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A Note from the Editors

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Elephant reader,

A hearty greeting! It has been a long four-year hiatus in the publication of Elephant although we kept in touch at least once a year through a newsletter and we have maintained all other activities and services, other than the publication. The EIG has been represented at meetings, such as the Elephant Workshops, the American Society of Mammalogists, and the International Theriological Congress. We also have received inquiries and disseminated information through personal communication (see examples under Recent Correspondence). We are glad to be back and share with you the printed words and we hope that you will find the long wait worthwhile.

It would be too tedious to list the many problems we encountered in the last four years in getting this issue ready for publication. Two aspects will sum it all up - completing the editor's Ph.D. and funds. Now that these two obstacles have been removed (a copy of the Ph.D. dissertation of the editor is available; see Elephant Notes and News for details), we are back and will do our utmost to have at least one issue of Elephant per year. We thank all the staff at the Department of Biological Sciences at Wayne State University (especially John D. Taylor and Zirka S. Clark) and Wayne State Fund for their help (see also under Financial Report and Acknowledgments, FRA).

Following is a summary of our accomplishments and related issues since the summer of 1982:

1. Our membership consists of 455 individuals and institutions (407 are in the United States). That is an increase of 46, or 9%. We welcome all new members to the "Elephant family." We are pleased with the steady growth since these new members are active, enthusiastic and financially supportive. This is despite the dropping of 150 delinquent names from our list. Also, we currently exchange publications with 10 organizations.
2. Financially we are in "the black" (see details under FRA). Dues are still US \$10.00 per year, tax deductible. Special thanks go to Judith and David Berg, Ernest Hagler, Angela S. Johnson, Manuel and Dorothea Phelps, and Bucky Steele for their help with fund raising activities (other acknowledgments appear under FRA).
3. Elephant references have been continuously accumulated and entered into a computer for easy access and search (see details under Elephant Bibliography). The tremendous efforts (time, money and otherwise) invested by the King family, Gary, Barbara, and Kathy, to develop and ensure smooth running of the bibliography computer program is priceless; we have run out of words - Thank you very much to the Kings. Also instrumental in computerizing previously published Elephant references are Richard Gutman and Bryan Isaac. A complete list of the Bibliography Committee members appears on page iii, but we wish to single out Jules L. Pierce and Faye Rosser for their continual help in providing references and proofreading.


4. During the summer of 1986 we completed the fourth season at the Shelton Mastodon Excavation Site under the same consortium of institutions (Cranbrook Institution of Science, Oakland Community College, and Wayne State University). We also printed three post-cards (see details under Elephant Notes and News).
5. Elephant has been assigned an ISSN (see inside of backcover and under Elephant Notes and News.)
6. The EIG office moved to another location at Wayne State University. Our present telephone number is (313) 577-2865 or try the Biology Office at (313) 577-2873; at home our number is (313) 540-3947.

A glance at the Table of Contents reveals a wide selection of articles covering wild as well as captive elephant population topics; a few are technical but most are light reading. Special efforts were made to include as many photographs as possible in the Jumbo article and to refer to original references when possible. We thank everyone who helped us in this matter, especially the library staff at the Circus World Museum (Baraboo, Wisconsin), and Raymond ("Sabu") Moreau.

Four new elephant specialist groups have been established since the last issue of Elephant, they are: African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group, Asian Elephant Survival Foundation, Elephant Research and Preservation Center, and Hasti (see more under Elephant Notes and News). We congratulate the groups on their new roads and wish them every success in achieving their goals.

In addition to the many interesting items included under Elephant Notes and News, the reader will find the section Recent Correspondence informative (see especially about reprinting Osborn's Proboscidea), and entertaining. We encourage our readers to express their views, to use our library, and to contribute articles and information. It is our hope that Elephant will continue to serve as a nucleus for attracting new ideas and will stimulate further interest in elephants.

Sandra, my wife, has invested a great deal to gather material and write articles for this issue; without her continued voluntary help... Her signature below is just a little token. To Sandra and to all our supporters, wholehearted thanks.



Sandra Lash Shoshani
Detroit, September 6, 1986



Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani
Detroit, September 6, 1986