

ETHNOBIOTICA

We approach the arbitrary millennial transition with fear of apocalyptic terrorism and global computer collapse. For the *Journal of Ethnobiology* the approaching transition is less dramatic but significant nonetheless. First of all, it is my great pleasure to introduce my successor as editor, Dr. William Balée of Tulane University, who likely is already well-known to many of you for his fascinating studies of the ethnobotanical knowledge and practice among Amazonian Native communities near the mouth of the Amazon River. I believe Dr. Balée understands and values the full range of ethnobiological pursuits represented within our membership and that he will strive to maintain high quality, broad range, and balance in the *Journal's* contents during his tenure. Dr. Balée has committed to an initial three-year term, leaving open the possibility of extension. The job is taxing but critical to the continued success of the Society and of our discipline, which is more than ever needed and center stage in today's world.

I will visit Bill at Tulane in May (attending my younger daughter's graduation from Law School in the bargain) and will pass on whatever advice and counsel I can offer. I hope he will be able to convince his university administration of the value of supporting his efforts with generous secretarial support. The editorship is too much for one person on top of his or her regular academic duties without a supporting staff. We will discuss strategies for speeding up every aspect of the editorial process while at the same time holding costs in line. I will urge the Board of Directors to redouble their efforts to recruit new subscribers. We are on the verge of passing the 500-subscriber mark, but given the wide academic, policy, and public interest in ethnobiology today we should be reaching a substantially larger audience. More subscribers means more resources to enhance and expand the *Journal*.

We will co-edit Volume 19, No. 1, for which material is already in hand. Then he'll be on his own. After May 1, 1999 you should send manuscripts for review to Dr. William Balée, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118 (wbalee@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu).

I want to thank three individuals who over the past several years have given generously of their time in support of the *Journal of Ethnobiology* who are stepping down to focus their energies in new directions: News and Comments Editor Gary Martin, Book Reviews Editor Sandra Peacock, and French language consultant Daniel Clément (see his historical analysis in this issue). Sandra's replacement is already on board. Welcome Michael K. Steinberg, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (msteinb@tiger.lsu.edu) as our new Book Reviews editor. Volunteers for the other two open slots are welcome.

I would also like to thank students and former students at the University of Washington who have helped get the *Journal* out in good order: Jennifer Sepez Arandanas, Brian Van Hoy, and Jill Grady. Not least we owe a big hand to the Editorial Board members who coordinate our review process. I hope that many will continue in that capacity under Bill Balée's editorship.

In conclusion, I offer this summary of the range of contributions published during my editorial tenure. Thirty-six articles were published in the seven issues from volume 15, number 2 through volume 18, number 2. Of these, 27 (75%) treated ethnobotanical subjects, six (17%) were ethnozoological, and three (8%) were general in scope. Seven (19%) were archaeological in focus, another seven treated medicinal applications, while nine (25%) had some other utilitarian focus. Seven dealt with what we might best characterize as "intellectual" aspects, five (14%) were ecological, and one was an historical overview. Geographic foci remain strongly American, with 10 articles treating cases from North America, six from Central America, and seven from South America (64% New World). Five articles treated cases from Asia, two from New Guinea, two from Africa, and one from Europe. Two had no clear regional focus. Though rather weighted towards the New World, I believe the *Journal* reflects the diversity and balance of interests of our members.

Engene Hamm