

7. Charles T. Jacobi (designated on the title page here as 'managing partner of the Chiswick Press'), *Some notes on books and printing: a guide for authors, publishers, & others*, 2nd ed., London: Charles Whittingham & Co. at the Chiswick Press, 1902.
8. In Charles T. Jacobi, *Some notes on books and printing*, 2nd ed., London, pp. 18-21; 4th ed., London, 1912, pp. 22-26.
9. Cf. the note by Collins in the Preface to the *Authors' and printers' dictionary* (10th ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956): 'A sketch of the way in which this work was compiled may be of interest. All suitable words, phrases, &c., were copied on to separate slips. These were then arranged alphabetically, duplicates eliminated, and the manuscript copy made.'
10. London: Chiswick Press, 1896. Collins is designated on the title page as the 'Author of "An Epitome of the Synthetic Philosophy," "The Tides of the West Coast of Scotland," etc.' This item appears to be a bibliographical rarity, as it is not listed by the British Library Catalogue, and the National Union Catalogue lists the New York Public Library's copy as unique.



Photograph by Haschers

*Michael Robertson is a freelance copyeditor, translator and indexer.*

## THE INDEXER Thirty years ago

Volume 3, No. 4 of *The Indexer*, the autumn 1963 issue, was the last edited by John Thornton. In his farewell editorial (after five years in the office), he welcomed his successor, L. M. Harrod, and looked forward 'to perusing issues that we have not read in manuscript, edited, proof-read, pasted-up, re-read in page form, and despatched'.

Three highly distinguished indexers came to the fore in this issue. A. R. Hewitt wrote nine expert pages on legal indexing, on which he subsequently published classic volumes. E. J. Coates described the 'aims and methods of the *British Technology Index*'. M. D. Anderson made two appearances, writing of 'Indexers at play' (humorous indexes) and 'The indexer as proof corrector'. Three pages of correspondence continued to debate the favourite topics: whether novels should have indexes; indexing from unpagged galley proofs; word-by-word *versus* letter-by-letter; one index, or more than one? Eleven books were reviewed, from *Machine indexing: progress and problems* to *The Bee World Index*.

This issue, completing volume 3 (164 pages), included the title-page and three-page index, compiled by the Society's then President, Gordon V. Carey.

### Author-indexer approved

Wholly correct authorial attitudes are shown by Homer, hero of Jane Langton's *The memorial hall murder* (Gollanz, 1990):

'He was supposed to be finishing the last chapter of the textbook, *The Great Cloud Darkening the Land*, which was growing out of the course of lectures. But he was bored with the last chapter. It was the index that really captured his interest. The index was going to be the best part. It was going to be the most informative, garrulous, cross-indexed index there ever was. A magnificent index. At the moment the index was only a crawling swarm of three-by-five cards, proliferating all over the table.'

This author's wife, too, seems to be involved on an enthusiastic, rather than *faute de mieux* level:

'Homer and Mary took a walk along the Charles after lunch, and then Mary turned around to go home to work on her half of the index, with which she was as infatuated as Homer. "Now listen, Homer, don't forget to stop at the grocery store when you're through at Widener. Have you got the list?"

"Right here," said Homer. "The trouble is, I've got two lists. One of them is the references I've got to check, and what I'm afraid I'll do is march up to the call desk in Widener and pound on the counter and demand a dozen tortillas and a can of enchilada sauce."

"Well, just be sure you don't hand me twelve volumes of the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* and expect me to turn them into a Mexican dinner."

Our thanks to Messrs. Victor Gollanz for permission to quote these passages.