

Oneness of index and text

In 'Father of the man' in our April 1990 issue, John Vickers described the reconstruction of a missing volume from the surviving 'index without a book'. The final item in J. G. Ballard's newly published volume of short stories, *War fever*,* entitled 'The Index', offers just such another opportunity.

A page-long 'Editor's note' 'claims', 'the text printed below is the index to the unpublished and perhaps suppressed autobiography of... Henry Rhodes Hamilton'. It further speculates, 'Is the suppressed autobiography itself a disguised *roman à clef*, in which the fictional hero exposes the secret identities of his historical contemporaries?... Perhaps the entire compilation is nothing more than a figment of the over-wrought imagination of some deranged lexicographer.' Here indeed is a fresh category to add to Judy Batchelor's posited 'para-index and anti-index... meta-index, *sur-index* and who knows what further developments' (*The Indexer* April 1989, 194).

We can best convey the flavour and fun of this (five-page) 'index' by quoting from it, inviting readers to supply their own texts. (We omit some page references.)

Chiang Kai-shek... implements land-reform proposals by HRH; employs HRH as intermediary with Chou En-Lai
Churchill, Winston... spinal tap performed by HRH... attacks HRH in Commons debate
Darwin, Charles... repudiated by HRH
Einstein, Albert... deathbed confession to HRH
Eliot, T. S... suppresses dedication of *Four Quartets* to HRH
Freud, Sigmund... admits despair to HRH
Nobel Prize, HRH nominated for, 220, 267, 342, 375, 459, 611
Paul VI, Pope... deplures messianic pretensions of HRH; excommunicates HRH

Yet entries without subheadings may prove even more intriguing:

Anaxagoras, 35, 67, 69-78, 481
Byron, Lord, 28, 76, 98, 543
Dietrich, Marlene, 234, 371, 435
Garbo, Greta, 381
Hadrian IV, Pope, 28, 57, 84, 119, 345-76, 411, 598
Hayworth, Rita, 311
Lancaster, Mrs Burt, 411

Towards the end of the index, entries suggest the fate

of the author and account for the provenance of the missing text:

United Nations Assembly, seized by Perfect Light Movement, 695-9; HRH addresses, 696; HRH calls for world war against United States and USSR, 698
Westminster Abbey, arrest of HRH by Special Branch, 704
Wight, Isle of, incarceration of HRH, 712-69
Younghusband, Lord Chancellor, denies star chamber trial of HRH, 722; denies knowledge of whereabouts of HRH, 724; refuses habeas corpus appeal by Zelda Hamilton, 728; refers to unestablished identity of HRH, 731.

And this strangest of indexes concludes with a fitting flourish:

Zielinski, Bronislaw, suggests autobiography to HRH, 742; commissioned to prepare index, 748; warns of suppressed threats, 752; disappears, 761

Indexes to *Grove*

Some indexes are started for personal reasons. Wanting all material by David James Blaikley (a talented acoustician and long-time manager of Boosey and Hawkes Mfg), Jack H. Smith of State University of New York at Albany ended up compiling extended indexes of the *Grove dictionary of music and musicians*. In these indexes each contributor's articles as well as the contributors are listed, plus contents of various addenda, corrigenda, chronological registers, etc.

Covering editions 1, 3 and 5 of the *Grove* work, these are available in an assortment of diskette combinations, and make it possible to extract data using very modest equipment, or to elect 1440 kb formats for more efficient operation. For institutional purposes, the ASCII data can be uploaded to such systems as Pro-Cite, Ask Sam, Reference Assistant or others.

The indexes allow the user to determine (a) whether topics in question are included, and if so, the authors, by initials; (b) full names of authors; and (c) all articles contributed by such authors. This is done by searching (a) a single file easily chosen from amongst 47 files listing alphabetically all article titles, then from the information displayed finding (b) the contributor in a single file connecting contributors' names and initials, whereupon (c) all of the contributions of an author can be found in one of 12 files alphabetized on contributors according to initial of last name.

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