

THE GOOD OLD/BAD OLD DAYS

A survey of reptile and amphibian species traded
during the period 1948-1957

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INTRODUCTION

During the Second World War, and for several years after, it can be presumed that there were rather few exotic reptiles and amphibians featuring in trade. The decade covered by this survey saw the resumption of relatively large-scale importation. In part 1 (which appeared in *Bulletin* No. 48), I reviewed the lizard species involved. Here, in part 2, I consider the snakes, and, in part 3 (due to be published in *Bulletin* No. 50), I will conclude with a look at the chelonians and crocodilians, and amphibians.

OBSERVATIONS

From a consideration of the lizards alone, a number of differences may be observed between what was offered for sale in the period under consideration and what is available at the present time. Firstly, and perhaps predictably, there seem to be very few captive-bred animals to be had between 1948 and 1957. The one exception, rather more surprisingly, was a chameleon *Chameleo bitaeniatus ellioti*.

Secondly, many species were being imported from Western Europe and Australia; conservation legislation has long since effectively ended trade with the latter and, more recently, reduced it considerably with respect to the former. South Africa also featured fairly strongly in this period before economic sanctions. (There are some indications that trade has increased again recently, following the political changes in that country). Very little came in from South America, though, and Asia was represented almost solely by India, with Southern China contributing a single species (*Gecko gecko*). The countries of the British Empire (or Commonwealth) were otherwise unrepresented.

A third difference, somewhat less obvious due to the effects of inflation over the last 40 or so years, is in the prices of animals; £16 for an Australian lizard (*Chlamydosaurus kingi*) would have been an unthinkable amount even to the most fanatical working class reptile enthusiast. On the other hand, £2/19- for 100 wall lizards (*Podarcis muralis*) seems to show that a massive discrepancy existed between the monetary values of the more unusual, and of the "common", species.

In examining the snakes, similar patterns may be noticed. In addition, the number of poisonous species was greater than would be expected today, reflecting the fact that legislation concerning the keeping of "dangerous wild animals" had not been enacted at that time.

PART 2: SNAKES

<i>Ablabophis rufulus</i>	Brown water snake	South Africa	£1/10/-
<i>Acanthophis antarticus</i>	Death adder	Australia	£15
<i>Agkistrodon contortrix</i> <i>contortrix</i>	Water moccasin	Eastern USA	£5
<i>Agkistrodon mokasen</i>	Copperhead	Eastern USA	£5
<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i>	Cottonmouth moccasin	South-eastern USA	£5
<i>Agkistrodon piscivorus</i> <i>leucostoma</i>	Water moccasin	South-eastern USA	£5
<i>Bitis arietans</i>	Puff adder	Africa	£5
<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	Gaboon viper	Africa	£5
<i>Bitis nasicornis</i>	River Jack adder	Africa	£10
<i>Boaedon lineatus</i>	Brown house snake	South Africa	£2
<i>Bothrops atrox</i>	Fer-de-lance	South and Central America	£5
<i>Bungarus candidus</i>	Common krait	India	£5
<i>Bungarus fasciatus</i>	Banded krait	India	£5
<i>Chlorophis hoplogaster</i>	Southern green snake	South Africa	£2
<i>Chlorophis natalensis</i>	Natal green snake	South Africa	£3
<i>Coluber anthicus</i>	Snake	Central America	£1/10/-
<i>Coluber asianus</i>	Snake	Israel	£2/15/-
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	American black racer		
<i>Coluber jugularis</i>	Dark green snake	Tel Aviv	£1/10/-
<i>Coluber jugularis caspius</i>	Caspian whip snake	Hungary	£1/10/-
<i>Coluber najadum</i>	Dahl's whip snake	Tel Aviv	£2/10/-
<i>Coluber viridiflavus</i>	European whip snake	France Italy	17/-
<i>Coluber viridiflavus</i> <i>carbonarius</i>	European whip snake	Italy	
<i>Coluber viridiflavus</i> <i>viridiflavus</i>	European whip snake	Sardinia	
<i>Conopsis lineatus</i>	Road guarder	South and Central America	£4
<i>Constrictor constrictor</i> <i>constrictor</i>	Boa constrictor	South America	£5
<i>Coronella austriaca</i>	Smooth snake	France, Holland	7/-
<i>Coronella girondica</i>	Southern smooth snake	Spain	16/-
<i>Crotalus sp.</i>	Mexican green rattlesnake	South and Central America	£5
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern diamond-backed rattlesnake	North America	£10
<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	Western diamond-backed rattlesnake	Texas	£4/15/-
<i>Crotalus cerastes</i>	Sidewinder, Horned rattlesnake	North America	£10
<i>Crotalus confluentus</i>	Prairie rattlesnake	North America	£10
<i>Crotalus horridus</i>	Timber rattlesnake	North America	£10
<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Prairie rattlesnake	Texas	£5
<i>Dasypeltis scabra</i>	Egg-eating snake (unmarked)	Africa	£1/10/-
<i>Dasypeltis scabra</i>	Egg-eating snake (marked)	Africa	£2/10/-
<i>Demansia textilis</i>	Australian brown snake	Australia	

<i>Denisonia superba</i>	Australian copperhead	Australia	
<i>Diadophis punctatus arnyi</i>	Prairie ring-neck snake		10/-
<i>Dispholidus typus</i>	Boomslang	South Africa	£9
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Indigo snake, Gopher snake	Everglades	£10
<i>Elaphe guttata confinis</i>	Corn snake	Texas	£1/5/-
<i>Elaphe guttata emoryi</i>	Corn snake	Utah	£1/5/-
<i>Elaphe laeta</i>	Prairie blotched chicken snake	Central America	£1
<i>Elaphe longissima</i>	Aesculapean snake	Hungary	£1
<i>Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri</i>	Chicken snake	Central America, Texas	£2/15/-
<i>Elaphe obsoleta spiloides</i>	Chicken snake	USA	£4
<i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i>	Four-lined snake		£3/10/-
<i>Elaphe scalaris</i>	Ladder snake	France, Spain	£1/5/-
<i>Epicrates cenchris</i>	Rainbow boa	Central and South America	£5/10/-
<i>Epicrates striatus</i>	Bahama Island boa constrictor		£10
<i>Eunectes murinus</i>	Anaconda	South America	£12
<i>Haldea striatulata</i>	Burrowing snake	Central America	15/-
<i>Heterodon contortrix</i>	Common hog-nosed snake	Central America	15/-
<i>Heterodon contortrix kernerlyi</i>	Hog-nosed snake	Central America	£1
<i>Heterodon platyrhinos platyrhinos</i>	Hog-nosed snake	Texas	£2/5/-
<i>Hypsiglene ochrorhyncha</i>	Snake	Central America	
<i>Lachesis muta</i>	Bushmaster	South and Central America	£30
<i>Lampropeltis annulata</i>	Tropical king snake	Central America	£4
<i>Lampropeltis doliata</i>	Milk snake	King County	£5
<i>Lampropeltis getulus floridana</i>	Florida king snake	Everglades	£10
<i>Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki</i>	Salt and pepper king snake	Mississippi	£4
<i>Lampropeltis getulus yumensis</i>	Arizona king snake	Arizona	£3/10/-
<i>Lampropeltis inornatus</i>	Olive house snake		£10/10/-
<i>Leimadophis albiventralis</i>	Green snake	South America	£1
<i>Leptodeira annulata</i>	Night snake	Brazil	£1/8/-
<i>Leptotyphlops dulcis</i>	Burrowing snake	Central America	10/-
<i>Malpolon monspessulanus</i>	Montpellier snake	Spain	£1/5/-
<i>Masticophis flagivularis</i>	Coachwhip snake	Central America	£3
<i>Masticophis taeniatus schottii</i>	Whip snake	Texas	£4
<i>Micrurus fulvius tenere</i>	Coral snake	USA	£5
<i>Micrurus lemniscatus</i>	Coral snake	South America	£2/10/-
<i>Naja flava</i>	Cape cobra	Africa	£8
<i>Naja hannah</i>	King cobra	India	£30
<i>Naja naia</i>	Indian cobra	India	£5
<i>Natrix erythrogaster transversa</i>	Yellow-bellied water snake	USA	£1/10/-
<i>Natrix grahamii</i>	Graham's water snake	Central America, USA	£1/5/-
<i>Natrix maura</i>	Viperine snake	France, Spain	8/-

<i>Natrix natrix astreptophora</i>	Spanish grass snake	Spain	6/-
<i>Natrix natrix cetti</i>	Sardinian grass snake	Sardinia	
<i>Natrix natrix helvetica</i>	Grass snake	South and Western Europe	£2/14/- per 100
<i>Natrix natrix natrix</i>	Central European grass snake		
<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>	Striped ring-necked snake	Hungary	8/-
<i>Natrix rhombifera</i>	Diamond-backed water snake	Central America, Texas	£1/10/- £3
<i>Natrix sipedon confluens</i>	Blanchard's water snake		
<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	Dice snake	Hungary, Italy, Tel Aviv	4/-
<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	Dice snake (black variety)	Hungary, Italy, Tel Aviv	10/-
<i>Notechis scutatus</i>	Tiger snake	Australia	£6
<i>Ophedryx aestivus</i>	Rough green snake	USA	£1/10/-
<i>Ophedryx vernalis</i>	Keeled green snake	Central America	£1/15/-
<i>Oxybelis acuminatus</i>	Green vine snake	South and Central America	£3 £3
<i>Philothamnus semivariiegatus</i>	Green bush snake	South Africa	£3
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>			
<i>melanoleucus</i>	Pine snake	Texas	£4/10/-
<i>Pseudaspis cana</i>	Mole snake		£1/10/-
<i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>	Black snake	Australia	£10
<i>Pseudoboia cloelia</i>	Mussurana	South and Central America	£6
<i>Python amethystinus</i>	Amethyst python		
<i>Python molurus</i>	Indian rock python		
<i>Python regius</i>	African royal python	Africa	
<i>Python sebae</i>	African rock python	South Africa	£15
<i>Python spilotes</i>	Diamond Python		
<i>Python spilotes variegata</i>	Carpet python		
<i>Python reticulatus</i>	Regal python		£15
<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>	Snake	Mexico	£3
<i>Salvadora lineata</i>	Snake	Mexico	£3
<i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>	Pygmy rattlesnake	North America	£5
<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	De Kay's brown snake	Central America, USA	£1
<i>Tachymenis vivax</i>	Cat snake		£1/10/-
<i>Tantilla fumiceps</i>	Snake	Central America	
<i>Thamnophis elegans terrestris</i>	Great Basin garter snake	USA	£1/10/-
<i>Thamnophis macyi</i>	Garter snake		£1/5/-
<i>Thamnophis marcianus</i>	Garter snake	Texas	£1/5/-
<i>Thamnophis ordinoides</i>	Garter snake	Florida	£2/5/-
<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	Ribbon snake	USA	£1/8/-
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis proximus</i>	Garter snake	Texas	£1/5/-
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>	Garter snake	USA	16/-
<i>Tropidoclonium lineatum</i>	Ribbon snake		15/-
<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>	Horned viper	Europe	£1/10/-
<i>Vipera aspis</i>	Asp viper	France	£1/10/-
<i>Vipera berus</i>	Adder	Germany	3/6
<i>Vipera russellii</i>	Russell viper, Tic-plonga	India	£5
<i>Vipera ursinii</i>	Ursini's viper	Europe	£2