

ASI/AusSI/IASC/SI Newsletters

International postage combined with printing schedules result in long delay before each Newsletter produced by our four affiliated societies can be reported in this journal.

American Society of Indexers

Newsletter Number 54 for November/December 1981 (20 pp.) includes reports from ASI chapters in California, Chicago, New York and Washington; criteria, procedure and application form for the H. W. Wilson Company Indexing Award; and list of new members. Membership is reported to be 450 and growing. An article by Robert Hornick, CPA, offers advice on 'Taxes and the indexer'; the ASI profile this issue is of ASI President John Regazzi. 'Q and A' has become a lengthy correspondence/advice column, with members' replies concerning cross-references, continuous folded 3" x 5" cards, and indexing improperly spelled names; six fresh provocative questions are posed this time.

A gem therefrom: 'If you look for the word "evolution" in the index of a new high school textbook, *Experiences in Biology*, you won't find it. The reason is simple. The publisher instructed the authors to include the concept but not the word.' An article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for 13 Dec. 1981, 'Darwinism on the mind', describes the escalating battle between 'creationists' and natural scientists. The publisher is Laidlaw Bros., a division of Doubleday.

No. 55, Jan/Feb 1982 (15 pp.) features 'The law and the indexer' by Alan Speilman, an attorney for Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Inc., dealing with problems of incorporation, copyright, and contracts for indexers in America. Reports from the ASI chapters include notice of a possible new one in Dallas, and several meetings and seminars. The March seminar in Washington is reported, attended by 80, discussing 'Basic indexing', 'Business aspects of indexing', and venturing almost into metaphysics with 'Concepts in advanced indexing; beyond book indexing'.

A striking item is the announcement that 'Superindex, Inc., a newly formed corporation in Florida, is merging the indexes of almost 1000 of the most used, professional-level reference books in science, engineering, and medicine, and creating an online data base available through the DIALOG information service . . . DIALOG is quoted as looking to the day when "it will be standard procedure to include the index of every new reference book in the Superindex Program".'

Australian Society of Indexers

To quote from the AusSI Newsletter 5 (4), for Dec. 1981, 'Four numbers of the *Newsletter* will have been published this year, under the capable editorship of

Coryl Muntz. The *Newsletter* continues to be a valuable source of information about the Society's interests, not only for members too far distant to attend meetings. In addition, our affiliation with The Society of Indexers provides for its availability in the United Kingdom. We have exchange arrangements with the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada as well as a number of local associations with relevant interests. These include the Society of Editors, the Society of Industrial Editors, the Australian Society of Authors, the Fellowship of Australian Writers, the Association of Australian University Presses, the Australian Book Publishers' Association. We also distribute the *Newsletter* to a dozen subscribers, locally and overseas.'

The AusSI Newsletter has the most interesting cover design—a collage of index extracts.

This 18-page issue includes articles by G. R. T. Levick on bibliographic services to the literature of information science, and by S. A. Lansdown on computer-assisted indexing using a microcomputer, with useful glossary.

Indexing and abstracting Society of Canada

The *IASC Bulletin SCAD* Vol. 5 No. 1, April 1982 (14 pp), is accompanied by the proceedings of the 1980 annual meeting, and features a summary of the executive committee meeting in March 1982, news of the annual meeting, and an account of Gardner Indexing Service. It is the last issue to be edited by Claude Brind'Amour, and in his farewell editorial he briefly reviews events of the past few years within IASC. To quote, 'The past two years have seen IASC grapple with the problem of a membership thinly spread across the country except for sizeable groups in Toronto and Ottawa. Budgetary problems have now been solved, and while the Society cannot be termed prosperous, it nonetheless has more than enough money to meet expenses. The results of a questionnaire sent to the membership in 1981 confirmed that members wanted the affiliation with The Society of Indexers to continue; they also wished to continue receiving *The Indexer*.'

The Society of Indexers

Newsletters for February and May 1982 are concerned with the two new SI membership lists being produced, one for members, one for publishers; the West Country conference planned for 1983 in Bristol; and the sad death of Richard Haig-Brown, a most dedicated, enthusiastic and thoroughly business-like member of our society, who did everything he could to help members in the business side of indexing, and wrote the 18-page discussion paper circulated to members of The Society in 1977, *Problems in determining fees for indexers*.

H.K.B.