As indexers become publishers, we come to understand the problems of our masters. In particular, as we sadly admit that we cannot afford the indexing of our own publications (how we would love to have a cumulative index to all thirty-six years’ worth of The Indexer! And the plaint recurs in the newsletters, ‘Will anyone volunteer to compile an index...?’); or at least, we cannot pay what indexers regard as a proper fee—nor willingly grant them what they regard as a proper time—nor, perhaps, even find the ideal, willing and available indexers for our tasks—we appreciate, and perhaps forgive, some of the problems we have recounted of our professional lives. Indexer-publishing can only be of benefit to the publishing world, both in the excellence of the products it provides, and in its improvement of indexer–publisher relations.

Meanwhile, The Indexer remains the societies’ mutual scholarly publication, internationally distributed to the academic community: well established as the sole such regular publication focusing solely upon indexing itself, the art/craft/science/profession—and not failing to find material, as so foolishly forecast in 1961.

Hazel K. Bell

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