

12-20-1987

## Recent Correspondence

Elephant Editors

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### Recommended Citation

Shoshani, J. (Ed.). (1987). Recent Correspondence. *Elephant*, 2(3), 101-111. Doi: 10.22237/elephant/1521732127

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## RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

With this issue we begin to group the letters by subjects, and within each subject they are presented chronologically. These letters or excerpts of them, are released with permission of the writers or in accordance with a note given on page 47 of Elephant Number 3. Subjects are:

Complaints	Rembrandt's elephant
Appreciations	Pertaining to "Jumbo" the elephant
A Request for a Membership Card	Children
Pertaining to Osborn's Proboscidea	Educational material
A Letter from Iain Douglas-Hamilton	From India
Historical questions	From Africa

## COMPLAINTS

August 24, 1987

Dear Sirs,

Probably you have forgotten me. I have sent you a letter at the 9th of June to become a member of EIG. I ordered also 1 EIG package at US \$52.50 and the membership \$10. It was a registered letter. Money was included. Please inform me what has happened to my order.

Sincerely,

Michael von Solodkoff  
Hebelstrasse 5, 6915 Dossenheim  
Heidelberg, WEST GERMANY

December 16, 1987

To whom it may concern:

On June 12 I sent a check for \$53.50 to you. My check # was 553. The check did not clear from your hands for around two-to-three months. I have never received the things I ordered. I "became a member" and sent for every issue of your magazine. I also sent money for some bumper stickers. I figured I would "forget it" and take it off my taxes as "deductible". Now I receive this letter (the November 26, 1986 newsletter, including request for EIG dues) from you and am extremely upset. I would like to receive my things from you or my money back.

Sincerely,

Diane D'Eon  
222 Lake Street  
Waltham, Maryland 02154 USA

Our Response: We checked our records and noticed that we mailed the requested material to both correspondees. We had a number of postal-related problems, mostly related to large packages that were lost in the mail. New packages were sent to von Solodkoff and D'Eon in extra strength envelopes (Tyvec). Since these and other similar incidents occurred, we are sending issues of Elephant in Tyvec envelopes and it appears that this particular problem is either reduced or eliminated.

N.B.: A letter from von Solodkoff, dated 13.9.87., confirmed receipt of our package and this note: "... the journal Elephant is very good. It gets more and more professional and has very important articles and news."

## APPRECIATION

January 1, 1987

Dear Hezy,

Thank you for the copy of Elephant. I thoroughly loved it. You had never talked about the Elephant Interest Group. Please accept my application for membership (order form enclosed). My only questions on the new Volume is Page 204 - 1st paragraph Vol. 2, No. 2? Also on pages 93, 99-101, 111, 125 - 129. I don't believe I ever met Shoshani. Also page 3 Asian Elephants 89 (3/76). [See corrections in "ERRATA" under ELEPHANT NOTES AND NEWS.]

Love,

Bill Coull  
No. 1 Cleremont Avenue  
Irvington, New Jersey 07111 USA

January 2, 1987

Dear Hezy,

In your next copy of Elephant your readers might like to know of the time and effort you spent in amalgamating the Elephant Collection at the A.M.N.H. in 1977. The hours you and Gil spent putting everything together, and your disbelief of getting things together in the few weeks that you had to work there. We are presently planning on adding four racks to the Elephant room. Helmut and I hope to rough curate the collection in the near future. Hope your Holidays were as joyous as mine. You're the best,

Bill Coull

P.S. Please autograph the copies of Elephant that I ordered. They're for my kids so that I can prove that I work and also know someone of importance.

January 2, 1987

Dear Hezy:

Many thanks for Elephant received today. I had no idea what you were talking about. It is truly outstanding. I will put it in my library alongside Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton (I've tried for some time to get him in our series - did I send you an announcement?), Cynthia Moss, and Peter Beard's End of the Game.

Regards,

Thomas Gause  
6900 Oak Court, Box 304  
Annandale, Virginia 22003 USA

January 20, 1987

Dear Fellow Elephant Lover,

Please send these numbers of Elephant (Supplement to Elephant Volume 1, and Elephant Volume 2, Number 1) as quickly as possible because I'm preparing a thesis on elephants and find the bibliographic very valuable. Thanks very much. I enjoyed volume 2 number 2 immensely!

Yours truly,

Richard G. Ruggiero  
Department of Horticulture  
Box 231, Cook College, Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903 USA

February 20, 1987

Dear Mr. Shoshani:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of volume 2, Number 2 of ELEPHANT which has today arrived. It contains a wealth of important information and I shall read it with great interest. Again, thank you, with kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Richard Faust, Director  
Zoologischer Garten  
Alfred-Brehm-Platz  
16,6000 Frankfurt am Main 1 WEST GERMANY

December 19, 1987

Dear Hezy:

Just a note to let you know how much "Elephant" and your efforts are appreciated. I find the articles very interesting as a broad range of subjects are covered, from African/Asian Elephants to Zoology.

A special thanks to Sandra for all the work she has put in on the "Elephant Census" and the "Bibliography". As I have personal card file on elephants (about 2000 cards) any information I can get helps to add to or purify the information in my files. Thanks to the "Bibliography" I have been able to obtain, read and enjoy - "Life With Alice", "Bandoola", "Elephant Bill", and "In the Footprints of Bill". Enclosed are our contributions and matching endowment application.

Yours truly,

Manuel and Dorothea Phelps  
1944 S. W. High  
Topeka, Kansas 66604 USA

## A REQUEST FOR A MEMBERSHIP CARD

Dear Sir:

Read about your group in Circus Report. I collect elephants and save elephant books. Enclosed check for \$11 - please send me your book "Elephant" - also let me know more about your group - and if I can join.

Thank you,

P. Capilungo, 403 Rock Street  
Taylor, Pennsylvania 18517 USA

P.S. Do you have membership cards or certificates. If so, I would like to have them. Thank you. P. Capilungo

Our Response:

Dear Mr. Capilungo:

In response to your question about "membership cards or certificates". We do not have the standard membership cards that some organizations have - maybe one day.

Hezy Shoshani

Editors' note: Should there be a demand for a membership card, which would cost money and take time to prepare, and somebody is willing to produce it (perhaps for a increase in membership dues) we have no objections. Readers, kindly voice your opinions (see also under ELEPHANT NOTES AND NEWS).

## PERTAINING TO OSBORN'S PROBOSCIDEA

In Elephant (2):190-192, we printed correspondence related to reprinting the two volumes Proboscidea (Published in 1936 and 1942 and are no longer in print). The following letter is one example of those in response to the above. Additional information on the possibility of reprinting Proboscidea can be found under ELEPHANT NOTES AND NEWS in this issue.

February 22, 1987

Dear Hezy,

Thank you for passing on my copy of Elephant. While reading the article on page 123 on Captive Elephants, I came across an error that I believe should be brought to your attention. On page 126 under deaths "Sampson" did not die at the Los Angeles Zoo. He was purchased by Gary Jacobson and was standing when the truck he was being transported in left the zoo grounds. The animal died somewhere between Los Angeles and El Paso Texas, on his way to Mexico. He left the zoo on Monday March 31, 1986 and we were informed of his death on the following Friday by a phone call to the zoo directors office. As Curator of Mammals at the zoo, I think that you would want the correct information on his death. [See also under CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS in this issue.]

At the present time, I have Vol. 2 of Osborn's monograph, however, I would be interested in obtaining a reprint if this ever happens. I also have an extra copy of "Elephants & Ivories in South Asia" by P. Pal that was published in L.A. by the County Museum of Art. If you know of anyone that is interested, please let me know. I am looking forward to the future issues of Elephant.

Sincerely,

Michael Dee, 1104 N. Rose  
Burbank, California 91505 USA

## LETTER FROM IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON

January 12, 1988

Dear Hezy,

...Enclosed is a recent and important count I made in Lake Manyara. It also gives in discussion an idea of what is happening in East Africa to the elephants. It is a disastrous situation and we should try to launch a Save the Elephants Campaign, because otherwise we are going to lose them by default. All of my worst predictions are being fulfilled at an alarming rate. Best wishes to all of you.

Iain Douglas-Hamilton  
P. O. Box 54667  
Nairobi, KENYA

## HISTORICAL QUESTIONS

January 7, 1987

Dear Dr. Shoshani:

It is a great pleasure to find a fat new issue of Elephant to start off the New Year. Of particular interest to me is Stuart Thayer's paper on Tippoo Sultan and other early American elephants. I am reminded that long ago in my reading about elephants I came across a reference to Henrik Hudson having sailed up the river of the same name with the very first elephant to arrive in North America chained and staked on his foredeck. The beast was intended as a gift for the Emperor of Cathay.

Does this strike a chord in your memory? Could the reference be checked out in your library? Or elsewhere? I appreciate your assistance, and enclose a modest contribution to assist E.I.G. in its work. With every good wish.

Sincerely,

Shana Alexander  
--- . ---

Our Response:

February 4, 1987

Greetings Shana,

I found your letter of January 7, 1987 very interesting but unfortunately I could not help you directly. I am sending a copy of your letter to Stuart Thayer, Richard J. Reynolds, III, and Joseph G. Engelhard who might be able to answer your questions. If it is not too much trouble, kindly keep me abreast, and please feel free to call me "Hezy". Thank you.

Cheers,

Hezy  
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...And a response from Richard Reynolds:

April 27, 1987

Dear Ms. Alexander,

Hezy Shoshani sent me this copy of the above letter. The first elephant imported alive to North America landed in New York City on 13 April 1796 arriving aboard the ship America captained by Jacob Crowninshield. Details are given by Stuart Thayer in "The Elephant in America Before 1840" Bandwagon Jan. - Feb. 1987. So, the 1st elephant did not land here until almost 200 years after Henry Hudson entered the river named after him - assuming this and your above mentioned Hudson are one and the same. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Richard Reynolds  
1186 Warrenhall Lane NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30319 USA  
--- . ---

... and a note from Richard Reynolds to our office.

Hezy,

Please send the enclosure to Shana Alexander as I do not have her address--It's not on her letter. By all means I suggest you obtain a copy of Bandwagon Jan. - Feb. '87. There you will find Stuart Thayer's "The Elephant In America Before 1840". This wonderful paper details the careers of the first 24 elephants to reach North America.

Best regards,

Richard Reynolds

**N.B.** Our readers may also be interested to read about the "First elephant in the USA" in Elephant, 1(4):235-237, 2(1):154-155, and under ELEPHANT NOTES AND NEWS in this issue. In addition, our readers may be interested to learn that the "Chengam elephant" mentioned in Savanurmah and Dhaduti's article in this issue was reportedly in the service of Tippoo Sultan, the Sultan of Mysore, from 1772-1799. If this is true, then the Chengam elephant was at least 87 years old because he was killed in 1886.

SOURCES: Thayer, S. 1986. Tippoo Sultan - the man and the beast. Elephant, 2(2):82-84, and Pillai, S. Arunachalam. ca. 1933-1940. The Chengam Elephant. A newspaper article with a photograph of the skeleton.

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## REMBRANDT'S ELEPHANT

November 18, 1984

Director,  
Albertina Museum  
Vienna, Austria

Dear Sir,

Would you please help us to obtain some information on the drawing entitled "An Elephant" by Rembrandt, dated 1637, that is included in the exhibition "Old Master Drawing from the Albertina"? A photograph of this drawing was printed in the Smithsonian Magazine, Volume 15, Number 8, November 1984, page 68 (see enclosed). The specific details we would like to know are:

1. Where and how did Rembrandt encounter the elephant?
2. Was the elephant a part of a travelling menagerie?
3. Any additional information you have on this Asian (Indian) elephant.

We are very interested in this animal especially since it was depicted by a famous artist at that Period in Europe. We greatly appreciate your efforts. Anxiously awaiting your reply,

Sincerely Yours,

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani  
Editor, Elephant

JS/st  
Enclosure

--- . . ---  
...their response

Dear Sir,

Allow us to take the liberty of answering your letter, we forward to you a xerox of the catalogue notice of Rembrandt's sketch/drawing of the elephant from the Washington exhibit. It may be assumed that Rembrandt had seen the elephant by way of one wandering circus troop, a concrete report about it was not given.

With friendly greetings

Dr. Erwin Mitsch (ORat)

Anlage: 1 Xerox  
[Translated from German by Kori Schultz]

## PERTAINING TO JUMBO

Received February 5, 1987

Dear "Hezy",

Received the latest issue, "Elephant", Volume 2, #2. It is great and I am constantly reading it. I will be able to answer many questions that the members ask of me. The enclosed photos I took myself in St. Thomas at the unveiling of the Jumbo statue. This was a great moment for me. As a member and contributor to Wayne State University's Department of Biology though I never attended college, I feel a pride in being listed in the "Elephant" Publication. Also enclosed is my donation and membership. You have done a fine job in the elephant material for the publication.

My Best,

Richard Massiglia, President  
National Elephant Collectors Society  
89 Massachusetts Avenue; Box 7  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115 USA

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH CHILDREN

During the last several months the editor received and responded to many letters from young audiences. We reprint a sample of these letters.

November 17, 1987

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

My name is Amanda Hancock. I know you're probably gonna throw this away but please don't! I am in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and I have to do an interview on Elephants. I wondered if you could answer and send back these questions to me and any other info. would be great too! My questions:

- 1: What are the only living elephants today?
- 2: How many kinds of elephants are extinct?
- 3: Do male elephants live with the family all the time? Explain.
- 4: How often do elephants bathe?
- 5: What are the elephants enemies?
- 6: How many elephants are there living today? (number)

Thank you! Please send these answers back before December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1987 because my interview is due 12/19/87.

Sincerely yours,

7<sup>th</sup> grader Amanda Hancock  
1105 Trace  
Cleburne, Texas 76031 USA  
--- . . ---

Our Response

November 23, 1987

Dear Amanda,

Your letter of November 17, 1987 (received today and answered today) is an item worthy to be loved, just like your name, which I am sure you know means just that. In reply to your questions:

Answer to Question No. 1: The types living elephants are: The African elephant, scientifically known as Loxodonta africana; and the Asian elephant, scientifically known as Elephas maximus.

Answer to Question No. 2: Types of extinct elephants: There are too many to be listed here, three of them are: The woolly mammoth, scientifically known as Mammuthus primigenius; the American mastodon, scientifically known as Mammut americanum; and the giant deinotherium, scientifically known as Deinotherium giganteum.

Answer to Question No. 3: Male elephants and family: No, they do not. When male elephants become sexually mature which is at 13 years of age, they are given "hints" to leave the herd and if they do not, then they are forced to leave.

Answer to Question No. 4: Bathing: When bathing "facilities" (a lake, a river, or even a mudhole) are available, elephants will bathe daily, otherwise, perhaps once or twice a week, or even less frequently.

Answer to Question No. 5: Enemies: Tigers (in Asia) and lions (in Africa) will occasionally prey on the young, sick, and the old; otherwise healthy mature elephants have no natural enemies except for people who hunt them mostly for their "white gold" - the ivory.

Answer to Question No. 6: Numbers of elephants: Wild elephants in Africa are estimated at about 1,000,000 and wild elephants in Asia are estimated at about 30,000. Captive elephants in North America are estimated at about 700.

Amanda, should you require additional information please do not hesitate to write or call me. My telephone numbers are: (work) (313) 577-2865, (home) (313) 540-3947. The following are two books on elephants that you may find helpful:

"Elephants" by Richard Carrington, published in 1958 (publisher: Penguin Books, London, 285 pages).

"Elephants" by S. Keith Eltringham, published in 1982 (publisher: Blanford Press, Poole, Dorset, England, 262 pages).

Kindly write to me how the interview went. Best of luck to you in your endeavors and thank you for your interest in our mutual friend... Mr. Elephant.

Thankfully yours

Hezy

P.S. I am curious to know how you got my name and address?

JS/tt

... and Amanda's response

December 21, 1987

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

Thank you so much for the interview. It went great. I turned it in with my report. But, I probably won't know what I made until January. I got your name and address from a book at the library. The book had all sorts of addresses for all sorts of topics and under Elephants was Hezi Shoshani!

Merry Christmas! Have happy holidays! You're so nice!

Your friend,

Amanda Hancock

P.S. Thanks!! Again!! Do you teach in college as a professor? Do you teach biology? Or zoology?

On October 26, 1987 (at 10:30 a.m.) Hezy Shoshani was invited to give a presentation to Sixth Grade students (about 11 years old) of the Detroit Waldorf School (at 2555 Burns Street). The presentation was about the Shelton Mastodon Site but also included information on elephants in general. One of the pupils in the class (Cybele Codish) asked many interesting questions, and Hezy gave her a few items to enrich her knowledge and elephant collection. Following is an exchange of correspondence between Cybele and Hezy.

Received December 4, 1987

Dear Dr. Shoshani

Thank you for the wonderful gifts! They are so beautiful! (mostly because they have elephants on them).

I wanted to know more about the Elephant Club at WAYNE STATE. I'm really interested in it. And, are there any Mammoth or Mastodon museums around that you know about? Or elephant book stores? Please write me soon.

Yours truly,

Cybele Codish  
5532 Woodhall  
Detroit, Michigan 48224

P.S. Remember when my mom drove you to Waldorf? And remember Francina Graef? I'm her student: Enclosed are pictures of African elephants.

--- . . ---

December 11, 1987

Dear Cybele,

Your exchange gifts were just as wonderful! The drawings of the elephants convey so much feeling; the one drawn in side view is of a sad female standing by a Euphorbia or (candelabra) tree somewhere in Africa. The second one appears to be of a young angry male African elephant in the middle of the desert! Did you draw these figures from imagination, copy them from other sources, or a combination of both?

As you requested I am sending you information about the Elephant Interest Group. To your question on museums to view mammoths and mastodons, the closest to Detroit are at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Oakland Community College (Highland Lake Campus) in Union Lake. Book stores on elephants-this is too specialized of a request, but we at the Elephant Interest Group have a library and I will be glad to help you in whatever you need.

Please call and/or write me if you have further questions at the above address or phone numbers. I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

I am, yours,

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani

JS/ks

P.S. May I ask how old you are?

P.P.S. Please convey to your teacher, Mrs. Graef, that I received that marvelous "Thank you note" from the class. I too enjoyed being there.

--- . . ---

Dear Dr. Shoshani,

Thank you for the compliment about my pictures. You were right! The pictures were about an African female and a mad Male African. The pictures were a Combination of my imagination and from another source.

Guess what! My aunt Ann goes to Wayne State! She said that she has passed by the museum and she might take me sometimes! I long to visit the museum. And you also asked me how old I was. I am eleven years old. I was born November 12th. You know, I feel as if you are a relative, though I have only met you once. I wish you were a relative. You are so interesting!

I first began taking an interest in elephants in fourth grade. Our class was supposed to pick an animal to do a report on. I picked elephants because I had a magazine on them, then I really started to love them. I have never loved any other animal as much. You know, I was the one who drew the cover to your card. I'm glad you like it. Mrs. Graef my teacher just got your letter today. It's the 16th. I just got your letter too.

Yours truly,

Cybele Codish

P.S. I hear your wife studies mice! I thought this card would be suitable for you and your wife. Tell her I am also interested in mice.

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

December 11, 1987

Dear Sirs:

I am writing for information about the elephants for a school project. If you can please send me any pictures or any information you have. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Chris Felalca  
Anchor Bay Middle School  
New Baltimore, Michigan 48047 USA

Our Response:

December 31, 1987

Dear Chris,

I was pleased to receive your letter but I am a bit at a loss as to how to help. Your request is too general and would require many pages to write you "information about the elephants". In search of information to send you, however, I thought that you might be interested in reading the correspondence between Jason Dufour and myself. These letters were published in Elephant, the publication of the Elephant Interest Group (EIG). For your information I am sending the cover page of the issue of Elephant where these letters were published, and the inside cover of that issue too, explaining who is "Ahmed" the elephant. An EIG Information Sheet is also included. I hope this material will be useful to you in your pursuit for knowledge about elephants. Should you require additional elephant information, please do not hesitate to write and/or call me at the above numbers. These two books may be handy references:

Carrington, R. Elephants, published in 1958  
Eltringham, S.K. Elephants, published in 1982

Chris, I have a request, please send me a copy of your report when it is finished. Also, how old are you? What is the origin of your last name? How did you obtain my name and address? Good luck in your endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani

**REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL**

December 30, 1986

Dear Dr. Shoshani,

Re: "I Loved Rogues" by George "Slim" Lewis and Byron Fish.

I and a number of my friends are trying to get copies of the above work but it is not easily found in Europe. I wonder whether you know of any sources. Possibly the publishers still have stocks? While writing, I wonder whether you can suggest sources for old photographs of elephants -- particularly bulls - in circuses in the United States. I hope that all will go well for you in 1987.

Yours sincerely,

John Edwards  
26A Rhondda Grove  
London E3 5AP, ENGLAND

Our Response:

February 11, 1987

Dear John,

As per your request in the letter dated 30th December, 1986, enclosed please find a page and order form (from a Book Dealer) where you can order the book by Lewis & Fish ("I loved Rogues"). In addition, you may write directly to Slim Lewis' widow to ask for more copies; she can be reached through Don Marcks (525 Oak Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3699). I hope this information will be useful to you. I will be in London, from March 24-31. If you wish to get in touch with me, you may leave a note with Dr. Kim Bryan at the British Museum (Natural History).

Sincerely Yours,

Hezy

January 26, 1987

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

I enjoy very much being a member of the EIG and was very impressed with the latest issue of ELEPHANT. You have done a tremendous job in assimilating all of that material. My reason for this letter is that every now and then I talk to groups about elephants. I have several books on them but often times wished I had a set of 35 mm slides that I could use in my carousel projector. If you have or know where I might purchase a set of 35-40 slides showing different parts of the elephant, especially feet, trunk and teeth, I would certainly appreciate any information. With best personal regards, I remain,

Cordially,

Charlie Levett  
Divisional Representative  
Federal Funeral Directors of America  
Box 156, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 USA

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**CORRESPONDENCE FROM AND TO SCIENTISTS/FIELD WORKERS IN INDIA**

April 8, 1987

Dear Sirs,

I am a member of the elephant study group (Asian elephants) of this University. We have done some work particularly pertaining to tranquilizing elephants, transport of wild and captive elephants and studies on the behaviors of healthy disease conditions of elephants etc. I understand that the Elephant Interest Group is bringing out publications on elephants and I am very keen to obtain your publications. Kindly put me in your mailing list and send your valuable publications to us. We can exchange our experiences in mutual interest. Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

K. Radhakrishnan  
Kerala Agricultural University  
College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences  
Mannuthy, Trichur, Kerala INDIA

May 10, 1987

Dear Dr. Shoshani,

Thank you very much for your letter and the ELEPHANT Vol. 2(2). It was really unfortunate that we couldn't meet when I was in U.S. I am glad to know that you have completed your degree and are back in the work on the journal. In fact I had been waiting for your letter to know more about your activities. The journal has been very useful to me throughout my studies on elephants and even now while writing my thesis on the ecology and behaviour of elephants in Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, I find it always very useful.

Yours Sincerely,

P.S. Easa, Scientist  
Division of Wildlife Biology  
Kerala Forest Research Institute  
Peechi, Trichur, Kerala 630 653 INDIA

Received August 21, 1987

Dear Dr. Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani,

It was only recently I came to know about the EIG. Let me first congratulate you for having taken such an enormous task and running it into a grand success. I am working in the Veterinary College situated in the southernmost state of India, Kerala state. It is one of the few states in India which is having a sizable number of elephants. This is the only college which had contributed much about *Elephas maximus indicus*. Eminent Professors like Dr. Simon, Dr. Nirmalan, and Dr. Ananthasubramaniam are all from this college and their contributions in the study of Indian Elephants have been acclaimed by Schalm et al. in their book "Veterinary Haematology".

I am now working under Dr. G. Nirmalan, Ph.D. (Guelph University, Canada) who is the Professor and Head of the Physiology Department in this college. I did my post graduate studies under him. The thesis work was on "Certain Physiological Studies on Indian Elephants". I have worked on forty elephants (adult males, adult females and baby elephants) and have come out with substantial data. Some aspects regarding this work were presented in the annual conference of the Society of Animal Physiologists of India held at Panth Nagar Agricultural University, Utter Pradesh during September 1986. The papers have been submitted

for publication in international journals. I am interested to continue the research in elephants for a doctorate programme. I would like to get your kind help in guiding me to a scientist who is willing to accept me as his student. I would be very much obliged if you could use your good office in getting me some scholarship or fellowship.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. K.P. Sreekumar  
Department of Physiology and Biochemistry  
College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences  
Mannuthy, Trichur, Kerala 680 651 INDIA  
--- . . ---

Our Response:

September 20, 1987

Dear Dr. Sreekumar,

Thank you very much for your letter of 21-8-87 with your comments on the Elephant Interest group and our publication. We were pleased to hear from you, K. Radhakrishmanan, and P. S. Easa from the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and we hope to keep open the channels of communication between our offices and Kerala State. You mentioned several papers which you have submitted for publication and we would be most interested in obtaining copies of these as they are printed (for we would add them to the ELEPHANT BIBLIOGRAPHY). Would you kindly keep us informed?

As we are in the process of preparation an issue of Elephant for publication late this year, we would like to include some of your comments under RECENT CORRESPONDENCE. It is particularly interesting to readers in other parts of the world to know that you have the ability through the College to study so many wild elephants, as well as captive ones. Of course, we would not do so, if you prefer not.

In regard to your request to enter a doctorate program to continue your research on elephants, I have to refer you to others. I am an instructor in Biology and I work on some projects at Wayne State University, but we do not have a program for the study of any large mammals. I suggest that you write to Dr. Knut Schmidt - Nielse of the Zoology Department at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706, USA. He has been involved with work on the physiology of large mammals and Duke University has a fine course of study in zoology. He may be more familiar with others who are teaching in this area in North America.

I look forward to hearing from you in the future; please keep me informed as to what you learn about programs and whether you come to the States to study. Best wishes and perhaps we shall meet among the elephants.

Sincerely yours,

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani  
Editor, Elephant  
--- . . ---

... and a response from Sreekumar.

March 10, 1987

Dear Mr. Shoshani,

Thank you for your letter dated 20.9.1987. It was really a pleasure to get acquainted with you and the EIG. Then regarding your issue of Elephant, I wish all the success for the years to come. I have no objection in incorporating my comments under recent correspondence.

Thank you for directing me to Dr. Knut Schmidt-Nielsen of the Duke University. I have corresponded with him and I wish you would also put a word to him. What are the Ph.D. programs available under your jurisdiction. It would be a great pleasure to associate with you and your fellowmen and do research. If possible and if it is not much of a trouble to you, please see whether I could get an admission in your University for doctorate programme with a fellowship or scholarship and do research in some other interesting species.

Stopping for the present with warm elephantic regards,

Yours sincerely,

K. P. Sreekumar.  
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#### CORRESPONDENCE FROM AND TO SCIENTISTS/FIELD WORKERS IN AFRICA

Below is some information obtained from two letters, one regarding elephants in the Sudan and the other in Ethiopia.

##### From the Sudan

A letter was received from a member now teaching in the Sudan; it accompanied an article published in the Sudan Times Friday, October 23, 1987, entitled "The destruction of the elephant population of the Sudan". The key paragraph in that article reads:

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"In response to the news that appeared in Sudan Times and Al Ayyam of the 8th and 9th of October 1987, which showed that data released from the Convention for the Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) revealed that the Sudan has the largest quota for the export of ivory in Africa, I would like to present the following contribution. The news item showed that the Sudan quota of 21,500 tusks representing about 12,000 elephants will be exported in 1987. The approval of this quota casts serious doubt upon the Wildlife Administration Forces (AWCF) and its role as the main conservation body of the Sudan. The AWCF is being entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the elephant population of the country. However it is here showing genuine interest in maximizing the country's export of ivory regardless of whether such measures will deplete the elephant population or not."

From Ethiopia

We received a letter in our office informing us of the declining elephant and rhino population in this country especially in the Harer Elephant Sanctuary. The writer continues that "what is needed is help and aid not criticism in the international press." For additional information see Oryx, 1987, 2(2):103-106.