INDEXES REVIEWED

edited by Christine Shuttleworth

These extracts from reviews do not pretend to represent a complete survey of all reviews in journals and newspapers. We offer only a selection from quotations that members have sent in. Our reproduction of comments is not a stamp of approval from the Society of Indexers upon the reviewer's assessment of an index. Extracts are arranged alphabetically under the names of publishers, within the sections: Indexes praised: Two cheers! Indexes censured; Indexes omitted; Obiter dicta.

Indexes praised


Canterbury Press: Anglican orders: the documents in the debate, ed. by Christopher Hill and Edward Yarnold SJ (1997, £30). Rev. by Brian Brindley, Catholic Herald, 22 Aug 1997. 'The identity of the "Wilhelm:Ebor:" who signs Saepius Officio can be discovered only by reference to "York" in the Index, where he turns out to be William McLagan, the notoriously absent-minded Archbishop of York... The Index is a model of what an index to such a work should be.'


Farrand: Early lithographed music: a study based on the H. Baron collection, by Michael Twyman (1996, 578 pp, £70). Rev. by Ian Mortimer, Printing Historical Society Bulletin, 45 (summer 1998). 'The index is exemplary and reveals what a thoroughly researched and edited book this is. It has well-chosen key words and sub-headings with succinctly descriptive references to topics and can only have been compiled by an indexer totally at home in the minutiae of the subject. The indexer was of course the author himself and it is unlikely that anyone else could have done it.' [Discuss.]

Geography Publications: Down: history and society, ed. by Lindsay Proudfoot (1997, 698 pp, £40). Rev. by Anngret Simms, Irish Times, 30 Aug 1997. 'The detailed general index begins, surprisingly enough, with a reference to Thomas à Kempis... The index of places has its own fascination. Frequent references must indicate places which matter beyond their own immediate local context.'

Hancock House (Blaine, WA): Softbills: care, breeding and conservation, by Martin Vince (1997, 278 pp, $24.95). Rev. in Zoo Biology, 16:00-00, 1997. 'A distinctive and fundamental feature of this book is 11 diets... They are keyed to a Diet Index at the end of the book, whose comprehensiveness is truly remarkable. It opens with detailed instructions for accentors (Prunellidae), proceeding to simple recommendations for alettes, anis, antbirds and apalis (not otherwise mentioned in the text). In all there are more than 200 entries. As an example of the care with which this index has been compiled, I cite three diets for African shrikes. For bush shrikes (Telephorus sp.) and boubous (Laniarius sp.): "60 percent diet G + 30 percent diet I + 10 percent diced fruits, all mixed together". For fiscal shrikes (Lanius sp): "60 percent diced fruit + 5 percent diet I, all mixed."'


Haworth Press (New York): Cataloging and classification: trends, transformations, teaching and training, ed. by James R. Shearer and Alan R. Thomas (1997, 210 pp; also issued as Cataloging & Classification Quarterly, 24, 1/2). Rev. by (SI member) J.B. Bowman, International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control, 27 (2), April/June 1998. 'There is a reasonable index, which is not included in the journal issue version.'

Hyperion (New York): Ballet 101: a complete guide to learning and loving the ballet, by Robert Greskovic (1998, 634 pp, $16.95). Rev. by Terry Teachout, New York Times, 3 May 1998. 'Also included are a glossary, an extensively annotated "videography" for further viewing, a good bibliography and a very thorough index.'

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (New York): Writing reports to get results: quick, effective results using the Pyramid Method (2nd edn), by Ron S. Blicq and Lisa A. Moretto (1995, 228 pp, $24.95). Rev. in Technical Communication, 4th quarter 1997. 'The index is comprehensive and accessible.'

'There is a good, extensive subject index and author/title index and the book is itself clearly structured and well-printed.'


'The index at the end of the book, combined with the table of contents, makes it easy to locate important information.'


'The book is nicely produced and well indexed.'


'Two indexes are geographical and organisational name[s] and personal names. This book should prove a useful addition to any UK reference library.'


'These four volumes of philosophical essays, seductively boxed with a sexy little index... ' [Oh, to have an index of mine described in such terms!]


'In addition to a standard index, there is also a separate index for the names of the biopolymer mixtures discussed in the book, to make it easier to search [for] specific mixtures.'


'Carefully detailed indices [sic] contribute to the “user-friendliness” of W.’s monograph: primary sources (subdivided into authors, inscriptions and papyri), personal names, place names, and a general index.'


'The footnotes are modest and helpful, the indexing sound.'


 '[The appendix] is followed by a concordance of inventory and catalogue numbers (pp. 239-248), and a very useful index (pp. 249-261). ' (Index by ASI member Barbara Cohen.)


'Every item is impeccably presented and authoritatively annotated; there is a wealth of additional commentary. The cumulative index to the last 11 volumes [containing Orwell's non-fiction] runs to 187 closely packed pages.'

Two cheers!


...'...the index is complete and nearly devoid of mistakes...'


'The book would have been made more useful with a somewhat more detailed index. The index is far better on personal names than specific concepts. Accordingly, it will be best used with inspired serendipity. You can find the name of the German national anthem — but not by using the index ("Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit" — in case you wanted to know immediately).'


'Comprehensive indexes include those for subject and title. They are easy to use, although in the case of the subject index it is necessary to use this alongside the contents page in order to trace all likely useful entries for particular subjects.'


'The indices [sic] are generally useful but the subject index could be a little more thorough and I detected one error in a check of about 50 entries.' [How many reviewers are so conscientious as to check the index for errors?]

Indexies censured


...'...some obscure ancient authors are referred to in an abbreviated form (e.g. Nicomach. Geras. on p. 326; no full name in the indices [sic])... The book closes with two indices, one of English and one of Greek words, which, being short and deficient, do injustice, I am afraid, to the toil and contributions of the author. There is no separate index of proper names, and while there are superfluous names in both indices, many are missing altogether (e.g. Diogenianos, Protogenes, Sospis etc.) Moreover, some name references are insufficient; Theon, for example, features in many more cases than the three instances given in the indices. The same holds for Philo, for several other figures, and for some Greek words too (e.g.). For a work like the QC [Quaestiones convivales] an index of passages quoted would be also desirable.'

The Indexer Vol. 21 No. 1 October 1998
INDEXES REVIEWED


'[This is] a really dumb book... it's not as clever as the publisher thinks to have no real order to the sequence of the works of art so that you have to flip through the whole thing every time you want to find anything. There is an index, but it has Leonardo da Vinci listed under “L.” [Er... that's how 1 would index him. Maybe I'm dumb too, or could it be the reviewer?]'


'A novel scheme for indexing links the author’s name in the index not to page numbers, but to numbers in the text near citations and quotations. Apparently this is to narrow the search process, but I do not find it that helpful and I detected several errors.'


'A more comprehensive index would also have been useful.'


'[Waugh’s novels] are driven by comic energy, and it is symptomatic of Patey’s book that its (admittedly inadequate) index has entries for “class” and “crucify”, but not for “comedy.”'


'Unfortunately, he does not define entrepreneurial librarianship. On page three, he asks the question: “How do I define entrepreneurial librarianship?” but he does not give an answer — although the index entry “Entrepreneurial librarianship, defined” refers to page three!... Another important step is “listen to others”, and surely listening is a vital part of communication as well as being something that many of us are not very good at! On page 98 the author states that Ann Wolpert, of the Harvard Business School, is a good listener — yet “listening” does not appear in the rather inadequate index! Another important term which does not appear in the index is “mentoring”, though it is mentioned here and there (for example, on page 33). “Job satisfaction” is not in the index, either, but the paragraph headed “The greatest reward of all”, on page 155, is surely about job satisfaction, although the term is not used.

'The author cites many librarians/ information managers in his examples of good practice, but he is very selective in the inclusion of these names in the index — for example there is no place in the index for John Wilson (page 119), Judy Macfarlane (page 138), or Kate McCready (page 145). Also one person (Ann Wolpert) is granted the privilege of full identification in the index, while all others are entered, unhelpfully, under surname only. It is perhaps not surprising that indexing is omitted from the list of activities covered by the information services “umbrella” on page 162!'
however, were variable, only Gwynedd having general site types such as motte included. In subsequent editions such entries would be helpful in the other volumes for those with particular interests.’


‘One minor quibble is the index, which could have been more extensive to enable easier cross-referencing between chapters.’


‘If the book is ever reprinted, some improvements would enhance its value. The subject index should cover many more topics if it is to be useful; a separate author index should be added; the bibliography should be unified at the end of the volume; and some critical evaluation of recommended works would be helpful.’


‘...they might have told us a little more about some of Sydney’s lesser-known friends — in particular Archdeacon Francis Wrangham, twice mentioned but not indexed...’


‘The production values are much improved, with a clearer layout and far fewer typographical errors, though disappointingly the index still has the same tendency to multiple page references for the same entry, with not enough subdivisions. “Monoclonal antibodies” followed by 42 page references spread throughout the book really is not very helpful to the reader with a specific question in mind, and a better organised index is needed for the third edition.’


‘Typographical errors are generally few in the text, but some are found in the index. For example, the page number for angiomyoiblastoma of vulva should have been 1056 instead of 456, “hemangioendothelioma” is misspelled as “hemangiepithelioma” many times (pages 1097, 1098, 1107, 1110, 1115, 1116 and 1118), “chromogranin” is misspelled “chromagranin”, “pinocytotic vesicles” is misspelled “pinocytic vesicles,” and “Rochalimaea” is misspelled “Rochaliaea.” “Giant cell fibroblastoma” is listed only under “fibroblastoma” but not under “giant cell.”’


‘There are very few errors and the work is handsomely produced, though the publishers might have given it a better index.’


‘Baudelaire in English is the first in Penguin’s Poets in Translation series — an excellent idea, untidily executed. The Baudelaire volume contains ninety-seven poems, fourteen prose poems, a valuable critical history of translations of Baudelaire’s poetry, biographical notes on the translators and a hopeless index of titles.’


‘Its usefulness as a reference text or for casual grazing is a bit impaired by the lack of a decent index. The index lists mainly authors, not concepts.’


‘As a reference book, this history would have profited from a more detailed index...’


‘The index is not without blemishes. Newspapers and periodicals are listed but curiously not the Welsh newspapers and periodicals. “Dr Moon’s embossed type” is under Printing equipment but Fry’s ornamental type is not, and William Moon himself is not indexed.’


‘Examples of uncommon disorders missing from the index of Murphy’s book are bacillary angiomatosis, elastofibroma, angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia, microcystic adnexal carcinoma, and disseminated intravascular coagulopathy.’


‘But now, for the sake of this informative, thoughtful and beautifully researched study, this reviewer feels impelled to beg Bruce Wollenberg or his publisher to check the index. This is an invaluable reference book, but the short erratic index strikes one as slightly mad, and without full and accurate indexing, the value of the book is greatly diminished. A few examples taken at random must suffice here. Among names missing are the Guild of St Matthew, St J.B. Groser, A.C. Headlam (who is quoted as. well as Stewart Headlam), Richard Acland (misspelled Ackland in the text), and E.L. Mascall. T.S. Eliot and W.G. Peck, although mentioned several times, appear only once each, and other entries’ page numbers are incomplete. A hybrid appearing as “Rountree, Seebohm, 14, 27” turns out to be two people: Rowntree, Seebohm, 14, and Rountree, Maurice L. 27.’


‘The author has unearthed expert people with names like Landrum Shettles, Bentley Glass and Paul Nurse (whatever happened to Janette Turner Hospital by the way?) and more than makes up for the miserable four-and-a-half-page index by
providing 25 pages of footnotes and a 21-page bibliography.'
[Oh, good, that's all right then.]

Indexes omitted


'One carp: an index would have been an advantage.'


'As adventure stories go, this is a good one. Irritatingly, though, there is [sic] no index, maps or photographs...'


'Meanwhile, Bloomsbury seems to want us not to buy this book, with its staggering price,... no index, and running heads from p. 145 to 151 referring to someone called "McNeice". Don't let these things put you off.' [Hmph.]


'All this, unfortunately, makes for a slightly dull biography, although there is momentary amusement to be gained from Bloomsbury's assumption that somebody somewhere will pay £25 for a book that, shorn of index and appendices, barely exceeds its 250th page.'


'Knight provides notes to each item, and a glossary, conveniently referenced to the text. There is, however, no index, and the bibliography is inadequate.... So the new edition is not exactly user-friendly.' [What a price for such a slim volume, without even an index!]


'Although we are treated to footnotes at the bottom of the page, exploitation of the riches of the volume is hampered by the lack of an index, marring an otherwise excellent book.'


'As it is, the real mystery for most readers will be how to find anything in Towards the digital library itself; so full of high-speed world-wide search programmes, it forgets to provide the most helpful programme of all — a printed index.'


'The lack of an index should be noted.'


'Atlantis, reincarnation, Egyptology, alchemy — it's all here, although there's no index for checking up.'


'There is no subject index or composite bibliography.'


'Stylistically, the design of the book serves to irritate rather than clarify.... The first mention of a word which appears in the patchy glossary is marked with an asterisk.... More useful would have been the provision of an overall bibliography and an index.'


'I was exhausted by this book.... It was always impenetrable to me. It has no index, so the only way to return to topics is to try re-reading bits from chapters with indeterminate titles.' [The book's title appears well chosen.]


'What is alarming is how poorly served Yates has been by the publisher. In this regard, the absence of both a bibliography and an index, for topics ranging from the Roettgen Pieta of 1370 to Bacon's obsession with the crucifixion from 1933 to 1981, and from a Japanese high school introduction to Hamlet to a study of misogyny in The Enchiridion of Erasmus, is not helpful.'


'Another problem I had was finding something a second time. Since I never quite got the organizational structure down, I had trouble remembering where a certain title was located when I wanted to return to it. I would have liked to see an index that listed book titles and the page numbers they appeared on.'


'And my second serious criticism is the lack of an index (there is, admittedly, a helpful bibliography), though I must go on to concede that is a defect, too, in a number of Dr Barclay's books.'


'The book is long, which may put off some parents; it lacks an index... But it is a very important book, and should be read by every member of the educational establishment.' [So why no index?]

'The editorial insertions and occasional footnotes are sparse, slipshod and inadequate. Where American surnames or book titles are misspelt by de Beauvoir, or the first name is missing, or Russian personalities appear under their French spelling, no attempt has been made to signal a correction. There is no index.' [Confusion worse confounded.]


'... this book (which, maddeningly, has no index)....'


'The genuineness of her democratic instinct is shown by a proclivity, unusual in autobiography, for recounting stories about plumbers or cleaners with as much enthusiasm as stories about Paul Robeson, Kenneth Tynan or John Osborne. (It is indicative that there is no index.)' [Well, that’s one way of looking at it.]


'But the Handbook is missing what is arguably the most important component of any reference book: an index! Shortly after receiving the Handbook, I had the opportunity to decode a rare abbreviation: kb. I was excited by the chance to use my new science guide. I was incredulous when I opened to the index and found... nothing! No index! This is the most serious flaw of the Handbook. While the organization of the book is logical, an index remains essential for quick reference. In the case of the elusive kb, I had no idea whether this abbreviation would be under biology or physics. Had the authors and publishers realized the importance of an index, this book would have been perfect.'


'The two volumes contain the usual indexes, country codes, database providers’ key, names and addresses of producers and vendors, and index of former titles.... There is no subject index, apparently discontinued “in response to our subscriber comments”. Without such an index and taking into consideration the complexities of the other indexes, this directory must be of more use to the professional database user, rather than the beginner.'


'... like the curate’s egg, it’s good in parts.... the fault lies in the commissioning, where vision and risk are notably absent. Finally, publisher Michael Joseph hasn’t done the book any favours. £15.99 seems rather a lot for what is a comparatively slim volume with no photographs and no index. No editorial vision, no women and no index. An opportunity lost I think.'


'... The Perfect Storm lacks an index, bibliography, and source notes, making it hard to gauge the depth and care of the reporting.'


'Supporting this detailed and interactive approach there are — rather than extensive footnotes — embedded references given in the social sciences format and an Index of Modern Authors, as well as an Index of passages. Disappointingly, there is no Subject Index.'


'Jean Roudaut has provided an erudite and sensitive commentary on the works of des Forêts in the series Les Contemporains, although, infuriatingly, Seuil have provided no index.'


'The choice of literature he draws on for his examples is wide; an index would have helped locate fleeting references.'


'... like the curate’s egg, it’s good in parts.... the fault lies in the commissioning, where vision and risk are notably absent. Finally, publisher Michael Joseph hasn’t done the book any favours. £15.99 seems rather a lot for what is a comparatively slim volume with no photographs and no index. No editorial vision, no women and no index. An opportunity lost I think.'


'The book’s usefulness is diminished by the lack of an index.'

Obiter dicta


'One heartening effect of the social changes in our time is that homosexuality is no longer a social stigma to be ashamed of, as it was in the Renaissance. Several valuable historical studies have reconstructed the historical reality of homosexuality in that period in scholarly and level-headed terms. Jardine and Stewart, however, seem like prosecuting attorneys indicting Bacon for
some shameful vice. This adversarial stance presents as a certainty what has yet to be proved; in the index, Anthony Bacon has the entry "accused of sodomy", but for Francis it is "sodomy", tout court. Much of the evidence they cite seems to me tendentious, or just illusory.'


'The text of the book is in English, but the introduction and the index are also provided in thirteen other languages.' [The mind boggles.]


'As far as English philosophy is concerned, it is a pleasure to see Charlie Dunbar Broad accorded respect.... His indexes — for instance that in Five Types of Ethical Theory — were the Wittiest I know (e.g. "England, Church of, The Author's respect for").'

Revenge by index

'Evelyn Waugh, somewhere or other, calls J.T. Smith's Nollekens and his times [1828, currently out of print] the greatest biography in the English language. It's not quite that, but it is an absolutely killingly funny book. Nollekens was one of the great 18th-century English sculptors, and a miser on a spectacular scale: his biographer J.T. Smith spent half a lifetime sucking up to him, only to find, when his will was opened, that out of a vast fortune of £200,000, he had been left a mere 50 quid.

'Forgetting all about de mortuis nil nisi bonum, Smith spent five years perpetuating this superb act of revenge on the old git, with some of the most exhilarating set-pieces in English literature. There's a famous dinner, which begins badly with Nollekens insulting his long-suffering servant, Bronze — "Never cared for that woman — mouth too much like a chicken's rump" — and culminates with the host sending out magnificently for a second meal that woman — mouth too much like a chicken's rump" — and culminates with the host sending out magnificently for a second meal. — Martin S. Pernick, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

'In the index of Etchegoyen's massive work, Fundamentals of Psychoanalytic Technique (Etchegoyen 1991), there is no entry for "body". Nor is there an entry for "emotion". Revealingly, however, there is one entry for "emotional development, primitive". The only entry for "affect" is "affect, and insight" — in other words, thinking about affect. There is no entry for "instinct", no entry for "drive", and one entry for "drives, aggressive, in negative therapeutic reaction".

'How, in a major contemporary analytic textbook... can the body be wholly ignored, and important body-linked concepts such as affect and drive appear only in a negative and marginal role — as "primitive", "aggressive" forces to be tamed by "insight"?'


'[Otto] Bettmann lives on through the [photographic] archive bearing his name. In 1981 it was sold to the Kraus Organisation.... In 1995 Kraus sold the collection — expanded from three to 15 million images by the addition of the United Press International archive — to Corbis, a subsidiary of Microsoft. The current archive is part of Bill Gates's drive to establish a lucrative online database of the world's most influential images — a modern equivalent, says Corbis, of the ancient library at Alexandria.... "[Bettmann] developed his own idiosyncratic indexing, which is still in use," recalls Herbert Gstalder, president of Kraus. "He claimed it had the same construction as Bach. He was a Bach expert. That was one of the reasons he sold up, to devote himself to Bach — and writing." Gstalder never penetrated the Bach reference — probably a Bettmann joke — but he remains in awe of the man.'


'A good deal of juggling was involved in redeploying and augmenting the contents of our Saturday package to make the new seven-section paper you now have before you (an eighth section follows next Saturday).... At least 100 readers [protested].... Where, they wanted to know, were the chess and bridge columns, Chris Maslanka's Brain waves, the Marcel Berlins quiz, Doris and the Red Cat?... The chess and bridge columns were actually in last week's Guardian, inside the new broadsheet Weekend Sport section, but because they were not included in any prominent index or otherwise flagged, some readers failed to find them. The other things were not there at all and a decision had been taken, amid some differences of opinion, to kill them off. Their unexplained absence last Saturday led to cries of anger, distress, disbelief, the like of which I hadn't previously heard in the six months I have been representing readers' interests.' [Maslanka and Berlins were promptly reprinted.]

Ian Mayes (Readers' Editor), The Guardian, 2 May 1998.

'I appreciate Edward J. Larson's thoughtful and complimentary review of my book The Black Stork, on the convergence of eugenics and euthanasia in 1910s America (September 1997 JAH), but I would like to correct one error. In the review's only specific criticism, Prof. Larson writes that "the reader is not told that [Clarence] Darrow was also a vocal opponent of governmental eugenics schemes." However the endnote accompanying my first mention of Darrow states that "Darrow later repudiated eugenics," and cites his widely-known 1926 critique. That endnote is specifically listed in the index under Darrow's name, one of only four indexed references to Darrow in the book. — Martin S. Pernick, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

'Editorial note: Professor Larson declined to reply.'

Journal of American History, 84 (4), March 1998

['Moral for reviewers: always check the index.']

'The Internet is a web of lies. Not everything on the Internet is true, of course — but separating the mendacious from the veracious is rapidly becoming impossible. There is no comprehensive indexing or cataloguing, nor even an agreed mechanism for introducing one. Some quantity of Internet information is actually dependable, its authorship verifiable. But it is not always possible to find it. Even highly experienced researchers can run into difficulties on the Internet.'

Some indexes are as good as a book, as evidenced by Spectator literary editor Mark Amory's forthcoming life of Lord Berners, the friend of Beaton, Waugh and Cocteau and model for Nancy Mitford's dove-dyeing Lord Merlin in The Pursuit of Love, which could be said to make actually reading the text superfluous: "Relations with mother... lacks friends in boyhood... juvenile ballet scores... homosexuality... depressions and melancholy... swims Hellespont... dilettantism... influenza... clavichord in car... Diaghilev commissions ballet from... supposed meeting with Hitler... spoof poem on noses and roses... teases Walton... takes snuff... offends Nancy Astor... sex urge dies... supposed cocaine-taking... declines occupational therapy... in Richmond nursing home." Judging by the jacket's disclosure that he was formerly employed as "ghost writer to the clavichord in car... Diaghilev commissions ballet from... supposed meeting with Hitler... spoof poem on noses and roses... teases Walton... takes snuff... offends Nancy Astor... sex urge dies... supposed cocaine-taking... declines occupational therapy... in Richmond nursing home." [Queenan has clearly not lost his flair for the spoof index

'Nothing sums up the lows, and particularly the highs, of Belushi's lifestyle better than this index listing from Wired, his biography by Watergate journalist Bob Woodward [Faber, 1985]: "Belushi, John: alcohol and; alcohol and Quaaludes mixed by; anti-audience attitude of; bars rented by; cocaine habit of; death of; disappearances of; downers taken by; as drug abuser; ear infections of; effect of drugs on;...'] [Need we continue? This is becoming tedious.]

Guardian, 16 May 1998

'Compared with the dull, computer-generated indexes now so prevalent, the index to America — Joe Queenan's forthcoming book about US popular culture, to be published by Picador — is a breath of fresh air and bigotry. The entries for the fluxen-haired chanteur Michael Bolton, for example, run: "Ability to make 'Yesterday' actually sound worse than the original, 8; federal offences of; 8; likened to ebola virus, 7-8". This is jolly helpful to the reader, if not to fans of Bolton. They may at least be grateful for his tally of three entries, compared with the terseness of "Swayze, Patrick: as lynchpin of anticloning argument, 84", or "Joel, Billy: entire career called into question, 63-67". Even Queenan's editor is not spared. Tucked away under "South... the", chanteur Michael Bolton, for example, run: "Ability to make 'Yesterday' actually sound worse than the original, 8; federal offences of; 8; likened to ebola virus, 7-8". This is jolly helpful to the reader, if not to fans of Bolton. They may at least be grateful for his tally of three entries, compared with the terseness of "Swayze, Patrick: as lynchpin of anticloning argument, 84", or "Joel, Billy: entire career called into question, 63-67". Even Queenan's editor is not spared. Tucked away under "South... the", Queenan-type index and the 'dull, computer-generated' one.]


[Queenan has clearly not lost his flair for the spoof index consisting of 'prize jeers... with un-restrained length of subheadings', on which Hazel Bell commented in Sidelights, Summer 1998, p.7, with reference to his earlier book If you're talking to me, your career must be in trouble (Hyperion/Picador, 1994). His ploy certainly commands attention, judging by the number of contributors who submitted this item. But it would be a pity if there were no happy medium between the jokey Queenan-type index and the 'dull, computer-generated' one.]

Society of Indexers Conference, 1999

The SI annual Conference will be held in Canterbury, Kent, on 16-18 July 1999.

No further details are available yet, but non-SI members should watch the SI website (socind.demon.co.uk) or write to: Moira Greenhalgh, 38 Manton Hollow, Manton, Marlborough, Wilt SN8 1RR, UK

Contributions of review extracts welcomed by the editor of this section: Christine Shuttleworth, Flat 1, 25 St Stephen's Avenue, London W12 8JB (please see inside front cover for requirements)

Closing dates for the next two issues: 30 November 1998 and 30 June 1999.

Australian Society of Indexers Web Indexing Prize 1998

This year's judges will be Dwight Walker (WWWalker) and Maureen Henninger (UNSW).

Closing date: November 30, 1998

Anyone worldwide may enter.

If you index Web sites, create subject indexes to the Web. In general, create online bibliographies with indexes, or a host of other forms of Web indexing please send us your URL and a description about yourself, the audience and how you created it.

You need not be an HTML whiz to enter. You can be part of a team that created a Web index.

Prizes include: year's membership to the Australian Society of Indexers (including Newsletter), an indexing book ($50 AUD) (to be confirmed), year's subscription to The Indexer (to be confirmed)

Details and application form are at: www.speakeasy.org/~dwight/aussiwebprize98.html or email your details to: dwight@speakeasy.org

Acknowledgements

Our warm thanks to the 29 contributors to this section:

Jane Angus (Ballater), Ken Bakewell (Liverpool), Caroline Barlow (Bedford), Herbert Baxter (Ilford), Hazel Bell (Hatfield), Doreen Blake (Colchester), Pat Booth (Reading), John Bowman (London), Michèle Clarke (Hitchin), Barbara E. Cohen (Indianapolis, IN), Auriol Griffith-Jones (Sturminster Newton), Ann Griffiths (Selly Oak, Birmingham), Jane Horton (Burghill), Ann Hudson (Chichester), Nicholas Humez (Portland, ME), Brian Hunter (London), Elisabeth Ingham (London), Shirley Kessel (Chevy Chase, MD), Jean Macqueen (Slough), Christopher Moss (Princeton, NJ), Betty Moys (Badgers Mount), Norma Munson (Rockford, IL), Paul Nash (Perth, Scotland) Richard Raper (Hove), Jane Salusbury (London), Adrian T. Sumner (North Berwick), Elizabeth Wallis (Kew), Liza Weikovke (Stockport), Nancy Wolff (Montclair, NJ), Pilar Wyman (Annapolis, MD)