

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

Facet Publishing: *The information society* (5th edn), by John Feather (2008, 218 pp, £32.95). Rev. by Mike Freeman, *New Library World*, **110**(11/12), 2009.

... there is a good short index...

Folk-Lore: *British calendar customs, vol. 1, Movable festivals*, by A. R. Wright (1936, £36.97 from Amazon). Rev. by Iolo Aneurin Williams, *Times Literary Supplement*, 2 May 1936, reprinted 2 April 2010.

Again, the idle reader may choose to start with this book's very full and clear index Let one heading of manageable length, "Lamb," serve as an example. Under that word one finds the suggestive amplifications "eaten at Easter," "lamb-roasting custom," "lamb racing" and "lamb ale" Apart from the comparatively dull fact that roast lamb is noted as a dish especially favoured in Sussex about Easter, the associations of the lamb seem to be with Whitsuntide or the week following, and they have about them an irresistible suggestion of animal sacrifice . . .

Harvard University Press: *Voice and vision: a guide to writing history and other serious nonfiction*, by Stephen J. Pyne (2009, xx + 314 pp). Rev. by Steven E. Gump, *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, **41**(3), April 2010.

Although Pyne treats his subject in a lively, witty manner, *Voice and Vision* is a serious, substantial book. Notes and citations are minimized (but present), and a thorough index rounds out the attractively designed and attentively produced volume.

HKB Press and Oak Knoll Press: *From flock beds to professionalism: a history of indexers*, by Hazel K. Bell (2009, 333 pp, £49). Rev. by Natalie Boon, *ISC/SCI Bulletin*, **31**(1), Spring 2009.

The index itself is lovely, using many subtleties that I rarely see in practice. Distinctions are made between entries dealing with the main entry of a subject, works by a subject, where a subject is cited, and illustrations. I must admit that seeing that level of detail in an index is wonderful. ... I have to strongly recommend this book for anyone wanting to immerse themselves in the history of our shared profession. [*Index, of course, by the author, SI member Hazel Bell.*]

Rev. by Judith A. Douville, *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, **41**(1), October 2009.

Of course, *From Flock Beds to Professionalism* has a fine index, but what else could one expect?

Rev. by Susan Foreman, *Library & Information Update*, April 2009.

There is a piece on *The Indexer* [which] lists editorials (many by the author herself), a chronology of print-only indexing and, of course, an index.

Oxford University Press: *Encyclopedia of human rights* (5 vols), ed. by David P. Forsythe (2009, \$495, \$325 (set)). Rev. by Dinah Shelton, *American Journal of International Law* **104**(1), January 2010.

The full index at the end of volume 5 is essential because indexes and tables of contents are not provided for each volume. The index helps locate topics that do not have a separate entry but are included in other entries. The decision to include a topic under another heading rather than to give it a separate entry understandably has an impact on the focus of the entry. For example, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe can be found as part of the Helsinki Accord entry, where the origins and historical evolution of the Helsinki process are emphasized, rather than the current structure, role, and mandate of the OSCE – something that might have been given more attention in a separate entry.

Oxford University Press: *Fiscal federalism: a comparative introduction*, by George Anderson (2009, 104 pp, £6.99), and **University of Ottawa Press:** *The forgotten peace: mediation at Niagara Falls*, by Michael Small (2009, 198 pp, £14.99). Both rev. by David M. Malone, *Literary Review of Canada*, **18**(2), March 2010.

Each has been published by a university press in Canada, and very stylishly so, particularly Small's volume. Both feature that indispensable adjunct to a scholarly text, even a short one: a useful index. They both seek to illuminate the policy implications of every paragraph they propose.

Sansom & Company: *The last bohemians*, by Roger Bristow (2009, 456 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Cliff Hanley, *The Herald*, 11 April 2010.

This is, with its exhaustive catalogue raisonné and fastidiously compiled index, a definitive account.

Transatlantic Press: *Lost London, 1870-1945*, by Philip Davies (2009, 368 pp, £29.95). Rev. by Lindsay Duguid, *Times Literary Supplement*, 28 May 2010.

... beautifully bound and printed and has an accurate and useful index...

Two cheers!

Allen Lane: *A history of Christianity: the first 3000 years*, by Diarmaid McCulloch (2009, 1161 pp, £35). Rev. by Frank Kermode, *London Review of Books*, 25 March 2010.

There is a decent index, which might well have been more elaborate.

Rev. by Sarah Bryan Miller, *Honolulu Advertiser*, 15 May 2010.

The book has its faults, including issues with the index (potentially devastating in so massive a work) . . .

Indexes censured

ABC-CLIO: *Poverty and the government in America: a historical encyclopedia*, by Jyotsna Sreenivasan (2009, 632 pp. [2 vols], \$195). Rev. by Janice Lewis, *Booklist*, 15 February 2010.

Better indexing would have improved the work; the *Eugenics* entry discusses sterilization but is not referenced under *sterilization* in the index.

Arrow: *London lore: the legends and traditions of the world's most vibrant city*, by Steve Roud (2010, 440 pp, £9.99). Rev. by Nicholas Lezard, *The Guardian*, 24 April 2010.

The book is arranged geographically, but slightly haphazardly, if not arbitrarily. There are separate entries, for instance, for 'Bucks Row, Whitechapel' and 'Whitechapel', the former being where you'll get a mention of Jack the Ripper. The best way, then, to navigate the book is entirely at your whim. There's enough cross-referencing to keep you going for hours (a more comprehensive index would have been a help).

Continuum: *Gothic histories: the taste for terror, 1764 to the present*, by Clive Bloom (2010, 224 pp, £45 and £14.99). Rev. by Deborah D. Rogers, *Times Higher Education*, 20 May 2010.

Adding to this confusion [between terror and horror] is the substitution of Mary Ann Radcliffe for Ann Radcliffe (completely different contemporaries) in the index. Throughout this book, facts and dates – like the Gothic itself – are best approached with caution. For example, *The Monk* did not appear in 1794, but in either 1795 or 1796 (the publication history is complex), and the Allans never legally adopted Poe.

Faber & Faber: *Faber and Faber: eighty years of book covers* (2009, 304 pp, £25), ed. by Joseph Connolly (281 pp, £25). Rev. by Jeremy Lamb, *Literary Review*, October 2009.

To celebrate its eightieth anniversary, Faber have produced a marvellous anthology of book jackets, blighted only by an absurd index which makes it almost impossible to work out who are the artists responsible unless one is already familiar with their work.

Microsoft Press: *Windows 7 inside out*, by Ed Bott, Carl Siechert and Craig Stinson (2009, 1056 pp, £38.99, with CD). Rev. on Amazon (reviewer and date unknown).

The volume is what I would call a 'mixed volume.' Yes, it has all the basics and perhaps more than the casual user of Windows 7 needs. But when one searches for information that is not easily classified, then the chapter headings let the user down -- and especially when things are not in the index. I found myself having to go to internet searches for information that I felt should have been in the book, especially a volume of this size. Already, I'm finding that I do not use it very often since I don't need the frustration of having to probably do an internet search.

Rev. by stalagluftfer, www.amazon.co.uk, 4 May 2010.

This book, although it makes a valiant attempt to provide an explanation for anything and everything contained in Windows 7, it doesn't quite make it. Whilst it is better than anything else that I have come across the subject is so vast and complicated that it is almost impossible to keep any explanation from equal vastness and complication. Whilst, in all probability, the authors might claim that the book contains an explanation for everything the difficulty still remains as how to find it. The problem is one of indexing. The 'Contents at a Glance' and the 'Index to Troubleshooting' topics assume that the reader knows the jargon whereas he seldom does. For example: His problem might be solved by understanding that it falls within the category of a 'RunOnce Key' but unless he knows this already he cannot find it. I admit that the problem might be solved by the contents of the CD provided but must also admit that I have not even run it and so do not know. But if this is so then the book should declare this in large type on the first page!

Oak Knoll Press: *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.

In all, 71 references to different newspapers appear in the index . . . This is a well-produced volume, with some attractive illustrations. Its only weakness is the index, which amounts to little more than a name index.

I. B. Tauris: *The news from Ireland: foreign correspondents and the Irish revolution*, by Maurice Walsh (2008, 258 pp, £20). Rev. by Kevin Myers, *Literary Review*, April 2009.

. . . this is a seriously intended work, the moral integrity of which (if not the argument therein) is beyond dispute. Yet the index – which barely manages to mention a single newspaper referred to in the text – is a disgrace, although it is, nonetheless, perversely congruent. For these final pages confirm the publisher's fundamental lack of interest in this enterprise, as foreshadowed by the preposterous front cover.

Indexes omitted

Amberley Publishing: *Chichester murders and misdemeanours*, by Philip MacDougall (2009, 128 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Sarah Hanna, *Sussex Past and Present* (newsletter of the Sussex Archaeological Society), 120, April 2010.

There is no index, but the stories are illuminated by frequent black and white illustrations. [*So that's all right then.*]

Atlantic Press: *Splendour and squalor: the disgrace and disintegration of three aristocratic dynasties*, by Marcus Scriven (2009, 448 pp, £25). Rev. by Trevor Royle, *The Herald*, 2 January 2010.

Quite disgracefully from a publisher of this standing, the book is blighted by the absence of an index.

Bloomsbury: *Rebel land: among Turkey's forgotten peoples*, by Christopher de Bellaigue (2010, 288 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Judith Rice, *Guardian*, 1 May 2010.

The details are confusing, not helped by occasional obscurities of style and the lack of index.

Canongate: *The Pacific (The Official HBO/Sky TV Tie-in)*, by Hugh Ambrose (2010, 512 pp, £20). Rev. by 'father2', www.amazon.co.uk.

There are sadly a considerable number of aspects about this book I found very disappointing. This is a poorly made book. There is no contents page, no index, few maps and no listing of maps, chapters are very long and there are no subheadings. The text is very small and I personally used a magnifying glass to read with comfort, which is something other older readers will have difficulty with also Poor production values have seriously undermined the fine experiences contained in this book. It all feels as though this book has been put together in a hurry, so that its release coincides with the HBO/Sky series and lacks the methodical care that one normally expects from a quality history book.

Rev. by M. J. Mooney, www.amazon.co.uk.

And I agree – the lack of contents and index is poor, and the maps are inadequate.

Eland: *Japan through writers' eyes*, ed. by Elizabeth Ingrams (2009, 336 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Sarah Lawson, *The Tablet*, 16 January 2010.

The appendices and bibliography are invaluable, though I wouldn't have minded an index and glossary, too.

Family Publications: *Criticising the critics: Catholic apologies for today*, by Fr Aidan Nichols, OP (2010, 170 pp, £11.95). Rev. by Fr John Zuhlsdorf, 'What Does the Prayer Really Say?' <http://wdtprs.com/blog/2010/03/new-book-from-aidan-nichols-criticising-the-critics/>, 20 March 2010.

There are end notes, though not extensive, but no index, which is a bit of a drawback. . . . (Of course you may, like I, be making your own index!) [*This last remark was later corrected to: '(Of course you may be making your own index as I am doing while I read!)*]

Lion Publishing: *The relational manager: transform your workplace and your life*, by Michael Schluter and David John Lee (2009, 186 pp, £8.99). Rev. by Kenneth G. B. Bakewell, *Christian Librarian*, (48), Spring 2010.

This excellent book has one major flaw. There is no index, meaning that useful information on many subjects cannot easily be found. Just a few examples are: advertising, budgeting, communication, customer relations, environmentalism, family relationships, forgiveness, friendships, incentive schemes, matrix style management, meetings, open plan offices, prioritising, reporting, sexual misconduct. When will publishers appreciate how much a good index can add to a book?

Lutterworth Press: *In harm's way: a history of Christian peacemaker teams*, by Kathleen Kern (2009, 200 pp, £30). Rev. by Gerald Butt, *Church Times*, 16 April 2010.

There is only one serious flaw in this book: the lack of an index.

Penguin: *Have you seen? A personal introduction to 1,000 films*, by David Thomson (2010, 1024 pp, £17.99). Rev. by P. D. Smith, *Guardian*, 13 March 2010.

Of course, there are surprising absences – *Forbidden Planet*, *Gojira*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* – and the lack of an index in a 1,000-page tome is regrettable.

Pomona Books: *J. D. Salinger: a life raised high*, by Kenneth Slawenski (2010, 423 pp, £20). Rev. by Ferdinand Mount, *Spectator*, 3 April 2010.

Sometimes he plods and sometimes he gushes. And it doesn't help that his publishers seem a bit amateurish too. Pomona Books of Hebden Bridge, Yorks, do not give us any pictures, or an index, let alone a Salinger bibliography. One imagines them cranking an inky old press in between turning out tapestry kits of Wensleydale scenes and Toby jugs of Geoffrey Boycott and Sir Bernard Ingham.

Rev. by Jay Parini, *Literary Review*, April 2010.

It's a curious production, without an index. A biography without an index is like a wheelbarrow without handles.

SCM Press: *Crucifixions and resurrections of the image: Christian reflections on art and modernity*, by George Pattison (2009, 192 pp, £19.99). Rev. by Nicholas Cranfield, *Church Times*, 1 April 2010.

Even though this is a collection of talks and essays, an index would have been useful, or a gazette of names of authors and artists.

Signal Books: *London observed: a Polish philosopher at large, 1820-24*, by Krystyn Lach-Szyrma, tr. by Malgorzata Machnice and Agnieszka Kiersztejn, ed. by Mona Kedsle McLeod (2009, 332 pp, £12.99). Rev. by Sarah Lawson, *The Tablet*, 13 March 2010.

Given the broad range of Lach-Szyrma's observations, it is too bad that there is no index for the book.

SPCK: *Radiance of his glory*, by David Adam (2009, 480 pp, £16.99). Rev. by Sue Boorman, *The Reader*, 107(1), spring 2010.

I was disappointed that the publishers had not unified the page numbering [the book was originally published as three separate volumes] or collected the three separate introductions. A more serious limitation for Readers seeking to use these prayers in public worship beyond Common Worship, for example as additional prayers in BCP Morning or Evening Prayer, is the lack of an index. One index of subjects and one of Bible passages inspiring each set of prayers would have extended the flexibility of the book considerably.

Obiter dicta

Brewer: *The correspondence of Dante Gabriel Rossetti* (vols 7 and 8), ed. by William E. Fredeman et al. (2009?, 478 and 390 pp, £125 each). Rev. by Jan Marsh, *Times Literary Supplement*, 5 March 2010.

The letters of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, whose family destined him for greatness at an early age, now fill eight 600-page volumes, with more to come. Their publication history has undergone various vicissitudes. . . . There were quarrels over an index, that essential component of collected correspondences. In 1965, Volumes One and Two appeared, with the promise of a supplementary Volume Five. Volumes Three and Four were published in 1967, without any index or any additional letters. In 1970, [J. R.] Wahl killed his terminally ill wife and then himself; [Oswald] Doughty, who refused to have any further involvement in the edition, died in 1975.... Work began [on a new edition] in 1973. By 1995, it was projected to fill nine volumes, with 'biographical and analytical' indexes... When completed, the project will be monumental.

Continuum: *The rage against God*, by Peter Hitchens (£16.99). Rev. by Christopher Howse, *Daily Telegraph*, 19 March 2010.

Quirky indexes in books are rarer now than in the 1880s when the index to Ruskin's letters to the workmen of Great Britain, *Fors Clavigera*, filled a volume with such entries as 'Carpentering, rely on your own boys for' and, 'Holiday, celebration of, by railway, not good'.

The index to a book just out by Peter Hitchens indicates the way the wind is blowing in his arguments: 'Lenin, Vladimir Ilyich, order of, saves drunks from punishment 64; reason for huge effort to prevent his corpse from rotting 129; Christopher Hitchens says one of his 'great achievements' was de-Christianising Russia 144; Christopher Hitchens does not mention any other 'great achievements' by him 144; his methods in achieving this undiscussed by Christopher Hitchens 144'. [*Christopher Hitchens is the elder brother of Peter Hitchens.*]

Phoenix: *Frances Partridge: the biography*, by Anne Chisholm (£10.99). Rev. by Judith Rice, *The Guardian*, 24 April 2010.

... it is Frances herself who emerges most powerfully. She worked as a translator and reviewer, indexed Freud, and was an amateur botanist and violinist. And in her 103 years she never wavered in her commitment to pacifism and to a principled and thoughtful hedonism.

Food for thought

You get a wonderful sense of the breadth of the proceedings of the Oxford Food Symposium from the index of the various papers that have been published over the years. They include 'Beans for the dead in the culture of Ecuador'; 'Irish seaweed revisited'; and the immortal 'The rise of the soufflé and the rise of feminism in 1960s America'.

Andrew Graham-Dixon, presenting a profile of Alan Davidson, author of *The Oxford Companion to Food*, BBC4, Wednesday 17 March 2010

The fascination of perversion

In this report ['Perversion in the 21st century: from the Holocaust to the Karaoke bar', *The Psychoanalytic Review*, 2004], [William L.] Salton also celebrates some of his predecessors. 'Perversion', he observes cheerily, 'has always been of interest to mental-health professionals.'

He writes most admiringly about a study that is, roughly speaking, a much grander, 20th-century equivalent of the one he is preparing. Richard von Krafft-Ebing's 452-page book *Psychopathia sexualis*, published in 1906, helped to give birth to the modern scholarly approach to perversion. Salton says the book 'fascinated psychotherapists and theoreticians alike', being essentially 'a catalogue of perverse behaviors and practices that would rival anything on today's internet'. The book also introduced new words (most influentially 'sadism' and 'masochism'). It sported a delightful index that could teach a thing or two even to non-German readers. Here are three swatches from that index:

Dementia paralytica
Diebstahl auf Grund von Fetischismus
Effeminatio
Kohabitation
Koketterie
Konträre Sexualempfindung
Melancholie
Menstruation

Metamorphosis sexualis paranoica
Misshandlung von Weibern

Marc Abrahams, 'Improbable research', *The Guardian*, 23 February 2010

On and on...

... once an error gets into print, it 'will live on and on in libraries carefully catalogued, scrupulously indexed...'

John McPhee (quoting Sara Lippincott), 'Checkpoints', *The New Yorker*, 9 February 2009

Unexpected entry

Selected area electron diffraction (SAED), 131–33
SEM, see Scanning electron microscope
Senile old fart, 289

(Extract from index to *Judgment day for the Shroud of Turin*, by Walter C. McCrone, Prometheus Books, 1999)

The 'very detailed and intelligent index' index to *Diagnostic imaging of the hand* by R. Schmitt and U. Lanz (Thieme Verlag, 2008), included under 'Indexes praised' in the June 2010 issue of *The Indexer*, was prepared by SI member Laurence Errington.

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