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EDITOR'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Because of forgetfulness and the pressures associated with preparation for and departure on sabbatical leave, the Editor neglected to offer his thanks to those who assisted in evaluation and preparation of the contributions for Volume 24. Accordingly, the names of those who provided reviews for that volume are included in the following list. The able assistance, promptly and cheerfully rendered by all of the reviewers, is appreciated very much.

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M. V. H. Wilson

Department of Zoology, University of Alberta

During my absence, my colleague, Bruce S. Heming, acted as Editor. I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank him for his thorough and enthusiastic service.

French translations of abstracts were provided by J. C. Lacoursière, of my Department. J. S. Scott and D. Shpeley read proof, as requested, and assisted in other ways, as well.

The Publications Manager, Mrs. S. Subbarao, provided excellent service, both in production and in management of day-to-day operations of the office.

Our printers, Hallis Graphics Ltd., have served us well. I am mindful especially of prompt turnaround of our submissions, and the air of cordiality that characterizes our relationship with the President of Hallis, Mr. J. Haukedal.

With the publication of Volume 25, *Quaestiones Entomologicae* reached what is generally regarded as a landmark of some significance, and recognized as a Silver Anniversary. Although 25 years of publishing is an achievement, it seems sufficiently commonplace not to warrant a formal celebration. Such can be reserved for our 50th, or Golden Anniversary (in the year 2014), though the present members of the publications staff are unlikely to be in attendance.

In passing, I note that Volume 1 contains a paper by Richard Freitag, about tiger beetles, in the form of an analysis of the *Cicindela maritima* species group. Volume 25 contains a paper by the same author, about the Brazilian species of *Cicindela*. And in Volume 24, there is a paper by Timothy G. Spanton, about the species of the *Cicindela sylvatica* group, based on his Master's thesis - which was supervised by Freitag. Such connections through the passage of time indicate a stability that the Editor finds satisfying and gratifying.

It seems appropriate to offer a note of appreciation in memory of the late founder and first Editor of *Quaest. Ent.*, Brian Hocking, who died in 1974. In his introductory editorial, "words, words, words", Hocking noted the trend of marked increase in entomological publication, but saw it as the necessary consequence of burgeoning effort in research. Implicitly, he expressed dismay about: 1, "mounting page charges"; 2, the "publish or perish" blight; and 3, "the waning ability of administrators to judge publications by anything beyond their number". He recognized that points 2 and 3 were contributing, undesirably, to the marked increase in numbers of scientific publications.

He suggested that journals might help scientists keep abreast of the exponential increase in published information by ensuring presentation of more comprehensive papers ("It costs more in time, money, and effort to produce, file, store, retrieve, and read ten one page papers than one ten page paper"), to "index and abstract everything diversely", and to "make full use of modern techniques...even computers". *Quaest. Ent.* was organized along such lines.

Hocking paid tribute to entomology's "venerable indexing services" (Zoological Record; H. A. Hagen's *Bibliotheca Entomologica*; and W. Horn and S. Schenkling's *Index Litteraturae Entomologicae*). He held in high regard the contributions that such publications make to improve retrieval of entomological information.

At the time that he wrote, indexing and abstracting publications endeavoured to provide complete coverage of the entomological literature. This seems to be so no longer. The more blatantly commercial of such publications pick and choose which journals will be indexed or abstracted, and the status of journals in the scientific community now seems to be determined in part by whether or not their offerings are recorded by one or another commercial "service". Paralleling this development is the increasing trend of University administrators and granting agencies to evaluate

papers in terms of the journals in which they appear, rather than for their intrinsic merit. Many scientists have bowed to such pressure.

Thus, scientific publication now seems to have more to do with gaining individual recognition and prestige than with expressing desire to make known the results of research. Indeed, the medium is becoming the message. Perhaps it was ever thus, but Brian Hocking's generous spirit would be repelled by the mean, self-serving attitudes that have become commonplace in the scientific community. Such attitudes, of course, are simply latter-day expressions of the "publish or perish" syndrome that is a dark blight on the landscape of science.

Be that as it may, *Quaest. Ent.* has continued along the path that Hocking charted. The journal has kept its covenant with its founder as best it could - or so it seems to the present editor. Some subsequent Editor, who, metaphorically speaking, will blow out the candles on the journal's 50th Anniversary cake will be able to offer a more objective opinion than the one proffered by the present Editor, who has presided over this non-celebration of *Quaest. Ent.*'s 25th birthday.

George E. Ball
Editor