He looked in the Index for CLOTHING—Styles of Clothing in the Past. There was nothing under STYLES, or under PAST. Under CLOTHES there were subheadings that Tom would certainly have found interesting at any other time—Loose Warmer than Tight, and Rendering Fireproof; but there was nothing about the changing fashions of history. He felt dispirited, as though he had been invited to call, and promised a feast, and then, when he had knocked at the door, found no one Within. . . .

Tom returned Enquire Within, and, on the next occasion of his being left alone in the flat, prowled round looking for any other book of useful information. In his uncle’s and aunt’s bedroom he had a find: a complete set of volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica in their own special glass-fronted bookcase.

Tom looked up CLOTHING, and that asked him to ‘See COSTUME,’ which he did. There were many pages in double columns of small print, whose appearance somehow discouraged him. He preferred to look at the pictures. . . .

He noticed an oddity in the earlier illustrations. The men wore various kinds of leg coverings, but never trousers: the first pair of trousers to be represented was worn by a French Man of Fashion in the Early Victorian Period. Tom did at least know that the men and boys in his garden had all worn trousers. . . .

Hot on the scent now, Tom turned to the volume TUN TO VES of the Encyclopaedia and looked up TROUSERS. There were no illustrations, but the written account was short. . . .

Tom now felt he had enough information to arrange into an argument. ‘Hatty lived when men wore trousers, so she can’t have lived earlier than the nineteenth century, when trousers came into fashion. Very well.’

*Quoted from chapter 14, Tom’s midnight garden, by permission of the Oxford University Press.

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Indexing Pepys’ Diary*
Robert C. Latham and Rosalind Latham

Robert Latham is the Pepys Librarian at Magdalene College, Cambridge

Over the past 20 years Mr Latham has edited (jointly with the late Professor William Matthews) a nine-volume edition of The Diary of Samuel Pepys published by Bell (Vols. 1-9, 1970-76 £8.50); [an edition described by Bernard Levin as ‘the absolutely complete and unimprovably definitive edition . . . so exceptional that it can be said to have set new standards of scholarship’†—Ed.] Together with his wife, Mr Latham has now completed the index to the series; a full volume itself, which made about 900 pages of typescript.

Word games and indexing

Mr Latham spoke to The Society of issues of indexing policy involved rather than technique. A work of such dimensions might have proved an intolerable indexing labour done alone; but as a joint enterprise with his wife’s energy and powers of organization, and with a text so entertaining, the work in fact often spilled over into hilarity, becoming a game rather than a job. Indeed indexing itself may be seen as a word game, seeking the appropriate word for comprehensive headings or verbal formulas for a whole series of related subjects; Mrs Latham’s expertise in word games accounted for many of their solutions found.

Subject headings

Earlier large indexes examined included the one-volume index to Pepys’ Diary prepared by H. B. Wheatley (Bell, 1899). This they found very helpful and accurate but deficient in subject headings. References for a single subject are not there gathered together under one entry; it has for instance only two lines under ‘Dress’, the rest being entered under the various items of clothing; and nothing at all for the Navy Board, the office in which Pepys worked during the diary period. Great admiration was expressed for Esmond de Beer’s superb index to the diary of John Evelyn (Oxford, 1955), with praise for its subtle refinements and almost inhuman accuracy.

The aim in compiling the new index to Pepys was to make the material available to the amateur as well as the historian. Historical information is

* Report of the address given to The Society on 9 October 1979.
† The Times 1 June 1976.
densely packed in the text; naval, political, administrative, ecclesiastical and economic; and with this in mind the editors have aimed at designing suitable categories for the index. There are 31 sections in the entry for Charles II, and many separate entries for institutions; 'Parliament' for instance occupied ten typescript pages, with chronological divisions arranged by sessions. Topics in history include 'Banking' and 'Prices'; all references to purchases where a figure is given, are gathered under the latter heading.

Social and cultural topics—music, books, dress, entertainments, food, games, health, etc.—provided their own problems both of identification and of defining their scope. Some topics that did not fit into any category envisaged in advance emerged as work proceeded rather than leapt from the page; such headings as 'Law and order, offences against', 'Popular beliefs and customs', etc. 'Books' has more than 150 references; 'Music' includes instruments, songs, musical occasions and composition; 'Health', both complaints and remedies; 'Dress and personal appearance' is subdivided into men's and women's garments and accessories; 'Plays' like 'Books' are indexed under their authors' names.

Much of the work was checked by experts in particular areas, which prevented such easy assumptions as 'laced hands' being taken as a misprint for 'laced bands', or 'fiddle' as a violin; in fact the former was a current term for cuffs, the latter for a viol.

**Devices used**

Particular devices have been used for this index. (P) or (EP) indicate references to Samuel or Elizabeth Pepys. Asterisks are employed to minimize the use of words; under 'Meals',* shows that Pepys gives the menu; under 'Taverns', that he ate a meal there; under 'Books',* shows that Pepys reads a book,** that he comments on it. ～(tilde) towards the close of an entry introduces material tangentially related to the main subject.

The indexing of Samuel Pepys himself of course posed great problems, since the entire index in varying degrees relates to him. The principal entries concerning him are listed on the page following the preface to the volume. They include 'Pepys, Samuel, recollections of early life'; 'Diary'; 'Correspondence' and 'Sex life'. 'Social' is used frequently as a section heading to cover the numerous social occasions with which this diary is filled; in this and other ways too much use of 'alluded to' is avoided.

**Matters of style**

The indexers hoped to capture in the index the flavour of the diary. Rules of deadpan analysis are sometimes abandoned, as in the case of 'Mrs Bagwell', where they permitted themselves a sequence of descriptive entries culminating in 'her resistance collapses in ale-house'. 'Amorous encounters with' often occurs as a section heading under the names of the young women involved. The style in general is spare and slim, with prepositions omitted. At first the indexers found that they formulated phrases too wordily, but later revised the slips.

The technique of collaboration is of great interest to indexers. In this case, Mrs Latham would read the text aloud, slowly and with comments; a process which gave fresh enlightenment to the Pepys Librarian. The two could then work separately on the revision of slips, but always check each other's work.

The index volume is to be published jointly with a Companion volume to the whole edition. How welcome it will be can be seen by quoting again Bernard Levin, who wrote of it as 'a massive Index (for which those of us who have been reading the Diary as it has appeared during the past seven years have felt an increasingly urgent need)'.

**It's not as easy as ABC**

Before the publication of yet another code of filing rules—the British Library's Filing rules has reached its final draft—more research is required into users' approaches to alphabetical listings. 'Whatever we do we must find out the facts before we try to construct any more filing rules,' says Fred Ayres. 'As they are constituted at the moment they provide a form of chastity-belt between the user and the catalogue.' (Catalogue and Index 54, Autumn 1979, 1-3, 8.)

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Congratulations to Michael Gorman and Paul Winkler, co-editors of the second edition of the Anglo-American cataloguing rules, on the award of the Margaret Mann Citation in recognition of their significant contribution to the intellectual content, formulation and tri-national acceptance of the code.

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