
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: Two cheers! Indexes censured: Indexes omitted.

Indexes praised

- Blackwell Scientific Publications: *Essential sciences for clinicians*, ed. by V. R. Tindall *et al.* (1981, 518 pp., £18.50). Rev. by C. W. H. Havard, *British Medical Journal*, 23 Jan. 82.
'... and there is a comprehensive index.'
- Butterworths: *Clinical science for surgeons*, ed. by William Burnett (1981, 849 pp., £37.50). Rev. by A. G. Johnson, *The Lancet*, 20 Feb. 82.
'There are a few key references at the end of each chapter and an extensive overall index.'
- Cambridge Univ. Pr.: *The agrarian history of England and Wales, Vol. 1, Prehistory*, ed. by Stuart Pigott (460 pp., £27.50). Rev. by H. C. Bowen, *Antiquity*, Mar. 82.
'A remarkable corpus of information, a splendid bibliography and lots of good writing, all excellently indexed.'
- Councils & Education Press: *County and Voluntary Schools*, 6th edn, ed. by Kenneth Brooksbank *et al.* (1982, £9.95). Rev. by Jack Springett, *Education*, 21 May 82.
'A welcome change is the inclusion of an index . . .'
- Free Press: *A guide to the culture of science, technology and medicine*, ed. by Paul T. Durbin (1980, 723 pp., \$45). Rev. in *R & DM Digest*, Sept. 81.
'There is a detailed index.'
- Gale Research Co.: *Corporate 500: the directory of corporate philanthropy* ed. by Research Staff, Public Management Institute (1980, 886 pp., \$125). Rev. in *R&DM Digest*, Sept. 81.
'Eight indexes provide alternate approaches to the information found in the main directory.'
- GODORT (Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Assoc'n): *Directory of government document collections and librarians*, 3rd edn, ed. by Jane M. Mackay and Barbara L. Turman (1981, \$32.50). Rev. in *IRLA*, Dec. 81.
'In addition to the basic directory listings, there are several indexes which render this a very useful reference work.'
- HMSO: *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, Vol. 2, by F. H. Hinsley *et al.* (850 pp., £15.95). Rev. by A. B. Sainsbury, *Mariner's Mirror* 68, 82.
'... [compared with Volume 1] a much better index.'
- Hogarth Press: *The diary of Virginia Woolf*, Vol. 4, 1931-35, ed. by Ann Olivier Bell (402 pp., £15). Rev. in *Economist*, 20 Mar. 82.
'Mrs Bell's explanatory notes and witty index are beyond praise.'
- Knowledge Industry Pub. Inc.: *Automating the archives: issues and problems in computer applications*, ed. by Laurence J. McCrank (1981, 363 pp., \$34.50). Rev. in *IRLA*, Sept. 81.
'To add to the usefulness of the proceedings, the editor has provided a good bibliography, a name index, a subject index, and a list of acronyms and abbreviations.'
- Knox, John (Atlanta): *Old Testament wisdom: an introduction*, by James L. Crenshaw (1981, 285 pp., \$16.50, pbk \$9.95). Rev. by Frederick L. Moriarty, *Theological Studies* 42.4, 81.
'Indices [sic] of biblical passages, authors, subjects, and Hebrew expressions enhance the utility of this first-rate introduction.'
- Library Association: *Hospital libraries and work with the disabled in the community*, ed. by Mona E. Going (3rd ed., 1982, £19.50). Rev. by Gillian Pentelow, *Times Health Supp.*, 2 Apr. 82.
'At the end is a general reading list and a well cross-referenced index.' (*index by Meg Davies*)
- Lomond Publications: *Auditing in the electronic environment: theory, practice and literature*, by Delroy Cornick (1981, \$19.75). Rev. in *IRLA*, July 81.
'... thoroughly indexed.'
- McGraw-Hill, New York: *Endocrinology and metabolism*, ed. by John D. Baxter *et al.* (1981, 1386 pp., \$75). Rev. by David C. Anderson, *The Lancet*, 13 Feb. 82.
'The headings and sub-headings are sensible, the text is coherent throughout, and the index is comprehensive.'
- Murray: *The trouble of an index: Byron's letters and journals, Vol. XII, Anthology of memorable passages and index to all volumes*, ed. by Leslie A. Marchand (1982, £15). Rev. by Paul Johnson, *Listener*, 20 May 82.
'He has now added heroism to industry by compiling the index to the entire series. Indexing is the most hateful of tasks. It demands unremitting concentration, while yielding none of the creative pleasures which compensate for intellectual labour. And Mr Marchand's index is a fine one, a window into Byron's

mind through which all future students will peer with gratitude. There are two whole columns, for instance, on Shakespeare, so that anyone writing on Byron and the Bard will find Marchand has already done half the work. The same could be said for the entries on Scott and Shelley, on Southey, De Staël, Pope, Johnson, Keats and, of course, Thomas More. Interesting that Byron should have quoted *Macbeth* more often than any other of the plays: 57 times, followed by *Hamlet* (40) and *Othello* (36).'

Phillimore: *English historic carpentry*, by Cecil A. Hewett (338 pp., £20). Rev. by Julian Munby, *Vernacular Architecture* 12, 81.

'The indexes are especially useful (though of course repeating textual errors).'

Saunders, W. B.: *Neurology of the newborn: major problems in clinical pediatrics*, Vol. XXII, by Joseph J. Volpe (1981, 648 pp., £35.75). Rev. by J. R. Moore, *The Lancet*, 30 Jan. 82.

'The references are numerous and up to date, and the index is complete.'

Shoe String Press: *Research libraries and collections in the United Kingdom*, ed. by Stephen Roberts et al. (1979, 285 pp., \$25). Rev. in *R&DM Digest*, Oct 81.

'Three indexes are provided—subject, name and geographical. Entries provide address, librarians' names, nature and size of collections.'

Univ. of Chicago Press: *Culture and value*, by Ludwig Wittgenstein (1980, 181 pp., \$20). Rev. by Terrence W. Tilley, *Theological Studies* 42.4, 81.

'An excellent index is provided.'

Univ. of Illinois Press: 'Public lending rights' in *Library Trends* 29.4, Spring 1981, ed. by Perry D. Morrison and Dennis Hyatt (1981, 719 pp., \$5.00). Rev. in *IRLA*, Nov. 81.

'Individual papers are solidly referenced and a detailed index aids the reader or researcher.'

Wiley, John: *An outline of modern psychiatry*, by Jennifer Hughes (1981, 211 pp., £9.75, pbk £6.75). Rev. by Susan Shaw, *The Lancet*, 27 Mar. 82.

'As promised in the preface there is a "very detailed index".'

Two cheers!

Drew, Richard: *The occult establishment*, by James Webb (1981, 535 pp., £9.95). Rev. by John Grant, *Common Ground*, Spring 82.

'I do have one or two carps about this edition. Since it has been reprinted directly from the American one, it retains an index which has certain idiosyncrasies—for example, most of the book-titles indexed appear under "A" or "T", as in *A Modern Utopia* and *The Golem*.'

Learned Information: *Conference literature: Its role in the distribution of information*, ed. by Gloria J. Zamora and Martha C. Adamson (1981, 220 pp., \$25). Rev. in *IRLA*, Aug. 81.

'The collection is lightly indexed, but at least there is an index.'

Methuen: *The Bronze Age in Europe*, by J. M. Coles and A. F. Harding (581 pp., £9.95 pbk). Rev. by A. Hyenstrand, *Fornvännen* 76, 81.

'One good way to judge a book is to examine its index. This one makes about 2500 words. The majority are place-names. The remainder are references to (for example) *axes*, *barrows*, *bones*, *burial*, *cremation*, etc., while many references like *chiefdom* or *calibration* are missing.' [trans. from Swedish]

Weidenfeld and Nicolson: *The Castle diaries, 1974-76*, by Barbara Castle (1980, £14.95). Rev. in *Economist*, 27 Sept. 80.

'Had she any sense of humour, she would realise that this degree of self-absorption all too often borders on the comic. "Hair", for example, deserves, though it does not get, a very long entry in the index.'

Indexes censured

Blackwell, Basil: *The butcher: the Duke of Cumberland and the suppression of the '45*, by W. A. Speck (1981). Rev. by Ian Grimble, *Glasgow Herald*, 19 Dec. 81.

'... the book ... states vaguely that the Government could count on the followers of Lord "Rae" without indicating who these might be. The "McKays" are mentioned independently. Neither appears in the index, which is admittedly about the worst I have ever seen in a serious book.'

Butterworths: *Gem testing*, by B. V. Anderson (1980, £12). Rev. by E. A. Jobbins, *Min. Mag.*, Dec. 80.

'However, the reader will search in vain for mention of some of these new instruments in the index.'

Croom Helm: *The making of the Scottish countryside*, ed. by M. L. Parry and T. R. Slater (327 pp., £22.50). Rev. by J. G. Cruickshank, *Jnl of Historical Geography* 8, 81.

'Place names are not included in the index, on the assumption that the reader is well informed on the geography and toponymy of Scotland.'

Heinemann, William: *Clinical heart disease*, by Samuel Oram (1981, 853 pp., £50). Rev. by Dennis Krikler, *The Lancet*, 23 Jan. 82.

'... the index, for example, mentions neither prostacyclin nor thromboxane. Although the index is reasonably comprehensive, it is by no means reliable: verapamil, for example, is only listed twice, but it is discussed rather more often in the text.'

Institute of Mining and Metallurgy/Mineralogical Society: *Mineral deposits of Europe. Vol. 1: North-west Europe*, by S. H. W. Bowie et al. (1979). Rev. by R. A. Howie, *Min. Mag.*, Sept. 79.

'The arrangement of descriptions of ore deposits is within a metallogenic framework of epochs and provinces or districts rather than on a commodity basis. This approach is not helped by the index: thus the seeker after information on Cornish cassiterite, for example, finds no entry under cassiterite: if one turns to tin there is indeed an entry "Cornwall UK" but no page number and only when one looks up "Cornwall UK" itself is one given a string of ten page references enabling one to extract the desired information somewhat hidden in paragraphs about Variscides, stockworks, greisen, bordered vein swarms, etc. Elsewhere in the index it is apparent that wolfram

occurs only in Sweden whereas tungsten occurs in Norway, Finland and the UK as well as Sweden.'

Manchester Univ. Pr.: *The golden age restor'd: the culture of the Stuart court 1603-42*, by Graham Parry (276 pp., £22.50). Rev. by Blair Worden, *Times Literary Supp.*, 5 Feb. 82.

'They [the publishers] might also, while they were about it, persuade Parry to substitute a more reliable index.'

National Video Clearinghouse, New York: *The video source book—UK*, 1st edn (1981, £11.95). Rev. by Carl Clayton, *Audiovisual Librarian* 8.1, 82.

'With its title arrangement a good subject index is essential, but here the user is badly let down. There are two indexes. The first is a main category index which uses eight categories, such as "Business/Industry" and "General Interest/Education". These categories are so broad and contain so many entries (listed alphabetically by title) that they serve no useful purpose.

The subject category index uses 300 subject headings. It shows all the faults that one would expect from someone with good intentions but no professional knowhow. For example: a programme on the animals of the Canadian tundra is entered under "Arctic Region" (there being no heading "Tundra") but not under "Animals" or "Canada". Programmes are listed under only one, occasionally two, headings and the headings are not clearly defined. There is no cross-reference from "Animals" to the related "Birds", "Fishes", "Insects", "Pets" or "Wildlife"; and no explanation why "Wildlife on One: Amorous Amphibians" is under "Animals" while "Wildlife on One: Rhino Rescue" is under "Wildlife".

... if the publishers are serious about being comprehensive in their coverage they will have to do something about their indexing.'

Oxford Univ. Press: *Building in England down to 1540*, by L. Salzman (637 pp., \$43.50 in Kraus reprint). Rev. by P. Draper, *Jnl of Society of Architectural Historians* 40, 81.

'One regret is that the index is far from comprehensive, and by no means all the terms and their variant species are listed ... I know of one regular user who has compiled his own index and I have no doubt that the labour involved has proved worth while.'

Oxford Univ. Press: *Mechanisms of cutaneous sensation*, by David Sinclair (1981, 363 pp., £20). Rev. by E. M. R. Critchley, *British Medical Journal*, 30 Jan. 82.

'Those seeking to use the book for reference will find the index inadequate; there is no index reference, for instance, to fibre size, Fabry's disease, multisynaptic afferent systems, or reverberating circuits.'

Pitman Medical: *Neurological therapeutics*, by D. L. W. Davidson and J. A. R. Lenman (1981, 249 pp., £14.95). Rev. by William Pryse-Phillips, *British Medical Journal*, 28 Nov. 81.

'The index is printed in type so small as to be barely read by those over forty.'

Springer-Verlag, Berlin: *Gas-phase reactions: kinetics and mechanisms*, by V. N. Kondratiev and E. E. Mikitin (1981, 241 pp., \$69.70). Rev. by B. G. Reuben, *Chemistry in Britain*, Oct. 81.

'It is marred, as was Kondratiev's earlier book, by a perfunctory index.'

Wright, John, Bristol: *Cardiac arrhythmias: practical notes on interpretation and treatment*, by David H. Bennett (1981,

164 pp., £8.50). Rev. by R. S. Winwood, *The Lancet*, 12 Dec. 81.

'The author's approach is necessarily a didactic one, and explanation and discussion are sacrificed for brevity. This parsimony extends to the index, where torsade de pointes can be found only if the reader knows that it is a variant of ventricular tachycardia.'

Indexes omitted

Angus & Robertson: *The book of political quotes*, by Jonathon Green (1982, £5.95). Rev. by Auberon Waugh, *Daily Mail*, 20 May 82.

'But unfortunately the material is vulgarly produced and sloppily arranged. Quite a few of the quotations are wrong and none is given chapter and verse. It is maddeningly difficult to trace a particular quotation. Rearranged in alphabetical order of politicians with a subject index it would be an invaluable addition to anyone's reference library.'

British Archaeological Reports: *Early fine wares in Roman Britain*, ed. by P. Arthur and G. Marsh (392 pp., £9).

Rev. by D. E. Johnston, *Archaeological Jnl* 137, 80.

'The lack of an index or concordance will certainly make quick reference difficult.'

British Archaeological Reports: *Invasion and response: the case of Roman Britain*, ed. by B. C. Burnham and H. B. Johnston (368 pp., £8.50). Rev. by J. S. Wachter, *Britannia* 12, 81.

'... there is a great deal to interest students in this volume ... It is a great pity, therefore, that BAR, as in many of their productions, negate much of this usefulness by depriving readers of an index, or even, in this case, of a list of illustrations. This might lead to speedier production, but it seriously reduces the ultimate value of their works as sources of reference.'

Clarendon Press: *Shakespeare's works and Elizabethan pronunciation*, by Fausto Cercignani (432 pp., £37.50). Rev. by Vivian Salmon, *Times Literary Supp.*, 1 Jan. 82.

'Unfortunately, it is difficult for the reader to gain an overview of these varieties of Elizabethan speech, as there is no subject-index to guide him.'

Dunn Technology: *1980 Proceedings. Lasers in graphics: electronic publishing in the 80s conference*, ed. by S. Thomas Dunn, 2 vols (1980, \$200 set). Rev. in *IRLA*, Oct. 81.

'Unfortunately there is no index.'

Eerdmans, Grand Rapids: *Theological dictionary of the Old Testament*, Vol. 4, ed. by G. J. Botterweck and H. Ringgren, trans. by David E. Green (1980, 493 pp., \$22.50). Rev. by Joseph A. Fitzmyer, *Theological Studies* 42.4, 81.

'The only regret that I have to express is that the indexes of the German original (topical and biblical) have not been reproduced in some form; they would obviously have added to the usefulness of the volume, as they do in the German.'

Elsevier, Amsterdam: *Studies in environmental science, Vol. 9: Energetics and technology of biological elimination of wastes*, ed. by G. Milazzo (1981, 252 pp., \$68.25). Rev. by M. A. Winkler, *Chemistry in Britain*, Jan. 82.

'The contents deserve better presentation, as there is no index and the contents list gives only the chapter titles, with no sub-section headings. Much of the value of this book is in its bringing together several different approaches to similar problems, but I found attempting to cross-reference was time-consuming and irritating without the help of an index. This seems inexcusable in a book taking two years to produce.'

Eyre Methuen/Oxford Univ. Press: English historical documents, Vol. 1, ed. by Dorothy Whitelock (1981 pp., £40).

Rev. by K. Leyser, *British Archaeological Reports* 92, 81.

'... not only the general reader but also the scholar and student of history will miss an index of names and subjects... which would make it easier to circumvent Lucien Lefebvre's warning' [unless you know what you are looking for, you won't find it].

Harrap: *Life in Iron Age Britain*, by Margaret Herdman (1981, £1.65). Rev. by Philip Sauvain, *Archaeology*, 20 Nov. 81.

'This has a well-constructed, readable text and clear illustrations; but its usefulness as a topic or reference book in school will be diminished due to the exasperating omission of both an index and a list of contents. Since there are 30 chapter or topic headings, in a book covering a fairly narrow subject field, both should be mandatory.'

Hodder & Stoughton: *I believe in church growth*, by Eddie Gibbs (1981, 460 pp., £5.95). Rev. by David Wasdell, *Churchman* 96.1, 82.

'Lack of an index or acknowledgement of statistical sources hamper [sic] the book's use as a reference work.'

Hodder & Stoughton: *John Wesley's England*, ed. by Richard Bewes (1981, £5.95). Rev. by John A. Vickers, *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society*, 43.3, Dec. 81.

'The lack of pagination at least provides an excuse for the absence of an index. (All we are offered is an expanded Contents list, tucked away at the end of the book and looking suspiciously like an afterthought.)'

McGraw-Hill: *Viewdata in action: a comparative study of Prestel*, ed. by Rex Winsbury (1981, 237 pp., £14). Rev. by Robin Yeates, *Libr. Ass. Rec.* 83.7, 81.

'Even without an index, this is the best available handbook on viewdata information...'

Pergamon: *Science, technology and society: needs, challenges and limitations*, ed. by Klaus-Heinrich Standke and M. Anandakrishnan (1980, 624 pp., \$100). Rev. in *R&DM Digest*, July 81.

'The collection is an interesting resource document but, unfortunately, unindexed. At a price of \$100, one should be able to expect an index and better graphics.'

Pinter, Frances: *The future of the printed word: the impact and the implications of the new communications technology* (1980, £10; also pub. by Open University, 1981, £4.95, pbk). Rev. by Tom Norton, *State Librarian* 29.3, Nov. 81.

'There is no reference to the Center in this anthology and it is not easy to discover this since there is no index. This is a disgrace in a publication which is concerned with communication and which is a valuable sourcebook on such a variety of subjects. Surely one of the contributors should have recognized this and compiled an index as a labour of love? Space could

easily have been found by condensing the two sections on official information to a single chapter.'

Royal Society of Chemistry, London: *Specialist periodical reports: heterocyclic chemistry*, Vol. 1, senior reporters H. Suschitzky and O. Meth-Cohn (1980, 522 pp., £69).

Rev. by R. M. Acheson, *Chemistry in Britain*, Oct. 81.

'There is some duplication of material in the different chapters by the different authors. This is very hard to eliminate and in the absence of a comprehensive subject/compound index is not undesirable. Although the absence of such an index can be regretted, the inclusion of a short index could hardly be other than misleading in a work of this nature.'

Simon, Jane: *Out of the ghetto*, by Joe Jacobs (1980, £3).

Rev. by Barry Duncan, *Anarchist Review* 1.5.

'Again, whatever the extra cost, an index ought to have provided.'

Thames & Hudson: *FDR: The life and times of Franklin D. Roosevelt*, by Joseph Alsop (£10.50). Rev. by John Grigg, *Listener*, 4 Feb. 82.

'The book—which incidentally has no index—should perhaps be judged chiefly as a picture book. As such, it can be commended without reservation.'

Indexes tallied

From January to June 1982 the *Nursing Times* reviewed 226 books. 46 reviews mentioned indexes, of which 16 were praised, one was 'thoroughly adequate', 5 censured, and 4 noted as lacking. The reviewer of the Travelling Workshop Experiment's learning package on health studies wrote of 'indices'—rather ironic.

Over the same period *Nursing Mirror* reviewed 85 books; indexes were mentioned on 4 occasions, and only one was praised.

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Others please copy

A rare and refreshing credit at the conclusion of the editors' note in *The black book*, ed. by Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasily Grossman (Holocaust Library, New York, 1982):

'The manuscript of *The Black Book* was prepared for publication and provided with indexes by the researchers, Mark Kipnis and Khaya Lifshits... We wish to express our gratitude... also to Carol Pearce and Cynthia Rosenberger for their work on the index.'

*

Our warm thanks to those contributing to this section: M. D. Anderson (Cambridge), Jane Angus (Crathie), Paul Barnett (Exeter), Hazel Bell (Hatfield), Diana Boatman (Slough), Meg Davies (Preston), Sybil Fox (Finchley), John Gibson (Stourport-on-Severn), Lowell H. Hattery (Mt Airy, Maryland), Cherry Lavell (London), Lionel Madden (Aberystwyth), Helga Perry (Canterbury), Lucy Pollard (London), Elizabeth Wallis (Kew), Anon (London).

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