



A RAFINESQUE PORTRAIT¹

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Whether to praise or to blame, every American naturalist has been tempted to write on Rafinesque. Even when the temptation to break into print has been resisted, awareness of this eccentric genius is often present in the minds of all workers on inland animals and plants of the United States. The writer confesses that he is no exception and the only excuse for this short article is to explain the color reproduction of the portrait that accompanies it. In the spring of 1964 the writer visited the library of Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky. His aim at the time was to photograph memorabilia of Rafinesque, particularly portraits, and he was fortunate in enlisting the interest of Miss Roemol Henry, Librarian, whose knowledge of the materials in her care and kindness in making them available cannot be praised too highly.

During my visit, I was permitted to photograph in color, among other things, two portraits of Rafinesque, one the well-known enamel miniature described by Merrill (1944, pl. 6, facing p. 297) and reproduced in color in the Indiana Historical Society's reprint of "Walam Olum" (Rafinesque, 1954, frontispiece). According to

Merrill (1944, p. 295) there exist two or three, perhaps more, Rafinesque portraits: (1) the enamel miniature referred to above; (2) an engraved portrait which appeared as a frontispiece to Rafinesque's "Analyse de la Nature" (1815) and purports to show him at age 27; (3) and another, reproduced in color herewith, called a "doubtful painting by Jouett" by Merrill (1944, p. 295). According to Fitzpatrick (1911, p. 240) the Jouett painting was in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and some doubt has been expressed as to its genuineness. I saw and photographed this painting in the Library of Transylvania College where it had been deposited some years previously by the Wisconsin society. It is much larger (about 10 X 14 inches) than the enamel miniature and the workmanship is better.

To my knowledge, no color reproduction of the Jouett portrait has ever been printed. Thanks to the courtesy of the authorities of Transylvania College and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, reproduction of one of my kodachromes has been permitted in STERKIANA. The color reproduction has been made at the California Academy of Science by Dr. and Mrs. G. Dallas Hanna from color separation negatives prepared by Mr. Maurice Giles. The printing was done at the California Academy and was supervised throughout by Mrs. Hanna. I am much indebted

1 Support of this investigation, through a grant for travel by the Ohio State University, is gratefully acknowledged.

to all three of these colleagues for their courtesy and care.

If this portrait is indeed a representation of the features of the eccentric Rafinesque, it tallies amazingly well with what one would expect of his ebullient personality and abounding energy, matched only by his impatience with criticism of any kind, although he himself was quite generous with criticism of others.

Whether the portrait is of Rafinesque or not, it is a pleasure to be able to make it more widely known through this reproduction.

When Transylvania College celebrated the hundredth anniversary of Rafinesque's death, a series of papers, edited by L. A. Brown (1942), was published, which included a list of Rafinesque memorabilia, but unfortunately this does not mention portraits. It may be useful to record, therefore, that in the spring of 1964 two of the original Rafinesque portraits mentioned in this paper were in existence and in excellent condition in the Library of Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky: (1) the enamel miniature figured in black and white by Merrill (1944, pl. 6) and in color in "Walam Olum." Merrill states that this portrait was acquired by Transylvania College in 1938; and (2) the portrait described and reproduced here in color.

REFERENCES CITED

BROWN, L. A., editor (1942) Rafinesque Memorial Papers, October 31, 1940. -- Transylvania College Bull., vol. 15, No. 7, 107 pp. Includes: The Life and Work of Rafinesque by Francis W. Pennell; The Modern Naturalist, by Alfred E. Emerson; a Symposium, F. T.

MacFarland presiding, with the following papers: Rafinesque Archaeologist, by W. D. Funkhouser; Research in the Biology of Fishes, by William E. Ricker; Herpetology and Rafinesque, by William M. Clay; Rafinesque's Interests - Medicinal Plants, by H. B. Haag. Publications of Rafinesque in Transylvania Library. Manuscripts of Rafinesque in Transylvania Library.

FITZPATRICK, T. J. (1911) Rafinesque, a sketch of his life with bibliography. -- Des Moines, The Historical Department of Iowa, 241 pp., 32 pls.

MERRILL, Elmer D. (1944) Foreword to "A Life of Travels by C. S. Rafinesque." -- Chronica Botanica, vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 292-297, pls. 5, 6.

RAFINESQUE, Constantin Samuel (1954) Walam Olum or Red Score. The Migration Legend of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians. -- Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, xiv + 379 pp., illus., incl. color portr. as frontispiece). The full translation of the manuscript by Rafinesque is followed by several papers concerning its history and value).

POSTSCRIPT

To the writer, the many-sided Rafinesque was mainly a naturalist. It is a delight to read the sumptuously printed and illustrated "Walam Olum" mentioned above and to find that the archaeologists - or at least some of them - take Rafinesque very seriously indeed and this book indicates that his work as an archaeologist comes off very well in a critical evaluation published more than 100 years after Rafinesque had it printed.