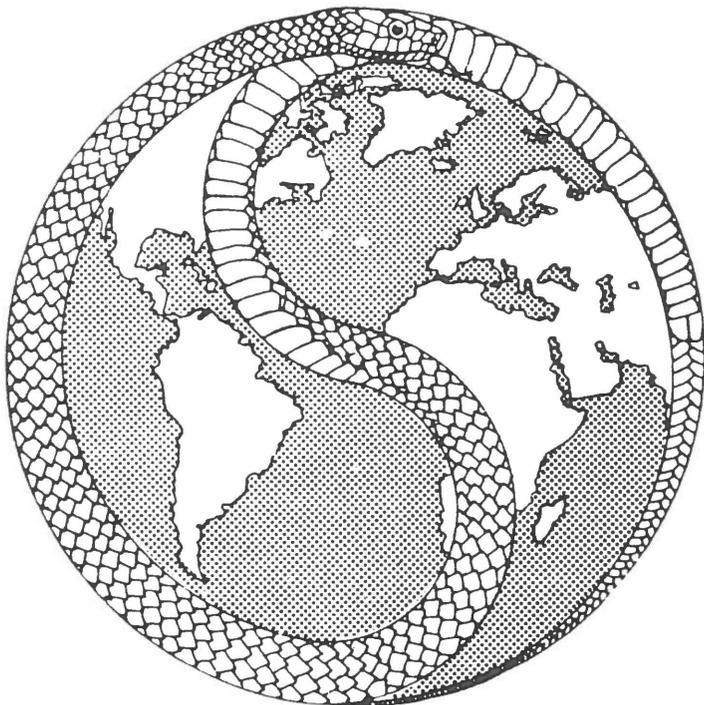


# LITTERATURA SERPENTIUM

English Edition

VOL. 10 – 1990

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European Snake Society

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**WORKINGGROUP THAMNOPHIS**

Goal:

- maintenance of as many sorts as possible in the Netherlands
- registration of *Thamnophis* keepers
- collecting of breeding attempts
- information to new keepers
- round up of hatchlings
- paying more attention to *Thamnophis*

Depending on the need a number of meetings will be organized. I request every *Thamnophis* keeper to contact me. Especially them who want to help me to set up this workinggroup.

Jan van het Meer, Chopinpad 34, 1323 RZ Almere-Stad, The Netherlands, tel. (0)3240-61243, between 20.00 and 22.00 hr., not on Monday.

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### Snake Day.

The 1989 Snake Day was held on 21 October at the Veterinary Department of the University of Utrecht. We thank Prof. Dr. P. Zwart and Drs. Marja Kik for their hospitality. It was a pity that Prof. Zwart himself could not be present at the Meeting. More than 500 visitors were present and it is a pleasant fact that every year there are more and more from abroad. New this year, was the use of a separate hall for the trade in venomous snakes, but interest was so great that the hall proved to be too small. Thanks to the co-operation of Walter Getreuer, Henk Buijs and Marja Kik everybody could safely see, buy or sell venomous snakes. For refreshments we thank Edith, Casper, Esther and Hans den Ouden, who were assisted by Bert Westerhout and Frits van Nimwegen. The Society stand was manned by Guido and Astrid Gomes, assisted by Demis Wenting. The concierge Klaas Ketelaar took care of enough tables, chairs and other equipment. Last but not least we thank all the people who helped behind the scenes to make this day a success.

It was a pity that Vince Scheid cancelled his trip to Holland and so his planned lectures shortly before the Meeting. Happily the lecture of John Mulder on *Viperidae* was a successful alternative. The day traditionally ended in the Greek restaurant "Zorba".

We have received bad news from London about the so called "Operation Cleopatra". A number of British snake keepers returning from the Meeting found their belongings, and

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sometimes themselves, being given a thorough examination by the English customs when they arrived back in their own country. It appears that Customs Officers in several ports were waiting the return of visitors from Utrecht. An, as yet unknown, quantity of animals were seized and prosecutions will follow. Experts were standing by to check that any declared snakes had been correctly identified by their owners. It is a pity that this operation was not announced in advance, so that the temptation to buy snakes without the appropriate certificates, could have been controlled. Unless these snakes are all legal merchandise within The Netherlands, one needs certificates for their import into England (and for import into Germany too!). We hope that everybody will possess the correct documents next year in advance.

### Board change.

Since 1st January 1990 two members of the Board have resigned after several years of work for the Society: Jaap Kooij, Secretary for some six years, will be succeeded by Guido Gomes, and Ron Kivit, Treasurer for almost two years, will be succeeded by Astrid Gomes. We want to thank both Jaap and Ron for all the work they have done for the Society. Further we wish Guido and Astrid Gomes well in their new jobs. We ask the members to direct all future correspondence for the Board to

Guido and Astrid Gomes,  
Pauwenveld 18,  
2727 DE Zoetermeer,  
The Netherlands

We are also pleased that Anton van Woerkom said "yes" when he was asked to take part

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in the Board of the Society again. Anton has a lot of experience and knows every facet of the work of the Board so he can help out wherever his assistance is needed.

European Snake Society.

The Dutch Snake Society over the last few years has developed into a more international Society. Also Public Relations and recruitment of members from abroad will have to be more efficient in the future. Therefore we will appoint a representative in Great Britain. This has had to result in a name change of the Society - *European Snake Society*. In the next issue I will present full details about the Society's representative in the United Kingdom.

Pieter Stoel, Chairman.