The Council has pleasure in submitting this Report of the activities during the year and wishes to thank all those officers and members who have helped to further the aims of the Society.

Membership. The total membership at the end of the financial year was 381, compared with 379 at the same date in the previous year.

The Council again pays tribute to the continued success of the membership campaign organized by Mr. H. Godfrey Green in Australia, where several new members have enrolled.

Register of Indexers. The number of Registered Indexers is now 101. During the year, 87 authors or publishers asked the Society to recommend indexers for specific works. The majority of the requests have continued to be for indexers specialising in scientific subjects and, although every effort is made to spread these requests evenly over members on the Register, it was inevitable that Registered Indexers specialising in the arts could not be put forward so frequently as those specialising in scientific subjects.

Members are reminded that Mrs. Elizabeth Wallis maintains the Register of Indexers and deals with enquiries from publishers. Her address is 25 Leyborne Park, Kew, Surrey. Telephone 01 940 4771.

Meetings. At the Annual General Meeting in 1973, Mr. J. L. Thornton FLA presented a thought-provoking paper on “The Perfect Index”. For reasons beyond the Council’s control, it was not found possible to arrange the usual programme of meetings during the autumn and winter, but in the spring we arranged a talk by Mr. C. D. Overton, Chief Librarian of the Property Services Agency, Department of the Environment, on the interplay of the indexer and the historian, with particular reference to the History of the King’s Works.

Finance. We are glad to report that, following the increase in membership and journal subscriptions, the accounts for the year ended 31st March 1974, show a much healthier trend in the Society’s financial position.

Our best thanks are due to Mrs. Wilkinson who, during her first year as Hon. Treasurer, has carefully husbanded the Society’s financial resources.

Honorary Solicitor. We are very pleased to report that Mr. Leslie Paisner has very kindly agreed to act as Hon. Solicitor to the Society. During the few months he has been associated with the Society, Mr. Paisner has most usefully and expertly advised the Council on a variety of matters.

Training Courses. The Council regrets that it was not found possible to continue the short annual course in indexing for members and other students, which was held for some years, but the gap has been filled to some extent by the institution of a course by a correspondence college at the Society’s suggestion. Some of the Society’s senior members are associated with the course in a personal capacity. Satisfaction has been expressed by some students and members of the Society, who enrolled in the course.

Revision of fees for Indexing. The recommended rates have been revised, in the light of current economic circumstances. Members may obtain details on application to the Hon. Registrar.

Public relations. Mr. J. Haigh had kindly agreed to act as Hon. Press Officer in an unofficial capacity until such time as a candidate for the official appointment is forthcoming, but has had to withdraw owing to taking up a new professional appointment which alters his working arrangements. He has prepared a leaflet for circulation to publishing houses as the first step in a publicity drive to promote the Society, sector by sector.
Negotiations have been in progress for a joint meeting of representatives of the Society and the Publishers Association to discuss matters of mutual concern.

The Indexer. Demand for the journal was not affected by the increase in the subscription rate and we are pleased to report that The Indexer has maintained its circulation figures throughout the year. A great deal of the credit for this must go to the Hon. Editor, Mr. Harrod, and the Assistant Editor, Mrs. Wallis. Contributions and letters to the journal are welcomed.

Library. Members are reminded that the Society's library is housed in the basement of the Library Association's headquarters.

Council. We are sorry to report the death of Miss K. Sinclair, a valued member of the Council for many years who was always active in the interests of the Society. Just before she died, she expressed her happiness on being elected Honorary Vice-President of the Society in recognition of her services.

Under Rule 7(b) of the Constitution, Mr. Wace is due to retire and the Council has pleasure in nominating him for re-election. In addition there are four vacancies on the Council, and the following have been nominated:—

Mrs. D. Frame, Mr. A. Raven, and Mrs. V. Chandler.

Nominations for the Offices, and for the Council, are invited and must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary by 14 May 1974.

Honorary Secretary. Miss P. M. Trew resigned as Hon. Secretary and Membership Secretary early in March, and the Council take this opportunity of recording their grateful thanks to her, on behalf of the members, for her loyal services during the past few years. Her place has been taken by Mr. W. A. Menzies, ACIS, ATII, to whom we extend a very cordial welcome.

Annual Subscriptions. Members are reminded that the annual subscription became due on April 1st last. The amount of £3 should be sent to the Membership Secretary, cheques to be made payable to the Society of Indexers. His address is the Old Inn, Keere Street, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1TY.

Annual Address. The Council has pleasure in announcing that, following the formal business of the Annual General Meeting, at approximately 6.30, Dr. T. N. Besterman, DLitt, LLD, will deliver an address.

Wheatley Medal Presentation. The presentation of the Wheatley Medal will follow Dr. Besterman's address—at approximately 7 p.m.

Annual Reception. A reception will be held after these events at which wine, cheese and biscuits will be served. A small charge will be made towards the expenses.

The Annual General Meeting

The 17th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Library Association on 23 May 1974. Twenty-six members attended and apologies were received from thirteen members, including the Chairman, Mr. J. M. Shaftesley. In his absence, Mr. L. M. Harrod was appointed to take the Chair for the Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the new Honorary Secretary.

The Report of the Council for the year ended 31 March 1974, which had been circulated, was considered. The Chairman read the headings of the report, requesting any comment, and the Report was adopted.

Officers. The following nominees were elected, nem.con.,

Chairman Mr. J. M. Shaftesley
Vice-Chairman Mr. L. M. Harrod
Hon. Treasurer Mrs. A. M. Wilkinson
Hon. Secretary Mr. W. A. Menzies
Hon. Editor Mr. L. M. Harrod
Registrar Mrs. E. Wallis

The Chairman voiced the sentiments of the Meeting, when he expressed on the Society's behalf, appreciation of the work of Mr. F. H. C. Tatham. Mr. Tatham had held various offices from 1961 to 1974, and had earned the respect and gratitude of the Council, and of many members, for some 13 years. His resignation was due to a change of circumstances which made his attendance at Council meetings difficult.

Hon. Vice-President. The Chairman expressed his deep regret at the death of Miss K. Sinclair, who had served the Society over many years and in several capacities, including her abilities as an excellent indexer.