

Alexander G. Ruthven Helen T. Gaige

Alexander G. Ruthven, pictured here alongside co-Curator Helen T. Gaige, together founded the first formal incarnation of the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. This collection of essays featuring some of the field's most prominent herpetologists highlights their experiences at the University of Michigan.

The Alexander G. Ruthven Building, designed by notable Detroit architect Albert Kahn, was constructed in 1928 to accommodate rapidly expanding collections of the Museums of Zoology, Anthropology, and Paleontology, and the University Herbarium. The entrance façade bears the inscription "University Museums" and Louis Agassiz's "Go to Nature, take the facts into your own hands; look and see for yourself."

Presently, with the relocation of the Museums' collections to the new Research Museum Center, and the opening of the new Biological Sciences Building which includes the Natural History Museum exhibits, the historic Ruthven Building is undergoing renovation to include 100,000 square feet of technologically state-of-the-art, interactive classrooms, and central administration spaces for the President and other executive offices.

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