

# Indexes reviewed

Edited by Christine Shuttleworth

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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

**British Library:** *Indexers and indexes in fact and fiction*, by Hazel Bell (2001, 160 pp, £16). Rev. by Mary Madden, *Update* 1(8), Nov. 2002.

Attractively presented, it would make an ideal gift for librarians, indexers and anyone passionate about knowledge and its organization. There is, of course, an excellent index.

**Honoré Champion:** *Discours sur l'occurrence de ses affaires (Nicolas de Harlay, sieur de Sancy)*, ed. by Gilbert Schrenck (2000, 156 pp, E 27.45). Rev. by Kathleen M. Llewellyn, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003.

The index of names of people and places is a welcome addition, permitting the reader not only a rapid means of locating subjects of special interest to him or her, but also providing the student of sixteenth-century history an invaluable analytical tool.

**McFarland:** *The Muslim diaspora: a comprehensive reference to the spread of Islam in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, vol. 2, 1500–1799*, by Everett Jenkins, Jr (2000, 415 pp, \$75). Rev. by Joseph Aieta, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003.

In many ways, the most useful aspect of the book may be the exhaustive index, seventy-three pages, each of which has three columns. Readers of this journal who may happen upon this work would be well advised to consult the index in order to avoid endless scouring of pages that might possibly contain something of interest to them.

**Macmillan:** *The wreck of the Abergavenny*, by Alethea Hayter (223 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Grevel Lindop, *Times Literary Supplement*, 20 Sept. 2002.

The list of sources includes a large number of scholarly works and archives, yet no references are given for the countless quotations and items of information, and one of Wordsworth's most important quotations on his brother, 'When, to the attractions of the busy world', is several times quoted and paraphrased without its title ever being mentioned (though it can be found by scanning the index).

**Pickering and Chatto:** *The correspondence of Robert Boyle, 1636–1691*, ed. by Michael Hunter, Antonio Clericuzio and Lawrence M. Principe (6 vols, 3,258 pp, £495). Rev. by Noel Malcolm, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 Aug. 2002.

The Internet has in fact just caught up with Robert Boyle: Michael Hunter's most recently completed labour is an on-line edition of Boyle's "work-diaries" ([www.bbk.ac.uk/Boyle/workdiaries](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/Boyle/workdiaries)). And the precedent now set by the Athanasius Kircher Correspondence Project ([www.su1.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg/hdis/kircher.html](http://www.su1.stanford.edu/depts/hasrg/hdis/kircher.html)) suggests that one day, all major new editions of correspondence may be electronic only.

For the time being, however, we should be grateful that a publisher such as Pickering and Chatto is willing to produce such a superbly old-fashioned edition – old-fashioned, that is, in its attention to layout, footnotes, indexing and sheer readability. The new technology is still too new to match this: the Kircher edition, though impeccably up-to-the-minute and Californian, is awkward to use, and the electronic edition of the Hartlib Papers, issued on CD-ROM in the mid-1990s, became technologically obsolete so quickly that it has just now had to be issued all over again. These modern keepers of the flame have done their work so well that it strongly deserves, one feels, to be kept in such a durable form, with no risk of disappearing in an electronic puff of smoke.

**Scarecrow:** *An ounce of prevention: integrated disaster planning for archives, libraries and record centres*, by Johanna Wellheiser and Jude Scott (2002, 283 pp, \$30). Rev. by Martin Hayes, *Update* 1(7), Oct. 2002.

Particularly useful is the detailed contents page beginning each of [the] sections, and the index which contains about 1,500 terms.

**Scarecrow:** *Shakespeare and minorities: an annotated bibliography, 1970–2000*, by Parvin Kujoor (2001, 416 pp, \$65). Rev. by Diana Akers Rhoads, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003

His annotations and his subject index also aid those seeking to locate articles on a specific topic or to limit working bibliographies. The subject index is comprehensive enough to cover issues as particular as 'Africans and Elizabeth I,' 'pedagogy,' or 'rape,' and matters of as broad interest as 'colonialism,' 'cross-dressing,' 'gender,' or 'patriarchy.' .... Those focusing on a particular play will wish to turn to the subject index as well as to the chapter principally involved if they wish to survey all significant recent articles treating the play in question.

**School Library Association:** *Books to enjoy 16–19*, by Eileen Armstrong and Sue Beever (49 pp, £5). Rev. by Pat Thornhill, *Update* 1(7), Oct. 2002.

Use of broad subject genre (e.g. Human Interest) means that it is worth checking the indexes for authors that you otherwise may have thought were excluded.

**Transaction:** *Demetrius of Phalerum: text, translation and discussion*, ed. by William W. Fortenbaugh and Eckart Schutrumpf (464 pp, £44.50). Rev. by Peter Green, *Times Literary Supplement*, 9 Aug. 2002.

... an achievement of which William W. Fortenbaugh, Eckart Schutrumpf and their international team can be justifiably proud: 176 items scrupulously edited, fully correlated with past collections, exhaustively indexed, a typographical delight, and provided with careful facing translations.

**University of North Carolina Press:** *Dear Papa, Dear Charley: the papers of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, 1748–1782* (3 vols), ed. by Ronald Hoffman, Sally D. Mason and Eleanor S. Darcy (2001, iv + 1651 pp, \$100). Rev. by William C. diGiacomantonio, *Documentary Editing* 24(2), June 2002.

The only seriously disappointing feature of the volumes' otherwise excellent and thoughtful annotation is the manner of identifying individuals within the documents. Footnotes provide full identification and biographical information about individuals the first time a reference to them appears. But, after that, there is nothing to confirm whether 'Cousin John' is John Carroll, S. J., a different John Carroll, or indeed some other John altogether, unless one turns to the index and finds a page number corresponding to the reference's location....

The index is superb. The editors do not neglect the little features easily overlooked, but of immense aid to the user, such as listing variant spellings or nicknames for individuals and boldfacing citations to their biographies. Nor do the editors neglect the more sophisticated techniques behind good indexing. Larger main entries are broken down into intelligible subentries, intelligibly phrased. And the content – appropriately like the content of the documents themselves – is expansive, articulate, and inventive. Entries include almost every feature of eighteenth-century life and thought that might be of interest to historians, whether lay or professional, such as individual crops, medicine, and even weather.

The index's treatment of slavery deserves special mention, because it is part of an overall approach that leaves historians of this critical subject with an insurmountable debt of gratitude to the editors. Slaves are indexed by name, and noted as such in parentheses, along with birth dates when possible. *The Papers of George Washington* follows the same format. *The Papers of Henry Laurens*, to show an alternate format, indexes all slaves under 'Slave names' – less respectful perhaps to the spirit of the individuals, but, ironically, more useful to the reader who can't be bothered to scan an entire index for distinct names.

## Two cheers!

**Brill:** *Technology, disease, and colonial conquests, sixteenth to eighteenth centuries: essays reappraising the guns and germs theories*, ed. by George Raudzens (2001, 304 pp, \$98) Rev. by Patricia A. Crouch, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003.

The collection provides a thorough index, although a few of the subject listings seem counterintuitive. The frequency of typographical and other small errors suggests the work did not receive the diligent editing it deserved.

**Butterworth:** *Butterworths legal research guide*, by Guy Holborn (2nd edn, 2002, £19.95). Rev. by Charles A. Toase, *Refer* 18(3), autumn 2002.

The only part of this book that I can criticize is the index, which relies on broad headings; the many useful descriptions of individual reference books are indexed under subjects and not by title, so there are no entries under *White book*, *Red book*, or *Black index*; the half a dozen blank pages at the back of the book could have been used to extend the index. The extended coverage of electronic sources is evident throughout, and there is a full index of websites from about.com to yell.com

**Chambers:** *Chambers book of facts* (£14.99). Rev. by Charles A. Toase, *Refer*, 18(3), autumn 2002.

Lists of abbreviations are not given in [*The Guinness book of answers*], ... Chambers manages to hide them in the index under 'Common abbreviations' with nothing in the As. A common fault of both books is a lack of indexing of the country section, so that the details of such things as currency or GDP are not revealed. ... The index in the new Chambers is very much fuller than in the first edition, and copies [*The Cambridge factfinder*] by indexing all the personal names (but would we really look there for Larry Hagman or Fleetwood Mac?) ... The NATO alphabet (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie), not indexed, is given with pronunciation, and tells you that Q for Quebec is pronounced key-bee.

**Clarion:** *A braid of lives: Native American childhood* (2000, 81 pp, \$20). Rev. by Sean George, *School Library Journal*, June 2001.

There is no topical index to the stories; there is an index of speakers and another of the Indian nations represented, both of which would facilitate research focusing on specific people or tribes.

**Oxford University Press:** *Divine mirrors: the Virgin Mary in the visual arts*, ed. by Melissa R. Katz (2001, 298 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Franz Posset, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003.

Her index is extensive, but does not include mariological subjects such as *deësis* and Mary with the protective cloak (what German Catholics call *Schutzmantelmadonna*).

**University of Chicago Press:** *The urbanization of opera: music theater in Paris in the nineteenth century*, by Anselm Gerhard, tr. by Mary Whittall (1998, xxi + 503 pp, \$50). Rev. by Susan Vandiver Nicassio, *American Historical Review* 106(4), Oct. 2001.

This is a fine piece of scholarship that has much to contribute to the rapidly growing field of research into the historical context of opera. Its indexing follows the continental style (separate indexes by title and name), which gives us a very good guide to specific works and artists but is almost useless for finding topics. Given the nature of this book, a subject index also would be useful.

## Indexes censured

**Allen Lane:** *To have and to hold*, by Philipp Blom (274 pp, £18.99). Rev. by David Hughes, *The Spectator*, 24 Aug. 2002.

To my relief (and [Sir Hans] Sloane's fury) Handel at the height of his powers suddenly puts a buttered bun on a mediaeval manuscript of untold worth. Handel's name is not in the index.

**Ashgate:** *The faith and fortunes of France's Huguenots, 1600–1685*, by Philip Benedict (2001, 336 pp, \$94.95). Rev. by Paul Cohen, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003..

Given the volume's hefty price tag, one might have wished for more from Ashgate. The lack of a bibliography is to be regretted, particularly given the coherence of the articles gathered here. The volume's index is strangely thin – it is curious that in a work that devotes some 150 pages to early modern demography, terms like 'plague,' 'fertility,' and 'mortality' do not figure in the index.

**Ashgate:** *George Ripley's Compound of Alchymy (1591)*, ed. by Stanton J. Linden (2001, 138 pp, \$59.95). Rev. by William C. Johnson, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003.

The eight-page index with which Linden concludes the volume is likewise unreliable; although indexed items do appear on the pages indicated, randomly selecting pages in the text, and then checking to see if all the items on those pages were indexed, revealed that a considerable number of them were not. Unfortunately, such inaccuracies and omissions undermine Linden's efforts and authority.

**Blackwell Science:** *Science and the garden*, ed. by David S. Ingram, Daphne Vince-Prue and Peter J. Gregory (2002, 304 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Ken Thompson, *Organic Gardening*, Nov. 2002.

I found few mistakes, and only have one serious gripe: there are no plant names in the index, so if you want to look up apples or *Narcissus*, you can't.

**Cambridge University Press:** *The Cambridge history of Japan, vol. 2, Heian Japan*, ed. by Donald H. Shively and William H. McCullough (1999, xxiii + 754 pp, \$120). Rev. by S. A. Thornton, *American Historical Review* 106(5), Dec. 2001.

The over seven-hundred pages of the text provide a wealth of information. Navigation is difficult, however. Political history and foreign relations are spread over two chapters and customs and culture over three, as are religion and ritual. And yet, the index is hardly exhaustive: there are, for example, no entries for *nin'yō*, *henushi*, *Bifukumon'in* or *Ike-no-zenni*. Not every term is scrupulously identified as contemporary or as a much later neologism (e.g., *sōhei* or *yugyō hijiri*). The text needs editing; there are typos and mistakes. Nevertheless, these are minor irritations. This volume remains an indispensable resource for all students of Heian Japan.

**Cambridge University Press:** *Life at the limits: organisms in extreme environments*, by David A. Wharton (307 pp, £18.95). Rev. by John Postgate, *Times Literary Supplement*, 27 Nov. 2002.

... the index is satisfactory except that the numeration slips by a page after Chapter Seven. [*Surely not the indexer's fault.*]

**Cornell University Press:** *Rebels and Mafiosi: death in a Sicilian landscape*, by James Fentress (2000, 297 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Charles Bertrand, *American Historical Review* 106(3,.) June 2001.

Finally, and perhaps most disturbing of all, the author incorrectly identifies one of the most prominent Italian politicians ever, Giovanni Giolitti, as Antonio Giolitti. And the mistake is repeated, twice in the text and even in the index!

**Gallimard:** *Écrits de linguistique générale*, ed. by Simon Bouquet and Rudolf Engler (353 pp, £22). Rev. by Roy Harris, *Times Literary Supplement*, 26 July 2002.

In short, by current editorial standards, their presentation of the texts is disappointing and their index, which overlooks important terms such as 'définition', 'écriture' and 'étymologie', as well as omitting Saussure's references to other linguists, can hardly be considered satisfactory for scholarly purposes.

**Greenwood Publishing Group:** *Shamanism and Christianity: native encounters with Russian Orthodox missions in Siberia and Alaska, 1820–1917*, by André A. Znamenski (1999, xii + 206 pp, \$65). Rev. by Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer, *American Historical Review* 106(5), Dec. 2001.

In sum, while I would prefer more recognition of indigenous and recent anthropological scholarship, better proofreading (especially for inconsistently spelled names), an improved index (including all cited scholars), and an alphabetical rather than compartmentalized reference list, this book is an excellent contribution to the history and historiography of Siberia and Alaska.

**McGill-Queen's University Press:** *Builders and deserters: students, state, and community in Leningrad, 1917–1941*, by Peter Konecny (1999, xv + 358 pp, \$65). Rev. by Larry E. Holmes, *Journal of Modern History* 74(2), June 2002.

Unfortunately, the index amounts to a listing of proper names and institutions (with the exception of the entries 'students' and 'professors') and does not do justice to the book's presentation of many issues and topics of historical and historiographical interest.

**Macmillan:** *The botanical garden, vol. 1: Trees and shrubs; vol. 2: Perennials and annuals*, by Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix (2002, 492 and 540 pp, £50 each vol.). Rev. by Alan Leslie, *The Garden*, Nov. 2002.

What a shame that each book is served by an introduction whose design is at odds with the remainder of the book, a nonsensical contents page, an incomplete glossary and an index that contains none of the species or cultivars illustrated!

**R. Oldenbourg Verlag:** *Der Westfälische Friede: Diplomatie – politische Zäsur – kulturelles Umfeld – Rezeptionsgeschichte*, ed. by Heinz Duchhardt (1998, xi + 888 pp, DM109). Rev. by Anuschka Tischer, *Journal of Modern History* 73(1), March 2001.

The book's use is facilitated by a solid index (which, however, includes the striking error of naming Napoleon as 'king' of France, p. 877). Unfortunately, the index indicates only persons – no places, not to mention terms or facts. Territories and states can be found only if mentioned in relation to their rulers. A more extended index might have corresponded better with the book's own concept.

**Oxford University Press:** *Becoming George*, by Ann Saddlemyer (808 pp, £25). Rev. by P. J. Kavanagh, *The Spectator*, 5 Oct. 2002.

However, these [Yeats scholars] will not be helped by the index: under 'astrology', for example, there are no less than 150 page references but no indication at all what occasion, or aspect of astrology, the pages mention; as an index, therefore, it is useless.

Rev. by Brenda Maddox, *The Guardian*, 27 Oct. 2002.

Overall, the 800 pages are a hard slog. Even Yeats scholars will find it hard to make their way through the textual thicket. Names in the index are followed only by a useless succession of page-numbers, with no thematic subdivisions.

**Oxford University Press:** *The Oxford companion to Scottish history*, ed. by Michael Lynch (2001, xxvi + 732 pp, £30). Rev. by A. A. M. Duncan, *History Scotland* 2(4), July/Aug. 2002.

Another way of finding information is an extraordinary index which has no page numbers but gives references to entry-headings to

various treatments of the subject, but does not include those subjects which have their own entry, unless they are significant towns or districts. Under this provision 'Iona' qualifies in both places, but in the Index there is no reference to the entry 'Columba' ('anyone would know that'), 'Adomnan' ('anyone using this book would know that') or Diarmait foster-son of Daigre (!). At least the Index is alphabetical; the List of ... Contributors is fine if you seek your friends, for it is alphabetical by name, but if you seek the identity of contributor RDA, seek on for you will find him third after RJA.

These peculiarities are not merely a pity; they are a bizarre obstacle to the wide, indeed popular use which the book and all the effort which has gone into its production deserve.

**Politico's:** *Ernest Bevin*, by Alan Bullock, ed. by Brian Brivati (826 pp, £30). Rev. by Mark Wickham-Jones, *Times Literary Supplement*, 26 July 2002.

I have one small grumble. Wanting to see what Bevin's attitude was to Frank Wise, a Labour MP and the first chair of the Socialist League, I turned to the index to find that two different individuals of that surname had been subsumed under the same entry (Frank with an American Rabbi Jonah Bondi Wise), a reflection presumably of relying on a computer programme.

**Prospect:** *Mediterranean seafood* (revised edn), by Alan Davidson (432 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Paul Levy, *Times Literary Supplement*, 25 October 2002.

The editor and publisher might note that the 'best-known descendant' of the Roman fish sauce known as garum, 'the pei salat or pissalat of Provence' is not on p. 292 as promised, and is not listed in the index.

**Routledge:** *Publishing law*, by Hugh Jones and Christopher Benson (2nd edn, 2002, £65/£24.99). Rev. by Anthony Watkinson, *Learned Publishing* 15(4), Oct. 2002.

'Publishing Law is a comprehensive guide to the law as it affects the publishing process' runs the blurb, and those of us who have used this excellent book in its first edition naturally endorse the claim. However, on second thoughts, it is clearly not an assertion to accept especially when the needs of academic and professional publishers are primarily considered. A quick look at the index gives the clue. There is no entry for 'journal' and no entry for 'serial'. Actually there should be an entry for 'periodical' (see p. 49), so the index is clearly not up to scratch.... I have already complained about the index, because it is to my mind so important in a reference book of this type. Otherwise, Routledge as an imprint of Taylor & Francis has done an excellent job on the production.

**Smith Settle:** *In my own good time*, by Stan Barstow (2001, 262 pp, £16.95). Rev. by Malcolm Barker, *Writing Magazine*, June–July 2002.

*In My Own Good Time's* index is lamentable, but Barstow will recognise that for what it is, a reviewer's complaint. [And what about the readers?]

**Stanford University Press:** *To the Harbin Station: the liberal alternative in Russian Manchuria, 1898–1914*, by David Wolff (1999, xiv + 255 pp, \$49.50). Rev. by Bruce E. Elleman, *Journal of Modern History* 73(2), June 2001.

There are notable editing problems by Stanford University Press. One example is that the reader is informed on at least three separate occasions that Japan secretly attacked Port Arthur in 1904. The Blagoveshchensk massacre (p. 33) took place July 17–20, not just on July 17, and in 1900, not 1899. Likewise, the index is inadequate; for example, it includes references to only thirteen pages that discuss the Boxer Uprising, even though this event appears on a total of twenty-two pages.

**University of Michigan Press:** *Mobility and modernity: migration in Germany, 1820–1989*, by Steve Hochstadt (1999, xviii + 331 pp, \$52.50). Rev. by Jea H. Quataert, *American Historical Review* 106(4), Oct. 2001.

For the rich comparative data in the text, furthermore, the index is woefully deficient. But this only means that the book must be read

from cover to cover to mine the wealth of details, wide-ranging analyses, and extraordinary scholarship that are at the heart of this impressive sociodemographic study. [*So that's all right, then.*]

**Viking:** *Berlin, the downfall, 1945*, by Anthony Beevor (490 pp, £25). Rev. by Kevin Myers, *Irish Times*, 4 May 2002.

Yet, too typically of these days, the author has been wretchedly served by his publishers. The index and the footnotes are an utter disgrace – inexcusably so since new technology should long since have made the compilation of each so relatively simple. [*Well . . .*] This is penny-pinching publishing at its most contemptible, yet its most predictable. The author, the reader, the scholar and most of all, the victims of that atrocious epoch, deserve far better.

## Indexes omitted

**Allen Lane:** *Orwell's victory*, by Christopher Hitchens (£12.99). Rev. by Crispin Jackson, *The Tablet*, 29 June 2002.

[Orwell] would have objected to the high price (£12.99) of this very unlovely paperback, as well as the lack of an index and bibliography.

**Allen Lane The Penguin Press:** *Domesday Book: a complete translation*, ed. by Ann Williams and G. H. Martin (1,436 pp, £30). Rev. by Alex Burghart, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 Nov. 2002.

Ann Williams and G. H. Martin have provided folio references throughout, as well as an indispensable glossary and an index of places (though not, unfortunately, of persons).

**Arcos:** *Raphael: a critical catalogue of his paintings, vol. 1*, by Jürg Meyer zur Capellen, ed. and tr. by Stefan B. Polter (2001, 328 pp). Rev. by Christiane L. Joost-Gaugier, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, January 2003.

If the book is exclusively devoted to the early period of Raphael's painted work, then it should include frescoes and other forms of painting. Instead, we eventually learn, Raphael's wall paintings will be the subject of volume 3, while volume 2 will present a catalog of only the panel paintings by Raphael in Rome. Thus does the first chapter on Raphael's Umbrian beginnings appear to be strangely cursory because, among other things, it omits mention of a fresco cycle so important as Perugino's for the Cambio, in which the young Raphael is believed to have participated. Because the book lacks an index, it is not even possible to verify that this project is not, in fact, even mentioned.

**Aurum Press:** *A life in pieces: the making of Benjamin Wilkomirski*, by Blake Eskin (2002, 251 pp, £16.99). Rev. in *Nando Times*, 10 July 2002.

And my attempts to keep straight names, dates and places were frustrated by the arrogant stinginess of yet another publisher failing to supply an index.

**Boydell:** *East Anglia's history: studies in honour of Norman Scarfe*, ed. by Christopher Harper-Bill, Carole Rawcliffe and Richard G. Wilson (358 pp, £58). Rev. by Neil Powell, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 Aug. 2002.

*East Anglia's History* is prodigiously annotated, but since so many essays deal with overlapping subjects it could have done with an index of persons and places . . .

**Daily Telegraph/Little Brown:** *An A to Z of almost everything* (£25). Rev. by Charles A. Toase, *Refer* 18(3), autumn 2002.

. . . a very large compilation that could be useful if it had an index, although much of the content consists of lists of trivia . . .

**Everyman:** *Essays*, by George Orwell, ed. by John Carey (2002, 1,408 pp, \$35). Rev. by Benjamin Schwarz, *Atlantic Monthly*, Nov. 2002.

Orwell's are the most important essays of the twentieth century, and reading them – along with his nonfiction books *The Road to Wigan Pier* and *Homage to Catalonia* – will make you a clearer thinker, a cleaner writer, and a more thoughtful human being. This handsome, 1,372-page hardcover volume contains his complete essays (even his unfinished piece on Evelyn Waugh,

which is missing from the four-volume edition) and selected reviews and journalism. It also includes an incisive introduction by the brilliant John Carey, but lacks an index – a grievous fault, but its only one.

**Faber & Faber:** *The child that books built: a memoir of childhood and reading*, by Francis Spufford (212 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Siobhán Parkinson, *Irish Times*, 30 March 2002.

. . . in a book so stuffed with wonderful perceptions, the absence of an index is particularly keenly felt.

**Fitzroy Dearborn:** *The New York Times book reviews 2000*. Rev. by Gordon Graham, *LOGOS* 13(2), 2002.

My only criticism of this work is that while there are indexes of authors and titles, there are no indexes of reviewers. However, this is a small quibble.

**Fremantle Arts Centre Press:** *Pila Nguru: the Spinifex people*, by Scott Cane (2002, 260 pp, Aus\$49.95). Rev. by Sasha Grishin, *The Canberra Times*, 29 Nov. 2002.

The book deals with the Spinifex people of the Great Victoria Desert, north-east of Kalgoorlie [Western Australia] and stretching towards the South Australian border. . . .

It is a useful book, although frustrating and awkward to get around [*like the desert?*], something which is exacerbated by the lack of an index.

**Granta Books:** *Nickel and dimed: undercover in low-wage America*, by Barbara Ehrenreich (2002, 240 pp, £8.99).

**HarperCollins:** *Stupid white men*, by Michael Moore (2002, 297 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Sanford Berman, *American Libraries*, Nov. 2002.

However, no entries appear for 'Wal-Mart', 'Bush', 'Clinton', 'Nader', or 'Sex toys' in the indexes to either volume – because there are no indexes. Serious (and also semi-serious) nonfiction books demand back-of-the-book indexes to make content more accessible and retrievable. And librarians should be loudly insisting to authors and publishers alike that indexes are necessities, not frills.

**Peter Lang:** *The correspondence of Jonathan Swift, D. D., vol. 2, Letters 1714–1726*, ed. by David Woolley (661 pp, £54). Rev. by Claude Rawson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 Nov. 2002.

There is no index for the 1,300 pages of this edition so far . . . We must hope that when the remaining volumes appear, some of the problems of cross-reference will be eased, and that an index will finally facilitate retrieval of the information at present occluded by the editor's pernickety mannerisms. We should be grateful for what we have, but it is hard to resist the conclusion that this major undertaking has been irresponsibly flawed, and that an important opportunity is being botched before our eyes.

**Little, Brown:** *River dog: a journey down the Brahmaputra*, by Mark Shand (338 pp, £17.50). Rev. by Charles Glass, *Times Literary Supplement*, 19 July 2002.

Shand's publisher, Little, Brown, owe him an apology for the faulty editing and lack of index. He risked his life for this book and he deserves better. [*That's telling 'em.*]

**Louisiana State University Press:** *Hans J. Morgenthau, an intellectual biography*, by Christoph Frei (2001, 236 pp, \$49.95). Rev. by Stanley Hoffman, *Foreign Affairs* 80(5), Sept.–Oct. 2001.

The wonderful book's only (but major) flaw is its lack of an index – both surprising and disappointing coming from such a fine university press.

**MIT Press:** *The logic of knowledge bases*, by Hector J. Levesue and Gerhard Lakemeyer (2000, 282 pp). Rev. by Rebecca Green, *Knowledge Organisation* 28(2001) No. 3.

Whether versed in first-order logic and mathematical proof or not, most readers of this journal can appreciate (or deprecate) a book's index. This one produces some surprises: For one thing, although the book is close to 300 pages long, there are only 107 terms in the index and only one of them leads to more than a single locator. For

another, some of the index entries are adjectives and at least one is a verb. In fact, the index is not one's standard back-of-the-book subject index, but is instead an index to (the definitions of) terms. Such an index is quite useful for a work like this one, but should not be the only index. The absence of a subject index is an unfortunate omission and one of the book's few weaknesses.

**John Murray:** *To catch a Tartar*, by Chris Bird (304 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Peter Nasmyth, *Literary Review*, July 2002.

. . . Bird provides a well-condensed and insightful account of the first Chechen war, alongside his description of the early years of Caucasian independence. (This makes it all the more baffling that the publishers have supplied no index – the book could be a genuinely helpful resource.)

**Mulino** (Bologna): *La confagricoltura nella storia d'Italia: Dalle origini dell'associazionismo agricolo nazionale ad oggi*, ed. by Sandro Rogari (1999, 1013 pp, L.150,000). Rev. by Jon S. Cohen, *American Historical Review* 106(5), Dec. 2001.

In spite of its overall high quality, the book has drawbacks. Its lack of an index makes it difficult to trace changes over time in the position of Confagricoltura on almost any major issue. This is a serious shortcoming in a text that most readers are likely to use as a reference work.

**Penguin Books:** *The psychopathology of everyday life*, by Sigmund Freud, tr. by Anthea Bell (£8.99). Rev. by Brian Dillon, *Irish Times*, 27 July 2002.

If there is a drawback to these new editions (which follow the German texts of the posthumous complete works), it is that while they come freighted with stylishly serious introductions, some scholarly pleasure has been repressed in the stripping of their indexes. Gone too is Strachey's 'Index of Parapraxes' from *Everyday Life*: a minor comic masterpiece, with its laconic entries on 'child's head knocked against chandelier' and 'handshake combined with unfastening lady's dress'.

**Picador:** *The selected works of Cyril Connolly*, vols 1 and 2, ed. by Matthew Connolly (368 and 379 pp, £20 each). Rev. by Stefan Collini, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 Nov. 2002.

Pieces written at different times and for different purposes or audiences sit side by side, and in one or two cases pieces from different periods on the same topic have been amalgamated . . . Although this lays no claim to being a scholarly edition, these oddities make it hard to use (as does the lack of an index), and the level of proof-correction doesn't help.

**Profile Books:** *The universe, the gods, and mortals*, by Jean-Pierre Vernant (205 pp, £15). Rev. by Helen King, *Times Literary Supplement*, 19 July 2002.

There is a glossary of names, but no index, so this is not the place to look up a god and get basic facts. But this is all to the good; the discursive and relaxed approach makes the book very readable. [*A bit too relaxed, perhaps?*]

**Robson Books:** *Fast women: the drivers who changed the face of motor racing*, by John Bullock (188 pp, £16.95). Rev. in *The Automobile*, Nov. 2002.

The absence of an index will ensure this title a special place among motoring books of the 21st century, while thanks to an annoying design quirk each chapter starts half way down the page.

**K. G. Saur:** *Education and research for marketing and quality management in libraries/ La formation et la recherche sur le marketing et la gestion de qualité en bibliothèque: Satellite meeting/ Colloque Satellite, Quebec, August 14–16*, ed. by Rejean Savard (2002, x + 326 pp, €78). Rev. by K. G. B. Bakewell, *New Library World* 103(1181), 2002.

This is a very useful collection and the book could be a good reference work for practitioners, educators and students – could be if only the publishers had thought of providing an index. Why do they have such little confidence in the value of the book they have produced?

**SPCK:** *Stuart Blanch: a life*, by Dick Williams (2001, 196 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *Librarians' Christian Fellowship Newsletter*, 81, summer/autumn 2002.

I am sorry the publishers did not employ a professional indexer, who would not have provided entries like 'Pope Paul VI' and 'Queen Elizabeth II' and would have provided some subject entries in addition to the (selective) name entries.

**SPCK:** *The work of love: creation as kenosis*, ed. by John Polkinghorne (£14.99). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *The Reader* 99(3), autumn 2002.

The approach is academic but the contributions contain pertinent comments on many subjects which Readers could use in sermons. . . . Unfortunately there is no index. [*The reviewer comments, 'I actually wrote: "Unfortunately the publishers have not made it very easy to do this because they have not provided an index."*]

**Transaction:** *The complete black book of Russian Jewry*, by Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasily Grossman, tr. and ed. by David Patterson (579 pp, £75.50). Rev. by Richard Overy, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 Nov. 2002.

There is no index, an omission that immediately makes this large book less user-friendly.

**Universitätsverlag Passau:** *Passau in der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus: ausgewählte Fallstudien*, ed. by Winfried Becker (1999, 574 pp, DM59.90). Rev. by Lawrence D. Stokes, *Journal of Modern History* 73(2), June 2001.

This volume provides, *summa summarum*, a reasonably comprehensive picture of how still one more small German city experienced National Socialism. Alas, however, although the essays it prints are fully annotated and draw generously from primary sources (if such have not inexplicably gone 'missing' in Passau or are not open even to scholars; see pp. 529, 532), there is no list of these or a bibliography, and worse, no index of any sort. Shame on a university press and the editor.

**Weidenfeld & Nicolson:** *Charles Dickens*, by Jane Smiley (212 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Claire Tomalin, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 Aug. 2002.

Finally, a critical biography of over 200 pages and costing £15 should have an index.

**Weidenfeld & Nicolson:** *Napoleon*, by Paul Johnson (195 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Conrad Black, *Daily Telegraph*, 27 July 2002.

And even a book of 40,000 words would benefit from an index.

**Whiting & Birch:** *Social role valorization and the English experience*, by David G. Race (1999, 184 pp, £15.95). Rev. by John Brooke, *British Journal of Learning Disabilities* 30, 2002.

This is a dense and intensely researched text with a good reference section. It is well structured and the contents pages are first rate. Therefore, it is all the more surprising that it lacks an index, particularly as it is written to be accessible across the boundaries of different specialisms. Two things seem common among specialists who enter into other fields: they do not know their way too well and will be short of time to find it. An index would also add to the value of the book as a reference. It could well appear on the reading list of many a sociology and healthcare course.

## Obiter dicta

**David R. Godine:** *Cogito, ergo sum: the life of René Descartes*, by Richard Watson (2002, 348 pp, \$35). Rev. in *The New Yorker*, 12 August 2002.

This excessively colloquial, willfully eccentric book is as infuriating as it is entertaining, right down to the index, which includes such entries as 'Pop a pill, 326' (this particular citation points to an aside of Watson's about how modern readers deal with anxiety).

**Little, Brown:** *Leadership*, by Rudolph W. Giuliani with Ken Kurson (2002, 418 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Clyde Haberman, *New York Times*, 13 October 2002.

This one [*Leadership*] gives barely a nod to messier parts of his private life, notably his bitter divorce from Donna Hanover (who is fleetingly mentioned but then denied a reference in the index). [*Shades of the John Major affair*, comments Joel S. Berson – a reference to Edwina Currie’s much-publicized remark, ‘The most hurtful thing is to look at John’s autobiography and find that I wasn’t even in the index’.]

**Orion:** *Gardeners’ question time*, by John Cushnie et al. (2002, 325 pp, £12.99).

There is of course an index, but only pedants would approach the book this way. This is one for browsing, with much to learn and enjoy along the way. [*Pedants of the world, unite!*]

**Viking:** *Feeding frenzy*, by Will Self (2001, 390 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Zulfikar Abbany, *The Observer*, 11 Nov. 2001.

But before reading any of *Feeding Frenzy*, it is advisable to consult the index, which covers not only the usual ‘people, places and things, but also ideas, obsessions and my own irritating stylistic tics’, so as to include ‘tongues, locking’, ‘matching socks and shoes, coordinated foot- and sockwear’, and ‘snicker-snack, fateful, of psychosis’.... Just turn to the index and look up Barratt Homes and read how Self indulged one Friday morning in ‘reverse commuting’ to discover that there existed at least one word that, until then, he didn’t know: ‘flaunching’.

## Acknowledgements

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## Different viewpoints

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’ (‘103, 206, 208–10, 216–17, 259, 264, 357, 566, 567–72, 703–04’). Lacey’s emphasis falls the other way (‘supposed romances and flirtations, 162–3, 208’). And there is certainly a moral persuasiveness in Philip’s confidence to a relative: ‘How could I be unfaithful to The Queen? There is no way she could possibly retaliate.’

Martin Amis, review of Robert Lacey, *Royal: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II* (Time Warner, 2002), in the *Sunday Telegraph*, 2 June 2002

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## It must be there somewhere . . .

In a letter in *The Guardian* of 11 May 2002, Professor G. Rex Smith, of Dyserseth, Denbighshire, reported:

A student of mine in 1970s Cambridge visited a bookshop to find a particular translation of the Koran. ‘Who’s the author?’ asked the assistant. ‘God’, replied my student. She checked her list under ‘G’ to no avail. ‘Could you please try “Allah” then?’ he suggested. She was last seen running a finger down the As.

Earlier, at *The Times*, the letters pages during December and January 2001 were rife with reported information retrieval problems. Dr Peter Willis of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, looking for references in a book’s index to Louis XIV, eventually discovered them under Quatorze, Louis.

Some indexes to car manuals appeared to be designed to prevent rather than facilitate the retrieval of necessary information. Mr John Hinde of Esher wrote:

In the index to our car’s owner’s manual you look in vain for computer under C, or for any of the things the computer can tell you about under their initial letters. It’s all there though: under O for On-board.

And Lady Shuttleworth of Carnforth (no relation), looking in the manual for her Japanese car, found ‘nothing under P for puncture, T for tyre or even W for wheel. By scanning the manual alphabetically, I eventually found it under I – “If you have a puncture.”’

The Rural Dean of Emlyn, Hugh James, reported that page 7 of the *Llandaff Diocesan Year Book* for 1995 was headed ‘Useful Addresses’, while the following page bore the heading ‘Other Addresses’.

Unusual filing systems supplied much amusement. Mrs Sian Flynn of Woking bought a second-hand filing cabinet containing a file which became her favourite and most used one: it was labelled ‘Old Pending’. Major John Fitzgerald (retd) of York had been shown by his company commander in the 1st Battalion, The Royal Norfolk Regiment, how he had cut ‘unnecessary’ paperwork in his office. ‘He allowed only two files: “Rugger” and “Other Bumf”.’

Mr Edwin Entecott of Nuneaton had a friend who had labelled four filing trays ‘In’, ‘Out’, ‘Pending’ and ‘Too Difficult’. ‘The last was to store items which solved themselves if left long enough. They either became out of date and could be ignored, or were dealt with by some smart aleck trying to prove how clever he was. I’ve tried it. It works,’ concluded Mr Entecott.

Finally the Rev. Jack Scroggie of Dundee described Abraham Lincoln’s ‘chaotic’ filing system at his law office in Springfield, Illinois.

Papers were everywhere. Many were stuffed into a stovepipe hat. So difficult was the situation that Lincoln had a large envelope inscribed with the message: ‘When you can’t find it anywhere else, look into this.’

Christine Shuttleworth, London