

Indexes reviewed

Edited by Christine Shuttleworth

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

Allen Lane: *The command of the ocean: a naval history of Britain, 1649–1815*, by N. A. M. Rodger (2004, 907 pp, £30). Rev. by John Parfitt, *The Spectator*, 23 October 2004.

If it happened and it mattered even a tiny bit you will find it, decently listed, indexed and annotated (there are 322 pages of appendices and notes, all useful) . . . [Index by SI member John Noble.]

Bloomsbury: *Schott's Original Miscellany*, by Ben Schott (2003, 158 pp, \$14.95). Rev. by Susan H. Woodcock, *School Library Journal*, January 2004.

There is an extremely useful index, which is necessary for this apparently random collection of stuff.

Burns and Oates: *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, by Cardinal Renato Martino (2005, 448 pp, £25). Rev. by Philip Crispin, *The Tablet*, 11 June 2005.

Punctiliously indexed, ranging from Abortion to Youth . . .

Cape: *Mao: the unknown story*, by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday (2005, 814 pp, £25). Rev. by John Weston, *The Spectator*, 4 June 2005.

. . . this admirably annotated and indexed book. . . .

Chicago Review Press: *Cuba and its music: from the first drums to the mambo*, by Ned Sublette (672 pp, \$36/ £31.50). Rev. by Stephen Brown, *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 July 2005.

. . . the book is well produced, well indexed, and a bargain besides.

Facet Publishing: *The CILIP guidelines for secondary school libraries*, ed. by Lynn Barrett and Jonathan Douglas (2004, 110 pp). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World*, **105**(1206/1207), 2004.

The book has a good bibliography, a glossary of acronyms and a decent index.

Facet Publishing: *Know it all, find it fast: an A–Z source guide for the enquiry desk* (2nd edn), by Bob Duckett, Peter Walker and Christinea Donnelly (2004, 368 pp, £26.95). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World*, **106**(5/6), 2005. (See also Pat Booth's review of the book on p. 243.)

The second welcome addition is an index. I realise that the book is alphabetically arranged but cross referencing via 'See Also' is, to me at least, less effective than a decent index for one-stop access to a book's contents on a particular topic.

FT Prentice Hall: *Business information management: improving performance using information systems*, by Dave Chaffey and Steve Wood (2004, 688 pp). Rev. by Patricia Daze, <http://www.freepint.com/bookshelf>.

The Glossary and Index are excellent. It was effortless for me to find content relevant to my own work.

Geological Society of London: *The geology of Spain*, ed. by W. Gibbons and J. Morreno (2002, 649 pp, £85.50 hbk, £27.50 pbk). Rev. by A. W. Baird, *Mineralogical Magazine*, October 2004.

The sizeable index of 40 pages makes it easy to locate descriptions of the geology of specific areas, sedimentary basins, fossil localities, geological structures, mineral deposits etc.

Harvard University Press: *Blackett: physics, war and politics in the twentieth century*, by Mary Jo Nye (2004, 255 pp, £25.95). Rev. by Graham Farmelo, *Times Higher Educational Supplement*, 28 January 2005.

Scholars will especially appreciate the excellent index, which makes it easy to locate the book's many factual gems.

Haworth Press: *Internet and personal computing fads*, by Mary Ann Bell, Mary Ann Berry and James Van Roekel (2004, 210 pp, \$39.95). Rev. by Peter Chapman, *Library & Information Update*, **3**(12), December 2004.

More than 1000 terms are arranged alphabetically, supported by an index which picks out key references and alternative ways of referring to the same or similar concepts.

Heinemann: *The know-it-all*, by A. J. Jacobs (2005, 386 pp, £10.99). Rev. by Gregory Normington, *Times Literary Supplement*, 27 May 2005.

Even the index is worth a visit, with entries like 'Encyclopaedia Britannica . . . admirable anality of, 301–5' or 'nose, ignorance of what is right under, 216'.

Logaston Press: *Vernacular buildings of Shropshire*, by Madge Moran (2003, xvi + 576 pp, £25). Rev. by Bob Meeson, *The Antiquaries Journal*, **84**, 2004.

There are editorial problems; the tables are not uniquely numbered, and the lack of enumeration of the figures or plates is a serious weakness, making cross-reference difficult, especially as passing reference is made to particular buildings in numerous sections of the book; some of these difficulties are ameliorated by a reasonable index.

Mosby: *Pocket guide to clinical examination* (3rd edn), by Owen Epstein, G. David Perkin et al (2004, 274 pp, £15.99). Rev. by Claire Vandeveld, *Hospital Medicine*, **65**(5), May 2004.

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The only problem with this book is that the small size and many illustrations mean that the print is frequently interrupted, making it rather difficult to read. Fortunately, if at first view it is not always easy to find something, the index is very thorough.

Oxford University School of Archaeology: *Oxford before the university: the late Saxon and Norman archaeology of the Thames crossing, the defences and the town*, ed. by Anne Dodd (2003, xviii+ 477 pp, £19.95). Rev. by Derek Renn, *Antiquaries Journal*, **84**, 2004.

The extensive index allows the reader to search easily from a variety of starting points.

Penguin: *The stories of English*, by David Crystal (2005, 400 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 21 May 2005.

It is a career-defining work; as he is a professor of linguistics with a particular knowledge of Shakespearean English, you would not expect otherwise. (He has also been president of the Society of Indexers; and I am pleased to note that the indexing here is very good.)

Ripley Entertainment: *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* (2004, 256 pp, \$25.95). Rev. by Elizabeth Stumpf, *School Library Journal*, February 2005.

A thorough index adds to the appeal because of the number of celebrities mentioned.

Springer: *Volcanoes*, by Hans-Ulrich Schminke (2004, 324 pp, £61.50). Rev. by Duncan Woodcock, *Geoscientist*, November 2004.

The book has a glossary of terms, over 400 references and three indexes. I particularly liked the index of geographical names that is arranged by region.

University of Toronto Press: *Records of early English drama*, ed. by John R. Elliott Jr et al (2 vols, 1,306 pp, Can\$400). Rev. by Emma Smith, *Times Literary Supplement*, 19 November 2004.

A full index includes proper names, but extends to a wider range of headings: 'wine', 'women' (subdivided as 'brawling', 'cleaning', 'disreputable', 'midwives', 'mutes', 'noble'), and 'songs' are to be expected, and there is 'ale' (but no 'cakes'). It also enables otherwise potentially unwieldy volumes of material to be quickly searched for 'wigs', 'walls', 'may games', 'legal records', 'homosexuality', 'crimes', 'boy bishops', 'animals' and 'books', and to trace any number of narratives through these rich, fragmentary annals. Each entry gains from the accumulation of small detail.

World Health Organization: *Manual of basic techniques for a health laboratory* (2nd edn, 2003, 384 pp, Sfr. 50). Rev. by John Elliot, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, **82**(3), March 2004.

The manual is rounded off by an excellent index, which makes it very easy to find the details on any of the procedures, reagents, equipment or other information provided.

Two cheers!

Ashgate: *Politicians and pamphleteers: propaganda during the English Civil Wars and Interregnum*, by Jason Peacey (2004, xi + 427 pp, £62.50). Rev. by Jane Wickenden, *Rare Books Newsletter* (74), March 2005.

It is thorough in both bibliography and index: perhaps a little too thorough in the latter, as attested by the solid block of page

numbers cited under both Charles I and Cromwell, where surely one might have expected a ff. or two. [*Or some subheadings?*]

Clarion: *Uluru, Australia's aboriginal heart*, by Caroline Arnold (2003, 64 pp, \$16). Rev. by Paul J. Bisnette, *School Library Journal*, January 2004.

The index is useful, but it omits some important words, e.g., mulga and wallaby.

Continuum: *Shakespeare's non-standard English*, by N. F. Blake (398 pp, £150). Rev. by Héloïse Sénéchal, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 February 2005.

Despite the fact that several words have multiple entries, an index allows the reader to source all relevant items, although I did discover two erroneous page references.

Facet Publishing: *Practical copyright for information professionals: the CILIP handbook*, by Sandy Norman (2004, 208 pp, £24.95). Rev. by Howard Picton, *Library & Information Update*, **4**(3), March 2005.

Navigation is simple, as topics are covered in the contents and index, and references to other mentions of the same subject are given in the text. This makes it very easy to move from, say, a general reference in one chapter to a detailed application in another.

There appear to be few errors. Organisations are referred to by their acronyms (explained in the glossary) but 'ONS' is not glossed, although the term is in the index and the text. More curiously, 'BRICMICS' is in the index but not in the glossary, although it is explained in the text. Neither could I find an explanation of 'SI' although one would expect a professional to know what one was. [*Society of Indexers? Système International? Sarcasm Intended?*]

Fantagraphic Books: *The complete Peanuts, Vol. 1, 1950-1952*, by Charles Schulz (2005, 343 pp, \$39.95). Rev. by Hal Niedzwiecki, *Globe and Mail*, 28 May 2005.

Schulz would have loved the way these books take his lifelong singular passion seriously as art. But little things would have bothered him, as they did me: a glaring typo in the great introduction to Volume 1 by Garrison Keillor; an impressive index that nonetheless only has one entry under 'dog whistle' when there are, in fact, two separate strips in which Charlie Brown demonstrates 'one of those whistles that only dogs can hear' on an unsuspecting Snoopy.

Greenwood: *The Greenwood encyclopedia of women's issues worldwide* (6 vols), ed. by Lynn Walter (2003, 590 pp, \$550). Rev. by Maureen Connelly, *School Library Journal*, April 2004.

Each volume contains a glossary and an index. The comprehensive index in the last volume can be frustrating to use; a few see and see-also references lead to other see terms, rather than page notations. *Sub-Saharan Africa*, the last volume, contains the index, but there is no indication on the spine that it's there.

Greenwood: *Talking terrorism: a dictionary of the loaded language of political violence*, by Philip Herbst (2003, 220 pp, \$50). Rev. by Elizabeth M. Reardon, *School Library Journal*, April 2004.

Entries are generally lengthy and include related terms, so the use of the index is essential. For example, there is no entry for 'baby killer', a term often used by the anti-abortion movement. However, it is listed in the index, leading to an entry on 'abortuary', a rather circuitous route.

Haworth Information Press: *Selecting materials for library collections*, ed. by Audrey Fenner (2004, 271 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World*, **106**(3/4), 2005.

The index is very thorough despite a rather haphazard use of italics.

Oxford University Press: *Oxford dictionary of quotations* (6th edn), ed. by Elizabeth Knowles (2004, 1,140 pp, £30). Rev. by E. S. Turner, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 February 2005.

A short selective index, featured in the last edition, rounding up items on Age, Fashion, Sex, Sport and so on, has been dropped. . . . As always, the keyword index is a miracle of efficiency, now running to 279 pages. Where else could a perplexed enquirer with 'brekekekokoak koax' on the tip of his tongue turn to discover that this is the cry of the frogs in Aristophanes?

Oxford University Press: *Property and piety in early medieval Winchester*, by Alexander R. Rumble (2002, xxiv + 252 pp, £120). Rev. by D. M. Palliser, *Archaeological Journal*, **160**, 2003.

The whole is rounded off by two glossaries and four indexes – though not, unfortunately, a subject index – and altogether it is a pleasure to use and consult.

Sage Publications: *Handbook of disability studies*, ed. by Gary Albrecht, Katherine Seelman and Michael Bury (2003, 700 pp, £29.99). Rev. by Claire Hough, *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation*, June 2004, 11(6).

The subject index, although comprehensive and substantial, does require some navigating and inventive thinking if one is to find the desired subject matter.

Sweet & Maxwell: *Archbold Magistrates' Courts Criminal Practice*, ed. by Nicola Padfield et al (2005, £175). Rev. by Eric Crowther, *The Magistrate*, **61**(4), April 2005.

I read somewhere that 'you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but by the index'. If that be a proper criterion this Archbold is a good book, though not an excellent one. I decided to make an 'in depth' study of several topics all beginning with my initial letter 'C'; namely confessions, character, committal and costs. I found the headline 'character' missing from the index, although it does appear briefly under 'cross-examinations'. It does not deal, however, with the difficulty of magistrates having to decide whether to admit evidence of a defendant's previous convictions. . . .

Upstart: *Stretchy library lessons: seasons & celebrations*, by Pat Miller (2004, 114 pp, \$15.95). Rev. by Judy Sokoll, *School Library Journal*, August 2004.

An activity index lists the type of projects and the chapters in which they can be found. . . . However, what is lacking is a traditional index. While the book does provide many ideas for literature-appreciation activities, it is difficult to access the material.

Indexes censured

Allen Lane: *Warped passages: unravelling the universe's hidden dimensions*, by Lisa Randall (2005, 512pp, £25). Reviewed by John Gribbin, *Sunday Times Culture*, 26 June 2005.

It might also be a good idea to find a competent indexer – this one has come up with a classic. The entry 'Large Hadron Collider (LHC)' says 'see under CERN'. The entry for 'CERN' includes (you guessed) 'See also LHC'.

Atlantic Books: *Dirty words: the story of sex talk*, by Mark Morton (368 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Michel Faber, *Guardian*, 30 July 2005.

There is no index, so the chances of finding that elusive synonym of gamahuching a second time are slim.

Basic: *A well-ordered thing: Dmitri Mendeleev and the shadow of the periodic table*, by Michael Gordin (364 pp, \$30). Rev. by Simon Schaffer, *London Review of Books*, 7 July 2005.

(Gordin seems equally devoted to extensive annotations, which spread over sixty infuriatingly unindexed pages of tiny type and contain much of the body of his argument.)

CABI Publishing: *Applied animal endocrinology*, by E. J. Squires (2003, 234 pp). Rev. by F. M. Anne McNabb, *Poultry Science*, **83**(6), June 2004.

Unfortunately, the index seems to consist of only section subheadings so a great deal of the wealth of information in this book cannot be found through the index.

Cambridge University Press: *The Cambridge history of twentieth-century English literature*, ed. by Laura Marcus and Peter Nicholls (2005, 886 pp, £95). Rev. by John Sutherland, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 March 2005.

The *CHT-CEL* has great virtues, some minor shortcomings, and, for a work of reference, one major blemish. The index is a disaster, so much so as to be horribly hilarious. Who, for example, would not want to read Morrison Blake's *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*, D. H. Lawrence's *The Planned Serpent*, Richard Hoggart's *The Abuses of Literacy*, or Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot?* Denys Thompson (Leavis's erstwhile collaborator) is, one discovers, the author of *The Making of the English Working Class*. There is some impostor called 'E. P. Thomson' [sic] lurking a few entries down. Maxim Gorky wrote *The Early Years of Thomas Hardy* and *The Later Years of Thomas Hardy*. Oscar Lewenstein wrote *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Giles Cooper wrote *The [sic] Lord of the Flies*, 'O. C. Dublin' wrote *Juno and the Paycock* and 'the Rosenbergs' wrote *Ragtime*. There is much more, but not all of it funny. By my estimate, over half the references in the volume escaped the witless indexer's eye. Just as well. What is appended to this volume is an outrage on the editors' industry, the contributors' scholarship and the imprint's reputation. The publisher should immediately re-index and post the corrected, downloadable, apparatus on the CUP website.

Cambridge University Press: *Principles of medicine in Africa* (3rd edn), ed. by E. Parry et al (1,442 pp, £120).

Westminster Publishing: *Textbook of tropical surgery*, ed. by R. Kamel and J. Lumley (1,332 pp, £193.50). Rev. by Imre Loeffler, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, **97**, November 2004.

What of the indexes? It is seldom one encounters a book that is well indexed. To find an entry only to be told to 'see under' something else is a bitter experience, exceeded in bitterness only if one cannot find at all what one is looking for. Editors of textbooks ought to attend to this matter, for bad indexing can compromise useability. The medical volume is the better indexed [by *SI member Jill Halliday*]. In the surgical book one finds the usual fare awaiting the index user: under Donovanosis one finds 'see *Leishmania donovani*'; under *Leishmania donovani* one finds 'granuloma inguinale', which has nothing to do with *Leishmania*. Further under *Leishmania donovani* the index lists 'granuloma venereum', an entity that has nothing to do with either Leishman or Donovan.

Carollrhoda: *A monkey baby grows up*, by Joan Hewett (2004, 31 pp,

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\$6.95). Rev. by Nancy Call, *School Library Journal*, October 2004.

There is no need for the seven-entry index that appears on the copyright page. [*One wonders what the entries were.*]

Clueb Editrice: *Selected essays on the history of set theory and logics (1906–1918)*, by Philip E. B. Jourdain, ed. by Ivor Grattan-Guinness (1991, xlii + 352 pp). Rev. by John C. Simms, *Modern Logic*, 8(3/4), May 2000–October 2001.

The ‘author’ index lists those persons who are mentioned by Jourdain, but does not cite mere citations of works, and, corollarily, does not list those persons who are mentioned merely by citing their works. I found this restriction to be an inconvenience. For example, Christine Ladd-Franklin is cited once in the index, but I know that her work appears elsewhere as well, and I would like to know where without having to skim through the whole book.

I found the subject index woefully inadequate. Every time – and I mean that literally – I wanted to look a subject up, it wasn’t there. A skimpy index is not unusual, but this one is, in fact, not even three full pages long, and considering the wealth of material contained in Jourdain’s papers, it’s not surprising that it fails to be very satisfying. Moreover, neither index covers the introduction. Because Grattan-Guinness’s introduction is valuable in its own right, I find this to be a nontrivial inconvenience. . . . I would have preferred an unrestricted index, combining both authors and subjects . . .

Facts on Demand: *Find it online – the complete guide to online research*, by Alan Schlein (2004, 564 pp, £11.43). Rev. by Penny Crossland, *Freepint Bookshelf*, <http://www.freepint.com/bookshelf>.

A different weakness, from my point of view, is the lack of a clear index. It would have been helpful for it to be divided into subject areas.

Facts on File: *The Facts on File companion to American drama*, ed. by Jackson R. Bryer and Mary C. Hartig (2003, 562 pp, \$71.50). Rev. by Betty S. Evans, *School Library Journal*, June 2004.

The index is less than comprehensive and somewhat sloppy; absent are titles of plays and the names of playwrights mentioned in the text of broader entries. Finally, the text and the index have a confusing alphabetical scheme.

Gale/Macmillan: *Nutrition and well-being A to Z*, ed. by Delores C. S. James (2004, \$175). Rev. by Joyce Adams Burner, *School Library Journal*, October 2004.

The index has occasional lapses. [*Such as?*]

Grolier: *The Civil War* (10 vols) (2004, \$309). Rev. by Mary Mueller, *School Library Journal*, June 2004.

The set index, also in every volume, is adequate, but coverage is not always complete for topics mentioned within the body of entries. [*Adequate?*]

Grolier: *Grolier student encyclopedia* (17 vols) (2003, \$249). Rev. in *School Library Journal*, June 2004.

Prominent see-also references and a set index at the back of each book seem helpful at first glance, but may bewilder and frustrate inexperienced encyclopedia users. Youngsters interested in monkeys will have to use the index, which refers them to three different volumes. If they persevere, they will be rewarded with a

few pages under ‘Primates’. Under lightning, the index leads students to nothing more than a captioned etching of Ben Franklin and his famous kite under the subject heading ‘Science’.

Robert Hale: *Cumbria: the Lake District and its county*, by John Wyatt (£50). Rev. in *Conserving Lakeland*, Summer/ Autumn 2005.

The book is not totally free of blemishes. Proofreading seems to have been hurried and patchy and there is more than a suspicion that one or two photographs have been printed back to front. For a book of 600 pages of information, description and opinion, the index could also be improved. When the reader has read this book from cover to cover it will still be on the shelf as a work of references for years to come. But for works of reference, a well-compiled index is no luxury – it is an essential.

Hamish Hamilton: *Matisse the master: the life of Henri Matisse: the conquest of colour, 1909–1954*, by Hilary Spurling (2005, 512 pp, £25). Rev. by Norbert Lynton, *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 April 2005.

It [the Chapel of the Rosary in Vence] is hard to find in the index because the two books’ indexes follow different systems. Professional indexers can be quick and efficient but tend to beaver away in solitude, caring little for the publication as a whole. [*An odd accusation! The first volume of Spurling’s biography of Matisse, The Unknown Matisse, was published in 1998.*]

HarperCollins: *Walter Sickert: a life*, by Matthew Sturgis (2005, 768 pp, £30). Rev. by Richard Shone, *The Spectator*, 12 February 2005.

In a book of this scope and length, a few mistakes are inevitable. Here there are too many; a more attentive editor would have corrected wrong or misspelt names and excised occasional repetitions. The index is not as impressive as it looks.

Hutchinson: *Hide and seek with angels: a life of J. M. Barrie*, by Lisa Chaney (2005, 402 pp, £20). Rev. by Philip Hensher, *The Spectator*, 11 June 2005.

It comes as no surprise to learn that Barrie never consummated his marriage. (Unintentionally, but rather appropriately, his wife has no entry at all in the index to this book.)

Kyle Books: *One pot wonders*, by Conrad Gallagher (\$19.95). Rev. by Kate Shatzkin, *Baltimore Sun*, June 2005.

The book is a little hard to follow. Looking for a way to dress up potatoes? You’ll find Garlic Mash in the saucepan chapter, Roasted New Potatoes With Coarse Salt and Rosemary under roasting pan and Twice-Baked Potatoes With Crabmeat and Walnuts under baking sheet. The index doesn’t help unless you’re looking for ‘Garlic Mash’ under G.

Lorenz: *Organic kitchen and garden*, by Ysanne Spevack, Christine Lavelle and Michael Lavelle (2004, 512 pp, £24.99). Rev. by Andrew Blackford, *Kitchen Garden*, February 2005.

One thing that does let the book down from the usability aspect is the index. Finding precisely what you are looking for can be frustratingly hit-and-miss. Look up ‘potatoes’, for instance, and you will be given seven page references, but no clue to what’s on them; and under ‘disease’, 19 page references, but you still won’t know where to find potato blight. ‘Blight’ itself doesn’t appear in the index.

Manson Publishing: *Self-assessment colour review of hepatobiliary*

medicine, by Roger Chapman and Henry C. Bodenheimer (2003, 193 pp, £16.95). Rev. by James Neuberger, *Hospital Medicine*, 65(2), February 2004.

There are a few minor criticisms. There are no references if the reader wants to read more, and the index could be more useful – primary sclerosing cholangitis is under ‘c’ for cholangitis.

Monarch Books and the Bible Society: *Good news for the world: 200 years of making the Bible heard: the story of Bible Society*, by Roger Steer (2004, 462 pp, £8.95). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *Librarians’ Christian Fellowship Newsletter*, 88, Winter 2004.

The index is inadequate, with some omissions and some strange headings like ‘War, First World’ and ‘War, Second World’.

John Murray: *Betjeman: the bonus of laughter*, by Bevis Hillier (746 pp, £25). Rev. by J. Mordaunt Crook, *Times Literary Supplement*, 3 December 2004.

There is one technical flaw in this enjoyable volume. The reference notes have not been incorporated into the index. Without such a key, even an avid reader will miss a great many nuggets.

Oxford University Press: *A commentary on Horace: Odes, Book III*, by R. G. M. Nisbet and Niall Rudd (2004, 389 pp, £70). Rev. by Denis Feeney, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 October 2004.

Puns are marked and pursued, although, oddly, there is no index entry for ‘pun’ or ‘wordplay’, just as in Volume One; in Volume Two there is an entry for ‘pun’, with a dozen listings.

Oxford University Press: *A new history of Western philosophy, Vol. 1: Ancient philosophy*, by Anthony Kenny (2004, 341 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Anthony A. Long, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 April 2005.

In Kenny’s (frankly inadequate) index the only entry for ‘political philosophy’ refers, strangely, to Heraclitus.

Oxford University Press: *When flesh becomes word: an anthology of early eighteenth-century libertine literature*, ed. by Bradford K. Mudge (2004, 332 pp, hbk £51.99, pbk £17.99). Rev. by Elizabeth J. Scott-Baumann, *Times Literary Supplement*, 28 January 2005.

... the omission of the author on the title page of each work, or even in the index, is baffling.

Palgrave Macmillan: *Trespassing boundaries: Virginia Woolf’s short fiction*, by Kathryn N. Benzel and Ruth Hoberman (2004, 304 pp, £45). Rev. by Sarah M. Hall, *Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain Bulletin*, no. 19, May 2005.

One tiny editorial quibble: it is a mistake, I think, to index ‘A Haunted House’ and similar titles under ‘A’ (‘An’ and ‘The’ are not treated likewise), but since all Woolf’s works are listed under a common heading, not a grave one.

Plexus: *Never apologise: the collected writings of Lindsay Anderson*, ed. by Paul Ryan (460 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Tom Sutcliffe, *The Spectator*, 11 December 2004.

It is also frustrating that Ryan’s index has no keyword references, such as ‘alienation’ (Brechtian). With critical writing, an index can provide alternative paths.

Scarecrow: *Victorian horizons: the reception of the picture books of Walter Crane, Randolph Caldecott and Kate Greenaway* (2001, 296 pp, £57). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *CILIP Update*, 3(1), January 2004.

Scholars will be disappointed by the limitations of its index.

SPCK: *Crime*, by T. J. Gorrington (£14.99). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *The Reader*, 101(4), Winter 2004.

The comments about biblical criminals might be useful in sermons though no biblical characters are included in the inadequate index. An index of scriptural references would also be useful.

Sun Microsystems Press: *Networking concepts and technology: a designer’s resource* (400 pp). Rev. by Luigi Benetton, <http://www.itbusiness.ca>

On the other hand, it’s hard to understand the poor-quality index, glossary, and table of contents that mar the book’s value. Navigational aids are just as important in books as they are on Web sites. Using Sun.com as an example, I find a clear set of links on the home page, well-organized site maps and a search function. These tools let me find what I want quickly on this content-rich site.

I can’t say the same about this book. Network designers who want to find specific answers quickly will be disappointed with the skimpy 2½ page index (followed by three pages of publisher’s ads) near the end of this 400-page tome.

Thames and Hudson: *The history of stained glass*, by Virginia Chieffo Raguin and Mary Clerkin Higgins (2003, 288 pp, £24.95). Rev. by Jill Channer, *Cornerstone* (magazine of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), 25(4).

T&H deserves a special award for what must surely be the most inadequate and appalling index ever to undermine a publication of this kind . . . the completely random, utterly inconsistent and often just plain wrong selection of artists’ names and references to places renders the whole exercise literally useless. The captions to the copious illustrations (which are not all in focus) and the crazy credits are equally bizarre. Combined with serious sloppy editing, the most serious oversight is the lack of any linkage with the inexplicable un-numbered illustrations.

Viking: *The letters of Lytton Strachey*, ed. by Paul Levy (2005, 496 pp, £30). Rev. by Victoria Glendinning, *Guardian*, 28 May 2005.

... Levy’s editing is grandly minimalist. Most names are left unannotated (and some are not even indexed).. . .

Rev. by Peter Parker, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 April 2005.

‘Anrep’ is mentioned twice before we are told that he is the mosaicist Boris Anrep, though these earlier occurrences are not recorded in the book’s scrappy and unreliable index.

Yale University Press: *Angels and monsters: male and female sopranos in the story of opera*, by Richard Somerset-Ward (2004, 326 pp, £25). Rev. by Jonathan Keates, *Times Literary Supplement*, 24 and 31 December 2004.

A sloppy index ascribes *Linda di Chamounix* to Bellini and unfor- givably conflates Rosine Stoltz, Donizetti’s first Leonore in *La favorite*, with Teresa Stolz, Verdi’s ideal Aida.

Indexes omitted

Amadeus Press: *The joy of music*, by Leonard Bernstein (2005, 320 pp, 320 pp). Rev. by David Gutman, *The Gramophone*, June 2005.

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Leonard Bernstein put together his first and arguably best book in 1959 and its recurring reissue is welcome.

It is, however, legitimate to lament the absence of an index, let alone the DVD tie-in promised this time.

Bloomsbury: *Extreme measures: the dark visions and bright ideas of Francis Galton*, by Martin Brookes (2004, 298 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Jim Endersby, *Times Literary Supplement*, 25 March 2005.

There are no surprises in *Extreme Measures* for anyone who knows these sources, and it is difficult to judge if Brookes has done any research beyond reading them, since he (or his publisher) has chosen not to include references, a bibliography or even an index.

Bloomsbury: *I am alive and you are dead: a journey into the mind of Philip K. Dick*, by Emmanuel Carrière, tr. by Timothy Bent (2005, 336 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Michael Moorcock, *Guardian*, 4 June 2005.

It's a shame this book contains no index . . .

Eerdmans: *The future of biblical archaeology: reassessing methodologies and assumptions*, ed. by James K. Hoffmeier and Alan Millard (2004, £17.99). Rev. by W. H. C. Friend, *Church Times*, 4 March 2005.

An index would have been welcome.

Faber: *The Gutenberg elegies: the fate of reading in an electronic age*, by Sven Birkerts (1997, 240 pp, £8.99). Rev. at <http://www.teleread.org/blog>, 2 June 2005.

For an article on e-book myths, I'm enduring *The Gutenberg Elegies* by Sven Birkerts. Meanwhile here's a question. Why the devil doesn't *Elegies* have an index? Am I reactionary in believing that every serious nonfiction book should have one? Shouldn't Birkerts have cared enough about 'The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age' – his subtitle – to have had the costs of indexing subtracted from his royalties?

Faber: *The road to Inver: translations, versions, imitations 1975–2003*, by Tom Paulin (2004, 102 pp, £12.99)

. . . this is one of the rudest, most unapologetic books of translation or transposition I have ever read. It is monolingual, the source poet is acknowledged curtly in a parenthesis under the title, and care is taken not to provide any kind of an index giving exact references with titles in the original language (a source of serious irritation for a reviewer).

Halsgrove: *The Lakeland Dales*, by Terry Marsh (2004, 144 pp, £14.95). Rev. in *Cumbria*, June 2005.

How many, for example, could make their way to Woundale? (An index would have helped here but, to save hours of scouring maps, it's off the Kirkstone Pass.)

HarperCollins: *Snowtown: the bodies in the barrels murders*, by Jeremy Pudney (282 pp, \$27.95).

ABC Books: *The Snowtown murders: the real story behind the bodies-in-the-barrels killings*, by A. McGarry (370 pp, \$22.95). Rev. by Martin Leonard, *Canberra Times*, 28 May 2005.

Also, the lack of an index in both books makes for a confusing reading of events featuring a multitude of characters, many of whom went by several names. The relationship chart included in both books is an inadequate substitute and fails to provide for the many peripheral characters.

Highgate Publications (Beverley): *Hammonds of Hull*, by John

Markham (2004, £9.95). Rev. by Jane Howells, *Local History News*, no. 74, Spring 2005.

Sadly, the absence of both an index and any references detracts from its value for anyone who might want to follow up the story of Hammonds and its locality.

Johns Hopkins University Press: *Useful bodies: humans in the service of medical science in the twentieth century*, ed. by Jordan Goodman et al. (2003, 213 pp, £31). Rev. by Christopher Lawrence, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 April 2005.

. . . irritatingly without an index . . .

Michael Joseph: *The perfectionist: life and death in haute cuisine*, by Rudolph Chelminski (512 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Paul Levy, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 March 2005.

And what use is his mass of information (which constitutes the raw material of the social history of an important subject) without an index?

Barry McKay Rare Books: *Printing and publishing in Warwickshire: miscellaneous notes*, by Paul Morgan (2004, iv + 120 pp, £7.50). Rev. by Christopher Skelton-Foord, *Rare Books Newsletter*, 73, Winter 2004.

Perhaps in a work such as this it is indeed the lack of any index – of publishers and printers principally, if not authors and titles – which detracts most from this book's overall usefulness as a reference and locating tool. A checklist without aspirations of comprehensive coverage or the inclusion of an index could most usefully be presented in easily-searchable electronic form.

Methuen: *The Queen's stamps: the authorised history of the Royal Philatelic Collection*, by Nicholas Courtney (2004, 337 pp, £25). Rev. by Aileen Reid, *Sunday Telegraph*, 13 June 2004.

The Queen's stamps has the full academic apparatus of endnotes (though those in chapter 2 seem to have gone haywire), appendices and a glossary (an index would have been nice, too) which chart the author's prodigious research.

New Directions: *If this be treason: translation and its dyscontents*, a memoir, by Gregory Rabassa (2005, 189 pp, \$21.95). Rev. by Ángel Gurría-Quintana, *FT Magazine*, 7 May 2005.

Every author he has 'done' gets his or own chapter. But rather than studying each in a self-contained fragment illuminating a particular aspect of the translation process, he has awkwardly strung the whole together, making it necessary for readers to get through most of his book if they wish to understand his jokes and allusions towards the end. Tighter editing might have solved that problem and eliminated tiresome repetitions; an index would have made the volume easier to use.

Pelican: *Women who fly*, by Lynn M. Homan and Thomas Reilly (2004, 113 pp, \$14.95). Rev. by Laura Reed, *School Library Journal*, September 2004.

. . . there is no index.

Pimlico: *The diaries of Charles Greville*, ed. by Edward Pearce (2005, 358 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Tim Blanning, *Sunday Telegraph*, 30 January 2005.

Everyone interested in the period will want to read it, not least for the discovery that in many respects 'the long 18th century' did not even come to an end in 1832. But the value of this otherwise excellent edition is needlessly diminished by the absence of an index, for

which it so obviously cries out. For want of this ha'porth of tar, it plunges to the bottom of the harbour within sight and sound of a tumultuous welcome. What a pity.

Reaktion: *The idea of North*, by Peter Davidson (2005, 256 pp, £16.95). Rev. by Steven Poole, *Guardian*, 30 April 2005.

Unfortunately, in a fit of madness, the publisher has not seen fit to provide this lovely book with an index.

Scribner: *Granny made me an anarchist: General Franco, the Angry Brigade and me*, by Stuart Christie (2004, 432 pp, £10.99). Rev. by Eric J. Iannelli, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 October 2004.

But one can excuse a little colourful hyperbole in the title (not to mention spelling errors and no index) when it comes to such an intelligent, spirited book.

Springer: *Efficient conservation of crop genetic diversity*, ed. by Detlev Virchow (2003, xiii + 246 pp). Rev. by M. Humphreys, *Journal of Agricultural Science*, 142, 2004.

It is also a pity that the book has no index to make navigation easier for casual readers.

University of Massachusetts Press: *Making meaning: 'Printers of the mind' and other essays*, by D. F. McKenzie, ed. by Peter D. McDonald and Michael F. Suarez (2002, x + 286 pp, £23). Rev. by Robert Laurie, *Rare Books Newsletter*, 73, Winter 2004.

There are two curiosities about this book. The chronological bibliography of McKenzie's writings is in descending order beginning in 2000 and ending in 1958. More seriously, the omission of an index makes it difficult to trace the development of the author's views on the various topics covered here as they evolved over three decades.

Viking: *Olga's story*, by Stephanie Williams (2005, 412 pp, £20). Rev. by Nigel Jones, *Sunday Telegraph*, 10 July 2005.

One major black mark against an otherwise moving and brilliant book however: although it has excellent maps it lacks an index. In a work so crammed with names and places, this is unforgivable.

Viking: *Whose Bible is it? A history of the Scriptures through the ages*, by Jaroslav Pelikan (2005, 274 pp, £14.95). Rev. by Sarah Statz, <http://www.books1ut.com>.

I'd like to speak more about my favorite part of the book, a short paragraph in which Pelikan suggests that earlier and more allegorical translations of the Bible might actually have better assimilated modern scientific theories about evolution than the literal, creation over the course of six twenty-four-hour periods, interpretation, but I can't, primarily because I can't find it. In a completely inexplicable and inexcusable move, the Viking Press has seen fit to issue this work of timely and relevant scholarship without an index. Readers hoping to use Pelikan's academic text in research works or conversations of their own are hereby forewarned that they should mark any passages they find interesting with bookmarks or highlighting.

Watson-Guptill: The crafty diva's DIY stylebook (2004, 144 pp, \$12.95). Rev. by Elizabeth Stumpf, *School Library Journal*, October 2004.

The lack of an index is a drawback.

Waxmann: *Holistic education resource book*, ed. by P. Schreiner et

al. (2005). Rev. by Joanna Cox, Church of England Yahoo Group, 6 May 2005.

Who is this book for? Without an index or many bibliographies, it does not seem to be targeting the academic market.

Obiter dicta

Indexing !!!

The recent success of !!! – pronounced chickchickchick or powpowpow – has raised the bar in this category by making the band very difficult to talk about and virtually impossible to index. 'I don't think the name has held us back,' says guitarist Mario Andreoni. 'Possibly people get frustrated looking for us in record shops, but we've never been real promotion hounds. We assumed people would file it right before A.'

Leo Benedictus, Friday Review, *Guardian*, 25 February 2005.

Nonagenarian indexer

The 18th-century antiquary John Loveday made more than a hundred tours around the British Isles between 1729 and 1765, keeping detailed notes of his experiences and describing buildings and their contents, particularly country houses and churches. The account of his longest tour, which included a visit to the Continent, was edited by Sarah Markham's grandfather, and published by the Roxburgh Club in 1890, but the full value of his diaries could not be appreciated until the appearance in 1984 of her biography, *John Loveday of Caversham, 1711–1789: The Life and Tours of an Eighteenth-Century Onlooker*. This, her first book, was an outstanding scholarly achievement, recognised the following year, when she was 75, by her election as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. . . . After the second book [*A Testimony of her Times*] Markham concentrated on ordering, transcribing and indexing every one of Loveday's tour diaries, which she did with the utmost diligence, and remarkable computer literacy for a 90-year-old. The task continued to within a short time of her death.

Obituary of Sarah Markham, *The Times*, 4 June 2003.

Evocative index

Even a mere index could now entice the traveller. During the 1890s, Murray's handbooks crucially altered their policy, copied from Baedeker, of folding practical information on cities and towns into the body of the text, shifting it instead to the back of the volume. Turning to the index for the 1903 *Asia Minor*, under 'S' for Smyrna, we watch that ancient port city of Homer and St Paul, metropolis of the Ionian Greeks, with its 28,000 Jews, 12,000 Armenians and an English merchant community dating from Elizabethan times, spring irresistibly to life amid Murray's profligate scatterings of detail. A gasworks, an ice manufactory and a Greek hairdresser are listed, along with an English girls' school, an Italian shoe shop, a sporting club, three casinos, two newspapers in Ladino and a Scotch Presbyterian mission. French boulevard dramas and Italian operas play at the Théâtre des Quais, and should we crave more exotic fare, the index notes 'Howling Dervishes every Friday in the Armenian town'.

Jonathan Keates, 'Guides of old', *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 July 2005.

The hated task

In September 2004, thanks to the editorial skills of Rob Bartlett and the support of Blackwell, R. W. Southern's four presidential lectures were published, along with a number of his other papers,

Indexes reviewed

including a review of [F. W.] Maitland's letters. Of Maitland, Southern wrote: 'few historians hold all the trump cards. Those who can generalise are often inaccurate in detail; those who can write well shirk the labour of transcription; almost everyone hates the task of indexing. Maitland loved it all and did everything – or almost everything – supremely well. . . . He would even make indexes for other men's books. ' . . . The high-points of my presidential stint? One I've already mentioned, the dedication of Maitland's memorial. Another was indexing – yes, indexing – the Southern papers (a great way into a wonderfully ordered mind).'

Jinty Nelson, 'Letter from the President', *Newsletter of the Royal Historical Society*, Autumn 2004.

Wiser counsel, or the power of the review

Indexes omitted (*The Indexer*, 24(3)) included five reviews taking Andrew Marr to task for omitting an index to his *My trade: a short history of British journalism*. In the preface to the new paperback edition he writes:

I have added an index. I left one out of the first edition hoping this would spur idle and time-pressed colleagues to actually read the book. But almost every reviewer protested. They cannot all be wrong and I have succumbed.

Acknowledgements

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:
Martin Ahermaa, Toronto
Rosemary Anderson, Lancaster
Jane Angus, Ballater

Ken Bakewell, Liverpool
Caroline Barlow, Bedford
Susan Bosanko, London
Christine Boylan, Pembury
Jessica Bushore, Fairborn, OH
John Button, Stroud
Liz Cook, Kirkby Stephen
Janet Dudley, Malvern
Moyra Forrest, Edinburgh
Auriol Griffith-Jones, Sturminster Newton
Ann Griffiths, Birmingham
Jill Halliday, Pulham St Mary
Ann and Tim Hudson, Chichester
Clare Imholtz, Beltsville, MD
Yann Kelly, Bantry
Cherry Lavell, Cheltenham
Maureen MacGlashan, Largs
Jean Macqueen, Devizes
Mary Madden, Aberystwyth
Sue Martin, London
Judith Menes, Consett
Norma Munson, Rockford, IL
Christopher Phipps, London
David Potter, Ilford
Linda Sutherland, Irvine
Pilar Wyman, Annapolis, MD

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 2005 and 30 May 2006.

Indexing the medical sciences by Doreen Blake, Michèle Clarke, Anne McCarthy and June Morrison

Society of Indexers Occasional Papers on Indexing, No. 3. 2nd edn, 2002, 84 pp., ISBN 1-871577-24-1
£17.50 (£20.00 overseas); £15.00 (£17.50 overseas) for members of indexing societies



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