

# Indexes reviewed

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*These extracts from reviews do not pretend to represent a complete survey of all reviews in journals and newspapers. We offer only a selection from quotations that members have sent in. Our reproduction of comments is not a stamp of approval from the Society of Indexers upon the reviewer's assessment of an index.*

*Extracts are arranged alphabetically under the names of publishers, within the sections: Indexes praised; Two cheers!; Indexes censured; Indexes omitted; Obiter dicta.*

## Indexes praised

**Allyn and Bacon:** *The technical communicator's handbook*, by Dan Jones (2000, 432 pp, \$27). Rev. by Garret H. Romaine, *Technical Communication* 48(4), Nov. 2001.

Throughout the handbook, the author provides lists of tips to help the reader through difficult concepts. Tips are also listed separately in each chapter's table of contents and referenced in the index, which greatly aids in usability.

**American Psychological Association:** *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th edn, 2001, 439 pp, \$23.95–\$34.950). Rev. by Tracy L. Christiansen, *AMWA Journal* 17(1), 2002.

The index has been expanded and is thorough, listing page numbers, section numbers, and cross-references to related topics. [*But there's nothing on indexes or indexing in the manual itself!* comments Pilar Wyman, who sent this item.]

**Ashgate Arena:** *Good practices in palliative care: a psychosocial perspective*, by David Oliveire, Rosalind Hargreaves and Barbara Monroe (2000, £27.50). Rev. by Suzanne Hammond, *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, 2000, 6(1).

Besides the extensive index and list of references, user-friendliness within each chapter is enhanced by the use of different typefaces and boxed information.

**Aslib/IMI:** *Free business & industry information on the Web*, by Paul Pedley (2000, 110 pp, £25). Rev. by Ann Day, *Library Association Record* 104(1), Jan. 2002.

This book is brilliant. Every library and small business should have a copy.... The back of the book has an alphabetical listing of organisations/providers mentioned in the text. Each text reference to a website is numbered and this index provides a cross reference to this numbering system. You can therefore look up an organisation in the index and go straight to its website in the text. There is also a subject index.

**The Canadian Library Association and the Business Research & Marketing Association:** *The Canadian B2B research sourcebook: your essential guide*, by Maggie Weaver (2001, 222 pp, \$100 Canadian). Rev. by Paul Pedley, *Managing Information*, Jan./Feb. 2002.

The book also has a detailed index which runs to 25 pages.

**Frank Cass:** *KGB lexicon*, ed. by Vasily Mitrokhin (451 pp, £35). Rev. by M. R. D. Foot, *The Spectator*, 23 Feb. 2002.

[Mitrokhin] prints in translation what he managed to smuggle out ten years ago in Russian: the handbooks for intelligence and counter-intelligence used by the KGB. It is a minor awkwardness that the entries come in alphabetical order in Russian: a pair of indexes enables the reader to find any particular point at once.

**Chatto:** *Flora poetica: the Chatto book of botanical verse*, ed. by Sarah Maguire (344 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Peter Parker, *Daily Telegraph*, 12 Jan. 2002.

A useful index identifies the geographical distribution of poets...

**Dedalus:** *The Dedalus book of absinthe*, by Phil Baker (296 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Sam Leith, *Daily Telegraph*, 29 Dec. 2001.

As well as a proper index and bibliography, he includes chapters on the science of absinthe and the rituals of its preparation...

**Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom:** *A chronology of state medicine, public health, welfare and related services in Britain, 1066–1999*, by Michael D. Warren (2000, 313 pp, £18). Rev. by A. M. B. Golding, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* 94, Jan. 2001.

There is an excellent general index; so, for instance, if you look up penicillin you will find 1928 and under that year that Alexander Fleming then observed the antibacterial effects of penicillin.

**Farrar, Straus & Giroux:** *The double bond: Primo Levi: a biography*, by Carole Angier (2002, 928 pp, \$40). Rev. by Richard Eder, *New York Times*, 16 June 2001.

Scrupulously indexed and annotated (113 pages of endnotes for 731 pages of text), *The double bond* is remarkable in all senses of the word.

**Fitzroy Dearborn:** *The information specialist's guide to searching and researching on the Internet and World Wide Web*, by Ernest Ackermann and Karen Hartman (2nd edn, 2000, 438 pp, \$40). Rev. by Sally Chambers, *Library Association Record* 103(6), 2001.

The layout is complemented by useful tools, including an expanded contents listing; comprehensive index; and user-friendly glossary.

**Flammarion:** *Correspondance générale, vol. 7, 1864–1869*, ed. by Hugh Macdonald (767 pp, 295 fr.) Rev. by John Warrack, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 Nov. 2001.

The editorial principles originally established in 1972 by Pierre Citron, who remains Editorial Director, have stood well the test of handling almost 3,500 letters. Texts are clearly printed and sufficiently annotated; each year is prefaced by a summary of its events; the indexes include short biographical notes identifying all Berlioz's correspondents. What we now have, achieved over some thirty years' work, is not only an indispensable tool for scholars but a corpus of letters that belong together, and are as remarkable a testament to a great artist's life as any in the history of Romanticism.

**Greenwood Press:** *Computer and information ethics*, by John Weckert and Douglas Adeney (1997, 175 pp, \$59.95). Rev. by Bill T. Johnson, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, Winter 1998.

A brief glossary is provided along with an extensive bibliography and a detailed index.

**Imperial College Press:** *Clean electricity from photovoltaics*, ed. by Mary D. Archer and Robert Hill (2001, 868 pp, £82/\$120). Rev. by Richard Corkish, *Nature* 416, 18 April 2002.

Importantly, it is well indexed, and includes a handy list of useful web and library references.

**Jessica Kingsley:** *The dynamics of adoption: social and personal perspectives*, ed. by Amal Treacher and Ilan Katz (2000, 240 pp, £14.95). Rev. in *Children & Society* 16, 2002.

The boundaries of this book are primarily those of domestic adoption within the UK. Some research references on inter-country

adoption can however be traced through the helpful index at the end of the book.

**Jessica Kingsley:** *On death, dying and not dying*, by Peter Houghton. Rev. by Hilary Hollis, *Coronary Health Care* 5(4), 2001.

... unusually for a book which is based on an individual's story, it is extensively indexed.

**Libraries Unlimited:** *Information sources in science and technology*, by C. D. Hurt (3rd edn, 1998, 346 pp, \$55/ \$45). Rev. by Mary D. Stoner, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, Fall 1998.

The author, title, and subject indexes are quite thorough.

**Library Association Publishing:** *The complete guide to preparing and implementing service level agreements*, by Sheila Pantry and Peter Griffiths (3rd edn, 2001, 193 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library Word* 103(1175/1176), 2002.

The index is adequate, although the general layout is so well structured that it may not be needed.

**Library Solutions Press:** *Searching smart on the World Wide Web: tools and techniques for getting quality results*, by Cheryl Gould (1998, 90 pp, \$40). Rev. by Gregory K. Raschke, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, Fall 1998.

Gould also includes a comprehensive index...

**McFarland:** *Internet research: theory and practice*, by Ned L. Fielden (2001, 205pp, £23.75). Rev. by Bernard Williams, *Library Association Record* 104(1), Jan. 2002.

There is a nine-page bibliography and a detailed index.

**Martin & St Martin:** *The drawings of Andrea Palladio*, by Douglas Lewis (317 pp, \$60). Rev. by Witold Rybczynski, *New York Review of Books* XLIX(12), 18 July 2002.

An exhaustive bibliography and a particularly thorough index complete the book.

**Millbrook:** *Any number can play: the numbers athletes wear; Don't step on the foul line: sports superstitions*, by George Sullivan (2000, each vol. 64 pp, \$22.90). Rev. by Steve Clancy, *School Library Journal*, Feb. 2001.

Children can look up their favourite players in the index, but plowing through all 64 pages from start to finish is tedious and unlikely.

**Mondadori:** *Lettere 1940-1985*, by Italo Calvino, ed. by Luca Baranelli (1624 pp, L. 85,000). Rev. by Martin McLaughlin, *Times Literary Supplement*, 14 Dec. 2001.

The excellent indexes at the end of the volume are by Fiamma Bianchi Bandinelli.

**National Autistic Society:** *Teaching young children with autistic spectrum disorders to learn*, by Liz Hannah (£14). Rev. by Angela Dyer, *Communication*, spring 2002.

The index is helpful in enabling the reader to go straight to a topic of interest or area they want help in. [*That being the general idea of having an index. Index by SI member Sylvia Potter.*]

**Olms-Weidmann:** *A guide to collections of books printed in German-speaking countries before 1901 (or in German elsewhere) held by libraries in Great Britain and Ireland*, edited by Graham Jefcoate, William A. Kelly and Karen Kloth (2000, 399 pp, DM 298). Rev. by Peter Hoare, *The Library* 3(1), March 2002.

The high standards of editing, indexing and physical production, which we have come to expect from the publishers, are admirably maintained.

**Oxford University Press:** *The invisible enemy: a natural history of viruses*, by Dorothy H. Crawford (2000, 275 pp, \$25). Rev. by Carol DeAngelo, *School Library Journal*, Feb. 2001.

The reference value of the book is enhanced by... the glossary, and a very complete index.

**Oxford University Press:** *The Oxford guide to style*, by Robert Ritter (2002, 623 pp, £16.99). Rev. by John Whale, *Times Literary Supplement*, 5 April 2002.

It is strong on notes, references and indexes (no more than six unqualified page numbers in a row, and very little *passim*); it is itself well indexed.

**Picador:** *Something to declare*, by Julian Barnes (£8.99). Rev. by Scarlett Thomas, *Independent on Sunday*, 10 Feb. 2002.

The best bit by far, however, has to be the index. As well as having almost an entire page devoted to the instances of 'Flaubert' in the text, it also includes the following entries: 'pedicurist's: overcrowding at the, 187', 'cutlets, lamb see Lucan, Lord' and 'Lucan, Lord: eats over a thousand sheep, 101; or perhaps half that number, 108'.

**Rosen:** *Careers in information technology*, by Melanie Ann Apel (2000, 105 pp, \$18.95). Rev. by Susan Shaver, *School Library Journal*, Feb. 2001.

A list of contacts for more information and a comprehensive index appear at the end.

**Scholastic Reference:** *Do tornadoes really twist? and Why do volcanoes blow their tops?*, by Melvin Berger and Gilda Berger (2000, 48 pp, \$14.95/\$5.95 each vol.) Rev. by Eunice Weech, *School Library Journal*, Feb. 2001.

While children will enjoy browsing through these titles, the extensive indexes also make them useful for reports.

## Two cheers!

**Butterworth:** *A user's guide to copyright*, by Michael F. Flint et al. (5th edn, 2000, xxxiv + 571 pp, £58). Rev. by J. Eric Davies, *Multimedia Information & Technology* 28(1), Feb. 2002.

The index is not perfect. It works well if one can identify the main subject heading under which something is listed and there are some helpful see also cross-references. I was mildly irritated with one see reference, however. I looked up Anton Piller Orders to find see Search and Seizure Orders; accurate as far as it goes, but it would have been easier on the reader to give the precise page reference.

**Columbia University Press:** *The Columbia Granger's world of poetry* (CD-ROM, \$595-1,095). Rev. by Sheilah O'Connor, *School Library Journal*, Feb. 2001.

Hundreds of English language anthologies published in North America and the United Kingdom have been indexed, and often reviewed, making this a useful selection tool.... Simple searches of Author, Author Category (a useful grouping of poets under headings such as Black-American), Subject and Title/First line/Last line can also be combined in the more complex Boolean Search... however users looking for only sonnets for instance will be out of luck as no searches can be made using this term.... When searching, one can either enter exactly what is being sought or look through the alphabetic listing in that category.

**Harwood Academic Publishers:** *Biochemistry explained: a practical guide to learning biochemistry*, by T. Millar (2000, 211 pp, £14.95). Rev. by Miles Ripley, *Biologist* 48(3), 2001

The index is sufficient but, like the text, failed to produce an explanation for reducing and non-reducing sugars. [*But why should the index be expected to remedy the deficiencies of the text?*]

**Killesher Historical Society:** *When turkeys chewed tobacco*, by George Sheridan (2001, 239 pp). Rev. by Anita Gallagher, *Familia: Ulster Genealogical Review*, 2001.

From a researcher's point of view I regret that the book does not have a subject index as this makes it difficult to access the multitude of topics contained in the text. I think this is a great shame, and whilst family and friends will much appreciate the index of people, the lack of a guide to subjects is a lost opportunity in a book of this importance. Whilst the process of indexing can be time-consuming [*what about the time consumed by the reader searching for something without the help of an index?*], a fuller contents page giving key subheadings to the various chapters would have made the book more user-friendly.

**Library Association Publishing:** *Local studies librarianship: a world bibliography*, comp. by Diana Dixon (2001, 288 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Ruth A. Gordon, *Library and Information Update* (formerly *Library Association Record*) 1(3), June 2002.

There are excellent author and place indexes but, alas, no subject index. The clear content layout does go some way towards answering the need but some topics, well represented in the book, are not listed. Material on social inclusion, popular history and collecting the history of minority groups is there in plenty but, being scattered through the sections, cannot readily be found.

**Oxford University Press:** *Qal'at Ja'bar pottery: a study of a Syrian fortified site of the late 11th–14th centuries*, by Cristina Tonghini (132 pp, £75). Rev. by John G. Hurst, *Medieval Archaeology* XLV, 2001.

The first 41 figures are published by site and phase, which is good for showing associated groups, but the rest do not follow the, anyway rather complex, alphabetical and numerical sequence of wares and types. We are told that 'the final order could not be established during the preliminary subdivision'. Appendix E does give an alphabetical and numerical index but the figures are still very hard to follow in detail and to link with the text.

**Oxford University Press (for British Academy):** *English Episcopal Acta 19: Salisbury 1217–28*, ed. by B. R. Kemp (275 + xxviii pp, £45). Rev. by Anthony Musson, *Archives* 26(104), April 2001.

An important feature of these volumes is a comprehensive index of persons and places, though it is slightly ridiculous to have entries as general as 'parish' which yields over 100 undifferentiated references. [*Only 'slightly' ridiculous?*]

**Charles C. Thomas:** *The words of medicine: sources, meanings, and delights*, by Robert Fortuine (2001, 424 pp, \$84.95). Rev. by Edie Schwager, *AMWA Journal* 17(1), 2002.

I had only to read the beautifully categorized contents, the surprisingly familiar bibliography, and the staggering index, and I was hooked.... In the index the word for itching is misspelled as 'pruritis,' but in the text it is spelled correctly, *pruritus*. ... The index is 39 pages, so you anticipate right away that this will be a worthwhile book. As I've said many times, a book is only as good as its index. That's especially true of a book containing thousands of terms and as detailed as this one.

## Indexes censured

**Boydell and Brewer:** *The Quoit Brooch Style and Anglo-Saxon settlement*, by Seichii Suzuki (2000, xiv + 218 pp, £50). Rev. by Barry M. Ager, *Medieval Archaeology* XLV, 2001.

The abbreviation for 'Saint' in the index of objects, however, is seriously misplaced, as if the word begins 'St' (p. 212); the same index would be much more useful with page references to the text. [*So what does it have instead?*]

**Boydell Press:** *Cathedral shrines of medieval England*, by Ben Nilson (1998, 276 pp, £40). Rev. by John Crook, *Medieval Archaeology* XLIII, 1999.

It is disappointing that (despite the acknowledged help of a research assistant and proof reader) a book of such potential should be spoiled by numerous mistakes.... It is not clear from the main text that Audoenus and Ouen are one and the same saint in Latin and French guise; the two are separately listed in the index.... The index contains spellings such as 'Litchfield' and 'jewellry' among other errors.

**British Library:** *The British Library catalogue of additions to the manuscripts: the G.K. Chesterton papers*, ed. by Richard Christophers (283 pp, £50). Rev. by Stephen Medcalf, *Times Literary Supplement*, 7 Dec. 2001.

The two indices [*sic*] 'General' and 'Title', making a great effort at completeness, sometimes fall back defeated. The whole of an alliterative fragment on W. P. Ker, 'Ker to the college came, wending his wild way' (which has 'accompanying sketches') is included among the titles; but Ker is not mentioned in the General Index.... But here is, if not God's, at any rate Chesterton's plenty, cele-

brating God's; and it is only to encourage explorers that I cite small defects in this magnificent guide to it.

**John Calder:** *Pursuit*, by John Calder (621 pp, £24.99). Rev. by John Ardagh, *The Times*, 13 Jan. 2002.

These 'uncensored' memoirs seem in places to be unedited too (as can happen when an author is his own publisher. Some passages should have been pruned. The indexing has its inaccuracies. And plenty of names are misspelt....

**Cambridge University Press:** *Tsunami: the underrated hazard*, by Edward Bryant (2001, 320 pp, £19.95). Rev. by Kenji Satake, *Nature* 415, 24 Jan. 2002.

Parts of the book lack rigour and consistency; especially needed are a more comprehensive and better-organized index and a glossary of tsunami jargon from the many fields involved.

**Chicago University Press:** *Getting it published: a guide for scholars and anyone else serious about serious books*, by William Germano (2001, 197 pp). Rev. in *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 33(2), Jan. 2002.

Where Germano does mention print-on-demand – which is not featured in the (rather sparse) index – he does so in such a way that potential authors could well conflate print-on-demand books with e-books....

**Elm Bank Publications:** *Francophone voices*, ed. and presented by Kamal Salhi (1999, viii + 248 pp, £24.99). Rev. by Roger Little, *French Studies* LV2, April 2001.

Of the editor's contribution, as of the catastrophically inaccurate and incomplete index, the least said the better.... When my listing of journal titles reached over five times the number given in the index, I stopped counting.,

**Fitzroy Dearborn:** *Censorship: a world encyclopedia*, ed. by Derek Jones (4 vols, 2891 pp, £265). Rev. by Robert Potts, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 Feb. 2002.

A major problem with the encyclopedia is its lack of adequate cross-referencing. Finding or chasing a topic is infuriatingly difficult. Should a reader want to know whether a name or law mentioned in one article is discussed elsewhere in greater depth, he must first use the headword list (which is printed, mercifully, in each volume), and, if there is no specific entry, find it in the index. I have not been able to work out the criteria used by the indexer; but the entries do not appear to be exhaustive, and when several citations appear, there is no way, short of looking up each in turn, to ascertain their relevance. For example, I wanted to find out if *De l'Esprit* by Helvétius was indeed burned. Helvétius does not have an entry; and not one of the five page references indexed under his name led to any illumination on this point.

**Georgia Institute of Technology:** *Social issues in science and technology: an encyclopedia*, by David E. Newton (1999, 352 pp, \$75). Rev. by Julie Wood, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, Spring 2000.

Although the alphabetic organization is easy to use, some common terms, such as pollution, are broken down into more specialized topics such as feedlot pollution, methyl bromide and radon. These fine gradations are not reflected in the index under pollution. It is necessary to utilize the see-references for the entry entitled pollution instead.

**Government Institute:** *Environmental law handbook*, ed. by Thomas F. P. Sullivan (14th edn, 1997, 587 pp, \$79). Rev. by Ann Jenson, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, Fall 1997.

The index is cumbersome, again because of inconsistencies between the use of full phrases and acronyms. The expanded Table of Contents functions as a highly detailed outline of each environmental act and is more useful than the index.

**Greenwood Press:** *A companion to Jane Austen studies*, ed. by Laura Cooner Lambdin and Robert Thomas Lambdin (£66.95). Rev. by D.S., *Newsletter of the Jane Austen Society*, March 2002.

The Index is even worse [than the bibliography]. Whilst it is too short to include most of the above [important English scholars], it

finds room for Kingsley Amis, Mikhail Bakhtin, Michel Foucault, Terrence Rafferty (a film critic) and The Who. There are many references to adaptations, with entries for 'Films', 'Omissions of characters in films' (under 'O'), 'British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)', 'Miramax', 'Hugh Grant' and 'Emma Thompson'; we can look up 'World wide web', 'E-text' or 'The Republic of Pemberly' (*sic*); and we may be surprised to find such disconcerting phenomena as 'Geocities', 'Property relations', 'Use rights', 'Value systems' and 'Foot binding'. We have to look only as far as page 2 to find that 'Jan West' is in fact 'Jane'; Thomas Gainsborough 'gaines' an 'e'; and 'Sir James [Martin]' (a character in 'Lady Susan') is listed under 'S'.

If it seems unfair to dwell on the Bibliography and Index, it is worth remembering that this is a 'Companion', a book of reference....

**HarperCollins:** *A treasury of Anglo-Saxon England: faith and wisdom in the lives of men and women, saints and kings*, by Paul Cavill (£15.99). Rev. by Douglas Dales, *Church Times*, 15 Feb. 2002.

It is seriously flawed, however, in the paucity of its index, and the patchiness of its bibliographical references. This will profoundly limit its usefulness; and it is certainly, therefore, overpriced.

**Harvard University Press:** *The century of the gene*, by Evelyn Fox Keller (2000, 186 pp, £15.95). Rev. by Peter W. H. Holland, *Biologist* 48(3), 2001.

Finally, a practical moan. Why does each citation in the text lead one first to a footnote, which then simply refers one to the reference list? Bizarrely, both are then indexed. Thus, I am quoted once, yet the index affords me three page references (to the text, the footnote and the reference!).

**Hutchinson:** *Primo Levi*, by Ian Thomson (624 pp, £25). Rev. by Clive James, *Times Literary Supplement*, 21 June 2002.

Louis Armstrong, though present on page 118 of Thomson's book, is missing from its index. So are Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. They are in the text, but they don't make it to the status of a fact that a scholar might want to look up later on.

**IOS Press:** *A century of science publishing*, ed. by E. H. Fredriksson (2001, 312 pp, \$40). Rev. by Michael Foyle, *LOGOS* 13(1), 2002.

A number of infelicities, and just plain errors, might have been caught with tougher sub-editing. More seriously, in a publication devoted to this topic, one might have expected more synopses and a better index.

**Frances Lincoln:** *The plants that shaped our gardens*, by David Stuart (£25). Rev. by Sue Armstrong, *New Scientist*, 13 April 2002.

Sadly, its lasting appeal as a reference book is let down by a seriously inadequate index.

**Macmillan:** *The new Grove dictionary of music and musicians*, ed. by Stanley Sadie (2nd edn, 29 vols, 27,742 pp, £2,950, online subscription £190 p.a.) Rev. by Andrew Porter, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 Nov. 2001.

*New Grove on Line*, www.grovemusic.com, edited by Laura Macy, is convenient to use and in some ways more readily informative than *NG2*. It 'searches' swiftly.... Volume Twenty-nine of the printed edition is an index, but one too summary to be helpful. Use *NGoL* to discover all mentions of a subject, a person, or an instrument, all entries by an admired author.

**MIT Press:** *Digital libraries*, by William Y. Arms (2000, 287 pp, \$45). Rev. by Allen B. Veaner, *College & Research Libraries* 62(3), May 2001.

A generally excellent glossary helps the reader understand numerous technical terms and acronyms, although some acronyms are left undecoded and entered into neither index nor glossary.... The index itself is seriously deficient, lacking entries for obvious topics such as the CLIR (or its predecessor, the CLR), Library of Congress, NISO, RLG, RLIN, and UNIX, and excluding a host of contemporary personal names important to the development of

digital libraries (e.g. Henriette D. Avram). In fact the entire index contains only two personal names: Vannevar Bush and J. C. R. Licklider. Quite a number of index entries even lack their full complement of locators.

**Mosby:** *The desktop guide to complementary and alternative medicine: an evidence-based approach*, ed. by Edzard Ernst (2001, 444 pp, £24.95). Rev. by Celia Moss, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* 94, Dec. 2001.

The enclosure of a CD-rom, with Medline links to all references as well as the whole text of the book, makes it astonishingly good value. The index might be improved in the next edition, but terms not listed (e.g. acne and psoriasis) can easily be found by searching the disc.

**John Murray:** *Imperial marriage*, by Hugh and Mirabel Cecil (366 pp, £25). Rev. by Geoffrey Wheatcroft, *The Spectator*, 23 March 2002.

Nor do the editing and proof-reading win high marks: 'corporate punishment' suggests Enron rather than caning, it's hard to believe that 'the fifteen-year-old Prince of Wales' was serving with the Guards, and an index reference to page '388' is of limited use in a book 366 pages long.

**Oak Knoll Press:** *The memory of mankind: the story of libraries since the dawn of history*, by Don Heinrich Tolzmann (2001, xiv + 188 pp, £28/\$39.95). Rev. by Maurice B. Line, *LOGOS* 12(4), 2001.

The Index, also Tolzmann's responsibility, is altogether inadequate; it was evidently compiled by computer, with no sign of human intervention. It consists almost entirely of personal names, but even within those limits it is very poor; 'Lorenzo' turns out to be Lorenzo de' Medici (also indexed under 'de Medici' but not under 'Medici'); three cardinals are indexed under 'Cardinal'; 'Whittall' is the Whittall Foundation, 'Tilly' refers to a mention of the capture of Heidelberg by Tilly's troops, and so on.

**Orion:** *The cult of violence: the untold story of the Krays*, by John (241 pp, £16.99). Rev. by David Vincent, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 Feb. 2002.

Pearson's retouching of his own portrait of the Kray twins adds authority to a landmark text on their lives and influence, despite indifferent editing and a woefully slapdash index.

**Oxford University Press:** *A descriptive catalogue of the medieval manuscripts of Exeter College, Oxford*, by Andrew Watson (viii + 150 pp). Rev. by Nicholas Orme, *Archives* 26(104), April 2001.

If one may end with suggestions for the future, it would be good if catalogues of manuscripts could say more about the prosopography of their owners and donors, and provide more thorough indexes. This would help their works to make the historical (as well as the bibliographical) impact that they deserve.

**Oxford University Press:** *The Oxford companion to the body*, ed. by Colin Blakemore and Sheila Jennet (753 pp, £39.50). Rev. by W. F. Bynum, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 Feb. 2002.

More puzzling is the virtual absence of homosexuality. Lesbianism fails to make the full index at all, and homosexuality appears there once only, referring the reader to the entry on sexuality. There is actually better coverage a few pages later, under *Sexual Orientation*, but the topic deserves fuller treatment in such a volume.

**Oxford University Press:** *The Oxford companion to twentieth-century British politics*, by John Ramsden (714 pp, £35). Rev. by Anthony Howard, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 Feb. 2002.

The index of subjects is not much better, either. Presumably to disguise what an imbalance there is between the political names and those following other vocations, all the MPs and Ministers (even the names of Prime Ministers) are listed not by date or even in alphabetical order, but rather, alphabetically and not by period of office, under the parties to which they belonged.

**Oxford University Press:** *Revolutionary France: 1788-1880: the short Oxford history of France*, ed. by Malcolm Crook (250 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Douglas Johnson, *The Spectator*, 9 Mar 2002.

The names of some of those who have had a profound effect on the study of these years are mentioned: François Furet, Alfred Cobban

and Eugen Weber, for instance. But their names are banned from the index, a sign that this book is not about their writings. [*Or a sign of a not very comprehensive index?*]

**Picador:** *The invention of clouds*, by Richard Hamblyn (£16.99). Rev. by Steven Poole, *The Guardian*, 15 Dec. 2001.

Incidentally, the Pan Macmillan General Books Design Department has fashioned, in the typographical design, a rather lovely homage to late 18th- and early 19th-century printing; it is only a shame that the undersized and overleaded text of the index seems to belong to another book entirely.

**Random House:** *Savage beauty: the life of Edna St Vincent Millay*, by Nancy Milford (555 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Sarah Churchwell, *Times Literary Supplement*, 14 Dec. 2001.

With the mistaken assurance of long association, Milford mistitles a major poem (even in the index).

**Routledge:** *Atlas of medieval Europe*, ed. by Angus Mackay and David Ditchburn (x + 271 pp, £15.99). Rev. by David Hill, *Medieval Archaeology XLIV*, 2000.

... the index does not refer to the relevant map or maps (confusingly the maps are provided with an apparatus for locating place-names by having letters and figures provided in the margins; these are without explanation and one must assume they belong to some abandoned stage in developing this *Atlas*).

**University of Pennsylvania Press:** *Private science: biotechnology and the rise of the molecular sciences*, ed. by Arnold Thackray (c. 1988, 304 pp, \$52.50). Rev. by Nancy H. Fontaine, *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*, Summer 1998.

Overall the book is a fine collection of scholarly work that is supported with copious notes and an index, although the latter is not terribly detailed, and it suffers from occasional entries with excessive page number references.

**Verso:** *The business of books*, by André Schiffrin (£10). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 5 Jan. 2002.

... it suffers, as usual, from bad Verso indexing.

## Indexes omitted

**Aurum Press:** *A life in pieces*, by Blake Eskin (245 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Theo Richmond, *The Spectator*, 27 April 2002.

Eskin's story is well told, marred only by an irritating paucity of dates which makes it difficult for the reader to work out what year is being referred to (a typo on page 229 gives 1990 when it should be 1999). An index would have helped. These quibbles aside, I followed the author with growing fascination...

Rev. by Gitta Sereny, *The Times*, 10 April 2002.

... the lack of an index is regrettable.

**Ashgate:** *Child protection: families and the conference process*, by Margaret Bell (248 pp, £39.95). Rev. by David Shemmings, *Child Abuse Review* 10(5), 2001.

Finally, for me, and I suspect for a number of other readers, a book this size really needs an index.

**Azure:** *The Inklings handbook: the lives and writings of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield and their friends*, by Colin Duriez and David Porter (244 pp, £20). Rev. by Hal Jensen, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 Nov. 2001.

A separate list of members would have been useful, as would a thematic index...

**BioMed Central:** *My life in science*, by Sydney Brenner (2001, 191 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Jan A. Witkowski, *Nature* 415, 17 Jan. 2002.

BioMed Central has done the subject and the editors a grave disservice in two regards. First, there are no photographs ... Second, there is no index, not even one of names.

**Jonathan Cape:** *Salt: a world history*, by Mark Kurlansky (484 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Ian McIntyre, *The Times*, 30 Jan. 2002.

I mention page numbers because, crassly, there is no index. What if I can't remember when it was that the future US President Herbert Hoover and his wife translated into English *De Re Metallica*, the standard European text on salt-making published by Georgius Agricola in 1556? Or if I want to remind myself who suggested that women would live longer, healthier lives if they washed their genitals in the urine of a cabbage eater? (It was Cato.)

**Chemical Heritage Foundation:** *A history of the international chemical industry: from the 'early days' to 2000*, by Fred Aftalion, tr. by Otto Theodor Benfey (2nd edn, 2001, 442 pp, \$24.95). Rev. by William J. Storck, *Chemical & Engineering News*, 15 April 2002.

One criticism of the first edition [of 1991], that it had no bibliography, has been corrected. However, in an era when historians are being criticized for lack of attribution, this book includes no source notes.... And there is still no subject index to allow readers to track a chemical product through its development and use. [*It's a long, hard struggle.*]

**Counterpoint:** *The wildest place on earth: Italian gardeners and the invention of wilderness*, by John Hanson Mitchell (195 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Jennifer Potter, *Times Literary Supplement*, 7 Dec. 2001.

In a work without index or references, you have to trust the facts or the whole edifice lurches drunkenly into the maze like the masked guests at Mitchell's own wedding party.

**Editora Sextante:** *Da esperança à Utopia: testemunho de uma vida*, by Paulo Evaristo Arns (512 pp, \$35). Rev. by Margaret Hebblethwaite, *Times Literary Supplement*, 10 May 2002.

It is to be hoped that when this important work finds an English translator and publisher, it will also find an indexer. There are many good stories, but with not even an alphabetical list of names it is hard to find your way around, especially since Arns has devised a curiously confusing way of ordering his subject matter.

**Electra-Éditions du Cercle de La Librairie:** *La Bibliothèque nationale de France: collections, services, publics*, by D. Renoult and J. Melet-Sanson (2001, 238 pp, 3.35 euro). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *Library Association Record* 104(3), March 2002.

What a pity there is no index.

**Faber:** *Finders keepers: selected prose 1971–2001*, by Seamus Heaney (326 pp, £20). Rev. by James O'Brien, *The Tablet*, 20 April 2002.

There is much of academic interest (though the absence of an index is a minor quibble)... [*'Oh!' comments the sender of this item.*]

Rev. by Robert Nye, *The Times*, 17 April 2002.

The book is quite fat and deals with a lot of poets, Irish and British, American and East European, 'predecessors and contemporaries' (as the blurb says), yet it has no index and that is fitting. By the end, there is this sense that everyone and everything has turned into Seamus Heaney. [*Well, if you say so.*]

**Fayard:** *La Suisse et les réfugiés à l'époque du national-socialisme* (2000, 471 pp, FF140). Rev. by Vicki Caron, *The American Historical Review* 107(3), June 2002

For the moment, this rich and informative study will provide an indispensable tool, despite a good deal of repetitiousness and the regrettable absence of an index.

**Gibson Square:** *A small boy and others: memoirs*, by Henry James (2001, 217 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Richard Poirier, *London Review of Books*, 25 April 2002.

The only single-volume edition of the three books [of James's memoirs], edited by Frederick Dupee, was published in 1956 and is long out of print. Dupee provides an index, much needed for books so massively populated with relatives, friends and literary personalities, with references to public places, works of art and a variety of cities and towns in America and Europe. There are also some helpful notes, but not nearly enough of them. In this most recent printing of *A Small Boy* there are no notes of any kind, no index and a cursory two-page foreword.

**Gill & Macmillan:** *Haughey's millions: Charlie's money trail*, by Colm Keena (320 pp, £7.99). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, Nov. 2001

Having brought so much together and begun to disentangle it all, it seems odd that the book shouldn't be provided with an index.

**HarperCollins:** *Taking stock: confessions of a city priest*, by Victor Stock (2001, 368 pp, £15.99). Rev. by Alan Webster, *The Tablet*, 10 Nov. 2001.

There are some misspellings and the book deserves an index...

**International Labour Office,** *Managing vocational training systems. A handbook for senior administrators*, by Vladimir Gasskov (2000, £12.95). Rev. by A. Haslam, *Library Association Record* 103(12), Dec. 2001.

Apart from the lack of index, this book provides an excellent study of the subject.

**Little, Brown:** *Class war*, by Chris Woodhead (2002, 222 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Libby Purves, *The Times*, 10 March 2002.

Look at Chris Woodhead's much-discussed *Class War*; its claim to seriousness and amending the record is warped by the absence of an index and the editor's failure to curb infuriating repetition even of flippant expressions like 'a tad'.

**Little, Brown:** *Works on paper: the craft of biography and autobiography*, by Michael Holroyd (319 pp, £20). Rev. by Victoria Glendinning, *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 Jan. 2002.

Holroyd, who is a fine stylist, is perhaps too reliant on the colon: this is contagious. And, irritatingly, there is no index.

**Macmillan:** *Daydream believer: confessions of a hero-worshiper*, by Hugh Massingberd (310 pp, £16.99). Rev. by E. S. Turner, *Times Literary Supplement*, 14 Dec. 2001.

Bookshop browsers will not be alone in regretting the lack of an index.

**Mainstream:** *Kings for a day*, by Reg Green (£15.99). Rev. by Robin Oakley, *The Spectator*, 6 April 2002.

... it is a travesty for publishers to produce a book of this kind without an index.

**Oxford University Press:** *William Walton: the romantic loner*, by Humphrey Burton and Maureen Murray (182 pp, £25). Rev. by Fiona Maddocks, *The Spectator*, 23 Feb. 2002.

The bibliography and list of works are a bonus which make the lack of an index puzzling.

**Pickering and Chatto:** *The Pamela controversy: criticisms and adaptations of Samuel Richardson's Pamela, 1740-1750*, ed. by Thomas Keymer and Peter Sabor (6 vols, 2240 pp, £495). Rev. by Claude Rawson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 14 Dec. 2001.

... there is no index to track the dense and intricate information.

**Prospect Books:** *Trifle*, by Helen Saberi and Alan Davidson (136 pp, £11.99/£8.99). Rev. by Jane Jakeman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 21 Dec. 2001.

The 'fast track guide' which the authors suggest the reader can use to find suitable recipes is really a list of sources, not very functional, and there is no index.

**Robson:** *Beecham stories: anecdotes, sayings and impressions of Sir Thomas Beecham*, ed. by Harold Atkins and Archie Newman (92 pp, £10.95). Rev. by Anthony Pryer, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 Feb. 2002.

If *Beecham Stories* unavoidably falls short as a character-sketch, it should not fail as a work of reference. But it has no index, and the anecdotes are grouped rather loosely by content.... But these quibbles will matter little to Beecham fans... [I would like to prohibit the use of the word 'quibble' in connection with the absence of an index.]

**Samton:** *The Irish scientist: 2001 yearbook*, ed. by Charles Mollan (264 pp, £15/£10). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, Nov. 2001.

As we have remarked before, this remarkably wideranging account of pure and applied science would be more than doubly valuable if an index allowed you to find what is going on in broad or narrow

fields and disciplines. Have said which we suddenly see an enclosed note that says you can search by subject or word by consorting with www.irishscientist. OK, OK: technology wins.

**SDU Uitgevers:** *Drukkers, boekverkopers en lezers in de Republiek. Een historiografische en bibliografische handleiding*, by P. G. Hoftijzer and O. S. Lankhorst (2000, xiii + 265pp, fl. 39.90). Rev. by Anna E. C. Simoni, *The Library* 3(1), March 2002.

A list of illustrations and an index of personal names complete the book. Here I should have liked to find a subject index, for how often does one not need to trace a book only vaguely remembered or wonder whether a bibliography of a certain subject exists.

**Thames and Hudson:** *Ken Kiff*, by Andrew Lambirth (224 pp, £32). Rev. by Timothy Hyman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 March 2002.

I have cavils: no index, an over-sweet choice of cover...

**University of Edinburgh:** *An historical atlas of Suffolk*, ed. by David Dymond and Edward Martin (1999, 224 pp, £10). Rev. by Carena Lewis, *Medieval Archaeology* XLIV, 2000.

Its creation is a mammoth achievement, one that, is one is not surprised to see sadly acknowledged in the introduction, was far too much for one person to carry alone. In such circumstances, to suggest that an index would have been useful seems simply churlish. [The logic of this remark escapes me.]

**University of Toronto Press:** *After Rome's fall: narrators and sources of early medieval history*, ed. by Alexander Callander Murray (1998, xii + 388 pp, \$55). Rev. by Malcolm Todd, *American Historical Review* 107(3), June 2002.

Editorially there is only one blemish: no index.

**Viking:** *Up the down escalator - why the global pessimists are wrong*, by Charles Leadbeater (384 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Roy Hattersley, *The Observer*, 30 June 2002.

*Up the Down Escalator* is a book without an index. It is hard to work through its windy generalities without wondering if that omission results from the difficulty of making something tangible out of an idea that has no substance. But at least Leadbeater powerfully illustrates the general theory which he seeks to promote. Future books on changes in society are certain to be an improvement on this one.

**Virago:** *Elements of Italy*, by Lisa St Aubin de Teran (277 pp, £7.99). Rev. by Christopher Hirst, *The Independent*, 14 May 2002.

One quibble: De Teran's division of entries according to the four ancient elements is no substitute for the lack of contents page or index.

**Yale University Press:** *I, Maya Plisetskaya*, tr. by Antonina W. Bouis (386 pp, £25/\$35). Rev. by Clement Crisp, *Financial Times*, 22/23 Dec. 2001.

Shamefully, these memoirs have no index.

## Obiter dicta

**Faber:** *The child that books built*, by Francis Spufford (£12.99). Rev. by Alan Taylor, *Sunday Herald*, 31 March 2002.

*The Child That Built Books* [sic] is a gem, unshowily erudite, beautifully written and heartfelt without being sentimental. Even better, it is the kind of book that makes you want to read other books and to revisit your own childhood reading. This makes the absence of a bibliography and, worse, an index all more deplorable. It is like neglecting to plumb and wire a house.

However, it is a growing trend among pennypinching publishers who seem to think that such shoddy workmanship is acceptable. These days it's common for non-fiction books to appear without an index or an index that's almost useless, with few entries and even fewer sub-headings.

As Bernard Levin once pointed out: 'The sign of an indexer who is wholly unequal to the task is the use of strings of indifferenced

page numbers which, as far as the reader's need of an index is concerned, is literally useless.'

It was enough to make Levin's blood boil. We understand how he felt.

From now on therefore we will endeavour to name and shame publishers who think they can short-change the reading public with such shoddy products. Watch this space. [*We will.*]

**Farrar, Straus & Giroux:** *Flaubert: a life*, by Geoffrey Wall (\$27). Rev. by Judith Thurman, *New Yorker*, 6 May 2002.

No abbreviation of the life may ever match the cranky wit and wry felicity of Julian Barnes's *Flaubert's Parrot* (which, however, enjoys the riffing privileges of fiction). But the author of the *Dictionary of Received Ideas* – the glossary of clichés that Flaubert appended to *Bouvard and Pécuchet*, his 'encyclopedia of human stupidity' in novel form – would surely have bellowed with joy at the themes listed after his name in Wall's index. With a few minor omissions, they are as follows: 'Flaubert, Gustave: aesthetic mysticism; alleged sadism; artistic intransigence; attitude to marriage; castration complex; celebrity and influence; chevalier de la Légion d'honneur; death; debts; dogs; fatness; hallucinations; interest in history; masturbation; modernity; pleasure taken in books; pleasure taken in travelling; realism; recitations; romanticism; sexual abstinence; sexual initiation; sexual passion; syphilis use of prostitutes; views on book illustrations.'

Flaubert might also have argued against spoiling the effect of such a deliciously incriminating catalogue with the clutter of elaboration.

**Oak Knoll Press & The British Library:** *Under the hammer: book auctions since the seventeenth century*, ed. by Robin Myers et al. (257 pp, £25). Rev. by Adrian Dannatt, *The Spectator*, 23 March 2002.

To enter this world of 'bookbinding historians', indexers, archivists and 'collectors of drawing manuals' is to believe, despite all abundant evidence to the contrary, that our literary culture still survives. [*A cheering thought.*]

**Penguin Books:** *Fast food nation: what the all-American meal is doing to the world*, by Eric Schlosser (£6.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian Weekly*, 2–8 May 2002.

Noteworthy among offenders are IBP, or Iowa Beef Packers, who supply an amazing amount of cow meat to the fast food industry. Look at their index entry: 'Deceptive practices of, 166, 179–81, 206; emissions violations of, 164–65; lawsuits against, 182–83; and meat contamination, 203, 213–14; ... and organized crime, 154–55...' It goes on. Those are just some of the highlights.

**Penguin Books:** *Media law*, by Geoffrey Robertson and Andrew Nicol (2002, 960 pp, £30).

Robertson... was in jocular form at the launch. The work is the first legal tome, he boasted, to include the F-word in its index. He apologised for the date of the occasion (Valentine's Day – not, apparently, having realised its significance). Proof, according to Ian Hislop, the Editor of *Private Eye*, that lawyers know nothing about life.

Legal Diary, *The Times*, 19 Feb. 2002

## Something to indicate

Hazel K. Bell

Julian Barnes's collection of essays on France and French writers, *Something to declare* (Barnes, 2002), has an index as delightful and intriguing as that to his *Letters from London* (Barnes, 1995), which we hailed in *The Indexer* in 2001 (Bell, 2001). The same ingenious techniques are deployed as before.

There is the careful contrivance of entries to enhance the original text. For example, Barnes taxes a biographer of Lord Lucan with an obsession with statistics, he having among other calculations stated how many sheep must have provided the number of lamb cutlets eaten by Lord Lucan. Further on, the biographer's arithmetic is disproved. This is indexed as:

Lucan, Lord: eats over a thousand sheep; or perhaps half that number

Claude Chabrol's film of *Madame Bovary* is criticized. Among other flaws: 'Chabrol feels obliged to show us a tangle of Emma and Léon inside the cab, just to confirm that they aren't playing Scrabble'. In the index:

Scrabble: not being played

Chabrol has been married three times. 'Three wives, and always the same wedding-ring', his third wife is quoted as commenting. So, in the index:

Chabrol, Claude: ... pertinacity of wedding ring

and also, under marriage

a tenacious wedding-ring

There are other running jokes or mocking echoes traceable through the subheadings of this index:

Belgium: ... Simenon escapes, 103  
marriage: as an escape from Belgium, 103  
newspapers: as an escape from Belgium, 103

Jean-Paul Sartre's grandmother 'in her seventies was still complaining about the leek salad she and her husband had shared ... on their honeymoon half a century earlier'. This yields the index entries:

Food: ... momentous dispute over leeks  
leeks: Sartrean dispute over

In the preface to *Something to declare* Barnes tell us, "'I wish he'd shut up about Flaubert," Kingsley Amis, with pop-eyed truculence, once complained to a friend of mine'. So, we find in the index not only

Amis, Sir Kingsley: limited zeal for Flaubert, xiv

but also

Flaubert, Gustave: ... Kingsley Amis has heard enough of, xiv

and furthermore

Lee, Hermione, xiv

Dr Lee is not named on page xiv – but this entry must tell us who was the friend of Barnes to whom Amis vented his exasperation.

There are other examples of identification by index only:

Kavanagh, Pat, 3, 52

**Persephone:** *Kitchen essays*, by Agnes Jekyll (£10). Rev. by Lucy Lethridge, *The Tablet*, 10 Nov. 2001.

The index is a flick through history: 'oatmeal Sunday pudding', 'saddle of mutton with mousse of turnips', 'sheep's tongue', 'savory black plum toast'.

**Nan A. Talese/Doubleday:** *Painted shadow: the life of Vivienne Eliot, first wife of T. S. Eliot, and the long-suppressed truth about her influence on his genius*, by Carole Seymour-Jones (720 pp, \$35). Rev. by William H. Pritchard, *New York Times*, 21 April 2002.

Eliot is faulted on a number of counts, as suggested by a random glance at the index, where, under 'Eliot, Thomas Stearns,' we encounter, among many other entries, 'antipathy to VHE,' 'hernia,' 'obsessional orderliness,' 'fear of women/female sexuality,' 'disgust for heterosexual love,' 'snobbishness,' 'misogyny,' 'anti-Semitism' – you name the defect and you'll find it listed.

**Time-Warner:** *Royal: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*, by Robert Lacey (2002, 492 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Martin Amis, *New Yorker*, 20 May 2002.

In addition to their innumerable duties, almost all of them excruciating, the Royal Family has one main function: to go on being a family. In *The Royals*, Kitty Kelley's louche but lively blockbuster of 1997, the most capacious subsection in the index for Prince Philip is 'and women' ('76, 152, 154–55, 159–60, 192, 265, 422, 423–27, 510–11'). Lacey's emphasis falls the other way ('rumors of infidelities, 166–68, 212').

is named on neither page – nowhere in the book except in the index – but on page 3 we have 'two of us were traversing a high upland plateau', and on page 52: 'My wife recalls reading an E. D. article about breadmaking ...'.

The interesting entry

Hodgkin, Howard: cover, 52

is explained by 'Cover painting by Howard Hodgkin' in the back flap of the book cover, and 'A painter friend, now in his sixties, recalls ...' on page 52.

Some entries offer an intriguing narrative development or contradiction direct:

Armstrong, Lance: refuses to speak French; speaks French again  
Boardman, Chris: reasons for not taking drugs; 'retires to take drugs'  
Conran, Terance: praises [Elizabeth David's] prose; disparages her prose  
Goncourt, Edmond: loathing of Courbet; admiration for Courbet  
Prussia: impossibility of war with; war with

Another entry seems an exercise in prose:

Courbet, Gustave: realism; careerism; Yevtushenkoism; egotism; modernism; snobbism; anti-imperialism; alcoholism

Many subheadings sharply whet our curiosity:

Asparagus: poet's revulsion at urinary consequences  
bourgeoisie: gleefully spanked  
Cany-Barville: rebarbative soup  
cows: as intelligent as village girls; Flaubert wants to hug one; bad pianist makes them flee  
Eiffel Towers: a small man collects them  
Flaubert, Gustave: ... erotic bifurcation  
Gautier, Théophile: co-poisoner of Sartre  
Godard, Jean-Luc: ... preposterous telegram  
Hugo, Victor: hogs the rainbow  
Pont du Gard: not intelligent enough for Henry James; sublime enough for Edith Wharton

I give my assurance, consultation of the text offers justification for all these entries!

## Unfulfilled promise

A most tempting destination is the Iberian peninsula, if only because of the promise in the *Let's Go Spain and Portugal 2002* guidebook. Skipping through the index of his copy, Dr Abrahams of Oxford came across an entry for nipples: 'nipples – see orgasm'. Curiosity led him to look up 'orgasm' only to be directed to pages 253 and 565 – neither of which, he found after careful reading, contained any relevant material.

'Oh my God, something's gone wrong here,' says a spokeswoman for Pan Macmillan publishing. 'That is very weird – but it's not our fault. We get our information from the USA.'

Jack Malvern, Diary, *The Times*, 19 March 2002

## The joys of 'passim'

Then there is the scholarly apparatus. Volume III, *The Return of the King*, has 110 pages of appendices, and another 23 of separate indexes for songs and verses, first lines, persons, beasts and monsters, places, things. *The Lord of the Rings* was the first book I read which had anything like this at the back, the first book I ever read in which the scholarly rituals were observed; in which you flipped from index to text to appendix, cross-referring to maps. I remember how impressed I was with the word 'passim', used especially often of Frodo, the hero, in the index. I remember how

Then, as before, we have the classified entries, assembling together references to a single subject from the various essays, to produce such cumulations as:

Excretion: daunting lavatories; French brothels like English lavatories; motorists demand better plumbing; Courbet's eighteen litres; failure to preserve the infant Flaubert's excrement disappoints Sartre; literature as shit; Louise Colet writes 'chamber-pot of a book'; Flaubert 'shitting catapults'; 'merde, merde et archimerde'; Turgenev's soul like cesspool; tide of shit beats against ivory tower

The subheading referring to Sartre recurs under Flaubert's entry as 'no excrement preserved'.

God: fails to impress Jacques Brel; paints like Courbet; 'that old and evil plumage'; priests an obstacle to; if just, would turn [George] Sand into a man; Sand at ease with; Holy Ghost as parrot  
Sex: Frenchmen's skills exaggerated; spankers and spankees; lack of respect for condoms; Flaubert, satisfactory; Musset disappointing; French-kissing a publisher; 'fucking your inkwell'; buggery in the Champs Elysées; pitiful chastity of the young; three saucy stories; lefoutro; how they do it in Paris; Frenchwomen's expectations; Frenchmen's expectations; podophilia

The text itself is already supremely witty throughout. But what's wrong with gilding lilies, anyway?

## Note

We are grateful to Julian Barnes for permission to quote *Something to Declare* here.

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Barnes, Julian (1995) *Letters from London*. London: Picador.  
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impressed I was with myself as I studied the chronologies and family trees.

Jenny Turner, 'Reasons for Liking Tolkien', *London Review of Books*, 15 Nov. 2001.

### Summing up a life

But Ms. Phillips was far more brutal about herself than about any of the people she scorned. She detailed her descent into drugs, which almost killed her. She wrote that on Oscar night for *The Sting* in 1974, she took 'a diet pill, a small amount of coke, two joints, six halves of Valium, which make three, and a glass and a half of wine.' The index listing of her name at the end of her book (*You'll never eat lunch in this town again*, 1991) seemed to sum up her personal life: 'depressions of... drug wanderings of... pregnancies of... loneliness of... suicidal behaviour of...'

Bernard Weinraub, obituary of Julia Phillips, film producer, *New York Times*, 3 Jan. 2002.

### Those unworldly indexers...

Shackles. She looked it up in Witkin under S, knowing it wouldn't be there. Those unworldly scholars who indexed legal books and computerized legal research didn't think like she did. She was going to have to find every case Collier might come up with in support of his position, as well as offer countervailing authority. Local court rules, exceptions to... inherent powers of the judiciary... escape... prisoners, physical restraints on....

Shackles. Fetters, bonds, chains, leg cuffs, irons, manacles...

Perri O'Shaughnessy, *Invasion of privacy*, Island Books (Dell Publishing), 1996

### Elusive listing

But trying to find a listing for 'Goliath' in the Bombay address book – or in any book – proved impossible. In Bombay phone books, names may be listed under their employer's name or under the name of the person who first installed the telephone or under whoever paid the most for an entry. Categories were constantly shifting, and as mobile phones and fax machines arrived and street names were updated to reflect current political beliefs, the dialling code for a fishing community became by tomorrow a code for the inner city.

Squinting at the rows of white on black lettering on the flickering screen I reflected, not for the first time, on how in a computer era we are all in the hands of the cataloguers, the people who choose which box to put us in. Not a century that respects Renaissance men, those transgressors of the single index entry.

This system had the usual peculiar juxtapositions and missing links – cinemas under *Houses*, *Movie* (impossible to access without correct placement of the comma); stories of Indian film directors listed not under *Film* or *Indian Film* but under *Movie Journalism*, *Indian*. After an hour, I gave up on Goliath and started on Prosper...

Leslie Forbes, *Bombay Ice*, Phoenix House, 1999

### A spiffy index

I've got a book of selected sketches coming out (*Playing to the Gallery*, from the *Guardian's* official publisher, Grove Atlantic) and amazingly it has an index. The indexer has done a spiffy job, perhaps too spiffy, as I don't think anyone in their right mind would look up 'agricultural policy' in the hopes of enlightenment from me about the CAP, or 'penal reform' if that was an issue they took seriously. I wondered whether we oughtn't to drop the index altogether, since a lot of people look themselves up, then ignore the whole book if they're not in.

So, as a compromise, I have taken all the names – except for glancing references – and inserted a little insult, a poison pellet, into the index, in the perhaps vain hope of shaming them into buying the book.

Simon Hoggart's diary, *The Guardian*, 29 June 2002

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Contributions of review extracts welcomed by the editor of this section, Christine Shuttleworth (please see inside front cover for further details). Closing dates for the next two issues: 30 November 2002 and 30 May 2003.

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\*Quair = a literary work (in Scots language)