

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, under the sections: Indexes praised; Two cheers!; Indexes censured; Indexes omitted; Obiter dicta.

Indexes praised

ABC-Clio: *Encyclopedia of international peace-keeping operations*, ed. by Oliver Ramsbotham and Tom Woodhouse (1999, £39.95). Rev. by J. D. Hendry, *Library Association Record* **102** (9), Sept. 2000.

The sheer complexity of the subject could have been a barrier to using this book but there are three clear routes available. First, by looking up the country (for major missions); second, by the name of the mission under the UN designation; third, by accessing the comprehensive and cross-referenced index.

ABC-Clio: *The great archaeologists* (Part I of *Encyclopaedia of Archaeology*), ed. by Tim Murray (1999, 2 vols, 950 pp, £95). Rev. by Peter Woodhead, *Library Association Record* **102**(10), Oct. 2000.

There is also an alphabetical list of entries, brief notes on the contributors, a thoughtful essay on the art of archaeological biography, a helpful glossary, a full subject index, and more than 100 illustrations (some not of the highest quality).

Academic Press: *Encyclopedia of human nutrition*, ed. by Michele J. Sadler, J. J. Strain and Benjamin Caballero (1999, 1973 pp + 104 pp of appendices, 98 pp of index, £495). Rev. by Peter Ellis, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* **35**, Oct. 2000.

Many of the reviews are extremely well written, with typographical errors kept to a minimum, and include high-quality illustrations and a contents list and an index that seems to be both accurate and comprehensive.

Academic Press: *Laboratory methods in food microbiology*, by Wilkie F. Harrigan (1998, 532 pp, £34.95). Rev. by Jim Bruce, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* **35**(4), Aug. 2000.

The work is well indexed and desired subject matter is easily found.

Aslib: *Information management in the voluntary sector*, by Diana Grimwood-Jones and Sylvia Simmons (1998, 450 pp). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World* **101**(1157).

There is also a useful list of main gateway Web sites for voluntary organisations, adequate index and biographical information about the contributors.

Berkley: *For the love of books*, by Ronald B. Shwartz (297 pp, \$13). Rev. in *Common Reader Catalog* no. 194.

The index alone is a joy to browse.

Birkhauser (Boston): *Asthma: epidemiology, anti-inflammatory therapy and future trends*, ed. by Mark A. Giembycz and Brian J. O'Connor (2000, 206 pp, \$219). Rev. by Rosalind L. Smyth, *New England Journal of Medicine* **343**(22), 30 Nov. 2000.

On the plus side, each chapter is preceded by a list of all its headings and subheadings, which I found very helpful for navigating the book. There is also a useful index at the end.

Blackie: *Dairy chemistry and biochemistry*, by P. F. Fox and P. L. H. McSweeney (1998, 478 pp, £79). Rev. by Barry A. Law, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* **35**(4), Aug. 2000.

Indexing is comprehensive and logical and it is generally easy to find one's way around it.

Blackie: *Functional properties of food macromolecules* (2nd edn), ed. by S. E. Hill, D. A. Ledward and J. R. Mitchell (1998, 348 pp, £99). Rev. by Edwin R. Morris, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* **35**, Oct. 2000.

Each chapter includes an extensive list of references and there is a well-constructed index to the whole volume.

Blackie/Chapman & Hall: *Flavor of meat, meat products and seafoods* (2nd edn), ed. by F. Shahidi (1998, 429 pp, £33). Rev. by P. Howgate, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* **35**(4), Aug. 2000.

The text comprises 429 pages of text plus contents and index, and is well produced and printed. At what I consider a modest price for such a specialist book, it must represent excellent value for money.

Blackstone Press: *Blackstone's civil practice 2000*, ed. by Charles Plant (2000, 2900 pp, £99). Rev. in *Legal Executive Journal*, July 2000.

. . . its great value is in its wonderful referencing, indexing and presentation. [*Index by SI member Moira Greenhalgh.*]

Blackwell: *A companion to the American Revolution*, ed. by Jack P. Greene and J. R. Pole (778 pp, £80). Rev. by Hugh Brogan, *Times Literary Supplement*, 20 Oct. 2000.

In short, this is a reference work to treasure. It is laid out in six parts, ninety chapters and a substantial chronology (I must also commend the really useful index). . .

Cambridge University Press: *The Cambridge history of the book in Britain, vol 3: 1400–1557*, ed. by Lotte Hellinga and J. B. Trapp (1999, xxiv, 743 pp, £85). Rev. by Peter Hoare, *Library Association Record* **102**(8), Aug. 2000.

Two pages of the excellent index are devoted to libraries, but many librarians and library historians may well want to read further, appreciating the expert analysis and immaculate documentation of a wide range of what is often unpublished evidence.

Cambridge University Press: *The correspondence of Charles Darwin, II: 1863*, ed. by Frederick Burkhardt, Duncan H. Porter et al. (1999, xlii + 1038 pp, £55). Rev. by MRDS, *The Naturalist* **125** (April–June 2000).

A further volume in this remarkable series . . . As ever, a very high standard of editing and publishing has been maintained, the letters supported by meticulous textual apparatus, together with appendices, a biographical register, bibliography, index to correspondence and a most detailed index [*compiled by SI member Jean Macqueen*].

Cambridge University Press: *Greater medieval houses of England and Wales 1300–1500. Vol 1: Northern England*, by Anthony Emery (1996, 435 pp, £80). Rev. by Julian Munby, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **CL1** (1998).

The index should be used to find hidden entries: Finchale Priory in Beaurepaire, and Levens in Sizergh; while hidden chapters on John Lewyn (3) or medieval households (13) may easily be missed on superficial inspection.

Martin Dunitz: *Cancer and the skeleton*, ed. by Robert D. Rubens and Gregory R. Mundy (2000, 286 pp, \$125). Rev. by Paul R. Algra, *New England Journal of Medicine* **343**(12), 21 Sept. 2000.

Complete reference lists, updated through 2000, follow each chapter, and the book concludes with a detailed index.

Faber: *Mozart's letters, Mozart's life: selected letters*, tr. and ed. by Robert Spaethling (479 pp, £25). Rev. by Fiona Maddocks, *Observer*, 24 Sept. 2000.

Some two-thirds of the surviving letters appear, grouped chronologically with biographical commentary (skimpy but adequate), annotation and an excellent index.

Rev. by Anthony Pryer, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 Sept. 2000. Mozart had no consistent pattern of spelling, so Spaethling has deliberately misspelled the English equivalents (but not, thank God, in the index).

Rev. by Michael Kennedy, *Sunday Telegraph*, 1 Oct. 2000.

This is a splendid volume and its value is enhanced by a marvellous index.

Faber: *Raymond Roussel and the republic of dreams*, by Mark Ford (2000, 322 pp, £25). Rev. by David Bellos, *Daily Telegraph*, 9 Dec. 2000.

Less a biography than a reader's guide, *Raymond Roussel and the republic of dreams* could be described as an academic book were it not so stylishly written and quirkily constructed. (I must add that the scholarly bibliography and the excellent index are not quirky at all.) [Index by SI member Hazel Bell.]

Fitzroy Dearborn: *Encyclopedia of human rights issues since 1945*, by W. E. Langley (1999, 392 pp, £51.95). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *Library Association Record* **102**(8), Aug. 2000.

A straightforward alphabetical arrangement is used and material is easily accessible both from the cross-references and the detailed index.

HarperCollins: *Shadows of a princess: Diana, Princess of Wales 1987–1996*, by P. D. Jephson (2000, £17.99). Rev. by Susannah Herbert, *Daily Telegraph*, 11 Oct. 2000.

The index of Patrick Jephson's 'intimate account' of life in the service of Diana, Princess of Wales is a thought-provoking read – if you just skip through to the Ds and let your eyes rest on the entries below 'Diana'. 'Artistic temperament' sits next to 'brutal pragmatism' and 'power to heal' nestles snugly between 'photo shoots' and 'prolific note-writer'. 'Moods' scores seven page references, one more than 'vulnerability', but her 'spiritual hunger', 'paranoia' and 'clothing allowance' get equal billing . . .

Was ever the alphabet so aptly applied? Her compassion may get 17 mentions, but the indexer's methodical hand removes the halo as swiftly as it is given, placing 'cynical exploitation' – four references – bang next door. . . .

To some, she will always be the Madonna of the Smudged Mascara – the Establishment's victim and martyr as offered up on *Panorama*. To others, she remains the destructive epitome of touchy-feely populism . . . To the rest of us – including the valiant anonymous indexer, charged to bring formal order to Jephson's account – she is both . . .

Give me an honest hatchet job – or an indexer's cool list of abstract nouns . . . anything rather than this cod-sympathetic squelch.

Houghton Mifflin: *Focus guide to the birds of North America*, by Kenn Kaufman (\$20), rev. by Marie Winn, *Wall Street Journal*, 24 Nov. 2000.

Geared more for the beginning and intermediate birder, Mr Kaufman's book is compact and uniquely user-friendly, with handy indexes and color-keyed tabs for easy reference . . .

Joint Nature Conservation Committee/Chapman and Hall: *British tertiary stratigraphy (Geological Conservation Review Series no. 15)*, by B. Daley and P. Balson (1999, 388 pp, £60). Rev. by Charlie Swanborough, *Geoscientist* **10**(11), Nov. 2000.

There is a useful glossary and the book is comprehensively indexed.

Kluwer Academic Publishers: *Biochemistry and molecular biology of antimicrobial drug action* (5th edn), by T. J. Franklin and G. A. Snow (1998, ix + 166 pp, £69/ \$122.13). Rev. by Ian Chopra, *Trends in Microbiology* **7**(12), Dec. 1999.

The book is also well indexed.

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).

Lippincott Williams and Wilkins: *Essentials of otolaryngology* (4th edn), by F. E. Lucente and G. Har-El. Rev. by David E. Wood, *American Journal of Otolaryngology* **21**.

The subject index is extensive.

Mainstream Publishing: *Disneyland Paris*, by Tania Alexander (£7.99). Rev. by Dee O'Connell, *The Observer*, 18 June 2000.

Its index and star rating . . . will provide useful shortcuts for harassed parents.

Mosby: *Anesthesia and perioperative complications* (2nd edn), ed. by J. L. Benumof and L. J. Saidman (1999, 832 pp, \$130). Rev. by Elizabeth A.M. Frost, *Journal of Neurosurgical Anesthesiology* **12**(3).

The book is well-illustrated and indexed.

OCLC: *Dewey for Windows* (2000, CD-ROM, price dependent upon use). Rev. by I. C. McIlwaine, *Library Association Record* **102** (9), Sept. 2000.

The second version (2.00) of *Dewey for Windows* incorporates a number of improvements to its two predecessors (*DJW* and *Electronic Dewey*) . . . The index incorporates a greater number of built classmarks than previously.

Oxford University Press: *The medieval landscape of Wessex* (Oxbow Monograph no. 46), ed. by Michael Aston and Carezza Lewis (1994, 288 pp, £28). Rev. by Grahame Soffe, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **CLI**, 1998.

Most of the papers, derived from both large- and small-scale work, are solidly based on the most recent research, some unpublished. This together with a useful index and extensive notes and references to each paper, make it an important statement of existing knowledge and thought, and a vital basis of future research.

Pantheon Books: *The messenger: the rise and fall of Elijah Muhammad*, by Karl Evanzz (1999, 667 pp, \$28.50). Rev. by Anthony Walton, *Harper's Magazine*, Sept. 2000.

His exhaustive appendixes, notes, bibliography, and index take up almost a third of the text, and with these pages he has given scholars of African-American history and those interested in the events of the 1950s and 1960s a much needed and heretofore lacking archive.

Routledge: *Health, civilization and the state: a history of public health from ancient to modern times*, by Dorothy Porter (1999, 376 pp, £50 hbk, £16.99 pbk). Rev. by Patrick Vaughan, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* **2000**, **78**(9).

There is an excellent index.

W. B. Saunders: *Contemporary nutrition support practice: a clinical guide*, by L. E. Matarese and M. M. Gottschlich (1998). Rev. by J. P. Howard, *Coronary Health Care* (2000) **4**(1).

. . . it is generally well indexed.

Sidgwick and Jackson: *Just a man: the real Michael Hutchence*, by Patricia Glassop and Tina Hutchence (£16.99). Rev. by Aidan Smith, *The Scotsman*, 1 Nov. 2000.

I don't have the heart to tell them I found it a bit jumbled, with each of them anonymously responsible for alternate chunks, but there's a useful index should we have forgotten anything about the doomed union of a rock star who liked to be seen in black leather trousers and once wrote a song called *Suicide Blonde* . . . and a rock

chick who just liked to be seen, now also dead. There's 'Hutchence, Michael, attraction to women, depression, drug use', and there's 'Yates, Paula, pursuit of Michael, difficulties over children, suicide attempt'.

Simon & Schuster: *Gang of five*, by Nina J. Easton (\$27.00). Rev. by Jonah Goldberg, *Wall Street Journal*, 17 Aug. 2000.

Gang of Five is a valuable resource. It is certainly the best account by a mainstream reporter of the conservative activists who drove the ideological battles of the 1990s. . . . The book's crammed index – no doubt hot summer reading among inside-the-beltway conservatives – will be especially helpful to members of the 'What is Kristol [Bill – editor of the *Weekly Standard*] thinking?' club.

Sterling Publishers: *The Mazruiana collection: a comprehensive annotated bibliography of the published works of Ali A. Mazrui, 1962–1997*, compiled by Abdul Samed Bemath (1998, xiii + 348 pp, £14.50). Rev. by Terry Barringer, *African Affairs* 99(397), Oct. 2000.

Competent author and subject indexes enable the user to navigate with ease.

Theime: *Advanced surgical navigation*, by Eben Alexander III and Robert J. Maciunas (1999). Rev. by I. R. Whittle, *Journal of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh*, 2000.

It is easy to access because of good referencing and indexing and generally it is very easy to read.

University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science: *Story: from fireplace to cyberspace – connecting children and narrative*, by Betsy Hearne, Janice M. Del Negro et al. (1998, 143 pp, \$21.95). Rev. by Mike Freeman, *New Library World* 101(1157).

Good bibliographies and a clear index all help to make this a stimulating and absorbing read for all libraries and students interested in developing reading and the imagination – not just children's reading but adults as well.

Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften: *Arthur Schnitzler: Tagebuch 1931, Gesamtverzeichnisse 1879–1931*, ed. by Peter Michael Braunwarth (637 pp, ASch. 490). Rev. by Leo A. Lensing, *Times Literary Supplement*, 13 Oct. 2000.

Looking up the film references alone in the 'Index of Persons and Titles of Works' is an apt reminder of the astonishing feat of scholarly archaeology performed by Peter Michael Braunwarth and his colleagues, all old hands at Schnitzler philology. Their listings of dates as well as brief facts about family and profession for most of the 8,740 persons in the 'General Index' also included in the final volume of the *Tagebuch* make many connections in Schnitzler's life and work visible for the first time. Those names which remain unidentified, among them one Irma, two Minnas and three Mizis, say so much about both Schnitzler's habits and the mores of the era that they could be part of the text. The General Index also holds some unexpected pleasures in store. Did Schnitzler read Kafka? In Hohenschwangau, of all places, where he stayed while touring what he called the 'regal kitsch' of Neuschwanstein, he records reading Kafka's very different *Castle* on the evenings of August 19 and 21, 1928; on each of the following mornings he begins his journal entry with the text of a dream. Schnitzler dreaming of Kafka? Psychoanalysts will want to read carefully.

Wayne State University Press: *A reference guide to modern Armenian literature, 1500–1920*, by Kevork B. Bardakjian (714 pp, £42.50). Rev. by John A. C. Greppin, *Times Literary Supplement*, 29 Sept. 2000.

The book . . . is superbly indexed, and once Bardakjian's transliteration scheme is mastered, there are no problems locating pertinent data.

Weidenfeld: *Daring to hope: the diaries and letters of Violet Bonham Carter, 1946–1969*, ed. by Mark Pottle (431 pp, £25). Rev. by Alan Watkins, *Spectator*, 19 Aug. 2000.

There is no Fairlie to be found in the excellent index because he is not in the text. [*Fair enough.*]

Wordwell: *Excavations 1998*, ed. by Isabel Bennett (£15). Rev. in *Archaeology Ireland*, autumn 2000.

What also marks this volume as an important resource is that it contains indexes to all the excavations reported on since 1969 by year, location and type (compiled by Eoin Bairéad). Excellent value at £15.

Two cheers!

Fayard (Paris): *L'espace du roi: la cour de France au château de Versailles, 1682–1789*, by William R. Newton (588 pp, 295Fr.). Rev. by John Rogister, *Times Literary Supplement*, 17 Nov. 2000.

Although the publishers, Fayard, have gone to great pains to print material and notes, together with a bibliography and a comprehensive index, the author has been ill-served by them. If this is to be a work of reference, the reader needs to be able to relate the rooms listed and numbered in the text with the plans provided. . . . Some, but not all, of the plans have been adapted to Newton's numbering.

W. B. Saunders: *Nelson textbook of pediatrics* (16th edn), ed. by Richard E. Behrman, Robert M. Kliegman and Hal B. Jenson (2000, 2414 pp, \$110). Rev. by Norman J. Sissman, *Journal of the American Medical Association* 284(3), 19 July 2000.

In an informal test of Nelson's completeness, I have, over the past few weeks, searched through it for whatever relatively esoteric topics have come randomly to mind. I found index listings and informative descriptions of familial Mediterranean fever and hypokalemic periodic paralysis. Vocal cord dysfunction was not in the index but was featured appropriately under the differential diagnosis of asthma. I found no listing of the 'BAER test,' but it was indeed there, under 'brain stem evoked response, auditory.' In fact, I found everything I looked for, with the single exception of 'mucositis.' So, by my criterion of being encyclopedic, the new Nelson passes with flying colors.

W. B. Saunders: *Principles and practice of ophthalmology* (vols 1–6), ed. by Daniel M. Albert, Frederick A. Jakobiec et al. (2nd edn, 2000, 5582 pp, \$950). Rev. by Benjamin Ticho, *Journal of the American Medical Association* 284(10), 13 Sept. 2000.

The index is significantly improved from the first edition, which had numerous errors of omission and commission. Despite the 138 index pages, some listings remain elusive, however. In this respect, the CD version has some advantages. The text version had no listing for cri du chat syndrome, while the computer search was immediately successful.

Scarecrow Press: *On account of sex: an annotated bibliography on the status of women in librarianship, 1993–1997*, by Betsy Kruger and Catherine A. Larson (2000, 304 pp, £48.75). Rev. by Evelyn Kerslake, *Library Association Record* 102(9), Sept. 2000.

The utility is enhanced by three indexes – arranged by author, geography and subject. For the most part, these were thorough. However, the omission of certain terms which are contained in the citations – such as 'men' and 'masculinity' – was disappointing. The geographical index illustrates the extent to which the volume is dominated by American entries, although there are numerous UK and German citations.

Society of Indexers: *Anthology for the Millennium* (1999, v + 66 pp). Rev. by John Scott Cree, *Library Association Record* 102(9), Sept. 2000.

Three pages out of 66 are devoted to useful subject and author indexes, although there is an unhelpful (joke?) reference to 'chain indexing'.

World Conservation Press: *Global biodiversity: earth's living resources in the 21st century*, by B. Groombridge and M. D. Jenkins (2000, 246 pp, £29.99). Rev. by Andrew Balmford, *Oryx* 34(4).

Unlike its predecessor, this volume does at least have an index, but this still fails to do justice to the information content of the text, and could have been usefully supplemented by a glossary.

Indexes censured

Allen Lane, The Penguin Press: *The changing faces of Jesus*, by Geza Vermes (2000, 274 pp, £18.99).

SCM Press: *Jesus: the legacy of Christianity* (1999, xiv + 295 pp, £14.94). Both rev. by Philip Hillyer, *The Expository Times* **111**, Sept. 2000.

One final grumble. Like too many recent works, neither of these two books has an adequate index. Kuitert offers a list of persons referred to in the text 'To make passages easier to find'! Since footnotes are deliberately eschewed (the blurb makes a virtue of this) and many of the references are mere allusions, this is totally valueless. Vermes provides no index at all.

Blackwell Science: *Textbook of pediatric dermatology*, ed. by John Harper, Arnold Oranje and Neil Prose (2000, 2 vols, 1931 pp, \$495). Rev. by Seth J. Orlow, *New England Journal of Medicine* **343**(10), 7 Sept. 2000.

Given the wealth of information provided in the two volumes of this textbook, the index could also be improved. For example, pyogenic granuloma is listed not under 'pyogenic granuloma' but rather under 'granuloma, pyogenic' and the infrequently used term 'granuloma pyogenicum.'

Cambridge University Press: *General geocryology*, by E. D. Yershov (1998, 580 pp, \$120). Rev. by J. Murton, *Quaternary Science Reviews* **19**, Feb. 2000.

And more patience is required for subject searching, to compensate for the meagre index, which for example makes only one reference to segregated 'migration' ice and 4 more to permafrost that is relict, epigenetic or syngenetic.

Cambridge University Press: *Microbiology in action*, ed. by J. Heritage et al. (1999, xv + 290 pp, £5/\$54.95 hbk, £12.95/\$20.95 pbk.) Rev. by Charles W. Penn, *Trends in Microbiology* **7**(12), Dec. 1999.

The index is not fully comprehensive and is sometimes quirky – BSE is not listed and again, I thought it was not covered until I looked for the full title of the disease (which is seldom used in conversation).

Cape: *The Cliveden set: portrait of an exclusive fraternity*, by Norman Rose (£20). Rev. by Andrew Roberts, *The Daily Telegraph*, 19 Aug. 2000.

For an important work of reference this otherwise excellent book has one serious flaw. It has the worst Index I have seen in a decade of reviewing history books. Wrong attributions, misspellings, people appearing twice under different names and appellations, nicknames given without real names, and so on and so on. It was compiled without a proper understanding of the complexities of aristocratic nomenclature, making parts of it virtually useless. It is a blot on the good name of Jonathan Cape that it should have been published in what looks like an entirely unedited state, although of course the author must also bear some responsibility.

Chronicle Books: *The Beatles anthology*, by The Beatles (367 pp, \$60). Rev. by Mim Udovitch, *New York Times*, 8 Oct 2000.

Selected captions appear in an index in the back, but they are not comprehensive.

Earthscan: *Against the grain: the genetic transformation of global agriculture*, by Marc Lappé and Britt Bailey (1999, 163 pp, £15.99). Rev. by Barry A. Law, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* **35**(4), Aug. 2000.

The book as a whole would have benefited from a more comprehensive index . . .

Greenhill Books: *The dictionary of military quotations*, ed. by Peter G. Tsouras (574 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Alun Chalfont, *The Spectator*, 25 Nov. 2000.

This is a valuable addition to the literature of reference. If there is to be a criticism, it must be of the indexing, which is confused and often misleading. There is nothing here like the keyword index of the *Oxford [Dictionary of Quotations]*, and tracking down a half-remembered quotation is a laborious endeavour. Indeed, exhaustive investigation has so far failed to turn up one of the most famous military quotations of all – Samuel Johnson's remark that everyone thinks meanly of himself for not having been a soldier, or for not having been at sea. In the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* it is necessary only to find 'soldier' in the index.

Humana (Totowa): *Endocrinology of breast cancer*, ed. by Andrea Manni (1999, x + 391 pp, \$125.) Rev. by Frederick Naftolin, *Trends on Endocrinology and Metabolism* **11**(1), 2000.

The contributions are quite up to date and are augmented by a subject index . . . The publisher is also at fault for not furnishing an exhaustively developed and cross-referenced subject index that would allow the book to serve as a more valuable and lasting resource.

Leicester University Press: *Policing provincial England, 1829–1856: The politics of reform*, by David Phillips and Robert Storch (1999, 342 pp, £55). Rev. by Peter Christie, *Local Historian (Journal of the British Association for Local History)* **30**(3), Aug. 2000.

I have only one complaint: the index is so patchy as to be almost useless, indeed place-names are virtually absent so making local historians gnash their teeth in rage.

McGraw-Hill: *Textbook of dermatopathology*, by R. Barnhill (1998, 909 pp). Rev. by Arno Rütten, *Dermatopathology: practical and conceptual* **6**(4), Oct.–Dec. 2000.

A long index at the end promises that everything in dermatopathology can be found there. You will discover some things (that I never use for my work) like Winterbottom's sign, wattle, Woolf's syndrome, Harder's spot, Kerandel's sign, IBIDS syndrome or IFAP syndrome and also IFAO syndrome (indexed for page 288–289, but I couldn't find it. IFAO = AFIP?) You will not find terms employed in our daily practice, such as cornoid lamella, corps rond, grains, comedo, parakeratosis, Kamino bodies, Clark's level, Breslow index. None of them are indexed. Readers should be assured, however, that all of these terms are mentioned in the text.

Rev. by A. Bernard Ackerman, *Dermatopathology: practical and conceptual* **6**(4), Oct.–Dec. 2000.

Barnhill . . . compiled a comprehensive index, but missing from it are notations to folliculocentric basaloid proliferation; the Haarscheibe, or hair disc; and Woringer-Kolopp disease, to mention but three examples.

Although these comments may seem harsh, they are written with empathy for the author and particularly in the hope that he will find them salutary during the preparation of the second edition of his book. [*We share that hope.*]

Oxford University Press: *Oxford handbook of tropical medicine*, ed. by Michael Eddleston and Stephen Pierini (1999, 646 pp, \$39.95). Rev. by Peter A. Leggat, *Journal of the American Medical Association* **284**(17), 1 Nov. 2000.

This first edition of the *Oxford Handbook of Tropical Medicine* contains a table of contents, a foreword by David Heymann, a comprehensive list of abbreviations, 18 chapters, including an introduction, important contact addresses for various organizations, an index, and approximately 30 tables, 125 figures, and 200 boxes. . . . Interestingly, two of the index references to hookworms lead to the chapter on gastroenterology, although there appear to be no references to hookworms in the indicated subsection, which focuses on ascariasis. This is probably an isolated problem, since no other similar problems were encountered.

Oxford University Press: *Cooking with mud: the idea of mess in 19th-century art and fiction*, by David Trotter (2000, 340 pp, £35).

Rev. by Marjorie Garber, *London Review of Books*, 10 Aug. 2000.

The footnotes in general are exemplary and learned: one could cobble together a good course in 19th-century fiction by just reading the notes and citations at the bottom of the page. The index, alas, is less useful, since it contains none of the theoretical terms Trotter is at such pains to deploy. One searches in vain for 'waste', 'mess', 'trash', 'disgust', and 'rummaging', not to mention 'metonymy', 'metaphor' and 'premature historicisation', all of which are regularly repeated and combined in the text. This is an odd flaw for a book that aims to be a contribution to the theoretical conversation, and it becomes important when the reader tries to look backward, through the richness of examples, to find the conceptual structure. Yet this absence, too, is perhaps indicative.

Although Trotter's book is marked by an unusual zeal to tidy and to order into 'mess-theory' the 'mess' he is describing (in this chapter, I have tried to suggest . . .', 'in the chapters that follow, I take these issues further . . .', 'the aim of this chapter, and of chapters 7 and 8'), that task is precisely the one he cannot perform if mess is what he says it is. The absence of a conceptual index, the presence there only of the names of authors and their works, is perhaps the sign of the ultimate triumph of 'mess' over 'mess-theory'. Whether or not he compiled the index himself – authors often don't – the index is, as its name implies, a sign. But perhaps, despite his theoretical gestures to the contrary, this tidy 'mess' – a 'good mess' – is exactly what Trotter had in mind.

Oxford University Press: *The English urban landscape*, ed. by Philip Waller (352 pp, £30). Rev. by Norman Hammond, *Times Literary Supplement*, 30 June 2000.

. . . sewers are absent from the (inadequate) index.

Random House/Philip Lief Group: *American Jewish desk reference: the ultimate one-volume reference to the Jewish experience in America* (1999, 656 pp, \$39.95). Rev. by David R. Hall, *The Freelancer XXIV*(4/5), March–April/May–June 2000.

More serious concerns come up regarding the index. Of the nine page references given in the index for halakah (Jewish traditional oral law), four turn out to be dead ends. Of the remaining five, the text spells one halakha and another halakhah. Those curious about the Borscht Belt in the Catskills would have to happen onto the Sid Caesar article for its brief mention of it, in the absence of indexing under either subject. And New York's Lubavitcher sect seems to have been overlooked entirely. It's nice to see in the text listing that 'Chiam' Gross of the index is in fact Chaim Gross – we can forgive the occasional transposition – but one suspects that this work received no more than one stage of copy editing.

Royal Society of Chemistry: *Quality in the food analysis laboratory*, by Roger Wood, Anders Nilsson and Harriet Wallin (1998, 312 pp, £52.50). Rev. by Liz Fleming, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* 35(4), Aug. 2000.

As a reference text, I thought the style could be more user-friendly, with more use of sub-sections, diagrams, detailed cross-referencing between chapters and an improved index. . . . The index could be more detailed to allow easier use as a 'dip into' reference text. For example, validation, UKAS/NAMAS, quality control and quality review are not listed in the index.

Sheffield Academic Press: *Dear Mr Rossetti: the letters of Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Hall Caine 1878–1881*, ed. by Vivien Allen (336 pp, £40 hbk, £15.95 pbk). Rev. by Jan Marsh, *Times Literary Supplement*, 6 Oct. 2000.

Indeed, overall, Allen seems to have lacked the editorial guidance one might expect from a university press. . . . There is a meagre bibliography of eleven items. . . . and a curious 'Index of First Lines', which inexplicably gives the quatrain beginning 'And hollow breasts encircling hearts of flame' as the opening verses of Tennyson's 'Palace of Art'. These errors are to be regretted, for the book has much of interest.

Springer-Verlag: *Rapid food analysis and hygiene monitoring: kits, instruments and systems*, by Pierre-Jean Raugel (1999, 921 pp,

£153). Rev. by Melody Greenwood, *International Journal of Food Science and Technology* 35(4), Aug. 2000.

There are four indexes in all, preceded by some brief explanatory notes. These notes do not include an explanation of the use of underlining used in the indexes. A dual referencing system is used that gives the page number and identifies the manufacturer [of the products] by use of a code. I did not find this code useful at all. The three main indexes are headed 'Methods, materials, techniques and instruments', 'Analyses, parameters, other targets of the analyses, competitors and interferences' and 'Products and environments analyzed matrixes'. On the whole I found this separation of topics to be cumbersome and frequently tried the wrong index first. There are a number of omissions, for example there is no general entry for toxins followed by a list of toxins covered, which would have been useful. I looked up mass spectrometry but could only find an entry under 'gas chromatography with mass spectrometry'. I also looked up 'Diarrhoeic Shellfish Poison (DSP)' but could find no entry, though if you know it is okadaic you would be able to find it!

Sutton Publishing: *Childhood in Anglo-Saxon England*, by Sally Crawford (£25). Rev. by Nicholas Orme, *Church Times*, 18 Aug. 2000.

Two flaws in the book are an incomplete index and a system of annotation which makes it hard to check the references.

Thomas Telford: *Adjudication under the scheme for construction contracts including payment provisions*, by Guy Cottam (242 pp, £32.50). Rev. by Paul Newman, *Construction Law*, March 1999.

It is a pity that there is no proper index or easy way to access information in this short guide quickly.

Viking: *Wordsworth: a life*, by Juliet Barker (2000, 992 pp, £25). Rev. by Philip Hensher, *The Observer*, 29 Oct. 2000.

The only blot is a disgracefully negligent index. In a book of this size and this value, one needs a bit of help, but Viking has produced an index which is useless, just a list of page numbers. The name of Dorothy Wordsworth is followed by nearly 400 page numbers, but if you want to know anything in particular, you will have to fish around helplessly. I hope, before the paperback, Viking does one of our best biographers proud by producing an index worthy of a remarkable book.

Indexes omitted

ABC Books: *The battle of Brisbane*, by Peter A. Thompson and Robert Macklin (2000, 242 pp, A\$29.95). Rev. by Ross Fitzgerald, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 Nov. 2000.

The only weakness in this excellently written and well-researched book is that there are no index and no illustrations.

Africa World Press: *Emeka Anyaoku*, by Phyllis Johnson (2000, xiv + 304 pp, \$21.95). Rev. by Anthony Kirk-Greene, *African Affairs* 99(397), Oct. 2000.

The lack of an index is a regrettable dereliction of duty on the part of the publishers in a book of this multi-thematic and many-personed nature.

Allen Lane: *The new elites: making a career in the masses*, by George Walden (£18.99). Rev. by Robert McCrum, *The Observer*, 10 Sept. 2000.

A prevailing tone of withering contempt ('To every fool is given his morsel of wisdom') and the absence of index, bibliography or footnotes tells us that Walden sees his efforts as essayistic.

Balkema: *Engineering geology and the environment*, ed. by P. G. Marmos, G. C. Koukis, et al. (1997, 5 vols, 400 pp, £185). Rev. by Adrian V. J. Collings, *Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology* 32, 1999.

However the sheer number of papers makes the publication impenetrable to the casual reader, and a keyword index would have been helpful. [*Casual reader?*]

Bloomsbury: *Beethoven's hair: an extraordinary historical odyssey and a musical mystery solved*, by Russell Martin (256 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Fiona Maddox, *Observer*, 5 Nov. 2000.

Without index, reference, footnote or bibliography, fact and guesswork are indistinguishable.

CERLIM: *The integrated accessible library: a model of service development for the 21st century – the final report of the REVEL (Resources for Visually Impaired Users of the Electronic Library) Project*, by Peter Brophy and Jenny Craven (1999, 115 pp, £18). Rev. by Joan Shaw, *New Library World* 101(1157).

The appearance of the report, its layout and choice of font, coupled with the absence of an index and dearth of images, may seem strange but this should almost certainly be explained in terms of ensuring its accessibility to partially sighted and blind people – no double standards here. [A somewhat enigmatic remark.]

Constable: *The exploits of Baron de Marbot*, ed. by Christopher Summerville (318 pp, £10.99). Rev. by Allan Mallinson, *Spectator*, 30 Sept. 2000.

He has done his hussar-hero proud. Only an index would have made it better.

Continuum: *Pilgrims in Rome: an official Vatican guide for the Jubilee Year* (2 parts, £9.99 each). Rev. by Richard Owen, *The Tablet*, 23 Sept. 2000.

... beautifully produced on glossy paper in the style of a tourist guide ... with cutaway diagrams and fact boxes (though no index, rather irritatingly).

Doubleday: *Down under*, by Bill Bryson (319 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Michael Davie, *The Spectator*, 22 July 2000.

This is an agreeable, well-meaning book, an undemanding introduction to the country, though it is short on sport and culture, and should have been supplied with an index.

Granta Books: *Stet*, by Diana Athill (250 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Gabriele Annan, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 Aug. 2000.

Stet is an autobiographical memoir by a publisher about publishing. So it seems a pity that Diana Athill hasn't got her publisher to provide an index, though she does insist that publishers worry a lot about costs, and that indexes cost money. Still, autobiography is a kind of gossip, and, according to Athill, gossip is nothing to be ashamed of: 'in its highest and purest form [it is] a passionate interest, lit by humour but above malice, in human behaviour.' So the desire for an index of names is above prurience and quite respectable.

Hayward Gallery: *Spectacular bodies: the art and science of the human body from Leonardo to Now* (exhibition catalogue, 2000, 224 pp). Exhibition rev. by Mark Glazebrook, *Spectator*, 4 Nov. 2000.

Because the [catalogue] is so meaty, an index would have been helpful, and may I suggest more places to sit and read?

Hern: *Diaries 1969–1977*, by Peter Nichols (440 pp, £25). Rev. by Randall Stevenson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 27 Oct. 2000.

The *Diaries* are nevertheless probably of less interest to libel lawyers – or to nervous inquirers cursing the absence of an index – than as a record of a period already taking on some of the distance and strangeness of history.

Rev. by Helen Osborne, *Sunday Telegraph*, 8 Oct. 2000.

With nifty cunning he's omitted an index, so friend, foe, all the 'sweeties' he's worked with, have little hope of a quick peep in the bookshop. They'll have to buy *Diaries 1969–77* to discover the worst.

Mainstream: *Samuel John Peploe*, by Guy Peploe (2000, 176 pp, £25). Rev. by John McEwan, *Sunday Telegraph*, 2 July 2000.

His useful book is marred only by lack of a bibliography and index.

Manchester Metropolitan University, Centre for Research in Library and Information Management: *Extremism and the Internet*, by Peter Brophy, Jenny Craven and Shelagh Fisher

(1999, 95 pp, £15). Rev. by Eric Hunter, *New Library World* 101(1157), 2000.

A select bibliography and a list of abbreviations are included but no index, which is a pity when one considers that the report emanates from a Department of Information and Communication.

Melisende: *Palestinian Christians: religion, politics and society in the Holy Land*, ed. by Anthony O'Mahony (£12.50). Rev. by William Taylor, *Church Times*, 18 Aug. 2000.

This volume would be improved by three things – an index, an attractive cover, and the sense of popularizing or widening this important issue to a non-specialist readership.

Parthenon Publishing: *Dates in medicine: a chronological record of medical progress over three millennia*, ed. by Anton Sebastian (2000, 436 pp). Rev. by Joseph B. Vander Veer, Jr, *Journal of the American Medical Association* 284(13), 4 Oct. 2000.

It was fun and fascinating to read through this chronology, encountering many familiar and more unfamiliar names. I found the descriptions worthwhile, for they often gave the major contributions of the various individuals, including years of publication. It would certainly be beyond the scope of such a work to include references for the various contributions to the literature made by the hundreds of authors mentioned. But I was hoping, as I flipped to the back, to find an index.

That there is no index is a major shortcoming. It was interesting and educational to read along, progressing chronologically through the years. But most of us, I'd submit, if we want to look up a historical medical personage, begin with a name and not a date. The other major book of this sort in my library, *The New York Public Library Book of Chronologies*, devotes 64 pages to chronologies of science, including medicine. It has a nine-page index with more than 2900 names, not just of scientists, of course. I hope that for a second edition of *Dates in Medicine*, an index will be included. I'm sure it would increase this good book's usefulness, and I suspect it would probably increase its marketability as well.

Picador: *In defence of T. S. Eliot*, by Craig Raine (516 pp, £20). Rev. by Geoff Dyer, *Guardian*, 4 Nov. 2000.

In Defence of T. S. Eliot, [Raine's] second haul of literary essays, comes without any contextualising intro (or outro, for that matter: no index, no notes about where the pieces first appeared); this brusque lack of preliminaries suggests that the talents exercised here need no introduction.

University of Borås, Swedish School of Library and Information Studies: *New fields for research in the 21st century: proceedings of the 3rd British-Nordic Conference on Library and Information Studies, 12–14 April 1999, Borås, Sweden*, ed. by Maj Klasson et al. (1999, 358 pp, SEK 300). Rev. by K. G. B. Bakewell, *New Library World* 101(1158).

I am sorry that the editors and/or publishers do not seem to share my high opinion of the value of the contributions, since they have not seen fit to provide an index to facilitate the retrieval of the information provided.

Obiter dicta

Cambridge University Press: *Hegel: a biography*, by Terry Pinkard (2000, 800 pp, £25). Rev. by George Steiner, *Observer*, 16 July 2000.

Such were the power and provocation of Hegel's doctrines that they have generated commentaries which are themselves classics of philosophic discourse. Not one of these figures either in the bibliography or index. It was as if the famous readings by Kojève, by Lukács and others simply did not exist. Is this some obscure academic jest?

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

Jeffrey Archer's new book of short stories ranges from the fatuous to the grotesque ... Most of the pieces are warmed-over anecdotes,

helpfully marked with asterisks in the index . . . [Could the reviewer be referring to the table of contents?]

O'Reilly & Associates Inc: *Hydrocephalus: a guide for patients, families, and friends*, by Chuck Toporek and Kellie Robinson (1999, 355 pp, \$19.95). Rev. by Enid Gilbert-Barness, *Archive of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 154(9), Sept. 2000.

The appendix includes 5 sections: (1) a list of neurosurgeons who specialize in treatment of hydrocephalus, (2) a list of medical libraries and journals, (3) suggested reading, (4) Internet services, and (5) a glossary of terms, followed by an up-to-date important bibliography and index. [The index is in the appendix?]

Knights unindexed

There are oodles of knights in this work [Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*]: no fewer than 110 search the wounds of Sir Urré in book 19 chapter 11, including Sir Menaduke, Sir Sagamore le Desirous, Sir Dodinas le Savage, Sir Alisander le Orphelin and Sir Bellengerous le Orgulous. As you'd expect, Sir Selises of the Dolorous Tower has sobbed his way into the gathering too, alongside Sir Lamiel of Cardiff, 'that was a great lover'.

Since Malory was too mean to pay for an index, I cannot be sure that this list is complete.

Smallweed, *The Guardian*, 16 Sept. 2000

Phillips report

Tim Yeo, the Tory spokesman, made a stirring and heartfelt apology. 'I apologise to the families of those who have suffered bereavement, and to those who are still struggling with a terrible illness.'

Very apposite, except why was Mr Yeo apologising? And for what? He wasn't even there. He isn't even mentioned in the [Phillips] report's index (unlike, say, John Gummer: 27 times, and Stephen Dorrell: seven times) . . .

John Major (four mentions in the index) rose to exculpate everyone . . . [The reference is to the Phillips Report on BSE, for which the Society of Indexers provided several indexers.]

Simon Hoggart, *The Guardian*, 27 Oct. 2000

He's lost his charm

Richard Holbrooke, in his book on how the war in Bosnia was ended, spoke eloquently of Mr Milosevic's charm; a subject which in a subsequent edition was mysteriously not referred to in the index, Mr Milosevic by then having become distinctly less charming for Western policymakers.

Editorial, *Spectator*, 7 Oct. 2000

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