

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

Allyn & Bacon: *The technical communicator's handbook*, by Dan Jones (2000, 449 pp, \$32.20). Rev. by Raymond E. Floyd, *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* 44(4), Dec. 2001.

The book is organized into nine parts plus an excellent index. The author takes an interesting approach to the index material in that page references include nonobvious references to where the particular item would be found: on the general area of the referenced page, the tips section on that page, or within a figure on that page. Such an approach can narrow the reader's search quickly and will be helpful to anyone searching for a particular bit of information. [Index by ASI member Karen Lane, despite the implication of the second sentence of this extract.]

AP Information Services: *The finance director's yearbook 2001*, ed. by Annick Ireland. Rev. by Anna Burmajster, *Information-WorldReview*, Nov. 2001.

The sections have clearly marked chapters and useful indexes.

Arnold: *Official health statistics: an unofficial guide*, ed. by Susan Kerrison and Alison Macfarlane (1999, 303 pp, £17.99). Rev. in *Health Services Management Research* 14(4).

... the information contained within it is easily located through the use of descriptive chapter headings and a substantial index.

Artech House: *Advanced database technology and design*, by Mario Piattini and Oscar Diaz (2000, £58). Rev. by Lisa Billingham, *Information WorldReview*, Sept. 2001.

There is a detailed index and contents table. The index is over eighteen pages long, and the contents table is over ten pages long. ...

Aslib: *Thesaurus construction and use: a practical manual*, by Jean Aitchison, Alan Gilchrist and David Bawden (4th edn, 2000, 218 pp, £42.50). Rev. by Keith V. Trickey, *New Library World* 102(1170/1171), 2001.

The brief contents page and labyrinthine sections do not facilitate navigation of the work (it does have a good index).

Aslib/IMI: *The financial services sourcebook: a guide to sources of information on banking, insurance and other financial services*, by Robert Cunnew with Alison Scammell (2001, 336 pp, £37.50). Rev. by Christopher Murphy, *Managing Information*, Sept. 2001.

One of the joys of the book is the rich provision of indexes. Not only a subject index is included, but also additional ones by form, author and title.

Rev. by Helen Whyte, *Information WorldReview*, Sept. 2001.

The main section contains simply the entries followed by an alphabetical listing of publishers, which helpfully cross-indexes their sources back to the main entry. The indexes also include an unfortunately short, but helpful, list of relevant libraries such as the

Chartered Institute of Bankers, as well as lists of entries arranged by subject, author and title.

Overall, the arrangement of the book and its indexes is good, and surprisingly user-friendly, given the inherent difficulties of attempting to arrange these sources into a meaningful directory, without loss of functionality.

Blackstone Press: *Blackstone's guide to the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999*, by Diane Birch and Roger Leng (£24.95). Rev. by Ian Andrews, *The Magistrate* 57(9), Oct. 2001.

When originally looking at this book, it occurred to me that there was a good clear contents page at the beginning, as well as a comprehensive index provided at the back. In addition there were further cross references providing ease of access to tables of Cases, Statutes and Statutory Instruments as well as the full text of the Act itself. On the surface of it then, some 116 pages of the 274 textual pages have already been taken up with a further 30 odd pages of indexing. There should be no way that you will not be able to get to an item of detail swiftly within the book.

Bloomsbury: *Einstein in love: a scientific romance*, by Dennis Overbye (2001, 416 pp, AU\$49.95). Rev. by Ralph Elliott, *The Canberra Times*, 20 Oct. 2001.

Einstein in Love is a well-researched, annotated, and indexed book, with but a few errors ... [The reference is to errors in the text, not in the index.]

British Library: *Directory of organisations in allied and complementary health care*, by Delphine Madge (2000, v + 171 pp, £37). Rev. by Grace M. Rose, *Library Association Record* 103(8), Aug. 2001.

... there are a few inconsistencies ... Nevertheless, the inclusion of an index listing the organisations, and detail about a variety of European organisations (including a few from Russia and the former states of the Soviet Union) make this a pleasure to use, an invaluable tool and possibly also a unique directory in the field of allied and alternative health care.

British Library: *Guide to libraries and information sources in medicine and health care*, by Peter Dale and Paul Wilson (2nd edn, 2000, vi + 209 pp, £40). Rev. by Grace M. Rose, *Library Association Record* 103(8), Aug. 2001.

An organisation index and a subject index supplement the sequence. Very usefully there is an organisation acronym index, and a further appendix lists and provides brief details of useful internet resources not mentioned elsewhere in the text.

Broadway/Doubleday: *The Doubleday Christian quotation collection*, ed. by Hannah Ward and Jennifer Wild (\$22.00/\$7.98 [sale price]). Rev. in Daedalus Books catalogue, Midsummer 2001.

Readers interested in particular themes can reference the index of over 500 subjects or the comprehensive index of key words.

Butterworth: *A user's guide to copyright*, by M. F. Flint, N. Fitzpatrick and C. D. Thorne (2001, £55). Rev. by Andrew Shearsmith, *InformationWorldReview*, Nov. 2001.

The index is lengthy, detailed and well constructed.

Butterworth Heinemann: *Capitalizing on knowledge: from e-business to k-business*, by David J. Skyrme (2001, £19.99). Rev. by Shona McTavish, *InformationWorldReview*, Sept. 2001.

The book is well organised with a good index enabling easy access to its contents.

Cambridge University Press: *District laboratory practice in tropical countries, Part I*, by Monica Cheesbrough (1998, 454 pp, £35). Rev. by F. X. S. Emmanuel, *Tropical Doctor*, April 2001, 31.

There is a comprehensive, accurate and professional-looking index that covers part I.

James Clarke: *A guide to the libraries and archives of the United Kingdom and Ireland, 1998–2000*, ed. by Iain Walker (2001, 493 pp, £99). Rev. by Karin Fitzsimons, *New Library World* **102**(1170/1171), 2001.

The directory is well designed, presented and indexed.

Chatto & Windus: *The city of London, Vol. 4: A club no more, 1945–2000*, by David Kynaston (886 pp, £30). Rev. by J. H. C. Leach, *Times Literary Supplement*, 6 July 2001.

David Kynaston's meticulous scholarship means that the nearly 800 pages of text are followed by fifty pages of footnotes; there is a detailed index.

Collins: *Dress in Ireland: a history*, by Mairead Dunlevy (192 pp, £14.99). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, Summer 2001.

The notes, glossary and index are clear and easy to follow and the entire book is beautifully presented.

Crannóg Books: *On the verge of want*, ed. by James Morrissey (259 pp, £30). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, Oct. 2001.

The book has a plentiful index.

DK (Dorling Kindersley): *Essential computers: personalising your PC*, by Rob Beattie (2001, 72 pp., AUS\$10.90). Rev. by The Silicon Kid (columnist), *The Canberra Times*, 16 July 2001.

Another convenient feature is the layout. There are colour-coded sections and a comprehensive index so that you do not have to read the book straight through but instead can flip to the section that interests you and dive straight in. The glossary at the back is another good feature.

Faber: *Further requirements*, by Philip Larkin (377 pp, £25). Rev. by Christopher Ricks, *The Spectator*, 6 Oct. 2001.

Does Larkin really believe that the first name of the poet Dowson is Edward? Or is he just checking that we know the difference between Dowden and Dowson? (The index knows the importance of Dowson's being Ernest.)

Gower: *Effective document management: unlocking corporate knowledge*, by Bob Wiggins (2001, £95). Rev. by Sue Lacey Bryant, *InformationWorldReview*, Oct. 2001.

This is a big book . . . Nevertheless, as it has a decent index, I anticipate that it will 'earn its keep' on my reference shelves for years to come.

HarperCollins: *Critical Times: the history of the Times Literary Supplement*, by Derwent May (£25, 606 pp). Rev. by Paul Johnson, *Sunday Telegraph*, 28 Oct. 2001.

[May] has taken a lot of trouble with this book. Not only is he ecumenical and fair-minded but he provides an index, compiled by a former head of the London Library, which is a model in its clarity and comprehension of this exacting art. [*This indexer can only have been Douglas Matthews – why not name him?*]

HarperCollins: *The letters of Kingsley Amis*, ed. by Zachary Leader (£14.99). Rev. by Sam Leith, *Daily Telegraph*, 14 July 2001.

Zachary Leader's edition is a tidy work of scholarship; lightly but helpfully footnoted and with a big and thorough index.

Jane Austen Society of Australia: *A century of wills from Jane Austen's family, 1705–1806*, by Jon Spence. Rev. in *Newsletter of the Jane Austen Society of North America* **17**(2), summer 2001.

The Jane Austen Society of Australia has made available in print for the first time 15 fascinating documents that are primary sources of information about Jane Austen's family. An introduction to each of these 15 wills facilitates the understanding of the testators and their principal heirs – and those who did not inherit – and an index allows for cross-referencing. A pedigree of the maternal and paternal lines shows where the individuals fit into the family picture and their relationship to Jane Austen.

Library Association: *Competing with knowledge: the information professional in the knowledge management age*, by Angela Abell

and Nigel Oxbrow (2001, £37.50). Rev. by Ruth Treharne, *InformationWorldReview*, Sept. 2001.

The book has a clear subject index . . .

Library Association: *Developing a successful service plan*, by Sheila Pantry and Peter Griffiths (2000, 98 pp, £13.50). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World* **102**(1163/1164), 2001.

The index is short but adequate.

Library Association: *A guide to finding quality information on the Internet*, by Alison Cooke (2nd edn, 2001, £29.95). Rev. by Alun Edwards, *InformationWorldReview*, Nov. 2001.

There is an excellent index and glossary.

Library Association: *Searching CD-Rom and online information services*, by G. G. Chowdhury and Sudatta Chowdhury (2001, xvii + 331 pp, £39.95). Rev. by Sally Chambers, *Library Association Record* **103**(9), Sept. 2001.

. . . an alphabetical glossary would have added further value to supplement the clearly laid out table of contents and subject index.

Library Association: *The serials management handbook: a practical guide to print and electronic serials management*, ed. by Tony Kidd and Lyndsay Rees-Jones (2000, 159pp, £39.95). Rev. by Linden Sweeney, *New Library World* **102**(1163/1164), 2001.

The book is well laid out and a useful index allows the reader to find subjects that he is looking for easily.

Library Association: *Your successful LIS career: planning your career: CVs, interviews and self promotion*, by Sheila Pantry and Peter Griffiths (1999, £13.50). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World* **102**(1163/1164), 2001.

The book has an adequate index . . .

Lonely Planet: *Lonely Planet healthy travel: Africa; Central and South America; Asia and India; Australia, NZ and the Pacific*, by Isabelle Young (2000, 433pp, £3.99/US\$5.95). Rev. by Janet M. Andrews, *Tropical Doctor*, Oct. 2001, 31.

I particularly liked the sections on specific illnesses which are symptom-based and very easy to follow – there is a very good index . . .

Macmillan Education: *Neurosurgery in the tropics*, by Geoffrey V. Rosenfeld and David A. K. Watters (2000, 473 pp, £21.95). Rev. by Owen Sparrow, *Tropical Doctor*, July 2001, 31.

Individual topics in the index are easy to find, both because the index is comprehensive, and because the contents are clearly set out with each section of each chapter clearly mentioned.

Martin and St Martin: *The drawings of Andrea Palladio*, by Douglas Lewis (2nd edn, \$60). Rev. by Kerry Downes, *Times Literary Supplement*, 6 July 2001.

There is a useful and informative index.

Oxford University Press: *The agrochemical discovery: insect, weed and fungal control*, ed. by Don Baker and Noriharu Ken Umetsu (2001, 317 pp, £85). Rev. by Alan Wiseman, *Chemistry & Industry*, 1 Oct. 2001.

There is also an excellent subject index (pp. 295–317) and an adequate author index (pp. 293–4).

Oxford University Press: *The Josquin companion*, ed. by Richard Sherr (691 pp, £95). Rev. by Jeffrey Dean, *Times Literary Supplement*, 7 Sept. 2001.

The volume concludes with some provocative 'Thoughts for the future' by David Fallows, a work-list and an illuminating discography compiled by Peter Urquhart, a bibliography, and several useful and well-constructed indexes.

Oxford University Press: *The Oxford dictionary of thematic quotations*, ed. by Susan Ratcliffe (2000, 584 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Hazel Mills, *CopyRight*, Nov./Dec. 2001.

This is a collection of over 7000 quotations arranged thematically under nearly 600 headings [. . .] It boasts an extensive index of 156 pages – any longer and I might have had an excuse to quote Howell

and complain that 'the postern gate [bears] no proportion with the building'. In fact, the index is one of the book's great strengths: it includes a brief biography of each author, a list of the themes in which his or her quotations may be found, and unusually, a brief extract to identify each quotation.

[...] With 7000 quotations this compilation has fewer quotes than some competitors, but an attractive typeface and layout, a thoughtful selection and a splendid index compensate for this.

Oxford University Press: *Poverty, inequality and health: an international perspective*, ed. by David Leon and Gill Walt (2001, £29.50). Rev. by Alistair Woodward and Tony Blakeley, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.

... there is a detailed index.

Penguin Books: *Tomorrow comes the song: a life of Peter Fraser*, by Michael Bassett with Michael King (2000, 445 pp, NZ\$49.95). Rev. by Barry Gustafson, *New Zealand Books*, Aug. 2001.

The authors had a vast array of secondary sources... [which] are all well acknowledged in comprehensive footnotes, and the excellent index should also be commended. [*Index by AusSI member Simon Cauchi.*]

Penguin Books: *Words on words*, by David and Hilary Crystal (2001, £8.99). Rev. by Ian Brunskill, *The Times*, 22 Sept. 2001.

There are surprises on every page and a brilliant index means that the reader need never be lost for words. [*The Crystals were awarded the Wheatley medal for this brilliant index.*]

Pinter: *Encyclopedia of British and Irish political organisations: parties, groups and movements of the 20th century*, by Peter Barberis, John McHugh and Mike Tyldesley (2000, 562 pp, £90). Rev. by John Thornhill, *Library Association Record* 102(8), Aug. 2000.

Indexes of organisations and personal names provide excellent access to the entries.

Routledge: *Historical archaeology: back from the edge*, by Pedro Paulo A. Funari, Martin Hall and Sian Jones (1999, £90). Rev. by David Gaimster, *Antiquaries Journal* 81, 2001.

In addition, no edited conference proceedings should cost £90 (despite the useful index).

W. B. Saunders: *Cecil textbook of medicine* (21st ed.), by Lee Goldman and J. Claude Bennett (2000, 2308 pp, \$125). Rev. by Naomi C. Broering, *Medscape General Medicine*, 9 Jan. 2001.

Where would we be without the detailed index so prevalent in past editions as well as in this current edition of Cecil? Once again, the authors give users, researchers, and reference librarians in search of direct access to specific information a strong, well-indexed work.

W. B. Saunders: *Diagnostic surgical pathology of the head and neck*, ed. by Douglas R. Gnepp (2001, £245). Rev. by Justin Weir, *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* 115, June 2001.

The chapters are well referenced (most recent references from 1999) and there is a thorough index.

W. B. Saunders: *Kelley's textbook of rheumatology*, vols 1 & 2, ed. by Shaun Ruddy, Edward D. Harris, Jr and Clement B. Sledge (2001, 6th edn, 1908 pp, \$249). Rev. by George E. Ehrlich, *JAMA* 285(18), 9 May 2001.

Clear and helpful illustrations speckle both volumes, and the index is comprehensive.

K. G. Saur: *Moys classification and thesaurus for legal material*, by Elizabeth M. Moys (4th edn, 2001, DM 298). Rev. by David Pester, *InformationWorldReview*, Nov. 2001.

The index-thesaurus has been updated too and is much more comprehensive than before, with many more terms added. All specific terms in the schedules, appendix and tables and some synonyms are included.

Scarecrow: *Silk stalkings: more women write of murder*, by Victoria Nichols and Susan Thompson (2001, 635 pp, £21.80). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *Library Association Record* 101(7), July 2001.

... investigators are divided into 18 categories and a master list acts as index to these, besides adding more information.

Springer-Verlag: *Clinical obstetrics and gynaecology*, by Isabel Stabile, Tim Chard and Geddis Grudzinakas (219 pp, £24.50). Rev. by Harry Gee, *Obstetrician & Gynaecologist*, Oct. 2001.

Its comprehensive index and tables make it an ideal pocket reference.

UCD Press: *Famine, land and culture in Ireland*, ed. by Carla King (237 pp, £16.95 pbk, £39.95 hbk). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, Oct. 2001.

The well-indexed book concludes by examining the rural problems of Ireland in the twenty-first century...

University of Illinois Board of Trustees: *Saving the time of the library user through subject access innovation: papers in honour of Pauline Atherton Cochrane*, ed. by William J. Wheeler (2000, 217 pp). Rev. by Richard Turner, *New Library World* 102(1169), 2001.

The whole work has an excellent general index...

University of Illinois Press: *Human response to library technology*, ed. by Janice J. Kirkland and Michael Gorman (1999, 222pp). Rev. by Mike Freeman, *New Library World* 102(1166/1167), 2001.

All in all, a well produced volume with a good index...

Weidenfeld & Nicolson: *War diaries 1939-1945*, by Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, ed. by Alex Danchev and Daniel Todman (2001, 763pp, £25). Rev. by Michael Carver, *Literary Review*, July 2001.

The editors are to be congratulated on their work and on the excellent index, a model of its kind. [*But who did the index?*]

Two cheers!

Bristol Record Society: *The topography of medieval and early modern Bristol. Part I*, ed. by Roger H. Leech (1997, xxviii + 219 pp, £19.50). Rev. by Tom Beaumont James, *Medieval Archaeology* XLII, 1998.

There are a few quibbles worth noting... The index of people is exemplary: an index of matters would have taken the reader beyond the 'medieval telephone directory' level.

Cambridge University Press: *Greater medieval houses of England and Wales 1300-1500*, vol II, *East Anglia, Central England and Wales*, by Anthony Emery (2000, xv + 724 pp, £125). Rev. by Derek Renn, *Antiquaries Journal* 81, 2001.

... readers should rely less on the lists at the front of each volume than on the index at the back, although this is not exhaustive: even Castell Gryn, 1977-82 (*sic*: p. 658, n 32) deserves indexing, if only to show the breadth of Emery's net.

Faber: *Yehudi Menuhin*, by Humphrey Burton (£25). Rev. by Crispin Jackson, *The Tablet*, 25 Nov. 2000.

The book's presentation is excellent and the index is properly itemised (though poor old Bronislaw Huberman gets left out)...

Libraries Unlimited: *Northern Africa: a guide to reference and information sources*, by Paula Youngman Skreslet (2000, xv + 405 pp, £81.50). Rev. by John McIlwaine, *Library Association Record* 103(10), Oct. 2001.

There are separate name, title and subject indexes, the last having helpful bold headings for countries, and major subject areas... The subject index is not always as helpful as it might be ('Maghreb - periodicals' omits items 201, 407 for example). But given its inevitable selectivity, there are few obvious major omissions.

Indexes censured

Aslib: *The Aslib directory of information sources in the UK*, ed. by Keith W. Reynard (11th edn, 2000, £335). Rev. by David Clover, *InformationWorldReview*, Sept. 2001.

A well cross-referenced alphabetical listing is complemented with a subject index and list of abbreviations and acronyms. It was disap-

pointing not to see the London Imperial War Museum listed under Holocaust Studies in the subject index. Other potential omissions included the Jewish Museum, London; the Holocaust Educational Trust, London; the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies; the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex and the Manchester Jewish Museum. [*It's not clear whether this is a criticism of the index or of the directory.*]

Angus & Robertson: *A bee in your bonnet? An astonishing compendium from the master of origins, customs and beliefs*, by R. Brasch (2001, 292 pp, AUS\$19.95). Rev. by Ron Cerabona, *The Canberra Times*, 9 June 2001.

There are no chapters or other organising principles here – the book is made for dipping into; although there is an index, it can be a little idiosyncratic. To find the right page for ‘It is cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey’ (not an obscene expression!), for example, the reader must look under ‘It’, not ‘monkey’, ‘cold’, or ‘freeze’, as might be expected.

Cambridge University Press: *Cambridge history of literary criticism*, ed. by Walton A. Liz, Louis Menand and Lawrence Rainey (2000, 576 pp, £76). Rev. by George Lilley, *Library Association Record* 103(6), June 2001.

The index is far too selective to give adequate access to what is a major volume of scholarship.

Cambridge University Press: *Hegel: a biography*, by Terry Pinkard (780 pp, \$39.95). Rev. by Anthony Quinton, *New York Review of Books*, 21 June 2001.

During [Hegel's] Jena period his landlady (or possibly cleaning woman) Frau Burkhardt presented him with an illegitimate son, known as Ludwig Fischer. This put Hegel in distinguished philosophical company, alongside Descartes, Hume, Marx, and A. J. Ayer. Ludwig's story is sad. Farmed out at first, he was eventually accepted into Hegel's family, with a painfully marginal status. He naturally resented this, left home as soon as he could, and joined the Dutch army, dying of fever in the Dutch East Indies in the year of Hegel's own death. A crowning misfortune is the fact that he has no entry in Pinkard's index, although he is a notably embarrassing presence in the text.

Cambridge University Press: *Secular buildings in the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem: an archaeological gazetteer*, by Denys Pringle (1997, xix + 159 pp, £45). Rev. by Peter W. Edbury, *Medieval Archaeology* XLII, 1998.

My one criticism is that the index only lists place-names, and so anyone hoping to use it to find references to all the localities listed in the gazetteer belonging, say, to the Hospitallers or to the Templars will be frustrated.

Chatto & Windus: *Characters of Fitzrovia*, by Mike Pentelow and Marsha Rowe (262 pp, £25). Rev. by Jane Gardam, *The Spectator*, 1 Dec. 2001.

The index of this book is tiresome, but the illustrations are wonderful . . . [*But in what way is it tiresome?*]

Donhead Publishing: *The modern plasterer*, by W. Verrall (facsimile edition, 2000, 512 pp, £65). Rev. by Ian Sims, *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, no. 2, July 2000.

If I have a minor criticism of the reprint, it is the presumably unchanged use of the original index. A complete, structured and reliable index is an important requirement for such a major reference work and, while the index provided is certainly not inadequate, it does exhibit some omissions and could have been improved.

Duckworth: *Beria – my father: inside Stalin's Kremlin*, by Sergio Beria (320 pp, £25). Rev. by Kevin Myers, *Irish Times*, 25 Aug. 2001.

. . . probably the worst book I have ever been called on to review. Such interest as it may possess is for scholars; but even this is vitiating by a perfectly deplorable index. Maybe this is the fault of the otherwise irreproachable editor, or more likely, of a publisher who was not prepared to put the necessary resources into it.

English Heritage: *Raunds Furnells: the Anglo-Saxon church and churchyard*, by Andy Boddington with others (1996, xiv + 133 pp, £35). Rev. by Birthe Kjølbbye-Biddle, *Medieval Archaeology* XLII, 1998.

Even the data about the very important ‘founder’ is not brought together and is not to be found in the over-elaborate and confusing index.

Faber: *Grammars of creation: originating in the Gifford Lectures for 1990*, by George Steiner (288 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Daniel Johnson, *Daily Telegraph*, 10 March 2001.

To summarise Steiner's argument is difficult, and it is not helped by his failure fully to recast the original lecture format. The chapters are anonymous, the index is inadequate, there is no concise statement of the theme and no recapitulation at the end.

Faber: *Notebooks and conversations*, by Sviatoslav Richter, tr. by Stewart Spencer (464 pp, £25). Rev. by David Gallagher, *BBC Music Magazine*, June 2001.

He is warm towards pianists he admires – his teacher Heinrich Neuhaus, for instance, or Andrey Gavrilov, or Eliso Virsaladze (whose name, incidentally, is misspelt in the index) . . .

Fayard/Éditions de l'IMEC: *Erik Satie: correspondance presqu complète*, ed. by Ornella Volta (1234 pp, FFr290) Rev. by Robert Orledge, *Times Literary Supplement*, 3 Aug. 2001.

As might be expected in a book of this magnitude, there are quite a few typos, inconsistencies and minor errors, not least in the computer-generated indices [*sic*] and appended music examples.

House of Stratus: *Lady Caroline Lamb: this infernal woman*, by Susan Normington (323 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Catherine Peters, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 June 2001.

Her inclusion of every fact that might be remotely relevant sometimes comes perilously close to sinking the narrative with an iceberg of research, while, surprisingly, her index is inadequate . . .

Jessica Kingsley Publishers: *When I'm away from home*, by Jean Camis (2000, £9.95). Rev. by Chris Rushton, *Adoption Today*, no. 95, Nov. 2000.

It is clearly and pleasantly presented and covers an extensive range of care issues. It is because of this that I felt the index was inadequate. I found the entries are not specific enough, which makes it a little frustrating if you wish to refer to a specific issue for quick reference.

Kluwer Academic: *Encyclopedia of planetary sciences*, ed. by James H. Shirley and Rhodes W. Fairbridge (2001, 990pp pbk + CD, £62.00). Rev. by Chris Kitchin, *Astronomy Now* 15(12), Dec. 2001.

My main criticism of the encyclopedia is of its index. This is quite inadequate, and finding topics other than those of the main entries needs detailed knowledge, and so obviates the point of using an encyclopedia. Apart from the poor index, this is an outstanding book and, at £62 for the paperback edition, extremely good value. I would highly recommend it both for personal and library purchase. [*‘So, does this mean that a poor index is not a deterrent to sales?’ asks Paul Nash, who submitted this item.*]

John Knox: *God's touch*, by Bruce G. Epperly (£9.99). Rev. by Anne Johnson, *The Reader* 98(4), Winter 2001.

There is a subject index with highly selective entries (there is no excuse for this in these days of sophisticated word processing) and an index of names in which the only biblical one is the Apostle Paul despite the mention of scores of others. [*Sophisticated word processing for indexing???*]

Peter Lang: *Gained in translation: language, poetry and identity in twentieth-century Ireland*, by Kathleen Shields (2000, 227 pp). Rev. by Roger Little, *Translation Ireland*, Summer 2001.

There is something scandalous about a book with such a title which, according to its index, makes no mention of Beckett, Carson, Coffey, Devlin, Hartnett, Heaney, Kinsella, MacGreevy, Mahon *e tutti quanti*. Fortunately these are precisely the poets on whom, in their capacity as translators, Dr Shields concentrates her

attention . . . The resonances of this study go far beyond [Ireland's] shores and will reward attention. It deserved a better index.

McFarland & Co.: *A history of information storage and retrieval*, by Foster Stockwell (2001, vii + 200 pp, £37.95). Rev. by Jack Meadows, *Library Association Record* 103(8), Aug. 2001.

. . . we are told that 'the number of handwritten and printed books turned out by the Chinese before 1750 was greater than that for all other languages in the world combined'. An interesting claim, but where does it come from? The index does not help. Thus, though the author, hardly surprisingly, provides some discussion of both cataloguing and classification, neither term appears in the index.

New Holland Publishers: *The modern cook*, by Ray McVinnie (2001, NZ\$39.95). Rev. by Lois Daish, *New Zealand Listener*, 13 Oct. 2001.

A sprinkling of editing mishaps, such as a pasta soup that doesn't include any pasta and an index that has no entries under 'eggs', despite the fact there is a whole chapter of omelette recipes, is unexpected in a book from one of our leading cookbook publishers.

Olms-Weidmann: *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände* (series 1–3, total of 41 vols), ed. by Bernhard Fabian (DM9312 the set). Rev. by John L. Flood, *Times Literary Supplement*, 12 Oct. 2001.

Were such a project initiated today [*it has taken 15 years to complete*], it would probably be planned from the outset as an online resource or at least as a CD-ROM. For while following up references in an individual volume using the volume index or the general name index (I, 23) is still manageable, using the four-volume general subject index (I, 24–7) can be nothing short of a nightmare, although Karen Kloth has striven heroically to make it user-friendly (it would have been preferable to be given volume and specific page number, rather than volume and section reference). While one is delighted to come across unexpected leads to follow up – *Stein der Weisen* (the philosopher's stone) for instance – in many cases the references are so numerous and non-specific that all but the most determined user will despair; the patience of Job is needed to work through the thirteen columns of references under *Theologie* and all the time in the world to digest the thirty-five pages of references under *Geschichte*. The fourteen columns of references to individual school histories (under *Gymnasium*), by contrast, are admirably arranged.

Oxford University Press: *Daniel Defoe: master of fictions*, by Maximillian E. Novak (756 pp, £30). Rev. by Claude Rawson, *Times Literary Supplement*, 17 Aug. 2001.

The index, somewhat sparse for such a densely detailed and substantial book, is half-heartedly organized, and it is hard to navigate the somewhat skimpy sub-entries.

Oxford University Press: *The Oxford illustrated companion to medicine*, ed. by Stephen Lock, John Last and George Dunea (£39.50). Rev. by Michael le Page, *New Scientist*, 10 Nov. 2001.

But the inclusion of longer entries in this latest edition makes it harder to find what you're looking for. And I was staggered to discover that there are no fewer than four separate indexes instead of a single comprehensive one. So I'm not sure who would find this book useful. The entries on specific conditions aren't detailed enough for professionals, nor are they intended to be a practical guide for lay people. Yet the dry textbook style and encyclopedic format means it's not the kind of book you can read for pleasure.

Pan Books: *E=mc²: a biography of the world's most famous equation*, by David Bodanis (2001, 330 pp, AUS\$21). Rev. by Ralph Elliott, *The Canberra Times*, 20 Oct. 2001.

David Bodanis's biography of Einstein's famous formula also offers an appendix which traces the careers of scientists mentioned in the text, as well as 65 pages of notes, 20 pages of further reading and an index which fails to include 'the great Max Planck' of the text or the quantum theory.

Phillimore: *Worthing past*, by Sally White (2000, 131 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Monica Maloney, *Sussex Past & Present* (newsletter of the Sussex Archaeological Society).

A professional index with subheadings would make it more useful as a book of reference.

Société Française de Musicologie, *Le théâtre des demoiselles: tragédie et musique à Saint-Cyr à la fin du grand siècle*, by Anne Piéjus (2000, FFr 430). Rev. by Deborah Kauffman, *Early Music*, Nov. 2001.

I would quibble with the French predilection for including only an index of names, although an index by subject would, admittedly, have added to the book's already considerable length.

Tempus Publishing: *Cambridge: the hidden history*, by Alison Taylor (199, 159 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Robin Glasscock, *Antiquaries Journal* 81, 2001.

For mention of many persons, streets and buildings one has to search the text as the index is not sufficiently detailed.

Indexes omitted

Amadeus Press: *Score reading: a key to the music experience*, by Michael Dickreiter, tr. by Reinhard G. Pauly (265 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Michael Oliver, *Gramophone*, June 2001.

Just a few quibbles. There's no index. And I could have done with at least a glossary of the foreign words used in the passages quoted . . .

Belfast Press: *To raise up a new Northern Ireland: speeches and articles 1998–2000*, by David Trimble (166 pp, £5.99). Rev. by Deaglán de Bréadún, *Irish Times*, 1 Sept. 2001.

The Trimble book would have benefited from explanatory footnotes and an index. It is rather cheaply presented: a man of his substance deserved better.

Bloomsbury Publishing/Bantam Doubleday Dell: *Beethoven's hair*, by Russell Martin (276 pp, £14.99/\$24.95). Rev. by Barry Cooper, *BBC Music Magazine*, March 2001.

There is a long list of acknowledgements, but no documentation of Martin's sources – no index, no bibliography and almost no references to existing literature . . .

Boydell Press: *The battle of Agincourt*, ed. by Anne Curry (474 pp, £40). Rev. by Kenneth Fowler, *The Spectator*, 3 March 2001.

One of the great merits of this useful book is that it opens up as many questions as it tries to answer, suggesting new lines of inquiry, indicating sources as yet only partially explored. The omission of a bibliography and an index is thus all the more regrettable.

Broadway: *Wine and war*, by Don and Petie Kladrup (290 pp, \$24). Rev. by Paul Levy, *Wall Street Journal*, 18 May 2001.

And a better publisher might have insisted on an index, the absence of which is a disgrace.

Cama Alless Hospital (Mumbai, India): *Management of a critically sick child*. Rev. by William Cutting, *Tropical Doctor*, April 2001.

There is still much work to be done. As yet, there is no index, page numbering, publisher or indication of how to obtain the booklet . . . A good deal of modification, development and indexing will be necessary to make this book really useful to the busy doctor working in an isolated facility. In its present form, he or she will have difficulty in finding and threading the many pearls into a useful necklace.

Cambridge University Press: *The literature of Al-Andalus*, ed. by Maria Rosa Menocal, Raymond P. Scheindlin and Michael Sells (507 pp, £90). Rev. by Geert Jan. van Gelder, *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 June 2001.

Non-Arabists, however, might have been helped with an index of technical terms. The reader who wonders, for instance, what *muqarnas* means on page 91 will be left in suspense until page 373 is reached. [*But apparently what this reviewer requires is a glossary.*]

Canongate: *The Canongate Burns*, ed. by Andrew Noble and Patrick Scott Hogg (1200 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Ian McIntyre, *The Times*, 14 Nov. 2001.

The book lacks a general index. In so large and dense a work, that is an unaccountable omission, and one which greatly reduces its reference value. I shall be keeping my Kinsley [*James Kinsley's Oxford edition of 1968*] by me a little longer – even if the poor chap is guilty, as alleged here, of the mysterious misdemeanour of ‘wilful obscuritism’.

Carcanet: *Personal terms: notebooks, 1951–1969*, by Frederic Raphael (219 pp, £16.95). Rev. by Jonathan Keates, *The Spectator*, 24 Nov. 2001.

One misses an index, always (why does it have to be?) Carcanet's Achilles heel.

Duckworth: *Eccentrics*, by John Jolliffe (184 pp, £18). Rev. by John Michell, *The Spectator*, 24 Nov. 2001.

If you collect such books you will need this one. But I wish someone had bothered to give it an index.

Executive Briefings: *Intellectual capital: measuring and enhancing the true value of your business*, by Dina Gray (2001, £95). Rev. by Robert Hughes, *InformationWorldReview*, Nov. 2001.

... many ideas are introduced without giving references. While accepting this is a briefing, an index and short bibliography would have helped in this respect.

Four Courts: *Medieval Dublin II*, ed. by Duffy (256 pp, £15.71 pbk, £39.38 hbk). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, Summer 2001.

The whole is well produced and edited, each paper bringing its own bibliography and notes, but there's no index.

Granta: *A history of bombing*, by Sven Lindquist, tr. by Linda Haverty Rugg (£14.99). Rev. by Steven Poole, *Guardian*, 9 June 2001.

... his piecemeal catalogue of horrors retains the unfortunate aura of a gimmick, and the lack of an index is neither big nor clever, but simply bizarre.

International Labour Office: *Managing vocational training systems. A handbook for senior administrators*, by Vladimir Gasskov (2000, £12.95). Rev. by A. Haslam, *Library Association Record* 103(12).

Apart from the lack of index, this book provides an excellent study of the subject.

Kegan Paul: *Letters from Turkey*, by Kelemen Mikes, tr. by Bernard Adams (268 pp, £65). Rev. by Charles King, *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 June 2001.

One cavil, though: the market for scholarly manuscripts belongs to the buyers, and even the most illustrious presses sometimes demand that their authors supply camera-ready copy. But shame on Kegan Paul for failing at least to suggest that the translator include an index or use a laser printer, rather than a poor-quality bubble-jet, to produce the final text. Both would have made a very welcome translation into a fine book.

Kluwer Law International: *Legal protection of the underwater cultural heritage*, ed. by Sarah Dromgoole (1999, £56). Rev. by Angela Croome, *Maritime Life and Traditions*, no. 10, Spring 2001.

A final plea: may there soon be a softback edition with an index and larger print!

Knopf: *Literature and the gods*, by Roberto Calasso, tr. by Tim Parks (\$22). Rev. by Rachel Hadas, *American Scholar* 70(2), Spring 2001.

As with Calasso's earlier and more successful book, *The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony*, the lack of an index in *Literature and the Gods* makes it needlessly difficult to track down a passage or reference. In lieu of an index for both books, we get a list of sources (not the same thing), to which no footnotes direct us, so that we're forever flipping back and forth.

Ludion (Ghent and Amsterdam) and Flammarion (Paris), *L'art des femmes berbères*, by Paul Vandenbroeck (2000, 275 pp, BF1200). Rev. by Alfred Saulniers, *HALI* 116, May–June 2001.

The book has neither an index nor technical analyses of the weavings.

McGraw-Hill: *Pioneers of American landscape design*, by Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson (2000, 486 pp, \$59.95). Rev. by Kathleen Fisher, *Old-House Journal*, July/Aug. 2001.

This book is so valuable it seems niggling to bring up any criticisms, although I have a couple. There are 150 color plates reproduced, but all of them seem to be photos that appear in black and white elsewhere. Why not more black-and-white images to take their places? The back of the book contains a helpful list of public sites designed or preserved by many of the practitioners, but no cross index. If you forget who designed the Tara set for *Gone With the Wind* (answer: Frances Yoch), it's difficult to find the information again. Including such an index, however, would have made the already almost 500-page book impossibly hefty. [*Hefty is in the mind (or arms) of the beholder*], comments Deborah E. Patton, who contributed this item.]

Oxbow Books: *Experiment and design: archaeological studies in honour of John Coles*, ed. by A. F. Harding (1999, 198 pp, £45). Rev. by G. J. Wainwright, *Antiquaries Journal* 81, 2001.

An index would also have been helpful.

Oxbow Books: *Making English landscapes: changing perspectives* (Bournemouth University School of Conservation Sciences Occasional Paper 3), ed. by Katherine Barker and Timothy Darvill (1998, vii + 120 pp, £18). Rev. by Paul Stamper, *Medieval Archaeology* XLII, 1998.

Although the typography of the volume is clean and clear, and the papers well edited ... there is neither index nor list of figures.

Oxford University Press: *Oxford companion to food*, by Alan Davidson (1999, 892 pp, £40). Rev. in *Copyright*, July/Aug. 2001.

This A–Z formatted guide to all things foody has received deserved acclaim and five awards for its contents. One huge drawback is that it has no proper index. If you know where to look, you will find a cornucopia of information.

Oxford University Press: *Reading groups*, by Jenny Hartley (2001, xii + 196 pp). Rev. by Hazel Bell, *National Women's Register*, issue 11, July 2001.

Jenny Hartley has conducted a survey of 350 reading groups in the UK, and here she gives a full and detailed report of her findings ... It is all quite fascinating. There are appendices listing publications, guides, websites and sample group booklists. And there are cartoons – but, alas, there is no index.

Six lively chapters comment on the findings, and consider other topics such as what constitutes a reading group, how they were started, how the books are chosen, how the discussions are structured and how recent discussions had progressed, other groups around the world, and what members most enjoy about their groups. This central text is full of most interesting information, comments, anecdotes, accounts, descriptions, – but, indexless, they cannot be specifically detected or located.

Paternoster Press: *J. C. Ryle, first bishop of Liverpool: a study in mission amongst the masses*, by Ian D. Farley (£19.99). Rev. by Bernard Palmer, *Church Times*, 31 Aug. 2001.

The book includes an extensive bibliography, but lacks both an index and a photograph of its subject.

SCOOP (Standing Committee On Official Publications): *Parliaments and assemblies of the British Isles*, ed. by Valerie Nurcombe (2001, £15). Rev. by Andrew Coburn, *InformationWorldReview*, Nov. 2001.

Though there is no index, the speakers [*at the seminar of which this book is a record*] appear to have been well-briefed or at least to have been aware of each other's scope since there is a certain amount of cross referral in the text.

TSO: *DTI. Mirror Group Newspapers plc* (2 vols, 2001, £45). Rev. by Howard Picton, *SCOOP News, Refer* (journal of the ISG), 17(2), Spring/Summer 2001.

This recently thumped onto my desk, weighing in at something over six pounds . . . It is a major report of great public interest in two volumes of about 700 pages, but it has no index. You would expect that a major report this size with 'popular' appeal would be on CD-ROM (and thus searchable). Well, it isn't and it is not on the DTI website either. The *Daily Mail* recommended that anyone interested in buying shares 'should go to their public library and plough through the detail'. 'Plough through' is right. Library staff I know in the City had to read this in a day for references to specific aspects of the affair. In order not to miss anything, they had to read all of it. It took four librarians (with a copy each, at £45 a copy) most of a day to read, note and produce an annotated copy. With an index it would have taken one person an hour, perhaps. TSO quite reasonably says that it would be happy to include an index but it is the DTI's decision. Come on, DTI, how about making these things more accessible?

Weidenfeld: *The meaning of things: applying philosophy to life*, by Anthony Grayling (218 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Simon Blackburn, *Sunday Times*, 26 Aug. 2001.

. . . although some of the pieces are trifles, they are agreeable and digestible trifles. It is ironic to imagine them becoming a resource for people condemned to write sermons, but they would fit the bill admirably. Anybody so trawling them must, however, be warned that the book does not have an index, and the contents page gives progressively erroneous page numbers from the eighth entry ('defeat') onwards.

Which? Books: *The Gardening Which? Guide to growing your own vegetables*, by Liz Dobbs (2001, 224pp, £18.99). Rev. by E. Charles Nelson, *The Garden*, Sept. 2001.

My main irritation is that the book has no index. The crops are dealt with almost in alphabetical order – but not quite. Celery is put with fennel, for example, which are decidedly different crops in the way they are grown.

Obiter dicta

Faber: *The erotomaniac: the secret life of Henry Spencer Ashbee*, by Ian Gibson (2001, 285 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Peter Parker, *Daily Telegraph*, 17 Feb. 2001.

Ashbee . . . assembled a vast, privately printed three-volume bibliography of 'Curious and Uncommon Books' . . . [He] allowed himself numerous editorial digressions. His splendidly detailed indexes have entries for such unbookish topics as 'Hermaphrodites, Copulation between', 'Nose, Indicates size of yard', 'Drawers, ladies', 'Described' and 'Cork Rumps'. Ian Gibson discerns an interest beyond the call of duty in the minutiae of flagellation ('Backsides, Being able to blush', etc.), while Ashbee's fervent anticlericalism may be judged by extensive entries on 'Priestcraft' ('Some popes addicted to sodomy'; 'Instance of corpse profanation').

HarperCollins: *Friends, voters, countrymen*, by Boris Johnson. Rev. in *The Observer*, 14 Oct. 2001.

Boris Johnson's account of his historic election campaign in Henley . . . is a masterpiece of diplomacy. No index to upset his friends, and fulsome dedicatory thanks to two employers – Charles Moore and Conrad Black – not forgetting 'the man who makes my sandwiches . . .'

Hogrefe and Huber: *Viral hepatitis – practical evaluation and treatment* (3rd edn, 1999, 261 pp, DM74). Rev. by Philip D. Welsby, *Tropical Doctor*, Oct. 2001.

. . . the layout is so well structured that the index is well-nigh superfluous . . .

Musée Cantonal d'Histoire Naturelle: *A thesaurus of bird names*, by Michel Deshayes (2 vols, 2528 pp, SwFr700). Rev. by John A. C. Greppin, *Times Literary Supplement*, 31 Aug. 2001.

The gaps in the Persian listing might have occurred because Deshayes seems not to have known of a primary handbook, *The*

Birds of Iran (in Persian), published in Tehran, 1975, but with a Latin index which makes the work accessible. [*Thank goodness for that.*]

Penguin: *The bay of angels*, by Anita Brookner (£6.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *Guardian*, 27 October 2001.

The dingy Chelsea flat in which Zoe and her widowed mother, Anne, live in genteel economy is almost beyond parody, as is Zoe's job of editing and indexing academic texts . . .

Polity Press: *A social history of knowledge: from Gutenberg to Diderot*, by Peter Burke (268 pp, hbk £45, pbk £13.99). Rev. by Keith Thomas, *History Today* 51(8), Aug. 2001.

Burke has lots to say about encyclopedias and works of reference. In a brilliant *aperçu* he suggests that the principle of indexing by alphabetical order triumphed over other systems of classification, not because it was 'natural', but because new knowledge was coming into the system too fast to be digested or methodised in any other way.

Profile: *The rise and fall of Marks and Spencer*, by Judi Bevan (269 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Martin Jacomb, *The Spectator*, 13 Oct. 2001.

This part of the story is painful, certainly for me, because I was, as a non-executive director, in the thick of it. I was mightily sorry to find so many references against my name in the index. [*Index by SI member Christine Shuttleworth. Sorry about that, Mr Jacomb.*]

Sinclair-Stevenson: *A peerage for trade: a history of the royal warrant*, by Tim Heald (245 pp, £26). Rev. by Hugh Massingberd, *Sunday Telegraph*, 18 Nov. 2001.

. . . I was slightly disappointed not to find more about the surrender of Harrods' Warrants by the 'controversial' Mohamed Fayed (accorded an 'Al' in the text though not in the index). [*It is alleged by Fayed's biographer, Tom Bower, that he adopted the prefix 'Al', to which he was not by birth entitled.*]

Viking: *Feeding frenzy*, by Will Self (390 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Zulfikar Abbany, *The Observer*, 11 Nov. 2001.

But before reading any of *Feeding Frenzy*, it is advisable to consult the index, which covers not only the usual 'people, places and things, but also ideas, obsessions and my own irritating stylistic tics', so as to include 'tongues, locking', 'matching socks and shoes, co-ordinated footwear', and 'snicker-snack, fateful, of psychosis' . . . Just turn to the index and look up Barratt Homes and read how Self indulged one Friday morning in 'reverse commuting' to discover that there existed at least one word that, until then, he didn't know: 'flaunching'.

Famous last lines

The poet Elizabeth Jennings, who died last week, was well known when she was living in Oxford in her twenties for the powerful endings to her poems. The critic Al Alvarez, still an undergraduate at that time, remarked: 'If Elizabeth publishes a collection of her poems, she should have an index not of first lines but of last lines.'

Diary, *The Times*, 7 Nov. 2001

Fascination of Disraeli

'Booknotes' guest Stanley Weintraub, author of *Disraeli: a biography*, appeared on February 6, 1994 . . . 'I wrote a biography of Queen Victoria, published in 1987, and was fascinated by the character of . . . Disraeli as he came across in the biography of Victoria. At that point I decided I wanted to write about Disraeli. Very often what happens is that a subject of a book comes out of the index to the last book – because you get fascinated by somebody in the book, and you want to go on and write more.'

Brian Lamb, *Booknotes: America's finest authors on reading, writing, and the power of ideas* (1997, Times Books, a compilation of cable TV interviews)

Bill's last laugh?

Barring major revelations or soul baring, it doesn't appear likely the Clinton book [to be published by Knopf] will fare better than previous presidential memoirs. But one editor at a major publishing house has a suggestion for how Mr Clinton can boost sales in Washington. In 1997, a biography of Lee Atwater was published without an index. 'People in Washington couldn't just look up their name in a bookstore and read what it said about them,' recalls the editor. 'I'm told it sold several hundred more copies because people actually had to read it. Clinton might enjoy having a last laugh like that at the expense of his adversaries.'

John H. Fund, *Wall Street Journal*, 8 Aug. 2001

How to sack an indexer

Dear Mrs Woodward, As you know, we have a new publisher and he has written to me saying that he wants us to have the Index done in the same way in which he does it for his other publications. It involves rather a complicated time-table, as he issues it with the last number of the year. He has the whole thing cut and dried in his office and he wants me to let him do the Political Quarterly in the same manner in which he does the others. I am very sorry that we shall no longer have it done by you as when you do it, it always recalls the old Hogarth Press days, but I think I had better do what he wants and, in fact, it would be rather tiresome for you to have to do it in the way in which he wants it done.

Many thanks for all you have done for us and I hope some day to see you again.

Letter from Leonard Woolf as editor of the *Political Quarterly*, quoted in *The Virginia Woolf Bulletin*, no. 8, Sept. 2001

How to appease a friend

If I have inadvertently wounded a friend I am sorry and suggest that he looks in the index to see if there is another reference to him. He may find that on the next day I lauded him to the skies . . .

From the Preface to James Lees-Milne, *A mingled measure: diaries 1953-72* (John Murray, 1994)

How to review an index

Maximum respect to the Oxford University Press, which kindly sent us a review copy of a most unusual book – *Index to the Works of Adam Smith* (£45, pp 209), by Knud Haakonssen and Andrew S. Skinner. Reviewing a book like this is tricky (the plot's a little weak and some of the characterisation is unconvincing), but my colleague Larry Elliot has agreed to take the next few years off to thoroughly check all the references. He's got as far as 'Actium, Battle of' on page five, so expect a full review in 2004.

Richard Adams, City Diary, *Guardian*, 28 June 2001

Acknowledgements

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Wheatley Medal procedural changes

Following the formation of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) on 1 April 2002 as a result of the merger of the Library Association (LA) with the Institute of Information Scientists, there will be some changes to the procedures for the LA Reference Awards, which include the Wheatley Medal, presented jointly with the Society of Indexers. See the flyer enclosed with this issue of *The Indexer* or check the SI website (www.socind.demon.co.uk) for further details.

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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 May and 30 November 2002.