(Gollancz, 1971) (which also has some divertingly drawn encyclopaedists and publishers among its characters), seems to have lived in a penurious half-world of near-Dickensian squalor, hovering between peccadillo and crime: the encyclopaedia-editor Boat, who has commissioned indexing work from Mantel in the past but recently told him, after an ethical lapse, that he would not require his services again, says of him, 'Poverty and his vices drove him to a despicable action, but the man was not responsible in the higher sense'. As for Death in diamonds by K. Giles (Gollancz, 1967): 'A meek man who drinks when he can get his hands on it . . . He indexes learned tomes'. Well really; try transposing those two main verbs, K. Giles, and you may be nearer the mark.

Finally, the classic Smallbone deceased provides a delightful bonus for indexers with time on their hands: ‘Henry Bohun was once more staring thoughtfully at the little stack of cards on the desk in front of him . . . finding that there were fifty-two of them he dealt out four bridge-hands and came to the conclusion that he could make three no trumps without difficulty on his holding, which included such obvious winners as “The Duchess of Ashby de la Zouche” . . . “Lieutenant-General Fireside’s Marriage Settlement No 3”, and, most promising, “The Reverend the Metropolitan of Albania—Private Affairs”’. He reshuffled the cards and started a card house . . .'

J.L.B.

We are grateful to Peter Greig of the Canadian Society for sending us many of the references used in this article, and would welcome others that readers may contribute.

Moreana — after twenty years

Readers of The Indexer ought to familiarize themselves with a truly original index undertaking: the cumulative index to twenty years of Moreana1. This serial publication is a bilingual (French and English) Quarterly of studies devoted to Thomas More, his circle, his friends and foes which, last year, celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Moreana is the mouthpiece of the ‘International Association Amici Thomae Mori’. The Association and its admirable Quarterly have flourished under the direction of l’Abbé Germain Marc’hadour. Any student of sixteenth-century Humanism as well as of Theology is or should be intimately acquainted with the pages of Moreana. Every issue is vibrant with the energy of its scholarly leader.

Saint Thomas himself would be both astonished and delighted by the accolades he receives in every single issue. No one would deny that More stands in the shadow of a much greater humanist and theologian, Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam. Erasmus, except for the fact that he was spared martyrdom, was perhaps even more deserving of a sainthood. Erasmus, in contrast to Saint Thomas, cannot be accused of having tortured heretics. (See ‘More’ entry (p. 101), ‘persecution of heretics.’) I mention this merely to point out that Moreana waves the banner of Thomas Morus not without emphasis and in doing so opens up a territory that is desperately in need of investigation and elucidation.

And now to the point I wish to make. In honor of the anniversary, two eminently gifted young scholars have compiled a convolute of some 124 pages, indexing the production of twenty years. Let me just enumerate the indexes, section by section: ‘Articles in English’ (9-24), ‘Articles en Français’ (25-31), ‘Book Reviews in English’ (32-40), ‘Comptes rendus en français’ (41-51), ‘Varia idiomata’ (52 f. = Castellano, Deutsch, Italiano, Latine, Nederlands), ‘Poemata’ (53 f.), ‘Biblia’ (55-58), ‘Index personarum et rerum’ (59-124). The last, a truly impressive and imaginative index! One only needs to look under ‘Erasmus Roterodamus’ to find on over three columns a rich and rewarding outpouring touching upon almost any aspect of Erasmus’s work and personality as well as his relationship to other personalities and countries including Japan. Thomas More gets some 8 cols., including a genealogical table covering a full page (104). While Father Marc’hadour is the spiritus rector, it is two young American scholars, Mary and David Bradshaw, who carried out this remarkable task and in doing so created a set of exemplary indexes.

Reference


William S. Heckscher

—‘You will find entries for Antiochus of Ascalon and Antiochus of Syracuse, but not for Hardy, Marx, Nietzsche, Pound, Reinhardt (Max or Karl) or Vico, to name but seven. They are alluded to little enough in the text without adding index to injury.’—Oliver Taplin in Times literary supplement, 30 April 82, reviewing The legacy of Greece: a new appraisal, ed. by M. I. Finley (Clarendon Press).

—What an odd new concept of the function of an index—to compensate for textual neglect!