desired that members of the Society (who with members of the Library Association are jointly eligible to make recommendations) should each notify his or her choice to Mr. F. J. Cornell, F.L.A., of the Library Association. It would be a thousand pities if this award—a highly valued gesture on the part of the Library Association—were suffered to lapse for want of support.

This year for the first time H.M. Stationery Office asked for the Society's assistance in obtaining an indexer for The London Gazette—a full-time job for any one person. It was required that candidates should be accessible to London as it was necessary for them to inspect past indexes at the Stationery Office. Mrs. Grace Holmes of Reading was successful in obtaining the contract.

During the year ended 30th June, 1962, no fewer than 44 requests were received from authors and publishing houses and other bodies for the names of members qualified to undertake the compilation of particular indexes. Short lists were accordingly supplied and it is believed in each case met with the satisfaction of the inquirer. In this connexion the Council have now decided to prepare a circular letter calling the attention of the more prominent publishing firms to these services and also inviting them to apply for membership of the society.

Encouraged by the success of their second Course of Training in Indexing last year, the Society have made arrangements with the North Western Polytechnic for a similar course to be held there weekly from Friday, 28th September, to Friday, 7th December. On this occasion there will be an additional lecture on the subject of Documentary Indexing, to be given by Alderman L. C. Johnson, who was the first Archivist of the British Transport Commission. For any member who has had but little experience of indexing, the course is recommended as a means of becoming proficient in the art. A syllabus may be obtained on application to Mr. Norman Knight, 3 Western Mansions, Barnet, Herts. (Tel. BAR 4231).

Last season's monthly Discussion Meetings proved without exception interesting and informative and were well attended. It is hoped to produce an equally successful series during the forthcoming season.

The Indexer continues to receive high praise both for the quality of its contents and its production. It is gratifying to note that its circulation to outside subscribers—on both sides of the Iron Curtain—already exceeds the membership of the Society.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1961-62

DEATH OF DR. HUGHES:

It is fitting at the outset to refer with very real regret to the great loss which the Society has sustained through the death of Dr. Leslie E. C. Hughes, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.I.E.E., on the 9th June, 1961.

A Founder Member of the Society, Dr. Hughes was at the time of his death serving as Hon. Assistant Gen. Secretary, but for the year 1959/60 had been the
Society's General Secretary. A scientist of some distinction, he was always assiduous in the interest of the Society and constant in his attendance at its meetings. An appreciation was published in the Spring *Indexer*.

**THE PRESIDENCY:**

At the end of the fifth successful year of the Society's existence the Council have decided that the time has come to elect a President, as provided for in Clause 6 of the Constitution and Rules. They have pleasure in nominating as the first occupant of this office Mr. Gordon V. Carey, M.A., who from the Society's inception until last year was an elected member of the Council, to whom his wide experience and wise counsel were invaluable. Last year he was elected a Vice-President.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

For the first time the membership has reached the two hundred mark, as compared with 175 at the end of the financial year 1960-61. The number of Institutional Members is 27 and there are 174 Individual Members. 42 Members reside overseas.

New members elected during the year numbered 41, including two who rejoined, and there were 16 resignations and 3 deaths—Mr. W. J. Bishop, Dr. L. E. C. Hughes and Mr. A. P. Perrin.

**DISCUSSION MEETINGS:**

During the autumn, winter and spring a highly successful series of monthly meetings was held at Chaucer House, Malet Place. The speakers, all of them specialists in their respective fields, comprised: Mr. J. W. G. Bruce on “Microfilming of Indexes”; Mr. R. P. Dick on the “Compilation of Telephone Directories with Special reference to their Alphabetical Arrangement”; Mr. Christopher Kent, B.A., on “The Encyclopaedia Britannica Index”; Mr. F. H. C. Tatham, B.A., on “The Index of Whitaker’s Almanack”; Mr. Richard Bancroft, M.A., on “The British Museum Subject Index”; Professor William Heckscher, on the “Index of Christian Art”; and Mr. Stanley Wigmore, on “Documentary Indexing in Government Central Registries”.

All the meetings were well attended, and it is a pleasant duty to record the Society's gratitude to the speakers for the trouble they took in the preparation of their papers and their willingness to speak; the interest they aroused was evident from the discussions which followed at each meeting and which have become a regular stimulating and idiosyncratic part of the Society's meetings. The record attendance of over seventy was for Professor Heckscher's talk on “The Index of Christian Art”. The Society was fortunate in having him over here on a special visit from the University of Utrecht. (A distinguished Canadian scholar of German birth, he is incidentally the Society’s Correspondent in the Netherlands.) The talk was not only enjoyable in itself; it was important for the information it gave and for the choice of slides which accompanied it. In drawing attention to a successful and distinguished session the Council wishes at the same time to place on record its warm thanks to the Library Association for so generously extending the use of its rooms for the Society’s meetings. The talks that were given have nearly all been or will be reproduced in *The Indexer*.  

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THE LIBRARY:

During the year the Society's Hon. Librarian, Mr. Robert Collison, has been busily occupied in building up the Library of works on indexing or related subjects. He has already collected some 50 titles, over 30 of which are held in duplicate. This is to enable one copy of each to be borrowed by members, who only have to write to him at 39 Rudall Crescent, London, N.W.3, to be sent the desired volume by return, post free. It is hoped to have available for members at the Annual General Meeting a list of the books now in stock and to circulate it to all members with the Minutes of that meeting. [See pp. 77-80.]

TRAINING COURSES:

The Society's second Course, held at the North Western Polytechnic weekly on Fridays from 8th October to 8th December, ran most successfully; the agreed maximum to be admitted was thirty and this number of students (of whom 21 applied for the complete course) enrolled for each of the ten lectures. It must be admitted, however, that attendances inclined to fall away towards the end of the course.

Arrangements have been made to hold a further Course of training in Indexing at the North Western Polytechnic during the coming autumn starting on Friday, 28th September. It is expected on this occasion to add either one or two lectures to embrace the important subject of Documentary Indexing. It is hoped to counteract the tailing-off tendency by insisting on all fees being paid at the time of enrolment.

The Council is especially grateful to their Vice-President, Mr. A. R. Hewitt, for making all the arrangements for the Course last year and to all the lecturers for devoting their time and experience to bringing the Course to its high standard.

BRITISH STANDARD:

The long series of discussions at the British Standards Institution, at which the Society have been represented throughout by the Chairman and latterly also by Mr. Collison, is now drawing to an end and it is hoped that a draft of a British Standard of Indexing will shortly be ready for the Council's approval.

THE WHEATLEY AWARD:

It was disappointing that no award for an outstanding index published during 1960 could be made by the Library Association last year. This was because only two recommendations were received. It was a further source of disappointment that both these recommendations came from members of the Library Association and none at all from members of the other nominating body, the Society of Indexers.

Two letters appeared in the February number of the Library Association Record criticizing some of the conditions and criteria attached to the award. (These conditions are set out in the Spring Indexer, 1962.) A reply from the Society's Chairman was published in the April Record.

THE PANEL OF INDEXERS:

The service which the Society offers in supplying to authors and publishers the names of suitable indexers for specialized works seems to be becoming better known. At any rate, 42 such applications were dealt with in the course of the
financial year, as compared with 26 in the preceding year. During the five years of the Society's existence some 130 applications have been received in all. It is the practice in each case to give the names and addresses and telephone numbers of three or four members with experience or knowledge of the topic concerned. There has been only one complaint and that in the early days of the Society concerned a Member (who has since resigned) with a mass of indexing for important publishers to her credit.

All members are particularly requested to keep the General Secretary informed of any fresh indexes they may have been called upon to compile.

**THE LONDON GAZETTE:**

This year for the first time the Society was requested by H.M. Stationery Office to supply the names of members living in or within easy reach of London who might be interested in tendering for the compilation of the index to *The London Gazette*. Over 80 names and addresses were accordingly supplied. H.M.S.O. has promised further similar opportunities in the future.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:**

The Council have appointed two additional Hon. Correspondents during the year: Mr. Oladipo O. Ogundipe, A.L.A., for Nigeria; and Mr. H. D. Talbot, B.Sc., for the Far East. The Society is now represented in the following territories: Australia; Canada; Central and South Africa; the Far East; France; India; Israel; Netherlands; New Zealand; United States (Northern and Southern). To all their representatives overseas the Council are greatly indebted for their valued services.

"THE INDEXER":

The Society's journal continues to go from strength to strength, and the Council wish to congratulate Mr. J. L. Thornton, A.L.A., on his able and successful editorship, and to thank the many members whose interesting contributions have made its columns so well worth while.

**FINANCE:**

The Council feel they must not close their report for the year without a word of cordial thanks to their Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Robert Collison, for his assiduous attention to the Society's finances and for keeping the Society not merely solvent but in a healthy financial condition. They are also indebted to Mr. R. Dickinson, B.Sc., Ph.D., and Mr. W. Davies, A.A.I.A., for kindly undertaking to audit the Accounts.

**HON. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

Finally, the Council wish to record their appreciation of the able and conscientious manner in which Mr. Terence A. Miller has carried out his duties.

(signed)

James C. Thornton, Chairman.
G. Norman Knight, Hon. General Secretary.

“Index making is one of the great modern arts.”

B.B.C. interviewer on July 7, 1962, in the course of a radio interview with Robert A. Dutch, editor of the new edition of *Roget's Thesaurus of English words and phrases*, for which he had compiled the index on a novel plan.