

EDITORIAL

Yes, Circaea is late, again - just short of a year late, in fact! As ever, there are several reasons for this, not least the shortage of suitable copy at the appropriate time. Another good one is that the EAU has lost its Manpower Services Commission 'Community Programme' Scheme whereby we occasionally were able to secure the expertise of typists far faster and more accurate than ourselves.

However, we hope that this fatter-than-usual issue will, to some extent, compensate for late arrival. We should also like to advise potential contributors that we have abandoned 'end-dates' for submission of papers and articles - we are happy to receive and deal with them at any time throughout the year: see the last paragraph of the inside back cover.

Even now, issue 2 of this volume is being prepared (though there's still room for more copy), and will be published as soon as possible. Perhaps we could reiterate that papers will usually progress much faster if authors observe the Notes for Contributors on page 79 of this issue. Please remember that the Editors have full-time jobs and do not have secretarial assistance for retyping or redrafting figures.

Frau Friedel Feindt, an AEA member at the Institut für Allgemeine Botanik, University of Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany, has written to us in response to a piece by one of us on 'spices' in Circaea 5(1) (p. 19). She remarks that she first came across Nigella sativa (Roman coriander) on flatbread in Turkey in 1970 and followed this up by obtaining seed from her neighbouring Institut (für Angewandte Botanik) in Hamburg. Linsenbrot ('lentil bread' - which may or may not exist! - perhaps breads made of besan could be called lentil-breads?) should, of course, have read Leinsamenbrot ('flax-seed or linseed bread'). We are most grateful to Frau Feindt for these comments.

Frau Feindt also asks for the origin of the word 'serendipitous' used in the same article. As such, it cannot be found in the Compact Edition (1979) of the complete Oxford English Dictionary, but appears to have been formed by the author from serendipity; 'from Serendip, a former name for Ceylon ... coined by Horace Walpole, who ... formed it upon the title of the fairy-tale The Three Princes ff Serendip, the heroes of which were always making discoveries by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of'. Serendipity is thus 'the faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident'.