AWARDS FOR INDEXERS

The Australian Society of Indexers now confers its own medal for an outstanding index compiled and first published in Australia. The first recipient of this award was Jeremy Fisher, who received it for his index to the fourth edition of *The Australian encyclopaedia*, published by the Grolier Society of Australia, Sydney.

The medal was presented by the President of the Society, Jean Hagger, at a dinner held in Melbourne on 21 August 1985.

The citation reads, in part:

This index to the twelve-volume work was a major and complex undertaking. It is a most notable piece of work, thorough and detailed and well set out, and constitutes an integral, essential and significant component of the work as a whole. It greatly enhances the value of the encyclopaedia.

Jeremy Fisher’s talk on the compilation of this index, given to the AusSI in May 1984, is reported in AusSI’s *Newsletter* 8 (3), August 1984, 29-34, and thence in ‘Shoebox International’ in *The Indexer* 14 (3), April 1985, 199.

**Wheatley Medal**

The Wheatley Medal is awarded annually for an outstanding index first published in the United Kingdom during the preceding three years. The Joint Selection Panel for 1984 again consisted of three members nominated by the Cataloguing and Indexing Group on behalf of The Library Association, and three nominated by the Society of Indexers. The annual awarding of its medals by The Library Association took place at a reception at the LA on 21 November, 1985. On behalf of the Wheatley Medal Selection Panel, its chairman, Martin Nail, said:

The Wheatley Medal Joint Selection Panel was disappointed that the number of nominations for the medal was lower this year than it has been in the last few years. Let me remind all those concerned with good indexing of the existence of the Medal and of the Panel’s willingness to consider all nominations made to it.

I regret to have to say that the Panel was this year unable to recommend the award of a medal. The Wheatley Medal is awarded for an *outstanding* index,
and in the judgement of the Panel none of the indexes submitted could truly so be described. There were, however, a number of good indexes before the Panel, and it is with pleasure that I can announce that the Panel wished to commend four of them.

Of these indexes there was one which deserved a high commendation. This is the index to the first series of Medicine International, published by Medical Education (International) Ltd. The index is indeed a highly commendable production, workmanlike in its construction and attractive in its appearance, providing rapid access to the topics in the work. Its success as an index is all the more notable for being in a field of knowledge where indexes are more valued than in some others.

The indexer responsible is Dr John Gibson, a Doctor of Medicine and a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Since his retirement from practice he has worked as a freelance indexer in the field of medicine. He also claims to be instructing the first Serbo-Croat member of the Society of Indexers!

John Gibson is also an occasional contributor to The Indexer, and wrote recently on 'Medical abbreviations and acronyms' (The Indexer 14 (3), 205–6).

The first of the three other indexes the Panel found worthy of commendation was the consolidated index to volumes one to ten of Britannia, the journal of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies. Mr Nail said of this, 'The index provides very detailed access to the contents of papers published in the journal, indexing such things as all the individual excavations reported and the individual types of artefact recovered in them.'

The indexer is Professor Leo Rivet, Emeritus Professor of Classics at the University of Keele and a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). He has made many contributions to books, atlases, encyclopaedias and journals in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the USA. He was Review Editor of Britannia, 1970–76.

The second commended index is also in the field of Roman studies: Epigraphic indexes to The Roman inscriptions of Britain; by R. G. Collingwood and R. P. Wright (Oxford University Press): 1, Inscriptions on stone; compiled by Roger Goodburn and Helen Waugh; published by Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd. Mr. Nail said, ‘The other indexes which the Panel commended are successful examples in established genres of index. This index is more of an innovative enterprise, in some ways a cross between a concordance and an index. The Panel was impressed by the multiplicity of access points provided, catering for all conceivable approaches to the material in the main work.’
The indexer, Roger Goodburn, is a professional archaeologist who studied iron age and Roman archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology in London and later worked as Research Assistant in the Archaeology of the Roman Empire in the University of Oxford. He has written numerous archaeological papers, reviews and other works including *The Roman villa, Chedworth* (London, 1972 and later editions), and, with P. Bartholomew (ed), *Aspects of the Notitia Dignitatum* (Oxford, 1976). He sub-edited the journal *Britannia* from 1969 to 1979 and wrote its annual surveys of archaeological work in Britain from 1975 to 1979. He has excavated in Britain and abroad, notably a major project at Winterton Roman villa, Lincolnshire, and Chedworth Roman villa. He is at present freelance, carrying out work for the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and for the National Trust.

Mr Nail continued, ‘The final index commended by the Panel is in a different field: it is the index to *The journals and letters of Fanny Burney (Madame d’Arblay)* (in twelve volumes); edited by Joyce Hemlow with Althea Douglas and Patricia Hawkins; published by Clarendon Press. Unlike the last index, this one is firmly in an established tradition of indexes, that of an index to the papers and correspondence of an important literary figure. This index, as one would expect, gives scholars of the period full access to the numerous references to Fanny Burney’s friends, relations and acquaintances, with useful subheadings under those mentioned frequently.’

This index was compiled by the editor of the Clarendon edition of Fanny Burney’s journal and letters, Professor Joyce Hemlow, Professor of English literature at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The work is fully described by Althea Douglas in *The Indexer* 14 (4) Oct. 1985, 241–8.

Mr Nail emphasized that the panel hoped that more nominations would be put forward for the 1985 medal by authors, publishers, or members of the LA or SI, and that they were willing to consider all indexes submitted.

Indexes and indexers were prominent among the other Library Association awards presented at this reception. In particular, commended for the Besterman Medal, awarded for an outstanding bibliography or guide to the literature, was *Printed reference material*, edited by Gavin L. Higgens, 2nd edition (Library Association), which includes an authoritative chapter on indexes by Ken Bakewell—see review, *The Indexer* 14 (4), 291–2.

**H. W. Wilson Award**

In the USA, the 1984 H.W. Wilson Company Award for Excellence in Indexing went to Sydney Wolfe Cohen for his work on *The experts speak*, a book about experts who have been forced by history to eat their words. The publisher, Pantheon Books, also received a citation for its recognition of the importance of quality indexing.

Co-authored by Christopher Cerf and Victor Navasky and aided by their Institute of Expertology, *The experts speak* is a compilation of gaffes and misstatements from renowned authorities such as Aristotle, Sir Isaac Newton, Thomas Edison, Henry Kissinger, and Ronald Reagan. Cohen was designated the Institute’s Director of Indexology and, in collaboration with Cerf and Navasky, decided that the index should mirror the book’s tongue-in-cheek character. Highly detailed and accurate, the index would also parody ‘indexes’ and be funny enough to be read for its own sake. Cohen responded with entries such as:

- alarm, no cause for: in eruption of Mount Pele, 301
- in stock market crash, 47
- on Titanic, 233–34
- atomic bombs, Creator’s foolproof plans for preventing development of, 251–52

**INDEX-linked schools**

INDEX—*Innovation and Development Exchange*—is a new information system launched in September 1985 for helping the 147 secondary schools of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) to keep in touch with the latest ideas and to swap experience and know-how. The system will be based on a central computer and accessed by individual schools through a communications network.

INDEX will include details on curriculum development, equal opportunities and anti-discrimination policies, profiles and records of achievement, study skills and many other topics where exchange of ideas could be useful.