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Front Matter

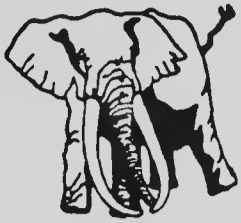
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Ahmed remains the symbol. . .

This drawing of the legendary Ahmed is based on photographs taken at Marsabit, North Kenya, by Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani in June 1973 and incorporated with other reference material. The final layout of the front cover is by Sherri DeFauw.

Ahmed, Kenya's most celebrated elephant, was and still is regarded as a national monument. He had the largest tusks of those seen in recent years; his right tusk was 9 feet 9 inches long (2.97 m) and the left 9 feet 4 inches (2.85 m). Each one of his tusks weighed about 148 pounds, approximately 67 kilograms. During Ahmed's life, the average elephant tusk weighed about 70 pounds, while 100 pounds was considered large. At present, the average tusk weight is much less. A worldwide protest to save Ahmed's life was ignited by a report that two American hunters were after his huge ivory. This protest included more than 5,000 letters and cards delivered to the East African Wild Life Society. Thereafter, Ahmed was totally protected from human harassment:

- 1) by the mere fact that he was in a protected park - Marsabit.
- 2) by a decree from the late president of Kenya, Mzee Jomo Kenyata.
- 3) by daily monitoring of his movements performed by two askaris (soldiers).
- 4) by "the close proximity of two younger bulls."

This last statement is perhaps a legend rather than an observation.

In the Presidential Decree, the late Jomo Kenyata described Ahmed as "...this individual animal which captures the imagination and concern of all mankind." It was further stated in the Decree that "...under no circumstances may (Ahmed) be hunted or harassed by anyone."

Early in 1974 Ahmed died at about 55 years of age. The death was "natural"; that is, he was not the victim of the "Ivory Rush" as was initially feared. Ahmed is preserved in the National Museum of Nairobi, Kenya. The great elephant remains the symbol of conservation for this and future generations. For additional information, see issue Number 2 page 35 and issue Number 4 page 234.

* * * * *

Elephant⁺ is the official publication of the Elephant Interest Group (EIG), an international non-profit organization established in June 1977, to promote interest in elephants. In addition, the EIG collects and disseminates information needed for education, research and conservation of elephants. The EIG is associated with the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)/Elephant Specialist Groups, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and the Department of Biological Sciences at Wayne State University. Pertinent articles, information and news are contributed, free, by our readers. Financial support is provided via contributions from individuals and institutions worldwide. Elephant is distributed by the Department of Biological Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, 48202 USA.

⁺The first two issues of Volume 1 were entitled Elephant Newsletter. Subsequently, the word "newsletter" was dropped from the title, and this publication is known simply as Elephant.

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A NOTE FOR JOURNAL BINDERS

- This is the fourth and final issue of Elephant Volume 1.
- A SUPPLEMENT to this volume is available.
- A cumulative author and subject index to Volume 1 plus SUPPLEMENT, is included at the end of the SUPPLEMENT. This is followed by a Title Page which may be detached and placed in front of this volume when binding.
- The SUPPLEMENT may be purchased separately for US \$6.00 (postpaid) from our office (see address below).

Dear Elephant Reader,

The skyrocketing costs of materials, printing, mailing, as well as secretarial help, have caused us to be in a deficit (see pp. 215-216). A delay in Volume 2, Number 1 can be expected unless the budget is balanced. Please help us defray expenses by purchasing EIG materials (see p. 233), joining our group, or by donating to a good cause. All contributions are tax deductible; an official receipt will be mailed.

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Total amount enclosed (for membership and other EIG material purchased)*

*Please make checks payable to **Wayne State Fund/Elephant** and mail to: Hezy Shoshani, Department of Biological Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, 48202, USA.

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