

# Indexes reviewed

Edited by Christine Shuttleworth

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*These extracts from reviews do not pretend to represent a complete survey of all reviews in journals and newspapers. We offer only a selection from quotations that readers 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

**American Library Association:** *Creating your library brand: communicating your relevance and value to your patrons*, by Elisabeth Doucett (2008, 160 pp, \$45). Rev. by Philip Calvert, *Australian Library Journal*, **58**(2), May 2009.

There is a glossary and a good index – this makes it possible to enter the book at almost any point, depending upon prior knowledge and interest, and still pick up the benefits of the content. It all adds up to a very useful publication, but one that may not have an immediate market. Nevertheless, it should be read by all library managers.

**American Library Association:** *Is consulting for you? A primer for information professionals*, by Ulla De Stricker (2008, 144 pp, \$40). Rev. by Sherrey Quinn, *Australian Library Journal*, **58**(2), May 2009.

The index is excellent – clear, logical and comprehensive.

**The British School at Athens:** *Knossos: palace, city, state. Proceedings of the conference in Heraklion organized by the British School at Athens and the 23rd Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of Heraklion, in November 2000, for the centenary of Sir Arthur Evans's excavations at Knossos*, ed. by Gerald Cadogan, Eleni Hatzaki and Adonis Vasilakis (2004, 600 pp). Rev. by J. D. Muhly, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2006.09.17, <http://bmcbr.brynmawr.edu/2006/2006-09-17.html>

It should also be pointed out that this volume has a most useful index, something unusual in books of this nature. I was delighted to see the editors pay tribute to [SI member] Barbara Hird for compiling this excellent index (p. 38).

**Honoré Champion,** *Chrétiens et mondains, poèmes épars*, by Marguerite de Navarre, ed. by Richard Cooper and Nicole Cazauran (2007, 732 pp, €85). Rev. by Leanna Bridge Rezvani, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **40**(2), 2009.

Additional helpful tools for the exploration of Marguerite's poetic works include excellent annotations, a description of the manuscripts utilized, certain poetry that was omitted from the main corpus, a glossary, a number of useful indexes, and an extensive bibliography. While many scholars of Marguerite de Navarre have primarily focused on the *Heptaméron*, this critical edition of her lesser-known poetry will undoubtedly serve to stimulate more extensive scholarship on her substantial contribution to sixteenth-century verse.

**Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas:** *Epístolas*, vols. 1–3, by Juan de Verzosa, ed. by Eduardo del Pino Gonzalez and Antonio Fontan (2006, 1,360 pp, n.p.). Rev. by Michael J. Levin, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **40**(2), 2009.

The editor's critical apparatus alone makes these volumes a valuable resource. Fontan Perez estimates that some eight thousand individual figures are mentioned in the *Epístolas*, and Gonzalez has identified them all. Furthermore, at the end of volume 3, he provides several maps and images of sixteenth-century Rome, an index of the epistles' recipients, and an index of all names that appear in the collection. Overall, the editor must be commended for the sheer effort that went into this project.

**Continuum:** *Chronicles: the writing of history in medieval England*, by Chris Given-Wilson (2004, 292 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Jane Beal, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **40**(2), 2009.

... the book includes eight black-and-white plates, a good bibliography most helpfully divided into primary and secondary sources, and a detailed index. It has very few faults. It will greatly benefit an audience of both students and scholars interested in medieval English history.

**Facet Publishing:** *Reader development in practice: bringing literature to readers*, ed. by Susan Hornby and Bob Glass (2008, 224 pp, £44.95). Rev. by Mike Freeman, *New Library World*, **110**(7/8), 2009.

All in all, an interesting and well-organized book, with good chapter bibliographies and a clear helpful index.

**Facet Publishing:** *Virtual reference service: from competencies to assessment*, by R. D. Lankes et al. (2008, 224 pp, £44.95). Rev. by Dianne Walton-Sonda, *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, **40**(1), March 2009.

Each chapter stands alone but flows easily into the overall book, focusing on incorporation of theory into practice. It is logically arranged in subject order, its references are comprehensive and up to date, and there are appendices, author biographies, a glossary, and a precise index.

**Guterslöher Verlagshaus:** *Martin Bucers Deutsche Schriften, vol. 8, Abendmahlsschriften 1529–1541*, ed. by Stephen E. Buckwalter (2004, 515 pp, €131.60). Rev. by Amy Nelson Burnett, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **40**(2), 2009.

The volume contains another useful bonus, two indexes of all of the documents edited so far in the two series of the critical edition, the *Deutsche Schriften* and the *Opera Latina*, the first index in alphabetical and the second in chronological order. Like the editor's introduction to the volume, these indexes are extremely helpful guides, making it easier to find and fit together the contents of these two parts of the critical edition. This is especially important because of the change from chronological to topical organization in the last several volumes of the German writings.

**Neal-Schuman:** *Professional liability issues for librarians and information professionals*, by Paul D. Healey (2008, 236 pp, \$85). Rev. by Elizabeth A. Greenfield, *Law Library Journal*, **101**(2) [2009-13].

The book is also very well indexed. Indexing may not seem an exciting topic to some readers, but there is nothing like accurate, thorough indexing to make a book truly useful. This book has it.

**Oxford University Press:** *The Grove book of opera singers*, by Laura Macy (2008, 640 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Sarah Sutton, *Library Journal*, **133**(19), 2008.

Indexes of roles, voices, and operas allow the reader to trace the network of relationships among singers, operas, and performances, making the work a useful and comprehensive tool for novice and experienced opera researchers alike.

Rev. by Martha Randall, *The American Music Teacher*, **58**(5), 2009.

The indexes of roles and voices and the list of operas is a useful addition to the book for students (and their teachers) who are looking for clues to identify their own facts, and the cross-referencing is both helpful and interesting. The entry for Pauline Garcia refers you to Pauline Viardot, as during her lifetime the husband's name was listed first and the maiden name followed, as in Pauline Viardot Garcia. The cross references also help us understand the professional and personal relationships of the singers.

**Pantheon Books:** *The age of wonder: how the Romantic generation discovered the beauty and terror of science*, by Richard Holmes (2009, 576 pp, £25). Rev. by Dava Sobel, *Barnes & Noble Review*, 14 July 2009.

It contains the best index I have ever perused. Usually reviewers read galley copies that don't yet have an index, and even when the index is added later to the finished book, it often doesn't add much. The index to *The Age of Wonder* is so generously detailed that it should serve as a paragon. Its entry on Michael Faraday, for example, fills an entire column of tiny print, with sub-headings such as 'character and appearance,' 'injured in laboratory explosion,' and 'friendship with Coleridge.'

**Praeger Publishers:** *From idea to funded project: grant proposals for the Digital Age* (5th edn), by Julia M. Jacobsen and Jan F. Kress (2008, 157 pp, \$34.95). Rev. by Lois Robertson, *Australian Library Journal*, **58**(2), May 2009.

Part 2 covers basic resources, including useful acronyms, essential basic information sources, sources for assistance and training, forms and required information and an annotated bibliography. It concludes with an index that is particularly helpful in locating the 38 exhibits, including examples, models, tables and case studies that support the text.

**Thieme:** *Auriculotherapy*, by Raphael Nogier (2008, 176 pp, £28.18). Rev. by Andrew McIntyre, *The American Acupuncturist*, Spring 2009.

Nogier includes several useful features at the end of the main body of the text: an extensive glossary, a section with pictures of some of the tools he has discussed (the book contains 150 illustrations) and an excellent index. Each significantly adds to the usefulness of the book. [Index by SI member Elisabeth Pickard.]

**Weidenfeld:** *Revolution 1989: the fall of the Soviet Empire*, by Victor Sebestyen (2009, 480 pp, £25). Rev. by Adam Lebor, *Sunday Times*, 26 July 2009.

One disadvantage of Sebestyen's ambitious approach is that the deluge of names and locations can become overwhelming. Thankfully, the book has detailed endnotes, a bibliography and a lengthy index, vital for a work of record such as this.

## Two cheers!

**Carcanet:** *Collected poems*, by St Robert Southwell, ed. by Peter Davidson and Anne Sweeney (2007, 177 pp, £12.95). Rev. by Philip F. O'Mara, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **40**(2), 2009.

... there is an index of titles and first lines of the poems but, regrettably, none of names or subjects.

**Honoré Champion:** *La vie de Jacques-Auguste de Thou*, vol. 1, *Aug. Thuani vita*, ed. and tr. by Anne Teissier-Ensminger (2007, 1,085 pp, €187). Rev. by Stephen Murphy, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, **40**(2), 2009.

More importantly, the one inexcusable omission from this edition is a bibliography. That a volume with room for a nearly two-hundred-page introduction, copious footnotes, a detailed summary, genealogy, metrical synopsis, travel itineraries, indexes of personal and place names – that such a volume would not have room for a bibliography and that the reader would be left to page back and forth to glean references in the notes – this is hard to explain.

**Getty Publications:** *European art of the fourteenth century (Art through the centuries)*, by Sandra Baragli, tr. by Brian D. Phillips (2007, 383 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Béla Zsolt Szakács, *The Medieval Review* 2008-1-16. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0801.016>

The lack of historical analysis is only partially counterbalanced by the chronology which is grouped together with the index of artists in the appendix. The handling of the index is not easy since this is the transitory period between the usage of Christian name to family name. Therefore Andrea Pisano is found under A and Jan Boudolf under J but Bernardo Daddi and Mathieu d'Arras are placed under D. A third possibility is to order the artist under M as Master (e.g. Master of Rieux but also Master Theodoric; Isaac Master is at I). Some of the artists named in the text are missing from the index (e.g. the brothers Martin and George [of Kolozsvár], page 189, or Guy de Damartin, 21). In the case of the Master of Wittingau the German name version was preferred, while the Master of the Vyssí Brod Cycle (alias Master of Hohenfurt) is named in Czech. Nevertheless, the index is very useful, since the same master is often mentioned several times (Simone Martini has 7, Giotto 11 references). Other indexes could have been equally practical, such as an index of place names, iconographic subjects or historical persons. A map of Europe would have also been informative. A brief list of further readings could have been added, too. Even if the basic structure of the series cannot be changed, such smaller additions would ameliorate considerably the use of the next volumes among which others related to the Middle Ages are awaited with great excitement.

**Oxford University Press:** *The proprietary church in the medieval West*, by Susan Wood (2006, 1020 pp, £126). Rev. by Janet L. Nelson, *The English Historical Review* **124**(507), April 2009.

Cumulative means what it says. You will need to read this book as a whole, and be prepared to follow up a large number of cross-references. Certain fundamental texts appear early: letters of Gelasius I on bishops' rights in private churches, for instance, are cited at pages 13–14, and the Index entry 'Gelasian rules' (p. 995) enables

you to follow through their influence. The entry for Psalm 82, with the verse condemning those who 'claim the Lord's sanctuary as an inheritance', waymarks another interesting trail from page 137. On the other hand, Augustine's *Sermo* 86 ('Make a place for Christ among your sons . . . He has deigned to be a brother, and being God's only Son, he wishes to have co-heirs'), not quoted until page 734 at which point n. 34 provides references back to pages 21–3 etc. is absent from the Index.<sup>4</sup> Fortunately for readers, however, the Index misses few tricks. Purpose-built and on an appropriate scale (would that that could be said of all scholarly books), it includes, notably, entries for some 500 actual churches, large and small.

### Notes

4. Though there is no entry for Augustine, cases where the system of Index cross-referencing works imperfectly (p. 764, n. 72, p. 785, n. 47, Index p. 992, s.v. *dos*) are extremely rare. Throughout the book there are extraordinarily few errata (e.g. Saint-Cybar at p. 335, but rightly Saint-Cybard at p. 428). 'Polypych', *passim*, while not wrong, looks odd. [*But it is wrong – it should be 'polyptych'.*]

**Yale University Press:** *Houses of the gentry 1480–1680*, by Nicholas Cooper (1999, xiv + 370 pp, £50). Rev. by Malcolm Airs, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 34, 2000.

Through his official position [with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England] the author has had privileged access to an enormous number of surviving upper class houses, all of which are properly grid-referenced in the index and the significance of which are deftly woven into the text. . . . My only frustration was that the excellent subject index mysteriously ends with the letter 'u'. I can only hope that this is a single rogue copy and that other readers will be more fortunate, because this is an index that will be returned to again and again in search of repeated pleasure and instruction. It provides access to what can only be described as joined-up history at its very best.

## Indexes censured

**ABC-CLIO:** *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: origins, experiences, and culture*, ed. by Carole B. Davies (2008, 1110 pp, £190). Rev. by Sally Moffitt, *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 48(3), 2009.

There are, to this reviewer, some curious inclusions and omissions. Why does 'Hair' merit an article and 'Hairstyles' an index entry but not, for instance, language? Linguistic discussions are included in several articles, 'Black/Blackness: Philosophical Considerations' and 'Creole, Creolity, Creolization' for example, but there are no entries in the index for language or for linguistics, nor does the encyclopedia contain a separate article on language and language transmission in the Diaspora. Although there are separate articles on gumbo, and the aforementioned jerk seasoning, there is no index entry under food or cookery that would lead the uninitiated to either, nor is there a separate article about cultural food exchanges in the Diaspora. For that matter, the reader unfamiliar with the names of African Diaspora religious systems and practices, such as Candomblé, would be pressed to find articles about them because religion does not figure as a separate article or as a term in the index.

**Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies:** *John of Salisbury* by Cary Nederman (2005, 100 pp, £10). Rev. by Janet T. Sorrentino, *The Medieval Review*, 2009-4-7. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0904.007>

It is truly unfortunate that somehow the index printed incorrect pagination for many, if not most, of the citations. For example, only one out of nine page citations for 'New Academy' was correct. Many of the pages indicated for Cicero are also off by at least a page or two. It was perhaps a case of an older file erroneously printed with the final pagination of the proof, but it is too bad precisely because this volume is so very useful as a reference as well as an essay. Corrections in a subsequent edition – and this is a book which should be reprinted for its wealth of mature reflections on John of Salisbury – could easily remedy the problem. It will be useful to experts, to graduate and undergraduate students alike. Every academic library should own it. Every humanist will enjoy it.

**Ashgate:** *Popular culture in early modern Europe*, by Peter Burke (2009, 456 pp, £25). Rev. by Elizabeth Scott-Baumann, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 September 2009.

Though hampered by an index largely limited to names (and a printing error which means this edition ends mid-sentence), Burke's is still an erudite and stimulating guide to pre-industrial European culture after thirty years of lively work in the field.

**BenBella:** *Galileo's new universe: the revolution in our understanding of the cosmos*, by Stephen Maran (2009, 174 pp, £11.99). Rev. by Patrick Moore, *Sky at Night Magazine*, August 2009.

However, I have only one major criticism: there should be a special part of Hell reserved for publishers who print books without a proper index!

**Blackwell:** *The Blackwell history of the Latin language*, by James Clackson and Geoffrey Horrocks (2007, 324 pp, £60). Rev. by Brent Vine, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-3-21. <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-03-21.html>

Even within the same chapter, a statement like '[w]e have already mentioned the Strasbourg oaths' (p. 300) is distinctly unhelpful, when the previous mention occurred more than thirty pages earlier (p. 268), and is not even referenced in the index, which cites only p. 300 for this item (cf. n. 2).

### Notes

2. An index that catalogues 'Bu Njem' (the location in the Libyan desert, mentioned on p. 256, where certain late Latin texts were unearthed) has evident pretensions to inclusiveness; yet there are regrettable omissions, e.g. the important stylistic terms *concininitas*, *inconcininitas* (pp. 218–19), or the linguistic term 'mora' (discussed pp. 133ff.); the reader interested in 'South Picene' is directed only to pp. 49–53, yet South Picene material is treated far more extensively (important mentions occur on pp. 39f., 57, 67); etc.

**Blackwell:** *Homer. Blackwell Introductions to the Classical World* (2nd edn), by Barry B. Powell (2007, 240 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Athanassios Vergados, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, 2008-2-34, <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2008/2008-02-34.html>

Neo-analysis, briefly mentioned at 138 (part II, summary of the Iliad) and 181 (summary of the *Odyssey*), does not appear in the index/glossary. The formula is presented mainly as an aid to composition and nothing is said of its importance from the point of view of the audience. Furthermore, it would have been useful to include a more precise definition of genre (a term not to be found in the index/glossary) than 'that the audience expects' (94). Likewise, P's definition of intertextuality (also missing from the index) as a 'fancy word for purposeful imitation . . . which means

that when you read one book, you think of another' (208) may not be very helpful to the uninitiated.

**Boydell & Brewer:** *Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, c. 1050–1134*, by William M. Aird (2008, 328 pp, £57). Rev. by David Crouch, *The Medieval Review* 2009-3-18. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0903.018>

On one and the same page we find the name Radulfus rendered 'Ralf' and 'Ralph' (14), as also is Ranulfus (241). For good measure it is also translated as 'Raoul' in the index (321). . . . The index occasionally treats the same man as two different characters (as Robert de Beaumont, who is also entered as Robert, count of Meulan).

**Cambridge University Press:** *Europe and the making of England 1660–1760*, by Tony Claydon (2007, 370 pp, \$34.99). Rev. by William E. Burns, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 40(2), 2009.

The index is poor, and there is no bibliography, a particularly annoying omission given Claydon's extensive use of printed primary sources and short-title references in the footnotes.

**Four Courts Press:** *Ireland under the Normans, 1169–1333*, by Goddard Henry Orpen (2005, 663pp, \$80). Rev. by Linda Mitchell, *The Medieval Review*, 2008-1-24. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0801.024>

Make no mistake: Orpen is not an author who can be overlooked. His comfort with a stupendous array of sources, his obsessive level of detail, and his vivid style make this unwieldy work (originally some 1400 pages but now crammed into 633 including a new index) both readable and informative. [. . .] A word about the structure of this new edition. The editors at Four Courts decided to compress the four volumes into a single book but managed to do so without making the print impossibly small. The original pagination runs along the gutter margins in order to facilitate use of the index, which is paginated according to the original edition since it is simply a combined index of the original volumes. It would have been helpful to have had an expanded index, since Orpen's index is idiosyncratic: there are some glaring lacunae, such as the failure to index William de Vescey, who was a significant figure in Ireland in the late thirteenth century.

**Fourth Estate:** *So I have thought of you: the letters of Penelope Fitzgerald*, ed. by Terence Dooley (2008, 624 pp, £25). Rev. by Rosemary Hill, *London Review of Books*, 25 September 2008.

But the inevitable gaps in the material do not excuse the fact that the book is so badly edited. The sparse footnotes are whimsical to a degree, telling us that when Fitzgerald mentioned that her daughter's dog was having puppies she was mistaken, but not that the biographer of Dickens with 'no sense of humour whatever' is Peter Ackroyd or that the German epigraph is by Wilhelm Müller or that *Arcadia* is a play by Tom Stoppard. Patric Dickinson, Felicity Ashbee and David Cecil are among the dozens of names who pass by unnoted and still more are missing from the index. [*This is the third time this index has featured in 'Indexes censured'. It is remarkable that the same index should attract so much adverse comment from so many noted reviewers.*]

**HarperPress:** *Mad world: Evelyn Waugh and the secrets of Brideshead*, by Paula Byrne (2009, 384 pp, £25). Rev. by Selina Hastings, *The Observer*, 16 August 2009.

Much as I admire *Mad World*, I do have some reservations: source

notes, disgracefully, are almost non-existent and the index is virtually useless.

**Harvard University Press:** *Ciceronian controversies*, ed. by Joann DellaNeve, tr. by Brian Duvick (2007, 285 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Christiane L. Joost-Gaugier, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 40(2), 2009.

Much of the material in the existing introduction would have made an ideal conclusion, bringing out the significance of the contents. As it stands, the book, whose index has numerous omissions, trails off with excerpted references to deleted passages on page 211. This lack of structure is perhaps ironic for a volume whose subject is 'perfect' literary production.

**Harvard University Press:** *Journey to the east: the Jesuit mission to China, 1579–1724*, by Liam Matthew Brockey (2007, 496 pp, £14.95). Rev. by Michael Wilson, *H-HistGeog*, July 2008. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=14684>

The book comprises a preface, an introduction, five chapters each of historical narrative and analysis, a conclusion, endnotes, and a sixteen-page index. . . . The index is idiosyncratic: astronomy, despite its importance, is found only by searching under 'science.' Understandably, 'Jesuit' is not in the index, but nor is 'Society of Jesus' there. How does one find the discussions of the founding of the society and of institutional reactions to it?

**History Press:** *The battle of Quatre Bras*, by Mike Robinson (2009, 400 pp, £30). Rev. by Allan Mallinson, *The Spectator*, 29 August 2009.

The book is meticulously but not excessively referenced, though sparsely indexed . . .

**History Press:** *Highgate: Britain in old photographs*, by Paul Feeney (2008, 126 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Sue Gibbons, *Journal of the Society of Genealogists*, 29(10), June 2009.

Regrettably, the index is inadequate. On a spot check, there were pictures of St John's Upper Holloway, Emily and Matilda Sharpe and Rev. Alexander Ramsay but no entries for them in the index. The ancient tradition of 'swearing on the horns', mentioned on the back cover, isn't indexed either so you'll have to read the book to find out what it is! Nevertheless this is a small, easily fixed, shortcoming (publisher please note) of an otherwise excellent book.

**History Press:** *Can you play cricket on Mars?* by Patrick Moore (2008, 221 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Steve Ringwood, *Astronomy Now*, June 2009.

Patrick occasionally waxes philosophically [sic], such as wondering 'Would Martians be unfriendly?' Suspiciously, this item cannot be found via the index, which cites a page for it that does not exist in the book. [*It could happen to any of us.*]

**Information Science Reference:** *Encyclopedia of e-collaboration*, ed. by Ned Kock (2008, 695 pp, £237.50). Rev. by S. Nowicki, *Choice*, 45(10), 2008.

(A minor inconvenience, the index is laid out without indentations, making skimming for a topic more difficult.)

**Lion:** *The Lion companion to church architecture*, by David Stancliffe (2008, 288 pp, £20). Rev. by Tom Devonshire Jones, *Church of England Newspaper*, 12 June 2009.

The editor may direct the reader to his generally helpful glossary, but the following, found in text, caption or index, are a selection of correct spellings, which appear distorted: Banister Fletcher, Shrewsbury, Re-pitching, St John of Nepomuk, Hawksmoor, Peloponnese, mandorla, Addleshaw, K Clark, Grinling, Cappadocia, camembert, Lalibela, San Michele and Monte Cassino. . . . The untidinesses multiply. No editorial decision was attempted where the different languages drawn on are involved; in a book of this sort, if the decision is made to have more than one index, then an index of places becomes necessary. And who qualifies for name, dates and location? Are not Philip Johnson (1906–2005) and Garden Grove, the location of his large cathedral (generously illustrated), all worth a mention when other locations are quite closely defined?

**Oak Knoll Press/British Library:** *Book trade connections from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries*, by John Hinks and Catherine Armstrong (2008, 265 pp, £25). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *Library & Information Update*, July/August 2009.

This is a well-produced volume, with some attractive illustrations. Its only weakness is its index, which amounts to little more than a name index.

**Oxford University Press:** *After the Golden Age: Romantic pianism and modern performance*, by Kenneth Hamilton (2008, 304 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Jeremy Nicholas, *Gramophone*, June 2008.

. . . the index is not comprehensive but will do (I noticed two references each to Alkan and Godowsky that were not listed). [*Will do? Could do better.*]

**Penguin:** *The secret life of birds: who they are and what they do*, by Colin Tudge (2009, 496 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*, 1 August 2009.

. . . there are moments when he lets a little poetry in, especially when the poets are themselves accurate about the habits of the birds they're describing (Spenser and Clare do well here, but neither features in the index, which is a little telling).

**Picador:** *Brief encounters: literary travellers in Australia*, by Susannah Fullerton (2009, 396 pp, \$35). Rev. by Peter Pierce, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13–14 June 2009.

The index is not always reliable. The dates in the Jack London chapter are inconsistent. Hobart was never Port Hobart. No connection is made (except in the index) between the Carlyle Smythe as lecture tour agent for both [Mark] Twain and [Arthur Conan] Doyle.

**Pickering & Chatto:** *William Blake and the art of engraving*, by Mei-Ying Sung (2009, 220 pp, £60). Rev. by Shirley Dent, *Times Literary Supplement*, 7 August 2009.

There are some giggles. A more comprehensive index would be a bonus.

**Simon & Schuster:** *The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British spy ring in wartime Washington*, by Jennet Conant (2008, 416 pp, £18.99). Rev. by James M. Murphy, *Times Literary Supplement*, 21 & 28 August 2009.

Occasional typos are not at issue (although 'Freddy Ayes, a philosopher' in both text and index, leaps off the page).

**La Société de l'Histoire de France:** *Lettres de Henri III, roi de France*, vol. 6, ed. by Jacqueline Boucher (2006, xx + 421 pp, €80). Rev. by Denice Fett, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 40(2), 2009.

The index, while useful, only references the recipient of a letter and does not include references or names within a letter itself. A simple search of the index for key names or terms can provide misleading information concerning the king's correspondence; the first letter in the collection to the Sieur de Maisse discusses Alphonse d'Este, who is not listed in the index. Ultimately it is necessary to scan each individual letter to identify specific references contained within the document. . . . Foreign names are frequently mentioned in document summaries or in footnotes, although they rarely make the index; the term 'Philip of Spain' had two references, while *Espagne* was not mentioned at all.

**Thames & Hudson,** *Titian: the complete paintings*, by Filippo Pedrocchi and Maria Agnese Chiari Moreto Weil (2001, 344 pp). Rev. by Peter Campbell, *London Review of Books*, 5 April 2001.

*Titian* is an awkward volume; awkward in its format and layout, and awkward to use: it has no general index so if you wish to find references to lost works mentioned in the text, to other painters or patrons you must trust to luck or memory.

**University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology:** *Archaeology and history in Sardinia from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages: shepherds, sailors, and conquerors*, by Stephen L. Dyson and Robert J. Rowland, Jr. (2008, 240 pp, £32.50). Rev. by Catherine M. Draycott, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-3-31. <http://bmcra.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-03-31.html>

Inconsistencies in the spelling of place names undermine the point of an index: for instance, Kalaris-Cagliari is variously referred to as Cagliari, Kalaris, Karalis, Karales, Calaris, Calares, Caliaris and Carales, but only the pages for 'Karalis' are listed in the index. Other such sites are not included in the index – Bithia, for instance.

**Yale University Press:** *Florence 1900: the quest for Arcadia*, by Bernd Roeck, tr. by Stewart Spencer (2009, 317 pp, \$35). Rev. by Jonathan Keates, *Times Literary Supplement*, 5 June 2009.

Only the index of this book dissatisfies, a mean little affair of listed page numbers where a fully thematic apparatus is vital.

## Indexes omitted

**Allison & Busby:** *The next 100 years: a forecast for the 21st century*, by George Friedman (2009, 272 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Brian Morton, *Sunday Herald*, 16 August 2009.

. . . the absence of an index leaves the reader to surf a blatantly rhetorical text.

**Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies:** *Building the kingdom: Giannozzo Manetti on the material and spiritual edifice*, by Christine Smith and Joseph F. O'Connor (2007, 518 pp, £60). Rev. by John Monfasani, *Catholic Historical Review*, 94 (4), October 2008.

(I cannot say how often the authors refer to [Leon Battista] Alberti because one of the defects of the book is its lack of an index.) . . . All in all, this is a most valuable book, a little hard to use at times

(that lack of an index again), but eminently useful on a range of important artistic, intellectual, historical, and religious issues.

**Chandos Publishing:** *The revolution will not be downloaded: dissent in the digital age*, ed. by Tara Brabazon (2008, xxiv + 236 pp, £39.95). Rev. by Ralph Adam, *Library & Information Update*, September 2009.

This book proposes an 'information scaffold' for the digitally disempowered. It does that well. Unfortunately, the lack of a good index and the price let it down.

**Hill and Wang:** *The soldier's pen: firsthand impressions of the Civil War*, by Robert E. Bonner (2006, 248 pp, \$17). Rev. by Randall C. Jimerson, *H-CivWar*, January 2008. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=57571205691043>

*The Soldier's Pen* will appeal more to the general reader than to the scholar. It tells a fascinating tale, richly illustrated with primary sources. Its usefulness for scholars and for students will be limited somewhat by its incompleteness as a collection of primary documents, by its lack of citations for interpretive passages, and by its lack of an index (an unfortunate omission).

**History Press:** *Around Oswestry: Britain in old photographs*, by David Trumper and Ray Farlow (2008, 128 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Sue Gibbons, *Journal of the Society of Genealogists*, 29(10), June 2009.

What a great pity that books in this excellent series aren't indexed!

**Hodder & Stoughton:** *Charles Manson, coming down fast*, by Simon Wells (2009, 448 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Joan Smith, *The Times*, 20 June 2009.

It lacks an index, which would have made the narrative easier to follow, but describes Manson's disrupted early life in telling detail.

**Hutchinson:** *For all the tea in China: espionage, empire and the secret formula for the world's favourite drink*, by Sarah Rose (2009, 280 pp, £18.99). Rev. by John Keay, *Literary Review*, March 2009.

Though presumably deemed unnecessary in 'a work of popular history', a map would have helped; an index might have exposed her inconsistencies of spelling.

**Oxford University Press:** *The revelations of St. Birgitta of Sweden*, vol. 1, *Liber Caelestis, Books 1-3*, tr. by Denis Searby (2006, xxvii + 341 pp, \$65). Rev. by Steven Rozenski, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 40(2), 2009.

Although the bibliographies and chronologies are useful and welcome, the footnoting of the translations themselves is often awkward and excessive; drawing the reader's attention away from the Bridgettine text to explain commonplace biblical allusions often seems unnecessary. Page 66, for instance, tells us that 'born of a Virgin' comes from Isaiah 7:14; page 54 lets us know that 'you will rest in my divine arms' may be a rephrased allusion to Song of Solomon 2:6. In visionary writing that is riddled with phrases from and echoes of the Vulgate, this sort of constant footnoting distracts more than it enlightens; instead, an index to biblical allusions at the end of the volume would have given the reader the opportunity to see which passages were most often used without intruding onto the page of the text itself.

**Reunion des Musées Nationaux:** *Images en relief: la collection de plaquettes du Musée National de la Renaissance*, by Bertrand Bergbauer and Catherine Chedeau (2006, 126 pp, €25). Rev. by Yves Laberge, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 40(2), 2009.

References are extensive, but there is no index in the book.

**University of Notre Dame Press:** *Corpus mysticum: the Eucharist and the Middle Ages*, by Henri Cardinal de Lubac, ed. by Laurence Paul Hemming and Susan Frank Parsons, tr. by Gemma Simmonds (2007, xxvi + 334 pp, \$35). Rev. by Ranall Ingalls, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 40(2), 2009.

I would add only that an index would have been a helpful addition to this translation.

**Short Books:** *The old boys' network: a headmaster's diaries 1972-1986*, by John Rae (2009, 292 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Mark Bostridge, *Times Literary Supplement*, 3 July 2009.

They have been poorly edited – to the extent of having different years, 1970 to 1986, on the cover from the correct ones on the title page, 1972 to 1986 – and the book would have benefited from an index.

## Obiter dicta

**Atlantic Monthly Press:** *The Wagner clan: the saga of Germany's most illustrious and infamous family*, by Jonathan Carr (2007, 409 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Algis Valiunas, *The Weekly Standard*, 14 (32), 2009.

One cannot justly write of Richard Wagner's art without mentioning nobility, though that is what Carr does; for however repugnant his stated opinions and personal behavior often were – the index of Carr's book points the reader to Wagner's coarseness, illtemper, lying, pettiness, philandering, ruthless egocentricity, self-hatred, spitefulness, sycophancy, thanklessness, and vindictiveness – his operas have to do with the noblest men and women undergoing the hardest trials of body and spirit.

## Spock the sleepless indexer

[During World War II Dr Benjamin Spock was in the US Navy, serving in a large naval hospital in Oakland, California. He writes:]

I was working on *Baby and Child Care* in the evenings the whole time from 1943 to 1946. I did approximately a year of writing before I went into the Navy and another year while at St Albans. On the troop train to California and in San Bruno I was still doing the index. My job was constantly frustrated by the superannuated warrant officer who shared my Pullman section. He went to sleep after every meal, and his snoring, which started gently and escalated into the loud sounds of strangulation, made indexing utterly impossible.

Benjamin Spock, *Spock on Spock: a memoir of growing up with the century* (Pantheon Books, 1989).

## A pandemic

Even the indexes of most major medical textbooks do not list pandemic [sic]. One is *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, of which Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, who directs the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is a main editor. 'It's a mistake,

and I'm surprised it's not there because it should have been,' Dr. Fauci said in an interview.

Lawrence K. Altman, 'Is this a pandemic? Define "pandemic"', *New York Times*, 10 June 2009

### Why make an index?

The web has multiplied points of access and made codex-based ways seem clumsy. Why make an index or a concordance when any search engine will find whatever word or phrase you're after? [*Discuss.*]

Peter Campbell, 'At the British Library', *London Review of Books*, 23 July 2009.

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

Ken Bakewell, Liverpool  
Silvia Benvenuto, Arezzo  
Pat Booth, Reading  
Susan Bosanko, London  
Alison Brown, Glasgow  
Glenda Browne, Blaxland, NSW

Rose M. Coad, St Paul, MN  
Liz Cook, Kirkby Stephen  
Sandra Gamal, Cairo  
Ann and Tim Hudson, Chichester  
Don Jordan, Melbourne  
Yann Kelly, Bantry, Co. Cork  
Santhosh Paul, Cochin, Kerala  
Elisabeth Pickard, Whitby, North Yorkshire  
Christopher Phipps, London  
Christopher Pipe, Cromer  
Paula Presley, Columbia, MO  
Sherrey Quinn, Ainslie, ACT  
John Silvester, Flitwick  
Wendy Toole, Welwyn Garden City  
Carolyn Weaver, Bellevue, WA

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

## Book reviews

*Edited by Christopher Phipps and Michael E. Jackson*

**Indexing basics.** Alfred O. Cloutier, ed. Elliot Wheaton. Danvers, Mass.: McHugh & Associates, Inc., 2009. 133 pp. Available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). US\$24.95 downloaded; US\$29.95 + postage (pbk). Review based on PDF downloaded on 4 July 2009.

There are many good books on indexing available, so for a new one to make its mark it has to offer something different. *Indexing basics* fails to excite. It has the style of an in-house guide that has been updated for publication, and while aimed at beginners, promises readers a lucrative freelance career. It is out of date, badly written in places, and fails to present a variety of approaches to indexing decisions. These failings overwhelm its good point, which is that it gives a sound introduction to the basic thought processes in indexing.

### Content – indexing

The book is divided into five parts (chapters) with some supplementary information. The first four parts (pp. 7–74) include an introduction to indexing; the indexing process; what makes a good entry; and index elements and presentation. This structure works well to guide the novice through the basic principles of indexing. The fifth part (pp. 75–114) is about the business of freelance indexing.

Although the basic description of selecting and marking entries is good, the advice is not nuanced, for example stating baldly 'Don't index identical material on different pages' (p. 21) rather than examining why a book might duplicate material, and what options an indexer has for dealing with this. (From discussions on the Index-L mailing list, I know that some people will index all mentions of duplicated text, to present the discussions in context.)

The section on 'transcribing' entries describes processes for listing entries on a computer (pp. 27–32, including three screenshots) and on index cards (pp. 32–4). The emphasis on cards is not

appropriate for potential freelance indexers, although it may be useful for authors planning a once-only index.

Part 3 gives a good feel for the process of choosing main entries – 'the meat of indexing'. Cloutier considers major ideas, important nouns, relevance to readers and the typical reader's requirements.

I disagree with a lot of Part 4. An indexing book (as opposed to a style manual) fails the reader if it does not point out the variety of options in indexing decision making. For example, Cloutier states (p. 60), 'Letter-by-letter alphabetizing is considered industry standard – most publishers use letter-by-letter'. An examination of the literature on indexing shows that this is not true. The international standard recommends word-by-word alphabetizing, while recognizing the use of letter-by-letter in some circumstances. Indexes to books on indexing by Booth, Wellisch, and Browne and Jermy use word-by-word, while Mulvany and Stauber use letter-by-letter. *The Chicago manual of style* (18.56) has 'traditionally preferred the letter-by-letter system but will normally not impose it' and recognizes that 'in an index including many open compounds starting with the same word, the word-by-word system may be easier for users. Both systems have their advantages and disadvantages.' There is no obvious 'industry standard' here, even if you just look at the situation in the United States.

Some of the indexing examples have odd features: for example p.35 has subheadings with initial capitals ('Arrest in 2000') and p. 57 has long page ranges in examples ('St. Petersburg, 1143–1240').

### Content – business

The 'Business of indexing' part covers indexing software, publishing industry sectors, pay rates, and negotiating skills.

The software section adds to the discussion on 'transcribing using a computer' from Part 2. It is a mixed bag, with mentions of Microsoft Word (for embedded indexing), professional indexing