

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS
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Watch this space for
 information regarding
 1979 programme

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

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161 Jasper Road, Bentleigh,
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Journal Liaison Officer (*The Indexer*): Coryl Muntz.

Convener, Panel of Assessors: Coryl Muntz.
(Indexes for assessment to be
directed to the Hon. Secretary.)

What is it that brings people together to form an association of indexers? A philosophy for such an association would include a statement of the belief that the effective organization of knowledge is a necessary element in the advancement of knowledge. This assumes that knowledge is built upon knowledge and that it is necessary to keep track of existing knowledge while pursuing new understanding. Indexing shares with bibliography, cataloguing and classification this job of *keeping track*.

In building a new association there are problems to be overcome. First it is necessary to find those people with an interest in the field and to persuade them to become members of the new body. Second it is necessary to find out what is already being done in this field. In Australia these problems are aggravated by the size of the country and the fact that all kinds of indexing are being carried out in many places, often by people who would not think of themselves as *indexers*.

The Australian Society of Indexers has a plan for 1979 which could go a considerable way to resolving these problems. The Society will conduct a survey of indexes and current indexing in Australia. While this cannot be exhaustive the results will indicate the scope of activity and form contacts with many people in the field. The results of the survey will be presented at the Library Association of Australia Conference in Canberra in August along with papers on current developments and future expectations in indexing techniques.

All members of the Society, whether active in indexing or not, can help the survey by supplying names of people and organizations known to them who are involved in any kind of indexing. Further details of the survey will be circulated soon.

This newsletter is too late to make any Christmas wishes but A Happy New Year for 1979 anyway.

John E. Simkin
Editor

All wheat and no chaff: a report of the
International Conference of the
Society of Indexers.

by Jean Hagger

The first International Conference of the Society of Indexers took place in London at the Digby Stuart College on July 14-16, 1978. There were 106 delegates from the following countries: Australia, Canada, Eire, Fiji, France, Germany (F.R.), Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, Switzerland, Trinidad, United Kingdom, United States. Most of those attending were members of the Society of Indexers, resident in both the United Kingdom and overseas (the Society is an international body). In addition, there were members from the other two affiliated societies, the Australian Society of Indexers and the American Society of Indexers, and from the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada.

The Conference began, appropriately, with a Presidential Reception at which the founder of the Society of Indexers, the 86 year old Norman Knight, was the centre of attention. As noted elsewhere in the *Newsletter*, he has since died; the following paragraph in a letter from the Secretary of the Society of Indexers is a fitting comment on the occasion:

The Matron of Scio House said that he had kept himself alive for his big party; that was the one thing that really mattered to him After that, he was ready for the end and he died a happy man.

As well as having the honour of meeting Norman Knight, delegates were fortunate to be present at the presentation of the Wheatley Medal for Indexing, an award made by the Library Association. The winner of the 1977 medal was T. Rowland Powel, for his *Index to Archaeologia Cambrensis 1901-1960*. As Mr. Powel is now resident in Perth, Western Australia, the medal was received on his behalf by a former colleague and I had the exciting task of bringing the famous medal to Australia and arranging for it to be handed to Mr. Powel by Lennie McCall, the President of the Western Australian Branch of the Library Association of Australia.

The Conference then proceeded with sessions at which papers on a wide variety of topics were presented. Brief summaries of these follow:

Edward de Bono spoke on *Lateral thinking and indexing* and, in the course of a very concentrated exposition of lateral thinking, he made it clear that, in his view, indexing could be regarded as the antithesis of lateral thinking. One of the techniques of problem solving used in lateral thinking is to choose a word at random then apply free thought and association in the hope that these processes will throw some light on the solution of the problem. Dr. de Bono contrasted this with an index entry which directs to a particular piece of information; nothing random about this. None of his books, and there are seventeen of them, has an index!

James Pearson spoke on *Languages of Asia with special reference to the Islamic World*, dealing mainly with the problems of personal names in a number of Asian countries, including uncertainly as to the order of component parts of a name, as in Japanese; complications of diacritical marks, as in Vietnamese; long names with uncertainly as to their split into words, as in Hindu names; lack of family names, as in Burmese; and the dangers in dealing with Islamic names out of their context. All these are of concern to the making of an index and Professor Pearson's advice was to make many references and to include all parts of a name.

Michael Marland, Head of the Woodbury Downs Comprehensive School spoke on *Reading to learn and using the index*. His thesis was that educators are concerned with the reading problems of the very young and retarded readers but ignore the fact that middle level readers do not make proper use of the reading skills they have acquired. Independent and self-paced learning should be encouraged and, in these approaches, proper use of indexes is essential to enable students to review and recall matter the relevance of which becomes apparent as the study proceeds.

William Heckscher, Emeritus Professor of Art History at Utrecht and Duke Universities, and a Foundation Member of the Society of Indexers, spoke on *Unconventional indexes*. He related his views especially to the famous woodcut of Albrecht Durer, *Melencolia I*, about which much has been written in endeavours to explain its many symbolic nuances. Professor Heckscher deplored the modern tendency towards specificity in indexes, saying that an index should present information in its context, in entries that are both indicative and informative.

Archie Turnbull, the Secretary of the Edinburgh University Press, spoke on *The Economics of academic publishing*. This is often spoken of as non-profit publishing but the regrettable necessity of maintaining a cash flow makes it imperative that the material should not be published at a loss. He spoke of ways in which economies could be effected and it came as no surprise to the audience that he considered that the omission, or at least the reduction, of an index was one such economy. Indeed, he regretted that such decisions on the part of publishers could lead to the skills of indexing becoming as rare as those of glass blowing and thatching! He considered that an index had little effect on the saleability of a book, an opinion which was challenged by several members of his audience.

Hans Wellisch spoke on *Multilingual and multiscript indexes*; his title did not prepare one for the delights of his description of indexes in herbals, both manuscript and early printed publications. Features mentioned, and often illustrated with transparencies of pages from the publications, included the use of illustrations to help with the identification of plants named in the index; separate listings of names in a number of languages, notably Greek, French and German in addition to the basic Latin; instructions on how to use the index; and some interesting examples of classified subject arrangements. The great Conrad Gessner provided the first example of a scientific index of a modern type.

Delegates were not allowed to remain passive during the Conference. Discussion followed each of the above papers and one session was devoted to the discussion of various topics which has been suggested by delegates. The following topics were chosen:

- Learning and teaching indexing.
- The business side of indexing.
- Purpose and progress; indexing in a changing technology.
- Indexing societies; the next 21 years.

At the closing session, summaries were read of the discussion at all sessions. I attended the one concerned with the future of the indexing societies. We considered the feasibility of producing an information sheet applicable to the purpose of all the societies, to which application forms appropriate to each one could be added. Inquirers should be directed to their own or to a neighbouring country; however, it was agreed that the availability of work make it advantageous for an indexer to belong to a society other than that of his own country. The emphasis throughout was on ways in which the societies could work together to promote the dissemination of information about indexing. It was suggested that each society could appoint a *development* officer whose duty it would be to keep in touch with other societies and to promote the work of his society in its area. There was general agreement that the international conference had served a very useful purpose in bringing together indexers and indexing societies and there was some discussion about a venue for another similar conference in about four years' time.

The arrangements for the Conference were excellent. Digby Stuart College, with its suitable accomodation and meeting facilities, and especially its beautiful park-like grounds, provided a venue which gave every opportunity for meeting and talking with other delegates. A local bookstore opened a conference bookshop, featuring publications on indexing, including some which were introduced at the Conference, and also providing a good range of publications of general interest. Mary Piggott arranged a most appropriate display of all the indexes which have won the Wheatley Medal. (It was the announcement of this display which featured the words which I have chosen for my title).

All those present responded to the instructions issued at registration: These began with the direction: *Do please wear your badge. Everyone wants to know who you are* and concluded *Encourage communication. Defy anonymity. Wear your name badge. It worked!* The Conference was a very happy and professionally rewarding one and, whilst the wearing of name badges contributed somewhat to its success, most of the credit must go to the indefatigable Secretary of the Society of Indexers, John Ainsworth Gordon. As a Society and as individual indexers, we can only hope for a similarly successful occasion in the not too distant future.

From: THE SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

The NORMAN KNIGHT MEMORIAL FUND

The art (or is it the science?) of indexing books and other publications has made immeasurable progress during the past century. Of all who have contributed to this progress, three personalities stand out as its principal architects. The first of them was Henry B. Wheatley (1838-1917), who founded almost exactly a century ago the short-lived but highly influential Index Society, and whose status as the father of modern indexing is commemorated by the annual award of the Library Association's Wheatley Medal for an index of outstanding quality. The Torch lit was kept burning brightly by Gordon V. Carey (1886-1969), rightly dubbed (by the *Times Literary Supplement*) *The Prince of Indexers*, whose memory is honoured by the Carey Award, presented by the Society of Indexers - on most rare occasions, and most aptly - for outstanding services to indexing.

Last and many would say greatest of these three was G. Norman Knight, first recipient of the Carey Award, founder (in 1957) of the Society of Indexers, *Indexer Extraordinary*, who died recently in his 87th year. Having created a world-wide organisation, with thriving affiliated national societies in the United States and Australia (and now another in Canada) he lived to see his Society celebrate its twenty-first anniversary and, as its President, to welcome in person 150 representatives from all five continents at this year's first international conference of indexers.

Educated at Bradfield College and Balliol, called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, he gave distinguished service as soldier and civil servant, as tutor to an english nobleman and guardian to an Indian prince, as promoter of West Indian interests, as author of books on freemasonry and chess (at which he was still a pretty shrewd opponent in his eighties). From the early 1920s, despite his many activities, he nonetheless found time to index a vast number of books up to the time of his official retirement at 65, after which he devoted himself entirely to indexing and to the work of the Society which was the apple of his eye.

All who knew him as working colleague or as personal friend will doubtless share with his fellow-indexers the desire that Norman Knight, like Wheatley and Carey before him, should be fittingly and lastingly remembered. To this end, the Society of Indexers has opened a *Norman Knight Memorial Fund*; not for the creation of yet another Award, but for the furtherance of some practical aspect of indexing to which our Founder attached special importance.

As well as contributions to the Fund, the Society would welcome reminiscences of Norman Knight from those whose acquaintance with him, at any time, is still fresh in the memory.

Mr. J. Ainsworth Gordon writes:

Dear Mr. Garrow,

Your letter of 21 August concerning the loss of our Founder, Norman Knight, is very much appreciated. I have forwarded copies to our Chairman and the Editor of *The Indexer*.

By this morning's post I received ... (a) letter for you, from one of Norman Knight's nieces. As it was Norman's wish that his friends should make donations, either to the Society of Indexers or to the Royal Masonic Hospital, rather than spend money on flowers, we arranged for just one floral tribute from all three affiliated Societies. The message was worded:

To
G I L F R E D N O R M A N K N I G H T
from THE SOCIETY OF INDEXERS
which he founded
and for 21 years guided and inspired
and from the affiliated
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS
and
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS
which grew from the seeds he sowed
our deepest gratitude
undying respect
and most sincere affection

.....
Very sincerely,

INDEXING AND ABSTRACTING SOCIETY OF CANADA

IASSIST CONFERENCE

The International Association for Social Science Information Systems & Technology will hold its Second International Conference in Ottawa, Canada, from May 7th through May 10th, 1979.

Theme: Data Archiving; models for international co-operation
Location: Skyline Hotel, Ottawa

Persons interested in presenting papers, or otherwise participating in the conference, should take note of the following dates:

1. Statement of intent to submit a paper: October 1, 1978;
2. Abstract of proposed paper: December 1, 1978;
3. Completed paper: March 15, 1979.

These statements should be sent to:

Ms. Sue Gavrel, Co-ordinator,
1979 Programme Committee,
Public Archives Canada,
Archives Branch,
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada K1A 0N3.

For further information, contact:

John de Vries, Publicity Chairman, or Ms. Sue Gavrel, Co-ordinator,
1979 Programme Committee, (as above).
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology,
Carleton University,
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

3RD ANNUAL REPORT, 1977/78

The Society has had a year of planning and development, building on the initiatives of 1976/77.

Membership is as follows:

Members	ACT	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	OVERSEAS	TOTAL
Personal	5	2	4	1	2	45	-	59
Corporate	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Total	7	2	4	1	2	46	-	62
Newsletter subscribers	2	1	3	-	-	3	1	10

Four general meetings have been held during the year. Attendance at these has been disappointing, especially as the Programme Subcommittee (John Simkin, Convener, Ann Beaumont and Jean Golding) has made strenuous efforts to present a balanced and interesting series of meetings. These were:

- March 29 Fran Church and Bridget Everett, proprietors of Ed-Ink, and Bob Schoenfeld, editor of Australian Journal of Chemistry. Indexers: their relationship with authors, publishers and editors. (12 members and 4 guests present).
- May 31 Valerie Godwin, Kathleen Young and Joyce McGrath, members of the staff of the State Library of Victoria. Indexing activities of the State Library of Victoria. (18 members present).
- July 19 Michael Ramsden, Head, Department of Librarianship, R.M.I.T. PRECIS. (12 members present).
- October 18 Jean Hagger, Secretary, AUSSI. The International Conference of the Society of Indexers. (15 members present).

The panel of assessors for the Register of Indexers (Coryl Muntz, Josephine McGovern and Jean Uhl) are still awaiting submissions from members. A statement of the requirements appeared in the September issue of the *Newsletter*.

There have been two issues (the second one a double issue) of the *Newsletter*. The Society is greatly indebted to the Editor, John Simkin, both for his editorial work and also for arranging for the production and distribution by members of his staff.

The following matters have been of continuing interest and concern to the Society during the year under review:

1. Liaison with the Society of Indexers. The important matter of affiliation having been settled during the previous year, the two societies have exchanged information on a number of matters, partly through the medium of their publications. The liaison was enhanced by the attendance of the Secretary at the International Conference of the Society of Indexers where, as a matter of courtesy to our Society, she was asked to chair a session.
2. Publications have been exchanged with the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada.

3. Liaison with other societies. The Society has been in contact with the Society of Editors and the Art Librarians Society of Australia and New Zealand, with a view to the exchange of publications. Notices of meetings are sent to a number of societies likely to be interested in the indexing topics presented.
4. *Australian encyclopaedia*. The Society expressed its concern at the lack of index in this publication but had no response from the publishers.
5. Library Association of Australia Biennial Conference, 1979. The Society has been asked to present a session at the Conference and the Executive Committee has discussed possible topics.
6. Standards. The Society has suggested to the Standards Association of Australia that a standard suitable for Australian conditions should be produced and has offered assistance to do this.
7. The Society has received a number of requests for information, mainly from publishers asking for advice about indexing matters or for information about suitable indexers.

It is with great regret that the deaths of two noted indexers are recorded. Harold Godfrey Green, whose activities in connection with the Society's predecessor, the Society of Indexers in Australia, are well known to members, died on April 23. The obituary which appeared in the September issue of the *Newsletter* records the Society's appreciation of his fine contribution to indexing in Australia. Norman Knight, founder of the Society of Indexers, died in London on August 12. His efforts to promote the importance of indexing, to teach its technique and to secure recognition for indexers have been of benefit to all indexers and the Society will mark its appreciation of his work by contributing to a Memorial Fund to be established by the Society of Indexers.

The Society wishes to express its thanks to CSIRO, the State Library of Victoria and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology for providing venues for its meetings.

Finally, the President would like to warmly acknowledge and thank the Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and members of the Committee for their support and their interest in the affairs of the Society over the past year.

Clyde Garrow
President

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - 1 October 1977 - 30 September 1978

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	\$	<u>INCOME</u>	\$
Petty Cash		Cash in bank 1.10.77	423.06
Hon. Secretary	10.00	Membership subscriptions	510.00
Hon. Treasurer	16.50	Newsletter subscriptions	82.50
Meeting expenses	3.50	<i>The Indexer</i> subscriptions	156.00
Affiliation fee to		Bank interest	9.96
Society of Indexers			
1977	9.64		
1978	20.12		
Subscription refunds	20.00		
<i>The Indexer</i>			
October 1977 issue	139.21		
1978 subscriptions	139.79		
Printing, Stationery	79.00		
Newsletter			
Printing & postage	371.06		
	808.82		
Excess income over			
expenditure	372.70		
	\$1,181.52		\$1,181.52

VICTORIAN NATURALIST SUBJECT INDEX 1884 - 1977

The *Victorian Naturalist* has been one of the major journals for reporting research on Victorian natural history as well as catering for the layman in this subject. The subject index covers Victoria in particular and South Eastern Australia in general. It is virtually the only approach to articles written on the natural history of particular localities.

The subject index is being published with the aid of a grant from the Government of Victoria and will be priced at \$14. (The *Author Index*, published in 1976 went out of print within about 6 months). Photocopies of articles are obtainable from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria through normal Interlibrary Loan channels. The index can be obtained from:

Victorian Naturalist Index Project,
C/- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria,
National Herbarium,
The Domain,
SOUTH YARRA 3141.

THE SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

PUBLICATIONS ON INDEXING

The Society now has available, for purchase by members at favourable prices, a number of publications on indexing.

The following may be obtained (cash with order) from Dorothy Frame, until recently our Vice-Chairman, who has kindly undertaken the task of storage and distribution. Orders, with cheques made out to The Society of Indexers, to:

Mrs D Frame, 26 Draycot Road, Wanstead, London, E11.

(1) A *SELECT READING LIST ON INDEXING*, 1978, ed. Ann Hoffmann, pub. by the Society. 75p, post free. (Available to non-members, £1.00.)

(2) A *PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LAW INDEXING*, 1977, by A R Hewitt and C C Banwell. £1.50, post free.

(3) A *CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY*, 1977, by Magda Whitrow. 75p, post free.

and of particular interest, the last few remaining copies of:

(4) *TRAINING IN INDEXING*, 1969, ed. G Norman Knight (MIT Press). This *Course for the Society of Indexers*, formerly £9.25 but now out of print, was on sale at the International Conference at £8.40. It is now available to members at £7.70, plus £1.00 postage & packaging.

(5) All BRITISH STANDARDS can be supplied to members at discount prices, but it is absolutely essential that all orders be submitted to the Society, and not in any circumstances direct to the British Standards Institution.

Overseas members please note:

Overseas orders paid for at the above prices will be despatched by surface mail. Additional postal charges for despatch by AIR MAIL will increase the cost per copy for each item as follows:

(1) £1.00 (instead of 75p); (2) £1.80; (3) £1.50, (4) On this item, the Air Mail charge alone is over £2.40 for Zone B countries, £2.70 for Europe, and £3.00 for Zone C countries; these amounts must be added to the book's price of £7.70; (5) prices will be given on application.

All overseas orders should please be paid for in sterling.

The above offers also apply to members of the Australian Society of Indexers as an affiliated society.

THE INDEXER - BACK ISSUES

All back issues of *The Indexer* from Vol 1, No 1, March 1958, are available, as well as bound volumes and binders for volumes.

Enquiries: Mrs. Alfreda Wilkinson, Treasurer,
26 Golders Rise, London, NW4 2HR, England.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The Board of Assessors of The Society of Indexers keeps the correspondence course under review, and makes recommendations to the Rapid Results College concerning desirable or necessary additions and amendments. The Board welcomes any comments, even down to the finest points of detail, from those who have completed the course, particularly from those who are now experienced indexers. Comments should be addressed, please, to Annette Surrey in her capacity as Clerk to the Board, c/- Secretary, The Society of Indexers, 28 Johns Avenue, London, NW4 4EN.