THE CAREY AWARD

presented by the Society of Indexers
as a tribute to the memory of
GURNIA K. CAREY
the Society's first President as the award is given
for outstanding services to indexing

G. Alfred Norman Knight

Master of Arts

for his valuable services to the Society and for the
many years he has devoted to the
promotion and advancement of the art of
indexing. In recognition of his
extraordinary contributions.

President, Society of Indexers

New York, New York, 18th August 1977
THE CAREY AWARD

A New Award for Indexers

In memory of its first President, Gordon V. Carey, the Society of Indexers has established a new occasional award for outstanding services to indexing, designated the Carey Award. It consists of a framed parchment, appropriately worded and beautifully illuminated.

Gordon Carey was a man of many parts: boy chorister at King's College, rugger blue, Cambridge don, headmaster of Eastbourne College, executive of the Cambridge University Press, author and librarian, he served with distinction throughout both World Wars. His lifelong love of music, of "Twickers", and of the niceties of English grammar and punctuation were overshadowed only by his passion for the art of indexing. One of the founder-members in 1957 of the Society of Indexers, for the rest of his days he lived up to the title accorded him by an anonymous book reviewer, "The Prince of Indexers". He died in November 1969.

The first recipient of the Carey Award is a man who has contributed more to indexing than even Gordon Carey himself: Gilfred Norman Knight, founder and currently President of the Society of Indexers. Norman Knight has been indexing books and periodicals since the early twenties but it was not until 1957, when he retired from the Civil Service at the age of 65, that he could find time to create, entirely on his own initiative, the Society which has done so much to raise the standard of indexing and the status of indexers. For many years he was the Society's most tireless worker and he remains its inspiration and undisputed leader. President since 1970, he has recently been prevented by physical infirmities from leaving his home to attend meetings and other activities; yet he continues to guide the Society with his wisdom, wit and understanding and he looks forward with enthusiasm to the Society's 21st anniversary celebrations next year.

The formal presentation took place at the Society's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19th May, but the Chairman of the Society made the personal presentation the following morning, at Norman Knight's home, accompanied by a small group of Council members.

The Chairman’s presentation address

When you suggested some years ago, Norman, that Council should establish an award in memory of our first President, Gordon Carey, I'm sure it never occurred to you that you might be the first recipient of that award. When Council decided, however, that the award should be given for outstanding services to indexing, it became obvious that you must be the first recipient.

Nobody else in the world has done so much for indexing or indexers: one thinks not only of the many fine indexes you have produced, including your Wheatley Medal winner of 1967, of your articles and witticisms on indexing; of your interest in the training of indexers, seen particularly in the volume which you edited; and of your fight for proper recognition and reward of indexers; but also of your many unheralded kindnesses to individual indexers like myself.

Gilfred Norman Knight, I have much pleasure in presenting to you this first Carey Award.

Ken G. B. Bakewell, Chairman.

The President’s reply:

When I first heard that some such approach as this was to be made to me, my first reactions were a feeling of surprise and one of gratitude. Surprise, even astonishment, because such services as I have been able to render to the Society took place long ago and, mainly owing to the state of my health, I haven't been able to help half as much as I should have liked. In fact my last index was finished two years ago.

But gratitude, there has been plenty of that available, I can assure you, especially as I seem able to conjure up in my mind's eye the very kindly feelings of the members when they made the gift.

I had written the above before I actually knew the form that the award would take.

Now that I have seen it, it will go handsomely with my Wheatley Medal. Wild horses would not drag out of me which of the two I value more highly, but you all know that the Society of Indexers is the apple of my eye.