



CONTENTS

■ ARTICLES

- The virus: "a snake keeping passion"
J. Ramaker
114
- Successful breeding with *Vipera latasti latasti* after an autumn mating
Harmen-Jan Platvoet
120
- The cottonmouth or water mocassin, *Agkistrodon piscivorus* (Lacapède); part 2
Peter Strimble
126
- Panic about salmonellosis in Beek en Donk
J.M.W. Mavromichalis
134
- Quite frightening
Marcel van Engelen
136



■ COLUMNS

- From the editors
 139
- Supply & Demand
 141





FROM THE EDITORS

Though this is not yet the last issue of this volume, looking back we may say that this year has been a turbulent one. Seldom we have had such serious difficulties in editing and have we experienced such a great back-log in publication of *Litteratura Serpentina*. Therefore the editors are very pleased to experience that more people still care for *LS*: we have received numerous supporting reactions, already some contributions for the magazine (but not nearly enough); some people have promised to assist in administrative, organizing or translating activities and preparations for the 19th volume of *LS* have started.

From the third issue on our magazine is now being prepared and printed by a new DTP company. It will be distributed through a professional mail-order firm, and the editors have reorganized their activities. We hope that all these developments will not be for a short time. At this moment, and maybe we are a little optimistic, we are thinking about publishing a special edition of our magazine in 2000, when *LS* is twenty years young.

We intend to realize an anthology of contributions concerning health and diseases which have been published in the former

19 volumes of *LS*. In all those years, many articles have been published on health and diseases, most of them however in the earlier volumes. Not every member will have these volumes in his collection, (the first three have not even been published in English) but a lot of snake keepers will benefit from greater medical knowledge.

We have made an inventory of all the medical contributions in *LS* and made a selection from them. We are going to ask the authors if they are willing to up-date their contributions. But, we intend to select not only previously published articles for this special edition. Anyone who feels he can contribute on this subject is invited to inform the editors. Especially for the English edition we are also looking for people who are willing to assist with correcting translations for English grammar and style.

The special edition will be coordinated by Marcel van der Voort. Please send him all contributions and letters directly to him: mail to Heerbaan 14, 5721 LS Asten, The Netherlands (phone: +31-493-691993), or e-mail ess-editor@wxs.nl

We plan to keep you informed on our progress.