

9-6-1986

Recent Correspondence

Elephant Editors

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Recommended Citation

Shoshani, J. (Ed.). (1986). Recent Correspondence. *Elephant*, 2(2), 183-197. Doi: 10.22237/elephant/1521731875

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RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

The following are letters, responses or excerpts from those sent to our office. They are released with permission of the writers or in accordance with a note given on page 47 of Elephant Number 3. Correspondence is presented chronologically.

From a continuing correspondence related to Moore and Doyle's article, Part I in this volume:

May 18, 1982

Dear Hezy:

Although a few people at BPZ are members of EIG, we all felt your publication would be a fine addition to our Zoo's library. Personally, I would like to see more articles pertaining to captive management procedures for both Asian and African Elephants. Being an elephant keeper, I appreciate any help I can get to sharpen my management techniques.

Hezy, keep up the excellent work and thank you for your assistance with this problem.

Sincerely,

Charles Doyle
Keeper, Burnet Park Zoo
Liverpool, New York 13088

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A letter from Donald L. Johnson on swimming capabilities of elephants appears under ELEPHANT NOTES AND NEWS.

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From a veterinarian, a request for special information on perineal hernias came to us and we are passing it on to our readers:

Lake Wales Veterinary Hospital
2748 Highway 27 North
Lake Wales, Florida 33853

October 8, 1982

Dear Dr. Shoshani:

I recently read a volume of "Elephant" and was very impressed with the thorough work that has been done at Wayne State University. Please send me more information about the Elephant Appreciation Group.

I also have a question for you concerning perineal hernias in elephants. The consequences of these hernias must not be severe or I would be able to

find more information about them. If possible could you provide me with more insight into these hernias.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Schotman, DVM

Our response follows:

May 21, 1983

Dear Dr. Schotman.

Since your letter arrived in mid-October 1982, I have been trying to find information on perineal hernias in elephants. Until the end of February Jeheskel Shoshani was out of the country and I searched our library. Upon his return I discussed it with him and he has not been able to find any references to it thus far. We would like to include your letter with the question in the next issue of Elephant and see if any of our readers might have some unpublished information on this condition in elephants. Would it be agreeable with you?

Meanwhile, might I suggest that you contact the following veterinarians who deal with elephants frequently?

Daniel C. Laughlin, Exotic Animal Veterinary Services, Ltd.
271 Scottswood Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546
(312) 442-7344

Michael J. Schmidt, Washington Park Zoo
4001 S.W. Canyon Road, Portland, Oregon 97221

Thank you for your enthusiastic endorsement for Elephant. We hope to continue publishing similar work with help from our readers.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra Lash
Associate Editor, Elephant

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From Zaire a friend wrote of the realities of conservation work in developing areas:

December 20, 1982

Dear Hezy:

We live in Zaire, Kivu province - 120 km from Goma, in the Masisi region. We're pretty much in the area where George Schaller did his work. It's incredibly beautiful - lots of wildlife - due to pasture requirements for the cattle, the elephant has been either killed off or routed from the area. I

did find the lower leg bone of an elephant in our front yard !! ...You're aware we work with the Peace Corps. We work in veterinary extension helping people here with their cattle, improving pasture, etc. I'm becoming more and more convinced that this is the part of wildlife work that is sadly not emphasized at the zoo level, public awareness of conservation level, or governmental legislative level. This is a "people" world, right or wrong, and until people's needs are satisfied - basic human needs, the competition between humans and wild animal for resources will ONLY have one tragic outcome. Agricultural practices here are very backward and as a small example - if pastures can be improved thereby supporting a greater number of cows/hectare, then maybe the mountain within my view that is home for gorillas will not be cleared for a while. And "maybe" that "while" will be long enough for this government to begin making responsible decisions.

Anyways - our work goes very well and I feel that the perspective I've gained here will benefit the zoo world in the future...

Shalom,

Ira Amstadter
c/o Andre LeClerc
Cooperation Canadienne, B.P. 164
Gisenyi, RWANDA, Central Africa

And excerpts from a second letter dated March 18, 1983.

Dear Hezy and Sandra:

There have been so many missed connections between us that I'm not sure where to begin!... My perspective has changed so very much since I trained elephants for 2½ years at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago and was a public speaker for them too - and my view as to what are the options to help (wildlife conservation) have become very much clearer! For example, right here within 3 km of my house are gorillas, chimps, baboons and assorted other primates-all are viewed by the populace as meat. They've viewed them that way for generations - they hunt with indigenous weapons and catch very few. Is this unlike the eskimos and their "legal" seal or whale catch also with "indigenous weapons"? Is it realistic to expect them to stop? Should they? I guess what's become obvious to me is the whole issue of conservation is not yet much of an issue over here. People's attitudes here are to go to the never-ending forest for their food and material needs. They truly believe it'll never end! Try and explain to someone here that there won't be any trees for his grandchildren if they continue their slash and burn techniques! As I think I'd written you - the "hope" of the gorilla, elephant, etc. (i.e. especially animals such as these with specific and extensive environmental needs) lies only a part, a small part, in specific species conservation measures and a very large part in helping people improve their agricultural practices. People here cook over 3 stones as they did 1000 years ago; when a hillside becomes unproductive due to erosion, they move to another hillside; rather than improve pasture for their cattle they burn more forest to make more pasture!! People are needed here, not money, but people to work grass roots with people! As these things change so will the plight of the elephant

and gorilla! Sounds like an ad for the Peace Corps - but the more we experience here the clearer it becomes. Do take care of yourselves

Happy spring,

Ira Amstadter

----- . . -----

A letter from an E.I.G. member: (Received February 11, 1983)
Mr. Shoshani:

I am very impressed with all the information that I've acquired through E.I.G. and would like any new information. I have recently moved and my new address is:

228 W. Warren
Columbus, Ohio 43204
(614) 278-5281

Thank you very much for all your help and support of elephants.

Carolyn Lake

----- . . -----

A copy of the following letter was sent to us by Bucky Steele:

Received April 22, 1983

Zvy Sever
39 Brodetzki St.
Ramat-Aviv 69052 ISRAEL

Dear Zvy

In reading your article in Elephant [2(1):140-143], I thought I would write and give you some of my findings from over 35 years and about 90 elephants I have either owned, worked or trained.

I am also in the last stages of writing a book on elephants, seven years work. The trait of eating dung was also written on by Dr. Jack Adams, University of Southern California.

This trait I have observed many times, but not in my own herd, I'm happy to say. Those that do do it, I find are either on a high sweet feed and fruit with little hay, lack certain minerals and salt, or the area ground is limited in basic needs of earth for digestion. When traveling to California and oat hay is the feed I have one (1) Asian cow ("Chang") that periodically will do this, but only temporarily. She has a stomach problem, I believe, and this helps to settle it.

In the African, it is very predominant in those groups that do not get

natural food, such as tree limbs and roughage. When very young, those who are weaning, will form the habit of eating their mother's dung if there is a large amount of molasses in it. My recent Asian baby born did not though. The social order, I believe, is only in your particularly observed herd, and does not really have much to do with hierarchical systems. When I have observed it, it is sometimes the older, sometimes the younger. It could become a chronic habit through improper feed, and when it does occur in the wild, it is only to help stomach disorders, like in the one Asian I have that does it only on oat hay. This also, as you know, is an immediate parasitic transfer. If any of my three Africans did it, I would definitely check the diet or change it. Those in San Diego Park, California, do it constantly, but again, it is California and oat hay. Those in Toronto Canada, Park Safari in Quebec Canada, and other places do not. So this points to the feed or mineral imbalance rather than species trait or new habit. True new habits are formed, normally it's for the better, such as salt from the water on the potato, needed by the one monkey and not the others. Taste and the system wanting something, will cause unusual practices in many animals and people. Habits are also created in captivity through necessity, or negligence. So a new found trait in isolated groups can be much different than their normal phase. Their taste for eating dung is the wanting of something lacking and it helped, slightly, making the craving become stronger.

In captivity, the African elephant's stomach becomes tender in the lining, from the lack of roughage and coarse foods. Their partially unmasticated excrement proves that the quality of absorption of food which is 35%-38% is poor. This alone will tell you their need is different and is proof to seek out other substitutes. After it is found out that the pieces of fruit or whatever is edible, then it could become a habit in time. If the fruit is pulverized for better absorption, I'm sure, with roughage, it will cease in due time. I think in trying this, the experiment would be rewarding and help to the few others who have this problem.

If you do try to change it, I would be very interested in the results. I would appreciate hearing from you when ever possible.

Sincerely,

Bucky Steele
P.O. Box 264
Seagoville, Texas 75159 USA

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In including the following letter, we wish to draw the readers' attention to the services which we try to provide our members and others:

May 2, 1983

Dear Hezy,

Thank you once again for your contribution and help in making my seminar

on elephant reproduction a success. The entire class found the presentation informative and interesting, thanks to your slides and information. Enclosed are your slides and also some transparencies I used which you may be able to use. Best of luck in the future with your work and with the Elephant Interest Group.

Sincerely

Hoyt Emmoms
Delaware Valley College of
Science and Agriculture
Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901

----- . . -----
The following letter concerns the wildlife situation in Uganda.

July 7, 1983

Dear Hezy,

We received and read with interest your Elephant newsletter of May 9, 1983. If I may I would like to elaborate on your comments about the wildlife situation in Uganda.

While I certainly would not want to go on record as saying that there is no longer a problem in Uganda, I do think it is important to put the situation in a proper perspective. I would not characterize the conditions there as "dire"... certainly they were dire a couple of years ago and are still far from ideal, but a great deal of progress has been made. Warden Paul Ssali of Queen Elizabeth Park writes that he has even had to reinstall the signs that say, "Elephants have the right-of-way"!

A number of conservation and relief agencies have been active there for some time among them AWF, NWF, WWF, and UNDP -- the latter organization committed over \$2 million to eliminate poaching and restore the national parks.

AWF alone spent \$23,000 in 1980 and 1981 to replace vital equipment which has been destroyed and to train and outfit anti-poaching patrols. We have long supported the Wildlife Clubs of Uganda and continued to give them moral and financial support all through the Idi Amin years. Considering the above, Hezy, I'm not sure it is accurate to say that a fund for assistance "is being established."

Finally, because despite all that's been done there is still, as you pointed out, a need for help, I think you would get a better response from the members of Elephant if you suggested that they contribute to a non-profit in the United States. U.S. donors would not be able to claim a tax-deduction if they sent their donations to P.T.E.S.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely

Diana E. McMeekin, Deputy Director
African Wildlife Foundation
11 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

----- . . -----
The following letter was sent to African Wildlife Magazine but was not published.

September 5, 1983

Dr. John Comrie Greig, Editor
African Wildlife Magazine
P.O. Box 58 Cape Town, 8000
Republic of South Africa

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to Prof. J.D. Skinner's letter on the Knysna Elephants (African Wildlife, Vol. 37 No. 1).

I, too, am very grateful for your efforts to save the Knysna elephants from extinction (African Wildlife, Vol. 36 No. 6). I would like to pick a bone (perhaps an elephant bone) with Prof. J.D. Skinner. In my opinion, the Knysna elephants should stay where they are - in the Knysna Forest. By translocating them, a situation may develop whereby their habitat would gradually be transformed into a great lumberyard, agriculture land and alike, and it would no longer be suitable for elephants and other wildlife. We, elephant lovers in particular, and wildlife enthusiasts in general, should do our utmost to save the Knysna elephants and their unique ecosystem.

In addition, by relocating the elephants from Knysna, some of them might be killed or injured in the process, further endangering their genetic pool. If and when a detailed study on these elephants would be possible, they might prove to be a very interesting relic population, manifesting "random genetic drift" which thus contributes to their morphological, serological and perhaps even their behavioral differences from other elephant populations. The Knysna Forest and its ecosystem, including the remaining elephants, can be an excellent natural experiment; let's not have such an opportunity slip from our hands.

Sincerely,

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani
Editor, Elephant

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And the following came from Uganda:

14 September, 1983

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

Your EIG newsletter of May 9, 1983 arrived here when I was on a trip to some parts of Africa. I read it eventually. It was good. You are doing such a commendable work for EIG and therefore for the survival of the remaining elephants. Keep it up.

I am glad to read also that you were due to give a talk on elephants in Uganda. I hope it went on well. We now have the following number of elephants: Nearly 600 in Queen Elizabeth (formerly Rwenzori) 800 in Kidepo Valley and 1200 in Murchison Falls (formerly Kabalega) National Parks.

I missed you in Uganda. I travel a lot and miss many visitors to the Institute. Kindly send me a copy of the article you wrote on Ugandan wildlife...

With all the best wishes for your success in your Ph.D. programme.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Eric L. Edroma
Chief Research Officer
Uganda Institute of Ecology

----- . . -----
We would very much like to hear from our readers on the following suggestion:

November 26, 1983

c/o UNDP, B.P. 575
Ouagadougou, Upper Volta
West Africa

Sandra S. Lash
Elephant Interest Group
College of Liberal Arts
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan 48202 U.S.A.

Dear Miss Lash,

I wonder if it would not be doing a great service to elephantologists if you could arrange with the American Museum of Natural History for a reprinting of Osborn's "Monograph of the Proboscidea", perhaps on a subscription basis or limited edition, trying of course to keep the cost down as much as possible?

Yours sincerely,

Dr. C.A. Spinage

Below is the text of a letter which we wrote to the American Museum of Natural History on this matter:

February 26, 1984

Publishing House
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, New York 10024

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a serious student of elephants, I have been seeking a copy of the Proboscidea, in two volumes, by the late Henry Fairfield Osborn which was published under the Museum's auspices in 1936-1942. I have talked and corresponded with numerous bookdealers and other individuals interested in obtaining a copy themselves, and it appears that we are doomed to resort to library copies for reference.

Recently, as editor of the publication Elephant, I was approached by Dr. Clive A. Spingale who resides in Upper Volta to see if a new printing of Proboscidea would be possible. Would you kindly tell me whether such an undertaking could be considered? What costs might be involved? How many issues would have to be printed to make it worthwhile?

It is possible for the Elephant Interest Group to contact members and friends in a survey or through a note in our publication Elephant to determine receptivity for a limited printing.

I would appreciate any suggestions for those of us who have not been able to obtain our own copies of this significant work. Anxiously awaiting your reply, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani
Editor, Elephant

And a response from Douglas J. Preston -

June 7, 1984

Dear Dr. Shoshani,

Thank you for your letter, which Herbert Kurz has passed to me for reply.

At the present time we have no plans to reprint Osborn's Proboscidea. It is a massive work, and the costs of reprinting it would be considerable. The Museum could only undertake such a project if an outside partner or publishing company would undertake to finance the project.

To answer your questions about costs, I would estimate that reprinting a facsimile of the work, which would be the least expensive alternative, would cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000 for 2,500 copies. Of course, if more were printed the "per book" cost would drop. If, for example, we could have

a guaranteed sale of 1,000 - 2,000 copies we would definitely consider a reprint.

May I ask you a few questions? These will be helpful to us in evaluating your suggestion.

--If the price of the reprint were \$100 for the two volumes, how many do you believe we could sell? How many at \$200 per set?

--Would your organization and other elephant research organizations be willing to guarantee a minimum purchase of, say, 1,000 copies at \$5 per set before reprinting? (If you could guarantee such a minimum purchase, we may be able to reduce the price even further.) If not 1,000, how many could you guarantee at what price?

I look forward to hearing from you, and we thank you for bringing the possibility to our attention.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Preston, Publications Manager
American Museum of Natural History

Editors' note: We are pursuing reprinting Osborn's Proboscidea with an appendix which would include an update on the natural history and evolution of Proboscidea. There will be also corrections to typographical errors and corrections to problems with pages in the wrong order in volumes 1 and 2, (should you know of any typographical errors or any other problems you encountered while reading (not conceptual problems), please inform us so that we may correct them). Readers who are interested in purchasing the two volume plus the appendix that will be either part of volume 2 or a separate volume (depending on the size of the appendix) please inform us as soon as possible. The cost of this set will depend on the numbers of orders we get; the more orders we get the less it will cost; so please pass this information on to friends, libraries, and to interested parties. Thank you.

On November 12, 1986, your editor met with Colleen Mehegan, Special Publication Manager at the American Museum of Natural History, to discuss the possibility of reprinting Osborn's Proboscidea. We shall keep you abreast.

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We include here excerpts from a letter received in our office from a graduate student at Rutgers University, New Jersey, who has spent considerable time in the Central African Republic.

Star Route 13769 Box 341A
Norwich, New York 13815
November 30, 1984

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

I have been meaning to write to you for several years about your Elephant Interst Group. During the past four years, I have been employed in the Gounda-St. Floris National Park in the Central African Republic as a biological consultant. My primary function was to study various factors of the considerable elephant population in the area. As a result of this very agreeable experience, I have had over 2,000 encounters with our pachydermous friends and have developed an admiration and affection for them that only people such as yourself can understand.

I won't go into the details of the scientific aspects of my work in the park in this missive, but I can briefly tell you that my colleagues and I have managed to amass quite a bit of data on the ecology and behavior of the park's elephant population including my 600 hour time budget study, a detailed feeding behavior study and information on habitat utilization, movements and mortality. The park has suffered considerably at the hands of ivory poachers but things have taken a turn for the better in recent months.

While the outlook for elephants in the country is indeed bleak, the Gounda-St. Floris N.P. has embarked on an ambitious protection and development program and I am very optimistic about it. The park is of particular interest to those of us interested in elephants because of the three types of elephants found there. The southern portion of the park has extensive gallery forests which hold good numbers of cyclotis-types and bush-cyclotis hybrids. Also in the southern area of the reserve are what we refer to as the "southern bush type" which we differentiate from the "northern bush" because of their presumed origin in the southern areas of the country. The majority of elephants in the park are the northern sub-type which is the oxyotis variety found in the sub-sahelian areas which run up into Chad and the Sudan. The variety and quantity of ecotypes in the park and the concomitant elephant populations makes it an unusually interesting place to study the various aspects of the differing ecological adaptations of behavior and morphology and the interactions of the three sub-types. The park, and the C.A.R. in general are poorly studied but my botanist colleague and I plan to continue our investigations in the park in the near future. Despite the C.A.R.'s deservedly bad reputation for elephant conservation, the government is very supportive of our efforts and has even encouraged investigations of the still numerous forest elephants in the southwest of the country and the alleged Pygmy elephants which are said to be easily encountered in certain regions.

In the course of my graduate work, I plan to work up some of my data for publication. Aside from this objective analysis of the life of Gounda's elephants, I have been very fortunate to have established some subjective and rather unscientific relationships with several elephants. My camp is regularly visited by a couple of family groups which have become not only tolerant of my presence, but even curious and indulgent of me. It took almost three years to sufficiently habituate them and to gain their trust,

but they now frequently approach and touch me in camp (only at night, however) and even trust their new-born infants within arm's reach of me. This is even more impressive considering that they are subject to almost constant danger by poachers and have been hunted for almost 100 years in the region.

Yours sincerely

Richard G. Ruggiero

----- . . -----
 In response to the following letter from a young student, the editor answered some fundamental questions on elephants.

P.O. Box 12
 McGregor, Ontario NOR 1J0
 CANADA
 October 21, 1985

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

I am in grade six at Ste Ursule School in McGregor, Ont. I have been reading your article "Elephants" dated Oct 1, 1985, with my remedial teacher. I enjoyed reading about the burial grounds. I also found out about the meaning of a white elephant sale.

I would like to know more about Jumbo - where he was born, how he was found, how he got so large. Do you have pictures?

I don't understand how the sea-cow, the manatee and the hyrax are related to the elephant. Would you know how long lived the oldest elephant? I could use pictures for my scrapbook if you have any please.

Thank you for writing the interesting article.

Your friend,

Jason Dufour

Our response follows:

December 19, 1985

Dear Jason,

Following that article "Elephants!" (Detroit Free Press, October 1, 1985) I received many letters and telephone calls from people who were interested to learn more about elephants -- your letter (received Nov. 4, 1985), however, intrigued me the most. Your letter was particularly fascinating for its penetrating questions coming from a pupil in grade six (about 11 years old, I believe). Let me answer your specific questions in the order in which they appeared in your letter:

A. "I would like to know more about Jumbo (the elephant)"

1. "Where was he born?"

He was born in the French Sudan about 1861. This makes him Bush or Savannah African elephant, or in scientific terms Loxodonta africana.

2. "How he was found"

He was collected in the bush and taken to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, France. He lived there until 26 June 1865 when he was exchanged for an Indian rhinoceros by the London Zoo. Jumbo lived in the London Zoo from 1865 to 1882 and in the USA from 1882 to 1885. The rest of the details about his life history can be found in the Free Press article and in the book by Jolly (Jolly, W. P. 1976. Jumbo. Constable, London, 173 pp.)

3. "How he got so large"

This is a hard question to answer but his large size could be related to the genetic material passed on to him by his parents and could also be attributed to the habitat in which Jumbo lived.

4. "Do you have pictures?"

I enclose photocopies of photographs of Jumbo, and a photograph of the mounted skeleton of Jumbo at the American Museum of Natural History. We are working on an article about Jumbo, and we will send you a copy when it is finished.

B. "I don't understand how the sea-cow, the manatee and the hyrax and related to the elephant."

The branches of science referred to as Classification (listing of organisms in systematic divisions) and Phylogeny (evolutionary relationships) are too complicated to go into detail in a letter. Nevertheless, consider for a moment a simple situation: Based on skeletal and other features a domestic cat, a leopard and a tiger are related and placed by scientists (classified) in one family called Felidae. Now consider a domestic dog, a wolf and a coyote that are related and classified in another family Canidae. Thirdly consider a seal and a sea lion which are placed in the family Otariidae. Scientists agree that Felidae and Canidae are more closely related than either one is to Otariidae but all 3 families are united in a larger category called order Carnivora. Thus, if we drew a "family tree" Felidae and Canidae would be like a half-brother and a half-sister and Otariidae would be like a cousin. Or, in another "family tree" Felidae and Canidae would be joined like 2 branches and the branch of Otariidae would be joining next.

Similarly, based on features of the skeleton, and blood and muscle proteins, the elephants (as a group = order Proboscidea) and the sea cows (as a group = order Sirenia) are more closely related to each other than to other groups (or orders) of mammals. From this point on, there are disagreements among scientists (who are human beings like you and me, and who disagree among themselves quite often): some say that hyraxes (as a group = order Hyracoidea) are the next in kinship to Proboscidea and Sirenia; others believe that the Hyracoidea as an order is more closely related to horses, tapirs and rhinoceroses (order Perissodactyla). My Ph.D. research which involves the examinations of bones and blood proteins supports the hypothesis that Hyracoidea is more closely related to Proboscidea and Sirenia. In a

"family tree" (ignoring extinct species for now) the order Proboscidea joins Sirenia first and then the resultant branch is joined by Hyracoidea in one super-order called by some people Paenungulata. Keep in mind that although it may sound bizarre to think that 3 different orders which seem so different in size and external appearance, as well as occupying very different habitats are related, they do in fact share so much in common.

The features (= characters) they share are too detailed to explain but as an example, next time you have a chance to look at wrist bones of an elephant, a manatee, and a hyrax, look at the arrangement of the bones and note that they are arranged serially, in a straight line, one on top of another like tiles on the floor, while wrist bones of a cat or a human for example, are arranged alternately, one on top of two, like bricks in a wall. Also, keep in mind that many millions of years ago (about 50-65) the forefathers of the living elephants, manatees and hyraxes had more in common among themselves than members of the living orders do today.

C. "Would you know how long lived the oldest elephant?"

The oldest documented age of a captive Asian elephant was that of "Jessie," in the Taronga Zoological Park, Sydney, Australia; her estimated age at time of death was 69 or 77 years.

D. "I could use pictures for my scrapbook if you have any, please."

Enclosed are a few photographs of elephants that I took while in the field in Africa (one is of "Ahmed" the famous elephant) and in Sri Lanka (= Ceylon).

Jason, my friend, I am sorry it took me some time to reply to your letter but I am very busy finishing my Ph.D. work. I hope the above information will satisfy your curious and inquisitive mind, and I also hope that new questions will arise. Should you wish to read more about elephants, consult these two books: Elephants by R. Carrington (1958), and Elephants by S. K. Eltringham (1982).

You know, we do not live far from each other, and if you wish to visit the library at the Elephant Interest Group, I would be glad to host you. We have a large collection of books (many for Junior readers) and articles.

I am anxiously awaiting to hear from you again, and I thank you for your interest in our mutual friend -- Mr. Elephant.

Elephantly yours,

Hezy Shoshani

JS/lh
Enclosures

A reply from Jason follows on the next page:

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

I thank you for the information and pictures. You spent a lot of time looking for them. My teacher and I appreciate it very much.

Thank you,

Jason Dufour

Note that Jason's reply was written on a computer-generated notecard, decorated with elephants and hearts.]