

Contributions to the History of Herpetology. Volume 3

By Kraig Adler (editor). Issued to commemorate the 7th World Congress of Herpetology Vancouver, British Columbia 2012. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 564 pages. 75.00 USD. Cloth.

This is volume 29 of the Society for the Study of Reptiles and Amphibians series *Contributions to Herpetology* and the third to feature biographies of herpetologists of the past. These have been compiled by the indefatigable herpetological historian Kraig Adler. Also included are the third editions of contributed sections by John S. Applegarth (Index of authors in taxonomic herpetology) and Ronald Altig (Academic lineages of doctoral degrees in herpetology).

The volume was prepared for the Seventh World Congress of Herpetology held 8 to 14 August 2012 at

the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Each of the two earlier volumes were also issued to mark notable gatherings of herpetologists. The first was for the initial World Congress of herpetology held in Canterbury, England, in 1989, and the second to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles held at St. Louis, Missouri, in 2007 (see Cook, F. R. 2007 [2009]. [Book review] *Contributions to the History of Herpetology Volume 2. Edited by K. Adler. Canadian Field-Naturalist* 121(4): 448).

The bulk of Volume 3 consists of the Bibliographies which occupy pages 13 to 353. They are followed by Literature Cited (pages 354–360) which includes publications with biographical information about herpetologists. Next (pages 361–386) there is a comprehensive index to bibliographies in all three volumes. (Volume 1 is out-of-print but available online and copies of Volume 2 are still available in print). The table of contents for volume 3 lists all the biographies included in this volume by time period in which each researcher made their most significant contribution, rather than date of birth. Volume 3 has the most bibliographies with 349; volume 2 had 285, and volume 1 contained 152, for a total of 786. A Canadian qualified for each of the first two volumes, Stanley W. Gorham (1917–1984) and E. B. Shelly Logier (1893–1979). One more is added to the latest, Clyde Louis Patch (1887–1952). Throughout there is fascinating detail on the careers and major accomplishments of those discussed in each entry. Despite all the stress that a research career can put on a marriage, only one herpetologist is recorded as fatally shot by his wife (Bernard Martof).

The Index to Taxonomists compiled by Applegarth follows (pages 387–469) and covers authors who have participated in the naming of taxa of living amphibians and reptiles at the genus level or below. Also included are those with one or more taxa within these groups named in their honour of those who have authored at least one contribution in herpetology.

Academic lineages compiled by Altig (pages 471–564) includes only doctoral degrees. The total is 5562 names (1752 new) covering 1745–2012 (267 years) from 58 countries (about 25% of those recognized by the United Nations).

This project began 30 years ago in 1982 with a slide presentation prepared for the 25th anniversary of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. Adler comments in the introduction to the latest volume that it is the final one in the series. Likely an alternative for additional contemporary biographies will be found when needed, perhaps one is already in progress as Applegarth states for his section that he is planning a fourth edition.

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Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist 126(4)

In response to the review of *Contributions to the History of Herpetology*. CFN 126(3): 344-345, the book's editor Kraig Adler pointed out (personal communication to FRC 12 May 2013): "Only one small correction. Mrs. Martof used a kitchen knife, not a gun. She told the police she slipped while cutting some pizza. But Bernie was stabbed up under his rib cage several times!"

Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist

It has come to our attention that sections of many of the book reviews by Li Dezhi and Qin Aili were copied from sources without attribution. The journal and the authors apologize for this oversight.