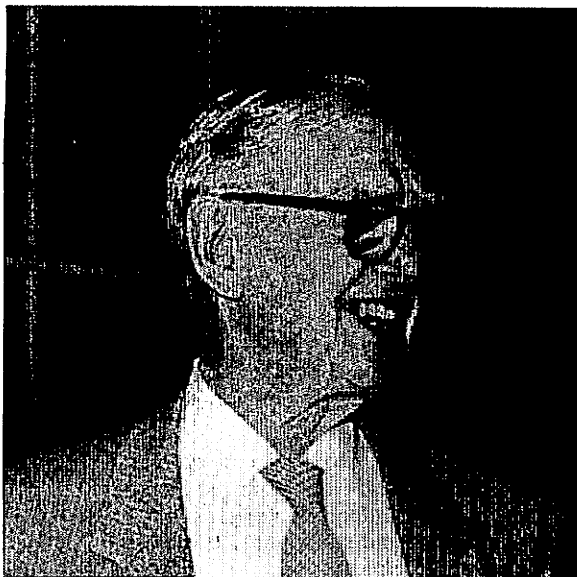


Leonard Montague Harrod, FLA 1905–1984



Leonard Montague Harrod died on 12 March 1984 at the age of 78, and until a short time before his death remained active in the affairs of the Society of Indexers. Born at Horsham on 21 May 1905, he was educated at Rutlish School, Merton, Surrey, and at the School of Librarianship, University College, London. He was on the library staff at Wimbledon (1923–4), Fulham (1924–6) and Croydon (1926–37), before being appointed Borough Librarian of Mitcham in 1937. Three years later he went to Islington, where he became Chief Librarian and Curator, and it was during his period there that I became acquainted with him on his frequent visits to Bart's Medical College to consult the Hospital archives. I already knew him by reputation through his *Lending library methods*, (1933), (accepted for the Honours Diploma as FLA), and *The librarian's glossary of terms used in librarianship, etc.*, first published in 1938, the fourth edition of which was reviewed in the Spring 1984 issue of *The Indexer*.

In 1954 L. M. Harrod went to Singapore and became Director of the National Library, being responsible for the planning of the new Raffles Library. In 1958 he became the Society's Singapore correspondent, but returned to England in 1960, to become successively Librarian of John Laing R & D. (1960–1) and of City of Westminster College (1961); from 1961–9 he was Lecturer-in-Charge of Overseas Librarians at the North-Western Polytechnic. He was Editor of *The Indexer*

from 1964 to 1978, having been a member of the Editorial Board (formerly Publications Board) since 1961. He was Director of the indexing training courses organized by the Society and held at the North-Western Polytechnic, served as the Society's representative on various committees of the British Standards Institution, and was Librarian, representative on the Wheatley Medal joint LA/SI panel, SI Vice-Chairman (1974–6), and an SI Vice-President since 1978. He was awarded the Wheatley Medal in 1973 for his index to the *History of the King's works, vol. 6, 1782–1851*, edited by H. M. Colvin, and the Carey Award for outstanding services to indexing in 1982. (See *The Indexer* 13 (2) Oct. 1982, 76–8).

Monty, as he was affectionately known to his friends, was also the author of *The libraries of Greater London*, (1951) and *Library work with children* (1969), and the indexes to each volume of *The Indexer* contain references under his name. He contributed editorials, book reviews, letters and annotations in addition to several articles, the following of which are particularly interesting: 'Bibliography of works by H. B. Wheatley' (4, 1964–5, pp. 116–7; 5, 1966–7, pp. 35–7); 'The Editor speaks' (7, 1970–1, pp. 143–9); 'Training in indexing' (8, 1972–3, pp. 50–3); and 'Official guidance on book indexes' (10, 1976–7, pp. 124–30). He also edited for the Society, *Indexers on indexing: a selection of articles published in The Indexer* (New York, London; Bowker, 1978).

The above catalogue of the main events in Monty's professional life can give but a glimpse of the man who put everything into the tasks he undertook. It can be compared to reading the index to an entire book, and neglecting the text. He put his heart and soul into every project, undertaking tasks which took vital time in a very busy lifetime, without thought of personal gain or reward. Right to the end he served the Society of Indexers, sharing his extensive experience, and giving advice which was always worthy of deep consideration. The Society has lost one of its earliest Life Members, and the officers and members a valued friend.

Monty married Jean in 1932, and they had two children and four grandchildren. He had a lifelong interest in music, and achieved the Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music on the violin. He was also a keen photographer, and his photographs of Singapore constitute a valuable historical record. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow and family, and mourn the loss of a great librarian, indexer and friend. *Vale!*

John L. Thornton