With very few exceptions, books all through the 19th century had their page numbers in the top outer corners. The earliest examples I have found of numbers at the centre foot of the page were published in 1896—a volume of Osgood McIlwaine's edition of Hardy's novels, and a book of verse, all in capital letters, by Stephen Crane (Heinemann). Is it a coincidence that this date was not long after the foundation of the Arts and Crafts Society by William Morris and his friends, some of whom were particularly interested in typography? During the first years of the 20th century, numbering at the centre foot became more common, especially for books of poetry—perhaps because of the lack of running heads—but also for novels, books on art, and others showing evidence of rather self-conscious design. Numbering at the bottom outer corners appeared as an occasional variation. In books on what might be called more index-worthy subjects, there are practically no examples of numbering at the foot of the page until the 1920s, and it did not become at all prevalent until the 1950s.

Numbering in the top centre of the page is not as common as I thought. It is found in a few of the calf-bound books of the 18th century, sometimes with the figures in brackets, and sporadically up to the present day, but not often enough to enable any trend to be established.

BANKERS
WITH BLINKERS

THE MERCHANT BANKERS by Joseph Wechsberg, 365 pp., no index (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) 42s.

In this manner the Jewish Observer and Middle East Review of January 20 starts its notice of the above book—only the conversion into bold type is ours. Such an 'early-warning' system seems sensible and (as a means of saving subsequent space) worthy of adoption by other reviewers.

G.N.K.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1966-7

Officers and Council Members

The Council has to report that both the Chairman and Hon. Secretary have indicated their desire not to seek re-election for office on May 25th. The Council has accordingly nominated Mr. Richard Bancroft as Chairman, Mr. John L. Thornton as Vice-Chairman, Mr. John M. Shaftesley as Hon. Secretary, his daughter Mrs. H. A. Levin as Assistant Secretary and Mrs. M. D. Anderson as Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Of the two retiring Members of the Council, Miss D. F. Atkins has expressed a wish not to seek re-election. Mr. F. H. C. Tatham and Mr. C. R. Raper were nominated as Council Members.

Council Meetings

The Council held four regular meetings in June and October, 1966, and in January and March, 1967.

Membership

Total membership at the end of the financial year was 261, compared with 250 for the previous year, consisting of 222 Individual and 39 Institutional members. This increase was obtained in spite of a regrettable loss of 13 members who resigned for various reasons and 16 more members whose names have been struck off the Society's register for being in arrears with their subscriptions. However, on the credit side, the Council had the pleasure of electing thirty-four Individual and six Institutional members. This upward trend in membership is likely to continue if interest in the Society is maintained; for example, about 350 enquiries for information about it were received in a matter of a few weeks following the appearance of a small paragraph about the Society in a national newspaper in February.
Discussion Meetings

Following the Annual General Meeting on 19th May, 1966, the Chairman gave a well-received talk on ‘Indexing the Life of Sir Winston Churchill’; this was quoted in the Sunday Telegraph and is published in extenso in the Autumn, 1966, issue of The Indexer.

Three discussion meetings were held during the winter. On 8th November, 1966, Mr. C. H. J. Kyte gave an illustrated talk on The Times Index; on 17th January, 1967, Mr. C. R. Barber discussed ‘Computer typesetting and its applications for indexing and cataloguing’; and on 16th March, Mrs. Alison Quinn presented a paper on the preparation of her index to the 1965 facsimile edition of Richard Hakluyt’s book The Principal navigations, voyages and discoveries of the English nation. All were enthusiastically received and both Mr. Kyte’s and Mrs. Quinn’s papers are published in the current Spring edition of The Indexer.

Attendances of members and guests at the three meetings averaged 36. It is worthy of note that the January meeting was held jointly with the Cataloguing and Indexing Group of the Library Association. The attendance at this meeting was the highest of the three, and the Council hopes that this sort of arrangement will be repeated.

The Council wishes to convey its thanks to the three speakers for finding the time to address the members and to the Library Association for kindly providing the Society with the use of its Council Room.

The Panel

The Panel service has been improved to allow greater precision in selection of members on the Panel in response to enquirers. The use of edge-punched cards, one for each member, has facilitated the task of selection and it is hoped has improved the service for both enquirers and members. There are now over 100 members on the Panel. The Council has also instituted ‘probationary’ admission to the Panel for members who have not yet provided an index of acceptable standard, full admission being given as soon as this has been achieved.

During the year 52 enquiries for indexers were received and 153 names from the Panel were submitted to index a variety of publications including books, journals and catalogues.

The Sixth Training Course

The Council would like to record its appreciation to Mr. L. M. Harrod for organizing the 1967 Course which will be held at the North-Western Polytechnic from 5-9th June. It incorporates suggestions obtained from a questionnaire survey conducted with those attending the 1966 Course. Particular attention was paid to increasing the time spent on practical work; this is reflected in the Course being extended to five days. The Council wishes to record its appreciation to participants in the survey for their excellent response of 89 per cent replies.

The Wheatley Medal, 1965

The joint committee of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers selected the index to The Principal navigations, voyages and discoveries of the English nation by Richard Hakluyt (C.U.P. for the Hakluyt Society) for the award, the index having been compiled by Mrs. Alison Quinn, a member of our Society. The index by Mr. J. C. Thornton (President of the Society) to The letters of Charles Dickens, edited by Madeline House and Graham Storey, two volumes (The Clarendon Press), was singled out for special commendation. A full report of the award is given in the Autumn, 1966, issue of The Indexer.

The Indexer

Because of increasing printing costs the size of The Indexer has not been allowed to expand beyond its normal 48 pages. The journal continues to have a good demand outside the Society and it is achieving an even wider circulation both at home and overseas; this is evidenced by an estimated circulation of 610 for the Spring, 1967, issue compared with 560 for the Autumn, 1966,
issue. Some of its articles, which are duly abstracted in Library Science Abstracts, are notably valuable and the Council wishes to congratulate the Editor, Mr. L. M. Harrod, on the success of his efforts.

The Sherry Party and Reception

The new arrangement to hold the reception after the Annual General Meeting was highly successful and is being repeated on the same lines this year after the A.G.M. and its subsequent talk.

Fellowships

As requested at the last Annual General Meeting the Council has thoroughly explored the question of Fellowships and has issued a statement on its recommendations in a circular to members.

Activities on Committees

The Society is actively represented on the British Standards Institution Documentation Standards Committee OC/20, and the Subcommittee on Indexes and Alphabetical Arrangement OC/20/2. The Society is also represented on a Working Party on Filing Rules, convened by the Cataloguing and Indexing Group of the Library Association.

Presentation of Indexes to Authors, Publishers and Others

As requested at the last Annual General Meeting, the Council has discussed this matter and found it impossible to lay down a standard form of presentation for indexes, considering that the manner of presentation should be a matter of negotiation between the indexer and party offering the commission. However, the Council recognizes that some guidance could be provided by listing the various forms in which manually compiled indexes are currently presented. They are: manuscripts on quarto or foolscap paper, cards, paper slips, gummed labels or loose-leaf files. In each form, the entries can either be handwritten or typewritten. The Council points out that the time allowed for compiling the index and the extra cost of producing typed work should be taken into account when assessing the fee.

Fees for Indexes Clause in Authors’ Contracts

The Council has examined the present clause frequently found in publishers’ contracts imposing a responsibility on the author to supply an index to his work. The Council has had an informal discussion with two representatives of the Society of Authors with a view to approaching the Publishers’ Association on this matter, but as negotiations are still in progress no further details can be presented for this report.

Society’s Address

Various officers of the Society have experienced difficulties in forwarding mail after they have relinquished their office, and the Council was fortunate in being offered a mail-forwarding facility by its bankers. The Council has accepted this offer with appreciation. The Society’s permanent address is now: c/o Barclays Bank Limited, 1 Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1. Officers may still be contacted at their home addresses as published from time to time in circulars and The Indexer.

Conclusion

The Council is pleased to report a year of solid achievement.

G. Norman Knight, Chairman.
C. R. Raper, Hon. Secretary.

THE INDEX OF CHRISTIAN ART

BY

ANNA C. ESMEIJER
AND
WILLIAM S. HECKSCHER

Reprinted from the Spring 1963 issue of The Indexer
23 pages, including 9 plates

Copies can be obtained at 1s. 6d. (post free) from the Hon. Editor