MUSICAL BUMPS

There are Duden picture books in other languages too, including:

**Oxford-Duden pictorial French-English dictionary.**

in hardback:
- Chinese (1988; isbn 0195842030. £25.00).
- Dutch (1987; isbn 0198641591. £19.95).
- Japanese (1983; isbn 0198641494. £22.50).
- Serbo-Croat (1988; isbn 0198691653. £25.00).

and limp:
- German (and English; isbn 019869153X. £8.95).
- Spanish (1988; isbn 0198691556. £8.95).


A comprehensive dictionary covering not only musical terms but technical terms from the theatre, acoustics, ethnomusicology, sociology, ballet, phonetics, and publishing.

As for American reference works: the latest edition of the Harvard Dictionary of Music is rather out of date—1970; details of US publications will, of course, be given in Dutches.

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The Highlighting/Underlining Syndrome

This disorder must be well known to many indexers, but it does not seem to have been previously described.

**Definition** A disorder in which the author of a book highlights (in transparent ink) or underlines a number of words on each page of the proofs and demands that the indexer include all of them in the index.

**Incidence** In this indexer’s experience the condition occurs about once in forty indexes.

**Aetiology** Sufferers from this disorder have been professors or leading specialists in their particular subjects—people in authority, accustomed to giving orders to subordinates and expecting them to be obeyed. They are also distinguished by a total ignorance of indexing. All have been males. There is probably a relationship with the obsessive-compulsive neurosis.

**Clinical description** The author has attacked his text with fanatical and totally displaced zeal, marking, in one way or the other, any word that took his fancy. In one case known to me, most words of more than two syllables seem to have been highlighted. In another, a gynaecologist had on one page underlined eighteen nouns, four adjectives and two verbs. This indexer has recently seen an even more severe case in which the author of a textbook of chromatography had highlighted dozens of words on every page, several of which had more than seventy words marked; because one bit of a piece of apparatus was made of steel and another of quartz, he wanted both ‘quartz’ and ‘steel’ in the index.

The subject of this disorder appears to be completely without insight into his condition.

Care has to be taken that the condition does not infect the publisher. Most publishers are aware of the disorder, but one was so overwhelmed by the author’s insistence that she wanted the indexer to carry out the author’s instructions, and since his refusal has not asked him to do another index.

**Laboratory findings** None available. A psychological profile of the author might be helpful.

**Prognosis** Hopeless for the author.

**Treatment** Treatment has to be directed at the publisher. There are two methods.

In the first, the indexer returns the proofs to the publisher with the advice that as the author thinks he knows about indexing he should complete the index.

In the second, the indexer informs the publisher that he/she would be happy to compile an index in the way demanded by the author, but the publisher must appreciate that the index will be a very, very long one, that it will take (say) four weeks to do, that it will be a very bad index, and that the indexer’s fee would be (say) £1,000.00. If, however, the publisher agrees that the indexer shall compile the index in his/her usual way, then the index will be of reasonable length, it will take (say) a week to do, it will be a good index, and the indexer’s fee will be his usual modest one.

Both methods of treatment are successful. As it used to say on a box of pills: Cure Guaranteed.

Dr John Gibson

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Wifely indexers

Another gem to add to the collection of uxorious thanks for index compilation listed in our previous issue (page 192) is found in the acknowledgements to the very funny spoof history by W. C. Sellar and R. J. Yeatman, *1066 and all that* (Methuen, 1930):

Their thanks are also due to their wife, for not preparing the index wrong. There is no index.