New! HENRI AUVRAY DIT " DEÇA "

Viper Hunters Portraits of a vanished profession

Ron Bronckers

Tome 4 in the series Herpetological Volumes, published by the European Snake Society

■ In this volume Ron Bronckers undertakes a fascinating quest for the men who at the end of the 19th and guite some decades in the 20th century in France, England and Italy earned their living with the destroying of vipers, who apparently lived in such great numbers that they were considered dangerous for both men and animals. This extraordinary volume contains unique illustrations from the private collection of the author. A very important contribution to the culturalhistorical herpetology.

■ Contents

Foreword

Marcel van der Voort. Introduction

Harry (Henry) 'Brusher' Mills, the snake-catcher of New Forest

Bounty hunting for vipers in France

Henry Auvray, nicknamed Deça

Michel Vergne, nicknamed Jean Serpent

Father Chabirand, a man with a mission

François Raison, nicknamed Père Raison

The excellent power of viper powder. An 18th century pamphlet

Jean Martin, nicknamed Père Martin

Jean-Baptiste Courtol, nicknamed Courtol the viper assassin

Louis Paul Brun, nicknamed Paulus

Don Amedeo Ruscetta, the master viperaro: he who taught children how to catch vipers

Index

■ You can order a copy of this special title by paying € 24,95 + postage (ask the Treasurer for the correct amount) to account IBAN NL96INGB0004438855 -BIC: INGBNL2A of the treasurer European Snake Society', The Netherlands. mentioning 'Bronckers'.