

# Indexes reviewed

Edited by Christine Shuttleworth

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*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 readers have sent in. Our reproduction of comments is not a stamp of approval from The Indexer upon the reviewer's assessment of an index. Extracts are arranged alphabetically under the names of publishers, within the sections: Indexes praised; Two cheers!; Indexes censured; Indexes omitted; Obiter dicta.*

## Indexes praised

**Allen Lane:** *A history of Christianity: the first three thousand years*, by Diarmaid MacCulloch (2009, 1,216 pp, £35). Rev. by Nicholas Orme, *Church Times*, 16 October 2009.

Wow, what a book! A thousand pages of text, excluding notes, maps, plates, and reading lists. Three thousand years of history: three, because the scene is set with chapters on Israel, Greece, and Rome before AD. And goodness knows how many thousand references in what reviewers never mention but should: an excellent index.

**The Book Collector** (£50 per annum). Rev. by James Raven, *Times Literary Supplement*, 30 October 2009.

Internet communities might share certain characteristics of this community, but the journal (despite the addition of an excellent website with an index reaching back to the first issue of 1952) is very much an information exchange of the turned page.

**Bower House Publications:** *Contact lenses: the story*, by Tim Bowden (2009, 812 pp, £77). Rev. by Bill Long, *The Optician*, 238(6218), 4 September, 2009.

The closing index is an open invitation to purchase this book. It includes references to the astounding array of persons, companies, products, organisations, materials, technologies, patents, and modalities that should be standard reference material for eye care practitioners, scientists, students, teachers, lawyers, or government agencies.

**Brepols:** *A repertorium of Middle English prose sermons* (4 vols), ed. by Veronica O'Mara and Suzanne Paul (2007, 2895 pp, £495.38). Rev. by Laura Iseppi, *The Medieval Review* 2009-3-19. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0903.019>

I was able to conduct my brief inquiry thanks to a solid corpus of indexes which allow for a swift search. For manuscripts, these include indexes of owners, scribes and provenance, and, for sermons, indexes of authors, occasions, themes, biblical citations, proper names, place names, concepts, exempla and verse.

**Cape:** *Redeeming features: a memoir*, by Nicholas Haslam (2009, 368 pp, £25). Rev. by Charles Moore, *Daily Telegraph*, 10 November 2009.

The index is a work of art in its own right: 'Thatcher, Margaret, Baroness; Thomas (Eton master); Thompson (Black Canyon Ranch handyman); Thorpe, Jeremy; Thurn und Taxis, Prince

Johannes von; Tiny Tim (singer) . . .'. Names are not so much dropped as flung about like confetti. [*Index by SI member Christopher Phipps.*]

**Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, School of Celtic Studies:** *Early Irish satire*, by Roisin McLaughlin (312 pp, €35). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, March 2009.

A very elaborate set of indexes is provided.

**Facet:** *Access, delivery, performance: the future of libraries without walls – a Festschrift to celebrate the work of Professor Peter Brophy*, ed. by Jillian R. Griffiths and Jenny Craven (2009, 238 pp, £44.95). Rev. by Mike Freeman, *New Library World*, 110(9/10), 2009.

The *Festschrift* has an excellent and comprehensive bibliography of Peter Brophy's writings and a good index.

**Fourth Estate:** *Me Cheeta: the autobiography*, by Cheeta (pseudonym of James Lever) (2008, 320 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Ben Hoyle, *The Times*, 1 August 2009.

It is dressed up as a genuine autobiography, complete with archly captioned photographs and a deliciously detailed index: 'Dietrich, Marlene, omni-sexual voraciousness of . . .'

**Haynes:** *Space conquest – the complete history of manned spaceflight*, by Francis Dreer (208 pp, £25). Rev. by Nick Quinn, *Astronomy Now*, October 2009.

The book is in chronological order, with a reasonable index. [*Faint praise, but better than none.*]

**Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society:** *Journal of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society*, series 2, vol. 7 (2007). Rev. by John Bradley, *Archaeology Ireland*, Spring 2009.

Alone among Irish journals, the volume has an excellent index for which the editor and all concerned must be praised.

**Kildare Collections and Research Services:** *The annals of Ballitore*, ed. by Mario Corrigan, Michael Kavanagh and Karel Kiely (352 pp, €20). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, May 2009.

There are notes on these two texts, a glossary, facsimiles of their title pages, and an all-encompassing index.

Rev. by George Pitcher, *Daily Telegraph*, 17 October 2009.

Also, this is a great index book. You can, for example, learn all you need to know about the development of Christianity in the United States just by following the index directions. But this is not 'just' a history book. I learnt much about today's Church just by looking up the three entries for 'women', 'schism' and 'homosexuality' in the index (though the last entry was marred somewhat by having 'See also sodomy' at the end of it. Charming).

Work this book hard in these ways and it's a bargain at £35.

**Manx Heritage Foundation:** *Holiday isle: the golden era of the Manx boarding house from the 1870s to the 1970s*, by John Beckerson (2007, £14.99). Rev. by Daniel J. Davies, [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), 17 November 2009.

Unusually for local history, it's also got a proper index so that anyone who wants to find out more can go deeper.

**Mercier:** *Get rid of your bin and save money*, by Féidhlim Harty (2009, 159 pp, £7.99). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, April 2009.

Easily the longest section in the index is on composting and the advice is excellent. It's good to have an index and it's an indication of the thoroughness of presentation . . . In fact this book is a small encyclopedia, and I can imagine referring to it often.

**Oxford University Press:** *A commentary on Thucydides, Vol. Three: Books 5.25–8.109*, by Simon Hornblower (2008, 1,107 pp, £170). Rev. by Malcolm Schofield, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 October 2009.

Indeed this wonderful book, beautifully presented by the publisher, with a superb index, sustains its life and energy over more than a thousand pages above all through conversation, in which the reader feels himself (or herself) included.

**Routledge:** *Encyclopedia of Italian literary studies, Vol. One: A–J, Vol. Two: L–Z*, ed. by Gaetana Marrone (2007, 2,472 pp, £335). Rev. by Robert Gordon, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 September 2009.

There are definite weaknesses . . . which in the end cast a pall over the whole . . . There is very little cross-referencing, surely essential for curious readers to build their own web of knowledge . . . The very extensive index, running to nearly 170 pages (and usefully reproduced in both volumes), contains this information in a more unobtrusive form.

**St Martin's Press:** *Hiding man: a biography of Donald Barthelme*, by Tracy Daugherty (2009, 581 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Lorrie Moore, *New York Review of Books*, 26 March 2009.

So what do we really want from a literary biography? Photographs, an index, a little gossip? Daugherty is cooperative on all these fronts . . . The index is admirable in the hypnotic way of indexes.

**Scarecrow Press:** *Maestros in America: conductors in the 21st century*, by Roderick L. Sharpe and Jeanne Koekkoek Stierman (2008, 362 pp, £51.95). Rev. by Michael Mauskapf, *Music Library Association Notes*, 65(3), 2009.

The authors were wise to include composers in the index, allowing readers to cross-reference their favorite composers with conductors who have a history of promoting and recording their music. The careful and detailed formatting of the index is also noteworthy: each conductor's subject entry appears in boldface type, so as to distinguish it from any other references.

**Skerries Historical Society:** *Time and tide 6* (175 pp, €15). Rev. by Hugh Oram, *Books Ireland*, Summer 2009.

The book itself has a most useful index of all the papers belonging to the Skerries Historical Society.

**SUNY Press:** *The history of al-Tabari (Suny Series in Near Eastern Studies)*, vol. XL (index), by Alex Popovkin and Everett K.

Rowson (2007, 674 pages, \$34.95). Rev. by Duc du Ryer, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), 1 October 2009.

When it comes to indexing, readers of Arabic and Persian history and literature cannot help but recall Bernard of Chartres' comments in another context. We are dwarfs astride the shoulders of giants, the giants in this case being those nineteenth and early twentieth century scholars who, laptopless in their studies, managed to devise immensely helpful indices to their monumental works of scholarship. We, on the other hand, are conditioned to discard the computerized concoctions now dished up as indices and instead rummage through books with the naked eye. The Tabari index is therefore all the more welcomed for reminding us of the value of an excellent and intelligently designed index. Since the translation is referenced to the standard Arabic edition by M. J. de Goeje, the reader can use the English index for searching the Arabic edition. Having used it constantly during the past few weeks, I have yet to find a slip or a faulty transliteration. The compilers, Popovkin and Rowson, have earned the gratitude of all readers of this truly magnificent project.

**University of Chicago Press:** *Time, creation and the continuum: theories in antiquity and the early Middle Ages*, by Richard Sorabji (2006, xviii + 473 pp, \$22.50). Rev. by Michael W. Tkacz, *Review of Metaphysics*, 63(1), September 2009.

This is the rerelease in paperback format of Professor Sorabji's original edition published in Great Britain by Duckworth and in the United States by Cornell University Press in 1983. In addition to the index and bibliographies of the earlier edition, this edition includes an index locorum compiled by John Ellis, Harry Ide, and Eric Lewis in 1988. This additional index not only includes references to ancient, medieval, and early modern authors cited in *Time, Creation and the Continuum*, but also those cited in Sorabji's *Necessity, Cause, and Blame* (1980) and *Matter, Space and Motion* (1988). For those who have found Sorabji's compendious surveys a useful reference in the way an earlier generation of medievalists found Pierre Duhem's *Le Système du monde*, this rerelease will be worth consulting for the additional index alone . . . The rerelease of this book with a new comprehensive index is most welcome, for it ensures that Sorabji's work will continue to be available and accessible.

## Two cheers!

**Ecole française d'Athènes:** *Athènes et Délos à l'époque classique: recherches sur l'administration du sanctuaire d'Apollon délien*, by Véronique Chankowski (2008, 590pp). Rev. by William Slater, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-4-44. <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-04-44.html>.

This is a massive and difficult book on a difficult subject; this reviewer seeks primarily to set out its rich content, which despite the detailed Table de Matières (581-88) is not so easily accessed in the absence of a subject index. . . . There are four Sections, divided in turn into chapters, which are in turn divided into sub-chapters numbered A, B, C etc. All are listed carefully in the table of contents hidden at the back. Inevitably subjects recur in many different places, and the table of contents along with the index of literary and epigraphic references (567–73) have to do imperfect service to track these, so that a hunt for e.g. 'aristeion' crowns will come up short. Readers are advised to keep post-its at hand; *experto crede*. . . . A list of amphictyons can be found in the useful index of Athenians in the Delian inscriptions (525–9). The officers on both sides are enumerated, and their relationship discussed, as far as one can now determine it.

**Edizioni di storia e letteratura:** *Tradizione antologica dell'epigramma greco: le sillogi minori di età bizantina e umanistica*, by Francesca Maltomini (2008, 214 pp). Rev. by Lucia Floridi, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-5-41. <http://www.bmcreview.org/2009/05/20090541.html>

[There is] an index of the manuscripts (pp. 213-214) . . . Also a general index would have maybe been useful, but this concern is somewhat made up for by the clear arrangement of the book, which greatly assists the reader's exploration into specific questions.

**Eisenbrauns:** *A grammar of the Hittite language. Part 1: Reference grammar*, by Harry A. Hoffner, Jr and H. Craig Melchert (2008, 468 pp). Rev. by Philomen Probert, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-5-49. <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-05-49.html>

The grammar does not have a traditional index; the combination of very full table of contents on the one hand and searching facility on the other provides a rather good substitute for one – though for those of us not automatically connected to a computer at all times and in all teaching contexts, a slight re-thinking of working habits is required.

**Fiorini:** *Una serata a Colono: fortuna del secondo Edipo*, by Andrea Rodighiero (2007, 127 pp). Rev. by Cressida Ryan, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-2-38. <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-02-38.html>

Aristotle and the supposedly Aristotelian unities are also brought in at various relevant points (not noted in the index) . . . The end matter includes a useful index locorum. A chronological appendix of works discussed would have been helpful, however, especially if it also included some of the further works based on the OC which Rodighiero does not discuss. The index of modern names might also be more useful as a more general index so that one could, for example, look up individuals such as Orestes and Polynices, or themes such as the curse.

## Indexes censured

**Akanthus:** *Flora mythologica: griechische Pflanzenwelt in der Antike*, by Helmut Baumann (2007, 173 pp). Rev. by Nassos Papalexandrou, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-4-46. <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-04-46.html>

The index follows the division of the original German edition in plants, ancient names, and geographical location. This will be of use only for those with a solid command of German and the scientific names of plants. Yet, I found it lacking, especially in its omission of the ancient names of plants or similar terms. For example, the discussion of Diktamus (*Origanum dictamnus*) mentions the alternate name 'artemidion' for the same plant but there is no equivalent entry in the index (p. 80). Likewise, in the discussion of *Muscari comosum* there is mention of the word 'volvoi' in Theocritus for the same plant (p. 95). If one comes across this word in Theocritus and wishes to find more about it, the index will not be immediately helpful.

**Aurum:** *The world in six songs*, by Daniel Levitin (354 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Susan Tomes, *The Guardian*, 8 August 2009.

. . . this study centres on modern America, ignoring vast swathes of folk and art song from elsewhere. How, for example, can anyone write a book about the world's songs without mentioning Schubert,

who is mentioned once as the composer of 'Who is Sylvia?' but doesn't even make it into the index?

**Belknap Press of Harvard University Press:** *The notebooks of Robert Frost*, ed. by Robert Faggen (2006, 809 pp, £14.95). Rev. by William Logan, *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*, 30(1/2), 2008.

From the start, there are problems of pagination. The notes and index refer to page numbers notebook by notebook, so '1.1 r' means Notebook 1, page 1 recto. Unfortunately, there are two pages known as 1.1 r; wherever Frost included some loose sheets or jumped to the back of a notebook and soldiered forward, similar confusions occur (in addition, the numbering of Notebook 26 starts over halfway through without explanation, and there is a bad case of misnumbering in the middle of Notebook 31). The group of loose and miscellaneous sheets called, somewhat unhappily, Notebook 47 has no fewer than fifteen pages that could be termed 47.1 r – but the editor is too canny for that. When reference is required, he blithely refers to '47,' which means the poor reader must paw through thirtyseven pages of text to find the passage he seeks. (Worse, this 'notebook,' for no good reason, collects sheets from two different libraries – best of luck to the researcher who doesn't notice a footnote to that effect, buried in the middle of the text. Worse still, some pages allegedly at Dartmouth are either missing or at some other location.) The editorial practice is baffling in other ways. Frost sometimes skipped a page while scribbling down his thoughts (perhaps the following page was filled already or contained some pertinent digression). The editor rarely points out where the passage continues a couple of pages later, leaving the reader mostly to fend for himself.

The index is helpful as far as it goes, and it goes only as far as being unhelpful – the reader will soon discover that it is very difficult to find anything. Frost mentions a man named Bently or Bentley, but the notes offer no assistance and the index fails to include him; context suggests this is simply Richard Bentley, the cantankerous seventeenth-century classicist. Where is the entry for the poem 'The Bed in the Barn,' or for one of Frost's earliest poems, 'The reason of my perfect ease,' or for the essay notes titled 'Education Seventy Years Afterward'? If you want to look at all the pages containing drafts of 'Old Gold for Christmas,' the index refers to some lines in Notebook 35 that seem from another poem altogether, while there are half a dozen or more pages in Notebook 1 that belong to the poem and go unrecognized. Where are the index entries for Lenin and Quisling, Josiah Royce and Mary Wollstonecraft, Benedict Arnold and Aaron Burr, among a crowd of other unhappy absentees? Indeed, where are the entries for Athens and Sparta (there's one for Greenwich Village); or Dartmouth, Vassar, and Chapel Hill; or Jove, Jesus Christ, and God? Or the Bible? In notebooks that speak so much of religion, these last are unforgivable omissions. There are incomplete entries for Chesterton, Einstein, Emerson, Freud, Job, Jonah, Keats, Lindbergh, Wordsworth, and far too many others. Worse, Walter Pater appears as William Pater; but by this time that's hardly surprising.

Say you recall reading an anecdote about Agassiz. The index and one of the notes steer you confidently to 6.24r (Notebook 6, page 24 recto), a page that does not exist. Or, should you be curious about Frost's notion of Kipling, the index entry reads, in part, 'Kipling, Rudyard, 4.33r; 66r, 25r; 6r; 15; 17.32r'. (Entries in the same notebook are separated by commas, different notebooks by semi-colons.) The first and last of these references are perfectly clear and happen to be correct. '66r' is a mystery; '25r; 6r' should be '7.25r, 6r'; and '15' should be '15.Ur'. Even if the middle pair were corrected, you might start thumbing through Notebook 7, find that page 6r is blank, and give up – but you should have kept thumbing, because there's a second '6r' further on. It might have seemed

precise to adopt this mode of reference; but the many ambiguities of pagination should have suggested the folly being indulged. (The editor seems not to have considered that convenient device, the page number of the volume itself.) Two other index entries for Kipling steer the reader into the thirty-seven-page swamp of Notebook 47, without compass or direction. [*What a nightmare!*]

**Best Publishing:** *Hyperbaric medicine practice* (3rd edn), ed. by Eric P. Kindwall and Harry T. Whelan (2008, 1,080pp, US \$189). Rev. by Michael H. Bennett, *Respiratory Care*, 54(7), 2009.

The index is short and a little idiosyncratic. For example, the index entry on 'necrotizing fasciitis' takes us to the first page of the appropriate chapter, but 'necrotizing infections' takes us to a section about bacterial numbers in infected tissue exposed to hypoxia in the chapter on basic mechanisms in infections. I suspect many readers will be reduced to searching through the chapter that seems most relevant to find a specific item of interest.

**Bloomsbury:** *Papa Spy: love, faith and betrayal in wartime Spain*, by Jimmy Burns (2009, 396 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Hugh O'Shaughnessy, *The Tablet*, 26 September 2009.

Sadly, the preparation of this fine book deserved more care. It needed a competent proofreader and an index accessible without the aid of a strong magnifying glass.

**Brill:** *Mercenaries and paid men: the mercenary identity in the Middle Ages*, ed. by John France (2008, 415 pp, £89.10). Rev. by Mark Charles Fissel, *Journal of Military History*, 73(1), January 2009.

Although the editor's summaries of the contributions are lucid and his contextualization of the papers accurate, the raw materials should have been fashioned into more of a finished product. For example, if one wishes to compare the contributors' various views on militias, the index is of little use as it contains proper names only. Topics and issues are not included. . . . In sum, the book was pushed too fast to press.

**Brill:** *The first hall of fame: a study of the statues in the Forum Augustum*, by Joseph Geiger (2008, 225 pp, £83.70). Rev. by Domitilla Campanile, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-1-27. <http://bmcrc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-01-27.html>

Il libro si chiude con una Bibliography e un Index, dove non manca una certa incoerenza nel segnalare i nomi romani: alcuni personaggi sono indicizzati secondo il nomen (e.g. 'Aemilius Lepidus, M.', 'Asinius Pollio, C.') altri secondo il cognomen ('Caesar Strabo, C. Iulius', 'Corvus (Corvinus), M. Valerius', 'Palma, A. Cornelius Frontonianus'), altri ancora secondo una dizione moderna (e.g. 'Drusus The Elder') senza provvedere il lettore di rimandi interni; sarebbe infine stato di estrema utilità disporre di un indice delle fonti.

[The book concludes with a Bibliography and an Index, where a certain inconsistency is found in the entries for Roman names: some persons are entered according to their nomen (e.g. 'Aemilius Lepidus, M.', 'Asinius Pollio, C.'), others according to their cognomen ('Caesar Strabo, C. Iulius', 'Corvus (Corvinus), M. Valerius', 'Palma, A. Cornelius Frontonianus'), and others again according to modern nomenclature (e.g. 'Drusus The Elder'), without providing the reader with internal cross-references; finally, it would have been extremely useful to have had an index of sources.]

**Cambridge Scholars Publishing:** *Classics for all: reworking antiquity in mass culture*, ed. by Dunstan Lowe and Kim Shahabudin (2009, 287 pp, £44.99). Rev. by Maria Beatrice Bittarello,

*Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-4-62. <http://bmcrc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-04-62.html>

The book is completed by a (perhaps too selective) index that condenses a geographical, a thematic, and a name index.<sup>1</sup>

#### Notes

1. Not all ethnic or geographical names are included in the index: for example, Mossynoeci is in the text p. 123, but not in the index.

**Cambridge University Press:** *Herodotus and the Persian Wars*, by John Claughton (2008, 152 pp, £14.95). Rev. by Abram C. Ring, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-4-3. <http://bmcrc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-04-03.html>

. . . the short index may prove useful because it lists many of the major people and places mentioned in the text. . . . Though it is useful to have an index, the two pages (151–2) might have been expanded. For example, we find no references to the notes in the index. Furthermore, the following list illustrates some persons and places mentioned by Herodotus that do not appear in the index – Claughton's page numbers in parentheses: Helen (5), Cleobis and Biton (11), Homer (26), Libya (27), Pindar (33), Harmodius and Aristogeiton (43), Epizelos (47), Perseus (91), Simonides (95), Mnesiphilos (98), Asopus (127), Cithaeron (130), and Callicrates (138).

**Cambridge University Press:** *Medical lives in the age of surgical revolution*, by Anne Crowther and Marguerite W. Dupree (2007, 425 pp, £71). Rev. by Jonathan Reinartz, *Canadian Journal of History*, 43(1), 2008.

The subject of 'postgraduate courses,' while receiving a single page entry in the index, is also regularly touched on throughout the volume, albeit described in other words.

**Christoph Links Verlag:** 'Schützen und helfen?': *Luftschutz und Zivilverteidigung in der DDR 1955 bis 1989/90*, by Clemens Heitmann (2006, 500 pp). Rev. by Dolores L. Augustine, H-German, May 2009. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=24202>

. . . the index is woefully inadequate. This, of course, is presumably the fault of the press, not the author, and the book's style of indexing does not differ substantially from that of many other German monographs.

**Faber:** *Different drummer: the life of Kenneth MacMillan*, by Jann Parry (2009, 774 pp, £30). Rev. by Judith Flanders, *Daily Telegraph*, 20 September 2009.

The index says it all: 'MacMillan, Kenneth: agoraphobia . . . alienation . . . anxiety attacks . . . depressions . . . fear of being declared mad, fear of cancer, fear of flying . . .'. . . . The author . . . has unfortunately been poorly served by her publisher, who neither edited out the many repetitions, nor insisted on source notes. The index is merely waste-paper (to find the references to Macmillan's Japanese influence, the reader must search under 'i' – for 'interest in Japanese theatre' – ah, but of course!). [*So the index doesn't actually say it all?*]

**Gorgias Press:** *Autobiography: 'A scholar's life' by T. R. S. Broughton (1900–1993)*, ed. by T. Corey Brennan et al. (2008, 310 pp). Rev. by James E. G. Zetzel, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-2-42. <http://bmcrc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-02-42.html>

Corey Brennan and his students have put in much effort in identifying names (I suspect there is much in the index for students of Ontario prosopography) and correcting trivial mis-rememberings of names or facts. But even in what they have attempted, their work leaves something to be desired. Aside from minor errors in modern prosopography (the wrong first name is given for Calvin Plimpton, president of Amherst College from 1960 to 1971) and idiocies (does one really need an entry for 'Ivy League' or the Isle of Innisfree?) in the index, there is one huge gap that Broughton himself would never have forgiven: there is not a single map.

**History Press:** *Sweeping the stars: the story of Caroline Herschel*, by Marilyn B. Ogilvie (2008, 240 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Alexander Mullan, *Astronomy Now*, October 2009.

The publisher's blurb confuses the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) with the Royal Society of London, but an even greater disservice to the author was dumping on her one of the worst indexes this reviewer has ever seen. While this may not put off the intending purchaser, he or she might be well advised to examine a Caroline Herschel biography by Claire Brock (Icon Books, 2007) in the bookshop at the same time, and this reviewer would probably choose the latter, if only for its more flowing style, and coherent index. [*The book by Claire Brock is The comet sweeper: Caroline Herschel's astronomical ambition.*]

**Indiana University Press:** *The second battle of the Marne*, by Michael S. Neiberg (2008, 217 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Louise A. Arnold-Friend, *Parameters*, 39(1), 2009.

Despite its stellar presentation of the strategic, operational, and tactical aspects of the Second Marne battle, this volume does have two shortcomings. Its maps are extremely generic, failing to offer the reader either contextual or tactical details at the same level as the written text. Neither is the index as detailed as one would like in an academic publication. Whether the author's doing, or that of an editor seeking to alienate the casual reader (or a publisher interested in production costs), these shortfalls do compromise an otherwise stellar offering.

**John Wiley & Sons:** *Transport phenomena* (2nd revised edn), by R. Byron Bird, Warren L. Stewart and Edwin N. Lightfoot (2007, 920 pp, £48.99). Rev. by Daniel E. Steinmeyer, *Chemical Engineering Progress*, 104(10), 2008.

The original book was so elegantly done that for a long time many believed that nothing in the chemical engineering literature could improve upon it – until someone noticed that the index failed to contain words like 'pump,' 'distillation,' 'process,' or 'design.' This provided the basis for old-timers to keep their other books of chemical engineering wizardry around for reference.

**Lonely Planet:** *Paris (Lonely Planet city guide)*, by Steve Fallon et al. (2008, 444 pp, £12.49). Rev. by Simon Calder, *The Independent*, 29 August 2009.

The index to the book . . . shares with the château at Versailles the characteristic of being the work of a wildly imaginative mind. There is not the traditional single index, but 11 of them. The main one begins, bizarrely, with '13e arrondissement & Chinatown' and ends 'zoos, see Sights subindex'. This directs you to one of a series of speciality indexes covering topics such as 'Gay & Lesbian Paris' and 'Sleeping'. Supposing you were keen to find somewhere to keep the children entertained, looking up 'children', or 'kids' in the main index will get you nowhere. Instead, go to the Sights subindex

and look under 'F', between 'Factories' and 'Forests'. There it is: 'For Children'. Bon chance.

**Manchester University Press:** *The invention of Spain*, by David Howarth (2007, 256 pp, £55). Rev. by Martin Beagles, *Times Literary Supplement*, 12 October 2007.

Howarth has not been well served by his publisher. Sloppy or absent punctuation is a constant distraction, and the index is eccentric in places.

**Oak Knoll Press/British Library:** *Book trade connections from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries*, by John Hinks and Catherine Armstrong (2008, 265 pp, £25). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *Library & Information Update*, July/August 2009.

Its only weakness is its index, which amounts to little more than a name index.

**Oxford University Press:** *Germany and the Second World War, Vol. 7. The strategic air war in Europe and the war in the west and east Asia 1943–1944/5*, by Horst Boog, Gerhard Krebs and Detlef Vogel (2006, 892 pp, £173). Rev. by Stephen Ashley Hart, *English Historical Review*, 124(506), February 2009.

Finally, there is the index. It is staggering that a work of such seminal value ends with just a paltry eight-page Index of Persons (just as in the German original). The book would have been a much more effective reference work if it had included an index of locations and (especially) a general index that listed themes, concepts, weapons, and formations. This weakness is evident in all the original German volumes that I have encountered, and it represents the series' Achilles heel, detracting from its many virtues.

**Oxford University Press:** *Imagining sex: pornography and bodies in seventeenth-century England*, by Sarah Toulalan (2007, 323 pp, £64). Rev. by Jeremy Webster, *H-Albion*, April 2009. <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.php?id=24449>

On balance, the strengths of this book far outweigh its weaknesses. There are at least two of the latter. On the level of the mundane, the book's index is far too minimal to be useful, especially since none of the book's references to primary sources is included in the index. There are also references to secondary works included in footnotes that are not present in the bibliography or index. This otherwise groundbreaking study would have been more useful to scholars and students if the index had been more thorough and the bibliography complete. On the level of content, Toulalan has almost no interest in the political dimensions of seventeenth-century pornography. This omission is perhaps most glaring in Toulalan's unproblematic attribution of *The Farce of Sodom* to John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester (additionally, neither of which – the play or the poet – appears in the index).

**Palgrave Macmillan:** *From Impressionism to anime: Japan as fantasy and fan cult in the mind of the West*, by Susan J. Napier (2007, 258 pp, £45). Rev. by K. J. Wetmore Jr., *Choice*, 45(10), June 2008.

The volume is not without flaws (the index is almost completely wrong, significant players such as Hanako go unmentioned, etc.), but overall it is remarkable in its depth and breadth.

**Profile Books:** *The ruin of the Roman empire*, by James J. O'Donnell (2009, 448 pp, £25). Rev. by Cally Hammond, *Church Times*, 17 July 2009.

The index is incomplete. When I wanted to check references in the main text to Sozomen and Virgil, I couldn't find them.

**Springer:** *Building a roll-off roof observatory*, by John Hicks (2008, 160 pp, £24.50). Rev. by Martin Mobberley, *Astronomy Now*, n.d.

One final niggle is that the index will not lead you to the topic in question, as the topics listed are roughly four pages in error. Obviously someone edited the book after the index was finalised . . .

**Thames and Hudson:** *Islands: a trip through time and space*, by Peter Conrad (2009, 192 pp, \$45). Rev. by Brenda Niall, *Australian Book Review*, June 2009.

This elegantly written meditation is beautifully produced. With hard covers, good paper and witty little drawings to head each chapter, Conrad's publishers have done him proud, although a niggardly index spoils the effect. Strangely, in a book which is text-based, with recurring references to the same work in different chapters, there are no entries for book titles or major characters. Prospero must be found by looking at the pages listed under Shakespeare; *Gulliver's Travels* sought by way of Swift. G. B. Shaw is a notable omission: surely *John Bull's Other Island* deserved a visit. Some obscure atolls are indexed, because they can be found on maps of the world, but the indexer bypasses Avalon, Laputa and Never Land. Yet these imagined places are central to the theme of humankind's preoccupation with islands, whether as places of escape or confinement, fulfilment or endurance. And, indexed or not, Tasmania, the unforgiven island, is on every page.

**University Press of America:** *Aquinas: a new introduction*, by John Peterson (2008, xvi + 243 pp, \$35.95). Rev. by Patrick Tone, *Review of Metaphysics*, 63(1), September 2009.

Professional philosophers or graduate students could benefit from this book. But I do not think I would use this book in an undergraduate course, especially since there is no glossary, and the index is dreadfully sparse.

**White Row Press:** *Five minutes to midnight? Ireland and climate change*, by Kieran Hickey (2008, 141 pp, £9.95). Rev. by Bridget O'Toole, *Books Ireland*, Summer 2009.

Nice to have index, bibliography and footnotes, I thought, until I came to use them. I was interested in the chapter about Ireland's climate history and there was a quotation from the Irish Annals. A numbered note gave me a source. Or did it? All it gave was a surname, a date and a page number, but not the full name or the title. . . . I spent time checking in the bibliography and the index but could find nothing.

**Wolter Kluwer Health/Lippincott:** *Color atlas and text of pulmonary pathology* (2nd edn), ed. by Philip T. Cagle (2008, 720pp, US \$299). Rev. by Jeffrey B. Virgin, *Respiratory Care*, 54(8), 2009.

The challenge of making comparisons with this book is further complicated by a somewhat cumbersome cross-reference system and index. When cross-references to related sections are provided, the references do not include page numbers. Thus, in comparing minute meningothelial-like nodule with primary meningioma of the lung, one is directed from Chapter 20 to Chapter 24, Part 4, Subpart 4.5. Furthermore, many of the pages are not numbered. This can add up to a lot of page-turning to find things. The index can also induce some head-spinning, because the page numbers

are frequently listed under acronyms. In looking for pulmonary hypertension, I started with hypertension, which directed me to pulmonary, under which I found hypertension, then primary, then was directed to PPH, where I found a page number. I also discovered a few errors. The page number listed for *Coccidioides* in both the index and the table of contents directs you to a section of *Legionella* (although the heading was *Coccidioides*). The section on *Coccidioides* turned out to be in the fungal infection chapter, where it belongs, but under the heading *Acanthamoeba*.

## Indexes omitted

**ABC Books:** *Killer company: James Hardie exposed*, by Matt Peacock (2009, 390 pp, Aus\$35) Rev. by Frank O'Shea, *Canberra Times*, 14 November 2009.

Apart from the obvious asbestos dumps, the product has found its way into driveways and football ovals, into mattresses and carpet underlay. So here is a final thought, inelegantly put perhaps, but enough to cause everyone discomfort 'virtually no inhabited area of Australia is free from asbestos'.

Surprisingly lacking an index, but with 55 pages of references, this is a book that will cause you to doubt anything you are ever told by a big company. Be warned, however, that it is not a book for those of a nervous disposition.

**Amadeus Press:** *Tanglewood: a group memoir*, by Peggy Daniel (2008, 241pp). Rev. by Edith Eisler, *Strings*, 11(1), June 2009.

The book includes wonderful photographs and a long bibliography, but would have been improved by indexes of names and dates, because the overlaps of time in the narrative are confusing.

**Atlantic Books:** *England: 1,000 things you need to know*, by Nicholas Hobbes (2006, 454 pp). Rev. in *British Heritage*, 29(6), January 2009.

As a practical reference, the book's value is diminished by lack of an index or a usefully detailed table of contents.

**Berg:** *The journal of modern craft* (£168 per annum for institutions). Rev. by Judith Flanders, *Times Literary Supplement*, 30 October 2009.

As well as carrying forward the debate, each issue reprints an important text, previously unpublished (although the establishment of an index to these texts, perhaps on their website, would make this feature more useful).

**Boydell & Brewer:** *Henry I and the Anglo-Norman world: studies in memory of C. Warren Hollister*, ed. by Donald F. Fleming and Janet M. Pope (2006, 216 pp, £50). Rev. by Cynthia J. Neville, *Medieval Review* 2008-9-9, <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0809.009>.

With no index or bibliography, moreover, the volume will remain a good read, but of limited value to readers hoping to use it as a ready guide to the recent historiography of the period.

**Brepols:** *Learning and understanding in the Old Norse world: essays in honor of Margaret Clunies Ross*, by Judy Quinn, Kate Heslop and Tarrin Wills (2007, 456 pp, £70.79). Rev. by Craig R. Davis, *Medieval Review* 2008-8-6. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0806.016>

The book as a whole is quite meticulously edited, but the absence of an index is a disappointment to this reviewer who can foresee its usefulness as a quick reference to the state of the question on many matters of Old Norse literature and culture.

**Brepols:** *Transforming the medieval world: uses of pragmatic literacy in the Middle Ages* (CD-ROM and book), ed. by Frans J. Arlinghaus, Marcus Ostermann, Oliver Plessow and Gudrun Tscherpel (2006, 312 pp). Rev. by Sarah Rees-Jones, *Medieval Review* 2008-3-6. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0803.006>

There is no index and no means of cross reference between sections.

**Brepols:** *Translatio: or the transmission of culture in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, ed. by Laura H. Hollengreen (2008, 255 pp, £49.16). Rev. in *Reference and Research Book News*, **24**(2), 2009.

The lack of an index is the only disappointment.

**Brill:** *Fifty years of philosophy of religion: a select bibliography*, by Andy F. Sanders and Kristof De Ridder (2007, 617 pp). Rev. by Meriel Patrick, *Expository Times*, **120**(1), 2008.

It is regrettable, therefore, that this considerable body of information is not presented in a more accessible form. The book does offer an index of names, but this includes only references to pieces by an author, not those written in response to an author's work. More seriously, there is no subject index. Hence the only way to locate material on any topic more specific than those given as chapter headings is to skim through the relevant sections: a time consuming and inevitably inefficient process.

However, while more comprehensive indexing would undoubtedly have improved the usability of this work enormously, it is difficult not to wonder why conventional print was chosen as the sole medium for this bibliography in the first place. As a CD-ROM or a subscription Web resource, the material would be easily searchable, and hence many times more useful. As it is, I fear the inaccessibility of the information will result in this volume being underused, which seems a sad fate for something with the potential to be a valuable resource.

**Brill:** *Narrative of the Anabaptist madness: the overthrow of Münster, the famous metropolis of Westphalia*, by Hermann von Kerssenbroch, tr. and ed. by Christopher S. Mackay (2007, 772 pp, £130.42). Rev. by R. Emmet McLaughlin, *H-German*, January 2009. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=15661>

Scholars will find it lacking: the introduction is lightly and unevenly footnoted, and the bibliography is short. Lack of an index renders this two-volume narrative of little use as a reference tool.

**Chandos:** *The revolution will not be downloaded: dissent in the digital age*, ed. by Tara Brabazon (2008, xxiv + 236 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Ralph Adam, *Library & Information Update*, September 2009.

Unfortunately, the lack of a good index and the price let it down.

**Continuum:** *Christianity and creation: the essence of the Christian faith and its future among religions*, by James P. Mackey (2007, 403 pp, £30). Rev. by David Fergusson, *Expository Times*, **120**(7), 2009.

... the absence of an index to a single-volume systematic theology of over 400 pages is surely a lamentable failure on the part of the

publisher and one that will hamper its use. Perhaps this can be remedied in a second edition.

**Fabrizio Serra Editore:** *Studi ellenistici XX*, ed. by Biagio Virgilio (2008, 553 pp). Rev. by Livia Capponi, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009-4-59. <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-04-59.html>.

The huge size of the work (553 pages) is perhaps behind the editor's choice of having neither indexes nor general bibliography. Nonetheless, this is a very welcome contribution to Hellenistic Studies, and a necessary reference work for all students of ancient history.

**Fourth Estate:** *I know this much: from Soho to Spandau*, by Gary Kemp (2009, 313 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Tim Rice, *Spectator*, 24 October 2009.

Highly unusual for a book of this type, there is no discography at the back (although, annoyingly, no index either).

**Graywolf:** *Native American fiction: a user's manual*, by David Treuer (2006, 224pp, £9.10). Rev. by Arnold Krupat, *American Indian Quarterly*, **33**(1), 2009.

His book has no index (I draw no conclusions from that fact), but a quick perusal of his endnotes as well as a scan of the various chapters yield the following references . . .

**Information Age Publishing:** *Reading across international boundaries: history, policy, and politics*, ed. by Roger Openshaw and Janet Soler (2007, 190 pp, £35.95). Rev. by Jerrie Cobb Scott, *Education Review*, **11**(1), 2008. <http://edrev.asu.edu/essays/v11n1.pdf>

If I had one wish for this book, it would be for an author index and a subject index. I believe that indexes greatly improve the accessibility of information.

**Liberties:** *Unquiet spirit: essays in memory of David Thornley*, ed. by Yseult Thornley (2008, 288 pp, £15.99). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, February 2009.

There is no index.

**Nielsen Norman Group:** *Enterprise 2.0: social software on intranets*, by Patty Aya and Jakob Nielsen (<http://www.nngroup.com/reports/intranet/social/>, 168 pp, \$298 to download). Rev. by Martin White, *eLucidate*, **6**(4), September 2009.

I also feel that a report that runs to around 80,000 words needs more sections and an index.

**Original Writing:** *Tuath na Dromann: a history of Cill na Martra*, by Donal Murphy (2008, 174 pp, €15). Rev. by 'Bookworm', *History Ireland*, May/June 2009.

... this is a very good micro-history of a single parish in mid-Cork told literally from the ground up, complete with academic apparatus of footnotes and bibliography (although no index).

**Pádraic O'Hara** (self-published): *The greatest Irish tenor: John McCormack, a life in letters* (2008, 166 pp, €30). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, December 2008.

There is no index.

**Simon & Schuster:** *Kitchen express: 404 inspired seasonal dishes you can make in 20 minutes or less*, by Mark Bittman (Kindle edition, 2009, 240 pp, £17.49). Rev. by James Means, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), 28 August 2009.

... the problems with this book in the Kindle edition. It's in a word, terrible. There is no index. There are no direct links to any recipe in the book so in order to navigate to a specific recipe, one has to page through an entire lengthy chapter. That renders this edition pretty much useless. I hope that Amazon tweaks this book so that it's more user friendly.

Rev. by Jane Collins, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), 16 August 2009.

I downloaded this so that I could take it to the farmers market/super-market & use it to find quick recipes for, say, green beans. Even if they included an index without page numbers it would be helpful. To sell a cookbook without an index (and without stating that this sale does not include the index) so reduces the use of the book as to make the sale without it fraudulent. I am adding that I have tried to use the search to replace the index; but (1) It seems to be unavailable for the ipod touch, & (2) On the Kindle, it is simply dumb; for instance a search for 'chicken' yields 44 PAGES of references, no Kitchen express.

**University of Georgia Press:** *Caribbean and Southern: transnational perspectives on the US South*, ed. by Helen A. Regis (2006, 154 pp, £35.95). Rev. by Derek H. Alderman, *Geographical Review*, 98(2), 2008.

The book's usefulness is somewhat limited by the absence of an index, an indispensable tool for any book, especially one covering a wide range of topics, themes, and places.

**University of Nebraska Press:** *Osage grammar*, by Carolyn Quintero (2004, 491 pp, £49). Rev. by Mark Awakuni-Swetland, *American Indian Quarterly*, 32(4), 2008.

I would make two suggestions. The first is the creation of an index for the current volume. Readers unfamiliar with the general layout and terminology of linguistic grammars are lost without it.

**University of North Carolina Press:** *The politics of farce in contemporary Spanish American theatre*, by Priscilla Meléndez (2006, 227 pp, £33.95). Rev. by Sandra Messinger Cypess, *Symposium*, 61(4), 2008.

The extensive notes and bibliography are useful, although the lack of an index may require readers to peruse the entire text to learn how Meléndez develops certain key topics, from feminism and humor to performance theory.

**Yale University Press:** *Bound together: how traders, preachers, adventurers, and warriors shaped globalization*, by Nayan Chanda (2007, 400 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Ewa K. Bacon, *Journal of World History*, 20(2), 2009.

The sources Chanda cites in this and subsequent chapters are wide-ranging, current, and informative. One could wish that Yale University Press had also supplied a bibliographic index.

## Obiter dicta

**Oxford University Press:** *The historical thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*, ed. by Christian Kay et al. (2009, 2 vols, 4,448

pp, £275). Rev. by Michael Quinion, *World Wide Words* (online newsletter), 23 October 2009.

Most thesauruses today use the classification scheme invented by Peter Roget in 1852, but the compilers of the Historical Thesaurus realised that this wouldn't be comprehensive enough and generated their own. All knowledge is divided into three broad families: the external world, the mental world, and the social world, numbered from 01 to 03. These families are progressively subdivided into more and more detailed classes. The class 03.10 is work, 03.10.13 is trade and commerce and 03.10.13.15 is money. The classification doesn't end there – 03.10.13.15.05 is currency, 03.10.13.15.05.01 is coins and 03.10.13.15.05.01.05 is foreign coins. This last entry has hundreds of historical terms organised by country, such as the Dutch stiver and the American sharpshin. To look up the index (the second, larger, volume of the two-volume work), is to experience a mass of numbers dancing before the eyes like every lottery draw of all time rolled into one.

**University of Wisconsin Press:** *Nox philologiae: Aulus Gellius and the fantasy of the Roman library*, by Erik Gunderson (2009, 313 pp, £49.50). Rev. by Emily Gowers, *Times Literary Supplement*, 10 July 2009.

At the centre is a chapter-length index, a *mise en abyme* of miscellaneousness. Sample entries include (under H): headings, heaps, *Herkunft*, hermaphrodites, hermeneutics, heterogeneity.

## Manuals (and indexes) good and bad

We love a good manual. Our 420-page *Nikon D300 User's Manual* is a thing of beauty, with an index both comprehensive and elegant ... Mind you, there is something worse than no manual at all and that is a really bad manual, totally incomprehensible and indexed with all the wrong page numbers. You should see the *Fernseher Bedienungsanleitung* that came with our German television.

Terry Lane, 'Put it in writing, please', *The Age*, 17 September 2009

## A common courtesy denied

One failing of the book [*Bottom of the Ninth*, by Michael Shapiro, Times Books, 2009] that may not be the author's fault but the publisher's is its lack of footnotes. If this is part of a new trend in publishing by which the reader is denied common courtesies like footnotes and, worse, indexes, I believe it should be reversed. (Bruce Weber's instant classic, *As They See 'Em: A Fan's Travels in the Land of Umpires*, published earlier this year, satisfies at every level save one – it lacks an index).

Paul Dickson, 'Books', *Washington Times*, 13 September 2009

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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).*

# Reviews

*Edited by Christopher Phipps and Michael E. Jackson*

**The indexing companion workbook: book indexing.** Glenda Browne. Blaxland, NSW, Australia: Glenda Browne and Jon Jerney, 2009. 125 pp. ISBN 978-0-52168-988-5 (pbk) AU\$40 plus postage (PDF ebook AUS\$30). Ordering details: [www.webindexing.biz](http://www.webindexing.biz)

Training in indexing should combine a firm grounding in indexing principles with plenty of opportunity for practice in applying them to real situations. Good indexing training courses provide their own practice material, but more is always welcome. This workbook is designed to accompany Glenda Browne and Jon Jerney's *The indexing companion* (CUP, 2007), reviewed by Frances Lennie in *The Indexer* (25(3): 214–15), an excellent introduction to indexing, accessibly written, competitively priced and packed with useful information. The workbook chapters match the sections in *The indexing companion* that relate to book indexing (there are no exercises on database indexing or other open source indexing). However, even without access to *The indexing companion* students working through a formal training course would find the workbook valuable as a source of extra practice material.

Like *The indexing companion*, the style is friendly and informal, with much use of the first person; one often feels as if the author is sitting by one's side giving the benefit of her extensive indexing experience and her clear insights into indexing conundrums. The answers are very full, covering 67 pages compared with 51 pages of questions; for example, the answer to a short exercise on term selection (exercise 5.1) comprises two and a half pages of detailed discussion.

Context is all-important in indexing and a pragmatic approach is often required to fit a particular indexing situation, with the needs of the index user paramount. The answers here are always based firmly in real life, with alternative approaches often mentioned; for example, the knotty problems of filing headings beginning with numbers, articles, 'St', and so on (exercise 7.39) are discussed at length with reference to the advantages and disadvantages of different filing methods for different types of readership. While the book refers frequently to *The indexing companion* and in general follows the international standard ISO 999, other reference sources for indexing, both printed and on the internet, are often mentioned. Terminology, which follows *The indexing companion*, does not always agree with other authorities on indexing: for instance the use of the term 'entry array' for a main heading and its subheadings. However, such terms are fully explained where they arise.

Exercises are not graded according to difficulty but grouped thematically using the same chapter arrangement as *The indexing companion*, so the book can be dipped into at any point for extra practice on particular indexing problems. As well as the 'nuts and bolts' aspects of indexing such as proper name indexing, cross-references and locators, there are useful exercises on topics such as planning an index, assessing length as you work, slimming down

an index to fit available space, and bias in indexing. Exercise 3.6 invites you to try different methods such as indexing from PDFs, indexing without marking up the text first, or using several passes (such as indexing section headings first). This is good advice, as everyone needs to experiment to find the method that works best for them personally.

There are some longish passages to index, with suggested answers and full discussion of possible alternatives. Exercise 11.4 requires the student to quote for indexing a book on the golden age of detective fiction and to index a two-page extract. The five-page answer gives detailed advice on preparing a quote, analyses the indexing difficulties inherent in this particular extract, and talks through the various elements of the indexing process including the all-important editing stage. As a final exercise, students are invited to index the workbook itself, and to send their index to the author, who plans to put samples on the accompanying website and Facebook 'Fan' page (<http://tiny.cc/IndCompFB>) for students to compare.

The examples range widely over many subjects, from car maintenance and ancient Babylon to medicine and cookery: the recipe for 'Tom's snapper tagine with preserved lime & chickpeas' sounds particularly appetizing. In places there is a definite Australian flavour, with exercises on garden plants such as lillipillies, how to index 'bush tucker' in books for an Aboriginal market or a scientific, overseas market, and how to deal with the fact that the vegetables that the English call spring onions are shallots in Australia.

The workbook can be downloaded as an ebook or, for a slightly higher price, ordered as a printed book. It is an A4 paperback and the review copy has useful ribbons so that one can mark one's place in the question section and the corresponding answer. The accompanying website ([www.webindexing.biz](http://www.webindexing.biz)) has some sample questions and answers, and also a downloadable file with excerpts from certain exercises which can be cut and pasted to avoid extensive retyping.

Trainee indexers can never have too much practice, and this workbook is to be highly recommended to them. Many more experienced indexers would benefit from it too.

Ann Hudson, freelance indexer and SI training course coordinator

**The subversive copy editor: advice from Chicago (or, how to negotiate good relationships with your writers, your colleagues, and yourself).** Carol Fisher Saller. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2009. 134 pp. ISBN: 978-0-226-73425-5 (pbk) US\$13.00.

Since I was first introduced to this delightful and extremely useful book at 2009's ASI Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon, where Carol Fisher Saller was the keynote speaker, I found this a review that it was impossible to pass to another colleague. Carol writes,