

FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Royal Society of Sciences, of Liege, organises, regularly, lectures and conferences — the next one will take place in November 2004, it will fill up an issue of our Bulletin — and its membership grows with effective or corresponding members, respectively from Liege or from outside Liege. The Bulletin has regularly published, every year, about 400 pages of original papers or of lectures in all the fields generally considered scientific (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics and Physics).

Of course, the publication of the Bulletin is sometimes delayed because the manuscripts don't reach us as regularly as we could wish. However, in 2004, once again, the 400 pages will, most probably, be reached.

But our Society is confronted with a problem that many other similar Societies meet. The price of paper is ever higher, just as the price of postage, they all increase sometimes with important leaps. Simultaneously, the financial income either disappears (one of our sources) or melts like snow under the sun (20 % to 50 %, depending on the origin of the money). The subscriptions of our effective members have not changed for years but our experience is that if they do increase, the number of members' resignations increases too.

Therefore the Society decided to stop the publication of its Bulletin on paper; it will publish only on Internet. We are in the process of negotiating the procedure. Of course you will be informed of the future of our publication.

In 2003, the Society elected the following effective members:

Ms Michèle DE SOUTER (Chemistry), Mr. Moreno GALENI (Biochemistry), Mr. Paul GÉRARD (Mathematics), Mr. Jean-Henri HECQ (Oceanology), Mr. André LUXEN (Physics), Mr. Édouard POTY (Paleontology), Mr. Marc THIRY (Cell Biology), Ms Jacqueline VANDER AUWERA (Geochemistry).

A new corresponding member joined the Society: Mr. Thierry COURVOISIER (Astrophysics, Geneva).

In 2003, the Chairman of the Society was Professor Pierre LECOMTE (Mathematics) and the Society elected Professor Jean-Pierre THOMÉ as the Chairman for 2004.

The Society regretfully announces the disappearance of its following members, in 2003:

Mr R. HAGEDORN (Geneva, CERN), Mr. J. SCHELL (M.P.I. Köln and U. Gent, Molecular Biology) Mr. Ilya PRIGOGINE (Brussels, Chemistry), Mr. A. VAN DE VORST (Liège, Physics) and Mr. B. RYBAK (Paris, Biophysics and Physiology).

Liège, June and July 2004, J. AGHION