where he attended secondary school. He began his university training in medicine and natural history at the University of Copenhagen in 1834, but after six months there he transferred to the University of Berlin which, as it turned out, was to become his academic home for the rest of his life. He graduated with a M.D. degree in 1838 and, after 18 months of field work with H. Milne-Edwards in the Mediterranean region, he returned to Berlin in 1840 as an assistant to his former professor, Johannes Müller, the great anatomist.

Soon Peters began to plan what was to become the major event of his life, an exploration of Mozambique, which had the enthusiastic support of Müller and of Alexander von Humboldt, then also at Berlin. Peters departed in September 1842, travelling on a Portuguese convict ship first to Angola and finally (June 1843) to Mozambique. There he managed to explore the entire coastal region and also spent nearly a year up the Zambesi River deep in the interior. In addition, he made excursions to Zanzibar, to Madagascar and the Comoro Islands, and to Cape Town, mainly to recover from recurring illness, and he finally departed for Europe in August 1847, returning via India and Egypt. The collections he made were enormous and were written up, mainly by himself, in five elaborate quarto volumes in the series "Reise nach Mossambique" (1852-1882). This was a model faunal work for its day—comprehensive, authoritative, and well illustrated.

On returning to Berlin, Peters became a prosector at the university's Anatomical Institute, an Assistant Professor in 1849, and Assistant Director of the university's Zoological Museum, under Hinrich Lichtenstein, in 1856. Following Lichtenstein's death the next year, Peters succeeded to the