

MARCH 1982

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The Australian Society of Indexers Postal address: G.P.O. Box 1251L,
Melbourne, 3001, Vic.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1982

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<u>COMMITTEE:</u>	Clyde Garrow Mary Kennedy John Simkin Vera Wicks	ph: 419.1333 ph: 819.2444 ph: 557.2815 ph: 819.1014

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IN 1982

Tuesday, 16th March; Wednesday, 16th June; Thursday, 16th September;
Tuesday, 16th November.

These will begin at 6.00p.m., preceded by light refreshments at 5.30, at
CSIRO, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

THE MARCH MEETING

The Executive Committee believes that an earlier meeting time may be more attractive to members who may come directly from work; hence 5.30 for 6.00pm. Naturally, with this feature in mind, appropriate nourishments will be available. Perhaps all local members may appreciate this arrangement for the Winter meeting, which will be held on 16th June. If members have a preference, they should let any Committee member know. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the programme offered on 16th March will be of great interest to all. As always, friends and visitors are welcome.

Ian McLaren is well known for his service as a member of the Victorian Parliament, as well as substantial personal contributions to commercial and community affairs, to the organization of technological education and the YMCA. His achievements as a historian (including many publications that are familiar to members) have been recognized by a Fellowship of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Bibliophilic enthusiasm resulted in a large and most significant collection of Australianae, now located at the Baillieu Library. He has been appointed Honorary Bibliographer of the University of Melbourne.

From just one facet of these interests, Ian McLaren will speak about some aspects of his monumental work on the bibliography of C.J. Dennis. Four bibliographies have already been published; he is working on the fifth. An extract from a review by D.H. Borchardt in *Australian Academic and Research Libraries* (vol.12 no.3, September 1981, pp.204-6) will give some indication of the value of this work to the Society's interests and objectives.

"The latest, but we hope not the last, bibliographic contribution by Ian McLaren is a detailed listing of the journalistic work of Dennis, entitled *C.J. Dennis in The Herald and Weekly Times*. McLaren has cited, again in chronological order, 3180 contributions by Dennis to the eight magazines and newspapers published by *The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd* of Melbourne. In his brief introduction he points out the difficulties associated with tracing and identifying Dennis's work. There is a list of work reprinted as separates and an index to illustrations, photographs and references to Dennis in these newspapers and magazines. This listing of the work of Dennis the journalist looks simple enough; only those who have tried to index newspapers and popular magazines will appreciate the patience and care that has gone into the publication of this important aid to an understanding of Dennis."

Members whose interests are related to this diverse span of indexing should need no further incentive to be present.

ROYAL RECOGNITION OF SERVICES

The Society congratulates Dietrich Borchardt upon the award of Membership of the Order of Australia, for services to librarianship and bibliography.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

January - December 1981

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	\$	<u>INCOME</u>	\$
Affiliation Fee to "The Society of Indexers"	25.72	Membership Subscriptions	845.00
"The Indexer"		Newsletter subscriptions	87.50
1981 subscriptions	386.46	"The Indexer"	
Newsletters (4 issues)		1981 subscriptions	455.00
Printing 358.50		Bank Interest	13.49
Postage 110.68		RESI Interest	
Stationery 48.08	517.26	June 1981 23.77	
G.P.O. Box Fee and Rental	59.25	Dec. 1981 26.88	50.65
Letterhead printing	70.50		
Publication purchase	9.80		
Cheque Book	6.00		
Meeting Expenses	20.00		
Hon. Secretary - expenses			
Stationery 42.74			
Photocopies 19.80			
Phone 23.54			
Postage 35.26	121.34		
Hon. Treasurer - expenses			
Postage	30.00		
	1,246.33		
Income for year	205.31		
	\$ 1,451.64		\$ 1,451.64

BALANCE SHEET

	\$
Cash in Bank at 1 January 1981	180.09
On Call with RESI at 1 Jan. 1981	513.85
Plus Income	1,451.64
	2,145.58
Less Expenditure	1,246.33
Balance at 31 December 1981	\$ 899.25

ASSETS POSITION

Cash in Bank at 31 December 1981	334.75
On Call with RESI at 31 Dec. 1981	564.50
	\$ 899.25

AusSI/RMIT INDEXING COURSE

Following the announcement in the *Newsletter* of September 1981 (p.19) about the Society's proposal to conduct a practical course on indexing in conjunction with the RMIT Department of Librarianship, further details have been sent to those members who replied to the questionnaire.

Those who have joined the Society recently, and any one whose plans for this year are now more definite may obtain further information about this unusual opportunity from

THE INDEXING COURSE REGISTRAR

Australian Society of Indexers,
G.P.O. Box 1251L,
Melbourne, 3001, Victoria

PATENT OFFICE SLIPS OUT OF ORDER OVER INDEXING

The British Patent Office has made an important blunder that can only turn more inventors away from British patents and make the European scheme centred in Munich even more attractive. Worse still, the Patent Office has brazenly tried to lay the blame for its mistake on the British Library, which is responsible for the Science Reference Library in the Patent Office building in London.

Published patents are indexed alphabetically in bound volumes. These are vital to inventors and industry, who must know what prior patents they may be infringing.

Because each volume contains approximately 25 000 patents, a new volume appears only every six months. To bridge the gap, the Patent Office has in the past provided an alphabetical card index that is kept in the British Library. This service has now suddenly been withdrawn and replaced by a computer list which is absurdly inaccurate. Some Marconi patents, for instance, are filed under M (Marconi The Company) and others under T (which stands, initially, for The Marconi Company - and arguably for most other firms that have given their names to British Patents in the past).

The new computer list does not identify the patents by title, as the old card index used to do. This has driven searchers to distraction in their efforts to avoid patent infringement.

When quizzed, the Patent Office at first said it was all the fault of the British Library, which hadn't yet worked out a system for programming the computer. But the British Library said that this is nonsense. The error-ridden computer list comes from the Patent Office and the British Library provides only shelf space for the original documents in bound form.

A spokesman for the Patent Office has now reluctantly admitted that his organization is responsible. The computer listing was given a dummy run and found to be faulty before the card index was stopped. But the index was still withdrawn by the Patent Office and the computer index was brought into service.

The spokesman admitted that, although he is in charge of Patent Office planning, he has never actually tried the search system out for himself. Asked about efforts to disentangle the problem at the Patent Office, he could promise only vaguely that the office is "taking steps" to improve the system some time in 1982.

(Quoted from the *New Scientist*, 24/31 December, 1981)

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Local kindred societies have been unusually quiescent during the past quarter; but the Bulletin of the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada (IASC/SCAD) vol. 4 no. 2 gives news of the 1981 Annual Meeting, held in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Library Science on 9th June. The theme was freelance indexing.

Robert Pollock, business consultant with the Advisory Services of the Ontario Ministry of Industry and Tourism's Small Business Development Branch dealt with the organization, administration and financial skills needed in establishing an information or indexing agency as a home business. Susan Klement, President of Information Resources and a well known authority on the subject of freelance work as an alternative to the traditional librarian's role spoke on the steps involved in the operation of freelance practice; including development of professional relations and versatility of approach, disciplinary requirements. During the afternoon a panel, chaired by Susan Klement, discussed "Surviving as a Freelancer". Personal experiences illustrated a variety of aspects, from pitfalls to the particular rewards.

The Bulletin also draws attention to a host of bibliographic, art, legal and newspaper indexing publications, and includes a directory of members.

WORKS FOR THE REFERENCE SHELF

LOCAL STUDIES COLLECTIONS: *Guidelines and subject headings for organizing and indexing resources*; compiled by John Flint and Anne Franklin. Library Association of Australia, N.S.W. Branch, Occasional Paper no.5 (1981)

This manual is based on procedures used in the Sydney municipal libraries at Stanton and Willoughby; the approach is descriptive and aims to assist the ordering of materials in a simple, practical manner.

Contents include indexing, retrieval, housing and arrangement of materials; a list of subject headings and a list of vertical file headings. Copies may be obtained from the L.A.A., 473 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills, 2010, N.S.W.: price \$10, including postage.

GENEALOGICAL COMPUTER INDEX; Douglas Sutherland-Bruce, Montrose Genealogical Services, P.O. Box 284, Tuart Hill, 6060, W.Aust.

The service provides an expanding index to genealogical sources within Australia and overseas; a list of world-wide subscribers interests.

PERFORMING ARTS YEARBOOK OF AUSTRALIA, volume 5 (Showcast Publications P/L, P.O. Box 41, Spit Junction, 2088, N.S.W.)

Supported by a variety of philanthropic bodies from the Australia Council to Shell Australia, this 500 page work is profusely illustrated and includes self-contained sections on productions during 1980 in film, television, theatre, music, variety, radio, folkloric and the Aboriginal arts. *Computerized indexing ensures easy reference.*

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, 1982

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

- Australian Dictionary of Biography; Research School of Social Sciences,
Australian National University, P.O. Box 4, Canberra, 2600
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