SI CONFERENCE:
NEW HORIZONS FOR INDEXING

At the Bristol conference.
Left to right: Professor James Pearson; Mary Piggott; Wolfgang Behn.

At the opening reception of the Society of Indexers' Conference 1983, in Churchill Hall, University of Bristol, delegates were welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alec Merrison, DL FRS, who said that it gave him great pleasure to act in the double role of host and guest of the Conference on its first visit to Bristol. Replying, the Society's Chairman, John Gordon, said that the members present were very happy to find that the Society's local committee had arranged the first Conference to be held in the West of England in such attractive surroundings in beautiful weather. It was, however, a matter of regret that the President of the Society, Robert Collison, was unable to attend owing to a recent accident suffered by his wife.

The announcement was then made by Keith Lawrey, Secretary-General of the Library Association, of the winner of the Wheatley Medal 1982, awarded on the recommendation of a joint panel of the Society of Indexers and the Library Association. The medal was awarded to P. W. M. Blayney for his index to The texts of King Lear and their origins, Vol. I, and Mr Lawrey commented on the high standard achieved in this index, compiled by the author of the book. As the recipient of the medal was temporarily in the USA and unable to attend, it was received on his behalf by Paul Chipchase, representing the Cambridge University Press, the publishers of the volume. Mr Chipchase said that the Cambridge University Press was most gratified to be associated with this award. It was arranged that a delegate from the USA, Sheila Ary, who was at the Conference, should take charge of the medal and hand it to Mr Blayney on her return, on behalf of the Society.

The next speaker, L. M. Harrod, a Vice-President of the Society, said that Council was very sorry to hear that Margaret Anderson had expressed a wish to resign from her position as Vice-President, after having been a member and held various administrative posts in the Society for over 20 years. Mr Harrod said that he had always found Mrs Anderson to be an invaluable colleague, an indefatigable worker, and a most pleasant and generous person. It gave him great pleasure to announce that the Society had decided to present Mrs Anderson with the Carey Award, for exceptional services to the Society and to the cause of indexing. Since Mrs Anderson was unable to be present to receive the award in person, it was accepted on her behalf by Elizabeth Wallis, the Society's Registrar. It was arranged that the award would be handed to Mrs Anderson at a later date by a small deputation from the Society.
In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the excellent facilities which had been provided for the Conference, drawing attention to the bookshop and displays which had been arranged by Society members in the entrance halls. Abridged versions of some of the addresses given at the conference appear later in this issue.

H.M.P.

Lois Nelson and Peter Greig, both from the Canadian Society; Julie Fowler.