An additional useful reference is:

Audrey Adams is Bibliographer of the Museum of London’s project to produce a bibliography of London’s archaeology.

Indexes for the rugger club

We have received from an unimpeachable source the index only to Limericks historical and hysterical, ‘plagiarized, arranged, annotated and some written’ by Ray Allen Billington, Senior Research Associate, the Huntington Library, PhD, (MA Oxon) LittD, LHD, LLD (W. W. Norton & Co, 1981). 101 pages.

The work may be of interest to anthropologists who specialize in post-match more among practitioners of the more macho sports. In a family journal, little indeed may be quoted from this index. It would appear that the text makes reference to the technicalities of the lyricist’s craft:

Harvard University, as inspiration for limerick writers, 15–16; limericks on, 62
Opechancanough, difficulty of limerick on, 28

and some examination of experimental rhyme may be indicated by:

Beckwith, Duke of, foreshortened perspective of, 50

There is some treatment of the military arts:

Parma, exploits of warrior from, 57
Ephriam [sic], crusades with Kay, 76; (we are troubled by the further entry: Kay, crusades with Ephriam, 96 [sic]). Exotic place-names, universities, and young ladies from, and in, exotic, and other, places, and in universities, also receive the editor’s attention.

The index may have some claim to the most succinct entry ever, with:

Sexual activity, pleasures of, 20–101; variant activities of, 20–101

Nevertheless, we fear that we cannot recommend this index to those of a nervous disposition, to the sober, to Queen Victoria, nor a fortiori to any reader of The Indexer. We must however suppose that this pioneering creation of an index designed for the clubhouse bar may of itself have an elevating influence on the tastes of the unfortunate inmates.

J.L.B.

A glossary for indexers IV

Martyn Gilchrist glosses for us the calls from The BBC microcomputer user guide listed in The Indexer 14 (3), 176:

Write to I/O area SHEILA: with best wishes to our favourite Australian indexer, memorably yours FRED and JIM (c/o &93 and &95)

Read key within time limit: or go directly to BREAK, do not pass GOTO, do not collect PRINTout.

Flush selected buffer: Definitely! Actually a half size seed tray is more sturdy than a shoebox. For the larger job two trays can be used.

Remove character from buffer: It happened at Waterloo railway station. It was the compiler of the index to the definitive 5-vol. edition Stress and metal fatigue in fire hydrants, The. Finished to a near impossible deadline and at an almost derisory fee. Nobody told him about the repagination until it was too late.

Cancel VDU queue: further in-house investment in computer terminals resulting in more published indexes. Dependent upon no VAT element input to works.

Disable character entering input buffer event: spurious headings and page references which somehow get into the index. These headings are always out of alphabetical sequence and the page references apply to the previous book. Take a twenty-minute break to restore concentration.

Acknowledge detection of ESCAPE condition: a very satisfactory and pleasing state of affairs. The indexer’s special skills recognized. Allowed to decide style, length of index etc. Complimentary copy of work always sent.

DIM GAP: this little known mnemonic sometimes appears in the more esoteric of text books and what it stands for is Don’t Index Mapnames Give All Places. It’s a helpful way of remembering that placenames on maps in general works are not indexed, but placenames in the text are.

RUN: your options are
A = ALA filing rules
B = BS 1749
O = Other
please specify A/B/O?

240 The Indexer Vol. 14 No. 4 October 1985