Professor Wilfred Ashworth, a Vice-President of the Library Association, presenting the Wheatley Medals to Mr. K. Boodson (above) and to Mr. L. M. Harrod (below)
The Wheatley Medal, 1973

As many of our readers will be aware, the Wheatley Medal is offered annually by the Library Association for an outstanding index first published in the UK in the preceding three years.

The award of the Medal for 1973 was exceptional in several ways.

It was the first time that the adjudicating panel had to consider two indexes of such equal merit that, after long and close examination of each, they were unable to decide that one was more meritorious than the other. So they awarded two medals.

The compilers of both indexes are chartered librarians. Not previously, since the first of the eight awards was made in 1962, has the Medal gone to a professional librarian; this is somewhat surprising, for quite a number of librarians are known to be book indexers. Their training and experience is such that they are almost natural indexers—they know what is desirable in an efficient index, and possess the necessary technical ability to provide it; perhaps the publicity for the award of the Medal, or the manner of recommendation, needs further consideration in order to secure more nominations.

More recommendations (thirty, of which two were ineligible) were received than before.

For the first time, publishers and learned societies responsible for the publication of books and periodicals have submitted a high proportion of recommendations. Apparently, the award of the Medal is appreciated by publishers.

The presentation of the Medal was made at the conclusion of the Society's Annual General Meeting and Lecture. This was due to the discontinuation of the practice by the Library Association of making presentations at their Annual General Meeting. This year's arrangement would seem to be very appropriate.

The following report by Michael Wace, the Chairman of the adjudicating panel for this year, is reprinted below by courtesy of the Editor of the Library Association Record in the June issue of which it appeared.

'It is with considerable pleasure that the Joint Panel of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers recommend that, after two years in which no index was thought to be good enough for the Medal, the award should be made jointly to two outstanding indexes. They are the indexes to K. Boodson's Non-ferrous metals: a bibliographical guide (Macdonald Technical and Scientific, 1972) and H. M. Colvin's (editor) History of the King's works, volume 6, 1782-1851 (HMSO, 1973); the first was prepared by the author and the second by L. M. Harrod.

'In contrast to the last two years, the Panel had a gratifyingly large number of indexes to consider. The subject matter ranged from Attic vases to the motor-car, and recommendations had been submitted by professional and other societies, libraries, publishers and individuals. However, there was little doubt about the short list: it comprised only two books, those by Boodson and Colvin. But how to choose between them? Boodson scored well for accuracy, alphabetical order, and the explanatory note to the index; Colvin got high marks for consistency in related entries, appropriate terminology—and accuracy. Both indexes are substantial and serve their texts in a manner which will prove invaluable to readers and researchers. It was impossible to say that one index was better than the other and so the Panel made the recommendation for a joint award.'

Michael Wace,
Wheatley Medal Joint Panel

THE WHEATLEY MEDAL, 1974

Readers are reminded that the time is drawing near for recommendations to be made for the award of the medal for this year, and to bring the conditions to the notice of anyone who may not otherwise see them.

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. 1972, 1973 and 1974, 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.


The criteria referred to in paragraph (e) above were detailed on pages 22 and 23 of our last issue.

---

**CNAA Course in Library Studies at Manchester**

The Department of Library and Information Studies, Manchester Polytechnic, has been granted permission by the Council for National Academic Awards to offer an Honours Degree in Library Studies to commence in September 1975. This will replace the existing degree.

The new course will last for three years full-time and will follow a pattern similar to that of the existing course. In addition to the core librarianship subjects of Information Services, Information Retrieval and the Operation of Libraries there will be a study of two social science areas.

The admission requirements of the course are five G.C.E. passes including two at Advanced level.

Further Information from Mr. J. L. Ingham, Department of Library and Information Studies, Manchester Polytechnic, Bracken House, Charles St., Manchester M1 7DF.

---

**Acronyms in Library Science**

*Acronyms in Library and Information Science, a Dictionary* is the title of a very useful thirty-page list which appears in *Library and Information Bulletin*, No. 22, 1973. The main list, which gives the acronyms followed by the full names, also gives the name of the body responsible in the cases of acronyms which are of publications; English translations are provided where the original names are in a foreign language.

The main sequence of entries is followed by two indexes, one of institutions arranged alphabetically, followed by the acronyms of the organizations or publications connected with them, and one of the names of countries alphabetically followed by the acronyms appropriate to each.

Copies are available from the Library Association, 2 Ridgmount St., London, WC1E 7AE, price £1.

Unfortunately this publication is to be discontinued now that the Library of the Library Association has become a branch of the British Library.