

EDITOR'S NOTE

It is with pleasure from all of us involved with journal publication that this issue of *International Oaks* is now in the hands of the membership. This is the largest journal issue ever produced by your Society, but I'm sure you will agree that bigger is better, since so much information, news, and data concerning oaks are contained in these pages. This proceedings issue represents the efforts of many professional individuals delivering fascinating presentations and posters at the Fourth International Conference. The 2003 International Oak Conference in Winchester, England was orchestrated this past September, in a grand and expert style. For those of you that missed it, I hope by reading through these pages you will gain sufficient insight into the rewards of our conferences that you will make every effort to physically attend the next one! Thanks are extended to Doug McCreary, Chief Editor for this journal issue, from the rest of the Editorial Committee and Society members working in compilation of this edition.

The 2003 Conference Committee consisted of Ron & Dorothy Holley, Allen Coombes, Piers Trehane, Richard & Jo Earle, Phil Morton, James Harris, Eike Jablonski, and a host of other assistants unnamed here. To these individuals gratitude from the Society is extended, for their accomplishment of such a successful conference. Over 100 members participated in this conference, from 18 countries. A pre-conference tour to the Netherlands and Belgium and a post-conference tour in the United Kingdom were filled to maximum capacity, both exemplary experiences.

This was the first International Oak Conference to be physically held out of the United States, a landmark accomplishment itself, for this Society. Owing to the international scope of the presentations, and grammatical style of the host country and presenters, US readers may notice variances in customary spelling of certain words throughout these proceedings. For example, mould vs. mold, hybridisation vs. hybridization, vigour vs. vigor; these are merely different cultural yet accurate spelling variances, not mistakes. Beginning with introductory words by Professor Julian Evans, readers of these proceedings may also note occasional inferences to images that were displayed at the conference through slides, powerpoint, or other format which are not reproduced in this publication. Of course, this is only one example of the advantage of physical attendance.

Finally, on a personal note, as I have bid farewell to the Presidency of the International Oak Society, I leave the post with much gratitude for having had this opportunity for 3 years. It has been a pleasure to serve, and to turn over this role to Eike Jablonski, while at the Winchester Conference. I hope you will join me in support of our Society these next 3 years, under your new Board of Directors.

Ron Lance
IOS Secretary and
Journal Editorial Committee member
February, 2004