

become staff members at the museum, and with an earlier Ruthven student, Frank N. Blanchard, as a professor in Michigan's zoology department, the tradition of herpetological study at the university was assured.

As University President from 1929 to 1951, Ruthven was generally acknowledged as the person most responsible for the emergence of the University of Michigan as one of the great American universities. During his 22 years as president, the university experienced an enormous growth despite the Depression and a world war, and throughout Ruthven had a record of a highly democratic administration.

Ruthven published about 130 titles of which about 75 are herpetological. Many of these report results of his expeditions to the western United States, Mexico (Veracruz), and Colombia, the last resulting in one of Ruthven's major treatises, "Amphibians and Reptiles of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia" (1922). Besides a primary interest in systematics, all of these studies have an ecological outlook. His publications also dealt with collections from Venezuela, British Guiana, Panama, the West Indies, Brazil, and Bolivia.

Despite this major focus on the Neotropics, Ruthven also produced a local handbook, "Herpetology of Michigan" (1912), co-authored with Helen T. Gaige and her sister, Crystal Thompson (second edition 1928). Ruthven's last paper in herpetology was published in 1936. Indeed, it was remarkable that he continued research at all after assuming the presidency in 1929, although many of the later papers were co-authored with Mrs. Gaige. He died alone in Ann Arbor, on or about 19 January 1971, at the age of 88.

• *References*: "A Naturalist in a University Museum," by A. G. Ruthven, Alumni Press, Univ. Michigan, Ann Arbor, 143 pages, 1931; Schmidt, 1955 (p. 612); "Naturalist in Two Worlds: Random Recollections of a University President," by A. G. Ruthven, Univ. Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 162 pages, [1963]; "Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven Dies," anonymous, New York Times, 20 January 1971, p. 38, 1971; "Alexander Grant Ruthven," anonymous, Copeia, 1971: 587, 1971; "Alexander Grant Ruthven of Michigan: Biography of a University President," by P. E. Van de Water, W. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids (Michigan), 251 pages, [1977]. • *Portrait* (1928): Howard K. Gloyd collection, courtesy Kathryn J. Gloyd and Roger Conant. • *Signature*: Adler collection.

WRIGHT, Albert H. (1879-1970).

WRIGHT, Anna A. (1882-1964).

Albert Hazen Wright and Anna Allen Wright, co-authors of the handbooks of American frogs and toads and of snakes, were both born in New York State—Albert in Hamlin (Monroe County) on 15 August 1879 and Anna in Buffalo, 4 March 1882. Albert graduated from Brockport State Normal School in 1899 and taught public school for a year before entering Cornell University in 1900; Anna also taught school, in Buffalo, before attending Cornell. Albert completed his A.B. degree in 1904, M.A. in 1905, and took his Ph.D. degree in 1908 under the supervision of Burt G. Wilder, one of Louis Agassiz's principal students. Anna

graduated with an A.B. in 1909. They were married the next year and became companions in field and laboratory for the next 55 years, until Mrs. Wright's death, in Ithaca, New York, on 5 December 1964. Albert Wright served on the Cornell faculty until his retirement in 1947; he died at the age of 90 on 4 July 1970, in Ithaca, after 70 years of association with Cornell.

Albert H. Wright's publications on amphibians and reptiles spanned the period 1908-1962, but comprised relatively few titles. He was a general naturalist, however, and published on all vertebrate classes and botany, as well as history. His major herpetological works included "Life-Histories of the Anura of Ithaca, New York" (1914), "Synopsis and Description of North American Tadpoles" (1929), and "Life-histories of the Frogs of Okefinokee [*sic*] Swamp, Georgia" (1932) which encompassed his major research interest, the life histories of amphibians, for which he provided the first comprehensive studies of American species.

Wright also authored or co-authored a series of three long papers (1915-1926) on the herpetology of the Okefinokee Swamp, based on the Cornell University expeditions from 1909 to 1922 by Wright and his students Sherman C. Bishop, Alvin R. Cahn, W. D. Funkhouser, and Francis Harper. These studies, together with others by them on the fauna and flora of this great swamp on the Georgia-Florida border, were instrumental in its becoming a national wildlife refuge in 1937. Wright's pioneering work in ecology was later recognized in 1955 by his election as Eminent Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America.

Albert H. Wright's major books, however, were produced and co-authored with his wife and resulted from years of extensive field work throughout North America, during which they collected notes and specimens and took over 12,000 photographs of amphibians and reptiles. As a result, it has been said that the Wrights had more first-hand experience in the field with more species and subspecies of



Albert Hazen Wright Anna Allen Wright