

THE INDEXER

Journal of the Society of Indexers and of its affiliated American & Australian & Canadian Societies

Editorial

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

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The Society of Indexers is a non-profit organization founded in 1957 as an autonomous, professional body for indexers. Membership is open to any person or organization interested in the promotion of the role of indexers in the organization of knowledge, and of standards and techniques for all forms of indexing.



Photograph by BevAnne Ross

Left to right: Michele Hudon, IASC President; Janet Shuter, SI Past Chair; Linda Fetters, ASI President; at the ASI 25th anniversary conference.

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 'Shoebbox, International' to 'Network of Indexers'. We seem indeed to be achieving the worldwide comradeship and communication this suggests. Good! Sure! Bouzer!

H.K.B.

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

Feb. 28-March 2 **NFAIS conference**: 'Primary and secondary publishers—it's time to talk'. Philadelphia, PA. \$560 early registration for non-members. *Details from National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services, 1429, Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, USA. tel (215) 563-2406; fax 215 563 2848.*

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

June 21-24 **3rd International Society for Knowledge Organization conference**: 'Knowledge organization and quality management'. Copenhagen, Denmark. *Details from Hanne Albrechtsen, The Royal School of Librarianship, Birketinget 6, DK-2300, Copenhagen S, Denmark; tel. +45 31 58 60 66.*

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

31 March-2 April **Australian Society of Indexers International Conference**, 'Indexers: Partners in Publishing'. Marysville, Victoria. *Details from AusSi Conference committee, GPO Box 1251, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia.*