

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 Indexer 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

Ashgate: *The mercery of London: trade, goods, and people, 1130–1578*, by Anne F. Sutton (2005, xvii + 670 pp, \$144.95). Rev. by John Oldland, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **38**(425-416), 2007.

She must have realized that her book would become a key reference work, as scholars will find it particularly easy to use by leafing through her seventy-six page index.

Bloomsbury: *Agent Zigzag: the true wartime story of Eddie Chapman - lover, betrayer, hero, spy*, by Ben Macintyre (2007, 384 pp, £7.99).

Portrait: *Zigzag: the incredible wartime exploits of double agent Eddie Chapman*, by Nicholas Booth (2007, 360 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Will Cohu, *Daily Telegraph*, 27 January 2007.

Macintyre is a crisp, quick and well-organized writer and his book is much better edited and indexed . . .

British Records Association: *Documenting the history of houses*, by N. W. Alcock (2003, 110 pp, £9.50). Rev. by Adam Longcroft, *Vernacular Architecture*, **35**(119–136), 2004.

In an age when too many publishers seem content to omit an index, it comes as a relief and a surprise to find a very detailed eight-page example in such a small book.

Cambridge University Press: *The correspondence of Charles Darwin*, ed. by Frederick Burkhardt and Duncan Porter, vols 14 and 15 (2004 and 2006, 705 and 655 pp, £75 each). Rev. by Jim Endersby, *Times Literary Supplement*, 16 March 2007.

Given how invaluable the *Correspondence's* footnotes, bibliography, index and appendices are, it is a shame that the University of Pennsylvania Press did not reset Morse Peckham's [edition of the variorum text of *Origin of species*] and provide an updated editorial apparatus.

Facet Publishing: *Developing the new learning environment: the changing role of the academic librarian*, ed. by Philippa Levy and Sue Roberts (2005, 237 pp, £39.95). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World*, **108**(3/4), 2007.

Each chapter of the book has a good list of references and the whole work is made more accessible by an adequate index.

Facet Publishing: *Digital preservation*, ed. by Marilyn Deegan and Simon Tanner (2006, 288 pp, £39.95). Rev. by Cliff Morgan, *Learned Publishing*, **20**(2), April 2007.

There is also a useful five-page Glossary – really just an acronym list, but very welcome in an area that is replete with acronyms – and a detailed 16-page Index that is twice as long as one normally finds in a book of this size – and quite properly so too.

Facet Publishing: *Essential thesaurus construction*, by Vanda Broughton (2006, v + 296 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Keith V. Trickey, *New Library World*, **106**(3/4), 2007.

Vanda also provides a helpfully rigorous glossary (pp. 208–225) and a useful index (pp. 281–96).

Facet Publishing: *Training library staff and volunteers to provide extraordinary customer service*, by Julie Todaro and Mark L. Smith (2006, 160 pp, £39.95). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World*, **108**(5/6), 2007.

The index is short but effective, and the whole work is especially well structured.

Robert Hale: *The collegiate churches of England and Wales*, by Paul Jeffery (2004, 480 pp, £60). Rev. by Lawrence Butler, *The Antiquaries' Journal*, **86**, 2006.

There is also a useful glossary, a select bibliography and a reliable index. There is no dedicated bibliography to each individual church, which would be a massive undertaking. Since there is no list of illustrations, it is necessary to comb through the index to locate those photographs (for example, Howden chapter house) used in the introductory chapters.

Haworth Information Press: *Real-life marketing and promotion strategies in college libraries: connecting with campus and community*, ed. by Barbara W. Petruzzelli (2005, 193 pp, US\$22.95) (also published as *College and Undergraduate Libraries* 12, 1/2). Rev. by Helen Dunford, *Australian Library Journal*, **56**(1), February 2007.

With its hands-on approach, this book is a good resource for tertiary institution librarians and library directors. It is comprehensively indexed, and appropriate illustrations and tables are added to clarify the text.

Jessica Kingsley: *Good practice in brain injury case management*, ed. by Jackie Parker (2006, 224 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Christine Eberhardie, *British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, December 2006, **2**(10).

This book is well presented and well referenced. It has useful contact details for other agencies and a good index.

Kluwer Academic Publishers: *Descartes' mathematical thought*, by Chikara Sasaki (2003, 496 pp, \$158). Rev. by Matthew L. Jones, *Renaissance Quarterly* **58**(3), Fall 2005.

A rich set of indices [sic] aid navigation through the author's arguments, evidence, and erudition.

Library of America: *Complete poems and selected letters*, by Hart Crane, ed. by Langdon Hammer (2006, 849 pp, \$40). Rev. by George David Clark, *Virginia Quarterly Review* 83(2), Spring 2007.

Perhaps the most compelling additions to this collection are Langdon Hammer's own contributions: a helpful chronology, biographical data and relevant information on Crane's companions (as well as referenced writers and critics), and a singularly valuable index to the letters themselves.

Mulini Press: *Ozbib: A linguistic bibliography of Aboriginal Australia and the Torres Strait Islands: supplement 1999–2006*, compiled by Geraldine Triffitt (2006, 104 pp, Aus \$30). Rev. by Roxanne Missingham, *Australian Library Journal*, 56(1), February 2007.

This new supplementary volume contains over 1100 items, with over 300 language names and a detailed subject index. It is a triumph of detective work, celebrating the value that indexers and librarians can bring to a research field, ferreting out and accurately describing Australian research which would otherwise take endless hours for any individual researcher to seek, and possibly only to find a small proportion of the listed resources.

Norton: *Nerve endings: the discovery of the synapse*, by Richard Rapport (240 pp, £15.99). Rev. by M. D. O'Brien, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 99, June 2006.

There is a glossary of scientific and medical terms, a bibliography and an excellent index.

Open Court: *Bullshit and philosophy*, ed. by Gary L. Hardcastle and George A. Reisch (2006, 288 pp, £10.99). Rev. by J. C., *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 December 2006.

The index – not to be faulted even by letter-writers to the *TLS* – contains four columns of entries under bullshit: 'and poetry . . . and politeness . . . and genuine enquiry'.

Oxbow Books with English Heritage: *Alban's buried towns: an assessment of St Albans' archaeology up to AD 1600*, by Rosalind Niblett and Isobel Thompson (2005, xv + 413 pp, £40). Rev. by Derek Renn, *Antiquaries' Journal*, 86, 2006.

The tables provide some links, but the careful reader needs both the extensive index and the bibliography.

Oxford University Press: *The Oxford guide to the book of common prayer: a worldwide survey*, ed. by Charles Hefling and Cynthia Shattuck (2006, 614 pp, £26.99). Rev. by John Whale, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 February 2007.

In a big book, room has been found for thirty black-and-white illustrations, a chronology, a glossary, a bibliography, a good index, and a world map in the endpapers.

Oxford University Press: *Oxford handbook of respiratory medicine*, by Stephen Chapman et al. (2005, 757 pp, £24.95). Rev. by Claire Vandervelde, *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*, May 2006, 67(5).

Well indexed, clear and concise, this is one of the most useful books I have come across and any aspiring respiratory physician will enjoy it.

Oxford University Press: *Self: ancient and modern insights about*

individuality, life, and death, by Richard Sorabji (2006, 320 pp, £25). Rev. by Anthony A. Long, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 June 2007.

You can use *Self* as a reference book (it is excellently equipped with indexes and other aids), or as an anthology of salient texts, or as a research monograph.

Pied Piper Publishing: *Winning books: an evaluation and history of major awards for children's books in the English-speaking world* (new edn), by Ruth Allen (2005, 464pp, £20). Rev. by Kay Neville, *Australian Library Journal*, 56(1), February 2007.

The awards index with cross-references of sponsors (commercial and independent), organisations and award names is extremely helpful. The complete title and author index is also very useful and can be used to determine if a particular title or author has received any major awards.

Routledge: *Selling rights*, by Lynette Owen (5th edn, 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.

Saunders: *Pocket essentials of obstetrics and gynaecology*, by Barry O'Reilly et al (2005, 480 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Sandhya Rao, *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*, May 2006, 67(5).

This book is easy to carry around and the index is useful and allows you to easily find the information you need in the book. [*Always an advantage in an index.*]

SPCK: *Serving the parish*, by Martin Dudley and Virginia Rounding (2006, 160 pp, £10.99). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *The Reader*, 104(2), Summer 2007.

This is an excellent and well-indexed book.

Timber Press: *Alpine plants of Europe: a gardener's guide*, by Jim Jermyn (2005, 320 pp, £25). Rev. in *Hortus*, 79, Autumn 2006.

And should you decide – wrongly in my view – to treat this book solely as a work of reference, there is a superb and all-inclusive Index to direct you to a favourite plant.

University of Chicago Press: *Rembrandt's Jews*, by Steven Nadler (2003, 250 pp, \$15). Rev. by James R. Tanis, *Renaissance Quarterly* 58(3), Fall 2005.

The descriptive bibliography and extensive index also add to the usefulness of this most engaging volume.

Vermilion (Ebury Press): *Coping with multiple sclerosis*, by Cynthia Benz and Richard Reynolds (2005, 310 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Fiona Matheson, *British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, October/November 2005, I(4).

It is well indexed and information is easily accessed through clear headings.

Windgather Press: *Chatsworth: a landscape history*, by John Barnatt and Tom Williamson (2005, xii + 244 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Pauline Beswick, *Antiquaries' Journal*, 86, 2007.

There is a good index, and comprehensive references for each chapter are placed at the end of the book.

Yale University Press: *Medieval schools: from Roman Britain to Renaissance England*, by Nicholas Orme (2006, 432 pp, £25). Rev. by Richard Cross, *Church Times*, 15 December 2006.

An excellent index makes for easy discovery of details about particular schools and towns.

Yale University Press: *Messiaen*, by Peter Hill and Nigel Simeone (2005, 450 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Helen Burrows, *Church Times*, 29 December 2006.

It is a fascinating read, and the excellent index makes it an indispensable reference book.

Two cheers!

British Library: *A bibliography of William Morris*, by Eugene D. LeMire (2006, 386 pp, £60). Rev. by H. R. Woudhuysen, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 February 2007.

Despite a helpful index, it is not always easy to find specific items . . .

Churchill Livingstone: *Gray's anatomy: the anatomical basis of clinical practice*, ed. by S. Standring (39th edn, 2004, 1627 pp, £120). Rev. by Alison Rushton, *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation*, May 2006 13(5).

It is difficult to be critical of such a valuable text that set itself a tall order from its inception, and has clearly achieved its aims. However, although the index is extensive, searching such a vast text can be at times problematic. This is, however, aided by the online resource.

Library of Congress: *Libraries and culture: historical essays honouring the legacy of Donald G. Davis, Jr.*, ed. by Cheryl Knott Malone et al (2006, 294 pp). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *Christian Librarian*, Spring 2007.

There is a good index, though (like most indexes!) it is not perfect. For example, the entries under 'Davis, Donald G., Jr., Involvement in the Librarians' Christian Fellowship' and 'Librarians' Christian Fellowship, Donald G. Davis's involvement' are not identical, as of course they should be.

Indexes censured

Ashgate: *The responsive museum: working with audiences in the twenty-first century*, by Caroline Lang et al (2006, 296 pp, £55). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *Library and Information Update*, 6(3), March 2007.

Sadly, this otherwise excellent book is not well served by its index, which fails to cover many of the museums cited.

Australian Scholarly Publishing: *Abundance; buying and selling in postwar Australia*, by Amanda McLeod (2007, 348 pp, Aus\$44). Rev. by Stephen Saunders, *Canberra Times*, 2 June 2007.

McLeod's reasonable conclusion is that 'consumerism is not a social movement like feminism or environmentalism' but 'came to mean the accumulation of goods'. She is not a natural prose stylist and the book has minor inconsistencies of editing and indexing. But hers is a valuable study guided by evidence and not dogma.

Book Guild: *A history of Britain's hospitals and the background to the medical, nursing and allied professions*, by G. Barry Carruthers and Lesley A. Carruthers (440 pp, £18.50). Rev. by Irvine

Loudon, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 99, May 2006.

There is an index of illustrations, there is a short and unsatisfactory general index, and a brief and decidedly eccentric bibliography.

Cambridge University Press: *British poetry in the age of modernism*, by Peter Howarth (2005, 224 pp, £45). Rev. by Dominic Hibberd, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 February 2007.

. . . the index is annoyingly skimpy (there's no entry for [John Middleton] Murry, for example, and very few for the modern critics who figure here and there in the text) . . .

Cambridge University Press: *The Cambridge history of Judaism, vol. 4: The late Roman-Rabbinic period*, ed. by Steven T. Katz (2006, 1,135 pp, £120). Rev. by Stefan C. Reif, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 February 2007.

Specialists will, of course, be able to judge for themselves, but the volume would have benefited from some editorial guidance . . . Moreover, one general index to cover such a vast undertaking is bound to be inadequate. To cite only one example: the fragments from the Cairo Genizah justifiably receive regular mentions throughout the volume, but there is no reference at all in the index. 'Genoim' gets a mention on page 1,095, but what is meant is 'Geonim'. Sources, names and subjects surely warranted independent indexing.

Cambridge University Press: *The medieval world of Isidore of Seville: truth from words*, by John Henderson (2005, 244 pp, £55). Rev. by Emily Wilson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 3 August 2007.

The *Etymologies* [of Isidore] is not only (as Henderson notes) a 'work of reference', but also a perfect lavatory book. Henderson begins his own work with a citation from Roget's *Thesaurus*: 'I believe that almost everyone who uses the book finds it more convenient to have recourse to the Index first'. It is a pity that Cambridge University Press did not check the index and other references in Henderson's own book more thoroughly. I noticed a significant number of small errors, without even looking for them: for instance, he cites 3.20. 1–2 instead of 3.19. 1–2; the index gives the discussion of Hispania at 14.2.28 rather than 14.4.28. This kind of sloppiness does a major disservice to the reader who finds herself unable actually to read Henderson, but who wants to dip and glance back to Isidore every so often.

Cambridge University Press: *Shakespeare's humanism*, by Robin Headlam Wells (2005, 278 pp, £48). Rev. by Andrew Hadfield, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 June 2007.

Moreover, many examples are reused, so that Catherine Belsey is told off twice for claiming that Shakespeare is 'a Saussurean *avant la lettre*' (neither citation appearing in the index) . . .

Continuum: *A heart in my head: a biography of Richard Harries*, by John S. Peart-Binns (2007, 288 pp, £20). Rev. by John Whale, *Church Times*, 9 March 2007.

. . . the index is incomplete.

Duke University Press: *Good bread is back: a contemporary history of French bread, the way it is made, and the people who make it*, by Steven Laurence Kaplan (2007). Rev. by Bee Wilson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 8 June 2007.

A magnificent combination of polemic and scholarship (marred only by an inadequate index).

Faber: *The letters of Robert Lowell*, ed. by Saskia Hamilton (2005, 852 pp, £30). Rev. by William Logan, *Virginia Quarterly Review* 81(4), Fall 2005.

The notes have been left unindexed, which makes it almost impossible to find anything mentioned there; and the index, which suffers some of the usual problems, has a few peculiar to itself. Enough cavils. [*Oh, go on, cavil away.*]

Four Courts: *The medieval manuscripts of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin*, ed. by Raymond Gillespie and Raymond Refaüssé (2006, 192 pp, £50). Rev. by A. S. G. Edwards, *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 May 2007.

The index is signally inadequate, not least because there is no index of manuscripts.

Getty: *Thesaurus cultus et rituum antiquorum* (six vols) (2005, 3014 pp, \$1215). Rev. by James Davidson, *London Review of Books*, 19 July 2007.

I had hoped that the index would provide some kind of tug to pull this *Titanic* to shore, but it turned out to be a list of cities and museums where the objects pictured can be found. Not much hope should be placed in a further index to be published only after a newly announced third level, 'Synthesis', has been added to 'Dynamic' and 'Static', organised according to occasion and daily life.

Gower: *Making knowledge visible: communicating knowledge through information products*, by Elizabeth Orna (2007, 212 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Stuart Ferguson, *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, 38(1), March 2007.

Information architecture is mentioned only in passing and the indexing is poor. Managers may derive some value from this but it is unlikely to become a teaching resource.

HarperCollins, *The Reagan diaries*, ed. by Douglas Brinkley (2007, 784 pp, £30). Rev. by Edward N. Luttwak, *Times Literary Supplement*, 27 July 2007.

The index is unacceptably cursory and full of mistakes, so that Selwa 'Lucky' Roosevelt and Lucky Roosevelt both appear, while the one Kirkpatrick listing covers two of them.

Haus Books: *L. S. Lowry: a life*, by Shelley Rohde (2007, 260 pp, £25). Rev. by Grevel Lindop, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 June 2007.

. . . essentially a greatly shortened version of the same author's *L. S. Lowry: A biography*, published in 1999. . . . Unlike the 1999 text, this one lacks a proper index, supplying merely an 'index of names'.

Landscape Research Centre: *The Grubenhaus in Anglo-Saxon England*, by Jess Tipper (2005, xi + 208 pp, £35). Rev. by Stuart Brookes, *Medieval Archaeology*, 50(2006).

. . . just why the volume has to be printed in such a small font size and without a proper index remains a mystery.

Allen Lane: *Rome and Jerusalem: the clash of ancient civilizations*, by Martin Goodman (2007, 639 pp, £25). Rev. by David J. Goldberg, *The Independent*, 26 January 2007.

It is to be hoped that any reissue of this masterly account – with a shortened first half – will include a proper bibliography and an amplification of the current derisive index.

Libraries Unlimited: *Emanuel Goldberg and his knowledge machine* (2006, 380 pp). Rev. by Allen Veaner, *College & Research Libraries*, 68(1), January 2007, pp. 83–88.

The index, obviously the work of an unqualified amateur, is an abomination. Several entries are not in correct alphabetical sequence and some even contain misspellings, e.g., Kalingrad for Kaliningrad, cited within the entry *Koenigsberg*. There are no entries for some important personal names and none for certain concepts vital to understanding Goldberg's scientific work, e.g., *intellectual property rights*, even though this topic and other unindexed concepts are discussed at some length in the text. The Deutsches Museum in Munich is mentioned in the text as 'the most important technology museum in the world at that time,' but the world famous institution does not merit an index entry in this technology-centered work. After Goldberg settled in Palestine, he researched the impact of sunlight on home construction materials, and chose insulating and reflective components that would provide his family with 'comfortable housing,' as indicated in a subheading in the table of contents. Apparently, the 'indexer' simply transferred that heading from the table of contents into the index despite the unsuitability of such a term. Who would look in the index for *comfortable housing* totally isolated from the entry for Goldberg himself? And what of *injured leg*, another isolated entry that would be a better subentry under Goldberg's own name? One index entry reads *Bosch (company)* but there is another entry for the same entity under *Robert Bosch (company)*. But there is no cross reference and both entries point to the same portions of the book. There is a single index entry for *DIN 4512*, a reference to film speed. But that entry does not relate DIN to the parent organization, the Deutsches Institut für Normung (in translation, the German Standards Institute). There is an index entry for the English name, but none for the German name.

The numerous index deficiencies are somewhat of an irony, given that Libraries Unlimited has published several editions of a major work on indexing. (It may be gratuitous, however, to observe that this publisher's book on indexing contains many errors and was itself not well received by professional indexers who reviewed it.) Michael Buckland, a distinguished, internationally renowned scholar has been ill-served by his publisher and by his editor, if indeed there was an editor. There is no acknowledgement of any editorial assistance and little evidence of any real care in preparing the book for the press. Editorially, there is a colossal qualitative difference between Buckland's meticulously done *JASIS* article and his book and the difference substantially favors the former. Goldberg and Buckland deserve far better than what they received from Libraries Unlimited and so do scholars, students, and other readers. It is a travesty of scholarship that this substantial work on library and information science, likely to be Professor Buckland's valedictory, and issued by one of the principal publishers in the field, should be filled with so many egregious errors, omissions and other editorial faults. Can one hope that Libraries Unlimited will one day republish this wonderfully informative book with proper, competent editorial support? That is the least that Michael Buckland, Goldberg's career, and the entire community of scholars of library history and technology deserve.

Macmillan: *A history of modern Britain*, by Andrew Marr (630 pp, £25). Rev. by Simon Garfield, *The Observer*, 27 May 2007.

And another trivial complaint: there is a very inadequate index for this sort of enterprise, unless it was meant as some sort of wry comment on the postwar slump in editorial standards. But hey, as us modern Anglo-Americans like to say, you can't have everything.

Rev. by David Hare, *The Guardian*, 19 May 2007.

. . . 630 pages with a fallible index . . .

[See also 'Marr on indexes' under 'Obiter dicta', below.]

Miegunyah Press: *Diversity and discovery: the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute 1965-1996*, by Sir Gustav Nossal (2007, xii + 305 pp, AUD \$45). Rev. by Arthur Lucas, *Reviews in Australian Studies*, 2(3), 2007.

While most acronyms are explained when first encountered, it was a long time before I worked out what 'CSFs' stood for. The limited index did not lead me to a definition: the first page to which I was directed had no mention at all, and elsewhere the term was not defined. It is, however, spelled out on the back of the dust jacket, which I did not read until after finishing the book!

Museum of London Archaeology Service: *Requiem: the medieval monastic cemetery in Britain*, by Roberta Gilchrist and Barney Sloane (2005, xvii + 273 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Lawrence Butler, *The Antiquaries Journal*, 86, 2006.

In such a well-illustrated and informative volume it is disappointing that the index is not entirely reliable and that some figure captions seem unhelpful.

Oxford University Press: *John Betjeman: a bibliography*, by William S. Peterson (2006, 542 pp, £100). Rev. by Elizabeth Johnson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 February 2007.

Recordings made, whether or not commercially available, are claimed to be noted, but the titles are not indexed and the names of other participants in the programmes only selectively so. I wasn't able to find the television programme *Betjeman Goes By Train*, and the practice of not indexing individual programme titles could not enlighten me as to whether this was the title, not of a single film, but perhaps a collection of shorter broadcasts . . .

What a shame, then to have attached to this well-researched and scholarly work an index of such poor quality. It is full of inconsistencies, omissions and solecisms. Mary, Lady Wilson is listed as 'Wilson, Lady Mary', and Penelope, Lady Betjeman is listed as 'Lady Penelope'. The daughter of the Earl of Birkenhead, Lady Juliet Smith, is demoted to 'Smith, Juliet, Lady', and there is an entry for a non-existent Lady Eleanor Smith pointing to the same entry in the text. The clergy fare little better; the late Archbishop of Canterbury is listed as 'Runcie, Archbp Robert' and Cosmo Gordon Lang as 'Lang, Cosmo Gordon, Archbishop'. Thora Hird and Daphne Du Maurier are indexed without their titles of 'Dame' although Dame Judi Dench and Dame Peggy Ashcroft, also cited in the text without them, have their titles attached at random, like tails on a donkey, reading as 'Dench, Dame Judi' and 'Ashcroft, Peggy, Dame'. The former village of Lydiard Tregoze appears in the text with both its modern and former spelling (respectively, with and without the final 'e'), but the index entry has picked up the archaic form. In mitigation, one thing the indexer has done is to clarify the rather wayward entry for Ashby St Ledgers in the Radio section, '. . . St Leodagarius' Church, Ashby St Ledgers, Peterborough'. Peterborough? Nearly sixty miles away? The church is in the diocese of Peterborough, but located in the county of Northamptonshire, and is correctly cited as such in the index. Are these signs, in an American academic, of a sketchy acquaintance with English geography and titles of nobility? [But in a letter in the 23 February issue of the *TLS*, Robert Hanrott commented: 'Am I the only person who looks on Elizabeth Johnson's review . . . as petty and its over-concentration on minor points of title etiquette overdone? Maybe Mr Peterson overlooked some minor indexing points in his huge endeavour, but all the entries are perfectly serviceable and merit

maybe a sentence of complaint, not a column. These complaints tell the reader more about the character of the reviewer than they do about the character of the bibliography. This sort of "criticism" should have been properly edited itself. Can we have a "Review of Reviewers"? Some cannot see the woods for the trees.]

Oxford University Press: *Mrs Duberly's war* (reprint of *Fanny Duberly's diary*), ed. by Christine Kelly (2007, 416 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Allan Mallinson, *The Times*, 10 March 2007.

The index is inadequate, being a mere list of people mentioned in the text, and the price – given that the copyright is long expired – is exorbitant.

Oxford University Press: *Oxford handbook of clinical diagnosis*, by Huw Llewelyn et al (2006, 702 pp, £22.95). Rev. by Jonny Wilkinson, *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*, September 2007, 67(9).

The index can be irritating . . . [But in what way? Details are needed.]

Pickering and Chatto, *New Foundling Hospital for Wit, 1768-1773* (3 vols), ed. by Donald W. Nichol (2006, 1,408 pp, £275). Rev. by Claude Rawson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 20 July 2007.

When information about date, authorship and occasion is supplied, it might turn up in one of several places other than the relevant point in the commentary: in the erratic biographical appendix, or a user-unfriendly 'Author Index', or occasionally in the headnote to the volume in which the work appears . . .

Politico's: *Orwell in Tribune*, ed. by Paul Anderson (2006, 401 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Geoffrey Wheatcroft, *The Spectator*, 6 January 2007.

The index is useless . . .

Portobello: *The vitamin murders: who killed healthy eating in Britain?*, by James Fergusson (264 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Paul Levy, *The Observer*, 24 June 2007.

The execrable writing of the first chapter (no metaphor left unmixed, no cliché unperpetrated) improves as the narrative gets closer to the murders, but most of this maddeningly index-lacking (and unannotated) book consists of interesting but reader-frustrating digressions – and you feel in the end that the title is a cheat.

Princeton University Press: *Principles of animal locomotion*, by R. McNeill Alexander (2006, 371 pp, £26.95). Rev. by David Pye, *Biologist*, 54(2), May 2007.

The only disappointment is the index which is much less helpful than it might be. For instance 'Fish' gives only 'swimming 266' despite detailed treatment in several appropriate parts of the book. 'Penguins' gets '247, 257' but ignores the discussion on porpoising on pages 264–5 or the energy used in swimming on page 7.

Profile Books: *The Economist style guide: the bestselling guide to English usage* (2005, 250 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Barbara Frame, *Australian Library Journal*, 56(1), February 2007.

This is one of the best style guides I've seen. *The Economist's* in-house manual for its journalists, now in its ninth edition, is highly readable, and its usefulness will extend far beyond business writers. No author is given, and the text has obviously been put together over time, probably in an ad hoc way . . .

As well as the style guide proper, there is a fifteen-page section on American and British English for those who need to get it right on both sides of the Atlantic, and a Useful Reference section, over 80 pages long, with loads of factual information of the kind a journalist might need, including international currencies, the Beaufort scale, a list of the earth's geological eras, the dates and locations of the Olympic Games, weights and measures, and so on. There is also an index of limited usefulness (and no help to me when, starting the paragraph before this one, I decided to check whether *The Economist* prescribed roman type or italics for the Latin expression 'ad hoc'. I found the answer, but only after several minutes' hunting).

Profile: *The shock of the old: technology and global history since 1900*, by David Edgerton (2006, 270 pp, £18). Rev. by John Cornwell, *Sunday Times*, 7 January 2007.

But strangely he ducks a sustained discussion of nuclear energy (mysteriously, the index indicates mention of the issue on a page – vii – that doesn't exist in the book).

Selene Edizioni: *Uomini da remo: galee e galeotti del Mediterraneo in età moderna* by Luca Lo Basso (2003, 515 pp, €15.50). Rev. by Niccolò Capponi, *Renaissance Quarterly* 58(3), Fall 2005.

The most glaring [flaw] is the volume itself, shoddily produced and edited. The inclusion of a two-page preface by Gino Benzoni has been done in disregard of the indexes, putting all page references out of place – something easily amended, had the publisher been a bit more careful.

Tempus: *Yeavinger: people, power and place*, ed. by Paul Frodsham and Colm O'Brien (2005, 254 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Anna Ritchie, *The Antiquaries' Journal*, 86, 2006.

My only grouse concerns the index, which is oddly inept: one can look up the Moray Firth, which has but a passing mention, but not *staffolus*, which has three pages of discussion. If you must search for Celtic cowboys, they are there, but you will fail to find kingship, despite its prominence as a theme in the book.

Timber Press: *The dendrobiums*, by Howard P. Wood (2006, 966 pp, \$150). Rev. by Clair Russell Ossian, *Orchids*, February 2007.

In my opinion, this enormous book could have been organized differently, more efficiently, indexing could have been much better, and there are a host of little things reviewers of any book will find to complain about, but in the end, this is a most impressive achievement.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson: *Tip & run: the untold tragedy of the Great War in Africa*, by Edward Paice (2007, 488 pp, £25). Rev. in *The Economist*, 17 February 2007.

In 1917 a Zeppelin got as far as Khartoum before turning back – apparently having been tricked by a bogus radio message sent by the British. Yet this astonishing story is crammed into four pages and is missing from the index.

Wiley & Sons: *Cardiac care: an introduction for healthcare professionals*, ed. by D. Barrett et al (2006, 228 pp, £24.99). Rev. by Karen Rawlings-Anderson, *British Journal of Cardiac Nursing*, 1(12), December 2006.

Nor is there a glossary of terms used. For example the term 'heart attack' is commonly used by patients and those with little knowledge about cardiac care. While I accept this is not the correct terminology, it is likely to be a term a novice health professional might look up in the index, but it is not included.

John Wisden: *Wisden anthology 1978–2006: cricket's age of revolution*, ed. by Stephen Moss (2006, 1,328 pp, £40). Rev. by Barney Ronay, *The Guardian*, 16 December 2006.

Also, the index could have been a bit more detailed, if only to reflect the richness of the detail.

Indexes omitted

Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies: *Milton's Cambridge Latin: performing in the genres, 1625–1632*, by John K. Hale (2005, 305 pp, £24). Rev. by Neil Forsyth, *Times Literary Supplement*, date not supplied.

. . . the book lacks an overall organizing principle, as well as a general introduction to the Prolusions, and a decent index.

Atlantic Monthly Press: *Land of Lincoln*, by Andrew Ferguson (2007, 279 pp, \$24). Rev. by Ernest W. Lefever, *Wall Street Journal*, 1 June 2007.

If only the book had an index.

Berghahn: *Mozart: the first biography*, by Franz Niemetschek, tr. by Helen Mautner (2006, 77 pp, £17.50). Rev. by Sheila Fitzpatrick, *London Review of Books*, 5 July 2007.

The Niemetschek volume – not much use to scholars, with its perfunctory introduction, minimal annotation and lack of an index – is a charming curiosity which reproduces a nice selection of Mozart family portraits.

Bloomsbury: *Beckett remembering, remembering Beckett*, ed. by James and Elizabeth Knowlson (2007, 336 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 17 March 2007.

There is no index, which is scandalous.

Continuum: *Virginia Woolf: a critical memoir*, by Winifred Holtby (2007 [originally published in 1932], £9.99). Rev. by Stephen Barkway, *Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain Bulletin*, no. 25, May 2007.

It would have been useful if an index had been added by the publisher.

Cyan Books: *The brotherhood of eternal love: from flower power to hippie mafia: the story of the LSD counterculture*, by Stewart Tandler and David May (288 pp, £11.99). Rev. by Richard Davenport Hines, *Times Literary Supplement*, 13 April 2007.

This book has a psychedelic cover, murky grey photograph, no index and an ill-organized, irrational bibliography, which is perhaps well suited to its subject.

Destino (Buenos Aires): *Borges*, by Adolfo Bioy Casares, ed. by Daniel Martino (2006, 1,664 pp, €60). Rev. by David Gallagher, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 June 2007.

And it is incredible that a book of this length has no index. It has at the end a list of people who appear in it, but no page references – a major shortcoming for a book that few will read from beginning to end but which many readers will want to consult.

DLT: *Better to travel hopefully*, by David Hope with Hugh Little (£9.95). Rev. by Leigh Hatts, *Church Times*, 20 April 2007.

This enjoyable book should have been given an index to list such

names as Pope John Paul II, who prayed for St Margaret's [in Ikley, Yorkshire].

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.

HarperCollins: *Animal, vegetable, miracle: a year of food life*, by Barbara Kingsolver with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver (2007, 370 pp, \$26.95). Rev. by Bunny Crumpacker, *Washington Post*, 10 June 2007.

Alas, the book lacks an index.

Mainstream Publishing: *The book of Ashes anecdotes*, by Gideon Haigh (2006, 400 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Simon Briggs, *The Wisden Cricketer*, January 2007.

. . . More irritatingly, the publishers have failed to include an index, which makes it difficult to use this book as a work of reference.

Miegunyah Press: *Voyages to the South Seas; in search of Terres Australes*, by Danielle Clode (2007, 315 pp, Aus\$32.95). Rev. by Tom Frame, *The Canberra Times*, 3 February 2007.

Clode wants to entertain her readers with heroic exploits but her aims are those of a serious scholar. In my view, she manages to achieve most of her aims in an engaging and often exciting book that will be of interest to quite a wide audience. As readers have come to expect of the Miegunyah Press, the production values are very high and entirely appropriate to the subject matter. This book, solidly case bound with a beautiful dust-jacket, feels as though it is an early 19th-century manuscript. It is a pity, then, that a book containing such exquisite illustrations and detailed endnotes should lack even a basic index. [Sherrey Quinn, who sent this item, comments: 'This is a sad indictment of Miegunyah Press, particularly as most of their other titles are comprehensively indexed. Miegunyah Press is an imprint of Melbourne University Press, and aspires (according to their website <http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au/Miegunyah.html>) to produce books "to the highest standards of printing and design in the best traditions of the great learned presses of Britain and North America." The author is a zoologist, Rhodes Scholar and science writer.']

O Books: *An introduction to radical theology: the death and resurrection of God*, by Trevor Greenfield (2006, 260 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Steven Shakespeare, *Church Times*, 5 April 2007.

But the text is of limited use to students, because the quotations are not referenced and there is no index.

Oxford University Press: *A corpus of late Celtic hanging bowls*, by Rupert Bruce-Mitford (2005, xxxvi+ 514 pp, £215). Rev. by David Griffiths, *Medieval Archaeology*, 50 (2006).

Two noteworthy regrets are the lack of an index, and the fact that the bibliography occurs somewhere towards the middle of the book, before the catalogue, rather than at the back.

Penguin: *The Islamist: why I joined radical Islam in Britain, what I saw inside and why I left*, by Ed Husain (2007, 300 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Simon Jenkins, *Sunday Times*, 29 April 2007.

. . . inexcusably published without an index, this book is unusable for reference.

Potomac Books: *The Star Wars enigma: behind the scenes of the Cold War race for missile defense*, by Nigel Hey (2006, 288 pp, £18.95). Rev. by Jeff Hecht, *New Scientist*, 4 November 2006.

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

Profile Books: *In search of Kazakhstan: the land that disappeared*, by Christopher Robbins (2007, 288 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Paul Levy, *The Observer*, 20 May 2007.

. . . though this fact-filled book cries out for an index and the odd source-citation, it is a superlative addition to the literature of travel.

Public Affairs: *Cape Wind: money, celebrity, class, politics, and the battle for our energy future on Nantucket Sound*, by Wendy Williams and Robert Whitcomb (2007, 326 pp, \$26.95). Rev. by Donald J. Breed, *Providence Journal*, 5 May 2007.

One final note: This book really needs an index. With such a complex cast of characters, it's frustrating to have to riffle through the pages to look up a name. [Apparently it was the publisher, not the authors, who made the decision not to have an index, to reduce costs.]

Society for Editors and Proofreaders: *Starting out: setting up a small business*, by Valerie Rice (2006, 24 pp, £3.50). Rev. by Derek Copson, *Editing Matters*, May/June 2007.

And there is no index: a pity.

Souvenir Press: *Magic & mystery in Tibet*, by Alexandra David-Neel (2007, 272 pp, £9.99). Rev. by J. Clive Matthews, *Times Literary Supplement*, 25 May 2007.

For those more interested in her many insights into Tibetan Buddhism, which form the heart of the book, be aware that not only is this no explicatory work, but that there is no index.

Special Libraries Association: *Get copyright right: a collection of Copyright Corner columns from SLA's Information Outlook, updated for 2006*, by Laura N. Gasaway (2006, 146 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Priscilla Stephen, *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, October 2007.

Although many case names are cited in the titles of individual columns/chapters, the lack of an index limits the title's value as a reference tool for legal research. Instead, it will be used for more casual reading.

Speechmark Publishing: *Feeding and swallowing disorders in dementia*, by Jacqueline Kindell (2003, 136 pp, £36.50). Rev. by Christine Eberhardie, *British Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, August/September 2005, 1(3).

If criticisms are to be made they are lack of an index, and the section on the ethical and legal issues is not strong enough.

University of Chicago Press: *Isolarion: a different Oxford journey*, by James Attlee (278 pp, \$22.50). Rev. by Eric Christiansen, *The Spectator*, 21 April 2007.

. . . every Oxonian should buy this book, which is nicely turned out by the Chicago Press although missing two essential parts: a map and an index.

Yale University Press: *The arts in Latin America 1492-1820*, by Joseph J. Rishel and Suzanne Stratton-Pruitt (2006, 568 pp, £45). Rev. by Angus Trumble, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22-29 December 2006.

In line with recent correspondence in these pages, one wishes that this lavish publication had been given the map and compass of an intelligently compiled index, and that certain infelicities of translation from the Spanish and Portuguese had been ironed out.

Obiter dicta

Arden: *Shakespeare and music*, by David Lindley (2005, 284 pp, £50).

Thoemmes Continuum: *Music in Shakespeare: a dictionary*, by Christopher R. Wilson and Michela Calore (2005, 508 pp, £150). Rev. by Ros King, *Times Literary Supplement*, 19 January 2007.

As so often in our attempts to understand theatre, the real problems come with the things that were not written down. Shakespeare does not use the word 'improvisation' and it therefore does not appear as an entry in Wilson and Calore (where you would need to know to look under 'extempore' or 'division'), or in Lindley's index.

HarperCollins: *Conrad and Lady Black: dancing on the edge*, by Tom Bower (436 pp, £20). Rev. by Byron Rogers, *The Spectator*, 2 December 2006.

In fact Lady Black's breasts figure so prominently in this book that at one point I turned to the index to see whether they had an independent entry: they did not, neither did her three noses and the extremities described by Germaine Greer as 'great hobbit feet', or the fat scooped out of her buttocks to smooth out the wrinkles in her face. But such stuff is self-defeating. I began to develop a sympathy for somebody whose anatomical features were being held up to ridicule like this, and kept turning to the endpapers to see what Mr Bower himself looked like. And of course there is the consideration that in her glory days no one would have dared describe her so, certainly not in this magazine.

Harvard University Press: *The notebooks of Robert Frost*, ed. by Robert Faggen (560 pp, £25.95). Rev. by Tim Kendall, *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 June 2007.

But only in an undated notebook entry, mysteriously dropped at proof stage from Faggen's edition, although still referenced in the index, does Frost seem deliberately to be passing information to a readership...

Haworth Information Press: *Reference librarianship: notes from the trenches*, by Charles R. Anderson and Peter Sprenkle. (2006, 258 pp, US\$24.95) Rev. by John MacRitchie, *Australian Library Journal*, 56(1), February 2007.

Whoever compiled the index to this book had fun. Sample consecutive entries: 'Fairies, criminal acts by, 115; Fax machine, inability of photocopier to act as a, 34; Fingers, names of, 179; Fish skins, 169; Floppy disk, library card mistaken for, 223', etc.

Hutchinson: *The Blair years*, by Alastair Campbell (2007, 816 pp, £25).

There is very little in the book about Campbell's domestic life, according to another friend, although he does reveal on his blog that while editing the 37-page index he noticed that the entry for his partner Fiona Millar 'includes one that has me laughing out loud... p52, her fruitcake raved about by JP.' Reminds me that I must find out how John Prescott is today. 'Diary of a somebody', Esther Addley, *The Guardian*, 7 July 2007.

Ever wondered what your life might look like as an index in a book? I have just seen my life in index form, the result of inadvertently opening *The Blair Years*, aka Extracts from the Alastair Campbell Diaries, from the back. I'm his partner, and I have 100 entries. So if anyone asks me how I come out of Alastair's book, I can honestly say: not well. According to the index, at least, my 'Blair Years' were characterised by anger, heightened emotion, disagreements on policy and only occasional moments of joy. 'An A-Z of my life with Alastair Campbell', Fiona Millar, *The Guardian*, 11 July 2007.

[Index by SI member Vicki Robinson. For the rest of Millar's discussion of the index, see <http://books.guardian.co.uk/departments/biography/story/0,,2123292,00.html>]

Macmillan: *Fayed: the unauthorised biography*, by Tom Bower (1998, 496 pp, £25). Rev. by Oliver Burkeman, *The Guardian*, 13 March 2007.

Fayed: The Unauthorised Biography, published in 1998, is that rare thing – a book by turns so entertaining and alarming that even reading the index is an engrossing experience, as this edited selection suggests:

Fayed, Mohamed: sexual adventures xi-xii, 1–5, 26–7, 139, 158–9; women procured by Dodi 2–4; fear of germs 11, 47, 61–2, 199, 246, 294; buys Scottish castle 41; as 'shipowner' 43, 121, 127; buys Oxted mansion and converts it to 'sex palace' 44–7; obsession with sex 44–5, 46–7, 54, 62, 91, 235, 271, 300–301, 332, 336, 350, 353–4, 379, 389–91, 449; conspiracy theories of 262–5, 318, 321, 329, 335–8, 341, 350, 354–5, 357, 371, 380–81, 386, 412, 437, 440, 442, 444–5, 450, 453–4, 456–7, 466

[Index by SI member Christine Shuttleworth.]

Paulist Press: *Living Vatican II: the 21st council for the 21st century*, by Gerald O'Collins (2006, 256 pp, £13.50). Rev. by Michael Walsh, *The Tablet*, 13 January 2007.

No one is mentioned more often than [Jacques] Dupuis. Certainly not Cardinal Ratzinger, Dupuis' nemesis. Next after Dupuis, but a long way behind, is a fellow Australian, Bishop Frank Rush. (Although, of course, there is always John Paul II himself, of whom the index simply says 'passim'.) [What, no subheadings?]

Tempus: *Roman Sussex*, by Miles Russell (2006, 320 pp, £19.99). Rev. by David Bird, *Sussex Past and Present*, 110, December 2006.

The index has 75 entries for 'Rome', neatly illustrating the over-emphasis on 'Roman' and imperial aspects. [But the book is called Roman Sussex!]

Weidenfeld & Nicolson: *Sylvia, queen of the headhunters*, by Philip Eade (2007, 362pp, £20.00). Rev. by Christopher Esher, *The Spectator*, 7 July 2007

Philip Eade traces this tangled tale with diligence, humour and an easy style. Sylvia [Brooke] was anathema to the official mind and unpopular elsewhere; it is brave of him not only to trawl over old ground but also to tackle a subject whose character is perhaps best summed up by sub-headings in his index – 'cattishness, dottiness, outrageousness, recklessness, scheming, tactlessness'. [Index by SI member Christopher Phipps.]

Pitfalls of medical indexes

On his way to the restaurant, Ezra ducked into a bookstore and located a Merck Manual in the Family Health section. He checked

the index for *lump* but all he found was *lumpy jaw* (*actinomycosis*). Evidently you had to know the name of your disease first – in which case, why bother looking it up? He thought through what he remembered of his high school biology course, and decided to check under *lymph gland*. The very phrase was reassuring; lymph glands swelled all the time. He had a couple in his neck that grew pecan sized anytime he developed a sniffle. But there were no lymph glands listed in the index, and it stopped him cold to see *lymphatic leukemia* and *lymphohematogenous tuberculosis*. He shut the book quickly and replaced it on the shelf.

Anne Tyler, *Dinner at the homesick restaurant* (Vintage, 1992).

Whimsical discursiveness

The index of the *Autocrat* [Oliver Wendell Holmes' *The autocrat of the breakfast table*] is in itself a unique work. It reveals the whimsical discursiveness of the book; the restless hovering of that brilliant talk over every topic, fancy, feeling, fact; a humming-bird sipping the one honeyed drop from every flower; or a huma, to use its own droll and capital symbol of the lyceum lecturer, the bird that never lights.

George William Curtis, *Literary and Social Essays* (Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1895).

[*It is a shame that books like Autocrat are so often reprinted without their indexes*], comments Clare Imholtz, who sent this item.]

Famous for friendship

When Leonard came to write about his Cambridge years in *Sowing*, he was nearly eighty years old. Thoby Stephen was dead. Lytton Strachey was dead. Saxon Sydney-Turner was dead. Clive Bell was dead. Maynard Keynes was dead. G. E. Moore was dead. Their names were and are famous for whatever it is that each of them became famous for. (Saxon is famous for being their friend. His is the name in a hundred indexes.)

Victoria Glendinning, *Leonard Woolf: a biography* (Free Press, 2006).

Pepys and the Royal Society

'They must keep the minutes in books, not on loose papers, and index the books.' [from Pepys's instructions to the clerks of the Royal Society, of which he was president from 1684 to 1686]

Claire Tomalin, *Samuel Pepys: the unequalled self* (Viking, 2003) [Tomalin notes in her bibliography: 'Henry Wheatley's edition [of Pepys's diary] of 1893–9, which drew on both Braybrooke and Bright, has notes and a good index; I have found the 1926 edition useful. The complete and definitive edition, edited and transcribed by Robert Latham and William Matthews (1970–83), is in 11 vols., one containing an index, vol. X a companion.' [but she adds in the endnotes:] 'Neither Wheatley's not Latham's index is entirely reliable on the Turners.']

Poor Adrian . . .

I turned to the index [of Pandora's book] and was both alarmed and pleased to see that 'Mole, Adrian' was given three entries . . . I turned to the index again. Under 'lovers', it listed 112 entries – 112! I can count the women I have had carnal knowledge of on the fingers of one hand!

Sue Townsend, *Adrian Mole and the weapons of mass destruction* (Penguin, 2005).

Marr on indexes

Ebooks have many more pages than their paper equivalents (because each page holds so few words), and I found myself wishing for better and more readily searchable indexes and content. Again, though, this is probably a wrinkle that will be sorted.

Andrew Marr, 'Curling up with a good ebook', *The Guardian*, 11 May 2007.

History will tell . . .

Look in any history of Britain since 1937 and you will see the importance of the [Mass Observation] archive; the index of *The People's War*, by Angus Calder, for instance, has many more index references to MO than to Adolf Hitler. Only Winston Churchill does better, but remember that he wrote: 'History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it.'

Martin Wainwright, 'History is in the telling by ordinary folk', *The Guardian*, 9 May 2007.

Life-saving indexer

Am I, too, guilty of excesses? I believe I must be. But I conceal them usually within my indexes. When a critic threatened to shoot me dead if I failed to print a comprehensive index to a multi-volume biography, I entered next to the indexer's name: 'saves the author's life'. I did not mention this at the launch party and so only the indexer herself has ever noticed it.

Michael Holroyd, 'With thanks to my cat' (an article on the fashion for increasingly flamboyant acknowledgements), *The Guardian*, 4 August 2007.

[*SI member Vicki Robinson was that indexer. The homicidal critic was Bernard Levin. 'Indexes reviewed' in the April 1992 issue of The Indexer included the following item:*]

But I must pause here to make sure Mr Holroyd is listening. If, when the volume with the sources and references appears, it does not include one complete alphabetical index of the whole three biographical volumes, with the same thoroughness, detail and clarity of the indexes that have been appearing one by one, I shall go to his house – I know where he lives – and ring the doorbell, and when he opens the door I shall bow politely, draw from my breast pocket a small but serviceable revolver, and shoot him dead. Bernard Levin, in *Sunday Times*, 26 October 1991, in Michael Holroyd's biography of Bernard Shaw (Chatto & Windus).

Acknowledgements

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

Ken Bakewell, Liverpool
 Caroline Barlow, Bedford
 Hazel Bell, Hatfield
 Silvia Benvenuto, Arezzo, Italy
 Sue Bosanko, London
 Liz Cook, Kirkby Stephen
 Adele Furbank, Dronfield
 Ann Griffiths, Birmingham
 Jill Halliday, Pulham St Mary
 Sandra Henderson, Canberra
 Grace Holmes, Reading
 Tim and Ann Hudson, Chichester
 Clare Imholtz, Beltsville, MD
 Jon Jermey, Blaxland, NSW

Suzi Kaplan, Bethesda, MD
Yann Kelly-Hoffman, Bantry, Co. Cork
Cherry Lavell, Cheltenham
Maureen MacGlashan, Largs
Mary Madden, Aberystwyth
Judith Menes, Consett
Norma Munson, Rockford, IL
Christopher Phipps, London
Christopher Pipe, Cromer
Elisabeth Pickard, Whitby
Paula Presley, Kirksville, Missouri

Sherrey Quinn, Ainslie, ACT
Ann Truesdale, Hollywood, SC
Allen Veaner, Tucson, AZ
Carolyn Weaver, Bellevue, WA
Nancy Zibman, Newton, MA

Contributions of review extracts welcomed by the editor of this section, Christine Shuttleworth (please see inside front cover for further details).

The Glasgow Art Club archives: bringing basic logic and a healthy dose of drudgery to bear

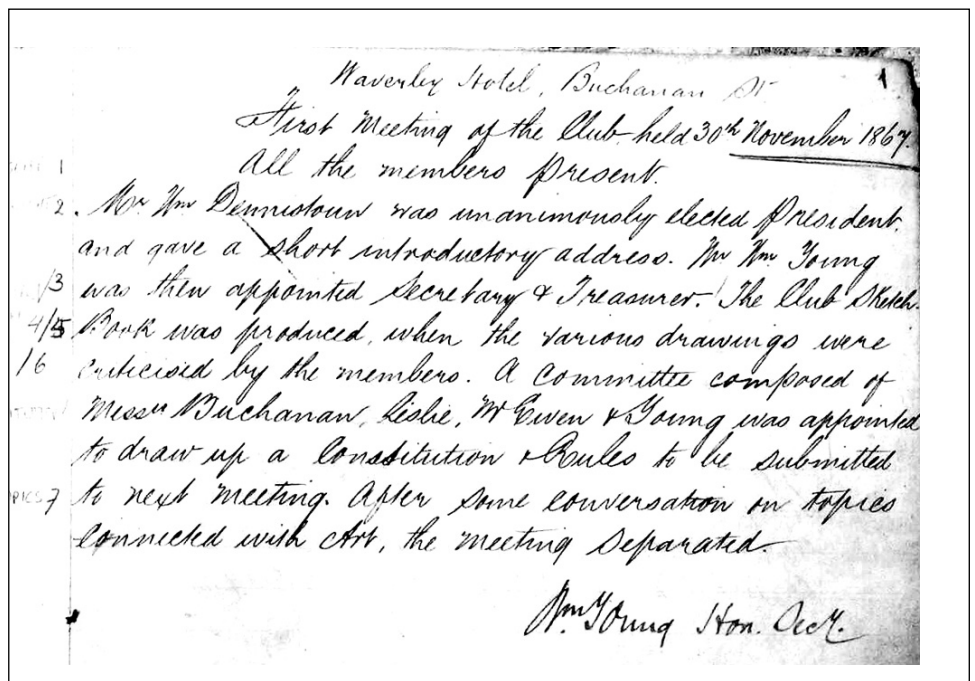
Minute-books have changed over the years from mere notebooks to beautifully bound volumes, from ring binders to computer files, but they all have the same aim, to keep records of meetings in one place. The Glasgow Art Club (GAC) has kept minutes since its foundation on 30 November 1867. Starting with a membership of ten (a respectable number given that its forerunner never counted more than four members in the whole of its five years of existence), within ten years the Club was in the position of being able to choose to admit just three out of 21 hopeful applicants. By the turn of the century it was an internationally recognized institution, with one of the most important ever Scottish contemporary art groups, affectionately and widely known as 'the Glasgow Boys'. One hundred and forty years later, despite the inevitable highs and lows, the Club continues to thrive. The story of these 140 years can be told because, from the first, the Club had a written Constitution & Rules and kept minutes religiously.

For many years it was thought that the archives had been destroyed by fire. To our astonishment, five years ago they were rediscovered, in a forgotten cupboard. Excitement reigned, an excitement which was quickly dampened by the realization that it was impossible, not just because of the fire but also because of the chaotic way in which the material had been organized (or not, as the case may be) to access information with anything approaching ease or speed.

Fortunately, the Club recognized the importance of the archives and embarked on the massive task of making them fully accessible to the

Club members and to researchers. This has meant, of course, inter alia, devising some system for penetrating the minute books, a task that has fallen to my happy lot as GAC archivist. Others who have worked as archivists will know the challenge, and will have wrought their own solutions, no doubt finding, as I have, that it's really all a matter of developing a basic logic, and then going through the tedious drudgery of applying it page by painful page. Tedious, yes, but, as the GAC approaches its 140th birthday, the result is certainly a cause for celebration. An account of the logic, the tedium and the results, will appear in the next issue of *The Indexer*.

Theo van Asperen, Glasgow Art Club archivist



From the first Minute book of the Glasgow Art Club, reproduced with permission