carefully about the need to retain large cash reserves. I believe that judicious use of accumulated funds to further the Society's objects and principles should be investigated. I urge all members to give direction to future Executive Committees on how these funds should be managed and used as I believe accumulation of money *per se* is not an appropriate activity.

The Society's Executive Committee

On behalf of all Society members, I sincerely thank the following Executive Committee members for their efforts in efficiently managing Society affairs during the last year: Mr George Kerse (Vice President), Dr Anis Rahman (Past President), Dr Maureen O'Callaghan (Editor), Dr Mike Butcher, Dr Richard Hill, Dr Ian Popay, Dr Max Suckling, Mr Roger Welsh and Mr Murray Willocks. In particular, Dr Jerzy Zabkeiwicz (Hon. Secretary) and Dr Ron Prestidge (Hon. Treasurer) have carried heavy workloads with efficiency, providing continued benefit to the Society. The Executive Committee has been an excellent blend of commercial and research interests with very good geographical, science discipline and organisational representation, and has fostered the Society's interests with dedication and skill.

Conclusion

The NZ Plant Protection Society continues to be a vibrant, enthusiastic organisation, in very sound economic condition, and with an excellent membership base. As we look toward the 50th NZ Plant Protection Conference let us remember the ideals of free and comprehensive information exchange, high standards of scientific integrity, and respectful personal interaction that have long been Society traditions. Let us re-affirm these traditions as we look to the future, and the challenges that the new century will bring to plant protection sciences and the plant-based industries of New Zealand.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 1996/97

J.A. ZABKIEWICZ

The 49th annual conference was held in Nelson with 63 papers and 14 poster presentations contributed. The keynote address was by Paul Heywood of Heywood Orchards. There was again an increase in attendance to 149 overall at a very well organised conference and functions.

Our publications continue their sales. "Weeds in Colour" has had a new reprinting of 5000 copies while sales of the "Pesticide Resistance" symposium proceedings continue steadily. The intended productions for the 50th anniversary year should increase the list of titles, so the future is very positive as well.

Membership is static. We still have around 350 on our mailing list, but only 265 of these were fully paid up in the last year. There has been no change in membership fees as the Society account is now healthy due to significant interest and other revenues in the past year. This is very satisfactory as there will be heavy expenditure associated with the 50th anniversary conference celebrations and publications. Additionally, the long-awaited Royal Society affiliation fees are now being imposed and will continue to be an annual charge. However, the Society is also investigating opportunities brought about by the new affiliation process.

The Scholarship account continues to thrive. The target of \$20,000 originally set has been attained and the revised target of \$25,000 will be reached in the 1997 year. The Scholarship itself has been increased in value to \$1,500 annually and a new travel fund to assist students presenting papers at the annual conference has also been introduced.

The committee's efforts have been largely focussed on the 50th conference and its associated commitments. A superb level of sponsorship and list of invited speakers should ensure it is an outstanding event in the 1997 year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to review the changes that have occurred over the last six years during which I have been Secretary. In that period the Society changed its name, its logo and indeed the entire style of its operations. This has been brought about partly by the electronic age and the benefits that develop from having all the Society's activities computerised, and partly from a recognition that in the difficult times we have been experiencing, something more was required if the Society was to survive and prosper. The entire membership, sales and all general actions and correspondence are now in a series of data bases and correspondence files. There have been a series of special symposia and associated publications produced at bi-annual intervals, apart from the special efforts made for the 50th anniversary. The latter is also something to be proud of; not only because the Society has reached such a significant point in its history, but also because there has been a concerted effort to celebrate this milestone. I am proud to have been a part of these achievements during these past six years and I thank the membership and past committee members for their support in the execution of my responsibilities.

NEW ZEALAND PLANT PROTECTION SOCIETY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The recipient of this year's scholarship is Adrian Antonov, of Lincoln University, who is in his first year of a PhD on the subject of "Biological control of *Botrytis cinerea* on grapes using microbial antagonists".