Acknowledgments and thanks are offered to all those who took part in this survey by answering the questionnaire, thus enabling the Hon. Secretary to prepare such a fruitful analysis of the views of members of the Society. These results demonstrate the usefulness of such surveys, and it is hoped that on a future occasion the response will be as good as, if not better than, on this.

C.R.R.

THE WHEATLEY MEDAL

1965*

Mrs. Alison Quinn

The Wheatley Medal, which 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, was awarded for 1965 to Mrs. Alison Quinn for her index to The principall navigations, voyages and discoveries of the English nation by Richard Hakluyt.

This edition is a photo-lithographic facsimile published for the Hakluyt Society and the Peabody Museum of Salem at the University Press, Cambridge (10 gns.). The original was published in 1589 and has never been reprinted, and might well have remained available only to scholars but for the development of modern methods of photographic reproduction. This edition, in two volumes (including the index), in addition to the facsimile reproduction of the original text in the black-letter type, has an introduction, in modern type, by Professor Quinn and Mr. R. A. Skelton, and a remarkable index, also in modern type, by Mrs. Alison Quinn. It is wholly appropriate that the indexer’s name appears on the title-page and that her work is acknowledged in the Preface.

The index covers all the material in the Elizabethan text (835 pages) and in the Introduction (52 pages) and itself occupies 140 pages. It appears, at first sight, to be a single index arranged in the usual alphabetical order. But closer inspection reveals that it is constructed on a most ingenious plan, reminiscent of the well-known Chinese box. Normally, by its very nature, an index is a work of analysis, listing separately each item (and scrutinizing also the main ideas) assembled in the text. Mrs. Quinn’s index is indeed an analysis but it combines with the analytic framework a large number of subsidiary indexes, each one of which constitutes a review of all the material in the text dealing with its special subject. The normal practice in indexing is to cross-refer from the general to the particular, e.g., from clothing to cloak. Mrs. Quinn reverses this practice cross-referring from cloak to clothing, and she sometimes takes it still further as when, for instance, she cross-refers from cloth to commodities. The entry under commodities occupies more than 17 columns (nearly six pages in the index) and constitutes a complete survey, in alphabetical order, of all the com-

* Adapted from a report by Miss R. D. Coole which appeared in the Library Association Record, June, 1966.
modities mentioned by Hakluyt and thus of virtually all the commodities known to the Elizabethans.

Such an arrangement, combining synthesis within analysis, would not serve for a normal index since it would take too much time and would swell the resulting index to unmanageable size. But it is perfect for this special text which is 'one of the more famous works of Elizabethan history and literature' and, as such, a source book for scholars, writers, scientists, thinkers and journalists everywhere in the world. Mrs. Quinn was dealing with barely accessible material, as far as the ordinary reader is concerned; and her index is outstanding for the intelligent, imaginative, and scholarly way in which she has solved the intractable problems such material must inevitably present to the indexer.

One other index, of those submitted for consideration, was singled out by the committee for special commendation. This was the index by Mr. J. C. Thornton (elected President of the Society in May of this year) to The Letters of Charles Dickens, edited by Madeline House and Graham Storey, two volumes ('The Clarendon Press, £6 6s.). Mr. Thornton was faced with a formidable task of compression and has succeeded in it so well that 700 pages of text are admirably served in 40 pages of indexing. The first three pages contain a straightforward, alphabetical list of those with whom Dickens corresponded—a model of what such notes should contain—and then come thirty-six pages in which the main contents of the letters are entered and classified for the benefit of all readers and scholars.

The work involved in making this index and the difficulties it posed were described to members of the Society of Indexers by the indexer himself at a talk given at the Society's Annual General Meeting in May, 1965. The substance of the talk was published in The Indexer, Volume 4, pages 99-105.

Most of the indexes submitted for consideration for the 1965 Medal reached a standard well above the general run of entries in previous years. This suggests that the award is beginning to attract the right kind of entries and is serving the purpose for which it was primarily designed—to raise the level of book indexing in England.

Readers are reminded that recommendations for consideration for the Wheatley Medal 1966 should be sent to the Secretary, The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, Store Street, London, W.C.I, not later than 1st April, 1967. The conditions were printed on page 90 of the Spring 1965 issue of The Indexer.

PERSONALIA

René Hague, a former Hon. Secretary of the Society (1958-9), and his wife Joan have had a book by Robert Speaight dedicated to them. This is his new Life of Eric Gill (Methuen), the famous sculptor, book-illustrator and typographical designer (of—amongst others—Gill Sans and Perpetua types) who died in 1940. Reviewing this biography in The Daily Telegraph (June 23), Rayner Heppenstall believes that the choice of the illustrations was made by René Hague and that it was the Hagues who appointed Robert Speaight as Eric Gill's 'official' biographer. Mrs. Hague is Gill's youngest daughter and for over 20 years after his death they lived in his house, Pigotts, Speen, Bucks.

John L. Thornton, former Hon. Editor of The Indexer, has two books coming out in October. These are: Medical books, libraries and collectors, 2nd ed. rewritten (Deutsch), and Selected readings in the history of librarianship which comprises revised editions, with additional matter, of Classics of librarianship and Mirror for librarians (Library Association).

Brig. E. E. G. L. Seaight was described in our Spring issue as Editor of Keesing's Contemporary Archives. He is Indexer of this publication.