

Editorial

Your present editor has taken full responsibility—on a voluntary basis, for which he has received no pay—for the production of this journal since 1985—only the second person so to do. However due to the pressures of Anno Domini, and of his other interests, for which he does receive pay, he has given notice that this volume (17) will be the last for which he will take responsibility. The European Association for Aquatic Mammals, not wishing to see a break in the production of such a useful journal, is actively seeking a replacement. Although volunteers would be welcome, the present incumbent advises that only those with good back up facilities need consider applying! He has found over the last 6 years, that, to meet final deadlines, there is always a grand rush at the last minute. Correspondents from whom one hasn't heard for years bring their problems—always urgent and demanding immediate attention—at the precise moment one is concentrating on getting the pagination of the current issue right. His replacement therefore does need back up facilities, and human help, unless he or she has complete freedom from other pressures.

In this, the first issue of his final volume, he is pleased to draw attention to the article of Patricia St. John, based on the paper she gave to our Eighteenth Symposium at Lipperswil in 1990. It is important that we take notice of what she reports as, since that date, the male dolphin 'Rocky' has been sent to a lagoon in the area, preparatory to release, and the two animals from Brighton will be joining him there before Easter 1991, if press reports are to be believed. Readers may not appreciate that the Turks and Caicos is NOT a signatory to the CITES convention, and, as yet, there is not the infra structure present on the islands to give the supervision some believe necessary prior to and after release. In addition the level of water in the lagoon is not very deep and would certainly not pass UK standards for the keeping of cetacea.

Patricia St. John comments that the proposal for a research, education and medical project was created but not pursued, for lack of funds and that Jojo's behaviour indicated to her—when she last visited in May 1989—that 'he (the male dolphin Jojo) had become a total master over the GM's (the club's term for guests) whenever they were in the water'. Since there is a fear that tourism will, perhaps not unnaturally, be developed on these lovely islands in the future, what is the prospect for visiting swimmers and surfriders if FOUR animals also become masters over man? I leave the reader to judge for himself.

Finally, I learn that the European cetacean standards have now been agreed but will not be promulgated until April at the earliest.

V. J. A. Manton