American Society of Indexers (nos. 56, 57, 58)

No. 56 is a splendid 'theme' issue on microcomputers and indexing, with lucid articles on theory (by William Saffady) and practice (by G. Fay Dickerson); together with a profile of Sandi Schroeder, who runs an editorial business with the aid of a microcomputer. Attached to their publications order form in this issue are ordering facilities for a 'Two-inch round beige & red button, with "INDEXERS KNOW WHERE TO PUT IT!!" $2'. (Send order, plus $2 handling charge, to Publications Sales, American Society of Indexers, 235 Park Ave. South, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10003).

No. 57 contains news of the H.W. Wilson Company Indexing Award for 1981, won by Catherine Fix for the index to the three-volume Diagnosis of bone and joint disorders, by Resnick and Niwayama, published in 1981 by W.B. Saunders Company, for whom Ms Fix works as a manuscript editor. In her speech accepting the Award, she pays repeated tribute to the 'beautiful' organization of the book by its authors, and asserts that the big problem was what not to index; the Award Committee comments: 'Nor did she succumb to the temptation to overindex . . . demonstrated grace, dexterity and insight . . . an awesome accomplishment.' Catherine Fix is the subject of this issue's Profile, where she further discusses her award-winning index; the issue also contains a complete list of winners of both the Wheatley Medal (1962-80) and the Wilson Award (1978-81). There is an article by Barbara M. Preschel on employment prospects for indexers; the President's Report for 1981-2 (we note with interest the admission of student members at reduced rates); highlights from Directors' meetings; details of the ASI's new publicity brochure, available to members to use as they think fit; and the usual lively news from various chapters, including the one about to be created in California.

No. 58 has the 1982-3 proposals from the new President (Mauro Pittaro) and lists the various Committees of the ASI and their representatives. News from chapters suggests that California is still not off the ground. The Profile is of Mary F. Tomaselli, a freelance indexer who specializes in large projects, often working in the client's office. ('I try not to take work home with me unless absolutely necessary . . . One of my most interesting jobs was the indexing of an US Air Force wartime publication considered confidential until recently released . . . What I dislike most about indexing is that the work is so little known that you have to explain the job to everyone you meet'.) The 'Q and A' section asks, 'What's the best method for indexing from galleys?' and answers, 'There is none'. We have the first article in a series called 'The Electronic Shoebox', followed by a triumphant Susan P. Freedman who commissioned her own software for back-of-the-book indexing and loves it. (She supplies an address to write to.) Another new series begins: 'What's new in Abstracting & Indexing?' is edited by Hans Wellisch and comprises a lively miscellany of short reviews, new developments and eavesdroppings. The back page is a membership renewal form and mini-questionnaire, all ready to fill in and send off.

Australian Society of Indexers (Vol. 6, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4)

The Australian Society is able to announce a successful course on practical indexing, and plans another for next June.

Dietrich Borchardt has been made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to indexing and bibliography.

An article reprinted from New Scientist castigates the British Patent Office for its computerized interim indexes. Among other charms: some Marconi patents are listed under M (for Marconi The Company) and others under T (for The Marconi Company, of course). Publications received include a Genealogical computer index: 'an expanding index to genealogical sources within Australia and overseas'. We can no doubt look forward to the eventual melding of all such indexes world-wide. A quotation from a women's magazine of 1896 (in Over the teacups, ed. Dulcie M. Ashdown, Cornmarket Press) suggests indexing as a 'rising profession that promises to
give much employment to women. It is a sedentary occupation... To a lady has been entrusted the indexing of Hansard's parliamentary debates... Has much changed?

In no. 3 appears an illuminating article by Peter H. Dawe on co-ordinate indexing which covers the subject splendidly (for manual application, though ease of adaptation to computer-use is emphasized).

A new draft Constitution was printed in no. 3, and no. 4 announces that it has been accepted. No. 4 also contains a nomination form for next year's committee. And by the way, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority wants indexers for its bibliographic data base, REEF. Could this be the seaside holiday-with-a-difference we have all been awaiting?

Finally, AusSI prints an attractive invitation in no. 2 (from John Gordon, SI Chairman) to the 'New Horizons in Indexing' weekend conference to be held in Bristol, England, 8-10 July, 1983, and in no. 4 a further encouragement to attend this internationally oriented occasion. Perhaps we shall all have an opportunity to put faces to a few names—delightful thought!

For centuries, we use

India—History—1800-1899

not strictly accurate, but easier to understand than 1801-1900. There are also other subheadings without verbal descriptors, such as

India—History—1947-

However, we have not successfully been able to transpose all L.C. subheadings, e.g.

India—History—Early to 324 B.C.

As it happens, we have not made the use which we expected of the computer in sequencing entries, since instead of proceeding to COM microfiche we are still using (computed printed) cards, filed manually. It seems, moreover, that Miss Piggott's and our solution to this