

LITTERATURA SERPENTIIUM

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ANNUAL REPORT 1993

English corrections by Kevin J. Hingley

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The thirteenth year of existence has not been a bad one for the European Snake Society. The number of members is now around 700 and growing steadily - though mainly by Dutch members - and the annual Snake Day had an even greater attendance than the year before.

That rush at the Snake Day however, forces us to a change in the set-up of this yearly event. This year the available floor space will be doubled. We should think ourselves lucky that we are still welcome in the main building of the Veterinary Sciences department of the university of Utrecht because an alternative location will be hard to find and will also be very expensive. If, in spite of this increase in floor space, the corridors and staircases still become blocked, then the ESS will be forced to find another location for the Snake Day.

During the 1993 Snake day an inquiry was held in which the visitors were asked to give their opinion of the Society, the Snake Day event, and of *Litteratura Serpentina*. Unfortunately, only a small number of questionnaires were returned, so this inquiry can by no means be regarded as representative. Still a number of points were raised which the board has taken to heart. A specific point of criticism was the poisonous snake section in which a lack of control was said to have resulted from disobedience of the Society's regulations at the Snake Day. The board is well aware of this flaw, but also has to point out that for an effective control of the regulations we need volunteers. Therefore, well in advance of this year's Snake Day we wish to call on people to assist us during the event, not just in the poisonous snake section but also with a lot of other odd jobs.

Without volunteers there would be no Snake Day. The board again wishes to thank those who assisted us last year. Also to all of the others who in any way possibly have contributed to the ESS we owe our thanks. In particular we would like to thank Piet Schiereck, who as the Editor-in-Chief went to great lengths to help make *Litteratura Serpentina* the magazine it is today. René and Cécile van der Vlugt have in the meantime taken over his task. Astrid Gomes also has to be mentioned. After many years Astrid has decided to lay down her task as treasurer of the ESS to be able to devote all of her time to translation work for *Litteratura Serpentina*. Guido Gomes will take over her post.

This year the mailing of the journal has been taken over by Frits van Nimwegen and Marian Hendriks. Thanks to their work the despatch of the magazine is running very smoothly.

Finally, some words on the so-called 'positive lists', lists drawn up in the framework of the Dutch health and welfare law for animals. After years of struggle there is still no definitive proposal. As soon as there is anything new to report we will get back to this matter which we feel will also be of interest to our foreign members.

In 1994 the board will do everything in its power to ensure that the Society will look after the interest of its members, and we hope therefore that you will continue your membership with great pleasure and interest.