

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

Bodleian Library: *The Bodleian Library: a subject guide to the collections*, ed. by Gregory Walker, Mary Clapinson and Lesley Forbes (2004, 240 pp, £19.95). Rev. by John Feather, *CILIP Update*, 4(11), November 1995.

A comprehensive index which includes donors and former owners makes for relatively easy cross-referencing with the standard histories of the library and earlier accounts of its contents.

Boydell: *Accounts of the feoffees of the town lands of Bury S. Edmunds, 1569–1622*, ed. by Margaret Statham (2003, 484 pp, \$60). Rev. by Claire S. Schen, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

The index is substantial – it even includes ‘Grecians’ in one heading. This provides an example of the comparative cases a scholar of another urban area or topic might search for and find in these records.

Boydell: *Westminster Abbey: The Lady Chapel of Henry VII*, ed. by Tim Tatton-Brown and Richard Mortimer (2003, 366 pp, \$85.00). Rev. by Alexandrina Buchanan, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

The volume provides a mass of fascinating information for the specialist. In addition to its wide scope, the helpful addition of an index enables the browser to search for a single topic across the essays.

D. S. Brewer: *John Donne and conformity in crisis in the late Jacobean pulpit*, by Jeanne Shami (2003, vii + 318 pages, \$85). Rev. by Robert C. Evans, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

Shami's book is clearly written, well organized, thoroughly documented in both primary and secondary sources, beautifully indexed, and handsomely produced.

Cape: *Just as well I'm leaving: to the Orient with Hans Christian Andersen*, by Michael Booth (2005, 359 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Antoine Laurent, *Times Literary Supplement*, 5 August 2005.

Although boosted by a wide-ranging bibliography and an efficient index, the text is let down by a series of solecisms.

Chandos: *Globalisation, information and libraries*, by Ruth Rikowski (2005, 393 pp, £39). Rev. by John Pateman, *CILIP Update*, 4(7–8), July/August 2005.

The book is well laid out, with clear type, logical headings and an excellent bibliography and index.

CRC Press: *Good pharmaceutical manufacturing practice rationale and compliance*, by John Sharp (502 pp, \$279.95). Rev. by Gerry Prout, *European Journal of Parenteral and Pharmaceutical Services*, 10(4), 2005.

The book concludes with a full index, which ensures that the reader can easily find the subject matter of their interest.

Darton, Longman & Todd: *Faith and psychology: personality, religion and the individual*, by Leslie J. Francis (2005, 160 pp, £10.95). Rev. by Bruce Duncan, *Church Times*, 30 September 2005.

The usefulness of this well structured book is enhanced by an index of names, a glossary and bibliography, references, and many suggestions for further reading.

Diocese of Ossory: *An index to The Rev. William Carrigan's The history and antiquities of the diocese of Ossory*, by Helen Litton (2005, 731 pp, £32). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, December 2005.

The work of the indexer – who must be familiar with the subject in hand, widely knowledgeable in many fields, skilled, balanced in judgement and infinitely painstaking – is little recognised and appreciated. Here Ireland's leading and most experienced practitioner has been commissioned to celebrate the centenary of the appearance in four volumes of what is still seen as one of the most comprehensive and reliable diocesan histories by the provision of an index, which it sadly lacked. There is an introduction to the book itself and a bibliography of Carrigan's published works.

Faber: *The selected letters of Michael Tippett*, ed. by Thomas Schuttenhelm (2005, 400pp, £25). Rev. by Michael Berkeley, *The Guardian*, 26 August 2005.

The decision to put the letters in groups, one for Britten, one for the BBC, one for his publishers, Schott, and so on has a major drawback. Instead of reading chronologically, you have to return to the 1930s and 1940s each time you get to a new recipient, thus preventing a narrative thread. Given the presence of a perfectly good index, the rationale behind this is hard to understand.

Faber: *Untold stories*, by Alan Bennett (2005, 640 pages, £20). Rev. by Jane Stevenson, *The Observer*, 9 October 2005.

The process of dipping has been hugely facilitated by an index – even better, the index has been made by someone with a sense of humour – ‘Llanberis pass, Wales: AB's 17-year-old thigh stroked (no trauma resulting)’.

Harvard University Press: *Polydore Vergil on discovery*, by Polydore Vergil, ed. and tr. by Brian P. Copenhaver (2002, 721 pp, \$29.95). Rev. by Christiane L. Joost-Gaugier, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

This volume forms a most worthy addition to the I Tatti Renaissance Library. Its facing Latin and English texts are impeccably presented, preserving in both languages all book, chapter, and paragraph numbers. These are accompanied by an illuminating introduction, informative notes on the text, an extensive bibliography, and a substantial index.

Hodder & Stoughton: *Landmarks of Britain: the five hundred places that made our history*, by Clive Aslet (2005, 547 pp, £30). Rev. by David Dimbleby, *The Spectator*, 17/24 December 2005.

There is, however, an excellent index.

Allen Lane: *The secret life of trees*, by Colin Tudge (2005, 400 pp, £20). Rev. by Felix Dennis, *The Oldie*, December 2005.

With a first class glossary, a well-organised index and appealing line illustrations, *The Secret Life of Trees* is probably the best general purpose book on the subject published in the last decade.

Peter Lang: *Die Heldenschilde* (2 vols), by Abraham ben David Portaleone, tr. and commentary by Gianfranco Miletto (2002, 883 pp, €86.00). Rev. by Dean Phillip Bell, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

In addition to the lengthy text itself, the edition includes a series of illustrations and extensive and helpful indexes.

Lilliput: *Wordgloss: a cultural lexicon*, by Jim O'Donnell (336 pp, €20/£14.99). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, December 2005.

While it is basically in alphabetic order, the discursions go farther and wider, but a good index means you can find what you want.

Manson Publishing: *Self-assessment colour review of respiratory medicine*, by S. G. Spiro et al (2004, 192 pp, £17.95). Rev. by Mark L. Levy, *Asthma Journal*, 3(3) 154, 2005.

... there is a very good index at the back.

New York Review of Books: *Moura: the dangerous life of Baroness Budberg*, by Nina Berberova (2005, 360 pp, £17.95). Rev. by Nicholas Haslam, *The Spectator*, 26 November 2005.

... the index, which contains almost every politician, artist, actor, dancer, singer and writer between the wars, promises pleasure during winter evenings.

University of California Press: *Elizabeth I: her life in letters*, by Felix Pryor (2003, 144 pp, \$34.95). Rev. by Mary Hill Cole, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

... a fine index facilitates cross-referencing.

Vintage: *The naked woman: a study of the female body*, by Desmond Morris (2005, 276 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Juliet Clutton-Brock, *Times Literary Supplement*, 28 October 2005.

In line with Desmond Morris's disciplined attitude to publication of his research, the book ends with a list of references and a comprehensive index.

John Wiley: *Drug discovery: a history*, by Walter Sneader (468 pp,

£34.95). Rev. by Henry Connor, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 98, November 2005.

For most people this will not be a book to read from cover to cover but one into which they will dip repeatedly with pleasure and profit. It will probably be used primarily as a reference book and it does have the essential accompaniment of any such work, namely an excellent index; albeit one in a font size so small as to trouble the eyes of some older readers.

World Health Organization: *Climate change and human health: risks and responses*, ed. by A. J. McMichael et al (2003, 322 pp, \$18). Rev. by Paul R. Epstein, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 83(5), May 2005.

The informative glossary and extensive index help make this comprehensive volume useful as an introductory text and a reference for those already initiated.

Two cheers!

Anna Brown Associates and the Barbara Pym Society: *No soft incense: Barbara Pym and the Church*, ed. by Hazel K. Bell (2004, 115 pp, £7.50). Rev. by Ken Bakewell, *Christian Librarian*, 31, Winter 2005.

As one would expect from a former editor of *The Indexer* and the winner of the Wheatley Medal for an outstanding index, the book has an excellent index. I would like, however, to have seen entries under Evangelical church, low church, transubstantiation and vestments and a cross-reference from high church to Anglo-Catholicism.

Droz: *Les premières œuvres poétiques* (1585), vol. 2, by Flaminio de Birague, ed. by Roland Guillot and Michel Clément (2003, xcii + 252 pp, SF 72.00). Rev. by Stephen Murphy, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

This second volume provides, in addition to the three parts of the *Premières œuvres*, the text of a long poem attributed to Birague, *L'Enfer de la Mère Cardine* (along with several related pieces apparently not attributed to him). It also features a separate introduction, bibliography, glossary, and index. For that reason, it is generally useful by itself. . . . Curiously, the 'Index des noms propres' includes words that, although capitalized in the poems, are nevertheless common nouns (Animal, Loup, Lumière, etc.). Still, one can be grateful for this edition.

Haworth Information Press: *Authority control in organizing and accessing information: definition and international experience*, by Arlene G. Taylor and Barbara B. Tillett (2004, 651 pp). Rev. by J. H. Bowman, *CILIP Update*, 4(9), September 2005.

The index is very full, though it would have benefited from the repetition of main headings on successive pages. In some cases there are too many sub-headings and it can be difficult to see where you are.

Maney Publishing: *Goethe in English: a bibliography of the translations in the twentieth century*, by Derek Glass (2005, 345 pp, £54). Rev. by John L. Flood, *Times Literary Supplement*, 7 October 2005.

Access is facilitated by three indexes: to Goethe's works excluding the poems; the poems (with a separate section on translations of songs and individual scenes from *Faust*); and translators. An index of publishers would have been appreciated by those interested in tracing the publishing history of particular translations.

Indexes censured

Ashgate: *Ad quadratum: the practical application of geometry in medieval architecture*, ed. by Nancy Y. Wu (2002, 272 pp, \$79.95). Rev. by Christiane L. Joost-Gaugier, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(1), April 2005.

[The] essays in this small volume are presented with a brief introduction by Eric C. Fernie that is devoted to the explication of mathematical systems in current use by investigators. Rather than provide the reader with a provocative invitation to the actual contents of the book, its plunge into technicalities may prove obfuscating to some. This, together with the excessive modesty of its index (which lists, for example, the triangle and the pentagon but not the octagon or the decagon, though all are discussed by the various authors), detracts from the probing depth exhibited in the separate essays. Had more care been exercised in the final presentation of this volume, especially in its introduction and index, the relation of the book to its title would have been clearer. So, also, the collection of essays would be what it deserves to be, an exemplary cross-section of current research in the study of the application of geometry to medieval ecclesiastical building design.

Berkley Caliber: *The longest night: the bombing of London on May 10, 1941*, by Gavin Mortimer (2005, 356 pp, \$24.96). Rev. by Philip Kopper, *Washington Times*, 16 October 2005.

One serious flaw is the lack of notes. I want to know when and where the Laborite Clement Attlee told the aristocrat Sir Harold Nicholson [*sic*], 'If only the Germans had had the sense not to bomb west of London Bridge, there might have been a revolution in this country.' But the blitz had now 'smashed about Bond Street and Park Lane,' elite parts of town, no longer concentrating on the industrial East End with its squalid slum neighborhoods 'already seething with social injustice.'

Was the source Nicholson's famous diaries or some new obscure text that could alter our view of the period? Throughout the book, I wondered about the source of this anecdote, the authority of that speculation, the accuracy of another stated fact. In the same sorry vein, the index is deplorable; it lists neither the aforementioned Attlee or Nicholson. A book like this deserves the accessories of scholarship to prove the validity of its details that brick upon brick create a bastion of defensible argument and truth. [*A concern for accuracy might also call for the correct spelling of 'Nicholson'.*]

Brill: *The forgotten writings of the Mennonite martyrs*, by Brad S. Gregory (2002, 444 pp, \$149.00). Rev. by Mirjam van Veen, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(1), April 2005.

More generally, Gregory could have helped his readers more by using his extensive knowledge of the martyrs to provide some explanatory notes. Some examples: Verstralen mentions a woman named Mayken. In the index the reader can find her under her second name, Deynoots (248). A footnote mentioning this second name would have been helpful. The same goes for Ariaenken Jans (256). . . . A last remark about the index: I am not entirely convinced that this index is fully accurate. Under Joshua and Caleb, I found references to pages 290, 292, 295, and 386, but they are mentioned as well on page 282, for example. On several occasions authors refer to Jephthah, but he is not mentioned in the index (68 and 295). The same goes for Jehan vander Poele (251) and Schout Jan (259).

Concern regarding the notes and the indexes aside, by providing an easily accessible text, by his illuminating introduction to the context of these writings, as well as by the interesting questions he raises in his introduction, Gregory has opened a new and promising field of research.

Faber: *The letters of Robert Lowell*, ed. by Saskia Hamilton (2005, 852 pp, £30). Rev. by Craig Raine, *Times Literary Supplement*, 9 September 2005.

Alger Hiss is mentioned twice, identified nowhere and excluded from the index, along with many other things. . . . The reference to William James on p. 275 isn't in the index.

Facet Publishing: *The new Walford: guide to reference resources. Vol. 1: Science, technology, medicine*, ed. by Ray Lester (2005, £149.95). Rev. by Charles A. Toase, *Refer*, 21(3), Autumn 2005.

Under each main heading in the body of the book there is a list of subjects included, so that 'Entomology' lists Ants, Bees, Beetles, Bugs and so on. If you look up Ants in the topic index, you get the numbers for the whole of Entomology, not a specific reference to the entry for AntWeb; similarly 'Spiders' in the index refers you to 2869–2922 (Zoology) rather than 2917, the *World spider catalog* website which replaces the seven entries for books on spiders that the old Walford offered. This means that subjects in the index are not necessarily represented by a specific resource in the text.

Mike French and Company Inc: *Green weenies and due diligence: insider business jargon – raw, serious and sometimes funny*, by Ron Sturgeon (2005, 305 pp, \$28.95). Rev. by Michael Quinion, *World Wide Words*, www.worldwidewords.org, 9 December 2005.

On a down note, the index has clearly been generated automatically, which has led to some oddities of reference.

Gibson Square: *Lords & liars: the secret story of the Christie's-Sotheby's conspiracy*, by Christopher Mason (2005, 394pp, £15). Reviewed by Robert Lacey, *Sunday Times*, 21 August 2005.

It is a pity that such an excellent book has been thrown together by its publisher. It reads like a proof copy, dotted with line breaks, floating hyphens and misspellings: we read of the actor Jack Nicholson and John Lennon of the Boatels. The index is mystifyingly cursory, with just one reference to Brooks, who occurs in every chapter, and no mention of Scott Muller, a key figure who was Taubman's trial attorney.

Hambledon & London: *A subject for taste: culture in eighteenth-century England*, by Jeremy Black (2005, 272 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Michael Caines, *Times Literary Supplement*, 23 September 2005.

. . . the Penelope who is not in the index but who does feature on page 115 should be Aubin rather than 'Aubion'.

Humana Press: *Platelets and megakaryocytes*, Vol. 1: *Functional assays*, Vol. 2: *Perspectives and techniques*, by Jonathan M. Gibbins (2004 and 2005, 380 and 503 pp). Rev. by Paolo Gresele, *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, 3.

A few limitations of the book are . . . the rather condensed analytical index, of little practical help.

National Library of Australia: *Alan Moorehead: a rediscovery*, by Ann Moyal (2005, 138 pp, \$24.95). Rev. by Peter Sekules, *Canberra Times*, 17 September 2005.

The index! We are all indebted to that self-effacing band of manuscript librarians whose only recognition comes in the acknowledgments of books such as this. Moyal pays due tribute to the venerable master of the library's collections, Graeme Powell, who toils in his windowless cell on the second floor. The index, however, is as innocent of 'Powell, Graeme' as a frog is of feathers.

'Sekules, Peter 92' does appear in the index but on Page 92 there is no reference to your humble reviewer. Of course, in the public interest one must look above such personal considerations, so I did. The name above mine in the index is 'Sculthorpe, Peter' but there is no mention of the composer on the page indicated either.

Northern Illinois University Press: *Illinois: a history of the land and its people*, by Roger Biles (2005, 300 pp, £16.50). Rev. by Jan Stilson, *Rockford Register Star*, 25 December 2005.

The book includes end notes, bibliography and an index. Strangely, though, there is no page number in the index behind the entry for Lorado Taft. A computer glitch? An oversight? If one looks it up in the art chapter, mention is found on Page 173.

O Books: *The fall*, by Steve Taylor (2005, 446 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*, 3 December 2005.

It is a pity, or, if you are sensitive to such matters, a warning sign, that a book which relies so heavily for its thesis on the desiccation of the Sahara should find itself completely unable to spell 'desiccation' correctly once, not even in the index.

Oxford Bibliographical Society: *Fragments of medieval manuscripts used as pastedowns in Oxford bindings with a survey of Oxford binding c. 1515–1620* (2000, xx + 278 pp, £45). Rev. by Elizabeth Mathew, *Rare Books Newsletter*, 75, August 2005.

Although it is disappointing that the reprint does not take into account the work of various Oxford college librarians, and has not been structured more effectively in terms of the several indexes, the work, nevertheless, will be gratefully accepted by palaeographical researchers.

Oxford University Press: *Oxford textbook of medicine*, ed. by David A. Warrell et al (4th edn on CD-ROM, £195). Rev. by C. D. Shee, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, vol. 98, July 2005.

The format is almost identical to that of the textbook. . . . One can browse the contents of the book by use of the table of contents, the index or a search function. . . . The word-search facility in the electronic version is very useful since the index is not wholly reliable. For instance, I was unable to find either Duchesne's muscular dystrophy or hereditary spastic paraplegia in the index, although both topics are covered in the text. Looking under 'graft versus host disease' in the index one would be unaware that lungs can be involved (although bronchiolitis obliterans does occur separately in the index and is well-covered in the text). Similarly, the index was no use in finding the table of drugs that can cause hyponatraemia. The index could be made more doctor-friendly. 'Overdose', for instance, is a commonly used term that does not appear in the index; details of deliberate drug overdose are found in the text under 'Poisoning', and it would be a simple matter to say 'For overdose see Poisoning'. The index lists 'SSRIs' but with no link to the text. . . . The index requires ruthless recompilation. Parenthetically, perhaps the time has come for the printed version to have the index in a separate volume rather than the triplication of appending the entire index to each constituent volume.

For this 'must-have' textbook would I recommend old-fashioned print (£295 for three volumes) or the e-version (£195)? If the index was more reliable I would still opt for the paper version, which is easier to read. However, the electronic version has the advantage of compact size, lower price, and an excellent word search facility.

Palgrave Macmillan: *Climate change begins at home*, by Dave Reay (2005, 224 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Caspar Henderson, <http://>

www.opendemocracy.net/ecology/climate_change_3012.jsp, 11 October 2005.

My criticisms are small: nowhere in the index, for example, is there a mention of offset or sequestration. So someone looking for advice on these – as I am when contemplating more climate-busting travel to research whether coral reefs are going extinct – may wish to look elsewhere.

Penguin: *Postwar: a history of Europe since 1945*, by Tony Judt (2005, 1000 pp, \$39.95). Rev. by Louis Menand, *The New Yorker*, 28 November 2005.

The book does include an index, but it is far from comprehensive. It omits names mentioned in the text (Barbie, Ridgway) and includes idiosyncratic entries that no one would think to search for – 'Recycled Communists, 693,' for example, or 'Sexual fulfillment, 404–405,' or 'Cynicism, 37, 481–482.' There is a distressing number of misspelled names (Ridgeway for Ridgway, for instance) and similar errors. The book would have benefitted from another month in the shop.

Penguin Ireland: *Time added on: an autobiography*, by George Hook (2005, 246 pp, €24.99). Rev. by Kevin Myers, *Irish Times*, 15 October 2005.

. . . the index is truly deplorable: two references to the 1987 World Cup, but none whatsoever to any subsequent ones or, worst of all, to the definitive 1999 defeat by Argentina, the very nadir of Irish rugby fortunes, which Hook (and Brendan Fanning) had been predicting.

Indexes omitted

Algonquin Books: *On American soil: how justice became a casualty of World War II*, by Jack Hamann (2005, 343 pp, \$24.95). Rev. by Howard Barnes, www.journalnow.com, 11 September 2005.

A serious problem is that few readers will be able to sort out the many characters involved and the intricacies of the investigation and trial. To a historian, the unforgivable sin is the omission of an index.

Alianza: *Los moriscos del reino de Granada: ensayo de historia social*, by Julio Caro Baroja (2003, 376 pp). Rev. by A. Katie Harris, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

This new paperback edition (which includes an introductory essay by Francisco J. Flores Arroyuelo, notes, a bibliography, and a table of contents but, alas, no index) makes this classic of social history available to a new generation of students.

Allen Lane/Penguin: *Whose Bible is it?: a history of the scriptures through the ages*, by Jaroslav Pelikan (2005, 288 pp, £20). Rev. by Damian Thompson, *Sunday Telegraph*, 25 September 2005.

Alas, the book has one infuriating flaw. The love of money is the root of all evil, says Timothy 6:10 and Penguin's greedy unwillingness to spend about £250 on commissioning an index is an insult to the reader. As a scholar, Pelikan must know how infuriating it is when publishers play this trick. Why didn't he put his foot down?

Bloomsbury: *It is bliss here: letters home 1939–1945*, by Myles Hildyard (2005, 323 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Noble Frankland, *Spectator*, 8 October 2005.

It is disappointing that this brilliant book, with its galaxy of names, buildings, battles and sights, has no index.

British Library: *The early records of Sir Robert Cotton's Library: formation, cataloguing and use*, by Colin G. C. Tite (2004, xvii + 297 pp, \$120). Rev. by Ian Mortimer, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(1), April 2005.

The brief descriptions and lack of index to creators and compilers mean that it will not be a first port of call for users, but having ascertained a specific reference, the avenues of research that it opens up are labyrinthine.

Columbia: *Are we losing the young church: youth ministry in Ireland from the second Vatican council*, by Gerard Gallagher (226 pp, €16.99/ £11.99). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, December 2005.

A considerable bibliography and no index.

Chandos Publishing: *Freedom of information: working towards compliance*, by Liz Taylor (2004, 122 pp, £25). Rev. by Paul Pedley, *CILIP Update*, 4(9), September 2005.

This book is only 122 pages long, and yet points are repeated over and again. It isn't an easy book to find your way around. There is no index and, where something is mentioned again in another place, you aren't given a page number to turn to but merely the chapter number.

Fourth Estate: *The planets*, by Dava Sobel (2005, 270 pp, £15). Rev. by Patrick Moore, *The Guardian*, 3 September 2005.

. . . but there should be a special corner of the Inferno reserved for a publisher who puts out a scientific book minus an index.

Rev. by John Morrish, *The Independent*, 4 September 2005.

While the book is dense with facts, its construction is too discursive and its chapters too disparate to make it any sort of reference work. Worse, there's no index. And for the common reader, the absence of a single narrative makes this book easier to put down than to pick up again.

Goldsmith Press: *Hellenising Ireland: Greek and Roman themes in modern Irish literature*, by Brian Arkins (236 pp, €25). Rev. by D. C. Rose, *Books Ireland*, November 2005.

Wide ranging and exhaustive as is his bibliography, I would gladly have sacrificed a page or two of it in return for an index, while quotation marks that open and do not close or close when they have not opened are a particular irritation.

Grice Chapman: *Raj, secrets, revolution: a life of Subhas Chandra Bose*, by Mihir Bose (2004, 320pp, £15.95). Rev. by Krishna Dutta in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, 9 September 2005.

Sadly, unlike the 1982 biography [of which this is a reworking], it has no index and contains a number of typographical errors.

Lion: *Jesus, man or myth?* by Carsten Peter Thiede (2005, 160 pp, £6.99). Rev. by Brian Gardner, *The Reader*, 102(4), Winter 2005.

This seems to be a book for the general reader but, sadly, there are no indices [*sic*], bibliography or guidelines to follow up.

McDonald Institute: *Dwelling among the monuments*, ed. by Colin Richards (2005, 419 pp, £40). Rev. by Mike Pitts, *British Archaeology*, September/October 2005.

This remarkable book describes fieldwork on Orkney. . . . From one experienced in archive work, the lack of index and indication of how the Barnhouse records can be accessed is particularly

surprising. These are common errors: but this is an uncommon book.

Metro Publishing: *Poison arrows*, by S. Feldman (244 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Henry Connor, *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 98, October 2005.

The absence of an index is always an irritation but an even greater annoyance is caused by Feldman's decision to dispense with an orthodox system of referencing in favour of a lengthy list of citations which are not linked to statements in the text, so that the reader cannot readily pursue some of the issues which are raised.

John Murray: *Shockwave: the countdown to Hiroshima*, by Stephen Walker (2005, 352 pp, £20). Rev. by Bryan Appleyard, *Sunday Times*, 31 July 2005.

And, last, this is the first non-fiction book I have encountered without a contents page or an index. What is going on here?

New Island: *The UCD aesthetic: celebrating 150 years of UCD writers*, ed. by Anthony Roche (2005, 298 pp, €20). Rev. by Kevin Barry, *Irish Times*, 23 July 2005.

The absence of an index and of running heads leaves the reader at a loss to investigate connections. [*UCD stands for University College Dublin.*]

Penguin: *The meaning of Tingo*, by Adam Jacot de Boinod (2005, 209 pp, £10). Rev. by Michael Quinion, www.worldwide-words.org, 7 October 2005.

And I curse the lack of an index.

Picador: *Santa: a life*, by Jeremy Seal (2005, 292 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Nicholas Harman, *The Spectator*, 17/24 December 2005.

Dickens rescued that farrago of sentimental gluttony [*A Christmas Carol*] by introducing Scrooge. Thinking of whom, is it only reviewers, or paying customers too, who like amusing, fact-packed books like this one to have an index?

Prestel: *Holkham*, by Leo Schmidt et al (240 pp, £30). Rev. by John Martin Robinson, *The Spectator*, 10 December 2005.

It is a pity that there is no index (though there are source notes and bibliography).

Profile Books: *Talk to the hand: the utter bloody rudeness of the world today*, by Lynne Truss (2005, 228 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Deborah Solomon, *New York Times*, 20 November 2005.

The book, which lacks an index and is padded with anecdotes and sociological asides, makes no pretense of being exhaustive.

Rodopi: *Signs of change: transformations of Christian traditions and their representations in the arts, 1000–2000* (490 pp, €100/ \$120). Rev. by Lucy Beckett, *Times Literary Supplement*, 16 December 2005.

The process of trying to make sense of these diverse pieces of scholarly writing is not unlike sorting the bits of jigsaw puzzle at the bottom of a toy cupboard. They turn out to belong to at least three different puzzles. Do we still have the boxes with the pictures on, and enough of the rest of the pieces to make the sort-out worthwhile? Perhaps, though these puzzles are so complicated that the pictures will never be completed. . . . There is, naturally, no index. [*One can hear the reviewer's sigh.*]

Scarecrow: *Historical dictionary of the Renaissance*, by Charles G. Nauert (2003, 582 pp, \$80). Rev. by John Hunt, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

Although the book lacks a subject index, entries are cross-referenced through boldface print wherever they appear in the dictionary.

Scribe: *Your call is important to us: the truth about bullshit*, by Laura Penny (2005, 278 pp, \$26.95). Rev. by Ron Cerabona, *Canberra Times*, 10 September 2005.

There are several frustrating things about this book. The lack of an index, an all-too-common shortcoming in non-fiction books nowadays, is irritating...

Three Rivers Press: *Why do men have nipples?* by Mark Leyne and Billy Goldberg (2005, 217 pp, \$12.95). Rev. in *Rockford Register Star*, 6 September 2005.

This entertaining and informative book has no index – providing one would have made it more useful as a reference work. There is no appendix, either, but since one of the authors is a physician, he might have removed it. [*Ouch.*]

Turtle Point Press: *Just the thing: selected letters of James Schuyler, 1951–1991*, ed. by William Corbett (2005, 470 pp, £13.99). Rev. by William Wootten, *Times Literary Supplement*, 9 September 2005.

Just the Thing is well footnoted, with a glossary of names (it does, though, lack an index and – more of a pity – any photographs or reproductions of artworks mentioned).

Viking: *The ice museum: in search of the lost land of Thule*, by Joanna Kavenna (2005, 334 pp, £16.99).

Reaktion: *The idea of north*, by Peter Davidson (2005, 271 pp, £16.95). Rev. by James Hamilton-Paterson, *London Review of Books*, 1 September 2005.

I have a grouse about both these books: neither has an index.

Vintage: *On literature*, by Umberto Eco, tr. by Martin McLaughlin (2006, 352 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*, 24 December 2005.

My only real gripe is the absence of an index. In a collection of essays that looks at times as if it's approaching a unity, or at least a web of cross-connections, where a thought or reference in one is picked up, or adjusted, in another one, this is almost a scandal. The publishers would probably say that an index would have driven up the cost of the book, but really, another quid wouldn't have hurt. There are so many thoughts here that no one's going to complain of bad value.

Wolfhound: *As I saw it: reviewing over 30 years of Fianna Fáil and Irish politics*, by Pádraig Faulkner (202 pp, €14.99). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, November 2005.

The book lacks an index.

World Health Organization: *Toman's tuberculosis: case detection, treatment, and monitoring*, ed. by T. Frieden (2004, 350 pp, \$72). Rev. by Antonio Pio, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 83(5), May 2005.

The second edition keeps the questions and answers format of the first edition, with all its originality but also with its main weakness, i.e. frequent repetitions despite the many cross-references. . . . In

addition, the questions and answers format is not necessarily user-friendly; it does not make it easy to find a subject that is not explicitly spelled out in the question. Surprisingly, the book does not include a subject index.

Yale University Press: *A little history of the world*, by E. H. Gombrich, translated by Caroline Mustill (2005, 320 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Brian Sewell, *Evening Standard*, 26 September 2005.

Only over the Enlightenment and the absence of an index can I quarrel with this remarkable, delightful and successfully well-intentioned book.

Obiter dicta

Eerdmans: *Harvesting Martin Luther's reflections on theology, ethics, and the Church*, ed. by Timothy J. Wengert (2004, 274 pp, \$30.00). Rev. by Gordon A. Jensen, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(2), July 2005.

One wishes that essays on Luther's understanding of the Word and the Sacrament of the Altar had been included in the first section, and that essays on Luther's understanding of the 'two kingdoms' and his biblical hermeneutic, especially in light of the current debate about human sexuality, might have been included in the ethics section, but as with the compiling of an index to a good book, not everything gets included.

Gill & Macmillan: *Patrick Kavanagh: a biography*, by Antoinette Quinn (2003, 560 pp, £11.99). Rev. by Frank McNally, *Irish Times*, 5 November 2005.

It is instructive to learn that in 1959, when he was still falling in love, Kavanagh also fell into the Grand Canal, near Baggot Street Bridge [in Dublin]. . . . I quote the story by way of providing context for Kavanagh's romantic adventures. By the end of the book, I had lost track of the number of his accidents, love-wise, and had to resort to checking the index. Disappointingly, this did not have a listing for 'Love, PK falls in, 8, 103, 121, 142, 174'; whereas it did have one for 'Grand Canal, PK falls into, 384–86, 388'. But I eventually found what I was looking for under the sub-subsection 'Kavanagh/relations with women/love affairs'. [*Index by SI Irish Group member Helen Litton.*]

Little, Brown for Time Warner Book Group: *The Edwardians*, by Roy Hattersley (2004, 528 pp, £25). Rev. by Julie Goddard, *Family Tree Magazine*, July 2005.

Mr Hattersley writes easily and entertainingly, with many an anecdote to lighten the tone. However, when he mentions someone, using just a surname with no further explanation, I was forced to consult the book's index, which began to annoy me. Read this book for pleasure, but with a reference book at your elbow. [*At least the index came to the rescue.*]

Little, Brown: *Ned Sherrin: the autobiography*, by Ned Sherrin (2005, 480 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Stephen Bayley, *Observer*, 11 September 2005.

But Sherrin's real relationships are most clearly revealed in the index, the place where most readers will start. At 11 pages of close-set type it is impressive. Again, interesting cultural biases are revealed. You get McCarthy, Mary and Pete, but not biographer Fiona. Fields, Dorothy and Gracie, but not artist Duggie. Wolfe, Digby, but not Tom. I had to do two trawls before I discovered anybody I actually knew: Jeremy Bullmore, emeritus chairman of

LWT, and writer-cook Simon Hopkinson have very brief walk-on parts. And then I was alone in a high-kicking, vast chorus of cheerful and bibulous thespians.

William Morrow: *Symptoms of withdrawal: a memoir of snapshots and redemption*, by Christopher Kennedy Lawford (2005, 389 pp, \$25.95). Rev. by Janet Maslin, *New York Times*, 26 September 2005.

Now that he finds it convenient to reclaim his middle name, Mr Lawford has taken on his Kennedy heritage with both scrappiness and introspection. 'That's right, no index,' he writes - on a closing page entitled Index - to frustrate his relatives' habit of looking up their own names.

Spellmount: *All my friends will buy it: a bottlefield tour*, by Leo Cooper (2005, 228 pp, £20.00). Rev. by Gordon Graham, *LOGOS*, 16(4), January 2006.

One is not sure whether the title is prophetic or imperative. Either way, the amiable author has done his best to ensure that the statement will come to pass, because all his friends are mentioned in the book. The index is no doubt the mailing list.

Virgin: *Read all about it*, by Max Clifford and Angela Levin (256 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Craig Brown, *Spectator*, 8 October 2005.

The index offers a flavour. Under Clifford, Max, character and attributes, you will find references to Ambition and drive/Bureaucracy, anathema to/Confidence/Generosity/Desire to help people/Enjoyment of sex/Generosity/Honesty/Love of sport, and so on.

Booker man's index

Martin Goff, Booker administrator of legend, wants it to be known that he is not retiring from his duties as literary prize fixer until the end of [2005]. 'I'm still here,' he informed the Browser, shortly before last week's Guildhall dinner. To stress the point, he got one of the Man Booker suits to tell the throng that he was writing his memoirs. Wags commented that the index might be longer than the text.

The Browser, *The Observer*, 16 October 2005.

Obliging index

From the point of view of a pastor faced with preparing a sermon for an upcoming funeral, perhaps the most practical part of the book was the index. Here the sermons were categorized according to the status or occupation of the deceased. There were, for instance, eight sermons appropriate for the funerals of the elderly, and seven for the young. Other sermons were listed as fitting for the rich, or the poor; for nobles, merchants, artisans, and peasants; parents and children; widows and women dying in childbirth; for those who died after a long illness and for those who died suddenly; for suicides and for murder victims; for the 'righteous and pious,' as well as for the 'sinful and reprobate,' and, finally, several sermons that could be used at the funeral of anyone.

"'To oblige my brethren": the reformed funeral sermons of Johann Brandmüller', Amy Nelson Burnett, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 36(1), April 2005.

Ill-typed index

In view of the comment by Josh Hanna, CEO of ancestry.co.uk (August 2005) that 'good indexes are the key to our success'

perhaps his company will consider issuing a corrected version of its CD *Pallot's Marriage Index 1780-1837* (published in 2001), sadly one of the worst examples of the corruption of a valuable index by ignorant and incompetent typists.

Letter from Anthony Camp, London, *Ancestors*, October 2005.

Death and disease not found

Or consider . . . *The City in the Ancient World*, by Mason Hammond (1972), published as part of the Harvard Studies in Urban History. This volume has an excellent index. Under 'Roman citizenship', the index lists twenty-four page references. Entries also appear for Romulus, Trojan war, Borneo, and even Pleistocene period. But not one of the following words appears in the index: aqueduct, bath(s), bathing, build, building, crime, death, disease, environment, epidemic, ethnic, feces, food, fuel, garbage, homes, house, housing, manure, pipes, plague, plumbing, privy, sewer, smoke, street, urine, washing, waste, or water. The omission of these index listings reflects the fact that this book . . . is about culture, and about political and military history, and is not about cities at all.

Rodney Stark, *The rise of Christianity* (1996), p. 148

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