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Henry Benjamin Wheatley

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What is an Index?

Henry Benjamin Wheatley (1838–1917) was a bibliographer and editor with a prodigious output of books and articles to his name. Brought up after the death of both his parents by his brother Benjamin Robert, himself a skilled bibliographer and cataloguer, Henry compiled catalogues for learned societies and worked for many years for the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Arts; he was a founder member of the Library Association and of the Early English Text Society, and produced an edition of Pepys' diary which was not superseded until the 1970s. This work, published in 1879, is one of two which he produced on the subject of indexing, and which led him to become known as 'the father of British indexing': the Wheatley Medal awarded by the Society of Indexers is named after him. This book shows the development of indexes (beginning with the origin of the word itself), gives rules for their compilation and provides a bibliographical list of important indexes and concordances. It remains a fascinating introduction to indexing for the professional and amateur alike.

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A FEW NOTES

ON

INDEXES AND INDEXERS.

BY

HENRY B. WHEATLEY, F.S.A.

HON. SEC. OF THE INDEX SOCIETY, AND
TREASURER OF THE EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY.

“I for my part venerate the inventor of Indexes; and I know not to whom to yield the preference, either to Hippocrates, who was the first great anatomiser of the human body, or to that unknown labourer in literature who first laid open the nerves and arteries of a book.”—*Isaac Disraeli, Literary Miscellanies.*

“I magnify mine office.”



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