INDEXERS IN FICTION

We hope to print in each issue a portrait of an indexer as shown in fiction. We begin with a humble aspirant from The long view, by Elizabeth Jane Howard, published by Jonathan Cape and Penguin, quoted here by kind permission of the author:

That evening, she asked her father whether there was anything that she could do to help with his book. On the whole he thought not, he said, after thinking scrupulously of the whole. Was there not anything? Some donkey work that didn't involve intelligence but that had to be done?

She was sitting with her feet tucked up under her in the large chair in his study (they did not use the drawing-room when they were alone) and her face tilted towards him. Something of her eager humility reached him—he had the scholar's profound respect for humility—and he smiled suddenly at the pleasure of understanding it.

'There is, of course, the Index.'

She was attentively silent.

'A tedious business—it will contain many cross-references—and when it is done it would have to be carefully checked before the amended version is begun upon.'

She said: 'Yes,' and waited, until he added sternly:

'There must be nothing slipshod about the Index to this book, or what little use it might ever become would be dissipated.'

'Do you think you could teach me to do it?'

'There is nothing difficult about it. It is entirely a question of patience and concentration.' He looked doubtfully at her.

'I promise you that I will concentrate,' she said.

So he taught her, and for hours a day she laboured at a task which was by no means entirely dependent upon patience and concentration for its success. Her father, she discovered, had such an intimate, detailed grasp of his subject, that he assumed a knowledge of it in her which she was far from possessing. Her mother laughed at her—carelessly, and then with a hint of something nearer jealousy or alarm (surely Toni wasn't turning into a dreary bookworm?).

(Part 5, Chapter 9.)

See you in 1980

For those who like to plan ahead, here is well over a year's advance notice of the next SI conference. It will be held at Newnham College, Cambridge (England, not Massachusetts!), from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, 11th to 13th July 1980. For this, we are indebted to the initiative of our members in Cambridge, who have formed a 'Round Table' Group to plan the conference. There will be further details in each forthcoming SI Newsletter, and in the next issue of The Indexer. Meanwhile, try to plan next year's holidays (and work!) so that you can join in this second Regional Conference—the first was in Edinburgh in 1977—which will be the Society's fourth major get-together in five years. Members and friends from overseas, as well as colleagues from the affiliated societies, can be sure of a warm welcome.
One of our Continental European members, Magda Kerényi, who came from Ascona in Switzerland to attend the Society's first international conference in July last year, contributed a report on the conference to the Neue Zürcher Zeitung of 15th August 1978 (p. 28).

An American comment on the conference, contained in the American Society of Indexers Newsletter (35), Oct. 1978: 'There was considerable attention to "historical" topics covering the first four centuries of printing rather than the last century. Perhaps this emphasis points up a difference in the approach to indexing in England as opposed to the United States. In England the classical base of scholarship pays more attention to different languages and subtleties of expression while in the United States heed is given to mechanical and technical skills (as use of computers) to manipulate the approach to subject.'

TERMS OF AFFILIATION with the CANADIAN SOCIETY
The Society of Indexers founded in London, England, in 1957 (hereinafter referred to as the Society) and the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada/Société canadienne pour l'analyse de documents (hereinafter referred to as the Canadian Society), agreeing that an affiliation between the two Societies would promote the objects of the Societies and would be in the interests of the members thereof, further agree as follows:

(1) The Canadian Society may indicate in its name or title that it is 'affiliated to the Society of Indexers founded in London, England, in 1957'.

(2) The official journal of the Society, at present entitled The Indexer, shall also be and indicate that it is the official journal of the Canadian Society.

(3) The members of each Society shall enjoy the right to attend meetings of the other Society, but without a reciprocal right to vote or hold office.

(4) The Canadian Society shall pay to the Society, in advance, on or before the last day of January of each year, an affiliation fee equal to 4 per cent of the Canadian Society's income from membership subscriptions during its previous financial year, as reported in its final accounts for the year.

(5) On payment of this affiliation fee, the Canadian Society shall enjoy the right, for that year, of not less than two pages in each issue of The Indexer for the publication of official reports, announcements, and other official Canadian Society matters, subject to such copy reaching the Editor not later than the final copy date specified in advance for each issue.

(6) The Society shall despatch by surface mail to each member of the Canadian Society, in accordance with details of names and addresses prepared by the Canadian Society, one copy of each issue of The Indexer.

(7) The Canadian Society shall pay to the Society, at the time of supplying membership details in accordance with Clause (6) above, a sum equivalent to the current journal price per copy in respect of each of its members named in the said details.

(8) Additional copies of any issue of the journal may be purchased by the Canadian Society for resale or for other purposes, at such rates of discount as may be agreed upon between the two Societies.

(9) The Society shall be entitled to accept direct journal subscriptions from persons or institutions in Canada not being members of the Canadian Society, but shall recommend such persons or institutions to join the Canadian Society.

(10) The Society shall refrain from soliciting new members in Canada and shall refer enquiries from Canada to the Canadian Society. The Canadian Society shall refrain from soliciting new members in countries other than Canada and shall refer enquiries from other countries to the Society; except that enquiries from the United States of America shall be referred to the affiliated American Society of Indexers, and enquiries from Australia shall be referred to the affiliated Australian Society of Indexers.

(11) The Canadian Society shall be entitled to appoint one of its executive officers to act in liaison with the Editor of the journal.