EXTRACTS AND COMMENTS

Randolph Churchill, in an article in the Evening Standard, April 1, 1965, entitled 'Commonsense and Sir Alec', adds the following note to his reference to an anonymous poll conducted for Mr. Boyne by Viscount Lamton:

"*See The making of the Prime Minister by Anthony Howard and Richard West (Cape: 25s.). As this otherwise admirable book, to its disgrace, has no index, I must give the page reference: pp. 55-65.'

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'It is in fact not one volume, but three, each complete in plan, though unfortunately the index, indispensable in a work of this kind, and the necessarily large bibliography, are relegated to the end of the third part.'—Margaret S. Drower, reviewing The ancient world, 1200 B.C. to A.D. 500, by Luigi Pareti (Allen & Unwin) in the Daily Telegraph, June 10, 1965.

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'My voyage round the world by Francesco Carletti (Methuen), which has been well translated by Herbert Weinstock, deserves to be much better known. ... I do wish, though, that the present edition could have been supplied with a map and an index.'—David Holloway in the Daily Telegraph, July 8, 1965.

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'But the book has unfortunate weaknesses. One of the most serious is the lack of an index.'—Terence Mullanay, reviewing John Constable: the man and his work by Carlos Peacock (John Baker) in the Daily Telegraph, July 8, 1965.

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'It is coherent and informative (despite the scandalous absence of any authorities or index)' is how Mr. Michael Foot, M.P., comments on Quai D'Orsay by Georges Bonnet (Times Press) in the Evening Standard, April 13, 1965.

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'Patience is certainly needed, since the book is insufficiently edited and without either explanatory notes or index.'—H. D. Ziman, reviewing The diaries of Paul Klee, 1898-1918 (Peter Owen Ltd.) in the Daily Telegraph, April 15, 1965.

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'An otherwise fascinating book is marred only by an index so incomplete that Dr. Beeching, on whom Mr. Calvert vents much of his wrath, never even gets a mention.'—Ion Trewin, reviewing The future of Britain's railways by Roger Calvert (Allen & Unwin) in the Sunday Telegraph, April 18, 1965.

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'It is likely that this volume in years to come will be regarded as the most worthwhile item of its kind in the literature of this decade. It is well produced and a real bargain at the price. It is only a pity that it has no index and that it took so long (May 1963 to October 1964) to come out.'—L. L. Arden reviewing Libraries and automation, ed. by B. E. Markuson (Library of Congress, $2.75), in the Library Review, Spring, 1965.
Social Sciences and Humanities Index

Two hundred and nine periodicals will be regularly indexed in the new Social Sciences and Humanities Index, the successor, from June 1965, to International Index. Librarians, scholars, teachers, college and university students, government officials, and all who want to be well-informed on man's relations to other men have long relied on the International Index, which now becomes an even more vital and comprehensive author and subject index covering periodicals in the fields of anthropology, archaeology and classical studies, area studies, economics, folklore, geography, history, language and literature, music, philosophy, political science, religion and theology, sociology, theatre arts, plus many periodicals of general scholarly interest.

The subscribers to International Index and the ALA Committee on Wilson Indexes recommended that the name of the index be changed to indicate more clearly its coverage. In addition, the subscribers revised the list of periodicals indexed and, since it has been possible to increase the number of these periodicals from the 163 indexed in International Index to 209, a much better subject balance and much better coverage are provided. For example, fifteen periodicals concerned with area studies are covered by this new index, as opposed to only seven in its predecessor, and the number of anthropological periodicals indexed has doubled. There has also been a significant increase in coverage of periodicals in the fields of language and literature and of sociology, as well as in coverage of periodicals of general scholarly interest.

Published quarterly, in June, September, December, and March, with permanent annual cumulations, Social Sciences and Humanities Index is sold by annual subscription on the H. W. Wilson Company service basis.

Standard symbols for languages, geographical areas and authorities

In dictionaries, glossaries, translations and similar publications it is often necessary to indicate, briefly, the language a term or document belongs to, the country or geographical area a term is used in, or the authoritative source of a term or definition. A British Standard, B.S. 3862, has now been prepared to provide Recommendations for symbols for languages, geographical areas and authorities.

The Standard contains a table of symbols for 38 languages, including Afrikaans, Croat and Urdu as well as more familiar languages. 'Geographical' symbols (based on the international registration letters for motor vehicles) are given for some 130 countries and geographical areas. The Standard also suggests a limited number of 'authority' symbols such as IPC (International Postal Convention) and OED (Oxford English Dictionary).

Examples are given of the use of the symbols in typical texts. It is expected that the symbols recommended in B.S. 3862 will be internationally recognized as a result of work now nearing completion in the International Organization for Standardization.

Copies of B.S. 3862 may be obtained from the BSI Sales Branch, 2 Park Street, London, W.1. Price 6/- each. (Postage will be charged extra to non-subscribers.)
Short story index


Conrad Aiken and Philip Roth; family and interplanetary visitors; fortune telling and albatrosses; short stories by authors long familiar and newly discovered deal with subjects common and unusual are indexed in the Short Story Index: Supplement 1959-1963, just published by The H. W. Wilson Company. Nine thousand and sixty-eight stories in 582 collections are indexed in this third and newest supplement to the Short Story Index foundation volume, published in 1953.

Short Story Index: Supplement 1959-1963 is an indispensable reference aid for librarians, teachers, students of literature. Providing an easily usable and accurate key to short stories in collections, it is especially helpful in finding several sources for a story and in making accessible stories often overlooked. In addition to saving time by making extensive searching through the card catalogue unnecessary, this index serves librarians as a comprehensive guide in recommending stories and in selecting new volumes for their collections, and as an aid in weeding.

As in the Short Story Index foundation volume and the two earlier Supplements, short stories are indexed in one alphabet under the name of the author, the title of the story, and the subject. Included is the List of Collections Indexed, which is useful for librarians as a checklist for selection, plus the Directory of Publishers, which facilitates the ordering of short story collections.

The material indexed was compiled by Estelle A. Fidell, who was one of the compilers of the two previous Supplements—Short Story Index: Supplement 1950-1954 and Short Story Index: Supplement 1955-1958.

AMERICAN WIT AND HUMOUR?

In 1898 there was published in Philadelphia, Pa., a little volume entitled English wit and humour. By arranging its entries (as they stood) alphabetically its editor, W. H. Howe, converted the Table of Contents into an index. As such it contains among numerous fatuities the following choice examples:

A Bid at an Auction, 159
A Bishop on Squinting, 156
Anxious to Put in a Good Word, 215
Any Change Must be an Improvement, 145
As Green as Two Peas, 198
I'd Like to be a Parson, 208
It Takes Two to Play an Organ, 84
Lamb and Coleridge, 110
—— —— Mint Sauce, 113
Ludicrous Blunders, 66
More Witty than Wise, 128
Very Small for its Age, 72
Why 'The Spectator' Exelled 'The Tatler', 193

All the other entries are of a similar pattern and it is difficult to see what possible use they could be to anyone seeking an apt joke. Indeed, they seem to be summed up in two of the headings quoted: 'Ludicrous Blunders' and 'More Witty than Wise'.

A copy of this egregious work is in the possession of Mr. R. C. Wellstood, a Connecticut member, who kindly sent it for my inspection.

G. N. K.

The following is from a review by Arnold Kean in International and Comparative Law Quarterly of 'Air Law' by
De Forest Billyou. (New York: Ad Press Ltd. 1963. $16.)

'The principal blemish is... the lack of an adequate index. This may not matter for the purposes of instruction in class, but the ordinary reader feels abandoned when he looks in vain for such primary matters as "charter", "hire", "dangerous goods", "navigational aids" and "wilful misconduct". It is comforting, but not enlightening, to learn from the index that Professor John Cobb Cooper appears "passim", a distinction which he shares with "air law" and the late Arnold Kneuth... If Mr. Billyou will improve the index and add modestly to the explanatory matter... the next edition of his book may prove to be the standard collection of Americana on... air law.'

BOOK REVIEWS

The naming and indexing of chemical compounds from chemical abstracts, Columbus, Ohio: Chemical Abstracts Service, Ohio State University, 43210. 98 pp. 1963.

This guide for the naming and indexing of chemical compounds contains an introduction with a key and discussion of the naming of chemical compounds for indexing. There are sections on botanical and zoological nomenclature, chemical nomenclature, inorganic compounds, and organic compounds. There is also a classified bibliography of references found to be helpful in the naming of chemical compounds and in the use of indexes. There are appendixes on miscellaneous chemical prefixes, inorganic groups and radicals, anions, organic groups and radicals, and organic suffixes. This book contains its own comprehensive index. G. A. W.


This book provides an integrated study of classification, the alphabetical subject index, the several methods of application of co-ordinate principles ranging from optical stencil cards to the computer, and the techniques used to control indexing languages in these newer systems. The newer techniques of automatic abstracting and automatic indexing which may in due course cause a fundamental shift of emphasis in information storage and retrieval are also discussed.

L. M. H.


This second edition of this important book on the 'indexes' to information which have been produced on cards patterned with holes, on paper tape, on magnetic drums and discs, and on photographic film, and then searched mechanically, has been thoroughly revised throughout and expanded in order to record the rapid advances which have been made in this field during the past four years.

L. M. H.

UDC METALLURGY

The Iron and Steel Institute has, with the approval of the Fédération International de Documentation (FID), published a selection from the whole of the Universal Decimal Classification under the title Universal decimal classification: special subject edition for metallurgy. (Iron and Steel Institute, 60s.)

It covers the whole of the UDC as far as it has been found necessary for the range of subjects encountered in metallurgical literature; in addition to the central core of metallurgy and metal working, ferrous and non-ferrous, there are sections on physics, chemistry, nuclear science, fuels, refractories, engineering, and mining, as well as on law, education and training, commercial practice, the arts, history and biography. The Auxiliary Tables of the UDC, a valuable means by which, for instance, the form, language and date of a document may be specified, have been widely drawn upon. An alphabetical index is provided.

The selection will be particularly useful to subscribers to the Institute's card index service, but will be of equally great use to all those who are in any way concerned with the classification of metallurgical literature.