

12-20-1987

A Note from the Editors

Sandra Lash Shoshani

Jeheskel Shoshani

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/elephant>

Recommended Citation

Shoshani, S. L., & Shoshani, J. (1987). A Note from the Editors. *Elephant*, 2(3), 1-2. Doi: 10.22237/elephant/1521732083

This Editor's Note is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Access Journals at DigitalCommons@WayneState. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Elephant* by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@WayneState.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Elephant Reader,

Ten years have passed since the first meeting of the Elephant Interest Group (EIG) was held on June 21, 1977 at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, during the 57th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists. Sixteen people were present at that meeting to share and exchange information in what turned into the organization which developed into the EIG. The events prior to this meeting, the order with which the meeting was conducted and its contents, are well conveyed in the pages of "Elephant Newsletter Number 1", especially in "A note from the editor" and the comments made by one of the participants in that meeting; that person was impressed by "...the general fascination and deep sense of interest and serious concern (regarding elephant preservation) within the meeting despite the good humor and camaraderie."

The dream of any organization is to be able to look back, reexamine its goals and see that the aims of the organization were fulfilled [for the goals of the EIG, see Elephant, 1(1):5, and 1(2):2]. As we flip through the pages of Elephant we cannot avoid feeling elated about the accomplishments in the last 10 years. From an 18-page Newsletter Number 1, we have increased as much as 15 times in size to about a 300-page issue in Volume 1, Number 4, and the last 3 issues of Volume 2 are also substantially voluminous (most issues are copyrighted and since 1986 Elephant has also been assigned an ISSN 0737-108X). The increase was not only in the quantity but also in the quality, which can be easily judged by the correspondence and telephone calls we are continuously receiving (see, for example, letters by Carolyn Lake and Eric L. Edroma in Elephant, 2(2):186, and 2(2):190, respectively, and letters in this issue).

Special efforts are being made to incorporate much original research work and new ideas in our pages and to balance articles to encompass wild and captive elephants from both species, the African and Asian. We are also concentrating on the language with which articles are written so that as broad a cross-section of readers as possible can benefit from them. The sections ELEPHANT NOTES AND NEWS and RECENT CORRESPONDENCE, for example, are probably the most enjoyed by all readers, for they contain the latest worldwide information on elephants and elephant-related ideas, lightly written yet packed with useful information [See, for example, Tom Dunstans's letter (Elephant, 2(1):168, in response to George W. "Slim" Lewis' Notes (Elephant, 1(4):186-187)]. We are most proud of the section ELEPHANT BIBLIOGRAPHY which contains annotated references. The annotation is twofold: an instant index to species and subject matters (the four letters between the Reference Number and the first author) and secondly, a nutshell summary and/or critiques on this article. Responses from some readers convey to us that this ELEPHANT BIBLIOGRAPHY is the single most important section, especially for those individuals who are field researchers and cannot visit a library as often as they would like (see, for example, letters of Cynthia Moss in Elephant, 1(4):198, and Richard Ruggiero in this issue).

Publishing Elephant requires much effort and support. Your membership in the Elephant Interest Group and your support of our activities during the past year have been very much appreciated. We have been gratified to read letters and receive enthusiastic comments from many of you on the last issue of Elephant (Volume 2, Number 2), in particular the article on "Jumbo." Below is a summary of news and other items of interest.

1. **Special Tenth Anniversary Issue:** The vast majority of the material in this issue of Elephant was completed in the year 1987 and thus we kept this year on the cover to commemorate the 10th Anniversary. The sections "Births and Deaths" (under CAPTIVE ELEPHANT POPULATION) and FINANCIAL REPORT contain 1988 information. We encountered some unexpected delays and thus the belated printing.
2. **Membership List:** Our latest newsletter (dated November 26, 1987) was mailed to approximately 500 individuals and institutions; from this total we dropped about 200 mailings for not paying dues (see additional information under Elephant Notes and News, ENN).

3. **Membership Dues:** Because of increasing costs of publication, we have raised EIG membership fees from US \$10.00 to **US \$12.00** (see details in ENN). We hope that this increase will not deter anyone from subscribing and we shall do our utmost to insure the best possible service to our readership and to reduce problems with the mailing. If we are to continue publishing Elephant, we should either increase our dues to cover all costs to an amount commensurate with the number of active members or find a philanthropic benefactor to make up the shortfall (see under ENN and FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS).
4. **Membership Card:** A request by a new member for an EIG Membership Card has raised this issue once more and is discussed under ENN.
5. **Elephant Workshops:** The Seventh and the Eighth Elephant Management Workshops (EMW) took place at Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and Greensboro, North Carolina, USA, respectively. The Proceedings of the Seventh EMW have been published. The Ninth EMW will take place at Marine World/Africa USA in Vallejo, California (see article in this issue).
6. **Captive elephants in North America:** Since we began reporting numbers of captive elephants 10 years ago, our records have expanded enormously. This fact reflects the growing concern for historical records and tracking individual elephants, with a goal of establishing continental breeding programs (see CAPTIVE ELEPHANT POPULATION for more details).
7. **Iki the elephant:** Students at Wayne State University are in the last stages of reconstructing the skeleton of "Iki" which will be installed in front of a mural in the Science Library at Wayne State University (see under ENN).
8. **Shelton Mastodon Site:** The fifth excavation season at the SMS (Brandon Township, Oakland County, Michigan) was completed this year. A commemorative plaque was placed on a large rock on elevated ground (see notes under ENN).
9. **Mount Elgon elephants are in peril:** An enclosure to our latest letter touched on the overall decrease in elephant population in Africa and the special problems which the elephants at Mount Elgon National Park (MENP) face. To the best of our knowledge, the subterranean "salt mining" behavior of the MENP elephants is unprecedented and it has been dubbed "one of the wonders of the natural world" (see under ENN and an article in this issue).
10. **Symposium on Evolutionary Biology of the Proboscidea:** A symposium on the paleoecology and evolution of the Proboscidea (co-organized by J. Shoshani and P. Tassy) will take place during the Fifth International Theriological Congress, at the end of the Summer 1989, in Rome, Italy. We plan to publish an edited version of the proceedings, possibly as Volume III to Osborn's "Proboscidea" (more under ENN).
11. **Correspondence with Children:** As part of an overall effort to increase interest in elephants, we believe that more emphasis should be placed on engaging young readers in pursuing these endeavors. The subsection "Correspondence with Children" in RECENT CORRESPONDENCE is part of these efforts (see also under ENN).

In closing, we ask anyone of our members who might be interested in helping with the editorship and preparation of future issues of Elephant to please contact us. Wholehearted appreciation is extended to those individuals who helped us to compile this issue and to all our supporters (additional thanks appear under FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS). We hope that our Twentieth Anniversary will be as successful as the Tenth (see article by Wylie in this issue). Kindly write us about any of the ideas expressed in this note.

Sandra Lash Shoshani

Sandra Lash Shoshani
Detroit, December 20, 1987

Hezy Shoshani

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani
Detroit, December 20, 1987