Round about Piccadilly and Pall Mall; or a ramble from the Haymarket to Hyde Park, consisting of a retrospect of the various changes that have occurred in the Court End of London, etc. Smith, Elder, 1870.


Samuel Pepys, citizen and clothworker. 61 pp. [n.p.] 1897. Syllabus of a lecture, with an account of the unveiling of the Pepys Memorial in St. Olave's Church.

A Short history of Bond Street Old and New from the reign of King James II to the coronation of King George V. . . . Also lists of the inhabitants in 1811, 1840 and 1911, and account of the coronation decorations, 1911. 35 pp. Fine Art Society. [1911.]

The Story of London. Dent, 1904. (Mediaeval Towns Series.)

What is an index? A few notes on indexes and indexers. Sotheran, 1878. [2nd ed. Published for the Index Society by Longmans, Green, 1879. (Index Society Publications, No. 1.)]

Art work in gold and silver. Medieval. Sampson Low, 1882. (Handbooks of Practical Art.)

Art work in gold and silver. Modern. Sampson Low, 1882. (Handbooks of Practical Art.)

Art work in earthenware. Sampson Low, 1882. (Handbooks of Practical Art.)

Art work in porcelain. Sampson Low, 1883. (Handbooks of Practical Art.)

(To be continued.)

THE WHEATLEY MEDAL 1964

The Wheatley Medal offered by the Library Association is awarded annually on the recommendation of a joint committee of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers for an outstanding index published in the preceding year.

This year the medal was awarded to Mr. Guy Parsloe for his index to his own work, Wardens' accounts of the Worshipful Company of the Founders of the City of London 1497-1681. Transcribed, calendared and edited by Guy Parsloe, University of London, Athlone Press (£5 5s.)

It was presented to Mr. Parsloe at the Annual Conference of the Library Association held at Harrogate in May, 1965.

These accounts are the earliest surviving records of the Company and some of the earliest accounts in existence of any City Company. No other Company has yet published a continuous series of Wardens’ accounts extending over nearly two centuries. Such an important historical document deserved the meticulous attention which its editor has given it and its riches are made accessible by a series of very full indexes.

The three indexes, which are preceded by a clear full explanatory note, consist of: (1) a general subject index; (2) a subject index to the Founders’ Company; and

MR. GUY PARSLOE
(3) an index of persons and places. A consideration of the material indexed and the types of use to which it is likely to be put will show the need for so many indexes. As the editor writes, 'The General Subject Index should be consulted first unless the subject under study is some aspect of the history of the Founders' Company itself or, of course, a person or place'. The general subject index contains entries such as Coals, Conduct money, Counsel learned in the law, Cream of Almonds, while the Founders' Company subject index has entries such as Defence and regulation of craft, Feasts (with a number of sub-headings and sub-sub-headings), Finances, Fines (penalties).

Entries, e.g., Barrels, Mazers, Trivets, under the heading goods and furnishings (belonging to the Founders' Company . . . . ) in the Founders' Company Subject Index, appear under their own name in the general subject index. Their page references in the general subject index are usually to pages of the Founders' Company Subject Index so that the subject index is mainly an index to an index.

The name index is clearly set out with surnames in capitals and cross references from variant forms. Entries for individuals are differentiated in ten ways, e.g., by ' S ' with date, for election to office of Steward. Even so, there is often a series of entries with nothing to distinguish one from the other. However, the differentiation achieved is adequate for the type of material (published records, a primary source) and indeed a greater degree of differentiation could be achieved only by a disproportionate increase in the size of the index. (However, this should not be taken as meaning that with other types of material the present standard of differentiation would be adequate.)

With these indexes, not only those interested in the history of the Company but also social, economic and art historians and genealogists and onomastic scholars have the key to a rich source.

The indexes of two other books were singled out for special mention: P. M. Williams, Crisis and compromise: politics in the Fourth Republic (Third edition), Longmans, 55s., and the index by G. Norman Knight to Recommendations for the preparation of indexes for books, periodicals and other publications. British Standards Institution, 10s.

The first is well sub-divided, and by means of a well thought-out system of abbreviations conveys a great deal of useful biographical information in a short space, so that usually one can go at once to the page on which the material needed will be found. As a further aid, the main references are distinguished by heavy type.

The index to the British Standard is a model of clear layout: an indented column, with a new line for each sub-heading. Main headings start with a capital letter and sub-headings with a lower case one. Again important references are distinguished by heavy type and again there is an explanatory note.

Each of these indexes appeared to have the references it should, but of course the examination that members of the committee gave both before and during the meeting could not be as long as that of a regular user, and the full extent of the virtues (and vices) of indexes, like those of wives and husbands, are usually revealed only by a constant association and not by quick inspection, however experienced.

Richard Bancroft.

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