

17 December 2001

**Dear Members and Friends,
Chers Membres et Amis,
Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde**



This year has been very exceptional. The Collegium reached the age of 75 years, but the first time since the War our Society did not meet at all. This really reflects how unwanted conditions we now have in the world. This was the year of the IFOS World Congress, but after the 11th September it was evident that the Congress in Cairo had to be postponed, and so also our planned festivities to be cancelled. I am sure that we all feel sorry for all the sufferings and anguish followed by the tragic events. And we also feel great sympathy for our member and friend Nasser Kotby, the President of the World Congress, who had made so tremendous efforts to prepare us unforgettable events during the Congress. And I am sure that we, of all our hearts, hope that peace and stability can be restored and that we can go to Cairo next autumn to meet our friends from all over the world.

There has also been another notable anniversary: our Honorary Member, Mr. John (Jack) Angell-James, the President of the Bristol meeting in 1974, reached the age of 100 years on the 23rd of August. The Collegium warmly congratulated its oldest member that special day, thanking him for all he has done for the Collegium and otorhinolaryngology. Jack Angell-James, still alert and keeping up with the times, thanked the Society by saying: "I miss particularly the friendship of my colleagues. Please, convey them my greetings and best wishes."

Since our last meeting in Washington, I have been informed about the departure of Ervin Cerny (Czech), Jean Chryssikos (Greece), Gerd de Wit (the Netherlands), Alf Meyer z. Gottesberge (Germany), Adolf Miehke (Austria) and Arthur Weder (Switzerland). They were all our Honorary Members. We express our deep condolences to their families in their great bereavement.

Next autumn we will have the official 75th Anniversary festivities during our meeting in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, the country of origin of the Collegium. Paul van den Broek, the President of the Congress, has already sent preliminary information to you about the meeting. The Dutch group, under his guidance, has prepared us an interesting program. The dates are 25-29 August. In addition to the scientific program, following the usual lines, there will be special commemorations due to the 75th Anniversary. Paul will send you further information about Noordwijk next January.

During the World Congress in Cairo, from 28 September to 03 October 2002, we will have at least a lunch meeting on one of the Congress days, as usual. In due time I will inform the members about the details.

The following year, 24-28 August 2003, the meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland. And the options and suggestions for future meetings (not yet decided) are: Jerusalem 2004, Rome 2006 and Stockholm 2007. The host city of the 2005 World Congress is still undecided.

National groups have proposed, and are encouraged to propose, new members to the Collegium. You may remember that, in addition to 10 (USA 20) clinical members, each country has a quota of 3 (USA 6) non-clinical members. In order to avoid disappointments, I must remind you that, according to our rules, the upper age limit for a member is 50 years at the time the candidate is proposed by the national group. The Collegium has followed this rule, without exceptions.

Dear members, my duty is to remind you to pay your annual dues, USD 50. You can do this by using the enclosed form. Also the Collegium items available are listed in the form.

I would also like to remind you that we now have our own website on the Internet. The address is <http://www.corlas.org>. From 15 August to 15 December this year there have been altogether 280 visits to our homepages. I try to keep them updated, and use them e.g. to inform about the coming Collegium – related events, such as Noordwijk and Cairo. I am also planning to add there a "forum" for your feedback on the CORLAS- related issues.

For practical information see also the enclosed information leaflet. I would like to ask you to check your personal data, and especially to check / give your e-mail address. It will help our communication. E-mail addresses have now been added also to the enclosed list of members.

In this world, full of conflicts and discordance, we need understanding and lasting friendships. One of the main ideas of our society, the friendship between all its members, the spirit of the Amicitiae Sacrum, is needed even more than ever. Let us build up that spirit, let us tie us together with that spirit, regardless of our backgrounds. Let us thus make the world safer for us and for our descendants.

So, dear members and friends, let us look confidently toward the year 2002. I look forward to seeing you in Noordwijk, and very many of us also in Cairo. The friendship between all the members of the Collegium will be stronger than ever.

I, and my wife Anni, wish you and the whole Collegium family all the best for the coming year.

Pekka Karma