

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

Allen Lane: *The total library: non-fiction 1922–1986*, by Jorge Luis Borges, ed. by Eliot Weinberger (£20). Rev. by Thomas Wright, *Daily Telegraph*, 29 Jan. 2000.

This anthology is superior to the two previous Allen Lane collections in other respects. It contains competent annotations and a useful index. . .

Atheneum: *Outside and inside sharks*, by Sandra Markle (1966). Rev. by Barbara Fidler, *Rockford Register Star*, 24 June 2000.

A pronunciation guide, list of amazing facts and combination glossary and index are valuable additions to the text.

Cambridge University Press: *The new Cambridge medieval history, vol. 5: c. 1198–c. 1300*, ed. by David Abulafia (1045 pp, £75). Rev. by Elisabeth Van Houts, *Times Literary Supplement*, 16 June 2000.

[Despite some criticisms] this volume is a monumental achievement for which the editor and his contributors deserve thanks. The bibliographies, maps and index are excellent. . .

Dial: *In our time: memoir of a revolution*, by Susan Brownmiller (336 pp, \$24.95). Rev. by Dawn Trouard, *Washington Post*, 30 Jan. 2000.

The book's happenstance methodology [is] redeemed somewhat by a top-notch index...

Edinburgh Geological Society: *Building stones of Edinburgh*, by A. A. McMillan, R. J. Gillanders and J. A. Fairhurst (2nd edn, 1999, 235 pp, £9.50). Rev. by Ian Sims, *Geoscientist* 10(2), Feb. 2000.

Admirably, there is a thorough and effective index. [*Index by SI members Paul Nash and Jane Angus.*]

Faber & Faber: *The Faber book of Utopias*, ed. by John Carey (£20). Rev. by Isabel Quigly, *The Tablet*, 20 Nov. 1999.

The best introduction to the subject of *The Faber Book of Utopias* is not the contents page or the index, though both are useful and send one (me, anyway) scuttling forwards or backwards into the book. No, the best is Professor Carey's own introduction. . .

Fitzroy Dearborn: *Encyclopedia of historians and historical writing*, ed. by Kelly Boyd (2 vols, 1562 pp, £175). Rev. by Paul Smith, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 Feb. 2000.

All the titles appearing among principal writings and all the authors and editors of works appearing among further reading are separately indexed, the index of the latter thus covering a very large span of historical literature and enabling the reader to pursue the work of a considerable number of historians who do not have a personal entry – a faintly forlorn band of spearbearers, this last, but some of whom will be contending for full recognition in a subsequent edition.

Franklin, Beedle & Associates: *Internet today: email, searching and the World Wide Web*, by E. Ackerman and K. Hartman (1999, 286 pp, £35). Rev. by Jane Dorner, *LOGOS* 11(1), 2000.

There's a good index and glossary.

Four Courts Press: *Essays on the history of Trinity College Library, Dublin*, ed. by Vincent Kinane and Ann Walsh (2000, 206 pp, £35). Rev. by Paul Sturges, *Library Association Record* 102(7), July 2000.

It is topped off with a good index. . .

HarperCollins: *Boris Yeltsin: a revolutionary life*, by Leon Aron (934 pp, £29.99). Rev. by Peter Millar, *Sunday Times*, 2 Jan 2000.

Aron . . . has produced a comprehensive and painstakingly well-researched – and indexed – study that will be definitive when the obituary columns allow him to add a final chapter. [*Could this perhaps have been put more sensitively?*]

[see also Obiter dicta, below]

Headline: *The second creation: the age of biological control by the scientists that cloned Dolly*, by Ian Wilmut, Keith Campbell and Colin Tudge (362 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Anne McLaren, *Nature* 403, Feb. 2000.

There is a useful glossary and an adequate index. . .

Kogan Page: *Mining the Internet: information gathering and research on the Net*, by Brian Clegg (1999, 147 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Bernard Williams, *Library Association Record* 102(2), Feb. 2000.

It works very well, making the book suitable for both cover to cover reading and as a reference tool (its role here enhanced by a comprehensive index).

Library Association Career Development Group: *Science fiction, fantasy and horror: a reader's guide* (1999, 416 pp, £25). Rev. by Chris Batt, *Library Association Record* 102(2), Feb. 2000.

On the plus side there are useful indexes listing sequels, series, read-on authors and titles. So as a finding aid it has some worth . . . it provides a comprehensive index of a very good swathe of its three genres.

McFarland & Co.: *Plagiarism, copyright violation and other thefts of intellectual property: an annotated bibliography with a lengthy introduction*, by Judy Anderson (1988, 201 pp). Rev. by Barbara Rockenbach, *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, Jan. 2000.

In addition to her interesting perspective, Anderson has provided extensive author, title, and subject indexes that any librarian or scholar will appreciate. These indexes are invaluable to the researcher at any level. If you are vaguely familiar with a plagiarism case, the subject index allows you to find it if you know any of the key players or details. The subject index also aids in drawing together areas of interest, such as plagiarism and art. The title index is less valuable, but with 610 annotated citations it can be helpful.

McGraw-Hill: *Medical-surgical nursing*, by Charlene J. Reeves, Gayle Roux and Robin Lockhart (1998, 630 pp, \$37.00). Rev. by Diana Mathis, *AMWA Journal* 15(2), Spring 2000.

The 'Appendix,' which is a relatively short list of abbreviations (why not just label it 'Abbreviations?') is followed by an adequate index.

Macmillan: *Annuals and biennials*, by Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix (1999, 288 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Janet J. Cubey, *The Garden*, May 2000.

. . . the index is easy to use and has common and Latin names.

Oxford University Press: *Freedom from fear: the American people in Depression and war, 1929–45*, by David M. Kennedy (936 pp, £30). Rev. by Jim Potter, *Times Literary Supplement*, 10 March 2000.

There is a bibliographical essay of thirteen pages (though an alphabetical listing would have been better) and a fifty-page index with some 2,000 entries.

Oxford University Press: *Invitation to Christian spirituality*, ed. by John R. Tyson (£37.50/£19.99). Rev. by Humphrey J. Fisher, *The Reader* 97(2), Summer 2000.

There is a good index.

Penguin Books: *The buildings of England: London 4: North*, by Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner (1998, xxii + 808 pp, £30). Rev. by Terence Paul Smith, *London Archaeologist*, 9(3) 1999.

A well illustrated glossary (as in all volumes) and extensive indexes are a great aid to effective use of the work.

Rodale Press (Emmaus, PA): *The complete book of men's health: the definitive, illustrated guide to healthy living, exercise, and sex*, by the Editors of Men's Health® Books (1998, 288 pp, \$31.95). Rev. by Jane Z. Dumsha, *AMWA Journal* 15(2), Spring 2000.

One minor flaw is that the key to the background colors used for the various types of text boxes is buried on the Acknowledgments page. Placing this key in the table of contents or in the index might better serve those who are searching for a particular category, such as Quizzes and Quotes. . . . However, the carefully prepared index does reference the material inside the boxes, thereby permitting readers to locate information by subject.

Spink: *Victoria Cross bibliography*, by John Mulholland and Alan Jordan (xvii + 217 pp, £25). Rev. in *Library Association Record* 102(3), March 2000.

The index lists, in alphabetical order, every VC recipient and gives the date of the London Gazette citation. It also names the books in which the recipients are mentioned significantly, enabling the researcher to quickly identify key works.

Yale University Press: *The Parisian worlds of Frédéric Chopin*, by William G. Atwood (470 pp, £19.95). Rev. by George Walden, *The Sunday Telegraph*, 6 Feb. 2000.

Like many Yale University Press books this one is immaculately produced, with over 50 pages of notes and index.

Two cheers!

Clarendon Press: *English Renaissance literary criticism*, ed. by Brian Vickers (655 pp, £55). Rev. by Alastair Fowler, *Times Literary Supplement*, 9 June 2000.

Most of the entries in an ambitious glossary give only a bare synonym. Not being keyed to the texts, these run the risk of misleading. Without getting into lexicography, Vickers might have supplied more analysis: 'conceit', for example, is glossed as 'idea, thought, mental conception, invention'. He treats several hard words perfunctorily, or omits them altogether, like 'poesy' (ie, fiction); 'move'; 'image'; 'wit'; 'decorum'; 'allegory'. The index is admirably efficient as regards rhetorical figures and other brief entries; but the longer entries again needed subdivision.

Indexes censured

Blackwell: *Scholars and rebels in nineteenth-century Ireland*, by Terry Eagleton (177 pp, £45/£13.99). Rev. by Kevin Barry, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 June 2000.

It is . . . an informal study with some large pretensions, and no apology can excuse its multiplicity of errors, its loose thinking, or clichéd ripostes. The errors multiply at every level. Inaccuracies and inconsistencies mar the text . . . Throughout the index there are omissions and false inclusions: there is confusion between the *Dublin University Magazine* and the *Dublin University Review*; Maclise, Flood, Burton, Bentham, F. D. Maurice, Gladstone,

Henry Brougham, David Brewster, Denis Johnston and Samuel Beckett appear in the text but not in the index; many others appear in the text more often than the index allows. 'Feelings' and 'frivolity', however, are both indexed, with a single entry apiece.

Perhaps a distinguished publishing house can treat these mistakes and inconsistencies as incidental, but the carelessness finds its way into what some still consider the higher levels of argument and definition . . .

Bowker Saur: *Only connect: shaping networks and knowledge for the new millennium*, by Trevor Haywood (330 pp, £35). Rev. by Martin White, *LOGOS*, 11, 2000.

To make matters even worse (if that is in fact possible), the publishers need to bear responsibility for a truly appalling index and careless copy-editing.

Clarendon Press: *The Oxford companion to the year*, by Bonnie Blackburn and Leofranc Holford-Strevens (937 pp, £35). Rev. by Donald Whitton, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 Feb. 2000.

If I had any complaint about the way the book is assembled, it would be that things you know must be there are not always easy to find. But here the general bibliography is mixed up with the index of sources, which in turn covers both the works cited, and the reference books and authorities consulted by the compilers, and the excellent glossary gives no references. So the reader has to guess where to find what further information he may desire.

Clarendon Press: *Virgil's experience – nature and history: times, names and places*, by Richard Jenkyns (712 pp, £50). Rev. by Elaine Fantham, *Times Literary Supplement*, 4 Feb. 2000.

There is also a major problem for the reader trying to retrace references: the book needs either running heads or sections for its lengthy chapters (fifty to eighty pages), or again a much fuller index, to help track down ideas which provoke interest. Jenkyns's index lists Hitler, Napoleon, de Gaulle and de Valera (all on page 105), mere frills on his argument, but ignores Apollo, and Hercules; Austin Farrer has two entries: religion and myth none. On the other hand, major motifs, like the pathetic fallacy (recurring many times, and with multiple index entries) would have been better treated once and for all as an element of organization.

Jenkyns's structure is chiefly that of a lecture series on a set text, not one of topic or argument. (It is organization by topic, combined with a full index that makes, for example, Gordon Williams's 800-page *Tradition and Originality in Roman Poetry*, 1969, relatively accessible.)

Faber & Faber: *Promiscuity: an evolutionary history of sperm competition and sexual conflict*, by Tim Birkhead (2000, 272 pp, £9.99). Rev. by A. H. Harcourt, *Nature* 406, 6 July 2000.

I have only two regrets about this book. One is that the index is so sparse, as seems to be the case for so many books nowadays. The other is that, although human promiscuity and its consequences are discussed, 'human' does not appear in the index, not even in the special index of animal species mentioned in the text. The omission is a pity. The book not only corrects some misapprehensions about human promiscuity, but is engagingly enough written for many readers initially interested only in humans to carry on reading.

Dorothy L. Sayers Society: *The letters of Dorothy L. Sayers*, vol. 4, 1961–1957, ed. by Barbara Reynolds (£25). Rev. by Anthony Lejeune, *The Tablet*, 22/29 April 2000.

. . . her care for the technicalities of literary production is agreeably illustrated by a list of stern injunctions to the publishers of her translation of the *Purgatorio*. All these rules are faithfully observed in the present volume – all save one. Miss Sayers abhorred 'indexes consisting of mere strings of page numbers, without classification'. If we look in the index here for 'Reynolds, Barbara', we find 70 page numbers but nothing to tell us which of them refers, for example, to 'Reynolds, Barbara, baptism of'.

HarperCollins: *C. S. Lewis: collected letters vol. 1 – 1905–1931*, ed. by Walter Hooper (£25). Rev. by Murrough O'Brien, *Daily Telegraph*, 10 June 2000.

The editor's only fault is one that many could be accused of: that, in compiling the index, he refers us to pages which do not mention the

subject we wanted to investigate. [*But was it the editor who compiled the index?*]

Hodder & Stoughton: *The Guinness spirit*, by Michèle Guinness (£18.99). Rev. by Hugh Montefiore, *Church Times*, 11 Feb. 2000.

Michèle Guinness has taken on a mammoth task in describing her husband's huge clan. I counted 145 Guinnesses in the (wholly inadequate) index, many of them with the same christian name, and 15 of them clergy.

Library Association Publishing: *Introduction to modern information retrieval*, by G. G. Chowdhury (1999, 452 pp, £39.95). Rev. by Alan R. Thomas, *Library Association Record* 102(4), April 2000.

This work deserves a decent index, but regrettably, the one which is provided falls quite short of the mark. However, it should be feasible to devise a replacement in a new printing.

Among instances of inadequate indexing and referencing, DDC is indexed and has a 'see also' reference to the full name; the full name entry has a 'see also' to the abbreviated form; to obtain the total range the user must add up the two lists of locators (some of which are common to both). Similar problems occur with LCSH and with BT. There is no access under the full name of AACR, nor under the full name for UDC and the latter has a locator error. [*Of all books, it is particularly unfortunate that this one should have a faulty index.*]

Library Association Publishing: *Teaching the internet to library staff and users: 11 ready-to-run workshops that work*, by William D. Hollands (1999, 220 pp, £39.95). Rev. by Anna Katrami, *Managing Information*, Jan. 2000.

The book has a relatively small index, but a fairly good list of further reading and resources.

Rev. by Pat Thornhill, *Library Association Record* 102(3), March 2000.

The book would benefit from some illustrations, perhaps some screen dumps; a good index; guidance on more complex searching; and the use of the various search engines.

Longman: *Crime in early modern England, 1550–1750*, by J. A. Sharpe (2nd edn, 1999, 291 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Malcolm Gaskill, *History Today* 50(3), March 2000.

The only absent improvement is an expanded index, a minor flaw in the first edition. Such observations are trivial, however, compared with the book's achievements. *Crime in Early Modern England* is important not just as a functional vade-mecum, but because it suggests directions in which the subject might be developed in the future. [*But how functional is a book with a poor index?*]

Macmillan: *The final years of Hong Kong: the discourse of colonial withdrawal*, by John Flowerdew (258 pp, £45). Rev. by Jonathan Mirsky, *Times Literary Supplement*, 15 May 1998.

Flowerdew, excellent at confrontational writing if not discourse, does not like [Chris] Patten's style: 'His use of metaphor, for example, shows up his ethnocentrism . . .' It is hard to know what he means by this. There are two references to metaphor in the index, neither of them helpful. Perhaps he means that using metaphors is a British rather than Chinese habit.

Oxford University Press: *Karl Barth: against hegemony*, by Timothy J. Gorrige (£40/£14.99). Rev. by John Davies, *Church Times*, 10 March 2000.

A niggle: there are some infuriating disconnections between the index and the main text. Even OUP nods, apparently. [*And not for the first time.*]

Politico's: *Fourth among equals*, by Bill Rodgers (310 pp, £20). Rev. by John Grigg, *The Spectator*, 6 May 2000.

The book is well produced, with excellent illustrations. But for future editions I hope it will be given a proper index, with itemised entries. A list of names followed by a string of numerals is not worth having – though too often all that we get.

SCM: *Window on Westminster*, by Trevor Beeson (£19.95). Rev. by Leigh Hatts, *London Link*, Summer 1999.

This diary, which reveals much about Trevor Beeson [a former canon at Westminster Abbey], has revelations which may shock old colleagues. The inadequate index means that they will have to read the entire book – but like many books which should not have been published it is very enjoyable.

St Paul's Bibliographies/Oak Knoll Press: *Vita Sackville-West: a bibliography*, by Robert Cross and Ann Ravenscroft-Hulme (1999, £50). Rev. by Stuart N. Clarke, *Virginia Woolf Bulletin* (of the Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain), No. 4, May 2000.

None of this [a series of criticisms] would matter if there were an adequate index, but there is not. Here we are not only in the realm of hard slog, but worse, that of spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar. This is my only substantive criticism of the bibliography, but it is a serious one. Perhaps an inadequate index reduces the use of a bibliography by about a third or even one half. What the compilers are unwittingly saying is: 'If you aren't devoted to the works of V. Sackville-West, you don't deserve to find the information you're looking for.' Secondhand book-sellers and others seem to delight in stating 'Not in . . .' and I foresee 'Not in Cross and Ravenscroft-Hulme' becoming a refrain. There are two indexes: a 'Main Index' and a 'Poetry Index'. The latter is more thorough than the former which concentrates on Section A. Here is a perfectly reasonable question: 'Did VSW ever review any of Virginia Woolf's works?' This bibliography will not tell you – unless you check the 1176 entries in Section E. There are seven references to Woolf in the 'Main Index', all but one referring to Section A. To aid Woolfians, here are another twenty-one: A21, 29; B23, 50; C7; E163, 306, 321, 431–2, 786, 817; G7–8, 11, 14, a2; J16, 23; K6. And how will you find Michael Stevens' biography, by the way? Only by trial and error, but I'll put you out of your misery – it's at J15. The lack of adequate indexes is presumably Mr Cross's responsibility, for he is not only the principal compiler but also the publisher. The index to the same publisher's *Leonard Woolf: a Bibliography* was even worse, and was obviously the result of publishing policy. The compilers anticipate future electronic publication – 'e-commerce' as we must learn to call it. When that occurs, this criticism will be *vieux chapeau*. Until then, the lack of adequate indexes cannot be regretted enough. [*A footnote adds, with reference to Leonard Woolf: a Bibliography, 'This bibliography is more straightforward than VSW's, but with 1566 periodical items and a worse index, it is even more inaccessible.'*]

Sutton Publishing: *The apothecaries' garden: a new history of the Chelsea Physic Garden*, by Sue Minter (£25). Rev. by Peter Parker, *Daily Telegraph*, 27 May 2000.

. . . the index is woefully inadequate . . .

Indexes omitted

Bookseller Publications: *Book retailing in Britain* (1999, 200 pp, £395). Rev. by Ian Norrie, *LOGOS* 11(1), 2000.

Just this selection of topics is further evidence of the breadth of the survey; it highlights the need for an index.

Gracewing: *Pius XII and the Second World War: according to the Vatican archives*, by Pierre Blet SJ (£17.99). Rev. by John Pollard, *The Tablet*, 26 Feb. 2000.

Though this book was first published in French in 1997, the quality of the translation of this English version is poor and there is no subject index. These deficiencies would suggest that it was rather rushed into print for the English-speaking market in anticipation of the publication of John Cornwell's biographical memoir of Pius XII, *Hitler's Pope*.

HarperCollins: *Life without genes*, by Adrian Woolfson (2000, 409 pp, £17.99). Rev. by John Godfrey, *Nature* 405(6787), 8 June 2000.

Most will learn a lot, but may be irritated by the lack of an index, or even reference from the text to the extensive bibliography. HarperCollins, please note.

Headline: *Time: from micro-seconds to millennia – a search for the right time*, by Alexander Waugh (277 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Randolph Stow, *Times Literary Supplement*, 31 March 2000.

It was a worthwhile idea to assemble a book on this subject, and its organization – into chapters headed ‘Initium’, ‘Momenta’, ‘Minutae’, ‘Horae’, ‘Dies’, etc. – is reader-friendly. . . . But it is hardly a reference book for the student’s shelf, lacking as it does both index and bibliography.

Rev. by Ben Rogers, *Sunday Telegraph*, 26 Dec. 1999.

This is, emphatically, not a scholarly book – there are no references and no index – but it is occasionally entertaining.

Kingsway: *Questions of science*, by Andrew Barton (314 pp). Rev. by Rev. Ursula Shone, *Church of England Newspaper*, 10 March 2000.

The list for further reading could be more extensive, and an index would have added to its worth.

Little, Brown: *The third woman: the secret passion that inspired The End of the Affair*, by William Cash (318 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Ian Hamilton, *Sunday Telegraph*, 13 Feb. 2000.

Like other reviewers of *The Third Woman*, I was originally sent a ring-bound proof copy of the book to work from. This provisional (as I thought) text carried several errors (wrong spellings, misdatings, as well as straightforward grammatical absurdities). There were also some questionable ‘facts’ which I assumed would be footnoted in the finished product.

As a result, I held back my review until I’d seen the final text. . . . Well, now I’ve seen the bound version, and as far as I can tell from a necessarily high-speed inspection, it is the same book that I struggled through in proof. The errors I noted are intact, the bad writing is still just as bad, and there are no footnotes. Nor is there an index.

The general impression is of shoddiness and haste, and for this, presumably, we have to blame the publisher’s eagerness to – so to speak – cash in on the current film-link. . . . As readers, all we can do is to hope that Little, Brown get what they deserve. But what do they deserve? Is there a book-world equivalent of ‘straight to video’?

Macmillan: *The promise of sleep*, by William C. Dement and Christopher Vaughan (466 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Anthony Daniels, *Sunday Telegraph*, 30 Jan. 2000.

The book has no index and no bibliography.

Macmillan Reference: *The world today: essential facts in an ever changing world, 2000* (2000, 1097 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Malcolm Stacey, *Library Association Record* 102(5), May 2000.

The new publication makes no acknowledgement of its illustrious origins [the *Statesman’s Yearbook*]; it offers no preliminaries or index. . . .

Oxford University Press: *Bibliography of the works of Samuel Johnson*, ed. by J. D. Fleeman (2 vols, 2000 pp, £280). Rev. by Jim McCue, *The Times*, 14 June 2000.

Here then are two volumes bursting with information. Unfortunately, it is hard to retrieve and understand. A few weeks ago a newspaper from 1791 turned up, which contains *Sunday Schools*, a poem attributed to Johnson; but the bibliography has no index enabling the user to ascertain whether such items have been published.

Nor does it contain an index of the hundreds of abbreviations used: one is referred to a key in the US National Union Catalogue.

Oxford University Press: *Collected poems, 1948–1998*, by D. J. Enright (508 pp, \$19.95). Rev. by Helen Vendler, *The New York Review*, 24 Feb. 2000.

It is a shame that such a wide-ranging book as Enright’s should lack, following its 509 pages, that most elementary aid for the reader, an index. Oxford is pleased to honor its poet by proclaiming on the jacket copy that he has received the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry; but a better honor would have been to enable his interested readers to find, by means of an index, that elusive poem they would like to read again.

Oxford University Press: *The Oxford companion to fairy tales*, ed. by Jack Zipes (601 pp, £35). Rev. by Andrew Wawn, *Times Literary Supplement*, 9 June 2000.

Some will regret the absence of an index, but all should celebrate the inclusion of a comprehensive bibliography.

Penguin Classics: *The fight and other writings*, by William Hazlitt, ed. by Tom Paulin and David Chandler (£9.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*, 10 June 2000.

Another gripe is the lack of an index.

Peter Lang: *The correspondence of Jonathan Swift, DD, in four volumes, Vol. 1: Letters 1690–1714, nos 1–300*, ed. by David Woolley (650 pp, £240 for the complete set). Rev. by Claude Rawson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 10 March 2000.

There is no index to this 650-page volume, dealing with hundreds of persons, books and events. For this we must await the fourth volume, though best practice calls for provisional indexes for individual volumes pending completion of a long-term project. Since this first volume has been several years in the making, the likelihood of an index becoming available within a reasonable time seems small.

Routledge: *Fifty contemporary choreographers*, ed. by Martha Bremser (1999, 224 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Allen Robertson, *Dance Now* 8(4), Winter 99/00.

By its very format this survey book is virtually an index of itself. Even so, a selective index would have proved a useful aid to anyone wanting to compare and contrast or to form links among individual artists.

Sutton Publishing: *Whithorn and St Ninian: the excavation of a monastic town, 1984–91*, by Peter Hill (640 pp, £45). Rev. in *Current Archaeology* 167, March 2000.

The book ends with another innovation, if that is the right term: there is no index. Whether this is deliberate, and the author is saying that in a book like this where everything is laid out logically, there is no point in having an index, I do not know.

Taylor & Francis: *Science in the making, vol. 3: 1900:1950*, ed. by E. A. Davis (1998, vii + 423 pp, £59.95). Rev. by Sir John Meurig Thomas, *Chemistry & Industry*, 16 Aug. 1999.

. . . the book lacks an index or a proper contents page. True, the page numbers for each section are given at the beginning, but a more detailed listing would help the interested reader to find out precisely where the great experiments described in this book are to be found. However, these are minor quibbles concerning an otherwise magnificent book. [*Why must reviewers so often apologize for complaints about the poor quality or absence of an index by calling them ‘minor quibbles’?*]

Viking: *Several strangers: writing from three decades*, by Claire Tomalin (248 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Anthony Thwaite, *Sunday Telegraph*, 16 Jan. 2000.

. . . it will be essential material for some future biographer of her second husband, Michael Frayn. Something that writer will certainly deplore, as I do, is the lack of an index.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson: *Mao*, by Jonathan Spence (£12.99). Rev. by Kevin Rafferty, *The Tablet*, 24 June 2000

There is no index. . . .

Obiter dicta

Jonathan Cape: *Experience*, by Martin Amis (2000, £18). Rev. by Joan Acocella, *The New Yorker*, 19 & 26 June 2000.

Even for an Englishman, Amis had terrible teeth. . . . (In the index, under ‘dental problems’, there are twenty-six sub-entries, including ‘sexual potency and’, ‘suicide and’, ‘war effort and’.) [*Index by ASI member Nancy Wolff.*]

HarperCollins: *Boris Yeltsin: a revolutionary life*, by Leon Aron (£29.99). Rev. by Vitali Vitaliev, *Daily Telegraph*, 15 Jan. 2000.

To me, the most darkly fascinating part of the book is the 'Health' section, with its conscientiously compiled Index listing facts and rumours about the state of Yeltsin's health:

'... hand injury, broken nose, typhoid fever, quinsy, tonsillectomy, collapse, heart trouble, spinal operation, nasal septum operation, depression, insomnia, back and leg problems, heart attacks, heart by-pass operation, illness after election, flu and pneumonia, "acute viral infection", stroke rumours ...'

HarperCollins: *To cut a long story short*, by Jeffrey Archer (272 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Chris Tayler, *Times Literary Supplement*, 31 March 2000.

Most of the pieces are warmed-over anecdotes, helpfully marked with asterisks in the index ...

W. W. Norton: *Lexicon of musical invective*, by Nicolas Slonimsky (2000, 336 pp, \$14.95). Rev. in *Common Reader* catalogue, No. 192, late summer 2000.

Instead of an index, this book – an anthology of 'critical assaults' upon composers from Beethoven through Stravinsky – has an aptly named 'Invecticon,' in which composers are referenced by the insulting adjectives that have been heaped upon them in the reviews collected between these covers. For example:

PIGS (grunting of) Strauss, 193
PIGS (ringed) Schoenberg, 156
PITIFUL INSANITY Milhaud, 124
PLAGUE OF INSECTS Rachmaninoff, 137

The body of the *Lexicon*, arranged alphabetically by composer, quotes generously from 'biased, unfair, ill-tempered, and singularly unprophetic judgments' which the editor has culled from the musical files of the past. An incredibly funny feat of scholarship.

SLA Publishing: *Towards electronic journals: realities for scientists, librarians and publishers*, by Carol Tenopir and Donald W. King (2000). Rev. by Cliff Morgan, *Learned Publishing* 13(3), July 2000.

Unfortunately, this review is based on page proofs, which did not contain the bibliography or the completed author and subject indexes, but I am assured that the bibliography alone will contain over 600 citations, and the academic diligence shown in the rest of the book will undoubtedly be reflected in the most comprehensive index to date of work in this area. [*We can but hope! How common is it for books to be reviewed on the basis of page proofs only?*]

Complaint from a stationery buyer

But [Antonia France's] main complaint is that finding one's way around stationery catalogues is no easy task. 'They are not always very clear. For example, if you want to look for staples you won't always find them under "S" in the index, you'll find them under the name of the make. Equally, my dictionary was under "C" for Collins. They do have a page colour-coding system, which groups things under types of products, such as paper and pens, but it takes some getting used to.'

Dolly Dhingra, 'The office gossip on ... ordering stationery', Office Hours, *The Guardian*, 12 June 2000

Depressing index

What I find most depressing in this book [*Business @ the speed of thought* by Bill Gates, Warner Books, 1999] is epitomized when you turn to the index and look up 'education'. You find: Education *see* Schools.

But this isn't just laziness on the part of the lexicographer [*lexicographer?*]. For Gates' book, like so many others in this mode, is just about how schools can use computers to do what they are doing already, in a slightly modified way, without any sense that perhaps the information revolution can do far more than that.

James Tooley in *Reclaiming education*, Cassell, 2000

Pulped for lack of an index

Shakespeare scholar Jonathan Bate, meanwhile, is still waiting for coverage of his critical study, *The Song of the Earth*. This is not going to happen soon. The first edition (collectors note) was printed without an index and has now been pulped ... [*Publisher's name not given.*]

'The Browser', *The Observer*, 9 April 2000

Smallweed's complaint

Why do serious publishers of serious books skimp on the indexes? Here is an entry from a book I have just been reading:

Law, Charles Bonar. 4, 221, 275, 281, 297, 343, 381, 392–4, 399, 400, 403, 407, 412, 413 ... and so on. There are 34 references, all undifferentiated. What is the use of that? What the reader needs is much more specific guidance, as in: birth, 4; education, 221; employed as a trapeze artist, 275; fights duel with Alma-Tadema, 281. In any case, this may be the wrong Bonar Law. I was looking for the Tory prime minister, whose first name, all other reference books claim, was Andrew.

Lord J of H (Oxford University) writes: Do you have any details of Bonar Law's duel with Alma-Tadema? I can find no mention of this in any biography.

Smallweed retorts with a knowing smirk: Hushed up, I expect. I bet it was over a woman.

'Smallweed', *The Guardian*, 29 April 2000

Sleepless nights for a millionaire classifier

[Srinija Srinivasan, a recent graduate of Stanford University] considers herself successful, not because of what she is worth, she says, but because she loves what she does. As vice president and editor in chief of Yahoo, she leads a team that sorts the ever-expanding constellation of Web sites into categories that will make sense to subscribers. When tough calls arise at work – like whether messianic Jews should be listed under Judaism or Christianity – she has stomachaches that keep her awake at night. [And yet] 'I honestly spend my days in ways that I feel are engaging, compelling and fulfilling and rewarding,' she said. [*Ms Srinivasan, now a millionaire, apparently has no editorial, indexing or information science credentials at all, except for the creation of the site itself. Not even her immense wealth can ensure that she gets a good night's sleep.*]

Leslie Kaufman, 'Personal business: whatever happened to the class of '93?', *New York Times*, 20 Feb. 2000

Who indexed Tolkien?

In response to this query, which appeared in this section in the April 1999 issue of *The Indexer* (p. 149), Rayner Unwin, in a verbal communication to Hazel Bell, revealed the identity of the first indexer of *The Lord of the Rings*, who compiled the index that appeared in the second edition of the novel sequence. She was Nancy Smith, a Radcliffe graduate who was married to a friend of Christopher Tolkien, J. R. R. Tolkien's son. Tolkien senior had intended to compile the index himself, but delayed so long that the publishers were compelled to bring out the first edition without it.

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Contributions of review extracts welcomed by the editor of this section, Christine Shuttleworth (please see inside front cover for further details). Closing dates for the next two issues: 30 November 2000 and 30 May 2001.

Indexes past: The golden bough

Sir James Frazer's history of myth and religion, *The golden bough*, was first published in two volumes in 1890, then in three volumes in 1900 and in twelve during 1911–15. The 756-page single volume abridged by Frazer himself was published in 1922 by Macmillan & Co. (reissued by Chancellor Press, 1994). I quote below sample entries from its 42-page index as an example of an index that makes one long to read the text, and of a type that may make indexers of technological texts wish that they might do likewise.

Africa, magicians, especially rain-makers, as chiefs and kings in;
 human gods in; rules of life or taboos observed by kings in;
 reluctance of people to tell their own names in; seclusion of
 girls at puberty in; dread and seclusion of menstruous
 women in; birth-trees in
 —, North, charms to render bridegroom impotent in
 —, South, disposal of cut hair and nails in; magic use of spittle
 in; story of the external soul in
 —, West, magical functions of chiefs in; reverence for silk-
 cotton trees in; kings forced to accept office in; fetish kings
 in; traps set for souls in; custom as to blood shed on the
 ground; propitiation of dead leopard in
 Animals, homoeopathic magic of; association of ideas common
 to the; rain-making by means of; injured through their
 shadows; propitiation of the spirits of the slain; torn to
 pieces and devoured in religious rites; so-called unclean,
 originally sacred; belief in the descent of men from; two
 forms of the worship of; as scapegoats; perhaps deemed
 embodiments of witches; external soul in
 Anointing stones, in order to avert bullets from absent
 warriors; in a rain-charm
 Ants, bites of, used in purification ceremonies; for lethargic
 patients
 Apple-tree, barren women roll under, to obtain offspring;
 straw man placed on oldest; torches thrown at; as life-index
 of boys
 Bag, souls of persons deposited in a
 Bavaria, saying as to crossed legs in
 Beating a man's garments instead of the man; frogs, as a rain-
 charm
 Bed-clothes, contagious magic of bodily impressions on
 Beer, continence observed at brewing
 Birds, cause headache through clipped hair; absent warriors
 called
 Burglars, charms employed by
 Cat's cradle, forbidden to boys among the Esquimaux
 Cattle, magical stones for increase of; influence of tree-spirits
 on; crowned; Yule Boar given to the; lighted brands carried
 round
 Charms, to prevent the sun from going down
 Chastity observed for sake of absent persons; as a virtue not
 understood by savages
 Cheese, the Beltan
 Clothes, magic sympathy between a person and his
 Columbia, British, use of magic instruments to procure fish in;
 taboos imposed on parents of twins in; belief regarding a
 physician and his patient's soul; rites of initiation in

Conception in women caused by trees
 Continence, required during search for sacred cactus; enjoined
 on people during rounds of sacred pontiff; by hunters and
 fishers; by workers in salt-pans
 Departmental kings of nature
 Dogs crowned
 "Drink, Black", an emetic
 East Indies, pregnant women forbidden to tie knots; reluctance
 of people to tell their own names; bringing back the Soul of
 the Rice; the Rice-mother in the
 Epilepsy transferred to leaves
 Fairies, averse to iron
 Feet of enemies eaten
 Fish, magical image to procure; sacred; treated with respect by
 fishing tribes; external soul in a golden
 Foreskins used in rainmaking
 Gorillas, lives of persons bound up with those of
 Gout, transferred to trees
 Grandmother, name given to last sheaf
 Greek belief that sun rode in a chariot; maxim not to look at
 one's reflection in water; maxim not to wear rings
 Gunputty, elephant-headed god
 Holiness, and pollution not differentiated by savages; conceived
 as a dangerous virus; as a dangerous physical substance
 which needs to be insulated
 Hooks used in magic; to catch souls
 Hyaenas, supposed power over men's shadows
 Impregnation of women by the sun
 Jar, the evil of a whole year shut up in a
 Jars, wind kept by priests in
 Kid, surname of Dionysus
 Killer, of the Elephant, official who throttles sick kings
 Legs not to be crossed
 Lemon, external souls of ogres in
 Magnets thought to keep brothers at unity
 Parrots' eggs, a signal of death
 Pear-tree as protector of cattle; as life-index of a girl
 Personification of abstract ideas not primitive
 St. Denys, his seven heads
 St. Michael, ill-treated in drought
 Salmon, twins thought to be
 Sardines worshipped by Indians of Peru
 Standing on one foot, custom of
 Tobacco, used as an emetic
 Tobacco smoke, priest inspired by
 Toothache, transferred to enemies
 Twins, taboos laid on parents of; supposed to possess magical
 powers; associated with salmon, and the grizzly bear; called
 children of the sky; water poured on graves of; parents of,
 thought to be able to fertilise plantain trees
 Venison, ill effects of eating
 Watchdogs, charm to silence
 Whale's ghost, fear of injuring
 Witchetty grubs

Hazel K. Bell, *Hatfield*