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### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear EIG Members and Friends,

We are beginning the second volume on a positive note despite the delay in publication due to lack of funds. Contributions and purchases of EIG materials have increased since the last issue was published. This fact has helped us tremendously and for the first time our balance is not a deficit (except for money owed to the editor and to S. Lash, see Financial Report and Acknowledgment). Let me take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has helped financially and otherwise. Readers are hereby requested to help to the best of their ability. All contributions to the Elephant Interest Group are tax-deductible.

In a reply to the note from Keith Lindsay (see Recent Correspondence), we are attempting to make future issues of Elephant shorter and more concise as well as to publish them more frequently. The major problems, of course, are funds and personnel. This is probably the most timely place to note that the editor has been engaged in completing his Ph.D. research, which is long overdue. We thank Keith for his constructive comments and we encourage other readers to do the same.

Special acknowledgment is extended to the staff of the Department of Biological Sciences at Wayne State University (WSU), especially to its Chairman, John D. Taylor; Lynne M. Aldrich; Zirka Clark; M. Patricia Hensler; Eileen D. Koglin; Donna M. Laciak; and Vida Wyatt for their invaluable help. Sandra S. Lash and M. Pamela Bedore continue to volunteer many long hours in the EIG office. The staff at the Photographic Services at WSU (especially members Kathy Morehead and Rick Bielaczyc) and the staff at the Science Library (especially Janis Buchholz, Steve Habib, Richard Manikowski, and James Ruffner) have provided timely and professional services. Anthony Helinski, Susan Raymer and Naomi Wheelock were helpful during the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) Meeting, Oxford, Ohio (see Minutes). Members of the Editorial Board and Reviewers are acknowledged for reviewing manuscripts and/or making valuable comments and suggestions. Joseph G. Engelhard accommodatingly let us use his library for references. We were pleasantly surprised when Judith K. Berg sent us the check she received as an honorarium for her presentation on elephants. Sandra Lash and the editor have done the same on previous occasions. The foldover correspondence notes of the Asian and the African elephants were made with good taste and donation of the artwork by Linda Thompson (see Order Form). Finally in this note of acknowledgement we wish to thank the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus through the help of Daniel C. Laughlin for donating the elephant (Iki) for research. See additional acknowledgment in the article on Iki and under Financial Report and Acknowledgment.

The delay in publication of this issue has enabled us to compile 457 new references and to make corrections on previous references and other sections (see ERRATA under Elephant Notes and News). The Minutes of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group and the excerpts by J.C. Daniel, are documents which we felt should be available to our readers, as we have done in the

previous issue for the Minutes of the African Elephant Specialist Group. The sections "Elephant News and Information" and "Miscellaneous" as were presented in previous issues, are now combined into one - "Elephant Notes and News." We have received many favorable comments on the SUPPLEMENT to Vol. 1; see p. 238 in Vol. 1, No. 4 for the Contents of SUPPLEMENT.

The editor and John F. Eisenberg have co-authored a Mammalian Species Account on the Asian elephant (Elephas maximus) which will be published in the near future. This Account and the one on the African elephant (Loxodonta africana) by Larry Laursen and Marc Bekoff (Mammalian Species, No. 92) can be obtained from Gordon L. Kirkland, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society of Mammalogists, c/o The Vertebrate Museum, Shippensburg State College, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17257 USA. Our readers may also be interested to learn that an effort is being made to assemble two sets of slides (and explanations) on elephant biology and natural history; one set would be of a general nature and the other more detailed. The EIG has contacted a number of individuals to contribute to this educational endeavor. The slides would be available in 1982 at the earliest from the Mammal Slide Library (Dr. James A. Lackey, Chairperson, Department of Zoology, State University of New York, Oswego, New York 13126 USA) of the American Society of Mammalogists.

In October of last year we sent a letter to our readers covering a number of issues and asking for a reply to two questions. The majority of the respondees had no objections that their names and addresses be used to inform them on elephant related activities. Also, the majority of the respondees had no objections that classified notices appear in Elephant. For additional information, please refer to the section in Elephant Notes and News.

Many of the letters we have been sending have been returned to us, stamped with "Return To Sender." The names of those addressees have been removed from our mailing list. Approximately 900 individuals and institutions are presently receiving Elephant, 98 of which are new members. We extend a warm welcome to all new members. Readers are requested to inform us of changes of address and to inform all interested parties about our group. References to our publication have appeared in the normal academic manner but also in an unusual way (see letter from Daniel D. Dugan in Recent Correspondence). In addition, a number of people have been referred to us for information on elephants and for obtaining references and copies of articles in our library. Our readers may be particularly interested to read the correspondence from and to Arthur Horn regarding the alleged "pygmy" African elephant (see Recent Correspondence).

We encourage our readers to express their views, to use our library and to contribute articles and information to be included in Elephant. Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our supporters.

Hezy Shoshani,

Jeheskel (Hezy) Shoshani  
Detroit, May 2, 1982