

## Citation for Edyth Binkowski for Nomination as an Honorary Life Member

### Professional career

Edyth Binkowski commenced her professional life as a secondary school teacher in Western Australia but quickly relocated to the Education Department Library. This prompted her to move to the National Library of Australia in Canberra and undertake the registration course in order to become a librarian. She specialised in cataloguing both at the National Library of Australia and later at the State Library of New South Wales.

It was at the State Library of New South Wales that Edyth first became interested in indexing and completed a correspondence course in indexing through a college in London. Later she took up a part-time position as a research assistant to Beryl Rawson, a lecturer and later professor in the Classics Department at the Australian National University. She worked for Beryl Rawson for 24 years and in this time indexed and prepared bibliographies for books she published.

In *The Family in Ancient Rome; New Perspectives* edited by Beryl Rawson (Cornell University Press 1987), Edyth is listed as a contributor, and is named as the first joint author of the bibliography: Bibliography, (I) Sources for the study of the Roman Family, by Edyth Binkowski and Beryl Rawson.

Rawson acknowledges Edyth in the Preface and Acknowledgements section of *The Roman Family in Italy: Status, Sentiment, Space*, 1999 edited by Beryl Rawson and PRC Weaver (p. v): 'Edyth Binkowski has continued to provide much-valued research assistance to Beryl Rawson'. Edyth indexed this book.

Beryl Rawson says in the preface to her book *Children and childhood in Roman Italy* 2003 that 'The Australian Research Council has provided a series of research grants, which enabled me to benefit greatly from the assistance and friendship of Edyth Binkowski' (Acknowledgements page p. vi). Edyth indexed this book .

In 2011, Prof Rawson thanked Edyth for taking on the indexing of *A companion to families in the Greek and Roman worlds* (Blackwell Publishing 2011), page xviii.

Edyth edited and proof-read for her husband Geoff, who wrote a number of books on business matters. Edyth is named as joint author with Geoff of *The A-Z of government assistance : what is in it for me? : a guide to Australian government programs*, August 1998 edition (Canberra : Export & Commercial Research Services, 1998). The catalogue records of some of Geoff's other books indicate that an index is present, presumably prepared by Edyth.

Edyth also indexed books for publishers such as CroomHelm, Oxford University Press, Hale & Iremonger, the Australian Government Publishing Service, Allen & Unwin, as well as indexing government reports.

The National Library of Australia catalogue lists Edyth as the interviewer for two oral histories, and former colleagues at the National Library recall that she was a 'devoted and careful worker as a cataloguer'.

## **Membership of AusSI and ANZSI**

Edyth joined the Australian Society of Indexers in 1976 and has been a member of AusSI and later ANZSI continuously since then.

She has been a Registered/Accredited Indexer since 1985. Only nine indexers precede her on the Register – three in 1983 or 1984, and six undated that are likely to be earlier than 1983, judging by their names.

## **Contribution to the Society**

Edyth has been an ACT Branch committee member from 23 March 1999, that is continuously from 1999 to date. She was Branch Secretary 2002 to 2005, inclusive, and has been Minute Secretary since November 2011. Edyth currently looks after the Branch archive and small library collection. Her hospitality in offering her home for meetings of the committee is much appreciated.

She was a member of the National Committee (later named Council) from February 2002 to March 2004.

Edyth has written many news items about Branch activities for the Newsletter as well as some longer articles, plus an article for *The Indexer*: 'Nulli Secundus: a volunteer effort', vol 25, no 2, October 2006, pages 125-127, an account of the volunteer project to index *Nulli Secundus*, the newsletter of the Friends of the Second Infantry Battalion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF (Second Australian Imperial Force), published between 1950 and 2001.

Edyth has been a regular participant in Branch workshops and seminars and she regularly attended ANZSI conferences.

## **Conclusion**

Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to members in recognition of outstanding service to indexing and/or to the Society.

Edyth Binkowski is a true 'quiet achiever', the type of member essential to the success of ANZSI Branch activities and to which volunteer-based ANZSI owes a great deal. Quietly, without fuss or any thought of reward or glory, Edyth has made a sustained contribution to society activities and affairs.

The ACT Region Branch Committee nominates Edyth Binkowski for outstanding service to the Society.

Shirley Campbell, President  
Sherrey Quinn, Treasurer

5 May 2013

Life Membership of ANZSI was conferred on Edyth Binkowski at the ANZSI ACT Region Branch Annual General Meeting on 22 October 2013, and was reported in the ANZSI Newsletter vol 9, no 10, November 2013, p. 9