Report of the Council
for the year 1974-75

The Council is pleased to report that, during the year ended 31st March, 1975, there were many applications for membership, which indicates an increasing interest in the aims of the Society. They wish to record their thanks to the Officers and Members who have helped to further the Society’s objectives.

Membership. The fully subscribed membership of the Society on 31st March, 1975, was 322, as compared with 381 reported on the same date in 1974. One reason for the decrease is that, when the new Honorary Secretary was able to check the records, there was discovered a large number of members who were in arrears with their dues. All members who have not subscribed for 1974/75 are now eliminated, but applications to join the Society continue, and during this year 43 candidates for membership have been approved by the Council. Tribute must again be paid to Mr. H. Godfrey Green, who continues to enlist members in Australia, as well as collecting and forwarding the dues of his “branch”. Thanks to his efforts, Australia is by far the most active overseas “branch”.

Register of Indexers. The Registrar reports that the number of Registered Indexers is now 96, compared to 101 at the same date last year. During 1974/75, 63 authors and publishers sought the recommendation of the Registrar for specific works. This was 24 less than in the previous year. The decline in requests occurred mainly in the last quarter of 1974, and has continued into 1975, probably reflecting the concern that publishers are at present feeling over economic conditions. At the same time, there has been a marked increase in inquiries from people considering taking up indexing, and from others concerned about the fees. The leaflet on fees, which was completely revised and rewritten in early 1975, is attached hereto. Providing indexers state the range of the subjects they feel competent to index on their forms of application for Registration, every effort is made to spread the requests among the members. Requests for indexers are on a broad range of subjects, but it is more difficult to find suitably qualified indexers in certain areas of science and economics. Medical and legal indexers can be assured of regular work, once they have established themselves with a publisher. With any further deterioration of the economic situation it is difficult to foresee any upturn in inquiries for indexers. Members are reminded that Mrs. Elizabeth Wallis maintains the Register of indexers and deals with inquiries from publishers and others. Her address is 25, Leyborne Park, Kew Gardens, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3HB. Telephone 01-940-4771.

Meetings. At the Annual General Meeting in 1974, Dr. Besterman entertained the members present with a short biographical talk. Three other meetings were held as follows:

A paper on “Indexing in America”, by R. L. Collison, Vice-President of the Society, and recently returned from the USA.

A panel on the subject “Awards for Indexes”, composed as follows:
Chairman: J. M. Shaftesley, OBE BA FRSA, Chairman of the Society.
Panel: K. G. B. Bakewell, MA FLA AMBIM, Senior Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Services, Liverpool Polytechnic.
J. F. W. Bryon, FLA, Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Services, Liverpool Polytechnic.
A. J. Shelley, Librarian, Uxbridge Technical College.
M. Wace, Editorial Director of a leading London publisher, and a member of the Council of the Society for many years.

A paper on the “Role of Thesauri in Mechanized Indexing”, by Alan Gilchrist, Senior Consultant, Research & Development Department, ASLIB.

At all these meetings, the attendance was disappointing. The Council therefore resolved to circularise the members, to ascertain their wishes regarding future occasions. A form of questionnaire is attached, and your views are invited. The Council will be most grateful if you will return this to the Hon. Secretary before 15th May, 1975. It is hoped that this will result in future arrangements of meetings being to the members’ wishes, and better support.
Finance. The Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1975, again show a surplus of income over expenditure of £267, compared to £271 in the previous year. This can only be regarded as a further tribute to our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Wilkinson, in these times of inflation.

Revision of Fees for Indexing. During the year, a sub-committee was formed to consider this subject, under the Chairmanship of the Society’s Registrar, Mrs. E. Wallis. Their findings, as approved by the Council, are attached.

Public Relations. The Society is in need of an Honorary Press Officer. Volunteers for the office would be welcome.

Report of the AGM

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the headquarters of the Library Association on 29th May 1975. Nineteen members were present.

The minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting were confirmed.

The Report of the Council for the year ended 31st March 1975, which had been circulated, was adopted.

Officers. The persons named below, having been nominated, and there having been no other nominations, were elected to hold the office as shown against each name for the year 1975-76:

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

Council. It was unanimously resolved that Mr. N. R. Fisk and Mr. A. A. Raven, members of Council whose term of office had expired and having been duly nominated, were re-elected. Mr. Ivan Butler and Mr. Michael Wace had indicated that they did not wish to continue as members of Council, but as there were no other nominations, the Council were authorized to fill the two remaining vacancies.

Annual Accounts. The accounts for the year 1974-75, which had been audited, were adopted.

Auditor. The members present again recorded their thanks to Mr. W. Davies, the Hon. Auditor, and re-elected him for the ensuing year.

Votes of Thanks. The Honorary officers were thanked for their services during the year.

Fees for Indexing. The draft document on fees for indexing, which had been circulated to members, was referred to the Council for further consideration.

Message to the President. It was decided to send a message of greeting to the President, Mr. G. Norman Knight, who was absent from the Annual General Meeting for the first time since the Society was founded, due to illness, and to express best wishes for a speedy return to full health.

Following the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Tom Edwards, Editor of Library and Information Science Abstracts, read a paper entitled “Indexing LISA”; this is printed elsewhere in this issue.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

C. C. Banwell was on the staff of Butterworth and Co., legal publishers, and has specialised in legal indexing for 35 years. He has been responsible for many of the indexes to Halsbury’s Laws of England and Halsbury’s Statutes of England.

Tom Edwards, professional librarian and abstractor, is Editor of Library and Information Science Abstracts.

Alan Gilchrist is Senior Consultant within the ASLIB Research and Development Department. A Fellow of both the Library Association and the Institute of Information Scientists, he is editor of the latter’s journal The Information Scientist. He is the author of two books on thesauri (one with Jean Aitchison).


Notes concerning K. G. B. Bakewell are to be found in our April issue, and concerning R. L. Collison in our October 1974 issue.