In Cauda Venenum

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T.S. Eliot has written: 'Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood.' Unfortunately, this is not true for scientific matters to be printed in an international journal. To improve understanding is the editor's job.

Until now, I never had any experience in editorial work. Now I can state that it is a labour of love and hate. It has been amazing to see how some authors are able to write without bringing about any editorial problems, and others can make such problems even without writing. There must be in the latter activity a hidden or unconscious message to whom it may concern. So far my hatred. It has been written on one of these pages that intervention in STDP ought to be considered as a creative activity. In my opinion and recent experience there is no such thing as creativity without preceding destruction. Sometimes I had to intervene in the preliminary text in a destructive way; but – believe it or not – the ultimate motive was to be constructive and corrective in a non-emotional sense. To give one example: most speakers at the II Hague Workshop, who are the present authors, will surely miss their persistent numbering of paragraphs and sentences. I have considered that inclination as a fear of losing something, to be protected by endless, somewhat obsessive repetitive counting. I'm sure that the page numbering by the publishers will be a sufficient and satisfactory guarantee that nothing of the author's papers will be lost. It has been said that psychoanalysis is in its essence one way of looking at people and their problems. Probably writing is one way for people to present their problems. As such this editorial review has to be considered. I hope it conceals neither the relief nor the satisfaction of having been able to contribute something to the II Hague Workshop on STDP.