

# 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

**American Library Association:** *The Coretta Scott King Awards, 1970–2004*, ed. by Henrietta M. Smith (2004, 176 pp, US\$35.00). Rev. by Paul Grunseit, *Australian Library Journal*, 55(1), February 2006.

An author, title and illustrator index ensures quick and easy navigation. [*The Awards are given to outstanding African-American writers and illustrators in the field of children's literature.*]

**Australasian Society for HIV Medicine:** *HIV and hepatitis C: policy, discrimination, legal and ethical issues* (136 pp, available without cost). Rev. by Peter Trebilco, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 30(3), 2006.

The index is complete and the references throughout are well assembled.

**Bantam:** *Kublai Khan: the Mongol king who remade China*, by John Man (2006, 384 pp, £20). Rev. by John Ure, *Times Literary Supplement*, 30 June 2006.

Imaginative illustrations, good maps and a helpful index all conspire to keep the reader focused on a remarkable story.

**BBC Books:** *Feel-good cookbook: 150 ways to nourish your body and soul*, by Ainsley Harriott (2006, 240pp, £20). Rev. by Jo Teasdale, *BBC Good Food Magazine*, October 2006.

The layout is clear and uncluttered, with a helpful index.

**Blackwell Publishing:** *Sleep medicine: a guide to sleep and its disorders* (2nd edn). by John M. Shneerson (2005, 330 pp, £65). Rev. by Susan M. Harding, *Respiratory Care*, 51(8), August 2006.

The index is carefully cross-indexed, which makes it very easy to find a diagnosis or symptom and find the appropriate material in the text.

**Casper Publications:** *Japanese submarine raiders 1942*, by Steven L. Carruthers (2006, 264 pp, Aus\$29.95). Rev. by Thomas A. Lewis, *The Canberra Times*, 10 June 2006.

A useful collection of photographs comprehensively illustrates the story, and the book is rounded out by a well-detailed index.

**Continuum:** *Christianity: the complete guide*, ed. by John Bowden (2006, 1,364 pp, £35). Rev. by David Martin, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 August 2006.

The index and the cross-references take you everywhere . . . The index and the cross-references are very important. For example, in her articles on Symbols, Painting and Sculpture, Diane Apostolos-Cappadona concentrates on the early period, and you have to locate the Pre-Raphaelites in Scott's Romanticism.

**Council of Science Editors (in cooperation with the Rockefeller University Press):** *Scientific style and format: the CSE manual for authors, editors, and publishers* (7th edn), by Style Manual Committee, Council of Science Editors (2006, xvi + 659 pp, £35). Rev. by Sue Lambert, *Learned Publishing*, January 2007.

There are valuable end-of-chapter reference lists, including URLs to websites and a comprehensive bibliography. The index serves its purpose well, adding significantly to the navigability of a manual that also usefully lists the component sections of each chapter at their beginning.

**Duke University Press:** *Cinematic prophylaxis: globalization and contagion in the discourse of world health*, by Kirsten Ostherr (2005, 275 pp, £60). Rev. by Priscilla Robinson, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 30(4), 2006.

. . . and it is well indexed.

**Elsevier Academic Press:** *Essentials of medical geology: impacts of the natural environment on public health*, ed. by O. Selinus et al. (2005, 812 pp, £59.99). Rev. by Ian Lancaster, *Geoscientist*, September 2005.

Although overlap is inevitable between chapters, and can frustrate efforts to build up a complete picture of an element that appears in several contexts, the index is very comprehensive and most relevant points are likely to be picked up eventually.

**Epworth:** *The miners' bishop*, by Graham A. Patrick (2004, £19.99). Rev. by Susanne Mitchell, *The Reader*, 103(4), winter 2006.

. . . for the non-specialist there are good indexes to enable one to focus on a particular aspect of [Brooke Fosse] Westcott's work.

**Facet Press:** *Managing information services*, by Sue Roberts and Jennifer Rowley (2004, xiii + 242 pp, £32.95). Rev. by Elizabeth Melrose, *CILIP Update*, 5(7–8), July/August 2006.

This is not an easy book to read at one sitting. However, the use of the index alongside the contents list allows this reference volume to feature as both an introduction to management and information services for new practitioners and a welcome revision text for their peers.

**Granta:** *Big babies*, by Michael Bywater (2006, 262 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Nicholas Harman, *The Spectator*, 11 November 2006.

The index is particularly enjoyable, including the admirably obscure entry: 'aorist tense, implied by hyphenated adverbial modifier, example of, 12n'.

**HarperPress:** *Liberty: the lives and times of six women in revolutionary France*, by Lucy Moore (2006, 464 pp, £20). Rev. by Sam Leith, *The Spectator*, 16 September 2006.

Told broadly, in chronological order, it nevertheless jumps back

and forth between its six subjects, so with its huge supporting cast and ever-shifting political currents you're grateful for its appendix listing secondary characters, and its full and helpful index.

**Hart Publishing:** *Human rights law*, by Merris Amos (2006, 412 pp, £50 hbk, £22 pbk). Rev. by Roger Smith, *New Law Journal*, 4 August 2006.

Somebody – the author or her publisher – has taken the trouble to give it a good index. [Index by SI member Chantal Hamill.]

**Haworth Information Press:** *Collaborative access to virtual museum collection information: seeing through the walls*, ed. by Bernadette G. Callery (2005, 123 pp, \$17.95). Rev. by Mike Freeman, *New Library World*, 107(9/10), 2006.

Well produced and indexed, this book will probably find a specialist niche in this growing market quite easily.

**Libraries Unlimited:** *Using Internet primary sources to teach critical thinking skills in world literature*, by Roxanne M. Kent-Drury (2005, 194 pp, US\$65.00). Rev. by Helen Dunford, *Australian Library Journal*, 55(1), February 2006.

Overall this book provides a good balance of the theoretical and the practical and contains activities and resources which would be useful to educators engaged in teaching for critical thinking and information literacy. It is well indexed and contains a site index so that favourite sites can be easily located.

**Lion:** *What has Christianity ever done for us?* by Jonathan Hill (2005, 192 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Joan Smith, *The Reader*, 103(2), Summer 2006.

Very readable, beautifully illustrated, well indexed, a rich resource for Readers.

**Norton:** *From so simple a beginning: Darwin's four great books*, ed. by Edward O. Wilson (2005, 1706 pp, £27); **Running Press:** *The indelible stamp: the evolution of an idea*, ed. by James D. Watson (2005, 1260 pp, £19.99). Rev. by John Tyler Bonner, *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 and 25 August 2006.

There is, however, one material difference between the two books. *From So Simple a Beginning* has excellent indexes, and the footnotes of all Darwin's books, all of which are missing in *The indelible stamp*. [Is it only the footnotes or also the indexes that are missing in the second book?]

**O Books:** *The thoughtful guide to Christianity*, by Graham Hellier (2003, 360 pp, £11.99). Rev. by Stephen Wright, *The Preacher*, (123) October 2006.

It is particularly helpful to have a thorough index of names with the briefest of biographical or historical information about them, as well as some helpful tables and charts of dates, texts and statistics.

**Oxford University Press:** *The Oxford history of the Irish book, Vol. III: The Irish book in English, 1550–1800*, ed. by Raymond Gillespie and Andrew Hadfield (2006, xxi + 477 pp, £90). Rev. by Helen Price Saunders, *Rare Books Newsletter* (CILIP), (78) August 2006.

The index is very comprehensive and a good indication of the contents (which are otherwise, with such a wealth of scholarly information, hard to summarize).

**Routledge:** *Selling rights* (5th edn), by Lynette Owen (2006, 367 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Graham P. Cornish, *LOGOS*, 17(4).

This latest edition is divided into 25 chapters, and also includes a brief bibliography for further reading, a list of useful addresses and contact details and a well-structured and comprehensive index.

**Scarecrow Press:** *Technology-infused instruction for the educational community; a guide for school library specialists*, by Lesley S. J. Farmer (2004, 224 pp, US\$37.00). Rev. by Heather Fisher, *Australian Library Journal*, 55(1), February 2006.

The book has a valuable glossary and extensive bibliography followed by a detailed index.

**Tottell Publishing:** *A user's guide to copyright* (6th edn), by Michael Flint, Nick Fitzpatrick and Clive Thorne (2006, 639 pp, £78). Rev. by Charles Oppenheim, *Learned Publishing*, January 2007.

The book is well laid out and clearly typeset. A good index, and the usual tables of statutes, statutory instruments and cases support the text.

**University of Chicago Press:** *Crimes of art and terror*, by Frank Lentricchia and Jody McAuliffe (2003, 200 pp, \$22.50). Rev. by Bruce P. Barten, amazon.com, 20 December 2004.

The index (pp. 179–187) includes the designation 'mentioned' under Wordsworth for three pages where his name merely appears. Dostoevsky also has two pages listed for 'mentioned.' T. S. Eliot takes 5 lines in the index, with only one page designated 'mentioned.' This kind of index is valuable for readers who often wish to locate what they previously read and check the relevance of offhanded comments.

**John Wiley:** *Searching for the Beaumont children: Australia's most famous unsolved mystery*, by Alan J. Whiticker (2006, 304 pp, Aus\$29.95). Rev. by Martin Leonard, *The Canberra Times*, 4 March 2006.

. . . this book is quite well researched and meticulously documented with both index and endnotes.

## Two cheers!

**Haworth Information Press:** *Functional requirements for bibliographic records (FRBR): hype or cure-all?*, ed. by Patrick Le Boeuf (2005, 316 pp, £31.50). Rev. by J. H. Bowman, *Library and Information Update*, 5(10), October 2006.

The index is adequate, though a bit odd. It has some entries which really cannot be understood without further context (such as 'Existence', 'Ordering', 'Percepts entities'), and an extraordinary one (with numerous subheadings) called 'Fundamental concepts'. Every book could have that entry in its index!

**John Murray:** *James Lees-Milne diaries, 1942–1954*, abridged and introduced by Michael Bloch (2006, 496 pp, £25). Rev. by Bevis Hillier, *The Spectator*, 25 November 2006.

And [Stephen] Tennant is missed out of the otherwise admirable index.

**Royal Society of Medicine:** *The trouble with medical journals*, by Richard Smith (2006, 292 pp, £19.95). Rev. by Charles Oppenheim, *Learned Publishing*, January 2007.

The book is supported by a fairly basic index, but is well typeset and comes at a bargain price. I suggest you drop heavy hints for this book to be added to your birthday present list.

**UNSW Press:** *Changing ways of death in twentieth-century Australia: war, medicine and the funeral business*, by Pat Jalland (2006, 409

pp, \$39.95). Rev. by Rachel Gear, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 2006, 30(5).

Minor editing is needed in the notes and index, however, these changes can be readily addressed in a second edition.

## Indexes censured

**Boydell Press:** *The Franciscans in the Middle Ages*, by Michael Robson (2006, £25). Rev. by Nicholas Vincent, *The Tablet*, 23 September 2006.

Robson's command of the primary sources is considerable, and his text is packed full with interesting details. Unfortunately, only a small fraction of these can be recovered from an index that is inadequate, or traced from their abbreviated citation in footnotes through to their full listing in a bibliography, which is both incomplete and poorly organized. In any future edition, and one hopes in any future volumes in this series, both the index and the bibliographical apparatus should be drastically revised.

**British Library:** *Worlds of print: diversity in the book trade*, by John Hinks and Catherine Armstrong (2005, 240 pp, £25). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *CILIP Update*, 5(12), December 2006.

This book is a delight to read and should provide something of interest for all those interested in the history of the book trade. What a pity it did not merit a more detailed index. [*Or rather, a pity that the British Library didn't think it merited one.*]

**Butterworth-Heinemann:** *The National Trust manual of house-keeping: the care of collections in historic houses open to the public* (2005, 941 pp, £49.99). Rev. by Joanne Robinson, *Views* (National Trust journal), Summer 2006.

My only criticism of the Manual is that the 12-page index does not do justice to the sheer quantity of useful information. A more detailed index would make it more useful as a quick reference source. Many houses are understaffed with teams valiantly trying to do as much as possible in a short space of time. Opportunities to pore over text books during the working day are rare and information needs to be easily accessible with a thorough index.

**Cambridge University Press:** *A chronology of Jane Austen and her family*, by Deirdre Le Faye (2006, 720 pp, £85). Rev. by Claire Harman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 and 25 August 2006.

I had difficulty with the index, however, which refers the reader to years rather than page numbers (obviously tedious when the year in question contains up to thirty pages of entries).

**Lippincott Williams & Wilkins:** *Hemostasis and thrombosis: basic principles and clinical practice* (5th edn), ed. by Robert W. Colman et al. (2006, 1827 pp, \$325). Rev. by Bruce Furie, *N. Engl. J. Med.*, 355(17), 26 October 2006.

The information on chemical analyses, laboratory diagnosis, and genetics was fine, but I could not find information on current recommendations for management in the index. The information may be there, but I could not locate it. . . . I was surprised that in this computer-based era, when textbook sales are dwindling, that the publisher has not provided readers with digital access to references and text searching. Although many people still do not want to read an entire book on a computer screen, opportunities for searching, index linkage, and access to references, for example, have been missed. Had they been provided, the search for answers to my clinical questions might have been successful. [*Or perhaps the book just needs a better index?*]

**Macmillan:** *The devil's picnic: a tour of everything the governments of*

*the world don't want you to try*, by Taras Grescoe (2006, 359 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Paul Levy, *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 and 25 August 2006.

His index *substantiarum prohibitorum* is strange, and has a feeling of having been chosen randomly.

**Oxford University Press:** *The iconography of early Anglo-Saxon coinage: sixth to eighth centuries*, by Anna Gannon (2003, x + 230 pp, £60). Rev. by James Graham-Campbell, *Medieval Archaeology*, XLIX, 2005.

The numerous footnotes are not consistently indexed, although they contain much information.

**Oxford University Press:** *Writers, readers and reputations*, by Philip Waller (2006, 1181 pp, £85). Rev. by A. N. Wilson, *The Spectator*, 17 June 2006.

One other cavil, and a more serious one. Oxford University Press should pay someone to make a much more detailed index. There are over 40 references to Thackeray, for example, some where he is mentioned in passing and others rich in anecdote, such as his wanting to have corn-sheaves carved by the front door of his house in Kensington (now the Israeli embassy) which he built from the profits of being editor of the *Cornhill Magazine*. (He barely lived to see the house completed.)

**Oxford University Press (Australia):** *Qualitative research methods* (2nd edn), by Pranee Liamputtong and Douglas Ezzy (2005, 340 pp, £28.99). Rev. by Hsiu-Feng Hsieh, *Respiratory Care*, 51(7), July 2006.

The index is of limited usefulness; it does not provide complete information on terms used in the book. For example, content analysis is discussed as an analytic strategy used in an unobtrusive method, but the reader would not know that if he or she were only to look at the index under 'content analysis.'

**Politicos:** *Orwell in Tribune: 'As I please' and other writings 1943-7*, ed. by Paul Anderson (2006, 401 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Gordon Bowker, *Observer*, 29 October 2006.

However, the book also torpedoed several myths – that he was anti-Semitic (not by 1943 he wasn't), that he rarely referred to Hitler and the Nazis (though his many references here go unmentioned in the index), and that he was sadistic (he opposed taking revenge on the Germans and loathed the execution of Nazis and their collaborators).

**Potomac Books:** *The Star Wars enigma: behind the scenes of the cold war race for missile defense*, by Nigel Hey (2006, 288 pp, \$27.95). Rev. by Jeff Hecht, *New Scientist*, 6 November 2006.

It could have done with a better explanation of technical issues and a decent index.

**SCM:** *A short course in Christian doctrine*, by George Pattison (2005, 180 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *The Reader*, 103(3), autumn 2006.

The inadequate index contains one particularly strange entry – 'Christ, Jesus' – as though Christ were a surname!

**Schott Musik International:** *Robert Schumann in Emdenich (1854-1856)*, ed. by Bernard R. Appel (607 pp, €34.95). Rev. by John Worthen, *Times Literary Supplement*, 10 November 2006.

My only real complaint about this book is its lack of a full index. There is a *Personenregister* but a selective one (the entries on Brahms and Clara, for example, give page numbers for musical

works but not for letters). . . . Previous volumes of the *Schumann Forschungen* series (4, 5, 6, 8 and 10) had far better indexes.

**I. B. Tauris:** *From Empire to Orient*, by Geoffrey Nash (2005, 252 pp, £24.50). Rev. by Tim Mackintosh-Smith, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 September 2006.

. . . and there are far too many mistakes, from Wilfred Thesiger's being classed on the first page as a 'nineteenth-century' traveller (not that he would have disapproved) to Government House in Calcutta's being described as 'an Adam Smith creation', to a wild goose chase masquerading as an index.

**Woodfield Press:** *Print culture and intellectual life in Ireland, 1660–1941*, ed. by Martin Fanning and Raymond Gillespie (2006, 267 pp, €45). Rev. by Antony Farrell, *Irish Times*, 22 July 2006.

. . . a sideswipe at Brian Friel's play *Translations* is buried in a scholarly footnote, and unindexed.

## Indexes omitted

**Bloomsbury:** *It's easier to reach heaven than the end of a street: a Jerusalem memoir*, by Emma Williams (2006, 450 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Theo Richmond, *The Spectator*, 22 July 2006.

The exemplary notes, maps and glossary (but, disappointingly, no index) help to make this memoir more illuminating and instructive than many a pundit's tome.

**Collins/Times Books:** *The Times quotations*, with foreword by Philip Howard (2006, 788 pp, £14.39); **Yale:** *The Yale book of quotations*, ed. by Fred R. Shapiro (2006, 1068 pp, £24). Rev. by Marcus Berkman, *The Spectator*, 16/23 December 2006.

The *Yale* goes for alphabetical order by author, the *Times* for alphabetical order by subject, with authors arranged alphabetically within that. This takes longer to get used to, but enhances browsing pleasure . . . What the *Times* lacks is any sort of index of what *Yale* calls 'key-words', so if you want to look up who said, 'He hath eaten me out of house and home', you can't. This makes the *Times* almost useless as a basic dictionary of quotations, but the freshness and range of its entries do make it a highly entertaining read. . . . Buy it if you have more than enough quotation dictionaries already, and enjoy.

**Constable and Robinson:** *Plundering the public sector*, by David Craig with Richard Brooks (2006, 320 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Peter Osborne, *The Spectator*, 8 July 2006.

It is greatly to be regretted that they have not provided an index.

**Darton, Longman & Todd:** *The C. S. Lewis Chronicles*, by Colin Duriez (2005, 256 pp, £9.95). Rev. by Kirsty A. Robinson, *Christian Librarian*, 35, Winter 2006.

My only complaint about the book is that an index would have made it useful as well as interesting. In particular, many of the miscellany items are very informative but difficult to find again, for example where would you look for the list of academic chairs held by the Inklings, when the group in various forms met from the 1930s to the 1950s? (It happens to be at the end of 1945.)

**Emerald Group Publishing:** *Coping with continual change: change management in SLIS*, Proceedings of the European Association for Library and Information Education and Research (EUCLID) and the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), ed. by Linda Ashcroft (2005, vi + 175 pp). Rev. by K. G. B. Bakewell, *New Library World*, 107(1230/1231), 2006.

There are some very interesting papers here, but I would have preferred a thematic arrangement rather than arrangement alphabetically by first author (after the keynote paper by Michael Gorman) – and what a pity there is no index! I am sorry that few of the contributors took up Michael Gorman's point about the importance of traditional librarianship subjects. Subjects like cataloguing and indexing remain important in spite of – or, dare one say, because of – technological developments.

**Faber & Faber:** *The complete book of aunts*, by Rupert Christiansen (2006, 266 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Geordie Greig, *Literary Review*, December 2006/January 2007.

Irritatingly, there is no index and no captions to any of the photographs or drawings.

**Fyfield Books:** *The odes of Horace*, tr. by Len Krisak (2006, 180 pp, £12.95). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 9 December 2006.

It's a pity that in a book this beautifully produced there aren't enough notes, and no index of first lines. Never mind. *Nunc est bibendum*.

**Georgetown University Press:** *Loyal dissent: memoir of a Catholic theologian*, by Charles E. Curran (2006, 304 pp, £16.95). Rev. by Gerald O'Collins, *The Tablet*, 3 June 2006.

Unfortunately, Curran's memoir, which introduces a wide range of people on both sides of the Atlantic, lacks an index of names.

**Granta:** *And they all sang: the great musicians of the 20th century talk about their music*, by Studs Terkel (2006, 301 pp, £15.99). Rev. by John Steane, *The Gramophone*, Vol. 84 (Special Awards 2006 issue).

Some essential part of [Bernstein] is here. I'd have liked more, but that is the way with good interviewers. And I'd also have liked an index.

**Hamish Hamilton:** *London: city of disappearances*, ed. by Iain Sinclair (2006, 655 pp, £20.50). Rev. by Mark Sanderson, *Sunday Telegraph*, 29 October 2006.

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The absence of an index and sorely needed maps can presumably be attributed to penny-pinching.

**HarperPerennial:** *The chains of heaven: an Ethiopian romance*, by Philip Marsden (2006, 320 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Ross Leckie, *The Times*, 2 September 2006.

There is no index – a shame in a book as rich as this.

**HarperSanFrancisco:** *The secrets of Judas; the story of the misunderstood disciple and his lost Gospel*, by James M. Robinson (2006, 192 pp, Aus\$34.99). Rev. by Frank O'Shea, *The Canberra Times*, 10 June 2006.

Considering the discovery of the Gospel of Judas was announced not much more than a month ago, this book is extraordinarily quick off the mark and gives the impression of a rushed job. It lacks an index, and statements of experts or journalists, or quotations from the Gospels, are indented in an inconsistent way, so that the reader is unsure where a citation ends and the main narrative continues.

**Harvard College Library:** *Harvard Judaica: a history and description of the Judaica Collection in the Harvard College Library* (2004, xii + 130 pp). Rev. by Arthur Kiron, *Judaica Librarianship*, 12, 2006.

Surprisingly, *Harvard Judaica* lacks an index, which ironically makes a volume championing the principle of access less accessible than it otherwise could be.

**Joint Vascular Research Group:** *Rare vascular disorders: a practical guide for the vascular specialist*, by S. D. Parvin, ed. by J. J. Earnshaw (2005, 302 pp, £45). Rev. by P. A. Grace, *The Surgeon* (journal of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Ireland), 4(1), February 2006.

The only thing this book lacks is an index.

**Liberties Press:** *Witnesses inside the Easter rising*, by Annie Ryan (2005, 256 pp, €12.95). Rev. by E. M. Collins, *History Ireland*, Spring 2006.

The sources used by the author give this book an unusual interest and add a great vitality to the narrative, but there are also serious shortcomings. . . . She has neither footnotes nor bibliography. . . . Most problematic of all, there is no index, which makes it impossible to follow any individual's narrative through the book.

**Lion Press:** *A pocket guide to ethical issues*, by Andrew Goddard (2006, 224 pp, £6.99). Rev. by David Albert Jones, *The Tablet*, 2 September 2006.

A short introduction to a subject should not be criticized too heavily for what is missed out. The more telling point is that any book that is structured around a set of particular issues will abstract from the 'big picture' and will necessarily involve many awkward and arbitrary choices about order. In this book, the problem is compounded by the publisher's decision not to include an index. This, like the decision not to include a bibliography, achieves an accessible style but at a high cost in terms of user-friendliness.

**Little, Brown:** *Red carpets and other banana skins*, by Rupert Everett (2006, 416 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Rafael Behr, *The Observer*, 1 October 2006.

It is a shame the book has no index from which a gossip-hungry reader might cherry-pick the juicier berries of celebrity scandal.

**John Murray:** *Bringing the house down*, by David Profumo (2006, 352 pp, £20). Rev. by Simon Jenkins, *Sunday Times*, 10 September 2006.

The book is useless for reference since it has no sources or index. It is a classic instance of a work published only for its serialization rights.

Rev. by Barry Didcock, *Sunday Herald*, 24 September 2006.

There is, deliberately, no index because this is not a work of reference or history.

**Picador:** *The meaning of recognition: new essays 2001–2005*, by Clive James (2006, 496 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 28 October 2006.

The only complaints I have with this volume are that there isn't an index, we aren't told where some of the pieces first appeared, and he misses the point about Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America*. The first two aren't his fault, and the third is uncharacteristic enough to be forgivable.

**SACRAM Publishing:** *The Minster School, York: a centenary history 1903–2004*, by John Roden (2005, 288 pp, £18.50). Rev. by Martin Dreyer, *Church Times*, 8 September 2006.

So the book induces mixed emotions. On the one hand, it is an engaging read, vividly larded with anecdote and photograph. On the other, its lack of an index, apart from a haphazard chronology, militates against its value as a historical record; and its many misprints, especially in the last third, are an irritant.

**Scribal Publishing:** *100 greatest films of Australian cinema*, ed. by Scott Hocking (2006, 246 pp, Aus\$59.95). Rev. by Simon Weaving, *The Canberra Times*, 23 December 2006.

My only criticism of the book is that it lacks any indexing: it would be nice to be able to find the movies you want by director, year, and key cast in particular.

**Short Books:** *Amo, amas, amat . . . and all that: how to become a Latin lover*, by Harry Mount (2006, 269 pp, £11.99). Rev. by Peter Jones, *Sunday Telegraph*, 12 November 2006.

Mount's book could make useful reading for someone who knows Latin quite well and wants an instant, light-hearted revision of its main features. But it is unusable either as a reference book, since it has no list of contents or index, or as a teaching text, because there is nothing to teach from.

**Southbank Publishing:** *Married to genius*, by Jeffrey Meyers (2005, 251 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Jenny Pickford, *Freelance Market News*, January 2006.

However, the author assumes a certain knowledge not just of the writers' works, but of various people, places and even events in their lives, which can be hard work for the reader. Dates are haphazard, and the narrative tends to jump from one part of a life to another, resulting in a confusing lack of chronology. The fact that the book has no index, an annoying modern practice, does not help. [*Not a particularly modern trend, surely?*]

**Thunder's Mouth Press:** *Empty phantoms: interviews and encounters with Jack Kerouac*, ed. by Paul Maher Jr. (2005, 512 pp, \$17.95). Rev. by Michael Hayward in *Geist* 63, Summer 2006 (<http://www.geist.com/endnotes/index.php?ID=580>)

The only fault I can find with *Empty Phantoms* is the lack of an index. Why the publisher would allow the editor to go to the trouble of tracking down and transcribing obscure audio and video appearances and ransacking the archives of ancient daily newspapers to compile such a thorough collection, and then choose not to compile an index, is a mystery. It is a small but not insignificant flaw in an otherwise stellar effort.

**Viking:** *The good old days: crime, murder and mayhem in Victorian London*, by Gilda O'Neill (2006, 320 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Judith Flanders, *The Spectator*, 28 October 2006.

Notes would have been welcome, and, even more so, an index.

**Viking:** *Magic bus: on the hippie trail from Istanbul to India*, by Rory MacLean (2006, 304 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Janie Hampton, *The Oldie*, October 2006.

This is a wonderful book to return to – so why is there no index?

## Obiter dicta

**Carcenet:** *Cuts and bruises*, by Frederic Raphael (2006, 224 pp, £14.95). Rev. by Michael Lister, *Times Literary Supplement*, 21 July 2006.

Anticipating any accusation of name-dropping, Raphael, almost sheepishly, again excuses himself – this time for having met in the last half century a number of people whose names are, or have become, widely known. 'That I include some notes about some of them, and have been friendly with a few, hardly turns me into Chips Channon, Cecil Beaton or Alan Clark.' It is, therefore, a little subversive of Carcenet to provide a name index, whose only function can be to help locate more readily the names that Raphael has dropped. Perhaps this is more to satisfy those, about whom the author has written elsewhere, 'who look first in the index of their contemporaries' books to see if they are cited. It is better to be abused than ignored'.

**HarperCollins:** *Francis Crick: discoverer of the genetic code*, by Matt Ridley (2006, 160 pp, £12.99). Rev. in *The Observer*, 3 October 2006.

In the excellent reviews of Matt Ridley's biography of Francis Crick some critics have drawn attention to the worrying lack of an index. The Browser hears that the blame for this startling omission lies not with the author but his publisher, HarperCollins, an imprint renowned for its maps and bibles. The Browser's mole in London's Fulham Palace Road reports: 'The index was omitted by mistake. It was prepared, edited, checked, paginated and then somehow missed out of the final printing.' But not to worry – the missing pages will be added to the next printing, assuming, of course, that the book sells out. [*That's quite an assumption.*].

**Edinburgh University Press:** *The general correspondence of James Boswell 1757–1763*, ed. by David Hankins and James J. Caudle

(2006, 486 pp, £75). Rev. by David Nokes, *Times Literary Supplement*, 20 October 2006.

There may well be a rationale for publishing a 'research' edition of this kind, though the degree of annotation in this particular volume is surely otiose; but a great many people, including academics researching similar areas, may well prefer the more discreet marginalia, and truly excellent indices [*sic*], of the 'trade' edition.

**Libraries Unlimited:** *Sports, exercise and fitness; a guide to reference and information resources*, by Mary Beth Allen (2005, 287 pp, US\$38.99). Rev. by Marie-Laure Bouchet, *Australian Library Journal*, 55(1), February 2006.

Extra cultural awareness is required from non-American audiences: the author uses US sporting nomenclature. 'Football' means American football, padded shoulders and all. There is no mention of Australian Rules football or Gaelic football and the 'round ball' game is referred to as soccer. Similarly in the index, the entry for 'hockey' covers ice hockey alone. Field hockey is listed only under 'F'.

**Little Brown:** *White heat: a history of Britain in the swinging sixties*, by Dominic Sandbrook (2006, 878 pp, £22.50). Rev. by Byron Rogers, *The Spectator*, 26 August 2006.

[*George Brown's*] entry in the index alone is a masterpiece:

Dances the frug; fights Eli Wallach; fights Richard Crossman; becomes Foreign Secretary; insults Belgian Army; insults President Sunay; leaves National Plan on back seat of a Mini; threatens to hit Wilson; tries to dance with the Cardinal Archbishop of Lima.

The entries under 'misbehaviour and drinking' are long.

**Mainstream:** *Murder in Samarkand: a British ambassador's controversial defiance of tyranny in the war on terror*, by Craig Murray (2006, 400 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Max Hastings, *Sunday Times*, 16 July 2006.

To get the flavour of his astonishing career, consider some of the headings under his name in this book's index: 'accusations against; bugging suspicions; sacking; Tashkent, asked to leave; topless bathers; visas for sex allegations; marriage, end of.'

**John Murray:** *Collected poems*, by John Betjeman, introduction by Andrew Motion (2006, 498 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Anthony Thwaite, *Guardian*, 30 December 2006.

## IWP: call for submissions

The German Network of Indexers (DNI) has been invited to guest edit the November/December 2007 issue of the journal *Information: Wissenschaft & Praxis* (IWP). IWP, published by the German Society for Information Science (DGI, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Informationswissenschaft), is the premier journal of information science in Germany.

Proposals for contributions on any indexing-related topic should be sent as soon as possible to

Jochen Fassbender  
Guest editor and DNI coordinator  
DNI – Deutsches Netzwerk der Indexer  
info@d-indexer.org

Notes for contributors will be provided on acceptance of a proposal. Contributions may be in English (for publication in English) and of any length. Copy deadline is the end of August.

For more information about the DGI and the IWP journal, please refer to their website [www.dgi-info.de](http://www.dgi-info.de).

Someone has gone to the trouble (rather uselessly I'd say) of compiling a six-page 'Index of Places and Counties'. [*There's gratitude for you.*]

**Oxford University Press:** *The Victorians: the Oxford English literary history, Vol 8, 1830–1880*, by Phillip Davis (2004, 648 pp, £30). Rev. by Charlotte Mitchell, *The Spectator*, 8 March 2003.

And he spares us a lot of the usual nonsense about Victorian sexuality – you're not going to believe this, but there is no entry in the index for either Arthur Munby or Dr William Acton: aren'tcha sick of them?

**Penguin:** *Funny you should say that*, ed. by Andrew Martin (2006, 528 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 2 December 2006.

He will say exactly where he found something, even when, on one occasion, it was in a book review written by myself, which was a pleasant surprise. (The joke wasn't mine, though, so I quite correctly don't make it into the index.)

#### Invisible women

[Antonia Fraser] had begun to be interested in women's roles in the civil war – defending castles, preaching radical sermons – when working on *Cromwell* [Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1997]. Yet when she looked up 'women' in indexes, she drew a blank. Such silence sparked her curiosity, and she began investigating the period's women from midwives to bluestockings, prostitutes to great ladies.

Lucasta Miller, 'History maker', *Guardian*, 2 September 2006

#### In the wrong job?

What is your ideal alternative job?

I always thought being a postman, because I'm quite good in the mornings. Also, I've liked doing indexes whenever I've done them on my books, and I always thought a postal round would be rather like that. But I think nowadays you have to get people to sign for things – so you'd have to have that human interaction which I wouldn't like.

Craig Brown, interview, *The Independent on Sunday*, 11 December 2006.

## Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

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Liz Cook, Kirkby Stephen  
Janet Dudley, Malvern  
Ann Griffiths, Birmingham  
Jill Halliday, Pulham St Mary  
Chantal Hamill, Linlithgow  
Jennifer Harding, Milton Keynes  
Tim and Ann Hudson, Chichester  
Yann Kelly-Hoffman, Bantry, Co. Cork  
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Cherry Lavell, Cheltenham  
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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 May and 30 November 2007.*

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# Book reviews

## Edited by Maureen MacGlashan and Frances Lennie

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**The indexing companion.** Glenda Browne and Jon Jermey. Melbourne, Australia. Cambridge University Press, 2007. xii, 249pp. ISBN: 10: 0-52168-988-0 (pbk)

Passion is the word that first springs to mind about this work. The authors are obviously dedicated to their craft and this evidences itself in so many ways, from the breadth of their discussion to the depth of knowledge displayed.

The focus of the book is 'primarily Australian' (p. xi), but with direct relevance to indexers worldwide and something for every level of experience. The book's core (chapters 3–7) deals with the index compilation process, mechanical and intellectual, and is essential reading for beginning indexers. I particularly welcome the care taken by the authors to distinguish between 'book-style' and 'collection' indexes. (North American indexers will probably be

more familiar with this as closed- and open-system indexing respectively.<sup>1</sup>) So many times this is added as an afterthought, and I was delighted to see it discussed at the index planning stage.

The beginning chapters describe the roles and needs of the potential players – indexer, writer, editor, user – in index construction and use (chapter 1), and provides useful definitions of terminology used by the indexing community as well as descriptions of applicable standards (chapter 2). The final chapters cover quality control and repurposing issues (chapter 8), specialized subjects, formats and genres that have special indexing requirements (chapter 9), software tools (chapter 10), and a thoughtful conclusion addressing the threats and opportunities facing our profession (chapter 11).

The oyster defends itself against an intruder and produces a pearl. The information world is our oyster – whether it turns out