



*Carlyle Luer, first editor and visionary of Selbyana
and current member of the Selby Gardens Board of Trustees.*

This special 25th anniversary edition of the journal is dedicated to Dr. Luer, whose contributions as both author and editor set the stage for excellence.

A QUARTER CENTURY OF EPIPHYTES

We are pleased to present this special edition of *Selbyana* celebrating 25 years of publication, with the emphasis on epiphytes and their forest canopy habitat. Vol. 21(1,2) contains the fourth installment of the Proceedings of the Second International Forest Canopy Conference, entitled *Forest Canopies 1998: Global Perspectives*. It also contains 12 papers on diverse themes, including a short history of *Selbyana*, a cumulative author index, and a list of the 675 new species and genera described for science in the journal to date. I invite you to review the author index and the listing of diverse and beautiful new taxa published by taxonomists from around the world. I am certain you will agree that *Selbyana* has made a vast and valuable contribution to botanical and ecological science.

After assuming the job as Editor of *Selbyana*, I had an opportunity to peruse the management files and back issues. I was struck, not only by

how many intriguing and useful articles have been published, but also by how relatively few individuals and institutions access this wealth of information through subscriptions. From the start, *Selbyana* has published critical baseline and analytical information of value to researchers in many disciplines as well as to conservationists; but too few people know about it! With that in mind and with a firm commitment from the Selby Gardens administration to continue funding the journal, we began a campaign to introduce *Selbyana* to a wider audience.

This year, we assumed from the printer the management of subscription service and back issue orders, and recently, we undertook a subscription campaign designed to increase the number of subscribers. In a cooperative agreement with the International Canopy Network, we arranged for ICAN members to publish five free pages per year in *Selbyana*. We redesigned

the cover to identify, at a glance, the journal's niche as *the* publication devoted to tropical plants, with emphasis on epiphytes and their forest canopy habitat. Recently, we entered into discussions with the organizers of the Third International Canopy Conference, set for Cairns, Australia, in 2001, to publish the proceedings of that crucial meeting. We recognize the urgent need for publishing results of tropical rain forest research, upon which all conservation efforts ultimately depend.

With the addition of dedicated editorial staff, we endeavor to maintain a regular schedule of two issues per year, one in the spring and one

in the fall, and are looking into ways to increase the indexing of journal articles. With the assistance of the *Selbyana* Editorial Board and of colleagues around the world, we are spreading the word about the value and promise of the journal. *Selbyana* is poised to become *the* source of published material on canopies and their pivotal role in the functioning of forest ecosystems.

We invite your comments and constructive criticism regarding the journal and its content, and, as the journal begins its next 25 years, we welcome your manuscripts.

Bruce K. Holst, Editor