On behalf of Bill Bartenbach, President of the American Society of Indexers. Mrs. Dorothy Thomas, from New York, then read the following message:

Circumstances prevent me from joining you at the first International Conference in London.

It is with great pleasure that I convey, on behalf of the American Society of Indexers, greetings and good wishes for a successful conference.

The American Society of Indexers is proud to be associated with The Society of Indexers in the common goal of improving the quality of indexing and securing useful standards for the field. We look forward to continued cooperation in our various efforts, in particular, in the publicising of The Indexer, the professional journal of the societies. To strengthen the bonds between the two societies, I have appointed one of our young and dynamic members, Mr John Regazzi, as liaison officer to The Society of Indexers.

We are ever conscious of the importance of indexes to allow easy access to information. One of the goals we have set for the coming year will be a letter-campaign to publishers and book review editors, to raise their consciousness regarding the importance of indexes. We will attempt to convey the idea that a book without an index is of greatly diminished value or, to express it more poetically (as in a recent book review): 'A book without an index is like a wine without a bouquet.'

With the support of the H. W. Wilson Company, the American Society of Indexers is in the process of establishing an indexing award to bring greater recognition in the publishing and library communities of the importance of book indexing. We shall look forward to learning from The Society of Indexers your procedures in selecting the most outstanding index, as you have done so admirably with the Wheatley Medal.

Again, let me wish you a successful International Conference, combined with an invitation to hold the next International Conference in Indexing in the United States at whatever date the Conference selects.

The Secretary of the Australian Society of Indexers, Miss Jean Hagger, then said:

It gives me great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Australian Society of Indexers. First, I wish to congratulate The Society of Indexers on its 21 years of service to the profession of indexing. Also, I wish to thank the Society for the help and encouragement it has given to other societies, such as the one I represent. Thirdly, I wish it well for the future, especially for the success of this conference which is such an important professional occasion. I would also invite you to celebrate the Society’s next 21st birthday in Australia!

The President of the newly-formed IASC, Peter Greig, spoke next:

On behalf of The Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada/Société Canadienne pour l'analyse de documents, I extend best wishes to The Society of Indexers on this occasion and for the future, and to Norman Knight for successfully bringing this society into being, and for giving the rest of us the model of the society to follow.

Presentation of the Wheatley Medal

Mr Godfrey Thompson, President of the Library Association, called upon Mr L. M. Harrod, Chairman of the Selection Panel, to announce the winner of the Library Association Wheatley Medal, 1977 (awarded on the recommendation of a joint panel of the Society of Indexers and the Library Association).

The award went to Index to Archaeologia Cambrensis, 1901-1960; compiled by T. Rowland Powel, with lists and notes by Donald Moore, published by the Cambrian Archaeological Association.
The Presidential Reception. From left to right: G. Norman Knight, Karen Tkach, Freda Wilkinson, John Thornton, Dorothy Dainty, Richard Raper, Enid Nixon, Magda Kerényi, Robert Collison and John Vickers

The award winner, Mr T. Rowland Powel as a BA (University of Wales), and MA (Jesus College, Cambridge) first entered the library profession in 1921, as an assistant in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. He joined the staff of the Library Association in 1929 as Editor of The Subject Index to Periodicals (now the British Humanities Index), and continued in that post until his retirement in 1959. The indexing of Archaeologia Cambrensis was undertaken by Mr Powel while he was resident in the Isle of Wight; immediately on the completion of the typescript he emigrated to Perth in Australia. Mr Donald Moore as Convenor of the Index Sub-committee for Archaeologia Cambrensis saw the copy through the press. He is keeper of Prints, Drawings and Maps at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr Powel the medal was accepted on his behalf by Miss Dorothy Moore, the recently retired Librarian of Westfield College, University of London, a family friend.

Miss Moore spoke of the enormous pleasure which the award had given to T. Rowland Powel; and how he would treasure it. He had said that the French celebrate le quartorze juillet; he is doing so on this occasion in his own way. He wished to thank Commander Donald Moore for his continuous support, and also Mrs Rose Dunn, his secretarial assistant. As an expatriate Welshman, he saw the award as an honour to Wales, not to himself alone!

Mr Donald Moore said how extremely proud he was that the index had been honoured with this award. He felt it was the responsibility of each learned society to make sure that its publications are fully comprehensible, by their indexes. For this reason the Cambrian Archaeological Association have an indexing committee to devise the lines of indexes as well as to find the money to produce them. An enormous amount of work is involved, but it results in a tool useful to an enormous number of people for many years to come. They are now sitting in committee considering the next index, and where to find the funds for it.

Mr Harrod then announced the indexes also commended: that prepared by Hebe Jerrold to Hamilton Bailey's emergency surgery; edited by H. A. F. Dudley, 10th edition (John Wright); and the index prepared by Con Banwell to Halsbury's Statutes of England; 3rd edition, Vol 46; continuation volume 1976 (Butterworths). Mr Banwell was awarded the Wheatley Medal in 1974 for his index to Encyclopaedia of forms and precedents, 4th edition (Butterworths).

Mr Shaun Thorpe of Butterworths, speaking on behalf of Mr Banwell, thanked the Association for the commendation. He said that
he himself had done only a little indexing, but enough to realize that the task of producing an index each year was not one to be envied.

On behalf of Hebe Jerrold, Mr Giles Moore, representing John Wright, said that, as a founder member of the Society of Indexers, she was delighted to receive the commendation, and sorry to be unable to be present.

In conclusion Mr Ken Bakewell, Chairman of The Society of Indexers, said how pleased all its members were to have the Founder-President there, and referred to his forthcoming book, *Indexing, the art of*, to be published by Allen and Unwin next spring. He also spoke of the bookshop and exhibition prepared for the conference, which included two special publications to mark the society's anniversary; a volume of selections from *The Indexer* of 1958-77, *Indexers on indexing*; and the Society's *Select reading list on indexing*.

**Books at the Conference**

All good craftsmen respect the material they work in, so it is not surprising that the bookshop and exhibition was thronged whenever the presence of delegates was not required in the conference hall or refectory.

An exemplary set of indexes was displayed in the sequence of books which had won the Wheatley Medal from its inception in 1962. Institutions with aims related to those of the Society had sent material to indicate or illustrate their work: the Library Association, Aslib, the British Library, the Institution of Electrical Engineers (compilers and publishers of indexes and abstracts under the various divisions of INSPEC), the Chemical Society, the British Film Council, and the British Standards Institution (now as much interested in standards for Documentation as for other processes). Books in print relating to indexing were available for sale.

Some of the books had been written or compiled by members of the Conference. Two had been specially produced to celebrate the Society's twenty-first anniversary: *A select reading list on indexing*, and *Indexers on indexing*, both reviewed in this issue (page 119). Other recent publications by delegates included *The PRECIS index system*, proceedings of an international workshop edited by Hans Wellisch; *Classification and indexing practice*, by K. G. B. Bakewell; the fourth edition of *The librarian's glossary and reference book*, by L. M. Harrod; a cumulative index to *IBIS*, compiled under the direction of Magda Whitrow; issues of *Index Islamicus*, with a cumulation, compiled by J. D. Pearson; and an article with its own unconventional index, by William Heckscher, in *Joachim Camerarius 1500-1574* (Essays on the history of humanism during the Reformation), edited by Frank Baron.

To our great regret, our President's forthcoming book, *Indexing, the art of*, which we had hoped to display as another celebratory volume, will not be available until next spring.

The bookshop and exhibition was organized by Mr J. W. Burton, of the Acton Book Centre, who runs the bookshop in Digby Stuart College. He could not have been more helpful, and his contribution to the success of the Conference is gratefully acknowledged.

Our thanks are also offered to the Library Association for their kindness in allowing us to display material in honour of our 21st anniversary in the entrance lobby to their premises in Ridgmount Street, and for sending the set of Wheatley Medal award-winning books to the Conference exhibition. In particular, we wish to thank Mr David Will, Advertising Manager, and Miss Ann Hobart, Professional Officer.

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**Creation**

First there was nothing
And God created the earth and heavens
And he created man, the tree of knowledge
And the lurking snake.

After Adam and Eve ate of the apple
Chaos was borne.

Then God created Norman Knight
And the Society of Indexers.

Lo, there was order.

And peace reigned in heaven and earth,
For a while.

**Overheard in the bar at the conference**

**S** After the Society's 21st Anniversary Dinner, the first session was addressed by Dr Edward de Bono. A summary of his talk is given opposite, followed by the texts or summaries of the papers delivered at the conference, and by reports of the seminars.

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*ANON*