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Ms Bell has edited The Indexer, the professional journal of the Society of Indexers, from 1978 to 1995, and Learned Publishing, the journal of the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, from 1987 to 1996. She has written many articles for those journals and others, as well as the volumes Indexers and Indexes in Fact and Fiction (British Library/University of Toronto Press, 2001), Indexing Biographies and Other Stories of Human Lives (Society of Indexers, 2004), and A Stage Mother’s Story (HKB Press, 2006), and From Flock Beds to Professionalism: A History of Index-makers (HKB Press and Oak Knoll Press, 2008).

My acquaintance with Gordon Graham began as a fraternization of journals. In 1990, when I was the editor of Learned Publishing (LP: the quarterly journal of the Association of Learned and Professional Publishers [ALPSP]), he wrote to me to ask to advertise there the journal he was about to launch, Logos. I was impressed by Logos’ cover design and promise, and had the first issue reviewed in LP. I sent Gordon a copy of the journal of the Society of Indexers, The Indexer (TI), which I also edited, proposing exchange subscriptions. Gordon’s comment in response, “I am impressed by the breadth of coverage in such a highly targeted journal,” was quoted in publicity for The Indexer for the following 18 years; and The Indexer reviewed the completion of the first volume of Logos.

Gordon’s activities thenceforth provided a stream of splendid copy for both my journals. LP reported his address to ALPSP’s 1991 annual general meeting, noted the completion of Logos’ second year, and hailed Logos’ third volume. In 1993 LP quoted at length from Logos articles on the relative price and value of books, changes in medical publishing and the insidious effect of computer-use on the English language, and reviewed Gordon’s booklet written for the International Publishers Association, What Publishers Do. We reported his speaking against the motion, “The present generation of publishers is doomed” at the British Computer Society Electronic Publishing Specialist Group, and his Whitcombe Memorial Lecture to the Society of Freelance Editors and Proofreaders. A full page of LP reviewed the first issue of volume 7 of Logos, and I found Gordon’s editorial in 7/3 so good that I quoted a full page of extracts from it. 1997 saw LP reporting Gordon’s talk at the UK Serials Group Conference on “Paper: the reliable technology,” and reviewing the hardback publication of Logos 7/1.

In 1999 Richard Abel’s musings in Logos on books and journals filled more than a page of LP. In 1998 I brought another journal into our...
dance, writing a profile of Gordon (and of course Logos) as the first in my series "Personalities in publishing" for *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*.[17]

Meanwhile, another link with Logos had steadily developed for me. Gordon engaged me to undertake the indexing of the journal. Through 1991 we exchanged much correspondence discussing the nature, contents, style, design and method of production of the proposed index. It was to be cumulative, issued annually as a separate printed document. Expectations were high. Gordon wrote: “I am seeking to make the index conform to a grander and more distant ambition. I hope that after a number of years Logos will become cumulatively the equivalent of an encyclopedia of the book world. ... Ultimately the index would be a separate volume sold to libraries who wanted to use their back numbers as an encyclopedia.”

I prepared a specimen index to the first issue, working on my BBC Model B microcomputer, 80-track, using HiView word processing program and a sorting program for indexing written by my son. Gordon commented: “One unexpected subsidiary value is that perusal of the index suggests topics for future articles!” Another result of the long index-discussion was that he mused, “There is a Logos story on the subject of indexing, one of these specialised corners of the book world about which the generalist knows little.”

Through the succeeding years Gordon did indeed procure several Logos stories on indexing, notably “The art of indexing and some fallacies of its automation” by Hans Wellisch in 3/2 and Nancy Mulvany’s “The human-written index” in 15/2. He adapted an article of my own in *The Indexer* to produce “On the indexability of butterflies” in Logos 3/3, and told me “you have almost convinced me that if a book cannot be indexed, there is something wrong with it.” A section on indexing was included in the Logos series, “The Literature of the Book” (14/1; reviewed in *The Indexer* on its hardback publication in 2005).[18] Logos also reviewed four books on indexing.[19]

The first published index to Logos was available separately with the first issue of Volume 3. It covered Volumes 1 and 2, comprising 16 pages. Gordon wrote to me, “Your index on Logos is the first that I have read, and I found it fascinating as a re-arranged mosaic of so many topics with which I am familiar.” He wrote of the index in the editorial to that issue, musing on what an index can mean to an editor. These paragraphs were reproduced with appreciation in *The Indexer*.[20]

Gordon requested reader reaction to Logos. I sent him plenty: as I wrote, “I read the journal in several aspects: as pleased and interested reader; blushing subject of references; flushed contributor of letter; intently analytical indexer; and editor of journals on indexing and on publishing, always hungry for copy.” Gordon observed “you are the only reader of Logos, apart from the editors, who is bound to read every word.”

The index to Volumes 1-3 of Logos outgrew the capacity of a single file on my BBC computer floppy disc, and was sent for production in two separate files, for A-G and H-Z. For the incorporation of Volume 4 into the cumulative index my husband converted the program to the IBM PC and the text to WordPerfect.

The index continued to grow, expansively and expensively. For volumes 1-5 it was 28 triple-column pages long; for 1-6, 29; 1-7, 33; 1-8, 35; 1-9, 38 pages. The publisher, Colin Whurr, decided this constant increase could not go on. He wrote to me, “Our tentative plan is that we will continue with the jumbo index for next year, the tenth, and start a new, slim line index with 11/1.” Gordon (and I) regretted this decision: Gordon wrote, “I continue to be, I suspect, the most active user of your index. It is now becoming a substantial work of reference, and I shall be sorry if we have to start afresh after ten years.”

By 2000, Logos was represented on two websites, and the editorial to Logos 12/1 stated, “the Blackwell site will include our ten-year cumulative index.” Gordon told me: “Our latest thought is that the index would appear only as a website in future – there would be no printed version. However, the editors would want to have a paper version, since we use it almost every day.”

The last printed ‘jumbo index’ was published in 2002, covering volumes 1-12, 49 pages long. Then the Whurr website hosted Logos, and Gordon wrote: “The Logos cumulative index is getting too large. ... We have two options. One is to close off the existing index after the current volume 13 and..."