Obviously, in a catalogue, all one person’s works must go together, but her style in each work can be indicated (by initials where possible) after the title, e.g. by ‘E. Sellers’, or ‘E. Strong’, or ‘Mrs. A. Strong’.

In indexing, the same principles apply: all forms should be given in the main heading; if the married surname is chosen, there should be a reference from the unmarried one, or conversely; and even if the book does not refer to her life both before and after marriage, it may be better, for thoroughness of information, to include both.

This, incidentally, raises a still wider question: indexing would probably improve if all indexers were familiar with cataloguing rules; although nearly half the officers and council of our Society, and probably a higher proportion of members, are librarians, the others would perhaps be well advised to have the code handy as a guide.

Finally: married women are difficult to deal with—one writes, of course, only ‘indexically’!—and one may be tempted to wish authors would not marry! (The writer is, of course, a—reluctant—bachelor.)

Yours sincerely,

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Wallington, Surrey.

HOW NOT TO INDEX HYMNS

‘O Lord, what boots’ is quoted by Mr. F. N. Scaife in the Sunday Times, March 15, 1964, as a somewhat astonishing entry in the index to an old hymn book. The actual first lines of the hymn referred to are:

O Lord, what boots it to recall
The hours of anguish spent.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. J. Edwin Holmstrom, M.I.C.E., F.I.I., F.I.Inf.S., has had a varied career first as a civil engineer, then on development work in industry, and finally in the Natural Sciences department of Unesco in Paris. He is now a freelance translator, writer, editor and indexer of technical texts. He is the author of How to take, keep and use notes, Facts, files, and action in business and public affairs, etc.

Mr. L. C. Johnson was Archivist to the British Transport Commission from 1951 to 1961, and was previously Registrar of the L.M.S.R. Capital Register. He is Chairman of the Herts. C.C. Record Committee, a member of the Council of the British Records Association, and Vice-President of the Society of Archivists.

Mr. James C. Thornton, M.A., is Secretary of the U.K. and Commonwealth Branch of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Was previously Deputy Secretary of the B.B.C. He has been intimately concerned with publishing, and has indexed the centenary edition of Hazlitt’s works inter alia. A Vice-President of the Society of Indexers.

Mr. John L. Thornton, F.L.A., is librarian of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical College Library and the author of a number of books on librarianship which will be well known to many of our members. He has also written a biography—John Abernethy.

‘A fascinating book; but it should have had an index’—Maurice Burton, reviewing Ibamba (a book about lions and other wild animals) by Wynant Davis Hubbard (Victor Gollancz Ltd.) in the Daily Telegraph, January 24, 1964.