

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: *Doing social media so it matters: a librarian's guide*, by Laura Solomon (2011, 65 pp, \$37). Rev. by Diana Dixon, *CILIP Update*, December 2012.

The work is competently indexed

American Library Association: *The holiday handbook; 700+ story-time activities from Arbor Day to Yom Kippur ... from Diwali to Kwanzaa to Ramadan*, by Barbara A. Scott (2012, 323pp, US\$70). Rev. by Heather Fisher, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(3), August 2012.

The book has a detailed index including holidays, book titles, book authors, website names, poem titles, useful magazines and crafts.

American Library Association: *Library management tips that work*, ed. by Carol Smallwood (2011, 190 pp, US\$55). Rev. by Troy Watson, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(2), May 2012.

A comprehensive index is provided.

American Library Association: *Pre- and post-retirement tips for librarians*, ed. by Carol Smallwood (2012, 240 pp, US\$47). Rev. by Helen Dunford, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(3), August 2012.

Carol Smallwood has included detailed information about the book's contributors and an excellent index.

Emerald Group Publishing: *Advances in librarianship, vol. 34: Librarianship in times of crisis*, ed. by Anne Woodsworth (2011, 239 pp, £62.95). Rev. by Doreen Sullivan, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(3), August 2012.

Librarianship in times of crisis is a remarkable and thought-provoking volume that lingers long after the last chapter is read. Beautifully structured and clearly written with thorough author and subject indexes, this book is highly recommended to those LIS [library and information science] professionals and libraries that appreciate a big-picture perspective and historical overview. It is especially recommended for libraries serving an LIS academic and student population.

Facet: *Reference and information services in the 21st century: an introduction* (2nd edn, revised), by Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath (2011, xvi + 459 pp, £47.95). Rev. by Sherrey Quinn, *Library Management*, 33(6/7), 2012.

There are two indexes – Index of Reference Sources Described (an index of titles of works) and an excellent subject index.

Rev. by Doreen Sullivan, *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, 43(3), September 2012.

Concepts are clearly explained in each chapter, and a subject index as well as an index of reference resources described in the book helps users to easily understand information.

Facet: *The special collections handbook*, by Alison Cullingford (2011, xiv + 210 pp, £54.95). Rev. by Karen Attar, *CILIP Update*, December 2012.

A comprehensive index assists usability.

Four Courts Press: *Legends of Scottish saints: readings, hymns and prayers for the commemorations of Scottish saints in the Aberdeen Breviary*, ed. by Alan Macquarie (2012, 352 pp, £50). Rev. by Thomas Baldwin, *Life and Work* (magazine of the Church of Scotland), February 2013.

... marks the first major new edition of the *Breviary* for 150 years, with the original Latin text and a translation on the facing page, a proper index and a notes and commentary section that's almost as long as the *Breviary* itself.

Gower Publishing: *Managing the multi-generational workforce: From the G1 Generation to the Millennials*, by Robert G. Delcampo et al (2011, 98 pp, £20). Rev. by Julia Leong, *Australian Library Journal*, 66(3), August 2012.

There is an extensive reference list and considerable in-text referencing, although at times I was looking for additional in-text citations. There is also a good index. The layout is attractive, and it is well written.

Honoré Champion: *Œuvres complètes, vol. 1, L'Art poétique d'Horace traduit en Vers François: L'Art poétique departi an deus Livres*, by Jacques Peletier du Mans, ed. by Michel Jourde, Jean-Charles Monferran and Jean Vignes (2011). Rev. by Katie Chenoweth, *Sixteenth Century Journal*, 44(1), 2013.

Both critical editions include substantial annotations and bibliographies; a glossary for each work is provided at the end of the volume, as well as a comprehensive and highly useful 'meta-literary' index of terms.

Little, Brown: *Bartlett's familiar quotations*, ed. by Geoffrey O'Brien (18th edn, 2012, 1,438 pp, £35/US\$50). Rev. by Fred R. Shapiro, *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 February 2013.

The chronological ordering of quotations by author, although it often makes quote-finding a difficult two-step process (via the Index of Authors) for those who don't have the birth year of all authors memorized, results in a compulsively browsable volume. *Bartlett's* has developed other characteristic distinctions.

Its keyword index is more extensive than any comparable work.

Oxford University Press: *The Vienna Conventions on the law of treaties: a commentary*, ed. by Olivier Corten and Pierre Klein (2011, 2176 pp, £395). Rev. by Robert E. Dalton, *American Journal of International Law*, **106**(4), October 2012.

The user-friendly index should markedly enhance the ability of a researcher to pinpoint quickly the location of related information elsewhere in the Commentary and to access that material by eliminating the need to check for additional sources at the beginning of his or her research.

Thomson/West: *Reading law: the interpretation of legal texts*, by Antonin Scalia and Bryan A. Garner (2012, 608 pp, \$49.95). Rev. by Gary L. McDowell, *Times Literary Supplement*, 25 January 2013.

The appendices – glossary of legal terms, table of cases, indices and a sprawling bibliography – are of great value. Even the epigraphic adornments are founts of instruction and guidance. For a book that could have easily stumbled over the line into the territory of the trite and the tedious, *Reading Law* is not just informative but endlessly interesting.

Yale University Press: *The last sane man: Michael Cardew*, by Tanya Harrod (2012, 380 pp, £30). Rev. by Angus Stewart, *Country Life*, 23 January 2013.

This biography of the potter Michael Cardew is informative, amusing, sad and sometimes hilarious. ... The 26 pages of notes and sources, supported by an extensive index, establish the scholarship and validity of this gripping epic.

Two cheers!

Facet: *Know it all, find it fast – for academic libraries*, by Heather Dawson (2011, 384 pp, £49.95). Rev. by Fiona Blackburn, *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, **43**(1), March 2012.

Subject areas are cross-referenced, although not comprehensively. For example, the history section doesn't refer to specialist sections such as Latin American Studies, although resources relevant to these subjects aren't included in the history listing, which is predominantly of British, US, or European provenance.

Finally, the index is small, with limited use of alternative terms. These are not criticisms. Knowing the book's unavoidable limits will enable its effective use. [*A somewhat cryptic comment.*]

Indexes censured

Continuum: *The vision of J. B. Priestley*, by Roger Fagge (2011, 176 pp, £65/\$120). Rev. by Hal Jensen, *Times Literary Supplement*, 25 January 2013.

The many references are properly and usefully endnoted. There is, however, a curiously flighty index: 'Admass', for instance, has sixty-seven subentries while 'Mass Culture' simply refers the reader to page 80.

Enitharmon Press: *David Jones in the Great War*, by Thomas Dilworth (2012, 228 pp, £15). Rev. by Martin Stannard, *The Tablet*, 26 January 2013.

What does not emerge so clearly, however, is a coherent sense of Jones' thinking. This is not so much a biography as notes for one, somewhat awkwardly dramatised; sometimes, little more

than unprocessed lists of data. Indispensable though it will be to scholars, *David Jones in the Great War* seems rushed and incomplete, and is poorly proofread and thinly indexed.

Head of Zeus: *Shooting Victoria: madness, mayhem and the modernisation of the monarchy*, by Paul Thomas Murphy (2013, 669 pp, £25). Rev. by Richard Davenport-Hines, *The Guardian*, 11 January 2013.

Although Murphy revels in Victorian criminal trials and popular outcries, his skimpy knowledge of the administration and influence of the royal court hobbles his book. It is symptomatic that he keeps calling aristocrats by the wrong titles – the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe is misnamed, Lord Londesborough is called Jonesborough – and further muddles them in a havoc-strewn index.

Oak Knoll Press: *The history of the library in western civilization IV. From Cassiodorus to Furnival: Classical and Christian letters, schools and libraries in the monasteries and universities, western book centres*, by Konstantinos Sp. Staikos (2010, 500 pp, price not reported). Rev. by G. E. Gorman, *Australian Library Journal*, **61**(2), May 2012.

The index leaves much to be desired, with not much provocative content indexed, but rather minor activities chronicled assiduously.

Scribe: *J. M. Coetzee: A life in writing*, by J. C. Kannemeyer (2012, 710 pp, \$A59.95). Rev. by Peter F. Alexander, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1-2 December 2012.

This important biography, though marred by occasional clunky writing and an inadequate index, sheds more light on a great writer than anything that has previously appeared.

Springer-Praxis: *The star atlas companion*, by Philip M. Bagnall (2012, ix + 486 pp, £40.99). Rev. by Roger Pickard, *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, **(23)**1, 2013.

In spite of there being a general index, an index of stars by catalogue number (mainly HD numbers), a named stars index, an index of star clusters, asterisms & nebulae and even a people index, I thought they were a little lacking. For example, zeta Boo is described as a BY Dra star, but you've forgotten what BY stars are, so you turn to the indices only to find they are not listed. But, many types are listed in the introduction so you have to plough through them all to see if the one you want is described (it is; they are rotating dwarfs of low amplitude with the light variations caused by spots, flares and chromospheric activity).

Errors appeared to be few and far between although I did note that Bayer appears in the (people) index as on pages 3, 102 and 255 whereas his name actually appears on several other pages at least. Also odd is that in the star clusters etc. index, M19 is listed between M26 and M29!

University of Virginia Press: *In the hollow of the wave*, by Bonnie Kime Scott (2012, 272 pp, £35). Rev. by Mary Ellen Foley, *Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain Bulletin*, no. 42, January 2013.

To locate these readings, whether powerful or questionable, and to follow up references, occasionally requires more effort on the part of the reader than it should. The index might be called minimalist; readers interested in a particular garden or landscape will find that most locations mentioned – Sissinghurst, Monks House, Talland House, Skye, St Ives, Tavistock Square, and so on – escaped the indexer. Scott may go into inventory-like detail about scenes

Woolf set in greenhouses or about characters Woolf sends to visit Hampton Court, but anyone interested in those subtopics will not find them in the index. Some artists make the cut and many others do not (including Julia Margaret Cameron – and there is no list of illustrations, though there are a number of well-chosen photographs). That Pinka the dog and Mitzi the marmoset are not indexed may be set down either to privileging the human or to weak indexing.

Indexes omitted

Atlantic Books: *Our church: a personal history of the Church of England*, by Roger Scruton (2012, 199 pp, £20). Rev. by Stephen Prickett, *Times Literary Supplement*, 1 February 2013.

It is said that what is presented as a highly personal distillation of a lifetime's spiritual experience also shows signs of unseemly haste in detail. Irritatingly, there is no index.

Boydell: *Runes: a handbook*, by Michael P. Barnes (2012, 256 pp, £45). Rev. by Heather O'Donoghue, *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 February 2013.

Runes: a handbook tells the reader simply everything he or she needs to know about runes and how to study them.... There is no index, but the contents are clearly indicated. [*So that's all right then.*]

Collins: *The fix*, by Damian Thompson (2013, 352 pp, £20). Rev. by Max Pemberton, *Daily Telegraph*, 16 June 2012.

My main quibble with the book is that, for some inexplicable reason, there is no index. But this is a minor fault in an otherwise enthralling, terrifying work.

Fourth Estate: *Paper: an elegy*, by Ian Sansom (2012, 232 pp, £14.99). Rev. by Steven Poole, *Times Literary Supplement*, 11 January 2013.

Sansom's charmingly omnibivorous collection of interesting stories about paper considers its use over the centuries in art, money, maps, advertising, architecture, board games and bureaucracy. He is able to cite both Salvador Plascencia's novel *The People of Paper* and the Paper Mario videogame series; and he has a piquant way of introducing historical characters, such as 'Lord Date Masamune, a far-sighted, one-eyed Japanese warlord'. Less far-sighted was the publisher's decision not to furnish this book with an index, to facilitate the reader's future reacquaintance with Lord Date and his colourful comrades in the paper army.

Melbourne University Press: *Speechless: a year in my father's business*, by James Button (2012, 256 pp, £27.50). Rev. by Peter West, *On Line Opinion*, 10 December 2012.

[The] faults in the book are slight; but there are many strengths. It's a well-designed book. I would like to see an index and some photos on the next edition. This book will not be remaindered in a few weeks – as many are these days.

Oak Knoll Press: *Charles Dickens: a bibliography of his first American editions, 1836-1870*, by Walter E. Smith (2012, 456 pp, \$95). Rev. by William Baker, *Times Literary Supplement*, 30 November 2012.

A minor caveat is that the book lacks an index, but it is sturdily bound, and the print and page layout are pleasant. [*So that's all right then.*]

University of Chicago Press: *Book was there: reading in electronic times*, by Andrew Piper (2012, 208 pp, \$22.50/£14.50). Rev. by Andrew Martin, *Financial Times*, 7 December 2012.

On the subject of this vaunted internet 'sharing', Piper makes the point that for sharing to have moral worth, it should involve sacrifice – a cost. 'To this end, we need – brace yourself for this – to embrace DRM.' Now the force of this bold culmination was lost on me because I didn't know what DRM meant, and I'm pretty sure (in the absence of an index) that Piper hadn't told me. I looked it up on the internet. It means Digital Rights Management ...

Yale University Press: *Stravinsky's ballets*, by Charles M. Joseph (2011, 320 pp, £25). Rev. by Daniel Jaffé, *BBC Music Magazine*, April 2012.

Joseph begins with a potted and sometimes chronologically confused history of Russian ballet from the time of Peter the Great, mentioning 'the Bolshoi' several times without apparently being aware that a distinction needs to be made between the famous Moscow venue and the more venerable St Petersburg Bolshoi Kamenny he is referring to (sure enough, these references all turn up in the index as 'Bolshoi Theater (Moscow)').

Obiter dicta

Century: *Rod: the autobiography*, by Rod Stewart (2012, 378 pp, £20). Rev. by John Harris, *The Guardian*, 11 December 2012.

... the sumptuous wonderment of his story is confirmed by the fact that it even comes with an index. [*Hasn't Mr Harris noticed that most biographies and autobiographies come with indexes?*]

IGI Global/Information Science Reference: *E-reference context and discoverability in libraries: issues and concepts*, ed. by Sue Polanka (2012, 294 pp, US\$175). Rev. by Edward Reid-Smith, *Australian Library Journal*, 61(3), August 2012.

The chapters themselves are grouped into five areas: The Changing Landscape; The Value of Information Literacy in Research; Design and Delivery of Reference Content; Solutions for e-Reference Discovery; and Case Studies. The work rounds off with a four-page index, with entries ranging from one reference (e.g. 'e-textbook', and 'search criteria') to 40 ('Google') and 41 ('publishers'). [*It would seem that those references – for 'Google' and 'publishers' – are undifferentiated, thus not providing great discoverability.*]

Simon and Schuster: *Bruce*, by Peter Ames Carlin (2012, 512 pp, £20). Rev. by Sarfraz Mansoor, *Daily Telegraph*, 17 November 2012.

There is little sex or drugs in this rock-and-roll tale [a biography of Bruce Springsteen]: there are seven entries in the index under 'drugs and alcohol, disdained by'.

Thames & Hudson: *A new history of Italian Renaissance art*, by Stephen J. Campbell and Michael W. Cole (2012, 680 pp, £45). Rev. by Laura Jacobus, *Art Quarterly*, autumn 2012.

... the overall effect is arbitrary (why should 'Migration and Mobility' be linked to the 1480s, or 'Dynasty and Myth' to the 1530s?) and it is difficult to know how to use such a book. Students hoping for a work of reference may need frequent recourse to the index, but the reader with a serious interest in the subject can peruse, profitably and pleasurably, in any order.

The Washington index again

Perhaps the most unorthodox thing in any of [Richard Ben] Cramer's books appears – or, more precisely, does not appear – at the end of *What It Takes* [Vintage Books, 1993]. The book has no index, an omission insisted upon, in a kind of gleeful malice aforethought, by Mr Cramer himself.

'For years I watched all these Washington jerks, all these Capitol Hill, executive-branch, agency wiseguys and reporters go into, say, Trover bookstore, take a political book off the shelf, look up their names, glance at the page and put the book back,' Mr Cramer told *The New York Times* in 1992. 'Washington reads by index, and I wanted those people to read the damn thing.'

Margalit Fox, obituary of Richard Ben Cramer, *New York Times*, 8 January 2013

Glimpses of Professor Rowse?

Readers will not be surprised to learn that, in addition to highly personal accounts of public figures, we also are treated to a fair amount of autobiographical detail. The book lacks an index; but let us see what the entries under the author's name might have looked like for just one twenty-page chapter, that on J. M. Keynes:

'Rowse, A. L.: a lifelong Oxonian, 15; ravaged by scepticism about general truth of political theories, 16; openly challenges Regius Professor of History at lecture, 16; rare recruit at Oxford from working class, 16; had read much Ruskin and Carlyle as a schoolboy, 16; does not subscribe to Marxian dogmatism, 17; but obsessed by Marxism, 18; subject of minor altercation between Keynes and Nicholas Davenport, 18; duodenal ulcer adversely affected by youthful sexual repression, 18; constantly concerned for Keynes's intellectual well-being, 18; writes articles urging Keynes to come to terms with Labour Movement, 19; in favour of temporary tariff on imports in 1931,

19; wants to bring together all elements opposed to the National Government, 21; unsuccessfully urges this course on H. Dalton, 21; has little respect for academic economists, 22; irritated by some supposedly intelligent persons, 22; work on Shakespeare met by blinkered incomprehension, 23; complains of low intellectual grade of today's egalitarian society, 23; does not claim to be an economist, 23; urges Popular Front against the Old Men, 24; raises parliamentary candidate for Cambridge University, 25; arduous uphill political work for a decade in Cornwall wins Penryn and Falmouth for Labour in 1945, 26; finds Victor Gollancz unappealing, 27; travels second-class from USA, 27; no longer cares about people bent on remaining fools, 28; finds G. E. Moore faintly ridiculous, 29; frequently remembers war dead, 31.'

J. H. C. Leach, review of *Glimpses of the Great* by A. L. Rowse (Methuen, 1985), *Times Literary Supplement*, 31 May 1985

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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).

Bibliography and the indexer: cullings from the *Almanacco bibliografico*

Maureen MacGlashan

For some years now I have been receiving (and whenever time has permitted, reading) the *Almanacco bibliografico*, the journal published by CRELEB (Centro di Ricerca Europeo Libro Editoria Biblioteca). *L'almanacco* covers the history of the book, publishing and the library, with reviews mainly of Italian publications but also French, German and English-language publications (and possibly some others) and notices of relevant publications and events. The journal, which comes out quarterly, is now freely available at http://centridiricerca.unicatt.it/creleb_index.html.

We have from time to time published extracts in the 'Indexes reviewed' section of *The Indexer*, but I was aware that there were richer pickings to be had, and eventually made time to go through issues 23 (September 2012), 24 (December 2012) and 25 (March 2013). The results of my exploration follow (the extracts having been translated by me). One warning – I tracked down possible entries by searching on 'indic' ('indice' being the Italian for 'index'). This produced very few false results (easily passed over) but may not have picked up everything worthy of consideration, either because there was discussion of something that would have

qualified as an 'index' but wasn't so described, or because of the vagaries of Acrobat. (For example, 'ind-ic', crossing the line-break, would be missed.) But I doubt that there was much of this. One other warning: there are many occasions when the Italian term could be translated in a number of different, albeit related ways. Without sight of the raw material it is sometimes impossible to make an informed choice. I hope that has not resulted in anything seriously misleading.

Not everything that follows would have got past the 'Indexes reviewed' threshold, the 'Indexes reviewed' editor rightly excluding mere mentions, but it seemed to me that one important thing that this exploration demonstrated was that, while we tend to assume that there is very little by way of what we would call 'indexing' outside the Anglo-Saxon world, this is clearly not the case when it comes to bibliography and bibliography-related material. A very high proportion indeed of the reviews and other reports in the *Almanacco* mention the index (or more often the indexes), sometimes in considerable detail. This is, of course, a niche area where one might expect to find an extensive editorial apparatus,