A Message from the President of the Society of Indexers

Mark well the number of this issue of The Indexer. It is No. 1 of Volume 8 of the Journal of the Society of Indexers. But it is also the first number to be published as the official organ of both the Society of Indexers and the American Society of Indexers.

This felicitous development follows the affiliation of the American Society, which was founded in 1968, with its British predecessor, which had been started eleven years earlier. It is noteworthy that at the inaugural meeting of the former in New York City, ninety per cent. of the attending members declared themselves in favour of such an affiliation.

The Agreement setting out the terms of the affiliation, primarily the handiwork of Mr. A. R. Hewitt, the Society of Indexers' first Chairman (1957-9), was ratified by both Societies last year; one of those terms expressly enunciates that The Indexer shall be the official journal of the American Society of Indexers.

It is fitting that the present first joint number is graced by an article by R. L. Collison on ‘The Trends of American Indexing’, for Mr. Collison, still a librarian but now resident in California, was formerly the original Honorary Treasurer of the (British) Society of Indexers.

Past volumes of The Indexer have been the richer by reason of notable contributions from the pens of Delight Ansley, J. Arthur Greenwood, Professor William S. Hecksher (then residing in the Netherlands), Dr. Theodore Hines, Jessica M. Kerr, Robert Palmer, Aemil Pouler, Lis Stalcup, R. C. Wellstood, G. A. Willey and the late John Cook Wyllie, to mention only some of the expert American writers in this field. It is to be hoped that their example will be followed by a steady flow of offerings from across the Atlantic.

Having the honour of being President of the British Society, I wish to congratulate those responsible on the sustained excellence of The Indexer, to greet and welcome its newly combined readership and to offer my cordial salutations on this auspicious occasion.

Vivant, floreant Societates Indicantium.

Norman Knight.

1972: International Book Year

Unesco has sponsored schemes in all countries to participate in some form or other in recognising the importance of books in the cultural and educational life of peoples.

Such participation will take many forms, but all will seek to improve the quality of books (text and production) and further the use of books by different means.

The Society of Indexers has been persistent over the years in seeking ways of ensuring that more books and periodicals are provided with indexes and that the standard of book indexing is improved. The American Society of Indexers is pursuing the same objectives particularly in the North American continent.

The Indexer is pleased to be able to take part in this world-wide recognition of International Book Year. It is, as far as we know, the only periodical in the world which is concerned with book indexing, and we are pleased to include in an enlarged number several surveys of the state of indexing in various countries.

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