Heckscher’s work as an indexer and for indexing was widely recognized. The editor of *Art and literature*, Égon Verhayen, wrote there:

William Heckscher is a born indexer. Indexing has indeed become one of his most pronounced passions. . . . for Heckscher, indexing does not mean culling words from a manuscript or book but building a system of meanings. . . . In its final perfection, the index would become an instrument of its own which would no longer need, or even be connected with a text.

In his fourth Festschrift, *Emblematic perceptions: Essays in honor of William S. Heckscher*, Virginia Woods Callahan cited among his ingenious innovations his ‘concept of what an index should be. Indexing has for him become “a pronounced passion”, [as] is evident from his numerous articles relating to indexing and the two volumes, *The Princeton Alciati Companion* and *Emblematic Variants* published by AMS Press.’

John Gordon greeted the 80th birthday of ‘the unique Canadian Hamburger’ in this journal with

Indexer, art historian, artist, polyglot, philosopher – it is as an indexer that we know him best. And what an indexer! He has led us beyond existing limits and shown us how the art of indexing can be enriched in ways that few if any of us had thought possible.

Most of the words above are taken from the tributes and reviews written by John Gordon of his ‘most loyal of colleagues, warmest of friends, modest to the point of self-mockery’. In one he referred to Heckscher’s ‘genius for correspondence. His letters are an unceasing flow of ideas, an irresistible blend of impish humour and learned observations’. As one of those privileged to enjoy ‘these inspiring epistolary relationships’, I can fervently attest to that. As the grateful editor of *The Indexer* throughout the years during which Heckscher so enhanced this journal, I expected one day to invite John to write this final tribute. John, though, died a year before his colleague.

William Heckscher leaves his widow, Roxanne, three daughters and three grandchildren.

Hazel K. Bell, freelance indexer

Colin Matthew 1941–1999

Professor Colin Matthew, Wheatley Medallist in 1994, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on 29 October 1999 at the age of 58. He combined rigorous scholarship with extensive involvement in academic institutions; he was a Professor in the University of Oxford, a Fellow (and latterly Vice-President) of the British Academy, a Curator of the Bodleian Library, a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery and sometime Literary Director of the Royal Historical Society. Indexers have also been honoured to have him as a contributor to *The Indexer*, a speaker, and a good friend and supporter of the Society of Indexers.

Colin Matthew compiled his first indexes, as a graduate student, to works including his own thesis, *The liberal imperialists*, and the journal *African Affairs* (he had spent the years immediately after his graduation teaching in Tanzania). In the early 1970s he embarked on his major work of scholarship, editing the diaries of W. E. Gladstone. The first two volumes had been produced by Professor M. R. D. Foot; Colin Matthew worked jointly with him on the third and fourth volumes and was sole editor of the remaining nine volumes of diaries. It was the final volume, an index to the whole edition, that earned him the Wheatley Medal. It comprises three separate indexes: those of the *dramatis personae* and of Gladstone’s reading, compiled from card indexes built up during the editing process, and the Subject Index, which Colin Matthew compiled during the last two years of the project by working through the whole text chronologically once more. He found that the work on the index illuminated new aspects of the diaries, writing that ‘the opportunity of using the index to open up, consolidate, almost to reinterpret, so central a text of the Victorian age, had been a formidable intellectual as well as technical challenge’. He regarded it as an important feature of the Gladstone index that it exists both in print and as a database, capable of being searched in combinations not foreseen by the compiler and of being updated, expanded and corrected. He carried these ideas with him into his next major undertaking, the editing of the *New Dictionary of National Biography*, the *NDNB*. It is to be published both in book and electronic form, the text of the latter being tagged and searchable in a scholarly and imaginative use of the opportunities offered by this new medium.

Colin Matthew spoke of his indexing as a joint enterprise, using ‘we’ rather than ‘I’. He and his wife, Sue, worked on the early indexes together; later, as the material for the *Gladstone* index accumulated and he had the help of a number of research assistants and computer experts, he spoke of himself as one of the team. He came to the Society in the same self-effacing spirit, bringing an authority that was the greater for his down-to-earth openness and honesty. We wish that we had known him longer.

Barbara Hird, freelance indexer

Colin Matthew at the Wheatley Medal ceremony in 1995.