THE WHEATLEY MEDAL
1969

Entries are invited for the Wheatley Medal, 1969.

Conditions

(a) The award to be called the Wheatley Medal and to take the form of a gold-plated medal with suitable inscription.

(b) Indexes published during the preceding year to be eligible; printed index to any type of publication may be submitted for consideration, but the award is limited to indexes compiled by individuals and not by corporate bodies.

(c) The index should include all headings that common sense would expect, and scholarship need to find in an index.

(d) The index should be the best possible for the work of which it forms part, and attention will be paid to features novel to standard indexing which serve a useful purpose.

(e) Recommendations for indexes to be entered for the award will be invited from representatives of the Library Association and three representatives of the Society of Indexers, with power to co-opt.

(g) The award to be made to the compiler of the winning index who must be British and the book must have been published in the United Kingdom in the preceding year.

The award will be given for an index published in 1969 and members of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers are invited to send their recommendations to the Secretary, The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, Store Street, London, W.C.1, not later than April 1st, 1970.

The larger the number of titles submitted, the greater is the likelihood of an award being made. Readers who are constantly handling books published in 1969 are asked to examine such books with a view to making a recommendation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INDEXERS

The first Annual General Meeting of the American Society of Indexers was held on June 16th in New York City. About seventy-five persons attended. The detailed minutes of the meeting appear below.

Since only a small number of mail ballots for the election of officers and directors and for the ratification of the constitution had been received by the time of the meeting, the President pro tem, Mr. Alan Greengrass, made the decision to postpone the counting of the ballots until it appeared that all had been received. There was no objection to this procedure from the members present at the meeting.

The following officers and directors were elected by the members in the mail ballot:

President: Dr. Charles Bernier.
Vice-President: Mrs. Eleanor Steiner-Prag.
Secretary: Mrs. Susan Pinzow.
Corresponding Secretary: Miss Jane Stevens.
Treasurer: Mr. Herbert Landau.
Board of Directors: Mrs. Marian Ash.
Dr. Ben-Ami Lipetz.
Mr. George Lowy.
Mr. Robert J. Palmer.
Miss Helen Schaefer.
Dr. Maurice F. Tauber.

The newly elected president, Dr. Bernier, is professor at the School of Information and Library Studies of the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was formerly editor of Chemical Abstracts.

The proposed constitution was ratified in the mail ballot by an overwhelming majority of members, only one negative vote being cast.

MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the American Society of Indexers was held on June 16th, 1969, at 7:00 p.m., at the City University Center on 42nd Street. The
meeting was called to order by Mr. Alan Greengrass, President pro tem, who reported on the Society’s progress to date.

The Secretary’s report was read. It showed that the Society had 146 members to date. Only 52 ballots had been received, so it was necessary to postpone the formal tally until after the meeting. The preliminary indications were, however, that the constitution would probably be approved, as there were no ‘no’ votes on this question among the ballots received to date. The concerns evidenced by those who inquired for information about the Society were briefly mentioned; as these largely duplicated the topics in the open discussion given below, they need not be repeated here.

G. Norman Knight’s new book, Training in Indexing, was brought to the attention of those attending the meeting. The Secretary requested that a motion expressing the gratitude of the Society be offered to Mr. Frank Prieto; University Microfilms, Inc.; and Mrs. Marlene Hurst, all of whom rendered significant assistance in putting out the Society’s mailings.

Mr. Robert J. Palmer, the Society’s representative to the (British) Society of Indexers, reported on the prospects for affiliation with this Society, pointing out that while the British Society had given some indication that they might approve of the concept of dual membership (ASI and SI) for all ASI members, formal negotiations to arrange any such relationship could not begin until after our Board of Directors had held its first meeting. There was discussion of dues of those who are already SI members and of other problems of affiliation. The question was also raised as to what type of persons—with what professional qualifications—might join the American Society of Indexers. Mr. Palmer pointed out that that was covered by Article III of the constitution.

The President pro tem then opened the meeting to new business. There was general discussion of: standards and remuneration of indexing; quantitative and qualitative measures of indexing; treatment of indexes in reviewing media; public relations and publicity, including the need for high quality, and for aid to publishers in finding good indexers; the aims and types of people who might reasonably join ASI, such as back-of-the book indexers, periodical indexers, librarians, publishers, and computer-system-oriented indexers. The consensus of the meeting appeared to be that ASI should serve the indexing interests of all these groups.

Other topics discussed were: the advisability of the Board of Directors presenting major proposals to the membership before making its decisions (it was pointed out that the constitution will provide some guidance in this matter); the usefulness of provision for regular space in Library Journal, Publishers’ Weekly, American Documentation, etc., by such means as a column or news releases; and the need for a definition of what an indexer is.

Among the projects suggested for the Society were a newsletter; subject- or problem-oriented meetings (perhaps four per year); a registry or directory of indexers; educational activities (it was suggested that the support of other established organizations be solicited for educational activities); and establishment of the American equivalent of the Wheatley Medal.

A motion expressing the gratitude of the Society to Mr. Robert J. Palmer for his work in writing the constitution, and to Mr. Prieto; University Microfilms; and Mrs. Hurst was passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica L. Harris,
Secretary pro tem.

Mrs. Jessica L. Harris, Secretary pro tem of the American Society of Indexers from November, 1968, to June, 1969, received her degree of Doctor of Library Science from Columbia University in June, 1969.

Mr. Kendon Stubbs, the Reference Librarian at the Alderman Library, University of Virginia, has agreed to become the Society’s Hon. Correspondent for the Southern States of the U.S.A. in succession to the late Mr. John Cook Wyllie.