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FROM THE EDITORS

Gijs van Aken

On April 25th Marcel van der Voort was awarded a doctor's degree in the Dutch literature at the University of Leiden. The subject of his dissertation was the medieval book on serpents by Jacob van Maerlant. The board of the European Snake Society would like to congratulate Marcel with his degree!

A fascination for medieval times and for herpetology is not enough to graduate after so many years of studying. We compliment Marcel on his perseverance.

Our previous issue was a special on diseases. Thank you for the positive reactions received!

In this issue we have a variety of articles: Aart van Wijk describes his experience with keeping snakes in an outdoor terrarium; Sergei Ryabov tells us about the impressive collection of snakes at the Tula Exotarium and you'll find an article by Emanuele Cimatti on keeping *Elaphe quatuorlineata*. In this issue we also publish find two book reviews. The publishers of both books granted us permission to publish a short abstract

of the book. We thank the Natural History Museum in London for their kind permission to publish from the book by Peter Stafford.

We are grateful to Kirschner & Seuffer Verlag in Germany for their kind permission to publish a short abstract and several beautiful pictures from the book by Kivitt and Wiseman.

Our society has a lot of new members with limited experience on the keeping of snakes. Every now and then the editors receive requests for information on the keeping and breeding of 'easy to keep' snakes. Publishing articles on these subjects will not of interest for experienced snake keepers. Instead of publishing articles on this subject we are planning to publish Care Sheets for several easy to keep snakes. If you are willing to share you experience with certain species please contact us by e-mail and we will sent you a empty format of the Care Sheet. Filling in the Care Sheet will not take long and you will be of great help to our inexperienced members.

You will find our e-mail address in the colophon.



ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

The board of the European Snake Society invites its member to its annual members' meeting on 23th of May 2001. The following issues are on agenda:

- opening by the chairman
- report over 2000 by the secretary
- financial report over 2000 by the treasurer
- statutory resignation of the vice-chairman, mr. A. van Woerkom. He is not eligible for re-election. Candidates should notify their candidacy with the board at least five days before the annual meeting. Their candidacy is to be supported by at least five members.
- appointment of the cash-committee
- any other business

The meeting will start at 20.00 hours and will take place at W.A. Vultostraat 62 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Telephone/fax +31-30-2801115 (after 18.00 hrs.) Those willing to attend should inform the secretary at least seven days in advance. Since it will probably be difficult for most foreign members to come to Holland for this meeting we would like to invite you to write to us if you have any suggestions and/or ideas concerning the Society. We welcome comments on every aspect of the Society, Litteratura Serpentium and the Snake Day.