beyond the computer. Our evaluation of the programme indicates that the use of the computer is only justified (from a financial point of view) if: (1) the text to be indexed is, anyway, going to be set by computer; (2) the size of that text is so large as to be unwieldy, and (3) if great speed of production is required. Should any of these three conditions be lacking it is our feeling that as good a job can be done manually and probably at less cost.

Pages 467 and 697 of the Index are reproduced to illustrate the article. The entries Ghriba (syn., Tun) 15:1430 on page 467, and PRIESTS AND PRIESTHOOD, in the ‘General’ sub-division the sub-entry Tunisia legend 15:1430 on page 697 show the final appearance in the Index of points made in the article.

The Wheatley Medal 1972

It was with much disappointment that, after a careful examination of seventeen nominated indexes, the Joint Panel of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers felt unable to recommend any of them for the award of the 1971 Wheatley Medal.

Two of the indexes were highly commended by the Panel. These were:


INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS. Index to publications, January 1965 to December 1969. The Institution, 1971. (Index compiled by Dr. J. E. Holmstrom.)

Both these indexes were carefully compiled and had several interesting features, but neither was considered to reach the very high standard demanded for the award of the Wheatley Medal.

The Panel were concerned about two features concerning the nominations for this year’s award. One was the apparent lack of interest in the award reflected in the small number of lists received and in the poor response from those libraries which had been specifically invited to make recommendations in their subject field. The other, in contrast, was the standard of indexes nominated by some libraries: some of these were good ‘bread-and-butter’ indexes, while others were just not good indexes.

The Panel recommended that the terms of the award be amended so that only indexes which had been first published in the United Kingdom should be eligible. They also considered the possibility of an award for an outstanding contributor to indexing, and it would be interesting to have the views of members of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers on the idea of such an award, either in addition to or in place of the existing arrangements.


[The main change in this recommendation is to offer the, or an, Award to an ‘outstanding contributor’ as well as for ‘an outstanding contribution’ to indexing.

Mr. Bakewell comments that some of the indexes recommended for the Award were good ‘bread-and-butter’ indexes, and implies that therefore they were not up to the required standard. If he means by this statement that they were competent but did not display any originality, or unusual methods of dealing with a difficult or complicated text, and for this reason the Medal should not be awarded, it may be felt that this would impose a requirement which is not laid down in the conditions. The Award is intended to assist in improving the standard of indexing and should therefore not be too limited in its scope; the number of texts which provide opportunities for unusual indexing techniques cannot be numerous and the number of indexes of such books which
would be submitted for consideration by the Panel must inevitably be very few indeed.

This is an important aspect of the Award, and readers are invited to express any views they have on the subject to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

It is regretted that the revised arrangement (mentioned on page 58 of the Autumn 1970 issue of The Indexer) for the submission of recommendations by selected libraries, which was introduced effectively for the first time in respect of the 1971 Award, has met with poor response, and individual and institutional members of the Society are urged to send recommendations to the Library Association by the 15th February next.

Mr. Bakewell's report also appeared in the May issue of the Library Association Record.—Editor.

Revised Conditions of the Award

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

(b) Indexes first published in the United Kingdom during the preceding three years, i.e. 1970, 1971 and 1972, to be eligible; printed indexes of any type of publication may be submitted for consideration.

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

(d) The index must 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 are invited from members of the Library Association and of the Society of Indexers, publishers and others. A number of selected libraries will be invited to submit indexes in their special subject fields. All recommendations will be submitted on a form available from the Library Association. This will include notes for guidance and a list of criteria which should be satisfied.

(f) The recommendation on the award to be made by a panel consisting of three representatives of the Library Association Cataloguing and Indexing Group, and three representatives of the Society of Indexers, with power to co-opt. The final decision will be subject to confirmation by the Chairman of the Library Association Publications Committee.


Our Contributors

Peter Greig is Chairman of the Index Committee of the Bibliographical Society of Canada and has been employed as an indexer at the Library of Parliament since June 1971.

E. L. C. Mullins, historian, is Secretary to the Editorial Board of the History of Parliament Trust and was awarded the Wheatley Medal in 1971.

Robert J. Palmer, New York indexer, was largely instrumental in forming the American Society of Indexers and later affiliation with the Society of Indexers.

Raphael Posner was editor-in-chief of the index volume and deputy editor-in-chief of the Encyclopaedia Judaica.

Joyce A. Tracy has been Editor of the Canadian periodical index since September 1970.