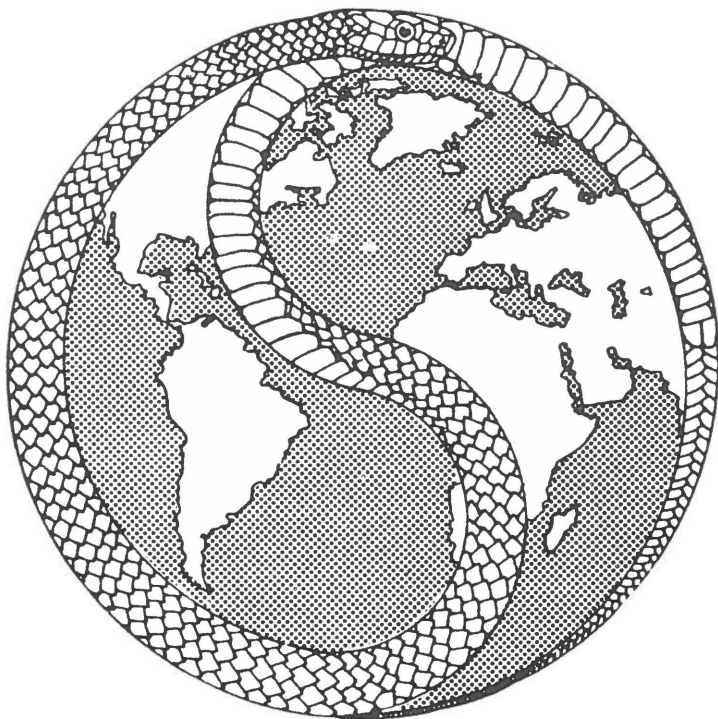


LITTERATURA SERPENTIUM

English Edition

VOL. 9 – 1989



Copyright:
Nederlandse Doelgroep Slangen
Dutch Snake Society

The copying of articles is not allowed without
written permission of the Editor-in-Chief.

LITTERATURA SERPENTIUM

English Edition

VOL. 9 NO. 1 — FEB. 1989

CONTENTS

Articles

- The genus *Thamnophis*, part 5, *Thamnophis (radis) butleri*; Jan van het Meer 4
- Smuggling snakes out of Australia... How the system works; Raymond Hoser 15
- Troublesome off-spring of *Elaphe guttata* (albino red phase) after a caesarian section; John Bakker 36
- Medieval Herpetology, part 1, "Den sestien be-
lovic te sine van serpenten met venine";
Marcel van der Voort 38
- Maintaining *Lichanura* in captivity; Mike
Mills 45

Health & Diseases

- The tale of a novice herpetologist and an up-
turned flowerpot; Marcel van der Voort 9

Society news 48

Supply & Demand 52

SOCIETY NEWS

Dear Members,

As you can see in the colophon, a change in the editorship has taken place. You will not find the name of Anton van Woerkom any longer. After eight years of hard work for *Litteratura Serpentina*, Anton resigned from his editorial job. Underneath you will find his motivation for this in an open letter.

Exactly ten years ago our Society was founded in Utrecht. Early 1977 we started forming a specialized group within the society of *Lacerta*, the so-called 'Kerngroep Slangen'. In November 1980 the 'Dutch Snake Society' was officially recognised by the Board of *Lacerta*. Anton, who at the time was administrator for *Lacerta*, spontaneously offered to be an editor for the Dutch Snake Society, and in a short time he realised the bi-monthly magazine which in the end was named *Litteratura Serpentina*. At first the magazine was photo-copied and bound by Anton personally. Later we bought our own offset-printer and Anton played an important role in the printing, reaping, binding and stapling of the magazine. When the Society grew in number and became independent in 1982, it did not stop at that. He partook in many heated discussions at meetings and was co-organiser of the Snake-days. Anton always made himself strong for contacts abroad and formed an international (English) editorship. Therefore it was possible that in 1983 both an English and a Dutch edition could be realised. Apart from his job as Editor-in-chief, Anton also is head of a family and chairman of an operetta-company. On top of this he is also studying.

Not only because these activities demand much time and attention, but also to continue renewal within the board of editors, Anton decided to resign from his job as Editor-in-chief of *Litteratura Serpentina*.

Fortunately for our Society and our magazine Anton wants to stay involved with recent developments, such as e.g. the cooperation with other herpetological societies. We hope therefore to call often on his stimulating contribution, e.g. the bringing in of articles.

Anton, on behalf of the Society, thank you very much for your constructive contribution, which also has made the Society to what it is today.

Anton's job will be taken over by Piet Schiereck, who has been working with Anton as an editor for several years. We wish the new Editor-in-chief and his colleagues lots of success in the realisation of this magazine, which after all is the backbone of our Society.

On behalf of the Board,

P.B. Stoel.

Dear members,

You are now reading the first issue of volume 9. Starting with this issue there are several changes within the Editorial Board. For years we have been living in the computer age and starting with this issue the computer will be used for producing this magazine.

A second change is that I myself have resigned as Editor-in-chief with issue number 6 and the index of the last volume being finished. For the greater part of the members this information will come unexpected, I therefore offer an explanation. I have been doing this job for the Dutch Snake Society now for more than eight years, month after month being responsible to keep the whole thing moving, a heavy task. Also I believe that somebody who has a key position within an organisation, must not keep that position too long: after a number of years the risk may arise, that this person starts to identify himself with the position too much and that the organisation reflects his personality too much. That this happened so clearly with me is, of course, the result of the fact that I have been the Editor-in-Chief since the foundation of the Society in 1980 and had to build up the whole editorship. Anyway, I think that it is good for the sake of the magazine that the staff be replaced now and then by people with new ideas and the energy of fresh horses to pull the car. Because of the changes that have already taken place and yet still to be carried out in connection to the use of computers to compile the magazine, I think that this is the most appropriate moment to turn over the sceptre to a successor. Happily the Society has somebody who is excellently prepared for this position. I am pleased to introduce to you Piet Schiereck as the new Editor-in-Chief. Piet has been working on the Editorial Board as our second

man since 1984 and so has the necessary experience for a successful continuation of *Litteratura Serpentium*.

Also I would like to mention Marcel van der Voort, the new second man, and for one year already the Editor of the Dutch Edition, who is contributing more to the work that has to be done.

Finally I wish to thank everybody who has been concerned with the Editorial Board and the Board of the Society for their cooperation. Finally we all have one aim in mind: the publication of a useful society magazine, through which the keeping and breeding of our favourite pets will reach a higher level. I think that together we are succeeding in doing this.

Anton van Woerkom.