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A Note from the Editors

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear EIG Members and Friends,

This fourth issue of Elephant concludes Volume I. Since its inception, in June 1977, the Elephant Interest Group (EIG), has been able to achieve the following: promote interest in elephants, collect and disseminate information through our publications, symposium, slide presentations and correspondence; voice its opinion on H.R. 4685 (see pp. 139-142 in this issue); establish the Elephant Library (see p. 217); compile 1,344 references on elephants; study the tissues of the 40,000-year-old woolly mammoth (see Elephant, 1(3):42, and References No. 468, 474, 852, 869 and 885); dissect and collect data on a female Asian elephant (see abstract on pp. 44-46). The objectives of our group, as listed on page 2 of Number 2 and summarized on the back of the front covers of Numbers 3 and 4, have been followed closely.

The compilation and printing of this issue would have been impossible without the continual support and considerable help and love and care invested by many individuals. Wayne State University (WSU), particularly the Department of Biological Sciences with its Chairman, John D. Taylor, and Lynne Aldrich has generously helped. Sandra S. Lash deserves special thanks for her dedicated volunteer help. M. Pamela Bedore has also volunteered many days and William Prychodko continues to make useful comments and suggestions. Kathy Morehead and her team at WSU's Photographic Services devoted many long hours during the Elephant ("Iki") Dissection Project and other related works. Michael Baccala has undauntedly volunteered to perform sundry tasks and Joseph Engelhard has continuously donated information and literature to our Elephant Library. Mary Jo Szuba allowed us to use her electric typewriter for several months and Sherri DeFauw helped with art work. Members of the Editorial Board and Reviewers are acknowledged for reviewing manuscripts and/or making valuable suggestions. The staffs at our Department of Biological Sciences (especially M. Patricia Hensler, Eileen Koglin and Cheryl A. McMahan) and the Science Library (especially Stephen DeVoe, Steve Habib and Richard Manikowski) are thanked for their patience and help. The Elephant Library team (especially Marlene Bulgarelli and Anthony Helinski) and the Bibliography Committee (especially Judith Berg, Sandra S. Lash and Dorit Yehiel) also deserve heartfelt thanks. Additional acknowledgments are included under FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In an effort to raise funds for the EIG, a few illustrated presentations were given and a number of small, local activities have been tried. The selling of T-shirts, bumper stickers and decals goes well (see p. 233 for more information on these materials). A new T-shirt design depicting an Asian elephant and promotional stationery and greeting cards are in progress. In response to our request for membership fees and help towards publications, contributors gave from US \$1 to US \$1,500. If everyone had sent the suggested amount (US \$10), we would have ample funds. However, over 50% of our addressees have not responded to our pleas, resulting in a meager balance for printing and other costs (see FINANCIAL REPORT, pp. 215-216). Should the present situation of deficits continue, we would have to curtail further publication. EIG members and friends are hereby requested to provide monetary

support, either as membership fees for those who did not do so yet, through purchasing EIG materials or as additional contributions. Official receipts and letters of acknowledgment were sent to all contributors. If we have inadvertently not fulfilled your request or acknowledged your contribution, please inform us immediately. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped, financially and otherwise.

The delay in publishing this issue enabled us to present the Minutes from both EIG Meetings (1979 and 1980), to include the Proceedings from the Meeting of the IUCN/SSC (see p. 100), to bring to our readers up-to-date information on H.R. 4685 and Senate Amendment 1680 (see Ban-the-Ivory-Campaign II in this issue), to compile 510 new references on elephants, and to make corrections on previous references (see ERRATA under MISCELLANEOUS). A special effort has been made to enhance the Bibliography, as many readers have indicated that this is the single most important contribution of our publication (see RECENT CORRESPONDENCE in this and previous issues). Some of the references have been annotated for future reference as well as to encourage our readers to send references with their own annotations. Credits will be given. Additional new features in Elephant Number 4 are: a Book Review section containing book and chapter reviews and references on recent literature. Many of our readers and elephant owners will also find the section ELEPHANT TRAINING: CORRESPONDENCE AND ARTICLES and RECENT CORRESPONDENCE worthwhile reading and interesting.

A glance at the table of CONTENTS shows that an effort has been made to balance articles and information between the Asian and the African elephants. The articles by I. Douglas-Hamilton and C. Daniell are documents which we felt should be available to our readers. The SUPPLEMENT to this issue ("Proceedings of the Elephant Symposium, Corvallis, Oregon, 1979, and related papers") contains a balanced number of articles on both species. Suggested price: US \$6.00 (postage included), to be paid in advance (see p. 238 in this issue). Please note that articles in Elephant Number 4 and SUPPLEMENT are copyrighted.

Increasing interest in elephants through our publication and by word of mouth is manifested by the growing mailing list which includes 884 names representing 42 countries. The list consists of a wide range of institutions and individuals, such as mammalogists, zoo and circus people, factory workers, members of Congress and celebrities. Of the 884 on the mailing list, 672 are EIG members, an increase of 59% since the last issue was published. We extend a warm welcome to all new members. It is our hope that Elephant will continue to serve as a nucleus for attracting new ideas and will stimulate further interest in elephants. Readers are encouraged to contribute relevant articles and information and to express their views regarding any issues discussed in Elephant. Once again, wholehearted thanks to all who have contributed to making this volume a success.

Hezy Shoshani

Jeneskel (Hezy) Shoshani
Detroit, December 15, 1980