

The Anatomy of the Salamander, by Eric T. B. Francis, with an historical introduction by Francis J. Cole and a new introduction by James Hanken. Facsimile Reprints in Herpetology, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. xiv + xxxi + 381 pp., Plates I–XXV, Color Frontispiece. Clothbound. US \$60. ISBN 0-916984-50-8.

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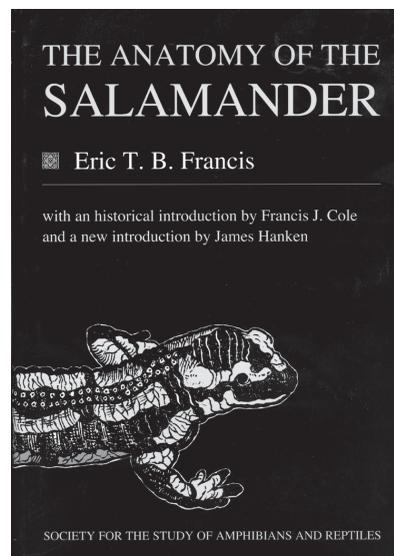
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One of my most prized possessions is an original copy of this reprinted classic, purchased directly from Oxford University Press for 30 Shillings (then about \$6.60) during my first year of graduate studies. It has been extremely well used, not only by me but by 35+ years of students who have repeatedly xeroxed parts of it. Amazingly, it is still in great shape, although its paper wrapper is in tatters and consists as much of tape as paper.

The reason for the care with which it has been used is that everyone who borrowed it knew what a very special book it was to me. It taught me to be a salamander morphologist and introduced me to the arcane nature of morphological nomenclature. It is a wonderful book, still extremely useful, and I could not be happier with the decision to reprint it.

The production is outstanding. The color frontispiece seems better than my original, and the plates are superbly reproduced, on higher quality paper than in the original. The binding is designed to last. I especially like the very attractive paper wrappers, a vast improvement on the original.

This book will introduce the reader to all aspects of the visible morphology of *Salamandra salamandra*. The greatest strengths of the book are the excellent descriptions accompanied by lists of synonyms for sometimes confusing morphological nomenclature, and the excellent plates, which are of exceptional quality. The morphological descriptions are of lasting value even though much has been published on nearly every topic since the book appeared. Descriptions of the skeleton, musculature, peripheral nervous system, gross anatomy of the brain, the heart and vascular system, and the urogenital system are accurate and remain fully usable. Because so much recent research has expanded knowledge, information on respiration, internal anatomy of the brain, the endocrine system, the sensory systems, the skin, and some other sections are of less value, except with respect to generalizations and topography. Interspersed throughout the text are commentaries that



are often interesting and informative, and which continue to offer suggestions for additional research.

The bibliography is superb—essentially complete up through 1933. I have made extensive use of it in my own research and still refer to it with regularity. The long introduction by Professor Cole is historical and, to me, fascinating in its accounts of early work on *Salamandra* by great figures in the history of biology. Chapter I deals with taxonomy and life history. This has largely been superseded, but it is of historical interest.

A special feature of the reprint is a two-page introduction to the authors by Kraig Adler, Guest Editor of this volume. There is a delightful photo of Eric Francis, who lived until 1993 when he died at age 93, and a formal photo of Francis Cole.

A ten-page introduction to the new volume by James Hanken updates the most significant work on salamander anatomy published since 1934 and includes a very useful bibliography. I enjoyed this lively and informative feature.

I would like to think that every student of amphibian biology would want this book at hand, but I realize that not all herpetologists are interested in anatomy. The standard textbook on amphibians by Duellman and Trueb has excellent anatomical descriptions and figures. But for more in-depth coverage and for a magnificent intellectual accomplishment accompanied by figures of extraordinary value, this is a book that has no peer for amphibians. This is a book for beginning graduate students as well as more senior professionals, and I heartily recommend it.

Once again the Facsimile Reprints in Herpetology series has produced a book that will truly serve all herpetologists, and I congratulate Kraig Adler not only for conceiving the series but for establishing a high standard of quality production.