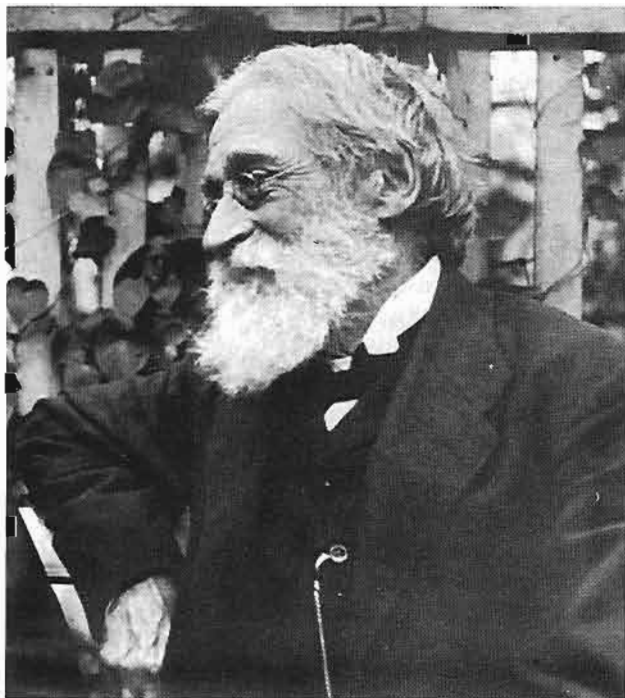


STEINDACHNER, Franz (1834-1919).

Franz Steindachner, a noted Austrian ichthyologist and herpetologist, was born in Vienna on 11 November 1834. At the University of Vienna he originally studied law, although his main interest was science. One of his teachers, Eduard Seuss, a geologist, interested him in studying fossil fishes and thus his career in ichthyology was set. Steindachner began work at the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna in 1860, originally with fishes. When L. J. Fitzinger retired in 1861, Steindachner took over his curatorship which included herpetology. Eventually he became head of the zoology section (1874) and director of the museum (1898), a position he held until his death, in Vienna, on 10 December 1919.

Steindachner was responsible for building the Vienna collection into one of the world's largest, not only through collections by Austrian military personnel and purchase of specimens from collectors (often using his personal funds), but from his own expeditions to North and South America, Africa, and the Middle East, at a time when museum curators rarely conducted field work at all. He superintended the Red Sea Expedition in 1895 and, in 1903, a voyage to Brazil, his last major trip. Because of his increasingly more time-consuming administrative duties, the herpetological collections were eventually curated by Friedrich Siebenrock.

Steindachner is best known as an ichthyologist, but he published nearly 60 herpetological titles (1862-1917) including one major work, the amphibian and reptile sections of the circumnavigation by the Austrian frigate



Steindachner

Novara (1867, republished 1869). This monograph reviewed a collection of nearly 1000 specimens from along the ship's route in South America, Africa, Ceylon, Java, China, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as other collections purchased from or donated by Austrian nationals overseas (including Johann Natterer in Brazil and Ferdinand Stoliczka in India), some of it obtained by the museum many years before.

Steindachner's other major herpetological works include a monograph on the snakes and lizards of the Galapagos Islands (1876), which he had visited personally, and another on Formosan snakes (1913). His papers are systematic and faunal in nature, including descriptions of numerous new genera and species, and are worldwide in coverage. Perhaps his most spectacular novelty was the unique lizard *Lanthanotus borneensis*, which he described (1877 [1878]) and correctly related to the American helodermatids. This paper also nicely demonstrates the work of one of the best natural history artists, Eduard Konopický, who regularly illustrated Steindachner's works. He had a special ability to catch life-like poses as well as details of scutellation, in lithographs that in many respects are far superior to modern illustrations.

• *References*: Siebenrock, 1901 (pp. 446-449); "†Franz Steindachner," by V. Pietschmann, *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien*, 33(Jahresber.): 47-48, 1920; "Localities of the Herpetological Collections Made During the 'Nova Reise'," by C. Gans, *Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, 33: 275-285, 1955; "Intendant Dr. Franz Steindachner, sein Leben und Werk," by P. Kähsbauer, *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien*, 63: 1-30, 1959 (1960); Papavero, 1973 (pp. 286-288, *Novara* collections). • *Portrait* (1912): Courtesy Oliver G. Dely. • *Signature* (1912): British Museum (Nat. Hist.), courtesy A. F. Sümson.

ANDERSON, John (1833-1900).

Anderson, a physician by training and field naturalist by inclination, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 4 October 1833. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh (M.D. 1861) and, after a few years on the staff of a college in Edinburgh, joined his brother in Calcutta (1864). In 1865, he became Curator, or director, of the newly-created Indian Museum and, partly from his own collections made in remote parts of India, he built up the museum's holdings which were begun by Edward Blyth at the Asiatic Society of Bengal. In 1868 Anderson joined an expedition, as medical officer and naturalist, to Burma and to Yunnan in southwest China; a second expedition, in 1875, was turned back at the Chinese border and thus collected only in Burma.

Anderson retired from the Indian Service and returned to England in 1876. Following some field work in Algeria in 1889, he shifted his attention to Egypt, where he spent his winters due to health reasons. The Egyptian fauna had been neglected since the work of the French naturalists who accompanied Napoleon's army at the beginning of the century and, with the encouragement of George A. Boulenger, Anderson amassed large collections which led to his "Zoology of Egypt" series. Anderson did not live to complete the series, however; he died at Buxton, England, on 15 August 1900.