THE WHEATLEY MEDAL

A NEW AWARD FOR AN OUTSTANDING INDEX OF THE YEAR

The Library Association has, through the award of the Carnegie and, latterly, the Kate Greenaway Medals, shown interest in raising the standards of publishing for children.

Now, by the institution of the Wheatley Medal, the Association will extend its activities to a field which concerns librarians closely but which is often neglected by British publishers—that of the book index. It is hoped that by the provision by the Library Association of an annual award for the book which sets an outstandingly high standard in the quality of its index, publishers will tend to become increasingly aware of the importance of this essential part of a subject book.

It was thought appropriate that the name of the medal should pay tribute to Henry B. Wheatley, author of several works on indexing, and sometimes referred to as “the father of British indexing”.

In drawing up the following conditions and criteria for the award, the Association has received the valuable assistance of the Society of Indexers and is most grateful to the Council of that body for its co-operation.

CONDITIONS

(a) The award to be called the Wheatley Medal and to take the form of a gold-plated medal with suitable inscription.
(b) Book indexes published during the preceding year to be eligible; these to exclude technical books (other than non-specialist or popular ones), year books, serial publications, periodicals and encyclopedic works.
(c) Recommendations for indexes to be entered for the award will be invited from members of the Library Association and of the Society of Indexers.
(d) The final selection and award to be made by a committee consisting of two representatives of the Library Association and four representatives of the Society of Indexers.
(e) The award to be made to the compiler of the winning index who must be British and the book must have been published in the United Kingdom in the preceding year.

CRITERIA

General Criteria:

(a) Inclusion of all headings that common sense would expect, and scholarship need, to find in an index.
(b) The index should be the best possible for the work of which it forms part, and attention should be paid to features novel to standard indexing which serve a useful purpose.
(c) Typography, lay-out and punctuation.

Particular Criteria:

(d) Key words. Are they well chosen and used consistently?
(e) Are the necessary cross-references included?
(f) Absence of superfluous entries.
(g) Sub-headings. Are they sufficient and suitably grouped in an easily comprehensible arrangement?
(h) Alphabetical arrangement to be in accordance with B.S. 1749: 1951.

The award will be given first for an index published in 1961 and members of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers are invited to send their recommendations to the Secretary, The Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, not later than 1st May, 1962.

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