

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 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

American Library Association: *Research-based readers' advisory*, by Jessica E. Moyer et al, ALA Readers Advisory Series (2008, 278 pp, \$55). Rev. by Sherrey Quinn, *Australian Library Journal*, 58(4), November 2009.

All chapters in the book, and particularly the last one, on the future of readers' advisory services, encourage reflective practice. The content of the book is accessible by means of a detailed and generous index, which includes in one sequence subject concepts, author/title and title entries for publications discussed. This feature adds to the book's value as a tool for practising readers' advisers, in addition to its value as a very readable and informative text.

Ashgate: *The epigrams of Sir John Harington*, ed. by Gerard Kilroy (2009, 349 pp, £60). Rev. by Alastair Fowler in *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 December 2009.

Kilroy includes no consecutive commentary on Harington's texts, but his truly wonderful index, together with his review of 'Patterns and Sequences', do much to supply the deficiency.

Blackwell: *The British Empire: themes and perspectives*, by S. E. Stockwell (2008, 355 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Katherine Foxhall, *Journal of World History*, 20(2), 2009.

There is a substantial consolidated bibliography and index at the end of the volume. . . . This is a coherent, balanced collection, and the chapters cover a comprehensive geographical colonial area. More thematic cross-referencing between chapters ... might have proved useful, particularly given the likelihood that tutors will use this as a key reference for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching; however, the comprehensive index points to the shared themes of the chapters.

Cambridge University Press: *The Cambridge history of Greek and Roman warfare. Vol. II: Rome from the Late Republic to the Late Empire*, ed. by Philip Sabin, Hans van Wees, Michael Whitby (2007, 608 pp, £231). Rev. by Josh Levithan, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, 2009-3-46. <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-03-46.html>

The editors and the press deserve much praise . . . for the end matter. The bibliography will be invaluable to any student of the Roman army; the chronological table, glossary, and list of ancient authors are essential to the success of the book's main goal, namely permitting an assemblage of expert essays to function as a reference work accessible to the non-specialist; and the index of ancient passages cited (23 pages of small type) and the thoroughly cross-

referenced general index (another 37 pages) will indeed make this a productive reference work for decades to come.

Collins Press: *Wildflowers of Cork City and County*, by Tony O'Mahony (2009, 465 pp, £26). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, December 2009.

. . . an index which includes species that have been recorded since 1745 numbers no less than 1,200 Latin binomials and common English names (Irish names perhaps don't exist?).

Four Courts Press: *The clergy of the diocese of Derry: an index*, by Edward Daly and Kieran Devlin (2009, 236 pp, €55). Rev. in *Books Ireland*, December 2009.

The first edition of this index was published in 1997 and received a good reception from historians and genealogists. . . . This is a comprehensive index to all the Catholic clergy in Derry from earliest times and will be a valuable resource.

Irish Manuscripts Commission: *Papers of the Dublin Philosophical Society 1683-1709* (2 vols), ed. by K. Theodore Hoppen (2007, 1,000 pp, €85). Rev. by Margaret C. Jacob, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 December 2009.

Theodore Hoppen has produced nearly one thousand pages of text, handsomely printed and indexed. Every good library needs to own it and every student of the period will have to consult it.

Kenneth G. Mills Foundation: *Question and answer encounters with Kenneth G. Mills*, by Kenneth G. Mills (2008, 118 pp, \$19.95). Rev. by Charlene Rubush, Amazon.com, http://www.amazon.com/Question-Answer-Encounters-Kenneth-Mills/product-reviews/0919842704/ref=cm_cr_dp_all_summary?ie=UTF8&showViewpints=1&sortBy=bySubmissionDateDescending, 2 October 2009.

It contains an index that makes it easy to look up subjects mentioned in the book. [*Index by Indexing Society of Canada member Angela Wingfield.*]

Random House: *The lore of Scotland*, by Sophia Kingshill and Jennifer Westwood (2009, 554 pp, £25). Rev. by C. A. Howitt, *Times Literary Supplement*, 27 November 2009.

Bibliography, references and an appended index of migratory legends and tale types reveal the depth and quality of research underlying the collection, as does the ever-present hoard of apposite literary excerpts that enriches its 500 understatedly dense pages. 'Guid gear cums in smaw bouk' – in this instance, undoubtedly so.

Routledge: *Libraries and graduate students: building connections*, ed. by Gretta Siegel (2009, 211 pp, \$45). Rev. by Doreen Sullivan, *Australian Library Journal*, 58(4), November 2009.

The index is excellent, with cross references to topics, authors, titles and places.

Surrey Record Society: *Gunpowder Mills: documents of the seven-*

teenth and eighteenth centuries, by A. G. Crocker et al. (2000, xxvi + 181 pp, £15). Rev. by B. J. Buchanan, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 36, 2002.

In the absence of the conclusions wished for, the indexes, especially those pertaining to the Tinkler Letter Book of 1790–91, provide an excellent entrée to the subjects covered. [So the indexes make up for the shortcomings of the text?]

Thieme Verlag: *Diagnostic imaging of the hand*, by R. Schmitt and U. Lanz (2008, 608 pp, €179.95). Rev. by Florian Wolf, *European Journal of Radiology*, available online 19 May 2009.

On the last 18 pages of the book, you'll find a very detailed and intelligent index.

University of Toronto Press: *Terms of use: negotiating the jungle of the intellectual commons*, by Eva Hemmings Wirtén (2008, 240 pp, \$70). Rev. by Julie Mandal, *Canadian Law Library Review*, 34(4).

[Apart from the placement of the endnotes] the book holds up well under scrutiny: The Table of Contents dazzles with its simplicity, the index with solidity. . . . [The book] is beautiful; it is elegant, and it is augmented with a delightful back-of-the-book index that is easy to manoeuvre and is quite comprehensive, as this example illustrates:

information commons: in context of historical commons, 40-1, 44, 142-3; governance of, 42-3, 150-2, 156-7; libraries and laboratories as allies, 157-8; politics and the, 144; power relations of, 45; productivity of concept of, 41-5, 168n111; as virtual, 39. See also cultural heritage institutions

[Index by Mary Newberry, co-president of the Indexing Society of Canada/Société canadienne d'indexation.]

Two cheers!

Dunedin Public Libraries and Dunedin Public Library Association: *Freedom to read: a centennial history of Dunedin Public Library*, by Mary Ronnie (2008, 412 pp, NZ\$49.95). Rev. by Edward Reid-Smith, *Australian Library Journal*, 58(4), November 2009.

The index is particularly valuable, as the book is likely to be the basic reference work for many years to come. Every person mentioned in the text appears to have an index entry – even Bill Dacker, who was employed for only six months, though Margaret Adie née McMurtree was indexed only under her married name. Although it would have increased the size of the index, its international potential has not been recognised: Wilfred Black, City Librarian of Glasgow, is indexed by name, but not Glasgow itself. However, the index does not mention Australia or its townships, with which there have been connections over the century. . . . These are relatively minor faults in a great production, but it is precisely because it is such an event that this book will remain the main source of information.

Oxford University Press: *The Oxford companion to the book*, ed. by Michael F. Suarez SJ and H. R. Woudhuysen (2010, 2 vols, 1,408 pp, £195). Rev. by Arthur Freeman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 5 February 2010.

The general editors have reconciled the material, and generated the elaborate 'thematic' and 'general' indexes – both essential, for we cannot always know where to look in the alphabetical structure, despite helpful internal cross-references. (Sometimes only persistence or serendipity will serve: Woudhuysen's brief

but cogent definition of 'rare book', a vexed term, is found under 'second-hand book trade', and for 'courtesy book' you must guess 'conduct book'.) . . . Inevitably, any such work as *OCB* will be subject to leanings, superfluities and omissions. . . . When early printing in Constantinople, where a sequence of Hebrew presses flourished from 1493 onwards, is given just half a line (unindexed) in 'The Transmission of Jewish Knowledge through MSS and Printed Books', one wonders about the twenty-four pages devoted to Australia and New Zealand.

Indexes censured

Bentham Science Publishers: *Update in infectious diseases*, ed. by Wiwanitkit Viroj (2009, iii + 57 pp, \$187). Rev. by Peter A. Leggat, *ScienceDirect*, www.sciencedirect.com, available online 12 October 2009.

This first edition . . . contains a Foreword and a Preface by the series editor, a list of Contributors, 12 chapters, and a scant index. . . . [This] is not a standalone textbook on infectious disease, but it is a useful adjunct to standard major reference textbooks in infectious diseases and tropical medicine. [Its structure] is more [that] of a loose collection of journal papers under a related theme on infectious diseases seen in Thailand. It is not particularly user friendly with no Table of Contents nor a comprehensive index. . . . The publishers also need to decide whether they are publishing a monograph, as it is called an eBook, or a periodical, which is suggested by the ISSN and the compilation of journal-like papers as chapters.

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.

Cape: *The second sex*, by Simone de Beauvoir, tr. by Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier (2009, 822 pp, £30). Rev. by Toril Moi, *London Review of Books*, 11 February 2010.

The notes, bibliography and index are riddled with mistakes. Names are misrecognised and bibliographical references are botched. . . . In the index, references to Balzac's *Eugénie Grandet* turn out to be references to Stendhal's Mme Grandet, a character in *Lucien Leuwen*. There is one entry for Johann Bachofen and another one for a character called 'Baschoffen' with no first name. In general, far too many index entries fail to provide first names. After all, to find out who Samivel was, all it takes is to type the name into Google.

[On the Letters page of the 25 February 2010 issue, Jeremy Bernstein writes:]

Moi writes: 'In general, far too many index entries fail to provide first names. After all, to find out who Samivel was, all it takes is to type the name into Google.' This would seem to imply that Samivel had a first name that should have been included in the index. But Samivel, whose real name was Paul Gayet-Tancrede, never used any name except Samivel in anything he ever created. I would doubt that many people, including Beauvoir, had a clue as to his real name. [But this does not excuse the indexer, who should have tracked down the person's real name and included it in parentheses.]

Chandos Publishing: *Website visibility: the theory and practice of improving rankings*, by M. Weideman (2009, xiii + 222 pp, £47). Rev. by Ralph Adam, *Library & Information Update*, January–February 2010.

The detailed glossary (which omits the many abbreviations used) is followed by a rather limited index.

Edizioni ETS: *Commento storico al libro II delle Guerre Civili di Appiano. (parte I)*, ed. by Chiara Carsana (2007, 309 pp.) Rev. by Richard Westall, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, 2009-4-33. <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-04-33.html>

Lastly, there is a brief index of persons and places named by Appian and keyed to the section numbers of his text (pp. 307-309) . . . The index of persons has more than one striking defect. For one thing, it is limited to the preceding text of Appian. Since the commentary mentions many other individuals, a separate and more complete index of persons would have been in order. One of the strengths of Carsana's work is her supplying readers with specific information reported elsewhere. So, for example, the Appian Claudius Pulcher who brought two legions from Caesar in Gaul to Italy in the autumn of 50 BCE is the individual to whom Appian alludes through a rhetorical plural at BC 2.30.116. Homonymous nephew to the individual who was consul in 54 and censor in 50, he does not figure in the index of persons offered at the end of this volume because of its limited scope. The utility of Carsana's work would have been vastly enhanced by an index to the commentary itself. On another note, it is to be remarked that the rationale for ordering names varies. Thus T. Annius Milo Papianus is to be found through reference to his cognomen, rather than to his nomen gentilicium. Within a work intended for scholarly use, such variation is neither necessary nor desirable.

Faber: *The last Englishman: the double life of Arthur Ransome*, by Roland Chambers (2009, 390 pp, £20). Rev. by Ferdinand Mount, *Times Literary Supplement*, 24 September 2009.

And if the book had source notes and a better index, it would be easier to be clear who said what and when.

Hardie Grant: *After fire: a biography of Clifton Pugh*, by Sally Morrison (2010, 592 pp, AU\$65). Rev. by Darleen Bungey, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9–10 January 2010.

There is also an inexplicable underplaying of Pugh's epiphany when first viewing Perceval's and Arthur Boyd's paintings in 1942. Not quoted by Morrison, but in an oral history recorded for the National Library of Australia, Pugh told Barbara Blackman: 'Those pictures knocked me silly.' He saw them, he said, as 'something new, something different . . . something to do with paints, something to do with colour, a proper reaction about what [was] happening with our time.' So strong were these images, he would carry them into war: 'Boyd and Perceval remained in my mind.' Yet neither of these artists is listed in the index under 'influences'.

Peter Lang Publishing: *The Nigerian legal system; v.2: Private law*, by Charles Mwalimu (2009, 1047 pp, £22.95). Rev. in *Reference and Research Book News*, 24(2), 2009.

The index lacks detail, listing many rows of page numbers after the entry for 'jurisdiction', for example.

Lexington Books: *Knowledge and self-knowledge in Plato's Theaetetus*, by Andrea Tschemplik (2008, 183 pp, £30). Rev.

by Christopher Moore, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, 2009-5-43. <http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2009/2009-05-43.html>

What's surprising about Tschemplik's book, however, is that it never gives undivided attention to any of these or other puzzles about self-knowledge. The reader is obligated to bring his or her own curiosities and to see whether anything Tschemplik says speaks to them. (Given this, it is unfortunate that 'self-knowledge' is not in the index,¹ and is hardly in the bibliography.)

Note

1. Surprisingly, 'conversation,' 'Delphic Oracle,' 'expertise,' 'interdialogic approach,' 'knowledge,' 'Know Thyself,' 'philosophy,' or 'talking,' aren't in the index either, though all [are] key to understanding Tschemplik's thesis.

Louisiana State University Press: *Race and liberty in the new nation: Emancipation in Virginia from the Revolution to Nat Turner's Rebellion*, by Eva Sheppard Wolf (2006, 284pp.). Rev. by Douglas R. Egerton, H-SHEAR, October 2008. <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.php?id=22864>

Her often illuminating, discursive notes appear where they belong, at the bottom of the page. But her index, which often fails to list slaves or whites who manumitted slaves by name, disappoints.

Manchester University Press: *The British country house in the eighteenth century*, by Christopher Christie (2000, xvi + 333 pp, £17.99). Rev. by Oliver Fairclough, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 37(Part 2), 2003.

The index turns out to be an index only of buildings. Consequently the palace [actually Baths] of Augustus is listed, being cited as a source for the ceiling of Lady Scarsdale's dressing room at Kedleston, while Robert Adam is not. . . . Chapter Five . . . is a useful summary of recent art historical literature on the collection of sculpture and the display of different painting types. This is probably the best part of the book, but again the lack of an index reduces its value.

Manchester University Press: *Mother and child: maternity and child welfare in Dublin, 1922–60*, by Lindsey Earner-Byrne (2007, 245 pp, £50). Rev. by Ginger Frost, H-Childhood, November 2008. <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.php?id=22816>

On the other hand, the index, at less than three pages, is all but useless (McQuaid, for instance, does not appear in it). If the press hired a professional indexer, it should ask for its money back.

Medieval Press: *The late medieval interlude: the drama of youth and aristocratic masculinity*, by Fiona S. Dunlop (2007, 141pp, £45). Rev. by John T. Sebastian, *The Medieval Review*, 2008-6-22. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0806.022>

One final quibble: I would have appreciated an index that did justice to the text it supplements. As it stands, the present index is unduly skimpy, needlessly lacking entries for such key terms as 'familia' or even 'gesture.'

Oxford University Press: *Antimicrobial drugs: chronicle of a twentieth century medical triumph*, by David Greenwood (2008, xxix + 430 pp, £65). Rev. by Simon Croft, *ScienceDirect*, www.sciencedirect.com, available online 8 July 2009.

One of the few imbalances is the limited attention to artemisinin and its derivatives. . . . My only other criticism is the index, which really does require some attention.

Oxford University Press: *The apocryphal Adam and Eve in medieval Europe*, by Brian Murdoch (2009, 292 pp, £50). Rev. by Bettina Bildhauer, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 December 2009.

The rudimentary index does not allow those interested in, say, the motif of Adam and Eve's hair floating on the rivers, or in the different representations of Lucifer, to pick out the relevant passages.

Oxford University Press: *Epilepsy: the facts*, by Richard E. Appleton (3rd edn, 2009, 186 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Saurabh R. Sinha, *ScienceDirect*, www.sciencedirect.com, available online 2 September 2009.

The index is of little use in finding specific topics; for example, 'sexual activity' is listed only as a subheading under 'women'.

Penguin: *The lost revolution: the story of the Official IRA and the Workers' Party*, by Brian Hanley and Scott Millar (672 pp, £20). Rev. by Roy Johnston, *Books Ireland*, December 2009.

The editing of these chapters [in the second section] leaves a lot to be desired: the story dashes backwards and forwards in time, and no sense of chronology emerges; I was unable to pin down the exact date of the ceasefire, and it is not indexed.

Penguin: *Tormented hope: nine hypochondriac lives*, by Brian Dillon (2009, 277 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Lucasta Miller, *Times Literary Supplement*, 12 February 2010.

There is rich material in this book, and a host of interesting ideas, but it feels undigested, which the absence of footnotes and index only compounds.

Sage Publications: *Encyclopedia of educational psychology*, ed. by Neil J. Salkind (2008, 1022 pp, £210). Rev. by Paula McMillen, *Education Review* 12, June 2008. <http://edrev.asu.edu/reviews/rev669.htm>

The entries are followed by a lengthy (68 pages) index; encyclopedia entries are in bold, but the numbering system (a volume number followed by a colon and then page number(s)) is not explained at the beginning of the Index which would have been helpful, especially for general readers. In spite of its length, the index was still missing some key terminology. Some examples of terms that would potentially be of interest to general readers and/or important in the field of educational psychology include, for example, abuse and/or sexual abuse, ability, accommodation, adoption, adjustment disorder, assimilation, attention, environment, genetics, laterality, mastery, nutrition, punishment, psychometrics, resilience, self-injurious behavior, single parent families, television and/or media, and violence. Many of these topics are discussed in various entries, for example, adjustment disorder on p. 239 or punishment on p. 88, or are even the topical entry, for example, School Violence and Disruption, Malnutrition and Development.

Springer: *Choosing and using a new CAT: getting the most out of your Schmidt-Cassegrain, or any catadioptric telescope*, by Rod Mollise (2009). Rev. by Nick Hewitt, *Deep Sky Observer*, Issue 150, 2009.

The standard Springer typos abound too. More of a nuisance is the index. It is not especially good. It seems that any time there is a mention of an item in the text, it is indexed, but there is no priority given. Thus 'Drive Base' has 11 entries, but you need to look at them all to get any kind of depth on the subject. A system using

bold type to show main entries would have been useful. There is bold type in the index, but it is random, at best. 'Celestron' is bold, 'Meade' is not. I don't believe this was deliberate! Bold is lost after the first page of the index. For a newcomer wishing to look up some specific area of interest or concern, using the index would be confusing and frustrating. There are omissions too. There are no entries, for example, for 'motor', 'servo' or 'stepper'; 'filters' is missing (although 'Light Pollution Reduction filter', 'UHC filter' and 'OIII filters' are all indexed separately). These are amongst many topics that interest amateurs, especially imagers, and topics that are discussed in forums. [Roger Steer, who sent this item, comments that Celestron and Meade are two, often litigious, competing US manufacturers.]

Stackpole Books: *The Gettysburg companion: the complete guide to America's most famous battle*, by Mark Adkin (2008, 544 pp, £58.50). Rev. by Harold W. Nelson, *Army*, 59(6), 2009.

[There] are numerous sidebars and substantive illustrations, which add immensely to the appeal of the book and will be especially attractive to those who browse through it. These same features, however, will be less useful to those who are researching a particular topic, since not all are listed in the index and some are only loosely related to the basic narrative with which they are associated.

State University of New York Press: *William Cullen Bryant: author of America*, by Gilbert Muller (2008, 410 pp, £15). Rev. by Sonny Rhodes, *Journalism History* 34(4), 2009.

The book's chief weakness is its editing. It mentions numerous people, and insufficient identification in some cases causes confusion about who they were or why they are worth mentioning. James Russell Lowell, for example, is identified by only his last name in the first two references (pages 60 and 195). Not until page 198 is he identified as the 'young poet and critic James Russell Lowell.'

Such references can require distracting trips to the index, which also has its flaws. For instance, the book refers at least three times to naturalist John James Audubon (pages 161, 204–05) but only the first reference is indexed.

Tamesis Books: *The book of Sent Soví: medieval Recipes from Catalonia*, ed. by Joan Santanach, tr. by Robin M. Vogelzang (2008, 232 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Paul Freedman, *The Medieval Review*, 2009-5-2.

Medieval cookbooks were always works in progress, being added to, subtracted from and exploited by other authors. The textual instability of the work makes it impossible to reconstruct something that can be considered an original version. The *Llibre de Sent Soví* opens with a contradiction between its introductory chapter Index (an incomplete list of 91 recipes), and the actual text that follows (comprising 72 recipes in a different order). It doesn't help that the prologue says there are 87 dishes. 30 recipes listed in the Index do not figure in the book and, conversely, there are 14 recipes at the end of the *Llibre* that do not appear in the Index. As Santanach shows in his introductory orientation, it is tempting but false to assume that the Index represents a guide to an ur-text.

Tempus: *The Ethiopian patriots: forgotten voices of the Italo-Abysinian War 1935–1941*, by Andrew Hilton (2009, 192 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Joel Neuberg, *Library and Information Update*, 134(6), 1 April 2009.

Richard Pankhurst's introduction and a detailed chronology give historical context, but the book suffers from the shortcomings of

any oral history, especially when memories are collected many decades after the events. In addition, the index is inadequate, not including many of the names of common people and places mentioned in the narratives.

University of British Columbia Press: *The archive of place: unearthing the pasts of the Chilcotin*, by William J. Turkel (2008, 322 pp, £24.50). Rev. by Theodore Binnema, *Left History*, 14.1, spring/summer 2009.

Some odd weaknesses mar this book somewhat. . . . Because of the way many readers are likely to use this book, the index is very disappointing. To find the pages on which Fred Quilt is discussed readers need to scan the long entry under 'people,' and to learn about the Thompson Land and Cattle Company they have to consult 'stakeholders.' Readers prescient enough to look under 'aboriginals' to find 'Sarich Commission' will then be directed to the non-existent entry for 'Cariboo-Chilcotin Justice Inquiry.'

University of Rochester Press: *Natural resources and conflict in Africa: the tragedy of endowment*, by Abiodun Alao (2007, 353 pp, £50). Rev. by Nina Tanner Robbins, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 41(1), 2008.

The index is erratic: there is no listing for wildlife; Terry Lynn Karl is listed under Lynn, her middle name; and numerous references in the index are nowhere to be found on the pages indicated.

University of South Carolina Press: *The South Carolina encyclopedia*, ed. by Walter Edgar (2006, 1077 pp, £53.95). Rev. by James C. Klotter *Journal of Southern History*, 75(1), February 2009.

At the same time, if a second edition appears, the editors may wish to expand the relatively brief fifteen-page index, for in-depth indexes are a researcher's lifeblood. A revision might also include cross-references. . . .

Rev. by John C. Insoe, H-SC, April 2007. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=176801179936311>

Still, it is curious to find no cross-references from one article to others, and only a perfunctory index that is little more than an article list, and thus nearly redundant.

Rev. by Marie Ellis, *The Booklist*, 103, 9/10 January 2007.

Although coverage of specific subjects is commendable, a number of significant broader topics, such as archaeology, government, literature, music, and politics, have not been accorded overview articles. In addition, no cross-references are provided in either the body of the encyclopedia or the index. Also missing is a thematic list of articles, which might have partially compensated for this lack. Further, the index is insufficiently detailed for a work of this scope. A user researching Baptists in South Carolina will find the article Baptists and several page references under the heading Baptists in the index, but no links to the entry Two Seed in the Spirit Baptists. Similarly, one seeking information on South Carolina pottery will find only two page references under the index heading pottery, and neither guides the user to Catawba pottery or Edgefield pottery. Moreover, there are no index entries for any of the topics mentioned in the first sentence of this paragraph. An index heading for Music, for example, could have led readers to such articles as Beach music, Country music, Gospel music, and Spirituals.

University of Toronto Press: *Manuscripts from the Anglo-Saxon age*,

by Michelle Brown (2007, 184 pp, £25). Rev. by Mildred Budny, *The Medieval Review*, 2009-5-13.

There are a Bibliography, Index of Manuscripts, and general Index – which oddly also includes the manuscripts. . . . The contents of the plates belie the declaration on the dustjacket that the book 'illustrates in colour over 140 examples of the finest Anglo-Saxon books.' Other defects similarly exhibit disdain for accuracy in the finished product, and perhaps for the intended audience. For example, both Indexes contain errors, inconsistencies, and redundancies. The Index of Manuscripts lists manuscripts by location and shelfmark, followed by the familiar or common name (as with 'Paris Psalter' and 'Corpus Glossary'). The general Index lists those names among others of persons, places, and things 'Alfred,' 'Ravenna,' and 'chirograph form, [sic] of document'). Both Indexes provide illustration-citations, cited not by Plate- but page-number (in italics). The second Index also provides page-references and the first provides a few page-references. Neither mentions the illustrations in the front matter. Other signs of haste appear, for example, in the Bibliography, which cites a place of publication as 'Philadelphia?'

University Press of Mississippi: *Courtship and love among the enslaved in North Carolina*, by Rebecca J. Fraser (2007, 137 pp, £28.32). Rev. by Sharon Block, *Journal of American History* 95(3), December 2008.

There also might have been some minor structural improvements to the book. The index is sparse, consisting mostly of proper nouns with comparatively few conceptual terms (e.g., femininity, masculinity, sexuality, race). It would have been helpful for the press to include text page numbers in the headers to the footnotes.

Verso: *Voice of Hezbollah: the statements of Sayed Hassan Nasrallah*, ed. by Nicholas Noe, tr. by Ellen Khouri (2007, 420 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Joseph Alagha, H-Levant, January 2009. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=23746>

Another frustrating feature of *Voice of Hezbollah* is Noe's failure to provide a guide to the acronyms and abbreviations that appear frequently in the text. In addition, the index is brief, highly selective, and far from exhaustive. Thus, many key terms and personal names are not found therein. The most notable example is 'Mostapha Chamran'—the late minister of defense of Iran, who played an instrumental role in the founding of Amal and Hizbullah, and who is mentioned in the text, albeit in passing and without explanation (p. 118). Other key terms from Nasrallah's speeches and interviews do not appear in the index. These include the Great Satan, Greater Israel, Jews, jihad, Khaybar, Khiam, Khoei, Khoms, Lebanonization, the Little Satan, mobilization, the National Pact, national dialogue, prisoner exchange, al-Qaeda, Sabra and Chatila, September 11, suicide operations, Sunni fundamentalism, Taliban, and Zionism, among others. Furthermore, the index contains many errors that can confuse the reader, e.g., referring to former prime ministers Salim al-Hoss and Najib Mikati as 'Presidents,' an impossibility given the 1943 National Pact's exclusive designation of the presidency to Maronite Christians (pp. 417–418).

Wiley-Blackwell: *Lecture notes on tropical medicine*, ed. by Geoff Gill and Nick Beeching (2009, 402 pp, £21.99). Rev. by Peter A. Leggat, *ScienceDirect*, www.sciencedirect.com, available online 12 October 2009.

Although they quickly date chapters, emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) are important to cover these days, especially pandemic influenza, and this topic and several recent EIDs are missing from the index.

Yale University Press: *Demobbed*, by Alan Allport (2009, 288 pp, £20). Rev. by Trevor Royle, *The Herald*, 7 November 2009.

Furthermore – and this is probably not the author's fault – the index is far too slight for a book of this ambition.

Yale University Press: *The lure of China: writers from Marco Polo to J. G. Ballard*, by Frances Wood (2009, 283 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Jerusha McCormack, *Irish Times*, 15 July 2009.

Unhelpful also is the weak index; here an uncertain tool for tracking names within this glorious gallimaufry of people, pictures, and purple prose.

Indexes omitted

Academic Studies Press: *The philosophy of the Bible as foundation of Jewish culture: philosophy of Biblical narrative*, by Eliezer Schweid (2008, 212 pp, £58.50). Rev. by David H. Aaron, H-Judaic, March 2009.

If Academic Studies Press wishes to attract more manuscripts, it is going to have to drastically improve its product. . . . Placement of page numbers and the chapter headers do not conform to standard practices. The opening lines of paragraphs, rather than being indented, are backspaced into the left margin the equivalent of three letters. No explanation is given for this unconventional printing format. The book has a subject index, but no verse citation index, which is standard for Bible-related books. There is no bibliography, but that is because the book only cites a handful of writings by others in passing.

Atlantic: *Splendour and squalor: the disgrace and disintegration of three aristocratic dynasties*, by Marcus Scriven (2009, 397 pp, £25). Rev. by Oliver Marre, *Observer*, 13 December 2009.

It's a pity that there is no index provided to make identification easier.

Bloomsbury: *City boy*, by Edmund White (2010, 297 pp, £18.99). Rev. by Nicholas Haslam, *The Spectator*, 23 January 2010.

He gets taken up by more established figures; James Merrill . . . and then a poet, Richard Howard, and Howard Moss (the poetry editor of the *New Yorker*). One or other of them – confusingly there is no index – manages to get [his first] novel, now titled *Forgetting Elena*, published.

Hamish Hamilton: *Hackney, that rose-red empire*, by Iain Sinclair (2009, 592 pp, £20). Rev. by Philippa Toomey, *The Oldie*, June 2009.

This is a beautifully produced and handsome book, but unfortunately it has no index – though confronted by such confusion a professional indexer might have fallen into hysterics.

Harper Press: *Seeing further: the story of science and the Royal Society*, ed. by Bill Bryson (2010, 490 pp, £25). Rev. by Leo Hollis, *Sunday Telegraph*, 24 January 2010.

The final product is lavishly illustrated and well-designed (although, inexplicably, lacking an index) . . .

HarperCollins: *My life: the untold story of an underworld survivor*, by Roberta Williams (2009, 323 pp, \$32.99). Rev. by Adrian McKinty, *The Age* (Melbourne), 28 November 2009.

HarperCollins could also have spent a few dollars compiling an index that would assist the general reader in keeping track of all the diverse characters in her absorbing story.

Heinemann: *Brunetti's Venice*, by Toni Sepeda (2009, 293 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Cormac Ó Cuilleaináin, *Irish Times*, 11 April 2009.

Unfortunately, a common thief snuck into Professor Sepeda's book and stole the index. Or perhaps the publishers, in these sadly delinquent times, neglected to include one. *O tempora!*

Hutchinson: *The Shakespeare almanac*, by Gregory Doran (2009, 400 pp, £20). Rev. by Elizabeth Bauman, *Times Literary Supplement*, 27 November 2009.

The publishers of this beautiful book, Hutchinson, categorize it as a literary reference work, but its use as such will be hampered by the lack of index and bibliography.

Oxford University Press: *The Oxford dictionary of national biography, 2001-2004*, ed. by Lawrence Goldman (2009, 1268 pp, £95). Rev. by John Pollock, *Church of England Newspaper*, 13 November 2009.

There is no classified index, so readers who wish to explore particular professions or interests must thumb through the vast book to find legal giants [such] as Wilberforce or Scarman, trade unionists (Scanlon), historians (Bullock), or to enjoy the article on [Denis] Thatcher, which does him justice.

Random House: *The investment zoo*, by Stephen Jarislowsky (2005, 152 pp, £40.99). Rev. by Tom Connolly, *Globe and Mail* (Toronto), 27 January 2010.

The only problem is there's no index. [*The editor of the Globe and Mail comments: 'Mr Connolly is such a fan of the book that he created his own index, which is posted on his website dividendgrowth.ca.' See page 83 of this issue of The Indexer for an extract from this rather unorthodox index which, indeed, can barely be called an index at all.*]

SPCK: *Reader ministry explored*, by Cathy Rowling and Paula Gooder (2009, 160 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Nigel Holmes, *The Reader*, 106(4), Winter 2009.

Finally, for a book which will serve as reference for those approaching the possibility of becoming Readers the lack of an index is unfortunate.

SPCK: *A room with a view*, by Nicholas Holtam (2008, £9.99). Rev. by Peter Watkins, *The Reader*, 106(4), Winter 2009.

My only criticism of this excellent book is the lack of an index.

Thames & Hudson: *Photo box: bringing the great photographers into focus*, by Roberto Koch (2009, 512 pp, £19.95). Rev. by Christopher Howse, *The Spectator*, 12 December 2009.

The arrangement is by themes and there is no index, so you cannot find anything.

Transaction: *This business of living: diaries 1935-50*, by Cesare Pavese, tr. by A. E. Murch (2009, 350 pp, £24.50). Rev. by Tim Parks, *London Review of Books*, 11 February 2010.

The 1990 Einaudi edition of the diary comes complete with two

long introductory essays, a great deal of information on the original manuscript, 70 pages of extremely useful notes, a detailed chronology and an index of names. . . . The new edition has few notes, no chronology and no index. This, together with frequent and sometimes serious errors in the translation, puts the English reader at a great disadvantage. . . .

Obiter dicta

No gin, no Dubonnet . . .

Macmillan: *Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother*, by William Shawcross (2009, 1,120 pp, £25). Rev. by Tim Heald, *The Tablet*, 19/26 December 2009.

The whole thing weighs in at 1,120 pp: this is an awful lot of trees for one person, even if she was a centenarian Queen.

I tested it by riffling through the index, compiled by the estimable Douglas Matthews, former librarian of the London Library. No gin, no Dubonnet, no coddled eggs. Facetious maybe, but any rounded portrait should surely contain some reference to these royal affections. Actually, gin and Dubonnet get a jolly mention on page 910 in some doggerel from the royal yacht. Alas, they don't make it into the index, which is notably sober. . . . [The author] has . . . used a series of conversations the Queen Mother had with Eric Anderson, sometime headmaster of Fettes and headmaster and provost of Eton. It was in one of those chats that she talked about the fact that President Carter of the United States had kissed her full on the lips and says that she retreated but 'not quite far enough'. President Carter is duly indexed but not the kiss, which is rather a pity.

A teasing index

I. B. Tauris: *The University of Cambridge*, by G. R. Evans (2009, 382 pp, £35). Rev. by Peter Linehan, *Times Literary Supplement*, 18 & 25 December 2009.

Evans's demonstrations of the ironic tendency are of the lightest weave. She follows her source [the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*] in recording Hooke's accusation of Newton's plagiarism, and in her index, teasingly lists just two references to the practice: this and Rupert Brooke's enquiry, 'Isn't originality only unconscious plagiarism?'

Robbing Paul to pay Peter?

Greenwood Press: *Catholicism and science*, by Peter M. J. Hess and Paul L. Allen (2008, xxvi + 241 pp, \$65). Rev. in *Isis* (published for the History of Science Society), **100**(3), September 2009.

The curious fact that 90 percent of the entries in the index refer to Mr Hess's half of the volume suggests that Allen's contribution may have arrived late.

A magnificent index

It was the index that really captured his interest. The index was going to be the best part. It was going to be the most informative, garrulous, cross-indexed index there ever was. A magnificent index. At the moment the index was only a crawling swarm of three-by-five cards, proliferating all over the table.

Jane Langton, *The Memorial Hall Murder*, Harper & Row, 1978

It's the way she tells them

Palin also gave the media a sense of what she felt the index to her book should look like. 'A: Alaska, media not understanding it, page 1 to 432,' she said. 'B: biased, page 1 to 432.'

Andrew Clark, 'It's the way she tells them: Sarah Palin jokes with journalists', *The Guardian*, 7 December 2009

Gladstone as indexer

I've just been reading a most interesting book. It's all about the books Gladstone read, the way he read them and what he did with the 30,000 books he collected in his long life.

Most of the book is written engagingly enough. 'Until the late 19th century, most books were published without an index, obliging the assiduous reader [like Gladstone] to complete their own.' That is a clear sentence, even if its use of the plural pronoun *their* as a gender-neutral singular might annoy some.

Dot Wordsworth, 'Mind your language' (on Ruth Clayton Windscheffel, *Reading Gladstone*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), *The Spectator*, 10 October 2009.

Manual dexterity

Get to know your index; a good one drastically reduces the time it takes to find whatever it is you're looking for.

The stupidest index I've seen was in the manual for a Kia car. Changing the wheel? Don't look under C for 'changing' or S for 'spare wheel' or W for 'wheel' or J for 'jacking' or T for 'tyre' or even F for 'flat tyre'. Nope, it was listed under H. For 'How to change a wheel.'

Rod Easdown, 'Put control to manual', *The Age* (Melbourne), 10 December 2009.

Acknowledgements

The index to *Holiday isle: the golden era of the Manx boarding house from the 1870s to the 1970s*, by John Beckerson (Manx Heritage Foundation, 2007), which was included in 'Indexes praised' in the March 2010 issue of *The Indexer*, was prepared by SI member Hazel Bell.

Warm thanks to the contributors to this section:

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Ken Bakewell, Liverpool	Alison Brown, Glasgow
Liz Cook, Kirkby Stephen	Grace Holmes, Reading
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Audrey McLellan, Victoria, BC	Mary Newberry, Toronto
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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).