EXTRACTS FROM REVIEWS
Edited by Bruce S. C. Harling

Items in this issue are arranged under the following headings: No Indexes, Inadequate Indexes, Excellent Indexes.

Contributions of review extracts are always welcome and thanks are due to the following: Mrs A. J. Angus, Mrs Audrey J. Bamber, Ivan Butler, L. M. Harrod, R. Harrowing, Dr J. E. Holmstrom, Mrs Beryl McKie, N. F. Moore, Miss Mary Piggott, Mrs Phoebe M. Procter and D. W. Pygott.

NO INDEXES

'This is one of several books to appear without an index: perhaps for reasons of economy, but the lack of this essential convenience in a biography is a pity.'

'(A) most likeable book—one which deserves, but alas does not get, an index.'

Wide-eyed in Babylon, by Ray Milland (Bodley Head). Rev. by Ivan Butler, Film Review Annual 1976-77.
'A volume so full of good stories should have been paid the compliment of an index.'

'Rather surprisingly for so meticulously documented a work, there is no index. Less surprisingly in these days of high-technology publishing the review copy came catastrophically apart well before your reviewer had emerged from Chapter 2.'

'What a pity, though, the book is index-less.'

Humphrey Bogart, by Nathaniel Benchley (Hutchinson). Rev. by Ivan Butler, Film Review Annual 1976-77.
'One minor grumble—the book deserves, but does not get—an index.'

Christopher and his kind, 1929-1939, by Christopher Isherwood (Eyre Methuen, £4.95). Rev. by Anthony Powell, Daily Telegraph 31 Mar. 77.
'In dealing with a work of an autobiographical sort, reviewers are apt to base their judgment on whether the writer sounds the sort of person they would themselves like; coupling that with an avalanche of moral, political, and social judgments, together with a word of advice on how it could have been better done.
'I shall restrict myself to very tentative comments on the last theme: I should like an index (in any book of this sort that is worth reading one wants to look back); and Mr Isherwood's habit of using the third person—only sometimes the first—runs the risk of archness. Besides which, when he refers to the Narrator of the Berlin novels as "Isherwood," the reader has to distinguish between the trinity of "Isherwood" (in inverted commas), "Christopher" and "I" (the last two not placed in inverted commas).'

'It is a pity that Yves Pellicer, who writes illuminating introductions to the various sections, did not provide an index. This would have greatly aided the reader in tracing names and topics which repeatedly crop up.'

Trees and bushes of Europe, by Oleg Polunin (OUP, £5.25). Rev. by Peter Stubbs, New Scientist 14 Oct. 76.
'... it is difficult to detect rhyme or reason in the sequence of plant families ... There is no separate index to families.'

'The omission of an index is the single detracting aspect of this book ...'

'Much gratitude is due to the author for setting out facts, for providing material on which to base discussion, and for stimulating new ideas. An index would have made it even greater.'

The museums of Israel, by L. Y. Rahmani & Peter Larsen (Secker, £12.50). Rev. by Terence Mullaly, Daily Telegraph 10 Feb. 77.

'Unfortunately this book does little more than whet the appetite. It has no index, and the text and long captions, which are often sadly unscholarly, are mixed up together in a way that makes it difficult to discover just what is to be found in each museum.'

The splendour of Islamic calligraphy, by Abdelkebir Khatibi & Mohammed Sijekmassi (Thames & Hudson, 254pp., £18). Rev. by Nicolete Gray, TLS 1 Apr. 77.

'Much ... frustration would have been avoided if the book had been provided with a glossary, an index, plate-references or even a proper list of plates.'


'Disgracefully, for a work of genuine scholarship, this book has no index and gives no indication in its list of sources which are used to support what statements in the text. Otherwise an impeccable piece of investigative reporting.'

INADEQUATE INDEXES


'The index is a full one, but blandly repeats such schoolboy howlers as All Passions Spent, and names mis-spellings ...'


'There are some annoying misprints, and the index, which is vital in a work of this kind, while generally good, is not free from error. As the publishers state the book is aimed at librarians, may this librarian say how irritating he finds the authors' habit of giving place of publication, but not publisher, in their bibliographical details? A habit all the more annoying because it conflicts with the advice they give for good citation practice on page 165.'


'If the purpose of the index is to access the subject, the KWIC index is most inadequate. Its effectiveness is hampered by the inclusion of too few simple entries (e.g., "English") and too many complex entries (e.g. "Black English", "Nonstandard English Dialects").'


'Unfortunately its usefulness is seriously prejudiced by weaknesses in the indexing system which one should not expect to find in books published under this imprint. The user is hampered in the first instance by the fact that the "List of words treated" does not always indicate the part of speech of a given word analysed in the body of the text: for example, "call", "catch", "shape", or "show", which will cause the user to waste his time if, for example, he is in search of the right noun for "a good show" and finds to his frustration that the "show" in the index leads him only to verbal forms in German.'

Far more serious, however, are the omissions in the indexes, both German and English, despite the fact that the preface to the third edition claims to have ironed out "errors in page references in the English and German word lists at the end of the book". Apart from a number of minor inconsistencies and unexplained bracketed numbers in the English word list, a spot check reveals inter alia that there is no reference to "soft" as a headword (page 316); that "reduce" is not listed for page 275, where it, too, is a headword; and that "disgraceful" and "pot" are omitted (page 308 and page 353 respectively). On the German side, there is no consistency at all in regard to what is included or left out: words in bold type in the body of the text like "Bauerhöf"", "Gut", and "Landgut" (pages 120-121) find no mention in the index, nor do "stellen" and "nach-sagen" (pages 321 and 280 respectively) in important illustrations of their use, let alone a whole string of words on page 285, all in bold type starting with "stirr-misch" and ending with "heetig". And presumably the index refrains from referring to "gefährlich" or its opposite (page 288) because it is mis-printed in Section 3, page 288 as "ungefährlich".

'With regard to its usefulness to the average student, especially in view of the indexing errors, this volume simply does not provide service of a sufficient standard. The Dictionary of German Synonyms coyly abbreviates the titles of the various Oxford English dictionaries it consults as COD, POD and SOD respectively, and one is half tempted to wonder whether any one driven to consult this work could be described as having gone to the DOGS'.

'The index is quite unhelpful. None of the minor persons is identified. The reader always knows what day of the month it is, but never what year.'


'The book is a valuable compendium of techniques, results, and development theories, but the indexes do not do it justice, and facts that one seeks may be hard to find: cyclic-AMP is absent from the index but does appear on p.411; and names of authors listed in the bibliography may be absent from the author index.'

Mites of moths and butterflies, by A. E. Treat (Cornell Univ. Pr., 1975, 362pp., £17.50). Rev. by M. Rothschild, Endeavour Sep. 76.

'There is only one criticism of this first rate and otherwise impeccable volume—the index is lamentable and was obviously not compiled by the author.'

Seismic risk and engineering decisions, ed. by Lomnitz & Rosenblueth (Elsevier, $45.95). Rev. New Civil Engineer 17 Mar. 77.

'It is a pity that the excellent index of subjects was not paired with one for authors in the many chapter references (a curious omission in a book costing nearly $50), but otherwise both text and illustrations are clearly laid out.'

A little love and good company, by Kathleen Nesbitt (Faber). Rev. by Ivan Butler, Film Review Annual 1976-77.

'A little more care in proof-reading might have avoided a number of mis-spelt names... Most of these reappear uncorrected in the index.'


'... the index, while admirably comprehensive in scope, is sometimes incomplete.'


'... the index does not always list those named in the text, particularly the Surrey batsman D. J. Knight.'


'The index is essential to use of the volume as a work of reference and a more thorough indexing of some of the documents would have been profitable.'

Coal—technology for Britain's future, by Roger Vielvoye et al. (Macmillan, £4.95). Rev. by Arthur Conway, New Scientist 17 Feb. 77.

'... there is no glossary... and only a skimpy index.'

Eileen, by Eileen O'Casey (Macmillan, 224pp., £4.50). Rev. by George Speaight, TLS 19 Nov. 76.

'One small point, which applies to many other books as well as this one. In an age, and in a milieu like the theatre, where people come to first-name terms after the briefest acquaintance, it is infuriating to find the pages spattered with Toms, Bobs, Brooks and Dorothies, whom one cannot find in the index because they are only indexed under their surnames.'


'It has no general index, and not much in the way of scholarly apparatus, but it does have a useful index of occupations, and that which occurs most frequently is prostitute (male or female), with priest coming second and king and musician joint third.'


'A subject index is included for the registered documents but not for the supplementary entries. It might have been prepared with greater care. Entries are not consistent, with separate ones for "economic weapons", "sanctions", "mutual assistance", and "security, collective"; and all cross references do not materialize. Users must therefore consult the subject index with more than the usual degree of imagination.'


'... the decision not to provide a subject index means that for some purposes one must know the date, or be able to relate the topic to a place or personal name. Otherwise systematic chronological note-taking is the only answer—unless one has a photographic memory.'

'Only a skimped index, listing mainly names of people and places in a book which is essentially about ideas and attitudes, blemishes an otherwise splendid production.'


'The author-subject index has been produced with imagination—though the subject-matter of the iconographical section seems (perhaps by accident) to have escaped inclusion. The wayward behaviour of computers has also done some odd things to the index under D (much odder than an erratum slip indicates), and, although there are many intelligent cross-references, some very necessary ones have been missed.'

Developmental tasks resource guide for elementary school children, by Charles M. Harris & Nancy D. Gardenhour (Scarecrow, 1976, 318pp.,). Rev. by Mary L. Q. Doyle, RQ Summer 76.

'The guide's most serious weakness, however, is the subject index. Headings in the index are only an alphabetical rearrangement of the chapter subdivisions. Thus, items on friendship are found in three related subdivisions in the bibliography. They are, likewise, entered under the same terms in the index with no cross-references. To complicate matters even more, the index refers the user not to a page or a comprehensive serial number but to a special alphanumeric code derived from chapter titles and entry numbers. This code is not mnemonic, nor is it alphabetical because of the arrangement of the chapters.

'The cumbersomeness in organization, the carelessness in editing, and the unevenness in coverage limit the value of this guide.'

Seven Victorian architects, edited by Jane Fawcett (Thames & Hudson, 160pp., £7.50), Rev. by Andrew Saint, TLS 18 Mar. 77.

'There are . . . many interesting things that we can write about, and Professor Hammond does write about more of them than might be supposed from his index, which is little more than an index of proper names. One looks in vain for any such entry as: acting, agon, arete, chorus, coinage, comedy, divination, education, hero, metres (poetic), modes (musical), orders (architectural), pay (for public service in Athens), rhetoric, sacrifice, self-sufficiency, siegecraft, taxation.

'All these things are at least touched on in the text, and references to them in the index would probably be of more help to the general reader, whom Professor Hammond presumably has in mind, than references to Kipling or the United States. Such a reader may not know that Gallipoli and the Thracian Chersonese are one and the same, but they are separately indexed, and the map of the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea will not enlighten him.'


'The feeble index is comparably inadequate for a work of this interest and importance. Evelyn Waugh, for all his fine acting, was first and foremost a man of the world, and we do him less than justice by not allowing every corner of it the benefit of accuracy and illumination.'

also rev. by Frances Donaldson, Sunday Telegraph 5 Sep. 76.

'. . . wherever in these pages a name occurs more than a few times, the word passim is thought good enough for the index. Indeed, the index as a whole is disastrously inadequate. A great many names mentioned in the text are not given . . . One cannot understand how publishers allow such folly: surely in the case of diaries, where there is no narrative as a guide, a workable index is an absolute essential.'


'Surprisingly, the book does not have an author index, but it does have an excellent subject index.'
The raven and the writing desk (Life of Lewis Carroll), by Francis Huxley (Thames & Hudson, 191pp., £3.95). Rev. by Nigel Dennis, Sunday Telegraph 21 Nov. 76.

'To take Carroll apart with Carroll's own tools—puns, double-puns, mathematical games, mock-gravities, and grammatical gymnastics—asks a genius as great as Carroll's, particularly in the providing of a comedy that can be a delight to mere children as well as to intellectuals. One should be able to tell, for example, if the omission from the text of 16 pages (129 to 144), headed "Intermission" in the index, is a bad joke or a missing quire.'


'There is a large number of illustrations (for which no list is given). Many obscene, none erotic, they genuinely illuminate the text. Trying to find one by Rowlandson, I turned to the index, only to discover no mention of Rowlandson, and seven entries under R out of alphabetical order.'


'The great thirteenth century goes out gloriously with Dante Alighieri; but the name of Dante does not appear in the index. The English reader looks in vain for Hooker and Bishop Butler, for Andrewes and John Bunyan.'


'His passion for The Netherlands is very apparent . . . The index has more entries for The Netherlands than for any other single subject or nation. Antwerp and Amsterdam have twice as many entries as London.'

EXCELLENT INDEXES

Netsuke, by Richard Barker & Lawrence Smith (British Museum Publications, 184pp., £8.50). Rev. by Margaret Medley, TLS 7 Jan. 77.

'... finally an excellent index.'

The life of Richard Wagner, by Ernest Newman (Cambridge, paperback, 4 volumes, £17.50; Cassell, hardback, 4 volumes, £34). Rev. by Bernard Levin, Times 26 Nov. 76.

'The index is superb, though it is a pity that it is not cumulative.'

The tropical forest, by Mary Batten (Faber, £3.60). Rev. by Kenneth White, Eastern Daily Express 4 Oct. 76.

'There is an excellent index and bibliography, the latter, unfortunately, only of American publications . . .' Art and artefacts of the Pacific, Africa and the Americas, by Steven Phelps (Hutchinson/Christie's, 487pp., £20). Rev. by Peter Gathercole, TLS 27 Aug. 76.

'The bibliographies and index are excellently detailed.'

Giambattista Vico's science of humanity, edited by Giorgio Tagliacozzo & Donald Philipp Verene (Johns Hopkins Univ. Pr., 496pp., £11.55). Rev. by Duncan Forbes, TLS 10 Sep. 76.

'There is an excellent index and an exhaustive list of critical writings on Vico in English.'

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES TO MAPS AND CHARTS

In our issue for April 1976 reference was made to a new British Standard BS 5195 Recommendations for bibliographical references to maps and charts, Part 1 References in accessions lists.

The second part of this Standard (BS 5195: Part 2: 1977 References in books and articles) has now been published. Whereas Part 1 dealt only with references in accessions lists, which require a different and more detailed form of reference, Part 2 is concerned solely with providing a means of ensuring that all the information necessary to identify maps is given in references to them in books, articles, abstracts, reviews and reference lists.

It states the essential elements required to identify printed maps—both early (pre-1825) and modern—as well as manuscript maps, and the supplementary elements that may be necessary for a full description. The sequence in which these data should be presented is recommended, and an appendix gives examples of full and minimum references.

This Standard is available from BSI Sales Department, 101 Fentonville Road, London, N1 9ND, price £1.60.