

# INDEXES REVIEWED

edited by Norman Hillyer

This selection of extracts from reviews does not pretend to represent a complete survey of all reviews in all journals and newspapers. We offer only those quotations which members have sent in.

Our reproduction of comments is not a stamp of approval from The Society of Indexers upon either the reviewer's assessment of an index, or his competence to give an opinion.

Extracts are arranged alphabetically under the names of publishers, within the sections:

INDEXES PRAISED: INDEXES CENSURED: INDEXES OMITTED

## Indexes praised

Academic, New York: *Catalytic hydrogenation in organic syntheses*, by P. N. Rylander (325pp., 1979, \$34.00). Rev. by C. Masters, *Chemistry in Britain*, May 80.

'The treatment of the subject by reference to the functional group, or class of organic molecule undergoing reduction, combined with an excellent and comprehensive index, allows the reader ready access to the detailed literature, which is comprehensively, if somewhat uncritically, reviewed.'

George Allen & Unwin, for the Navy Records Society: *The Keyes papers*, ed. by Paul Halpern (2 vols., 547, 468pp., £12.00, £15.00). Rev. in *Times Literary Supp.*, 12 Sept. 80.

'The indexes are models of their kind.'

Blandford Pr.: *Collecting postcards in colour 1914-1930*, by Valerie Monahan (1980). Rev. by Ron Griffiths, *British Postcard Collectors Mag.*, Oct. 80.

'... this is followed by a bibliography and the all-important index.'

Cassell: *Careers Encyclopaedia* (10th ed.), ed. by Audrey Segal (£11.95, 958pp.). Rev. in *Newscheck* 63, Dec. 80.

'A different print size for the index has, while lengthening it, made it clearer and there are in fact more items, in an often more logical sequence.'

Chemical Society, London: *Specialist periodical reports: mass spectrometry*, vol. 5, senior reporter R. A. W. Johnstone (450pp., 1979. £25.00, \$55.00). Rev. by A. MacColl, *Chemistry in Britain*, May 80.

'Of considerable importance are the author index and also the cumulative subject index, which enables reference back to the earlier volumes of the series.'

Clarendon-OUP, Oxford: *Disorder in crystals: international series of monographs on chemistry*, by N.

G. Parsonage and L. A. K. Staveley (926pp., 1979, £28.00). Rev. by A. J. Leadbetter, *Chemistry in Britain*, July 80.

'There are good substance and subject indexes and a very large number of references.'

Collins: *Does God exist?*, by Hans Küng (£12, 1980). Rev. by David L. Edwards, *Church Times*, 28 Nov. 80.

'Meticulously indexed.'

Consumers' Association/Hodder and Stoughton: *Which? wine guide*, ed. by Jancis Robinson (£4.95). Rev. by John Arlott, *Guardian*, 9 Jan. 81.

'The 432 pages of painstakingly indexed text ...'

Croom Helm, London: *The nature of enzymology*, by R. L. Foster (383pp., 1979, £19.95 (hardback), £9.95 (paperback)). Rev. by P. Leadlay, *Chemistry in Britain*, Sept. 80.

'The tables and diagrams are effective, references are given for each chapter, and there is a good index.'

Dekker, New York: *Carcinogens and related substances: analytical chemistry for toxicological research*, by M. C. Bowman (320pp., 1979, SFr 78.00). Rev. by L. Magos, *Chemistry in Britain*, May 80.

'Even if one does not work, or intend to work, with the same chemicals, the given examples and the more general chapters with the 234 references and six pages of index may help the reader towards a higher degree in safety and reliability in the field of toxicological testing.'

Deutsch: *A bespattered page? the internment of His Majesty's 'most loyal enemy aliens'*, by Ronald Stent. Rev. by Victor Ross, *Daily Telegraph*, 17 July 1980.

'But there is a splendid index to provide a roll-call of all those who emerged from behind barbed wire into eminence as scholars, artists, tycoons or just became men and women on the Swiss Cottage omnibus.'

Ellis Horwood, Chichester: *Metal and metalloid amides: syntheses, structures, and physical and chemical properties*, by M. F. Lappert *et al.* (847pp., 1979, £50.00). Rev. by B. J. Wakefield, *Chemistry in Britain*, June 80.

'The author index occupies 57 pages, whereas the subject index occupies only nine. The latter is, however, supplemented by detailed lists of contents for each chapter.'

Elsevier, Amsterdam: *Studies in organic chemistry*, vol. 2: *Proteoglycans—biological and chemical aspects in human life*, by J. F. Kennedy (490pp., 1979, \$80.50. Dfl.165.00). Rev. by L. Hough, *Chemistry in Britain*, Aug. 80.

'The book is beautifully produced, with excellent plates, formulae, figures, tables and schemes and, as we have come to expect from Dr. Kennedy, the material has been carefully organized for presentation to the reader in a logical and lucid style. There is a first author index, which includes full titles of all the papers cited (over 1,600) in addition to a subject index, greatly enhancing its value to the research worker.'

Wilhelm Fink, Munich: 'Melancholia (1541): an essay in the rhetoric of description by Joachim Camerarius. Edition, translation with commentaries and notes', by William S. Heckscher, in *Joachim Camerarius (1500-1574). Essays in the history of humanism during the Reformation*, ed. by Frank Baron (1978, £19.00). Rev. by Virginia W. Callahan, *Moreana* 79-80.

'The essay is capped by an elaborate, highly unconventional index; although a *tour de force*, it appears as an entertaining and informative counterpoint to Text and Notes.'

Longman, Harlow: *Vogel's elementary practical organic chemistry I: preparations*, 3rd edn., revised, by B. V. Smith and N. M. Waldron (407pp., 1980, £9.95). Rev. by E. C. Brick, *Chemistry in Britain*, June 80.

'The index has been expanded by about 10%.'

Noyes, New Jersey: *Chemical technology review no. 150: Fibre-forming polymers: recent advances*, ed. by J. S. Robinson (368pp., 1980, \$48.00). Rev. by D. A. Blackadder, *Chemistry in Britain*, Nov. 80.

'There is a detailed list of contents intended to serve as a non-alphabetical subject index and the patents are grouped under particular types of polymers such as polyesters and polylactams. Three separate indices [*sic*] give the page numbers corresponding to companies, named inventors and US patent numbers.'

Orbis, Mary Knoll, NY: *Puebla and beyond: documentation and commentary*, ed. by John Eagleson and Philip Scharper (370pp., 1979, \$7.95). Rev. by Frederick J. Kelly, *Theological Studies* 41.2, 80.

'*Puebla and beyond*, with its thorough 20-page index, merits thoughtful reflection.'

Oxford/Faber: *Tennyson: the unquiet heart*, by Robert Bernard Martin (£12.95). Rev. By Michael Ratcliffe, *The Times*, 30 Oct. 80.

'... the editing is excellent, the paper unusually fine, the photographs generous, the index—oh, joy!—works.'

Paternoster Pr.: *Men and movements in the primitive church. Studies in early non-Pauline Christianity*, by F. F. Bruce (159pp., 1979, £6.50). Rev. by C. J. Hemer, *Evangelical Qy* 52.4, 80.

'The volume is most accurately and attractively presented and well indexed.'

Pergamon, Oxford: *Radiation chemistry of carbohydrates*, by N. K. Kochetkov *et al.* (256pp., 1979, \$40.00, £18.00). Rev. by H. J. M. Bowen, *Chemistry in Britain*, May 80.

'There is a good index, and the literature is covered up to 1977 (with 1978 references in an Appendix).'

Prentice-Hall: *800 miles to Valdez: the building of the Alaska pipeline*, by James P. Roscow (1977). Rev. by Robert J. King, *Ice Cap News*, May-June 79.

'The book is well written with extensive index and bibliography sections.'

University of Washington Pr.: *A history of the Russian-American company*, by P. A. Tikhmenev (1978). Rev. by Grace E. Devnich, *Ice Cap News*, Jan.-Feb. 79.

'... and all is adequately indexed.'

Wiley-Ann Arbor, Chichester: *Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons: third international symposium on chemistry and biology—carcinogenesis and mutagenesis*, ed. by P. W. Jones and P. Leber (892pp., 1979, £27.50). Rev. by G. W. H. Cheeseman, *Chemistry in Britain*, June 80.

'A useful subject index has been compiled and in view of the length of the volume, the cost is not unreasonable.'

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### Indexes censured

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Baillière Tindall: *Principles of clinical psychiatry*, by Arnold M. Ludwig (438pp., 1980, £15.00). Rev. by Alan Norton, *Lancet*, 30 Aug. 80.

'The index is so skinny as to be almost useless.'

Clarendon: *The letters and diaries of John Henry Newman*, vols., 2, 3, ed. by Ian Ker and Thomas Gornall (416, 344pp., 1979, \$53.00, \$49.95). Rev. by Vincent Ferrer Blehl, *Theological Studies* 41.2, 80.

'The page references in the index, especially under "Newman", are by no means complete.'

Collier Macmillan: *Endtime: the Doomsday catalog*, ed. by William Griffin (£4.95). Rev. by Rosamund Essex, *Church Times*, 26 Sept. 80.

'Now let us look up those passages, and immediately the Achilles' heel of the book is revealed. There is an index of authors with their potted biographies, *but no page references for their quotations*. You have to leaf through the book, page by page, before you can find exactly what St. Augustine said about his conversion or trace what Martin Luther said about Moses as a less successful candidate for preferential judgment.'

Collins: *Merton: a biography*, by Monica Furlong (£6.95). Rev. by John Harriott, *The Times*, 8 Jan. 81.

'A thoroughly bad index and some rather incoherent dating of key events . . . are the worst flaws . . .'

Stanley Gibbons: *Stanley Gibbons' postcard catalogue 1981*, ed. by Tonie and Valmai Holt (1980). Rev. by M.I.B., *International Postcard Mail*, Sept. 80.

'Each category and theme is lavishly illustrated (to a total of 494 examples . . .) and the reader is finally guided to a two-part index. One section lists references to Artists, and the other itemises Themes. In case you have missed anything in the preceding pages of the catalogue these indices [*sic*] firmly guide the reader back to the requisite section and page.'

*The editors explained how they set about compiling the catalogue:*

'It was a basic tenet to our approach to the Gibbons catalogue that it should be readily understood and easy to use—a feature that we knew was being clamoured for by new and novice collectors in particular. WE COULD SEE ONLY ONE WAY IN WHICH THIS PRINCIPLE COULD BE ATTAINED IN PRACTICE. THE CATALOGUE WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE A DETAILED, ALPHABETICAL INDEX QUITE INDEPENDENT OF THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS USED TO DESCRIBE THE CARDS.' (*This last was printed all in caps and set off from the column above and below with heavy lines. The next reviewer was not so impressed.*)

Rev. by J. H. D. Smith, *Picture Postcard Monthly*, Oct. 80.

'What must be said is that in any system of listing the reader must be able to find what he is looking for in the Index. It could be said that it doesn't matter where it is so long as you can find it! Unfortunately for many subjects in SG this is just not the case. At present there is no mention in the Index of: Bamforths, Costume, Japanese Cards, Dreyfus, Coaching, Steam Rollers, Hop Picking, Bridges, Castles, Churches, London Life, Goss Cards, and many more widely collected themes . . . In this present volume, many collectors are going to have great difficulty in finding anything that is not indexed. When the whole catalogue is built around its Index, that Index must work. Let us hope it will be improved next year.

'Windmills . . . are not in the Index, but you can find them under Social History on page 148 . . . I couldn't see any reference to Motor Buses or Steam Lorries either, and they are not in the Index, so where they are in the catalogue must remain a mystery . . . but where are Sailing Barges or Convict Hulks? They are not in the Index . . . Where is Ballet, again not indexed?'

*The Indexer* Vol. 12 No. 3 April 1981

[*It happens that J. H. D. Smith is the compiler of a competing catalogue, the IPM catalogue of picture postcards, so perhaps he was unusually zealous in examining the index, and the rest of the catalogue, for anomalies.*]

Macdonald: *To the farthest ends of the earth. The history of the Royal Geographical Society 1830-1980*. Rev. by Tim Heald, *The Times*, 31 July 80.

'The index is inadequate, at least one explorer is mis-spelt and an erratum slip acknowledges that a picture said to be of Hillary is actually of Shipton; but it still seems odd that Heyerdahl's name is missing from what appears to be a comprehensive list of "Medals and awards presented by the Society".'

Macmillan: *Macmillan's children's encyclopaedia* (2 vols., £15.95). Rev. by Mary Warnock, *Times Lit. Supp.*, 19 Sept. 80.

'Macmillan's has quite useful photographs, is arranged in fairly intelligible topics, but has a chaotic index, which, confusingly, refers to the whole book as "Our world", and has several cases of misreference to particular pages.'

Weidenfeld & Nicolson: *The letters of Evelyn Waugh*, ed. by Mark Amory (£12.95). Rev. by Michael Ratcliffe, *The Times*, 4 Sept. 80.

'The index, as so often with this publisher, is a mere list of numbers, which does the richness of the text and the quality of the editing alike a disservice and is virtually impossible to use.'

Wiley-Interscience, Chichester: *Organometallics in organic synthesis*, vol. 1: *General discussions and organometallics of main group metals in organic synthesis*, by E.-I. Negishi (532pp., 1980, £15.85, \$33.25). Rev. by R. Grigg, *Chemistry in Britain*, Nov. 80.

'It (the book) contains much useful material and the tables are especially helpful, but the decision to group the chapters around the elements rather than in terms of organic methodology restricts its usefulness, as does the poor index.'

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### Indexes omitted

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Academic, New York: *Polymers as aids in organic chemistry*, by N. K. Mathur *et al.* (258pp., 1980, \$32.50). Rev. by P. Hodge, *Chemistry in Britain*, Dec. 80.

'There is a subject index but no author index.'

Bodley Head: *Above London*, by Robert Cameron and Alistair Cooke (£14.95). Rev. By J. B. in *The Bookseller*, 26 July 80.

'The addition of a map might have saved frustrated attempts to identify the less obvious points of interest referred to. An index would also have been useful.'

Dawson: *Britain and France: ten centuries*, ed. by Douglas Johnson *et al.* (£20.00). Rev. by Ivan Roots, *Daily Telegraph*, 23 Oct. 80.

'Proof-reading has been less than religious. Some sections are over-documented, others not at all, and even today, £20 ought to buy an index.'

André Deutsch: *The Sunday Times bedside book*, ed. by George Darby (£6.50). Rev. by Tim Heald, *The Times*, 9 Jan. 81.

'[In *The bedside* Guardian, ed. by W. L. Webb] there is an index at the back with the contributors listed in alphabetical order. There's none of this in *The Sunday Times* offering, just a contents list . . .'

Eyre Methuen: *The Archers: the first thirty years*, ed. by William Smethurst (£5.95, 1980). Rev. by David Wade, *The Times*, 30 Oct. 80.

'Editor Smethurst—currently *The Archers* producer—contributes three chapters of his own summarizing story from earliest days to the time of going to press. Very handy for critics and addicts, handier still if there had been an index—although the prospect of compiling one appals.'

Pergamon, Oxford: *IUPAC: future sources of organic raw materials—CHEMRAWN I*, ed. by L. E. St.-Pierre and G. R. Brown (651pp., 1980, £22.50, \$45.00). Rev. by D. J. M. Rowe, *Chemistry in Britain*, Dec. 80.

'All the papers are in English and most have reference lists but few have abstracts or summaries: there is no general index.'

Picton Pub.: *Collect British postmarks*, 2nd ed., by J. T. Whitney (£5.50). Rev. by M. I. B., *International Postcard Mail*, Aug. 80.

'Also, postmarks are a complex enough subject without the additional hazard of a non-existent index in a work of reference.'

Reader's Digest: *You and your rights: an A-Z guide to the law* (736pp., 1980, £11.95). Rev. in *British Business*, 22 Feb. 80.

'With so broad a coverage, related information is easily scattered throughout the alphabetical arrangement and although cross-references are provided linking many related topics, some may consider that an index would have been a useful addition.'

*Science Reviews*, London: *A low energy strategy for the United Kingdom*, by G. Leach (259pp., 1979, £7.50). Rev. by J. L. Edgar, *Chemistry in Britain*, Oct. 79.

'There is a bibliography of over 200 references, but most unfortunately there is no index.'

Royal Society of Chemistry, London: *Specialist periodical reports: the alkaloids*, vol. 9, senior reporter M. F. Grundon (273pp., 1979, £27.00). Rev. by R. B. Boar, *Chemistry in Britain*, Sept. 80.

'Personally, I also continue to regret the absence of a subject index, in both this and other Specialist Periodical Reports.'

Sphere: *The war that Hitler won*, by Robert E. Herzstein (508pp, £2.50). Rev. in *Good Book Guide*, Apr. 80.

'Good source notes, but unfortunately no index.'

Texas A & M Pr.: *America's frontier culture: three essays*, by Ray A. Billington 97pp., \$5.00. Rev. by H. Roger Grant, *Western Historical Qy*, Jan. 79.

'The book's only weakness is obvious: it badly needs an index.'

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## Tailpiece

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'I had never thought of Nigel Dennis as the maker of extravagant claims, indeed rather as a man who was careful with words. Imagine my astonishment that he should end his *Sunday Telegraph* review of *Freud: The Man and the Cause* by Ronald W. Clark (Cape/Weidenfeld) thus: "He has even rounded off his book with a real index—the sort in which anything can be looked up and found at a moment's notice. There has been nothing like it for half a century at least, and the gratitude felt by the book reviewer can never be expressed."

'Strong words and, no doubt, justified ones. A pity the poor chap or chapess doesn't get a credit from Mr. Dennis, assuming that his name appears in the book. If there is no credit in the book and the fault is not Mr. Dennis', then I hope someone will allow this hero to take a bow somewhere. After all, indexers tend to get kicks in the pants for inadequate products or are not allowed to do their jobs because of the meanness of publishers. Even so, "nothing like it for half a century" does take some justifying.'

*The Bookseller*, 26 July 80

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Our warm thanks to those contributing to this section: Jane Angus (Crathie), Hazel Bell (Hatfield), Diana Boatman (Slough), Anne Cope (Chadds Ford, Penn.), Philip Found (St. Buryan), L. M. Harrod (Harpenden), Ann Hoffmann (Tunbridge Wells), Annette Surrey (Colchester), Elizabeth Wallis (Kew).

Contributions of review extracts are always welcome by Norman Hillyer (Hatherleigh Vicarage, Okehampton, Devon EX20 3JY). Closing dates 1 July and 1 December for the subsequent issues.

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*The Bookseller*, 20 September 1980, for what we believe to be the first time includes the indexer by name in the bibliographical details given for a book reviewed (*Jacques Offenbach* (Faber) . . . Index by Ann Melsom). May it start a trend!

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