Indexers of the world confer

Indexers have been conferring internationally since the Society of Indexers held its first international conference, in Richmond, London in July 1978. That was attended by representatives of the American, Australian and Canadian Societies of Indexers, as well as members from 14 other countries (listed in the conference report in *The Indexer* 11 (2) October 1978, pages 57–60), with a programme that included lectures from Professors William Heckscher of Princeton, New Jersey, and Hans Wellisch of Maryland. (Or, indeed, the international beginning may be traced back to 21 years previously, when Professor Heckscher flew from Utrecht to attend the Society’s inaugural meeting, held in London, March 1957, and published a report of it in Dutch.) Happily, Norman Knight, SI’s founder, lived to attend this conference and see how his initial ‘discreet luncheons at my club’ had expanded to a gathering of more than a hundred participants from sixteen countries.

Since then, SI has held several further international conferences, inviting representatives from the affiliated societies, with the conference fee waived for one member from each. Faces of particular ASI, AusSI and IASC members have become familiar and welcome to SI conference-goers. ASI has reciprocated, holding its own international conferences in San Francisco (1989) and Alexandria, Virginia (1993), with guest speakers from its fellow societies. The 1993 conference (attended by 220, with an enormous total travel mileage, and reported in this issue) included a particularly valuable session, ‘The profession of indexing: an international perspective’, with a panel comprising officers of ASI, AusSI, IASC, and SI.

Now such international gatherings are increasing and spreading. ASI’s next conference is to be held in San Diego, California, in May 1994; SI’s follows in Norwich, Norfolk in July; AusSI has announced its first international conference, for March–April 1995, in Marysville, Victoria; and IASC is planning a joint conference with ASI for spring 1995 in Toronto. All are being publicized among all the societies, and hope for overseas attendance.

Inter-society communication also proceeds apace with our shared journal, reports there of each society’s activities and publications, and the encouragement of mutual exchange of these. As indexers acquire faxes, near-conversations proceed across the oceans. (From my Hertfordshire home...
I enjoy many an exchange with Nancy Mulvany, ASI's last conference organizer, in California—usually with swifter responses than those I find from London answerphones and letters.)

Meanwhile, articles from *The Indexer* have been translated to appear in the journal of the Japan Indexers Association, and we have been pleased to receive letters from indexers and *Indexer* readers in China, Nigeria and South Africa, all with news of plans to establish societies of indexers there.

The title of this journal’s regular feature reporting on the societies’ activities has changed from ‘Shoebox, International’ to ‘Network of Indexers’. We seem indeed to be achieving the worldwide comradeship and communication this suggests. Good! Sure! Bouzer!

H.K.B.

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**Coming events**

**1993**

December 7–9 *Online Information 93*—the 17th International Online Information Meeting. Olympia 2, London. Details from Learned Information Ltd, Woodside, Hinksey Hill, Oxford OX1 5AU, UK.

**1994**


May 13–14 26th Annual Meeting of American Society of Indexers. Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, California, USA.


July 15–17 Society of Indexers conference. Norwich City College, Norwich, Norfolk. Details from: Jill Halliday, The Old Maltsters, Pulham St Mary, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4OT, UK.

**1995**