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EDITOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pogo, the late Walt Kelly's philosophically inclined possum friend from the great Okefenokee Swamp, was able to demonstrate the relativity of time of occurrence of special dates by noting that Friday the 13th did not invariably arrive on days normally designated as Friday. In fact, it was a cause for celebration by Pogo and the other denizens of the Great Swamp when Friday the 13th fell on Friday.

Extending this example of relativity almost to absurdity, the publishers of *Quaestiones Entomologicae* have demonstrated that October, 1980 actually fell in July, 1981, for that is the month and year of publication of Volume 16, Nos. 3 and 4—the July-October issue for 1980. I suppose that instances such as this and variations in day of arrival of Friday the 13th are special cases of the General Theory of Relativity.

While that explanation has appeal in the dark corridors of our publishing house, subscribers are not likely to accept it as a reason why the issues for which they have paid good money (or a pile of shin plasters, in Canada) have been so late in arriving. In fact, as Editor, I consider myself lucky to be practising in an era when horsewhipping of members of my guild by disgruntled subscribers has gone out of fashion—this form of expression of displeasure owing its demise to a shortage of buggy whips which in turn went the way of horse-drawn vehicles.

Contributing to the time-warp alluded to above, were delays encountered in our efforts to produce our first two issues for 1980, which included “The Hydraenidae of the Western Hemisphere”. I am still amazed that such an elephantine volume can be devoted to classification of such micro-lilleputian creatures. But, like Gulliver, in the land of Lilleput, we became indeed tied down, not by anything big, but by numerous small delays and minor problems.

It required about 19 months to produce this volume about hydraenid beetles— this being just about the gestation period of elephants. When we saw the first bound copy, my colleagues and I went into a state of mild euphoria, with feelings rather akin, perhaps, to those of a herd of pachyderms when a new youngster is born and joins the troop. I am pleased to say that this 544 page elephant child was not at all wrinkled!

Three Publications Managers were involved consecutively in working on the hydraenid volume: Mrs. Twyla Gibson, Mrs. Jane Ballash, and Mrs. Suseela Subbarao. I am grateful to each of them for their contributions. I am especially grateful to Mrs. Subbarao, who saw to completion the hydraenid volume, and as well the long delayed subsequent issues for 1980. The author, Philip D. Perkins, is to be commended, too, both for his patience with our delays and for having prepared this fine treatise.

I record appreciation of the efforts of the following, who acted at my request as referees of papers published in Volume 16:

A. P. Nimmo, Department of Entomology, University of Alberta;
 K. W. Philip, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks,
 Alaska;
 J. R. Spence, Department of Entomology, University of Alberta; and
 H. R. Wong, Environment Canada, Canadian Forestry Service, Edmonton,
 Alberta.

Various members of my Department assisted with the publishing process. Jean-Francois Landry provided French translations of several abstracts. John S. Scott helped with illustrative matters, and he and Danny Shpeley read quantities of proof.

In view of the long delay experienced by our loyal subscribers in receiving the issues of Volume 16, I record our gratitude for patience and continued support. I cannot promise that we will be able to get out the journal on time, once after the back-log has been cleared, but we will do the best we can.

George E. Ball