Notes of a Special General Meeting held on 28 October, 1969 for the purpose of authorizing dues beyond 31 December, 1969.

Mr. Robert Palmer presided in the absence of President Bernier; 57 members were present.

A proposal from the President was read: In this he proposed that dues of $10 per annum which had been authorized at a general meeting held on 26 September be continued for 1970, and urged members to view the ASI as a viable vehicle through which they can promote their own interests. His proposal continued as follows:

'I should rather not place the ASI in the position of selling publications and other services to members as a primary justification for existence; our mission, I feel, is more co-operative and far greater than this. In this light, I should like to recommend that the members and Board of Directors plan to raise dues to twenty dollars or more for individual members for the calendar year 1971. This increase is recommended primarily to obtain greater commitment from members, "Where your money is, there your heart is also". The profession of indexing deserves increased commitment; there are important co-operative enterprises to be undertaken.

'Dues of ten dollars for institutional memberships seem incongruously and unflatteringly low. My thought in using these two adverbs is not to promote "soaking the rich" but to move toward increasing commitment, respect, and above all, expectations on the part of institutional members. Their interests will be well served by a vigorous Society promoting high ethics and standards. The subtlety of many index qualities makes it relatively easy for unenlightened or unscrupulous competitors to foist slovenly indexes on to an uncomplaining public. Our institutional members need effective protection against such competition. In the light of these considerations, I have suggested a figure of one hundred to one thousand dollars per year. I now recommend that dues for institutional memberships be set at two hundred fifty dollars for the calendar year of 1970. I further recommend that membership and Board plan to raise dues for the calendar year of 1971 to one thousand dollars.'

After discussion it was unanimously agreed that annual dues of $10 shall be authorized until further action, but the question shall be discussed again at a later date.

Discussion of institutional dues covered the purpose of institutional membership, the size of fees charged by comparable societies and a comment that more members might be attracted by a $100 annual fee. It was pointed out that institutional members cannot vote. It was agreed unanimously that institutional membership be set at $100 per annum.

The business meeting was followed by a joint programme with the National Association of Book Editors at which Dr. John Rothman, Editor of The New York Times Index, spoke on the 1968 revision of the American National Standard for Indexes and on the Z39 Committee which is responsible for it and for future revisions. Following Dr. Rothman's talk, a dialogue was held between Delight Ansley, formerly Indexing Supervisor for McGraw-Hill, Inc., and Liz Stalcup, a freelance editor and indexer, on the subject of 'The Good Index: Its Characteristics, Preparation, and Future'.

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors, the terms of office for Directors were determined by lot under the provision of Article V(c) of the Constitution. Chosen for three-year terms were Dr. Maurice F. Tauber and Mr. Robert J. Palmer; for two-year terms, Dr. Ben-Ami Lipetz and Mr. George Lowy; for one-year terms, Mrs. Marian Ash and Miss Helen Schaefer.
OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mrs. Margaret Anderson is Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary of the Society.

Mrs. M. D. Law is a former Editor of Chambers's encyclopaedia.

Mr. I. Shamah is a scientist, writer and philosopher, and experienced in information technology, indexing and computers. He recently was Managing and Executive Editor of an encyclopaedia and is currently engaged on planning a computerized synthesis of philosophy.

Mr. Philip R. T. Wright, a member of the Society, has indexed books on West Indies History and the Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England.

PERSONALIA

Two members, Mr. N. R. Fisk and Mrs. K. A. Sincock have become Life Members. May we commend this form of membership of the Society? It is certainly a convenience and for most members may be an economy—especially in these days of inflation.

Fuller* with quaint humour observes on Indexes—' An INDEX is a necessary implement, and no impediment of a book, except in the same sense wherein the carriages of an army are termed impedimenta. Without this, a large author is but a labyrinth without a clue to direct the reader therein. I confess there is a lazy kind of learning which is only indicd; when scholars (like adders which only bite the horse's heels) nibble but at the tables, which are calcis librorum, neglecting the body of the book. But though the idle deserve no crutches (let not a staff be used by them, but on them), pity it is the weary should be denied the benefit thereof, and industrious scholars prohibited the accommodation of an index, most used by those who most pretend to condemn it.'—Curiosities of literature, by I. D'Israeli, under heading Prefaces.

BOOK REVIEWS


Born in 1906, this work has long enjoyed enormous popularity in the United States, where, in addition to the authors and editors for whom it was originally intended, many advertisers, typographers, printers and proof-readers use it as their standard reference tool, and swear by it. It is scarcely surprising, therefore, that it should have reached its twelfth edition. Moreover, with the opening in 1961 of the Chicago University Press's London office since the last edition (1949) the book is now for the first time readily available to British readers.

An interesting innovation in this new edition consists of the inclusion of a 32-page section on 'Indexes' at the end of Part 2—'Style'. It is suggested that 'for authors, editors, indexers and copywriters' should henceforth replace the present wording on the title-page. Although much that is useful to indexers in the other parts of the work, it is this new section that will most interest the readers of The Indexer. It is also being published separately in the United States and a paperback edition will very shortly be available in this country at the reasonable cost of nine shillings. It will have the title of A manual of indexing.

While of course the space allotted does not allow of anything like complete treatment of the art of indexing in all its aspects, yet it must be said at once that it does contain a great number of useful hints and pertinent observations. Let us consider the paragraph on 'The professional indexer', which follows one on 'The author as indexer':

The professional has the advantage of objectivity and experience in many fields of interest and scholarship. His acquaintance is seldom as deep as that of an author in any particular field, and so he may miss some subtleties, but for the author who cannot prepare his own index, the professional indexer is the logical choice for the task...

Whoever the indexer is, he should be intelligent, widely read, and well acquainted with publishing practices; he must also be level-headed, patient, scrupulous in his handling of detail, and analytically minded. This rare bird must, at the same time... work at top speed to meet an almost impossible deadline. Less time is available for the preparation of the index than for almost any other step in the bookmaking process. For obvious reasons an index cannot be completed until page proofs are available.*

* i.e. Thomas Fuller, author of the Worthies of England.