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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

In 1999 there was a firm renewal of the board of the European Snake Society. A new chairman, a new treasurer and a new membership administrator were trying to find their way in the society management, without anymore help from their predecessors. Unfortunately also chief editor, Rene van der Vlugt, could no longer head *Litteratura Serpentina*, due to his busy family life and job. He had to be replaced at short notice by Mr Gijs van Aken. We would like to thank Mr Van der Vlugt for the job he has done for the society in such a precise way. We also want to thank Mr Pieter Stoel, former chairman and Mr Guido Gomes, former treasurer. Without their enthusiasm, the society wouldn't have attained the level it currently holds. On behalf of all snake lovers, Thanks!

As a matter of fact, the new board had to deal with a major problem, the administration of membership did not function properly. Meanwhile measures have been taken and the board hopes that all will be well soon. We would like to take this opportunity, to apologise to all members who did not receive their

magazines in time and had to write, phone and e-mail over and over again, mostly without success. In order to solve this severe problem, the membership administration has been taken over - at least for the time being - by the secretary.

The number of members is currently about 750, most of them living in Holland. The society is contacting other societies abroad, in order to spread its name, in the hope of attracting more foreigners to become members of the European Snake Society.

The 1999 Snake Day was a success. The number of snake- and terrarium-dealers present outnumbered all former events. Still, it seems to be difficult for some people to offer their "wares" in a proper way. The General Inspection Services of the Dutch government had to seize some snakes, which were offered without the required licences. Please, if you have any doubt about Cites, make your inquiries in time!

Jan-Cor Jacobs, secretary.

