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## Meeting of the Elephant Interest Group

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**MEETING OF THE ELEPHANT INTEREST GROUP**

at

Corvallis, Oregon  
June 20, 1979  
11 P.M.

Minutes taken by Diane Boman

Following is the digest of the minutes from the informal meeting of the Elephant Interest Group (EIG) during the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM). A preliminary discussion took place on the preceding day, at which a small group was present. Items from both meetings are included here. Present were Jack Adams, Larry Baggett, David Berg, Judith Berg, Irven O. Buss, William Dunlap, Joseph Engelhard, Shirley Foley, Beverly Neville, William J. Neville, Joyce Poole, Philip Prewett, V. Louise Roth, Kathleen M. Scott, R. W. Seabloom, Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani, Theodore Spellmire and Brian Turner. Topics discussed are outlined below.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Various rates were suggested for regular members, students and organizations as well as different levels of membership. The rate of US \$10/year for all members was suggested and accepted. (Members were informed by letter November 26, 1979, of the necessity for dues and requested to send \$10 to our office.)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** It was suggested forming a committee to disseminate local EIG information and to solicit new members by geographic area. Three people volunteered to act on such a committee:

William Neville - Denver Zoo - Central Area  
Bill Dunlap - Baltimore Zoo - East Coast  
Judith Berg - Long Beach, California - West Coast

**ELEPHANT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:** A group discussion on the nature of EIG organization and its goals was conducted. Members do not wish EIG to be primarily a "save the species" group at this time. Although the publication Elephant has become more technically oriented than news oriented, it was agreed that the mixture of interests and information thus far presented in Elephant should be retained.

**PUBLICATION OF ELEPHANT:** Suggestions for help.

(1) Bibliography committee: Ultimately, the bibliography could be typed by outside help in five-year groups and sent to the Detroit office to be put in a computer file and in subsequent publication. Richard Lair, David Berg and Judith Berg offered assistance in achieving this objective.

(2) Editorial Board: Additional staff are needed to review and edit materials and articles for publication. A number of people volunteered in their areas of interest and other names were suggested. A letter was written

(December 20, 1979) in order to organize an editorial board to assist with Elephant Number 4. Some of those who participated in the effort are listed under EDITORIAL BOARD AND REVIEWERS, page opposite A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

**IVORY IMPORTATION:** Consideration of a ban on ivory import into the United States was discussed and a general consensus was reached. The idea of importing raw ivory only with a stamp from the country of origin was favored. It was agreed that some additional input from members would be necessary. Subsequently, the EIG Ad Hoc Ivory Committee was formed and a questionnaire was sent on July 18, 1980 to EIG members and friends. (See section in Ban-the-Ivory Campaign II for results of this survey.)

Three films pertaining to elephant behavior and surgery were shown by Jack Adams at the end of the discussions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who attended the meetings and volunteered to help. Special thanks go to B. J. Verts and the Local Committee of the ASM for their help in arranging for these meetings. We also appreciate the tour of the Washington Park Zoo, Portland, Oregon, guided by J. Stephen McCusker. The trip was enjoyable despite the unexpected shower sprayed on us by "Packy", the male Asian elephant.

#### MEETING OF THE ELEPHANT INTEREST GROUP

at

Kingston, Rhode Island

June 10, 1980

10:35 P.M.

Minutes taken by Sandra Lash

On the third evening of the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) the Elephant Interest Group sponsored the showing of the film "King Elephant," formerly entitled "The African Elephant," for the general ASM membership. Over 100 people attended the movie. Many indicated that they enjoyed it and some requested the address of the rental company. "King Elephant" is a 90-minute nature documentary produced by Simon Trevor. It features African wildlife with emphasis on the ecology and behavior of the African elephant. For general information, the film is available from: Swank Motion Pictures, Inc., 2777 Finley Road, Downers Grove (Chicago), Illinois 60515, U.S.A. (contact: Judy Couch).

Following the film an informal meeting of the Elephant Interest Group took place. Present were: Vincent Cordero, Sherri DeFauw, Glynis Elder, William H. Elder, Steve Humphrey, Sandra Lash, Dorcas MacClintock, David Skryja, Iain Prance, Rachel Prance, and Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani. Wine and peanuts were shared. Discussions included the following topics.

**H.R. 4865:** The latest information on the status of H.R. 4865 (the Elephant Protection Act -- see article in this issue) and the Chafee-Culver amendment were discussed. Steve Humphrey, Office of Ecological Studies, University of Florida, had attended meetings on legal proceedings for the legislation at U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service the week before, and he explained

some of the features of and problems associated with the Senate and House forms of the bill. (See article entitled "Ban-the-Ivory Campaign II" for background on the bill and an update on its status.)

**SPEAKING TOUR OF IAIN AND ORIA DOUGLAS-HAMILTON:** The Douglas-Hamiltons plan to tour the United States in winter, giving speeches at dinners to raise funds for elephant conservation through the World Wildlife Fund. Virginia Pearson (Philadelphia Zoological Garden) has been sent a list of EIG members in the U.S. for the sole purpose of receiving notices of dinners planned in Philadelphia, New York, Washington and Detroit. Any suggestions or assistance which members can provide would be welcomed by WWF. Oria Douglas visited Washington, D.C., at the end of October and held a press conference regarding the plight of the African elephant, an article on which had appeared in the November issue of the National Geographic magazine.

**EIG ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS:** Progress on Elephant Number 4, "SUPPLEMENT", the Elephant Library and the Elephant Dissection Project was described. (See sections in this issue for more details on the latter two.) There was some discussion on the Editorial Board and, in particular, of how to acknowledge members in Elephant.

**FUNDRAISING FOR EIG:** Hezy reported on efforts to raise money in the Detroit area in the past year and commented on the urgent need for funds for printing Elephant and continuing to maintain the office. (See FINANCIAL REPORT for more details.) A number of suggestions for different types of fundraising and international promotion were made by those present.

Our heartfelt thanks are sent to those who attended the meeting, particularly to Iain Prance and his daughter Rachel who traveled from White Plains, New York, to Kingston solely to attend the EIG meeting. Special thanks to Chip and Gerie Chipman and the Local Committee of ASM for their help in arranging and defraying the costs for the film "King Elephant".