Index for after thoughts

John Ruskin addressed a series of papers, *Fors Clavigera*, 'To the Workmen and Labourers of Great Britain', from 1871-84, in which he discussed his social philosophy. The letters were published monthly and sold at 7 pence each through Ruskin's agent, George Allen, of Keston, Kent. Ruskin himself indexed the eight volumes published by Allen, 1873-95. He makes use of his indexes in a most engaging way to supply comments on, or corrections to, his original text. We present here an extract from the index to the letters for 1871-2, preserving exactly the style of the original.

The entry for 'Bakewell and Buxton' refers to this passage in the text, protesting about the railway built through the gorge of the Wye in Derbyshire:

'We should like to have been told: 'The valley is gone, and the Gods with it; and now, every fool in Buxton can be at Bakewell in half an hour, and every fool in Bakewell at Buxton; which you think a lucrative process of exchange—you Fools Everywhere.'

Aristocracy, of England, phosphorescent, 6, 17; of Venice, 19, 14 (see Picnic).
Army, the English, according to Mr. Grant Duff, of no use, 15, 10; standing, function of, under type of scarecrow, 11, 9. In that passage I ought to have indicated the function of the quiet scarecrow as that of keeping order in one's fields;—compare 2, 14, at bottom of page, and passage on Horse Guards, 19, 5; the parallel domestic mischief is described in 8, 9.
Arnold, Mr. Matthew, 15, 7.
Art, the author's practical work in 9, 19; laws of its greatness, 9, 20; worst thing conceivably produceable by, at Kensington, 5, 6; Kensington system of teaching, 9, 19; its relations to science,—no one can live by the fine arts, 1, 13.
Artists are included under the term workmen, 11, 10; but I see the passage is inaccurate,—for I of course meant to include musicians among artists, and therefore among working men; but musicians are not 'developments of tailor or carpenter.' Also it may be questioned why I do not count the work given to construct poetry, when I count that given to perform music; this will be explained in another place.
Ascalon, Coeur de Lion's retreat to, 3, 17.
Asphodel, in Elysian Fields, 6, 8; wood-hyacinths, the best English representatives of, 6, 7.
Athenaeum club-house, sculptures on, 23, 5.

Author of this book, his given duty, 1, 5; his political indefinableness, 1, 7; his early life, 10, 7, 24, 6.
Aventine, Mount, at Rome, 21, 9.
Azario, notary of Tortona, 1, 9, 15, 11.

Baby-poisoning, 24, 19.
Badness (see Goodness).
Bagley wood, near Oxford, 6, 7, 4, 22.
Bakewell and Buxton, how reciprocally advantaged by railway, 5, 12.
Ballads, book of one hundred, extract from, 15, 7.
Baptistery of Florence, 15, 18.
Baron, meaning of the word, 15, 6; reasons for decline of baronial power, 15, 9; relation to clerk and peasant, 18, 11.
Bastile, fall of the, a typical fact, 15, 9.
Bedford, Duke of, his costly purchase, 4, 12.
Begging letters, their significance, 1, 4.
Bell at Lucca, inscription on, 18, 6; bells at Florence, 21, 5.
Benevolent persons, the fattest mistake of, 9, 6.
Bible, influence of the style of its English translation, 10, 5.
Bill-sticking at Florence, 21, 6.
Birmingham. Morning News, extract from letter in, 11, 15; singular letter from resident at, 6, 9.
Bishops, in their relation to Kings, 1, 7.
Bismarck, Count, had little to do with German War, 3, 5.
Black country, letter from workman in, 21, 23.
Blessing and cursing, how forbidden and how practised, 18, 4, 7.
Boilers, steam, the gods of the modern, 14, 22.
Bologna, towers of, 24, 13.
Bombay, question as to importance of first telegraphic message to, 5, 11.
Bookbinding, apprentices wanted for, 21, 27.
Bookselling, author's principles of, 6, 6, 11, 19, and see correspondence at end of 14 and 15.
Bort, town of, in France, 14, 13.
Botany, meaning of, originally, 19, 15.
Boticelli, Sandro, 18, 19; his life, 22, 2; his method of engraving, 22, 22.
Boullogne, fishermen of, their religious customs, 20, 20.
Bow and arrow, English and Greek use of, 15, 12.
Bread, Christian life begins in breaking, 12, 26; English lawyer's speech concerning, 12, 14.
Brenta, scenery on, between Venice and Verona, 18, 17.
Bristol Castle, Henry II.'s lessons in, 4, 22.
Brown, Mr. Rawdon, his work on the English in Italy, 1, 9, 15, 12 (note), where please insert comma after 'translation.'
Buchanan, Mr., his review of Morley's Essays, 10, 21.
Bullion, its influx does not enrich the country. 22, 8.
Burgess, Mr. A., 2, 16.
Buxton (see Bakewell).

Caird, Professor, on utility, 14, 8 (note).
Candles, pious expenditure of in France, 6, 16.
Capital, the small importance of to industry, 1, 16; Mr. Mill's mode of increasing, 2, 8; compare 1, 12; Mr. Fawcett's account of, 11, 11; is properly represented by the general type of carpenter's plane, and must not therefore be borrowed, 11, 10; see 22, 13.
Capitalists, 7, 19.
Carlyle: highly esteems force, 13, 4, 8; his teaching of the nature law, 10, 19; abuse of him by fools, 10, 20.
Carol, the God of Love's, 24, 20.
Carpaccio, Victor, 18, 15; pictures by, at Venice, 20, 13.
Carrhagen, 13, 14.
Castruccio Castracani: his villa, 18, 8; his death, 18, 10.
Castles, advantage of England over America in the possession of them, 10, 9; strongholds of injustice, 10, 18; internal police of, 10, 17.
Century, appointed function of the nineteenth, 5, 5.
Chalus, castle of, 3, 19.
Chandler, tallow, at Abbeville, 6, 16.
Chapelle, Sainte, of Paris, how mischievous to France, 3, 10; danger of, in revolution of 1871, 6, 18.
Charitable, constellation of, its story, 24, 3.
Charity, Dante's, fiery red, 7, 13; Giotto's, 7, 22; Sisters of, their black dress, 24, 5.
Charlemagne, 15, 8.
Chaucer, his idea of a garden, 24, 21; his Pardonere's Tale, 18, 12.
Cheerfulness, the duty of, 24, 5.
Chelsea, Henry VIII.'s visits to Sir Thomas More at, 6, 20.
Chinese in California, execution of, 13, 18, 19.

Indexing appassionato

In the July 1983 issue of the Bulletin of the American Name Society, Keslie B. Harder, the society's President, writes of his experience in compiling an index to volumes 16-30 of its journal, Names, covering 15 years. He refers to 'the therapy of drudgery', and claims, 'Mood changes can play different tunes in indexing, causing a set of abstractions to appear that are quite different from the mental condition at another time. Mischievousness, fright, joy, lust, anger, all intrude and have to be somehow brought to a consistency, a straight line.' Engagingly he concludes, 'In evaluating the index that I completed typing into manuscript form nearly three months ago, I now give it a fuzzy passably fair. For this reason I called it 'an index to the second 15 volumes of Names, not the index.'

A glossary for indexers II

Some additions to our suggestions for terms needed for the lighter aspects of indexing (The Indexer 14 (1), 57)

Agoraphilia, or space-hunger: cabined, cribbed, confined by piles of proof sheets, cards, reference books, filing tray, the indexer finds there is not world enough for indexing any more than time. (And where should one put the typewriter if one wished to type one's cards . . . ?)

Card, innumerable: during last-minute editing one card is found bearing a heading—let us suppose 'Whistler, mother of'—and no page-number. You are certain the lady was very important to the text, and you have no idea whereabouts she appeared. You will in any case need to stay up all night to meet your deadline; the only recourse is to start typing and hope that the sight of some other entry (let us suppose 'Father, my, known by Lloyd George') may jog your memory in time.

Card, lost and found: 'Whistler, mother of: 49, 63, 76-91; see also Lloyd George' caught on a woolly sleeve, was carried unwittingly about the house, and is discovered under a chair the day after the index has been posted. Struggle with conscience and win: drop her in the dustbin.

Card, lost irretrievably: Whistler's mother with all her references slips straight off the table into the waste-paper basket, which is tidily emptied shortly afterwards. No struggle with conscience is required: you've forgotten she ever existed and no one ever misses her.

Cries of an indexer, agonized: occur variously as 'I've lost God'; 'Has anyone seen my Ship/s?'; 'My Libido's gone'. No attention need be paid to these; the missing topics will re-appear behind 'Gold Coast see Ghana', 'Sindbad the Sailor', 'Middle age, problems of' or 'Knee, diseases affecting'.

Off-guard confirmation: when one feels the momentary impulse to turn to the index of the book one is working on for information on a topic or character—then one knows indeed the reader would expect to find an entry under that heading . . .

Pernicious meddling: the tampering by author or publisher with a well-constructed index, to its detriment.

Phantom entries: those tempting might-have-beens we must restrain ourselves from including, such as, 'Interest, totally lacking throughout'; 'Fun, not a lot of here'; 'Ignorance, paraded, 57-84'. It lies in our power to gratify friends' wishes to receive recognition in print: 'Higgins, Jane, opinions unaccountably omitted'; 'Buggins, Ernest, splendid fellow, see elsewhere'. But, of course, we mustn't.

Self-indexing: new buzz-term. We'd like to see it done.