Dear Colleague:

A preliminary survey of a few echinoderm specialists in various parts of the world has shown that there is a definite need for some form of newsletter, issued at least twice a year, which covers the field of systematics, ecology and general biology of echinoderms. The aim of the present newsletter will be to: list names and addresses of specialists in the field, with information on areas of research interest; list recent publications (i.e. those which have appeared since the latest issue of the Echinodermata section of the Zoological Record), and papers in press; give current research notes and items of interest (brief abstracts contributed by individuals); list requests for material, exchanges of material, publications for exchange or sale, etc.

We believe that the newsletter should be helpful in providing an informal means of communication between specialists. Information on current research projects should promote fruitful collaboration and minimize wasteful duplication of effort.

Each newsletter will be prepared by Miss Maureen Downey and myself. The Smithsonian Institution has kindly made its facilities available for production and distribution of the newsletter.

The attached distribution list is by no means complete, and we are sure we have made numerous omissions. Please send us the names and addresses of colleagues who have been omitted accidentally. The attached slip contains a few questions; we would be grateful if you would answer them and return the

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1 This Newsletter is not intended to constitute a formal publication. To avoid possible future complications, the names of new taxa which have not been published elsewhere will not be included.
slip to us at your earliest convenience. The success of this venture will depend on your interest and cooperation. If you have anything to contribute, please send it along.

Yours sincerely,

David L. Pawson

Notes:

Professor Hendrik Engel, upon reaching his 70th birthday, retired from his position as Professor of Zoology and Director of the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam, after a long and distinguished career. He was honored on the 17th of May by Her Majesty Queen Juliana, who created him a Knight of the Order of the "Nederlandse Leeuw." A volume of the journal Beaufortia (Vol. 15) was dedicated to Professor Engel, and his portrait, painted by W.G. Hofker, will be hung in the Zoological Museum.

When distributing reprints of your published papers, remember to send at least one copy to Miss Ailsa Clark, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Rd., London SW 7, England. Miss Clark has the mammoth task of compiling the Echinodermata section of the Zoological Record, and it is a great help if she receives reprints from authors as soon as they are published.

We at the Smithsonian Institution also would appreciate receiving reprints of your papers, for incorporation into the fine echinoderm library which was founded by Mr. Austin H. Clark.
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WEST GERMANY

Dr. A. Panning
Name ________________________________ Address ________________________________


Systematic group of particular interest:

Geographic area of concern:

List recent publications (since 1967) and papers in press:

Briefly describe current projects:

Have you any items you would like to include in the next newsletter:

Any comments or suggestions for future newsletters:

Any names to add to the list? (Please give address):