EDITORIAL CONCERNING CHANGE OF CHIEF EDITOR

This month I replace Rod Hunt as he steps down as Chief Editor of the *Annals of Botany* after six years in the post. During this time Rod has overseen significant improvements in the service the Journal provides for its readers and authors. The format has been enlarged and the cover substantially remodelled while quality of printing and the definition and authenticity of colour and monochrome reproduction have been enhanced to meet the highest international standards. Less obvious advances include a simplification of how literature is cited and a steady decrease in the time taken for papers to appear in print. Of particular note has been the increased international profile of the *Annals of Botany* created by the opening of editorial offices in Canada, Australia and, soon, also in Japan. Not surprisingly, these changes are increasing the number, quality and variety of the manuscripts the Journal attracts. It is my intention to work with the Editorial Board to maintain Rod Hunt’s policy of continual improvement while retaining the present high quality of presentation and also the personal approach that has become a hallmark of the *Annals of Botany*’s activities. Thus, members of the Editorial Board will continue to deal directly with authors and referees thereby establishing swift and efficient interactive working relationships. This approach contrasts with the increasingly centralized (and often slower) procedures of many other journals. The future will see the development of invited *Botanical Briefings* as a concise means of bringing readers up-to-date in topical areas of plant science. Occasional longer *Reviews* will also appear from time to time. These *Reviews* can be submitted in the usual way, but some will also be invited. All these articles will, of course, be subject to the usual rigorous peer review procedures. Your reaction to these developments and other aspects of the workings of the Journal are keenly sought together with constructive suggestions for how to meet the future publishing needs of plant scientists.

In association with the change of Chief Editor, the Editorial Office will be moved from its present location at Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, UK to the following new address which should be used for all correspondence with the UK office after 1 September 1996:

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