certainly made a strong contribution to it, for which she was
made an Honorary Life Member. We are honoured to have
had her among us.

Note
1 Fortunately many of the details recounted here (as well as
many many more) were elicited by Freda's cousin Tricia

Cherry Lavell, retired indexer

Around the World

Christine Jacobs

China Society of Indexers

The China Society of Indexers (CSI) is now officially affiliated with the American Society of Indexers (ASI), the Association of Southern Africa Indexers and Bibliographers (ASAIB), the Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI), the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada (IASC/SCAD) and the Society of Indexers (SI). With permission from the Chinese Ministry of Culture, an official agreement was signed during CSI’s October conference in Dalian.

Conference successes

AusSI’s Second International Conference in Hobart, Tasmania, met with considerable success. It was attended by delegates from Australia, Britain, the United States and New Zealand, and covered a wide range of subjects including website, database, bibliographic, book and journal indexing. Included were presentations on the Australian publishing industry, on the difficulties of indexing to meet the needs of broad and narrow queries, and on the political problems of choosing indexing terms acceptable to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. For a more comprehensive report, check out the October issue of the AusSI newsletter on their website: http://www.aussi.org

Both the ASAIB and the CSI conferences took place in October. ‘Indexing for Africa: Past, Present, Future and a Little Y2K’ drew people to Johannesburg to hear presentations on a variety of subjects. Look for AusSI president Alan Walker’s report on the conference in China elsewhere in this issue of The Indexer (pp. 21–2).

Connecting electronically

Clearly, indexers love discussion lists. The opportunity to escape momentarily from what is for many of us a solitary calling, to enjoy the collegiality of ‘talking’ to others who do the same thing and are faced with the same problems, is very appealing.

Index-L is perhaps the best-known general-purpose list with participants from a number of countries. There are a number of others however. aliaIndexers is sponsored by the Australian Libraries and Information Association and Indexstudents focuses on the needs of beginner indexers everywhere, although it was started primarily to meet the needs of people enrolled in the USDA indexing course.

SI has just launched its members-only discussion list, Sideline, in order to provide its members with a forum to discuss local issues and society matters. ASI has had a similar list in operation for a while, ASI-L, and at least one of its chapters has a local discussion list: INDEX-NW.

There are three lists devoted to indexing software information exchange – Cindex, Macrex and SKY Index. Windmail, based in Australia, is focused on web indexing discussions. Other specialized discussion lists are undoubtedly emerging as I write! For information on how to subscribe to any of the lists mentioned here, go to the ASI, AusSI and SI websites (see inside back cover for URLs).

Do you know what a WebRing is? Robin Hilp maintains a website that links a ‘ring’ of sites devoted to indexing. The Indexer’s WebRing will lead you to the websites of fellow indexers and you are encouraged to join and register your site so that people can find you more easily. Go to http://www.geocities.com/Athens/4537/indexr.html

Member services at ASI

ASI has hired an association management company to provide management and administrative support services. Drohan Management Group of Reston, Virginia, will handle such tasks as conference registration, the printing of Key Words and other ASI membership publications, as well as helping with conference organization (however, ASI monographs will continue to be published by Information Today, Inc.). The ASI offices moved on 1 February 2000 (see the inside back cover for the address).

Among its other services, ASI now offers members two plans for accessing legal and financial information – a Legal Access Plan suitable for general needs and a Small Business Legal Network Plan that is designed for small business owners. In exchange for a small monthly fee members have access to unlimited legal and financial telephone advice and discounted office visits.
Children and indexes

It is encouraging to hear indexing for children being treated seriously by publishers and educators. AusSI Victorian Branch enjoyed a visit from Janet Hillman of Mimosa Publishing who discussed the importance of indexes in marketing primary and secondary educational resource material. ‘In some cases the books themselves take second place to promotion of the indexes, as this is where specific topics can be highlighted and breadth of coverage can be displayed by the number of pages listed under that heading in the index.’ If only more publishers saw indexes in such a positive light!

SI’s Research Committee is looking at a suggestion that SI put together a teacher’s pack for Key Stages 1 and 2 (ages 5–11) on the subject of indexes and their use. It is calling for serious proposals. Anyone interested should contact Anne McCarthy of Gullane, Scotland on +44-(0)1620-842247; email: annemccarthy@btinternet.com. The next volume in the SI series of Occasional Papers on Indexing will also be devoted to the topic of indexing children’s information books.

Recent publications

Society of Indexers, Anthology for the millennium (available from SI’s Sheffield office; see inside back cover).

Brenner, Diane and Rowland, Marilyn (eds), Beyond book indexing: how to get started in web indexing, embedded indexing and other computer-based media (available from Information Today Inc. at custserv@infotoday.com).

Where to go, 2000

3–10 May: Albuquerque, New Mexico (USA) – Hot! Hot!! Hot!!!, the ASI annual conference

26 May: Vancouver, Canada – IASC annual conference

14–17 July: Cambridge, England – Cambridge SIdelights Review, the SI annual conference

Contributors to this column

Thank you to contributors Glenda Browne, Jill Halliday, Clodagh Jones, Jacqueline Kalley, Lori Lathrop, Sandi Schroeder and Marcia Zeng.

I am always looking for tidbits for this column. If you have research, an interesting indexing project, or curious facts that you would like to relay to me, I would love to hear from you (see address details below).

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