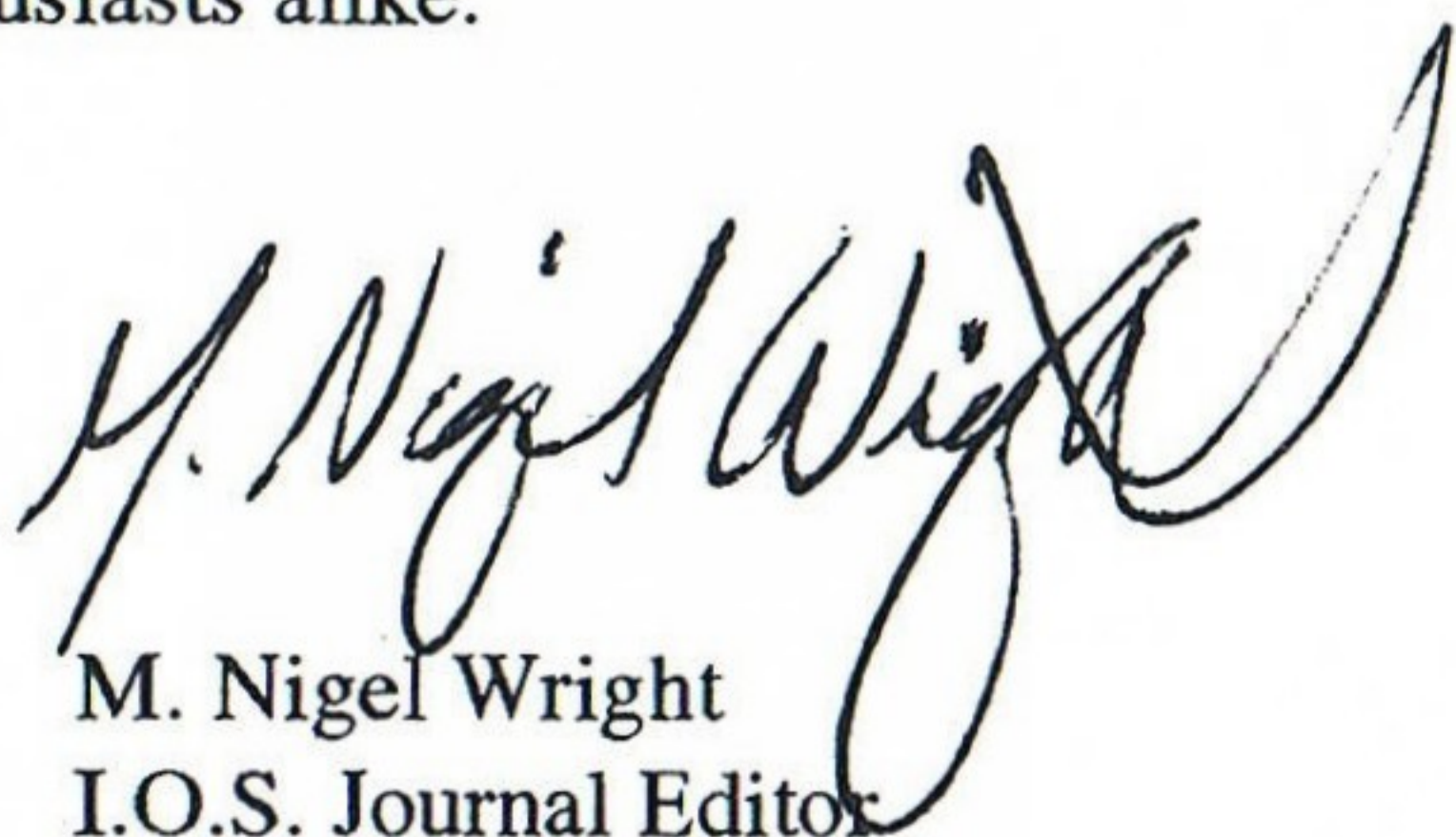

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This year has brought many changes and perhaps a few strange and trying situations such as the record snowfall and record low temperatures that hit the eastern part of North America this past winter. Some of us will wonder how their highly regarded plants (young oak trees of course !) have faired over the winter months. For those in the Northeast of America, we are looking forward to spring with a hunger and thirst that is quite boundless, verging on the violently impatient. For an "International" organization such as the International Oak Society, I don't like to linger on one geographic region to avoid an impression of regionalism, but I wish everyone a joyous spring and relief to the burdens of winter. To those of you in the southern hemisphere, like Mr. Len Stubbs, I hope that your coming winter will be a mild one. My advice for future winter survival is a well-planned trip to a topical island paradise.

Whilst we are on the topic of spring a sense of rejuvenation is instilled and we look forward to the season to come, with the many lessons to be learned from our journeys into the plant kingdom. Certainly, this year holds much promise as the foundations are being set for the First International Oak Society Conference at The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois U.S.A., at this very moment. Just to meet with the people that we have been corresponding with over the last few years would be enough of an event, but the multitude of lectures and activities planned is virtual extravaganza. Much credit and thanks is due to Mr. Guy Sternberg, who has worked hard to arrange this event, along with the kind cooperation of The Morton Arboretum. I hope that all our members will try to make an extra special effort to attend this historic event as we inaugurate the International Oak Society.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, especially those of you who sent oak related articles from your geographic region or specific field of interest, we are always looking for such diverse information to include in our journal publication. Please forgive me if I haven't replied to your kind and enthusiastic letters promptly, but unfortunately, the demand on our time seems to be increasing as our membership grows, therefore, limiting our ability to reply to your letters.

In summary, the future of the I.O.S. is bright as the membership has been increasing rapidly. Such membership growth affords better printing for the Journal as witnessed in this issue. To better serve its members and work to its goals of oak research, I strongly believe that the I.O.S. must now shift its gears from a volunteer commitment to a full-time operation. Hopefully we will be able to address the setup and structure of the society at the upcoming conference, until then we will endeavor to entreat you with tidings of oak enthusiasts alike.


M. Nigel Wright
I.O.S. Journal Editor

