

**FILSON CLUB PUBLICATIONS NO.
10 THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF
RAFINESQUE: PREPARED FOR THE
FILSON CLUB AND READ AT ITS
MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1894**

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RICHARD ELLSWORTH CALL

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AUTHOR'S EDITION

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THE LIFE AND WRITINGS

OF

RAFINESQUE

Prepared for the Filson Club and read at its Meeting
Monday, April 2, 1894

By RICHARD ELLSWORTH CALL, M. A., M. Sc., M. D.
Member of the Filson Club



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TO THE MEMORY OF
Constantine Samuel Rafinesque
NATURALIST

PREFACE.

THIS memoir had its inception in an attempt to clear up certain matters connected with the synonymy of a large and important group of fresh-water mollusks—the *Unionidae*. A number of very remarkable facts connected with the personality of its subject were thus incidentally learned. As the collation of data proceeded the facts gathered seemed of sufficient importance to group them for presentation to the literary and scientific world, in the hope that a better and more intelligent understanding of this eccentric naturalist might result. A number of impressions were forced upon my attention as the work proceeded; among other conclusions reached was the one that Rafinesque had not been treated always fairly by his contemporaries. Resulting from this was the conviction that many naturalists now living have formed opinions concerning the nature and value of Rafinesque's work, which appear to me to be quite erroneous. In the hope that some of these misapprehensions might be corrected the task of writing his life, which is quite a labor of love, was undertaken.



The Filson Club, an organization devoted primarily to the collection and preservation of original matter connected with the history of the State of Kentucky, has, since it recognizes Rafinesque as the first resident professor-naturalist within the limits of the State, been particularly interested in this memoir, and its aid has been freely extended in the matter of sumptuous publication. The intelligent interest and historical enthusiasm of Colonel R. T. Durrett, LL. D., the President of the Club, was early enlisted in the project, partly for the reasons above given and partly because of personal interest in the career of a most remarkable man. He freely offered access to his superb and unrivaled library of *Kentuckiana*, without which courtesy much, which now appears, must long have remained unknown.

During the progress of this work numerous courtesies have been extended, and by various persons. To these especial thanks are due. Professor Howard M. Ballou, of the Louisville Manual Training High School, spent many days in the various libraries of Boston and Cambridge in abstracting and verifying certain bibliographic matter; to his interest and zeal this portion of the brochure owes very much indeed; he has also rendered invaluable aid in proof-reading as the several signatures came from the press. Doctor G. Brown Goode, Assistant

Director of the United States National Museum, Doctor Charles S. Sargent, Director of the Arnold Arboretum at Jamaica Plains, Mr. C. E. Faxon, of the same institution, Honorable Thomas Meehan, of Philadelphia, and W. H. Venable, LL. D., of Cincinnati, have all contributed valuable aid. Doctor Goode especially has courteously furnished all the references to the rare *Specchio delle Scienze*, and has also verified others; he further has looked over the proofs of part of the bibliographic portion as they came from the printer, and has made numerous valuable suggestions. I desire to make especial mention of the aid afforded by Miss Johanna Peter, of Lexington, who kindly undertook the laborious task of a careful search through the Lexington Library, rich in old Kentucky books and newspaper files, and thus led to the discovery of many useful items. Mr. Alexander Griswold kindly photographed the pages for the plate illustrating the *Florula Ludoviciana*; Doctor William T. Durrett did the same with the page for the plate from the Fishes of the River Ohio. Mrs. Asa Gray has courteously allowed the use of the letter to De Candolle, from among the letters left by Doctor Asa Gray, which is herein reproduced. To Doctor B. L. Robinson, Curator of the Herbarium at Harvard University, thanks are due for the opportunity to photograph the portrait